

HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

January 04, 2023

43

Total Active Sites

84

Total Occupants

80

Total Tents

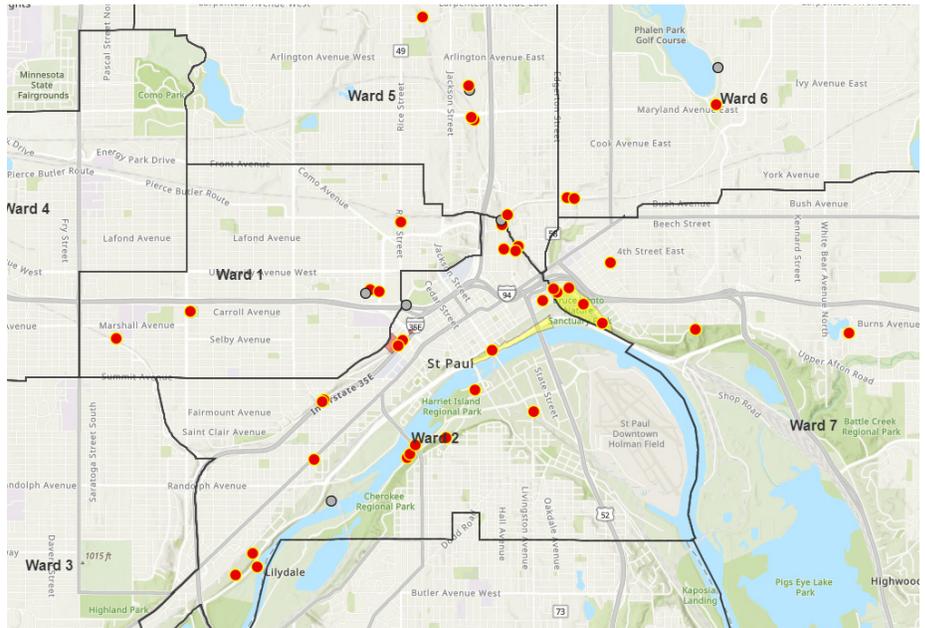
62

Total Male

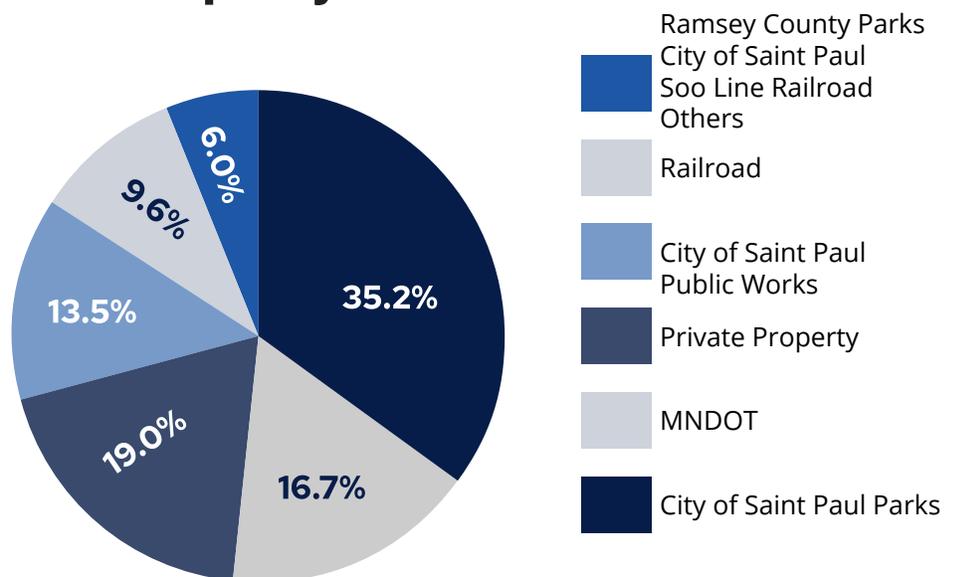
22

Total Female

City Data Summary



Property Owner



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

HART Contact Information

Andrea Hinderaker, HART Program Coordinator

Brian Ganzel, DSI Inspector II, HART

Sam Stoltz, Outreach Worker

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HART 2022 Stats: From July to December

