



July 2019

# DAYLIGHT

Happenings at St. John Center for Homeless Men



**“If it were not for hopes,  
THE HEART  
WOULD BREAK.”**  
– Thomas Fuller

## Hope at the Center of Our Mission

St. John Center is a place where people experiencing homelessness seek help, find hope, and move home. Volunteers, staff, and visitors find hope here every day, in all sorts of ways.

“Hope is both in the individual and the collective. When a person who is in search of an opportunity is met by a community that embraces and prioritizes the humanity of that individual, there is hope,” said James Alexander, SJC housing case manager. “From what I can see, St. John Center is an organization that consciously strives to cultivate and promote such a dynamic to the benefit of both the individual and the greater community.”

St. John Center volunteer Heather Fox finds hope in her fellow volunteers and in the kindness the men show each other. “One of the first shifts I worked someone had a medical emergency and the first person to help was another one of the guys. He stayed with him until emergency services arrived,” she said. “I find hope in the determination of a young man who asked for help finding opportunities to learn computer coding. I find

hope when I talk to other volunteers who agree that there is something special about St. John (Center), a sense of mutual respect and kindness that I don’t always see outside these walls.”

Nick, a SJC client, says the shelter staff give him hope. “The shelter offers excellent services and resources, but they are not as good as the people that work there. The staff is committed to helping individuals like myself get their lives back on track,” he said. “They make me feel like they are pulling for me, like they have confidence in me, and that really makes me want to do better. I don’t want to disappoint them. I want to be the guy that helps the next person do better.”

**Hope. We find it here every day.**



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– James

The staff is committed to helping individuals like myself get their lives back on track

– Nick



**Come, come, whoever you are.**

**Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.  
It doesn't matter.**

**Ours is not a caravan of despair...  
come, even if you have broken your  
vows a thousand times.**

**Come, yet again, come, come."**

— attributed to the Sufi mystic Jelaluddin Rumi

Ours is a caravan of hope. Whether finding someone in an abandoned building where she slept last night, meeting someone at his workplace with lunch supplies and a bus ticket, or joining someone at his apartment for a home visit, we begin the same - we meet people where they are.



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I received a big bear hug from Glen when we saw one another at a recent cookout. "I will celebrate 8 years in housing this summer," he exclaimed with a mix of pride in his accomplishment and surprise at his success. He continued, "I would be dead if St. John hadn't helped me get housing, and I wouldn't have made it 8 years without you. I would fall, and you'd pick me up. I'd get lost, and you'd help me find my way again. I lost faith in myself, but you never did. I mean it, so thank you."



We all make mistakes, and can relate to having been broken or broken-hearted. At St. John Center, we marvel at the strength and resolve our clients possess for having endured so much, often with too few resources. Taking steps forward, together and with your help, we become a caravan of hope.

*Maria A. Price*  
Maria A. Price  
Executive Director

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## YOU'VE MADE AMAZING THINGS HAPPEN THIS SPRING!

**YOU'VE:** accompanied men on the way home! In May and June, 8 men moved into their own apartments.

**YOU'VE:** made it possible to provide more services all year long. The expansion of our day shelter and social services center is underway and will be finished in September.

**YOU'VE:** expanded services to those without housing or shelter by keeping our Outreach Team going.

**YOU'VE:** you've welcomed 395 different men in from the heat and rain in May and June by volunteering and creating a safe and affirming environment.

**Thank you for your support and  
for the hope you bring every day!**

## Summer supplies wish list

- Disinfectant liquid cleaner (Lysol)
- White athletic crew-length socks
- Rain ponchos
- Postage stamps
- Office paper (8-1/2 x 11)

Contact Keith Steer at  
(502) 398-3504 for  
more information