



December 2020

DAYLIGHT

Happenings at St. John Center for Homeless Men



CHANGING PERSPECTIVES: MOVING HOME

A year ago, St. John Center set the bold goal accompanying 200 individuals from homelessness to permanent housing in 2020. At that time, we had no way of knowing what the year would hold. But we were making plans.

Kevin was also making plans. In January, he began a new position as an adjunct professor at Jefferson Technical and Community College. After a difficult period living in homeless shelters in Chattanooga and Louisville, he was saving money to move into his own apartment. Many days would find him working on lesson plans and engaging in complex geometry at the tables in St. John Center.

Kevin is a mathematician. He will tell you “a big part of math is perspective.” Much of his life, Kevin has been challenging perspectives and expectations. As a young person following his parents’ divorce, he moved seven times in four years. He struggled to make friends and find support. Against all odds, he was accepted to Morehouse College in Atlanta where he sang in the choir and earned a math degree. While earning his Masters at the University of Memphis, he learned that he loved teaching and, in particular, that “I have a passion for working with struggling students.”

In 2015, with a doctorate from Tufts University in Boston, he was one of only six black men in America to earn a PhD in mathematics. Nationally, black mathematicians make up fewer than 1% of all PhD candidates. Yet while Kevin was challenging prevailing perspectives, he was also struggling

with social isolation, self-doubt, and depression. These struggles and the lack of teaching opportunities found Kevin under-employed and homeless on and off for several years. In fact, they fed on each other until the summer of 2019 when Kevin was able to re-set something in himself. “I’m a mathematician. We’re problem solvers.” Kevin began to move in a new direction.



“I’m a mathematician. We’re problem solvers.”
- Kevin

He took a bus to Louisville, where the Metro United Way directed him to St. John Center. He met his Housing Counselor, found overnight shelter at St. Vincent de Paul, and a therapist at Phoenix Health Center. In November, Kevin moved into his own apartment. There he has space for his daily meditation

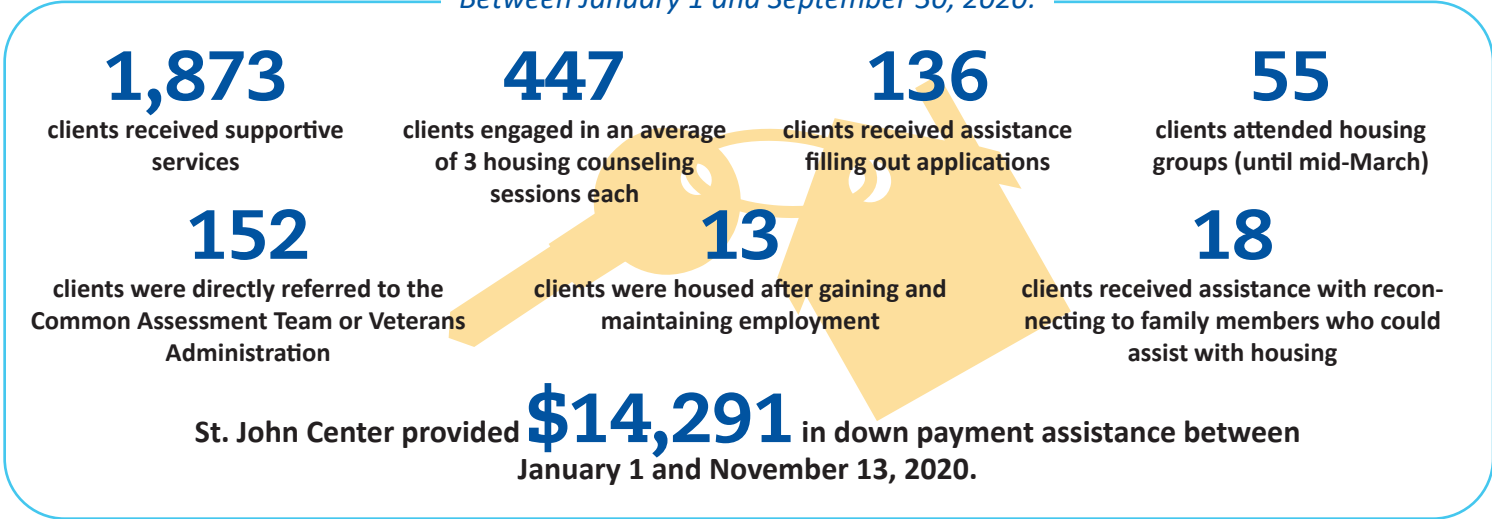
and his ongoing work on geometric group theory. He hopes a full-time teaching position will open up at JCTC. In the meantime, he is working with a friend to establish a nonprofit organization to teach young people critical thinking skills.

