



## @HOME

CSEI PHOTOVOICE

Dubuque Museum of Art | June 1 – July 20

### Success Stories

#### From Shelter to Stability

In February, CSEI assisted a family in moving from a local shelter into their own apartment. The clients' permanent and supportive apartment offers ongoing housing subsidy and case management supports. The only thing keeping this family from making the move was her ability to pay a deposit and utility arrears. CSEI paid her deposit, large utility arrears, and assisted with some other needs. She and her grandson are now stable in their new home.

### Rotary Engagement

In February, Jennifer Walker presented at the Dubuque Chapter of Rotary International. She noted,

"People who are experiencing a housing crisis or who are homeless, in Delaware and Dubuque counties *find* CSEI. Last year, 3,478 people used CSEI services. But we continue to have challenges with the public and funders knowing who CSEI is and how critical our services are to the communities we serve. The need for our services continues to far outpace our funding, which is why it's important for us to meet with organizations such as Rotary. We rely on you to share what we do."

If you'd like to find out more or are interested in having CSEI staff present to your group, contact Jennifer Walker at [jwalker@ecia.org](mailto:jwalker@ecia.org)

### What's coming up?

#### @Home CSEI Photovoice

CSEI's @Home Photovoice Exhibition will be on display at the Dubuque Museum of Art from May 30th - July 21st with the opening reception happening on **June 7th!**

The exhibit will showcase the varying perspectives of what home means for 21 local amateur photographers.

CSEI's mission of addressing homelessness and housing instability is the reason we are focusing on the prompt of @Home.

More information on this event can be found on **page 4**.

#### Iowa NAHRO presentation

CSEI will be presenting at the Iowa National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) "Let's Face it Together" conference in late April.

Jennifer Walker, Director of Special Programs, will highlight the important relationship between Continuums of Care (COC) and local projects like CSEI. The COC is a planning body that coordinates housing and service funding to assist homeless individuals and families.

**"OUR PRIME PURPOSE IN THIS LIFE IS TO HELP OTHERS AND IF YOU CAN'T HELP THEM, AT LEAST DON'T HURT THEM."**

- Dalai Lama

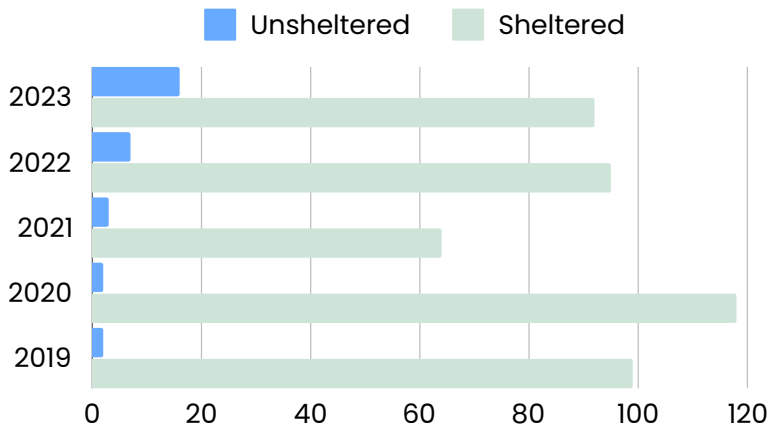
# 2024 Winter Point-in-Time Count

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. The annual count includes people living on the street, in emergency shelters, and in transitional housing.

Point-in-time counts are important for establishing the dimensions of the problem of homelessness and assists in tracking progress toward the goal of ending homelessness. On the local level, Point-In-Time counts help communities plan services and programs to appropriately address local needs, measure progress in decreasing homelessness, and identify strengths and gaps in a community's current homelessness assistance system.

Below are the sheltered and unsheltered counts for the past five years for Delaware & Dubuque Counties combined. January 2024 numbers have not yet been finalized.

Unsheltered homelessness has increased year-over-year, but 2024 will be an exception because of expansion of a night-by-night overflow shelter program in mid-2023.



Photos provided by Positive Productions Plus



## Care & Share Collection Inventory

In January, staff took inventory of all of the supplies collected during the CSEI Care & Share drive that occurred during the months of November and December. These supplies were used during the Point-In-Time count to meet the needs of the unsheltered individuals that were found.

