



February 2021

DAYLIGHT

Happenings at St. John Center for Homeless Men



WHY WE RAISE THE RENT

Each year, St. John Center gathers this community at Raisin' the Rent, to support Street Outreach, the Day Shelter and Social Services Center, and Permanent Supportive Housing Programs. While we are gathering virtually this year, the support raised is as critical as it has ever been and provides a continuum of resources and care for our homeless neighbors.

Clifton was a frequent visitor to St. John Center's Day Shelter over a three-year period. He was working as a cook at a restaurant at 4th Street Live, and just getting by. When the pandemic hit and he lost his job, Clifton made a commitment to himself "I am not spending another winter out on these streets."

"Being homeless for three years is considered chronic homelessness," he says. "I started reaching out and

networking. In a diplomatic way, I was banging on some doors." Clifton's determination and networking, and the support of St. John Center, led him to his new apartment in September of 2020.

Clifton is now part of the Permanent Supportive Housing program. His case manager, Amanda, says it is clear he delights in his new place. "His apartment is immaculate and I know he's had family over to visit since he's moved in."

"I'm a good host," Clifton says. "If you come to my apartment, it's so clean you can eat off the floor. I like to do things with class."

His new apartment has also opened up new opportunities. Clifton has completed training to be a Peer Support Specialist and hopes to go back to school. "I want to do social work. I have been in their shoes and I understand what it's like to have your life snatched from under you and have to put it back together again."

We Raise the Rent to support Clifton, and so many more, on the road home – and to ensure Clifton can stay home, for good. Join us!



RAISIN' THE RENT 2021

We're gathering in a whole new way to Raise the Rent in 2021. Be part of creating change for people experiencing homelessness and join the virtual gathering in any - or all - of the following ways between now and March 6th by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/rtr2021>.



Join a Virtual House Party. We're not selling tickets this year, so this is your way to support St. John Center and join the virtual party! You can donate to as many parties as you want.

Buy raffle chances for one or all of our fabulous raffle packages. Take a chance on a beach or mountain getaway, a Big Green Egg, a Pot of Gold and more.

Bid on the unique offerings of our all-online Silent Auction. Bidding opens online at midnight on March 1st and closes at 7:45 PM on March 6th. You don't want to miss a chance to bid on a week at Hilton Head, a whole butchered hog, original pieces by the artist Bob Lockhart and much more.

And tune in for our virtual event on Saturday, March 6th from 7:30 – 8pm!



Build a Better Day



The affordable housing crisis in America is having its spotlight moment. The pandemic reminds people that ‘healthy at home’ is out of reach for thousands of Kentuckians. The vast stretches of homeless encampments in Seattle and Los Angeles are in the headlines. Even top-level politicians seem to be paying attention.

Today, our community has an estimated shortage of 31,412 units for our lowest income neighbors. Because St. John Center serves those with the lowest incomes, we see beyond numbers when we speak of the affordable housing crisis. Our clients often face the added difficulties of mental health issues, physical health complications and, substance use disorder, making stable housing that much more precarious.

But they are no less deserving. Gary suffered a stroke and still wrestles with an addiction. He struggles mightily to maintain even the most basic hygiene regimen. Doesn’t he

deserve the decency of a safe home? When Leon’s mother -- his caretaker for 40 years -- passed away, he was unable to manage taxes and upkeep of his mother’s home. Now on the streets, Leon deserves housing and a little extra care to maintain his dignity and safety. Sheena sleeps in a tent night after night while St. John Center and other community partners help her with a plan that will enable her to reunite with her teenage daughter.

Your support of the Raisin’ the Rent on March 6 enables us to provide housing and support to Leon, Gary, Sheena and hundreds more.

We must create more housing attached to long-term support services. It is a costly, challenging endeavor. It will require multiple partners and vast community support. But with that support, we can walk out of the shadows of flawed housing policies of the past and build a better day. We think Leon, Gary, and Sheena are worth it. Shine on.



Maria A. Price
Executive Director



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Thank you **Atria Senior Living** for joining us
once again as the Presenting Sponsor for
Raisin’ the Rent.

Thank you! With your help, we served **2,844**
men, women and children experiencing
homelessness in 2020.



- ## Wish List

 - Hand warmers
 - Gloves
 - White crew socks
 - Body/foot powder

For more information contact
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