

Solid Ground prevents and ends homelessness through housing, resources and opportunity. Come see what we're all about at one of our monthly

[*Home At Last Tours!*](#)



Make a Gift

Solid Ground E-Newsletter September 2018



Back to School!

It's September and that means it's back to school time! Research has shown that housing instability is a primary factor in poor school performance for children. With Solid Ground, kids have a stable place to call home kids are better able to focus on their job: learning!

We want to extend a big thanks to everyone who helped make our school supply shop a success! All students, even preschoolers, in our five housing programs received the backpacks and school supplies that they needed to start the year out right. And, through the generosity of our donors, we were also able to

provide new shoes for all K-12th graders!

We wish all of our students well in their new school year!

Seeking youth tutors and mentors!

With school back in session, Solid Ground's tutoring program is starting back up. We are still seeking tutors to work with kids in grades K-8 at our East Metro Place location in White Bear Lake. Especially needed are tutors for our Thursday session at 4:15pm.

We are also still recruiting mentors for our new mentoring program! The program will focus on building one-on-one, positive relationships between adult mentors and middle and high school students. Mentors will spend time weekly with a student for 10 months or longer, planning outings based around the young person's strengths and interests.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities, contact volunteer@solidgroundmn.org or 651-846-9024 for more information.

From the Solid Ground Blog:

Identity is Empowerment

"Identities can keep us in old patterns or they can be springboards for new endeavors. Moving forward begins with empowerment and the ability to see oneself in a new future. One of the many things we do at Solid Ground is offer families ways to empower themselves, in ways great and small." Read more from Solid Ground Family Advocate Sara Hesselstine, LSW, MSW on the [Solid Ground Blog](#).



Where do your candidates stand on affordable housing?

With elections only two months away, it is a great time to raise your voice in support of families experiencing homelessness! One easy way to do this is to share these facts and questions with candidates that knock on your door or during public events:

- **Fact:** More than 1 in 4 Minnesotans (nearly 550,000 families) spend more than 30% of their income on housing. **Ask:** *What will you do to increase affordable housing options so families can focus on work, school, and health?*
- **Fact:** Statewide, there is a deficit of 92,439 affordable housing units available for Minnesotans at the lowest incomes. Lack of affordable housing is one of the top reasons Minnesotans experience homelessness. **Ask:** *What local, state, or federal resources will you target to address homelessness in Minnesota and Minnesota's affordable housing shortage?*

And of course, be sure to vote! Election Day is November 6, with early voting from September 21 through November 5. Visit mnvotes.org for more information.

Donation Opportunity: Silverware Sets

We are currently in need of silverware sets to provide to families in our housing programs. Also needed are pot and pan sets and queen quilts/comforters. Donations can be dropped off at our office and are accepted Monday through Friday from 8 to 4:30 p.m. Detailed directions can be found [here](#).



A complete list of household items that we accept can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Events

- **[Home at Last Tour](#)** - Tuesdays, September 11th and October 9th at 5:30 p.m. Join us to learn more about Solid Ground's housing programs first-hand. RSVP to reserve your spot to tours@solidgroundmn.org
- **Bring It Home Dinner & Auction** - Friday, October 26th at Dellwood Country Club. Save the date for the 5th annual evening event raising funds in support of our mission! [Click here](#) to purchase tickets or donate auction items!