



July 2020

DAYLIGHT

Happenings at St. John Center for Homeless Men



FINDING THE WAY FORWARD

The work of St. John Center’s employment project unexpectedly shifted gears in mid-March. Suddenly, many of the men who had found employment over the last year were coming in with news that they had lost their jobs.

The global pandemic dramatically changed the prospects of people like Jameaze. In February, he was hired for a new job at a start-up restaurant in Louisville. With many years’ experience in food service, he was excited to be part of something new. But within two weeks, Jameaze’s new job was temporarily suspended.

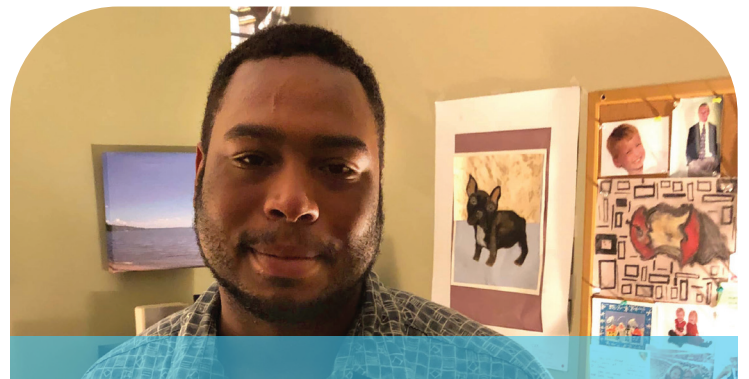
Now, says Jameaze, “Everything is at a standstill ... all my ducks are in a row, but at the moment, my ducks aren’t moving.”

As the needs of clients have shifted, SJC’s employment counselor has adapted to respond to those needs. In April, St. John Center helped 19 guests successfully file for unemployment. Six of those guests were already enrolled in the employment project.

Cortney Foster, Day Shelter and Outreach Manager, notes that “throughout this pandemic, most of our clients have been stuck. It has been incredibly discouraging for our staff to have to say, ‘no,’ ‘still not yet,’ ‘I don’t know when,’ so, so many times in response to every question clients pose about their options to move forward... We cannot wait to provide leads on options, referrals to services, and introductions to partners we trust.”

With the support of SJC, Jameaze is focused on moving forward. He hopes he will be able to return to work this summer. He is looking forward to working again, and keeping his eye on his long-term dream of owning a mobile restaurant.

His ducks won’t be sitting still for long!



“...all my ducks are in a row, but at the moment, my ducks aren’t moving.”

- Jameaze

MESSAGES OF HOPE

In the last few months, St. John Center has been sustained by the care and good wishes of our community. We are grateful for gifts of financial support, face masks, hand sanitizer, and other supplies, and for the care shown to our staff and volunteers. The support and the compassion you show to St. John Center guests has been overwhelming.

If you would like to add a message of hope, you can mail it to the attention of Jim Fulkerson at St. John Center, 700 E Muhammad Ali Blvd, Louisville, KY 40202, or use the online form at www.stjohncenter.org/my-message-of-hope.

“You count! You, who are Love in our midst, who model resilience, you matter. We hold you in our gaze, you who shine with Light. We hold you in our hearts as we pray for your peace and for your health. You matter!”

- Sheila

“Be aware I am thinking and praying for you daily and looking forward to returning as a volunteer, and serving that wonderful coffee. Peace.”

- John



We're in This Together

When the earth shakes, when the world is turned on its head, when all that is familiar is suddenly different, I reach out my hand to find that of another. I would much rather make my way through uncertainty as part of a team effort than to try to go it alone.



How do we make our way when the footing is unsure and the way is not yet clear? At St. John Center, it is the combined efforts of staff, volunteers, and donors all reaching out to support one another in a terrible time. Homeless individuals found the extended hands of St. John Center staff members each day of the pandemic. Staff members acknowledged their fear and fatigue, but dug deep to respond with courage and commitment. We could only do so because of your support.

Messages of Hope poured in from the beginning. The messages are so beautiful, heartfelt, and profound that they are being shared widely with clients and on St. John’s social media. Friends donated breakfast, lunch, and other treats to help keep staff nourished in body and spirit. A volunteer sent flowers to cheer clients and staff alike. Since then, a staff member brings in a fresh arrangement from his garden every week. We seized the opportunity to make the most of the moment, to share an encouraging word with one another, and to appreciate sparks of joy.



There is no time to be paralyzed with fear of the unknown, because the stakes are too high for the people we serve. Let’s hold hands and keep moving, together.

Maria A. Price
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Executive Director



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Congratulations to Keith Steer



St. John Center congratulates Keith Steer on his retirement after 18 years of service to our mission. As editor of our newsletters, welcomer of gifts of goods and services to St. John Center, Raisin’ the Rent right hand man, and all around stand-up guy - he will be deeply missed.

July 2020 Wish List

- Men’s white crew-length socks
- Baseball caps
- Cloth face masks
- Disposable face masks

For more information, contact
Jim Fulkerson at **502-398-3505** or
jfulkerson@stjohncenter.org