

Uncovering Hidden Homelessness

~ raising awareness and promoting change ~

APRIL 2022



Define It

Doubled Up refers to an individual or family who is unable to maintain independent housing and is forced to stay with friends or family members, often in overcrowded conditions.



HSC stands for Homeless Services Consortium of Dane County, a partnership of agencies, funders, advocates, and formerly homeless persons committed to preventing and ending homelessness. HSC shares the vision that all persons should have the opportunity to secure and maintain safe, stable and affordable housing.

The Doubled Up Workgroup is a subgroup of the HSC.

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Lived Experience Voice

“...being doubled up, it sounds like it's a good thing because you're maybe with friends, or family... but it can turn bad because not everyone lives the same lifestyle. You can end up losing those friends, or family relationships, if things go bad. It takes a big person to just deal with it. And it's just a lot to deal with.....”

~ quote from a local man with a disability who was doubled up for seven months, and recently was able to obtain his own apartment.

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Getting to Know You:

Introducing
Catherine Reiersen



What is your job, and how long have you been in it?

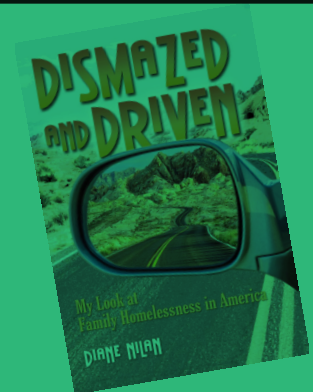
My title is McKinney Vento Coordinator for Sun Prairie schools. I started Nov 2020, so I'm still pretty new! My job is supporting students experiencing homelessness in our school district, and making sure they have everything they need to be successful at school. I assist with identification, enrollment, school transportation, and resource referrals for families experiencing homelessness. I also coordinate with housing providers and do community education on student homelessness.

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What's on Deck...

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Save the Date!
June 13th @ 6 PM
Booksharing event at
Madison's Central Library
with author Diane Nilan

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(Click on links below to be taken to articles)

K-12 Dive: Slipping Through the Cracks

Sun Prairie Star: We Aren't Homeless Enough



Introducing **Catherine Reiersen** (Continued from page 1)

What does a typical day look like?

I would say my day starts and ends with transportation, especially cab transportation. We have about 50 students who take cabs to school, so a lot of my job is making sure kids are picked up on time and getting home safely. Depending on the day, I may also participate in HSC committee meetings, problem-solve with families on their housing needs, assist with school enrollment, or consult with our school social workers.

What is the best part of your job? The hardest part of your job?

I enjoy working with parents. I also like that I can impact systems, both within the district and in the bigger HSC world. The hardest part is dealing with systems challenges, especially around transportation and housing availability. These are big community problems that can feel overwhelming at times.

If you could change one thing about the service system, what would it be?

I would like to have more people with lived experience represented and having a say in programs. I think our community is moving in that direction, which is exciting!

One random fact about you!

Kind of nerdy but I really love video games!

One thing you want people to know about doubled up homelessness in our schools/community?

There just aren't a lot of options for people who are doubled up, and so people stay homeless for months, even years. It's hard to see people in that vulnerable situation for so long. Many people don't want to stay at a shelter for valid reasons, so they just fall through the cracks.

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This newsletter is brought to you by the Doubled Up Workgroup.

Since 2019, we have been working to raise awareness about doubled up homelessness in our community and advocating for resources to support this population.

Questions or comments?

Email us at doubledupworkgroup@gmail.com



Ways to Help...

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Tenant Resource Center: Volunteer Mediators

TRC is seeking volunteer mediators for our Court Mediation Project! You do not have to be an attorney to mediate! Requirements to be a successful mediator are only empathy and an interest in conflict resolution. TRC provides mediation volunteers with training, including a deep dive into the eviction process with a housing counselor and at least two court shadowing shifts.

Mediation volunteers cover Zoom eviction court (Tuesdays) either the AM shift from 8:30 to about 11:30am and/or the PM shift from 1:00pm to about 4:30pm. We encourage mediators to sign up for at least two court shifts a month. If you are interested in volunteering as a court mediator, please email Kora@TenantResourceCenter.Org or complete a volunteer application at <https://www.tenantresourcecenter.org/volunteer>

The Village Diaper Bank

The Village Diaper Bank provides diapers to social service organizations and government agencies (such as schools) that are helping families in need through comprehensive programs and services.

Learn more at <https://www.villagediaperbank.org/> or click here to donate.