Total number of camp closures: 7

1. Lower Landing

- Meaningful engagement with 48 individuals
- Served young people with unsheltered histories, ranging from one month to 15 years old
- 13 area shelter referrals
- 17 housing assessments
- Two Rule 25 assessments
- Two mental health assessments
- Brought three individuals back home to their residences
- Assisted eight people with transportation and/or coordination to go to a friend or family member's home for assistance

2. Cathedral Hill

- 12 tents
- 12 men
- Seven women
- Three housing assessments
- Two shelter referrals
- One crisis consultation
- One cat
- Three transports

3. Hamline Park

- Four tents
- Six men
- Three women
- Four shelter referrals
- Two transports

4. Newell Park

- 14 tents
- 11 men
- 11 women
- Six housing assessments completed

- Two family shelter referrals
- Six Highway to Housing referrals
- Two housing applications completed
- HART continues to engage with one couple who has been located at a Minneapolis encampment

5. 7th Street and Mounds Boulevard

- Seven individuals
- Four transport/assisted moves
- Five individuals already connected to community outreach services
- One individual interested in connecting with an outreach provider and case management services
- One individual not in a place of readiness to work on options. Restricted from all area services.
- One couple is long-term homeless and not ready to engage at this time

6. Bruce Vento

- Five women
- 10 men
- At time of close, only two women were on site. One of these women is now housed at Emma Norton Services.

7. Swede Hollow

- 19 men
- Seven women
- Three housing assessments
- Two housing assessment updates
- Two HMIS intakes
- One lease signing – Saint Paul Residence
- One crisis bed via COAST
- One person utilized storage
- Two UGM referrals
- Six transports



HART Contact Information

Total number of unsheltered individuals housed through the efforts of HART:

7 Women:

- Two: Emma Norton Services
- One: Sienna Green Metro HRA Voucher
- Two: Catholic Charities Higher Ground Harm Reduction Program
- One: Kimball Court
- One: Settled/Mosaic Tiny Home Community

11 men:

- Two: Settled/Mosaic Tiny Home Community
- Three: Catholic Charities Saint Anthony Residence
- One: Kimball Court
- Three: Handy Help GRH Housing
- One: GRH scattered site through Highway to Housing

Though HART was never set up to provide Case Management services or Housing Navigation services – we have 15 additional individuals who we continue to engage with following various closings. These individuals have expressed interest in problem-solving options beyond camping, but have historically experienced difficulties navigating the systems in place. Due to the many visits from both DSI Inspector Brian and HART outreach Sam, rapport and trust has been built and options are becoming more possible.

A huge thank you to all our Community Service Partners who worked with HART over the past months making any and all successes possible:

- Catholic Charities
- Union Gospel Mission
- Breaking Free
- The Listening House
- Community Medical Services Outreach
- Ramsey County Highway to Housing
- Minnesota Community Care

- COAST
- CARES
- SPPD
- SPFD
- Radies Health
- People's Inc
- Handy Help
- Kimball Court
- Emma Norton Services
- Settled Tiny Home Community



Pictured Above: Emergency Management Specialists Grant Genovese and Willow Rivera assist the Ramsey County Warming Centers with much needed blankets. The Warming Centers are serving an average of 120 individuals a night.



HART completed one more move-in before the end of the year. Kimball Court welcomed an unsheltered couple who have been working with HART for several months and hung in there with us through several moves.



