



October 2020

DAYLIGHT

Happenings at St. John Center for Homeless Men



A SILVER LINING

Since the on-set of the global pandemic, a lot has changed at St. John Center. While some change has been difficult and unsettling, one big change has emerged as a silver lining. In the last six months, 33 men have moved into housing. That good news is the result of Louisville Metro Housing Authority making Disaster Relief Housing available to elderly and disabled people experiencing homelessness because they are more at risk for COVID-19 without safe and affordable housing.



“We really need people to know how much St. John Center helped us out... Now, our lives can just be normal. We can be healthier.”

- Chuck

“A lot of these guys have been struggling and stuck in homelessness for a long time,” says SJC Housing Counselor, Tom Parmenter. “It took one administrative change and suddenly we’re moving people off the streets. It’s really amazing.”

Chuck and Herman met in April. With no place to be healthy at home, they camped outside, pitching their tents next to each other. Chuck is currently being treated for cancer and Herman has COPD. Those chronic health conditions make COVID-19 a serious threat. A SJC Outreach worker connected them to the Day Shelter, where Tom helped them both apply for the LMHA Disaster Relief Housing opportunity.

Within a week of completing the application, Chuck moved in to his own apartment. Herman moved in to his own apartment three weeks later. They see each other every day. When Chuck was in the hospital recently for surgery, Herman was there to support him.

“We really need people to know how much St. John Center helped us out,” says Chuck. “Now, our lives can just be normal. We can be healthier.”

RAISIN’ THE RENT 2021

For fourteen years, this community has gathered in a powerful act of solidarity with our homeless neighbors at the annual Raisin’ the Rent. The 15th Annual Raisin’ the Rent will look a little different. We are planning today for a Virtual Event to Create Real Change on March 6, 2021.

Be on the lookout for more details in the months ahead. You can visit our event page at www.stjohncenter.org/raisin-the-rent today to learn more about hosting a virtual house party. We look forward to making real change for our homeless neighbors together!



There will be five ways to participate - and you can join in one, or all five, ways!

1. Become a Sponsor
2. Host or Join a (Virtual) House Party
3. Buy raffle tickets for one or all of our fabulous raffle packages
4. Bid on the unique offerings of our all-online Silent Auction
5. And tune in for our virtual event on March 6th from 7:30 – 8 pm



For more information, contact Jenn Young at jyoung@stjohncenter.org or (502) 398-3495.

When Clouds Part

We are surrounded by grief and loss. The effects of structural and societal failings are all around us, and the people who seek help from St. John Center are living proof that many systems are broken. And even so, it is because of them that we muster the courage to continue our work every day.

We continue in the belief that each person we encounter deserves all the attention and support they need to enjoy safety, security, recovery, and housing. Because we continue, the clouds will part. When they do, we will see that St. John Center's three programs - Street Outreach, the Day Shelter & Social Services Center and the Permanent Supportive Housing Program - served a combined total of 793 people in one summer month of 2020.

When the shroud of grief melts away, we will find that our community came together in new and creative ways. We

already know that Disaster Relief Housing made available through Louisville Metro Housing Authority allowed 33 homeless individuals to have housing of their own this summer – what will we celebrate in four more months? Working within the confines of the pandemic, SJC's Raisin' the Rent event will look different than prior years, but the spirit that binds us will be present still. In fact, might that spirit compel us to 'show up' in force precisely because keeping our word to the people we serve is how we will heal from the layers of loss we experience?

Better days, more just and equitable days, are only possible when we work each day, with love for one another, and with an unwavering belief that every person deserves better than a life on the streets. To them, and to you, we dedicate our days. Shine on.


Maria A. Price
Executive Director



St. John Center
for HOMELESS MEN

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Between July 1 and August 31

41 men moved off the streets and into housing with your support.

THANK YOU!



**October 2020
Wish List**

- Men's white crew-length socks
- Face masks
- Winter hats/toboggans
- Gloves

For more information, contact
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