**500+**  
Sets of gloves, knit hats, and pairs of socks

**20+**  
Towels

**200+**  
Personal supply items like tubes of toothpaste, deodorants, hair brushes, toothbrushes, soaps, shampoos, shaving razors, finger nail clippers, etc.

**35+**  
Sleeping bags, blankets, and tarps



# Board Features: Sam Wooden from RSH Legal



*Sam lives in Dubuque with his wife and two children. He joined the CSEI Board of Directors in 2023. Sam is an attorney with RSH Legal.*

*He received his undergraduate degree from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Kentucky in Lexington.*

## **What are some interesting facts about you?**

I spent five years in Nashville, TN trying to make a career as a singer and songwriter. I did not succeed but I did spend time managing a country singer and as a result toured with Taylor Swift and Carrie Underwood.

## **What about CSEI's mission calls to you?**

Earlier in my practice I worked closely with tenants and economically marginalized communities.

I care about ensuring quality housing for people.

**Recently, you went out with our team and other community volunteers for bi-annual the Housing and Urban Development Point in Time (PIT) count. What have you learned from being on the CSEI Board regarding homelessness in our region?**

I've learned that homelessness comes in various forms and because of all sorts of other issues. I've also learned how difficult it is to navigate a community like Dubuque while homeless. The services people need aren't super accessible and easy to work through; that's why Shelby and Ashley are so critical in connecting people to their needs. I'd like to go with the CSEI team on Street Outreach someday.



## Women of Achievement



**Shelby Eipperle** and **Ashley Noonan** were both nominated for the Women of Achievement Award, hosted by the Women's Leadership Network (WLN) of Dubuque. The Women of Achievement Awards Event is designed to recognize and honor women who have already, or aspire to, provide significant contributions in their professional or community roles.

The event was on April 11th at the Hotel Julien.

## Farewell to Ashley

Ashley Noonan has accepted a position with a new employer. Her last day of work with CSEI will be Friday, April 26.

Ashley began her work with CSEI in August of 2021 and has been an exceptional and tireless advocate for people experiencing homelessness. She has been a strong contributor to CSEI team and mission.



Ashley's commitment and dedication to serving our communities has been instrumental in CSEI's program development and implementation and community partnership building. She will be missed, but we wish her well in her new position.

# CSEI @Home Photovoice Opening on June 7th

## Our Mission

Our mission is to promote and encourage public well-being; provide homeless prevention resources to those living in poverty and threatened with homelessness; to help individuals and families survive and exit homelessness; and to expand opportunities and empower people to be self-sufficient in east-central Iowa cities and counties.

## Our Programs

### Rapid Rehousing

Short and medium-term rental assistance and case management serving individuals and families who are homeless

### Homeless Prevention

Short-term assistance serving individuals and families who are at imminent risk of homelessness

### Tenant Based Rental Assistance

Rental assistance for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

### Street Outreach

Outreach program with emphasis on reaching those living unsheltered and providing basic needs

### Homeless Helpline

Individuals at risk of homelessness in Delaware or Dubuque counties are encouraged to call the Housing Helpline to access information, referrals, and resources in their communities related to housing instability or homelessness



## Join CSEI as we celebrate our community and the artistic expression of storytelling through photography.

Photovoice is a storytelling technique used to put a camera in the hands of people to explore and share their perspectives on a certain topic. CSEI's mission of addressing homelessness and housing instability is the reason we are focusing on the prompt of @HOME. Home could be a favorite place to be—or a place the photographer would rather not be. It could be a community, a pet, or a person. The CSEI Photovoice will exhibit various perspectives of what @HOME means to our community.

## Gallery Opening Reception

Dubuque Museum of Art | 701 Locust Street - Dubuque, IA  
June 7th from 5 pm to 8 pm  
Photographer Introductions at 6 pm

## Full Exhibition Details

Dubuque Museum of Art | 701 Locust Street - Dubuque, IA  
June 1 - July 20, 2024

Scan the QR code or follow the link for free online registration for the Gallery Opening Reception:  
[www.tinyurl.com/cseirsvp](http://www.tinyurl.com/cseirsvp)



Support provided by



## Jan. - Mar. 2024 Service Statistics

611

HOUSING INSTABILITY CALLS ANSWERED

112

INDIVIDUALS SERVED IN RAPID REHOUSING & HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

21

INDIVIDUALS SERVED THROUGH STREET OUTREACH

## Grants & Gifts *Thank you for your generosity and support!*



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