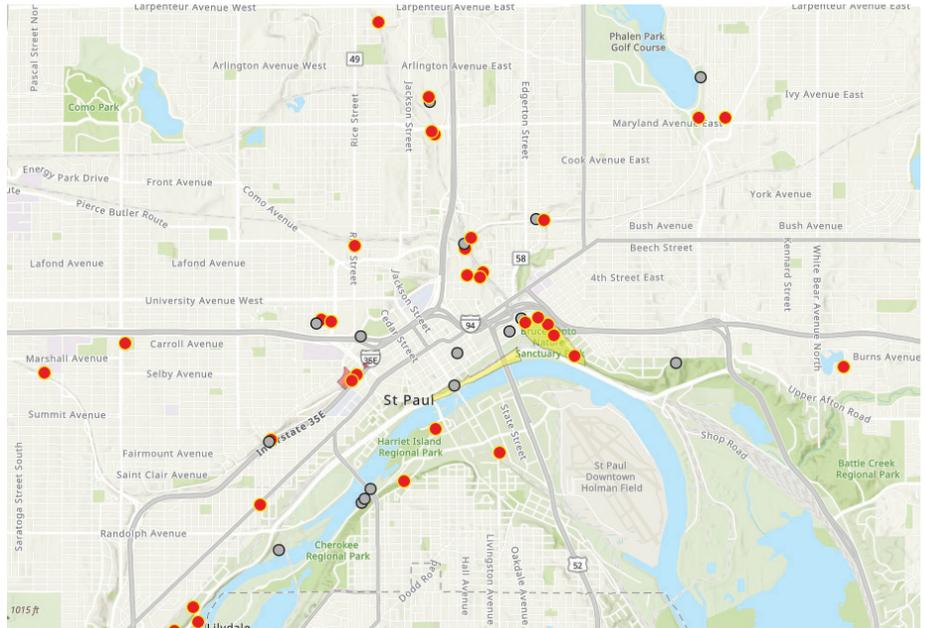
HART Contact Information

HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

January 10, 2023

City Data Summary



36

Total Active Sites

64

Total Occupants

55

Total Tents

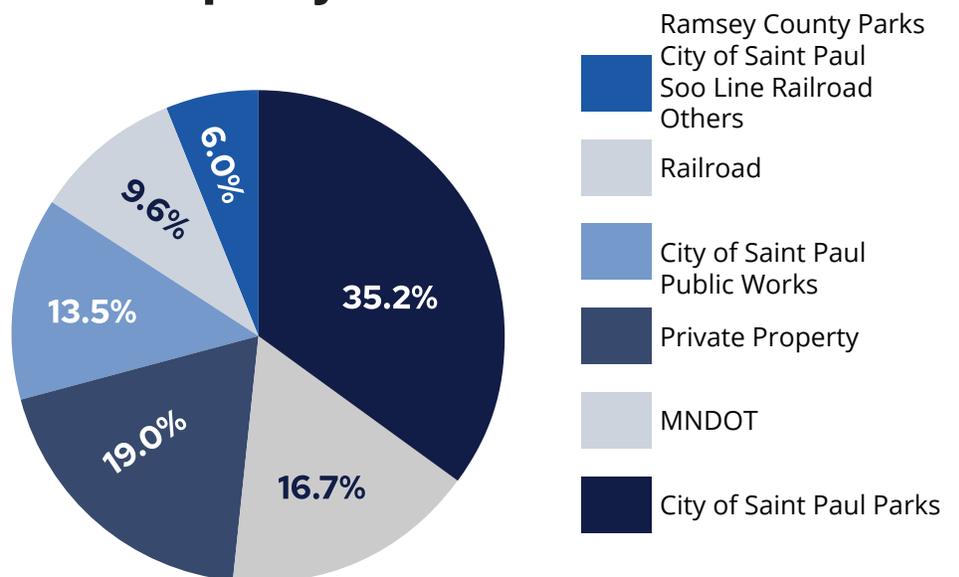
48

Total Male

16

Total Female

Property Owner



SAINT PAUL
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A True Homecoming

HART met Abby in early October of 2022. She was living in an encampment of 20 tents, located within Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. Abby lived among her “family” and openly shared how everyone has taken care of each other over the years.

On October 6, Abby was the one remaining occupant on site when the City came to close the camp. Everyone had relocated prior to HART’s arrival – everyone except Abby who promised her partner she would stay with their belongings while he sought out a new site. While Abby packed, she shared stories: her history of losing a housing choice voucher, and the challenges of various medical complications that made living outside that much more difficult. Yet her bubbly personality was not hidden. As staff packed a HART vehicle with her belongings, Abby’s resilience and commitment to her family showed through. However, Abby was not ready to accept any further assistance from HART at that time.

A short while later HART staff encountered Abby in distress along the path in Swede Hollow Park and she agreed to seek medical attention with the assistance of HART. Even with tears on her cheeks, she managed to laugh at our lame jokes. The slow bridge of trust was building, however, Abby was still not ready to accept any further assistance from HART at that time.

One month later the Swede Hollow encampment was scheduled to close. Everyone from Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary had relocated within Swede Hollow, including Abby. Again, with the help of the Deputy Mayor, Director Wiese, Director Goodman and many others – we packed Abby’s belongings and the belongings of many of her family for what we hoped would be the last move. Abby was finally beginning to open up to further assistance from HART.

