



## HOUSING FIRST GIVES PEOPLE A PLACE FOR HEALING AND RECOVERY

Renay White came to Couleecap's Housing First program after being homeless for three years. She says the social stigma of homelessness is suffocating. "Homeless people are still human. We don't feel respected, we don't feel loved."

Renay suffered an injury resulting in a neck fracture. She began taking pictures at unique angles as a way to exercise and regain range of motion in her neck. Photography was a way to heal, and a way to express herself and her humanity in a positive way.

[Click to learn more about Renay's story.](#)

**"We need to show people they are worthy."**

**-Renay White**



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## Putting an END to Homelessness Fighting Homelessness has never been this Fun!

Thank you to our sponsors, golfers, and community for making our inaugural golf tournament at the La Crosse Country Club a tremendous success! With their help we raised over \$13,000 for Couleecap homeless programs!

Thank you to our generous major sponsors. Their support combined with 22 golf teams (88 people), including 9 Corporate Team Sponsors. The event was also supported by 20 hole sponsors and 47 silent auction donors.

A complete list of our hole and tee sponsors, team sponsors and silent auction sponsors can be found online [here](#).

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# PUTTING AN END TO HOMELESSNESS

To Benefit Couleecap Homeless Programs

The date is set! Join us June 15, 2020 for  
our 2nd annual golf outing at the  
La Crosse Country Club!



# Disaster Recovery for Children

## Project Recovery's Creativity Helps Local Kids

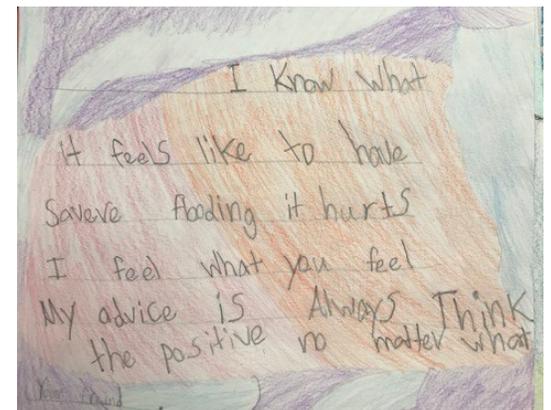
Project Recovery is a Couleecap program providing outreach, crisis counseling, and support to communities impacted by the severe storms, flooding, landslides, straight-line winds, and tornadoes in the summer of 2018. Crisis counselors in nine Wisconsin counties provide emotional support and connection to resources for survivors of the disaster. One component of Project Recovery's work is outreach to special populations, including children. In talking about disaster recovery to kids, it is imperative that the language be appropriate, non-threatening, and sensitive. Project Recovery has used a very creative approach to talk disaster recovery with kids.

### Words from Wisconsin

This pen pal project came from Project Recovery's Team West Lead, Kim Sines, as she was following the spring flooding and destruction of her home state, Nebraska. She felt connecting school children in two areas that had experienced similar flooding disasters would be a great opportunity for kids to heal and share their stories and words of encouragement. She also saw it as an opportunity for kids to know they weren't alone and that other children were survivors of similar experience. She reached out to Kickapoo School in Viola, WI, where many students had been through the floods and even had their first days of school delayed due to the disaster, and DC West in Valley, NE, where Kim had family connections and knew many of the students had experienced flooding. Both schools were excited to be involved. On May 21st, 36 fourth grade students from Kickapoo Elementary enthusiastically made cards, drew pictures, and wrote letters to their new friends in Nebraska!

### Puppet Show

Another creative approach to talking flood recovery with kids is Project Recovery's puppet show. Crisis counselors have taken on the role of puppeteers this summer as they tour their show to local venues in areas that were hard hit by the floods. Partnering with after school programs and libraries, the puppet show is a way to talk to kids about disaster recovery and mental health. Through the story telling of a turtle, frog, snake, and owl the kids learn about emotions they may experience, techniques to alleviate stress, and how to combat their "stinkin' thinkin'".



Words from Wisconsin is a great opportunity for kids to heal and share their stories with other survivors.



Project Recovery's puppet show tours local venues in areas that were hard hit by the floods.

**Thank you for being a FRIEND in the fight to END homelessness.**

This summer we are making a special appeal to our friends. Any gift of \$60 or more will receive a t-shirt and your gift will support Couleecap's Homeless Programs.

Please wear your t-shirt with pride, and thank you for supporting Couleecap Homeless programs.

[Click here to make your online donation.](#)



Toll Free: 1.866.904.4508  
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## Perspectives from the Field Flood Recovery a Year Later

It has been almost one year since the 2018 floods that left so many in our region devastated. Since that time, Couleecap has been active in serving survivors, whether their needs included rental or temporary housing assistance, home repair, or emotional counseling and support. Couleecap coordinated with local organizations to provide aid and referrals for emergency shelter, food, clothing, volunteers to assist in clean-up, repairs, and other assistance as survivors applied for benefits. However, we knew that recovery was larger than serving the urgent needs. Couleecap immediately began working with staff from La Crosse County and the Wisconsin Division of Administration to secure Emergency Assistance Program Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for La Crosse and Monroe Counties. We also coordinated efforts with agencies responsible for administering CDBG funds for Vernon and Crawford Counties.

The Couleecap Community Development Department began taking applications for the Emergency Assistance Program (EAP) immediately after the floods. The program offers grants to low-income households for emergency home repairs that FEMA and other grants will not cover. Taylor Lejeune, Outreach Assistant, spent subsequent weeks fielding calls and explaining the EAP program and eligibility requirements. Those who were ineligible for the CDBG-EAP grant through Couleecap were referred to the appropriate agencies for additional assistance and resources. Staff handled general inquiries about FEMA application processes and coordinated with FEMA representatives and newly opened Disaster Response Centers to encourage applicants to register with FEMA.

Couleecap staff processed applications as they came in. Once it was determined the household was eligible for assistance, inspections were scheduled and completed, and contractor bids were solicited. Projects have ranged from minor, such as water-logged drywall in basements, or extensive, such as irreparable homes that require a complete buyout and demolition. Couleecap has assisted in repairing washed-out driveways, replacing water heaters and furnaces, providing reimbursement for repairs homeowners completed on their own, and providing rent assistance and reimbursement to homeowners who were displaced when their homes became uninhabitable. Many times, Couleecap supplemented EAP funds with privately raised funds, or donations, to help people access temporary housing and other resources while their homes were being repaired.

Even though many months have passed, our clients are still in the process of recovery. Couleecap continues our work assisting the residents devastated by the 2018 storm event. New applications continue to come in from residents impacted by the floods and Couleecap is there for them.



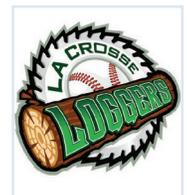
THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE  
COPELAND

### FUNDRAISING WITH THE LOGGERS

## COULEECAP NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

FRIDAY, JULY 19<sup>TH</sup> | 7:05 PM FIRST PITCH | 6:00 PM GATES OPEN

**PROMO CODE: COULEECAP**



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