

MACCH assistant director acts as voice for the voiceless.

By Kayla Eggenberg

Lisa Vukov has always strived to be a voice for the voiceless. As the assistant director for the Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH), Vukov helps people every day, whether by collaborating with partner agencies or directly assisting homeless clients.

Vukov has always been drawn to the world of social service. Growing up, she watched her father struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder and physical injuries he sustained from serving in Vietnam. Watching him fight those battles fueled her desire to help others.

Before joining the MACCH staff, Vukov worked for the Salvation Army. Making a positive impact in the lives of her clients is the most rewarding aspect of working for a nonprofit, Vukov says.



"I love getting to see the amazing growth and change in people," Vukov says. "There are so many amazing accomplishments I have been blessed to be witness to, and that's what keeps me coming to work every day."

Working with more than 40 local partner agencies presents the unique opportunity for Vukov to collaborate with other professionals to make a difference in the homeless community.

"I love helping so many of our partners put efforts in place to affect change on a system-level," Vukov says. "The ability to coordinate with everyone around our 10-year plan and see progress being made is incredible."

Throughout the large community of homeless service providers, Vukov says it is crucial all agencies feel included and valued. As long as progress is always being made, she knows she is doing her job effectively.

"The work we do, addressing homelessness on a system-level, doesn't always result in



Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless

everyone getting what they want, but as long as we are progressing in the right direction, everyone benefits," she says.

Being part of a two-person team at MACCH and a busy wife and mother, Vukov admits finding a work-life balance can be difficult. The work she does literally affects people's lives.

"I definitely prioritize my family when I'm at home and remind myself that I must take care of myself first," Vukov says. "Otherwise, I wouldn't be able to take care of others."

Away from the office, Vukov enjoys spending time with her husband, Tom, and two daughters, Madelyn, 9, and Lillian, 7. Mayzie, an Australian shepherd, and Gigi, a German shepherd, are also part of the family. Vukov's daughter Madelyn is a competitive gymnast, which leads to spending much time in the gym and traveling for competitions on weekends. Lillian is a talented swimmer, a sport Vukov herself competed in for 10 years during her youth.

A lifelong Nebraska Cornhusker fan, Vukov's father helped instill her love for sports. To unwind, Vukov enjoys cuddling up with her family to watch movies, especially the Harry Potter series.

Vukov's family support and her passion for the work she does at MACCH keeps her going in times of stress. This passion has translated

into countless achievements for the homeless nonprofit. The work is far from finished, but Vukov says she will continue to be a voice for the voiceless.

"Making sure everyone is heard equally, regardless of how loud or quiet their voice, is a challenge," Vukov says, "but also very rewarding."