



community**action**inc.

The door in our logo is a
symbol of what we do at
Community Action...

open doors of opportunity

that help people in our
communities succeed
one life at a time

About Community Action

Community Action, Inc. is a 100% local, not-for-profit organization that fights and prevents poverty in the communities of Rock and Walworth counties. At more than \$6 million a year we secure and invest more resources to fight poverty in our two counties than any other not-for-profit organization.

We work hard every day, and have been since 1965, to provide opportunities that allow individuals and families to help themselves achieve a better life.

To do this, we offer more than 40 different community programs. In addition to our housing and energy programs, we provide quality child care, family resources, at-risk youth programming, accessible women's health care, assistance with a housing crisis, emergency shelter, and senior benefit assistance.

Contributions are critical

Financial contributions from individuals, businesses, churches, and other organizations play a critical role in making our programs possible. If you're interested in supporting what we do, please contact us today. Your gift no matter its size, will contribute directly to helping our community succeed, one life at a time.

Twin Oaks

shelter for the homeless



community**action**inc.
creating pathways out of poverty

Twin Oaks Shelter for the Homeless

W9665 U.S. Highway 14 Darien, WI 53114-1233
(262) 882-3662

For general Community Action information:
(608) 755-2470
www.community-action.org

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Twin Oaks Shelter for the homeless



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About Twin Oaks

As the only emergency shelter in Walworth County, Twin Oaks provides homeless families and individuals with a safe, caring place to stay as they work to resolve their housing crisis. Twin Oaks...

- ✦ Offers 12 residential units
- ✦ Allows residents to stay for up to 90 days
- ✦ Gives priority to Walworth County residents for placement at the shelter.

More than just shelter

Beyond simply providing a place to stay, Twin Oaks provides a professional case manager who works one-to-one with residents in resolving their crisis and finding stable housing. Twin Oaks also offers workshops to build residents' knowledge and skills in areas such as employment, landlord-tenant relationships, budgeting, alcohol and drug awareness, and mental health issues.

A Walworth County Public Health Nurse is available to residents once each week. The nurse conducts a general health screening for every new resident and talks with the individuals about their health concerns.

In addition to its residential units, Twin Oaks provides residents with a community kitchen, a food pantry, a laundry room, a library and resource room, and an outdoor playground for children.

"Many people who find themselves at Twin Oaks have suffered a crisis not much more serious than one that you or I or someone we know has experienced. The very big difference is often that they don't have one crucial thing: a support system of people to help them through their crisis. That's why Twin Oaks is here - to support those who have no one else to lean on".

~John Hembrook, Shelter Manager

Because everyone deserves a roof over their head...

There are probably as many misconceptions about what causes homelessness as there are actual reasons and causes. At Twin Oaks, many of those who come to us have suffered a crippling crisis in their lives, such as:

- ✦ A situation of violence in their home
- ✦ A medical crisis with resulting expenses that drained their financial resources
- ✦ Loss of their home and possessions to fire
- ✦ The inability to work due to a disability
- ✦ A sudden loss of job and income.

Whatever the cause, we know individuals can positively contribute to our community only when they have safe housing for themselves and their family. While Twin Oaks is only a temporary solution, it provides homeless residents of our community with a stepping stone to more permanent, stable housing.

"I've never seen a place that helps people as much as they do here. I've learned that there are people who care and who are willing to help."

~former Twin Oaks resident

A long history

Community Action has operated Twin Oaks Shelter since 1992. Each year, Twin Oaks houses as many as 175 individuals, and it generally has a waiting list. Over the last ten years, Twin Oaks has helped more than 800 households, or about 1,900 residents.

Every year, close to one half of those who stay at Twin Oaks are children, as many of those we serve at the shelter are families. In a typical year, we serve 60-90 children.

You can help...

The help that Twin Oaks provides would be impossible without the generous contributions from many in our community. **Every year, Community Action must raise close to \$150,000 in private donations to keep Twin Oaks open.** We are helped in this effort by the volunteer Twin Oaks Fundraising Committee, as well as by numerous individuals, churches, organizations, businesses, and foundations who provide financial support to Twin Oaks. Critical funding is also provided by the State of Wisconsin Bureau of Housing (department of Commerce), the Delavan-Darien United Way, and the Geneva Lakes Area United Way.



Donations to Twin Oaks are **always** needed. If you can help support the work of Twin Oaks with a financial contribution, please contact Community Action at (262) 728-8296 or send your check to Community Action, Inc. 1545 Hobbs Drive, Delavan, WI 53115-2027, and put "Twin Oaks" in the memo line.

If you are able to donate new and gently used items for use by Twin Oaks residents, such as household supplies, personal care items or furniture, please call Twin Oaks at (262) 882-3662. We cannot accept all items at all times at the shelter, so your advance call is greatly appreciated.

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