
PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Dannie Elwood, Development Specialist
Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach
danniemtko@windstream.net
477-4116 or 217-1154 (cellular)
www.mtkserves.org

Susanne Blue, MSW receives 2008 Social Worker of the Year Award

Susanne Blue, MSW received the 2008 Social Worker of the Year Award at the National Association of Social Workers, Nebraska Chapter Conference on October 10, 2008.

During her eight years as Executive Director of Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach, Susanne has successfully expanded the services and physical space needed to meet the needs of the working poor and homeless in Lincoln. Under her leadership, a team of more than 800 volunteers and a staff of nine individuals provide physical, emotional, and spiritual nourishment to a population of persons who often find few places of refuge and compassion in the Lincoln community.

In her daily work, Susanne seeks to break down preconceived judgments and stereotypes associated with extreme poverty and homelessness. Susanne is described as a person of uncommon leadership and unwavering ethics, who is a walking and talking example of everything the National Association of Social Workers would want a social worker to be. Her family, MTKO staff and board members, as well as other community supporters accompanied Susanne to the awards ceremony to show their support of Susanne and her work at Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach.

Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach

Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach (MTKO) provides hunger and outreach assistance to Lincoln's working poor and homeless men, women and children of our community. In 2007 with the help of 800 dedicated hunger relief volunteers, MTKO provided **104,357 nutritious meals** to the hungry in Lincoln. In addition, MTKO provided **12,535 outreach assists** to individuals seeking help with the provision of basic and emergency needs items, vital records, and state identification. Many homeless guests are able to use MTKO as their mailing address and benefit from a courtesy phone and a guest message board service. MTKO offers Life Skills classes and health outreach, including dental screenings, blood pressure screenings, vision screenings, drug and alcohol abuse referrals, and nutrition counseling for low income and homeless individuals living with diabetes, heart condition, or obesity.

National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Nebraska Chapter

Contact: Terry Werner, Executive Director
477-7344
www.naswne.org