When St. John Center envisioned a year of 200 individuals moving from homelessness to housing, we knew we were up against significant odds. We didn’t know quite how difficult the year would be. But twelve months later, with inspiration from people like Kevin, we are celebrating 200 new perspectives on moving home.

MOVING 200 INDIVIDUALS INTO HOUSING

The journey with 200 individuals from homelessness to housing is one of sometimes hundreds of steps. Weeks and months of interactions, applications, and starting again lead to the days when – keys in hand – someone moves into his own place, closes the door, and is at home.

Between January 1 and September 30, 2020:



Climb a Mountain - One Step at a Time

When Robin knocks on ‘Bart’s’ door with a box of groceries, he throws open the door, gestures with open arms and says, “Come in!” Robin takes him up on his offer with great joy. Bart first sought services at St. John Center in 2013. His furious pacing and fitful speech were barriers to connecting with staff or peers for any assistance other than a place to be out of the elements. But Robin, St. John Center’s Shelter Case Manager, never gave up.

When we established our goal to help 200 homeless individuals move into housing in the year 2020, we knew it was a steep climb. However, we did not reach high for the sake of a high number. We serve *people*; people whose lives fuel our efforts with conviction.

For our homeless neighbors, finding housing that is affordable and safe is overwhelming. Filling out applications

can be intimidating, and the \$25 application fee can be an insurmountable challenge. Old debt can keep someone from moving forward for years. It is not uncommon for our clients to begin to believe they don’t deserve housing after all.



To find Bart in his own home, extending a welcome, is to be reminded of the value of our low-barrier approach to shelter, our unrelenting optimism, and our belief that everyone deserves housing.

The value our clients place on knowing they have someone in their corner who knows the ropes, who won’t give up on them – someone who will shine a light on the path – is beyond my ability to quantify. I invite you to imagine yourself in Bart’s shoes, safely at home after years on the streets, greeting the person who never gave up on you. Thank you for never giving up on Bart.


Maria A. Price
Executive Director



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502-568-6758
stjohncenter.org

