

“Bittersweet Goodbye to a St. Paul Shelter Some Called Home” and “The Men of Over Flow”
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For the last 7 winters, men of Malta have helped staff an over flow shelter adjacent to the Dorothy Day Center so that no one need be turned away for lack of space during cold winter nights. Each evening, September through April, 2 volunteers have arrived at 7:00pm admitting up to 40 men, serving them dinner, spending the evening watching TV, talking sports, playing cribbage or sharing life's hopes and dreams before bedding down together for the night. The following morning lights were back on at 5:30am, we shared coffee and some light housekeeping chores together and everyone was on their way for the day by 6:30am. Homeless men to look for somewhere to keep warm till the over flow opened again that evening, volunteers home or to work.

Over the years the volunteers formed strong bonds with guests. They saw Silas through radical throat surgery and rehabilitation. When Gary passed away, they asked for his body when no family was found, and held a memorial service. When they chanced upon Gary's son in Philadelphia, they flew Gary's ashes out reuniting a family that otherwise would never have known Gary's fate.

MPR did a story they titled “Bittersweet Goodbye to a St Paul Shelter Some Called Home”. <http://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/03/29/old-st-paul-homeless-shelter-prepares-close>

And the Men of Over Flow were just honored with Catholic Charities annual Dorothy Day Community Service Award for their efforts in serving those in need for so many nights over so many winters.

The Men of Over Flow will continue to be a part of the new Dorothy Day Center when it opens, assuming responsibility for serving dinner and socializing, much as they did at over flow, with 80 residents each evening, not measuring their worth by the tasks they do but by the love they share. Currently more than 150 men from nearly 20 parishes across the Archdiocese and the Diocese of Duluth, participate. Some more. Some less. But all making a difference in the lives of the poor.