One month later Abby moved into Emma Norton Services. She was in a healthy relationship at this time and her partner was supportive of the transition. Abby understood the Emma Norton Residence did not have to be a forever move but instead a stepping stone to a destination that could include her family. On the way to the move-in at Emma Norton, Abby said “My dream is to have a house somewhere where my family can live together under one roof.”

This week Abby moved into one of three houses on the East Side of Saint Paul that welcomed a total of 10 family members. A huge HART thank you to Handy Help LLC for assisting in this amazing event that allowed a community to stay together as they transitioned from a lifetime of homelessness into housing.



HART Outreach worker Sam Stoltz and Abby work together as they move Abby and her family into a home of their own. With the coordinated efforts of HART and Handy Help LLC, 10 unsheltered individuals moved into homes together throughout the East Side of Saint Paul.



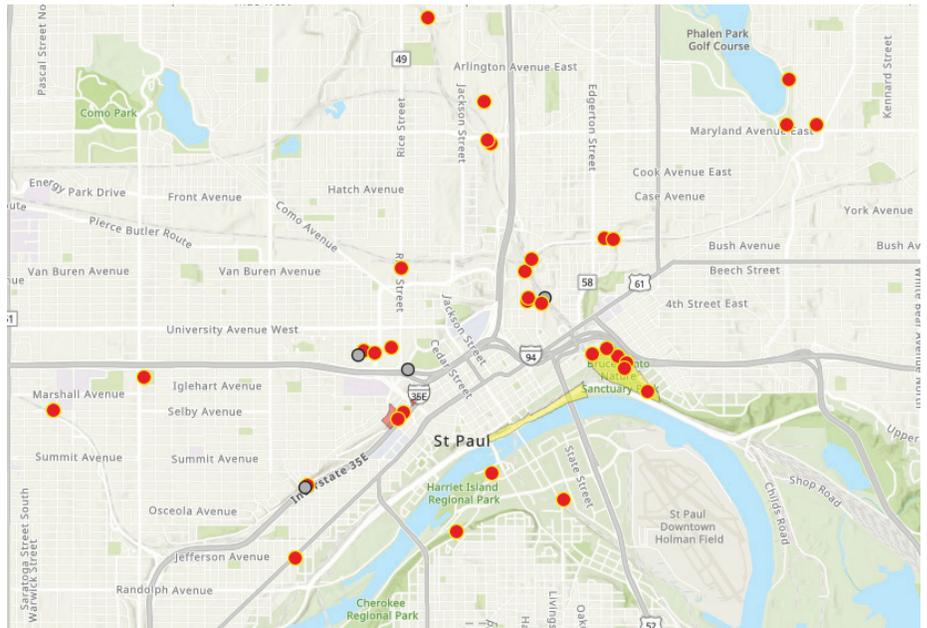
HART Contact Information

HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

January 18, 2023

City Data Summary



40

Total Active Sites

68

Total Occupants

58

Total Tents

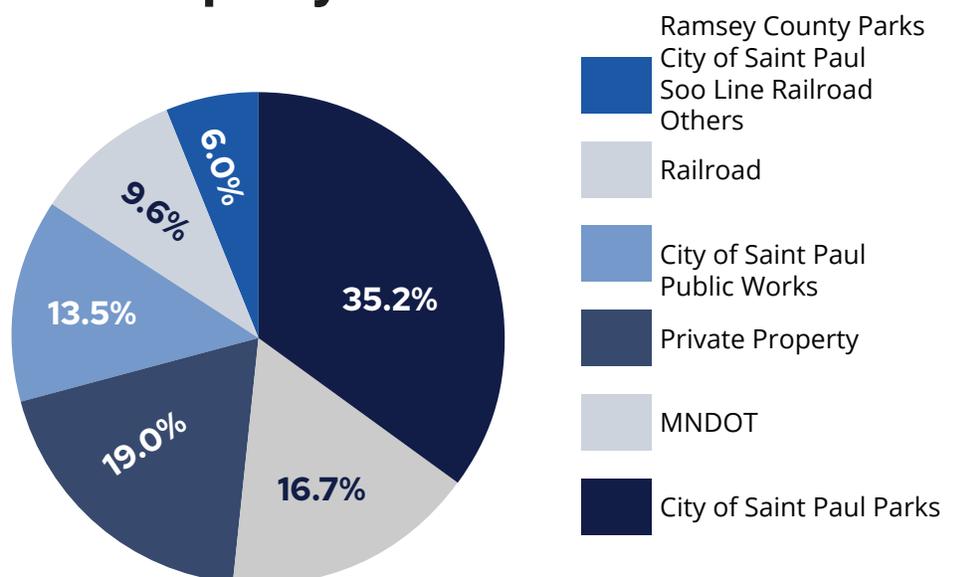
51

Total Male

16

Total Female

Property Owner



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What teamwork looks like in the City of Saint Paul

On a cold Wednesday afternoon, HART was called for a long shot request by the DSI Code Enforcement Department.

Code Enforcement Inspector Joe Yannarely tried unsuccessfully for several months to make contact with an elderly woman who was living in her condemned condo. However, that cold day her door was open just enough for Joe to look inside. At the entrance of the shell of a space sat the homeowner, bundled up in many layers, insistent that she was not able to leave her home. SPPD Code Enforcement Officer, Shawn Filiowich, was also present on the scene and together, Joe and Officer Filiowich reached out to HART for options.

HART consulted with Ramsey County Adult Crisis and arrived on the scene. There, HART staff determined that a crisis residence stay was not possible. The homeowner had a cat named Charlie and there were no places that would allow her to be accompanied by her cat. Additionally, though her mental health was struggling, she did not qualify for a "hold" and would have had to decide on her own that she needed hospitalization. Reviewing the situation, the only other remaining option was to arrest the homeowner for trespassing in a condemned space. No one on site was willing to add the additional trauma to an already challenging, heart-wrenching situation.

