

*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

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Solid Ground E-Newsletter

January 2019

## Happy New Year from Solid Ground!

It's hard to believe that we are already over halfway through the first month of 2019! We are grateful for having such a supportive community which helped us further our mission over the past year and we look forward to serving even more families in the coming year.



If one of your new year's resolutions is to get more involved in your community, we invite you to check us out at one of our monthly [tours](#) or to join us as [volunteer](#)! Tours are on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and you can RSVP at [tours@solidgroundmn.org](mailto:tours@solidgroundmn.org). Volunteers are needed almost daily in a variety of capacities, for both one-time and ongoing duties. Some examples include drivers, child care assistants, adult or youth tutors, or monthly meal hosts/servers. If you are interested, contact us at 651-846-9024 or [volunteer@solidgroundmn.org](mailto:volunteer@solidgroundmn.org).



## Homes for All!

Where we lives impacts everything, and that is why Solid Ground is part of Homes for All, a coalition advancing shared policy initiatives leading to housing stability for all Minnesotans. With safe, stable housing, children learn, workers earn, seniors thrive and communities prosper.

Recently, Homes for All adopted its 2019-2020 [legislative agenda](#). We invite you to read it and contact your elected officials to voice your support! With the Minnesota legislative session underway, it is a perfect time for us to advocate for solutions addressing homelessness and the lack of affordable housing across Minnesota.

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We are still recruiting mentors for our new mentoring program! This 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. Mentors must be at least 21 years old. Please consider this rewarding volunteer opportunity and contact [volunteer@solidgroundmn.org](mailto:volunteer@solidgroundmn.org) or 651-846-9024 for more information.



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## Federal Government Shutdown Update

We have received inquiries from both clients and supporters about the partial government shutdown and what impact it has on Solid Ground and the families we serve. While there is still much unknown at this point, this is what we know:

- Families and individuals receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly called Food Stamps) will receive their February benefits early to ensure that there are funds to pay them. Payments beyond that are uncertain. Free and reduced school lunches may also be impacted.
- Metro HRA, which administers Section 8 rental assistance in our area, will issue payments for February. Payments beyond that are uncertain. This impacts not only families in Solid Ground's East Metro Place and HomeFront programs, but also families who have moved out of these programs and are using Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. While Solid Ground would be willing, and thankfully able, to weather a delay in payments, most landlords in the community who accept Section 8 would be unable, and some more would be unwilling. This would result in families' inability to pay their rent and ultimately losing their housing.
- Finally, Solid Ground receives approximately \$5,500 of federal support through HUD each month. This will not be paid during the shutdown.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, Solid Ground is a financially strong organization and will do all we can to help our families should these or other disruptions occur, though we know that this wouldn't be sustainable for any length of time. We commit to keeping you and our clients informed as we learn more and if there are needs that arise that you can possibly help with.

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## Upcoming Events

- **Solid Ground Office Closed** - Monday, January 21st in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- **Home at Last Tour** - Tuesdays, February 12th and March 12th 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](mailto:tours@solidgroundmn.org).
- **Trauma and Boundaries Training** - Tuesday, February 12th from 6-7:15pm. This is a required training for volunteers who serve in direct-contact positions with clients. Email [volunteer@solidgroundmn.org](mailto:volunteer@solidgroundmn.org) to sign up.
- **Solid Ground Office Closed** - Monday, February 18th in observance of Presidents' Day.
- **Suburban Ramsey Homework Starts with Home Community Kick-off** - Tuesday, February 19th from 7:30-9am at the Fairview Community Center Great Room. Come to learn about this exciting new collaborative program helping to keep kids in their schools and end homelessness for their families. RSVP to [volunteer@solidgroundmn.org](mailto:volunteer@solidgroundmn.org).
- **Homeless Day on the Hill** - Wednesday, March 13th from 8am to 3pm. Join us in advocating at the Minnesota State Capitol! Registration is free but required. You can register by [clicking here](#) and send an email to [mchung@solidgroundmn.org](mailto:mchung@solidgroundmn.org) to let us know you're going!