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SAVE THE DATE



Virtual Live Streamed Event

March 6, 2021
7:30 pm - 8:00 pm

For more information, go to:
www.stjohncenter.org/raisin-the-rent

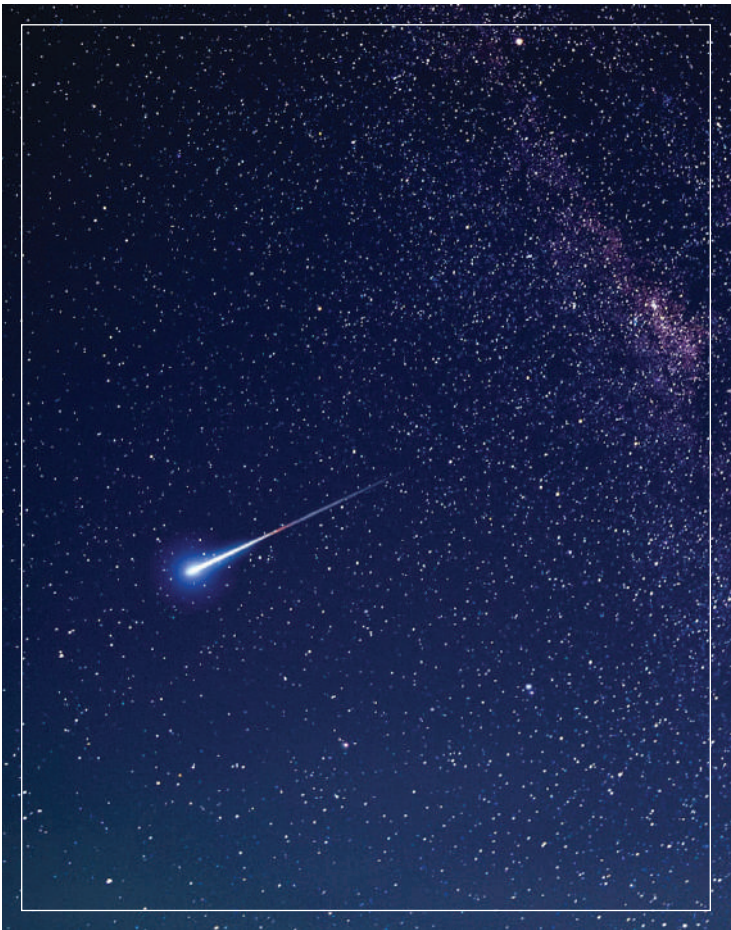
December 2020 Wish List

- Men’s white crew-length socks
- Hand warmers
- Winter hats/toboggans
- Gloves
- Bar soap

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

The following are the names of those who have been memorialized in gifts to St. John Center between January 1 and November 16, 2020

- Clifton Agnew**
Kaye Thomas
- Libby Alexander**
Chuck and Helen Campbell
Jim Tony Fulkerson
Andrew Gordon
J. Bennett Guess
James and Glenda Guess
John Knipper
James M. Miller
Wanda Ortiz
Katie Scherrer
Mary Wehrheim
- Dorothy and Charles Ambrose**
Edward A. and Theresa A. Chady
Jack and Imogene Conlin
- Aidan Barker**
Tony and Jeanie Cissell
- Betty Jean Bayens**
Ms. Mary F. Clark
- Matthew Bennett**
Rob Gorstein and Tiffanie Lamont
- Mike and DeeDee Bodi**
Steven and Michele Rudolf
- Richard Bonn**
Judy H. and William Rosacker
- Dennis Bricking**
Marshall P. Eldred, Jr.
- Mary Brown**
Melvin and Joyce Black
Donna Woods
- Robert Bryan**
Marianne Butler
Dolores S. Delahanty
Ellen Friedman
Cathy Hinko
Mary Margaret Mulvihill
- Jay Conde**
Erlinda G. Paguio
- Sr. Maureen Coughlin**
Jane Walsh
- Laymon Durbin**
Rita B. Durbin
- Charles Dusel, Sr.**
Catherine P Brickley
- Kenneth “Buddy” Eichert**
Denise Bartholomew
- John Elder**
Michael Diebold
- Margaret D Elder**
Richard and Margaret Mary Kusak
- Thomas Elliott**
Kathleen Elliott
- Ann Elizabeth Fehr**
Diane J Garner
- Bud and Ann Fehr**
Andrea L. Preston
- Bernard Gardner**
Patrick and Dana Oliver



- Mary Ann Glaser**
Susan Z Grenough
Louis K Hutchison Jr.
- Albert Graehler**
Edna Graehler
- Steve Hale**
Alicia O’Cull Ward
John Francis Hall
Carole A. Baines
- Richard Hardy**
Dorothy Hart
- Jane and Jack Helm**
John B. and Peggy Helm
- Enid Heskins’ father**
Enid Heskins
- William Higgins, Sr.**
Dianna L. Higgins
- Hite Family**
Clorinda P. Hite
- John and Clorinda W. Hite**
Clorinda P. Hite
- Marion Holsclaw**
Edward and Patricia Bannon
- Elene Hurst Jelsma**
Anatomic & Clinical Laboratory Associates, PC
Martha Bicknell
Roger Dalton
Mary Sue Ewing
Franklin and Jill Jelsma
Richard Jelsma
Mrs. Richard Jelsma
Jon and Mary Agnes Norman
Pathology Associates of St. Thomas
Ellen Rudd
William O. and Judith C. Rudd