After an hour of building trust and rapport with the homeowner, HART was able to coordinate with Molly Lunaric, Saint Paul's Animal Control Supervisor. Molly secured a safe space for Charlie the cat, and the CARES team was able to secure transport for the homeowner to a local hospital. The homeowner made all of her own decisions – and vacated her freezing home, ready to accept help.

A few weeks later with the help of the SPFD, HART was able to locate the homeowner after she had been discharged from the hospital and seemingly disappeared. Charlie was still safe and sound but more coordination needed to happen to be sure Charlie had the best opportunity to be reunited with his human. Molly sent regular reports to HART regarding Charlie's disposition and obvious stress having been separated from his caregiver.

Due to the great work of caring staff at United Hospital, a social worker who specializes in elder care secured placement in one of the seven beds for elderly unsheltered women at the Ramsey County shelter – Project Home's Provincial House. DSI Inspector Joe contacted the homeowner's brother, and after a few coordinating phone calls with HART, the brother and Ed Hilbrich, an advocate at the Provincial House, created a plan to assist the homeowner in finding new housing. Charlie is well cared for with a foster family, thanks to the compassionate work at Animal Control. There is hope for a human-cat reunion in a safe home with a safe future!

Teamwork is at the core of how the City of Saint Paul cares for its community. There is often no single obvious choice when working with individuals in crisis situations. Often, logic is not the most efficient tool. Assisting this neighbor in need took creativity, time, trust, networking, and teamwork across multiple departments. HART is committed to assisting our community partners even when at times the request falls outside of our normal day-to-day duties.



Charlie was rescued from his home when his owner was transported to the Hospital. Charlie and his owner kept each other company in a home without heat or water – both are now warm and safe as they await a new home that will allow them to be reunited.



HART Contact Information

HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

February 14, 2023

32

Total Active Sites

58

Total Occupants

45

Total Tents

39

Total Male

20

Total Female

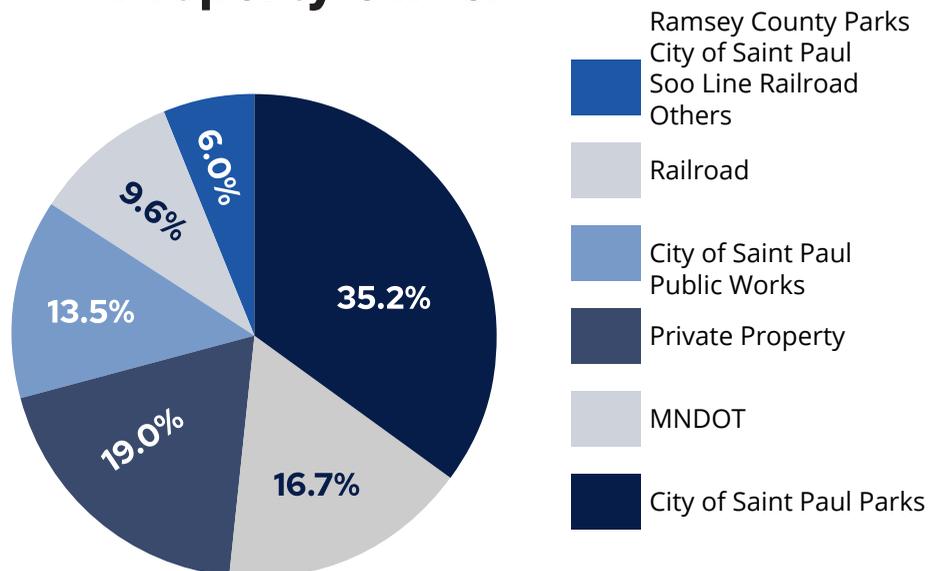
Weekly Highlight



Since warming centers opened on December 1, approximately 120 individuals a night have been served by the collaborative efforts of the City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, and Saint Paul's faith community. Prior to this winter, residents without permanent housing had no alternative but to stay outside once the shelters were full. Warming spaces will stay open through the end of February.

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Property Owner



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team



HART is not an island

Community partners are key to effective interventions and compassionate responses to the unsheltered crisis in our communities. Seneca Krueger is not only an amazing outreach partner whose compassion reaches across both Hennepin and Ramsey County lines, she is also an educator — offering her time to many of our community panels. Recently she offered a Naloxone (Narcan) training at Faith City Church as they continue to offer their space as a Warming Hub, Tuesday and Thursday nights to Women and children.

When asked to share more about herself and her passion, below is what Seneca shared. It will not take long for anyone to understand what fuels her passion and why HART is so fortunate to be able to call on her for assistance in the field.

“Community is in the name of the company I work with (Community Medical Services), it’s in my job title (Community Programs Manager), and it’s at the heart of the way I walk through the world. Working in street outreach has been such a beautiful way to connect with the most incredible people, and it is in street outreach that I have really begun to understand the meaning of community and the importance of community care. People who are struggling to survive with very few resources can do so together. In my work, especially with people who make their homes in tents, I’ve witnessed a kind of altruism rarely seen amongst my own housed neighbors. Community care happens when someone knows their neighbor hasn’t eaten all day and takes an extra meal to deliver to them. Community care happens when someone meticulously checks the sizes of each shoe donation because they know someone else who needs new shoes, and they want to make sure they get it right. Community care happens when there is a medical need or emergency, and neighbors work together to offer aid.

I have assisted the people I work with (outreach and unhoused) during two large Minneapolis camp evictions over the past few weeks. I stood with people

who cried as they watched their homes and belongings destroyed by bulldozers, the things they couldn’t fit into a shopping cart dumped into the beds of big trucks to be hauled away. In that moment I understood that the tears were not about “stuff” but about the destruction of what everyone had collectively built together over the months. This was the destruction of a community, of a neighborhood, of people who had come to know each other and rely on their care. In these evictions I had also lost spaces where I felt a deep sense of connection, belonging and care. There is a psychic violence in evictions like this that is hard to describe.

Building community is crucial for our mental health and happiness. Sustaining community is important for survival and care. Education in how to do both well is just outside of our doors, in the streets, on the light rails, and in the communal knowledge held in tented communities. I have been honored to be welcomed in as a student of community in my roles as a therapist, harm reduction and housing outreach worker, and now as a resource and avenue to medications that treat chaotic opioid use (methadone, suboxone, and vivitrol). We can learn a lot from our neighbors, but not if they are consistently separated and displaced.

As we continue to work toward creative solutions to address inequities experienced by our neighbors and friends outside, let’s make “sustaining communities” one of our goals.”



Left: Seneca has been a regular presence on our Community Provider Panels and has most recently assisted Faith City Church volunteers with a Narcan training in preparation for their overnight warming space for Women and children. Above: Seneca joins HART in the field, problem solving with a couple that moved to Saint Paul after their site was closed in Minneapolis earlier in the week.