- William and Judi Sikes
- Jose Jimenez**
Mary Anne Burkardt, SCN
- Jack Jones**
Michael Diebold
- Juanita**
Patricia Hardin
- Jo Ann Jurasin**
John Jurasin
- James Paul Keene**
Mary Jo Moore
- R. Michael Kelly**
Ruth D Kelly
- Joseph Kempf**
Jan Kempf
- Marilyn Kennedy**
Erlinda G. Paguio
- Anthony M. Kern**
Virginia M. Kern
- John Larison**
Isaac and Maureen Grisanti
Larison
- Mike Leitner**
Anne Renner-Evans
- Phil Levy**
Catherine Sullivan
- Deacon Bruce Lincoln**
Daniel Lincoln
- Lindley Lockard**
Terry and Millie Bayer
Wayne and Sherry Nuss
- Ron and Rick Magill**
Ronda Magill-Petrysian and John Petrysian
- Harry Mahagan**
Rita B. Durbin

- Reid Marcum**
Frank and Sandy Hack
- Joe Martos**
David Hulefeld
- Josephine Meek**
Barbara Burch
- Paul V. Miozza**
Pauline Miozza
- Mary Margaret Mulvihill**
Daniel Albers, Sr
Linda and Dale Billingsley
James and Mary Bolton
Janet Bryan
Mary G. Bryan and Marty Rosen
Jo Ann Burke
James A Byrne
Suzanne Cordery
Carmel and James Davis
Dolores S. Delahanty
Democratic Women’s Club of Jefferson County
Alan and Linda Engel
Elizabeth Ferguson
Alan Golding and Lisa Shapiro
Ken and Angela Hagan
Cathy Hinko
Christy Hooks
Erica Johns
David and Nate Kaplan
Barbara A Knebelkamp
Frances Lawson
Thomas McCloskey
Creighton E Mershon Sr.
Patrick and Jennifer Mulvihill
Patrick and Agnes Noonan
William and Phyllis O’Dea
Patricia W. Oliver
Paul Olliges
Owsley Brown II Family Foundation, Inc.
Prasanthi Persad
Steven and Dawn Riester
Rachel Roarx
Aaron Rosenblum
Michael and Hephzibah Roskelly
Rosella Rudd
Charles T. and Sheila K. Schnell
William P Schreck
Theresa Secord
Darrell E. and Nancy F. Shelton
Charles and Barbara Simmons
Sparks Family
Doug Stern
S. David and Jean S. Stoner
Ron and Sarah Sweat
Dale and Gail Tucker
Alice and Bill Walsh
Jane Walsh
Jay Warren
Karen S Williams
WIST Data Solutions
- Mary Rita Nally**
Dianne M Smith
Leslie Wilson
- Dona O’Sullivan**
Patrick and Agnes Noonan
- Larry Otto**
Don and Nora Scott Lurding

We are honored to be remembered along with these loved ones

Our Parents

John Patrick and Mary Tierney

Jim Padgett

Chris Mueller
Jerry, Bill, and Mike
Pakenham
Joseph T. and Mary P. Beardall

Joseph Paul Pohl

Joseph Douglas Pohl

Flossie Price

Carole A. Baines
Mary Ann Carlisle
David Desjardins and Mary
Luke Noonan
Katharine Dobbins
Margo Edwards-O’Toole
Anne Renner-Evans
Mary G. Bryan and Marty
Rosen
Rev. Richard M. Schnelle
Stephen and Robin Sedita
Lisa Stallings
Doug Stern
Ron and Sarah Sweat
Jane Walsh

Andrew Brian

Rademaker

Silvia Tulloss

Gavin Reheman

John and Joyce Mattingly

Robert and Rita Rook

John B. and Peggy Helm

Betty Rutledge

Tim Rutledge

Magdalene

Scharfenberger

Steve and Susan Stine

Carl Schmidt

Susie Schmidt

Martha Schroering

Susan Schroering and Bill
Wagner

Dennis Shaw

Angie Shaw

John P Simpson

Robert and Susan Means

Jean Slusher

Steve and Susan Stine

Charles W. “Bill” Smith

Kendal Baughman

Mitchell Sneed

James and Claire Williams

Francis W. “Weeter”