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

February 28, 2023

33

Total Active Sites

60

Total Occupants

48

Total Tents

38

Total Male

22

Total Female

Weekly Highlight

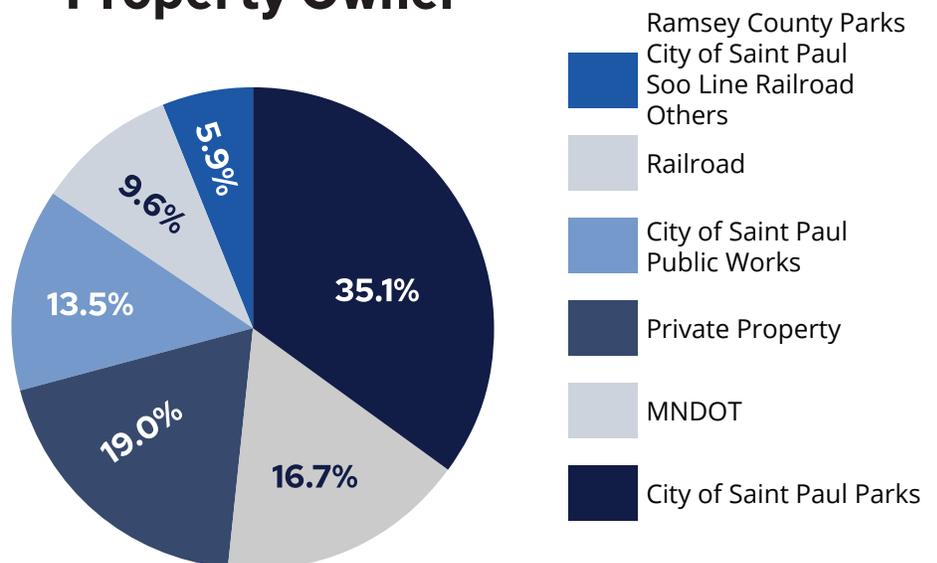


Ramsey County's Warming Centers close their doors on March 1.

In the past three months they have made 10,000 trips picking up unsheltered folks at night and dropping them off at safe sites in the mornings.

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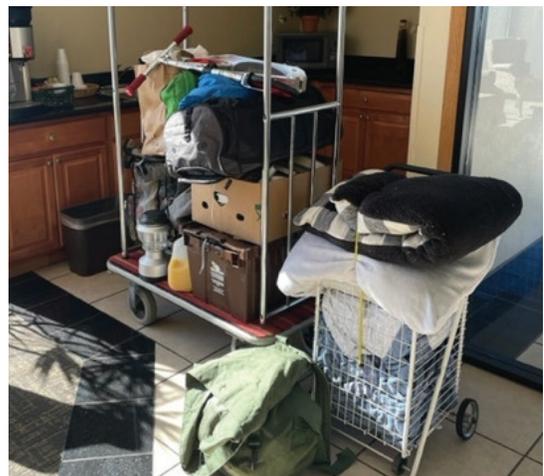
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All A Matter of Perspective

When HART shows up to assist moving an individual from their camp location to an indoor opportunity – it is not just a box checked or a quick transaction. What can appear to be chaos and trash from the outside looking in – is often not much different than items you or I would have folded in a drawer or placed in a closet for further use.

When assisting in a move HART makes sure to treat all items with the care and intentionality that we would treat our own. Recently a young woman who 3 months ago had no interest in engaging with HART or receiving assistance of any kind from a government agency, accepted help twice.

- We moved together from the 35E Pathway to an alternative location until a space was available at the Lighthouse Way Women's shelter in Maplewood.
- We moved one last time to Lighthouse Way. She carefully packed what was most important to her — books, clothing to wash, a scooter and various collectables. This resilient woman who at one point wanted no help at all, shared with us her readiness to apply for food and cash benefits. She explained further that she is ready for a housing opportunity where she can have a space of her own. She has been a provider of support and assistance to her friends and neighbors outside, but is now ready to focus on her own journey.



It looked like a mess of trash but when packed up carefully it turned into nothing more noteworthy than luggage ready for a room — where a woman begins a new chapter in her life.



HART Contact Information