Southall

Rev. John Schwartzlose

Tony Spalding

Jimmy and Martha Rose
Spalding

Mrs. Spanyer and Donald
Spanyer

Mark A. Spanyer

Christopher Sparks

Margo Edwards-O’Toole

Sue Speed

Sarah Acland, MD
Anonymous
Marianna Barber
Robinson and Barbara Beard
Donald and Susan Bennett
Family Charitable Foundation,
Inc.
Edith S. Bingham
Joan Brennan
William Hoke Camp, Jr.
Mary Ann Carlisle
M. Austin Cooper
Carmel and James Davis
Katharine Dobbins
Rosemary Drybrough
Elizabeth Ferguson
Sandra Anne Frazier
Holly R Gregor
Robin Harland
Joseph and Louise Helm

Carol A. Hensley

William D Hower

Judith and Richard Hudson

Richard H. and Joan Humke

Ampelio Isetti

Karen A. Jarboe

Erica Johns

Nana Lampton

Reva Lawrence Miller

Barbara R. Moore

Mary Margaret Mulvihill

Nancy L. Neill

Patrick and Agnes Noonan

Morry Lee and Tasha K Owen

Phyllis M. Passafiume

Andrew Rapp

George Rapp, Jr.

Nancy L. Reinhart and David
Mitchell

Joseph and Cathy Rogers

Susan L. Rostov

Mary Sachs

Alfred Shands, III

Keith and Jennifer Steer

Doug Stern

Catherine Strickler

Ron and Sarah Sweat

Ellen Timmons

Dale and Gail Tucker

Katherine S. Umsted

Carla Wallace and Lisa Osanka

Jane Walsh

Jane Feltus Welch

Elizabeth S. West

Roma Staton

Rita B. Durbin

Bill and Rita Stengel

Cynthia and Earl Kirkpatrick

Brandon Michael Tevis

Roger and Deborah Tevis

Boonie Tharp

Elizabeth B Tharp

Leo Thomas

Jo Anne Thomas

Mary Ann Coomes
Thompson

Judith Burkhardt
Michael and Patricia Egan
Susan Ellison
Carol Fust
Elizabeth Fust
Leah and William Fust Jr.
David and Karen Goldner
Charlotte McKinney-Smith
Jackie O’Neil
Ron and Sarah Sweat

John L. Timmel Family

Bertha M. Timmel

Beulah Vernia

Barry and Brenda Vernia

Anna Vetter’s father

Anna J. and Peter T. Vetter Jr.

Bill and Jane Wagner

Mary W. Byrne

Patrick Walsh

Alice and Bill Walsh
Jane Walsh

Travis Ian Watkins

Eric Watkins

Angela M Weber

Thomas and Rosemarie Weber

Kevin Weston

Michael Williamson and Kathy
Weston

Dorothy Wilson

Mary Boyce
Joline Carter
Cynthia and Earl Kirkpatrick
Wayne and Margie Langham
Jeffrey and Judy Reynolds
Dianne M Smith

Janet Yakes

Dawn Wells

In memory of those we serve

The following are the names of St. John Center guests who have died in the last year. May they rest in peace.

Dramico Campbell
Eric Daniels
Yusuf Bilal
William Beason
James Metcalf
Skeriya Mohamoud
James Childress
Sarah
Berry Avery
David Workman, Jr.

Brian Campbell
Vladimir Zlatin
Nichole Renee Ross
Jeffory Palella
Richard Seymour
John Johnson, Sr.
John Maulden
Joseph Cobb
Robert Collier
Gilbert Blatz

Kirk Perry
Keren Watson
Clayton Reed, Jr.
Glenn Odell
Robert Grace
Henry Thomas
Kyle Edgell
Mariak Dhol
Jamal Crawford

