



April 2021

DAYLIGHT

Happenings at St. John Center for Homeless Men



RECOGNIZING 35 YEARS

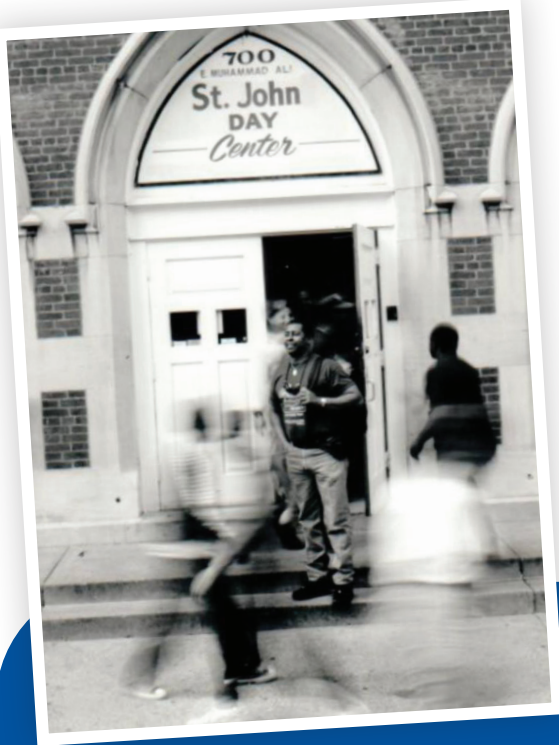


Photo by John Nation

In 1984, a gentleman died of exposure on the streets of Louisville. Downtown churches and businesses noticed an alarming uptick in the number of people sleeping on their doorsteps overnight and a dramatic rise in the requests for assistance for the basics like food and clothing. The entire country was witnessing an increase in homelessness, and Louisville was no exception.

St. John Center was created to provide a place of refuge for people experiencing homelessness. On April 14th, 35 years later, we continue to respond to the unabated crisis of homelessness and the persistent lack of safe, affordable, and supportive housing services in our community.

In light of the prohibitions on large gatherings resulting from the pandemic, we plan a 12-month recognition of 35 years of service. You are invited to join us in recognizing the history of St. John Center, while envisioning a future without homelessness.



- Join us on Facebook at facebook.com/St.JohnCenter on **April 14** at **12:00pm** for a short program.
- Follow our 35th Anniversary Blog at stjohncenter.org/35th-anniversary. The blog launches on **April 14th**. This month, we will share the recognition event on the blog and long time volunteer, Alan Johnson, will share his memories of volunteering from the very earliest days at St. John Center.
- All year, we'll be sharing memories, photos and stories from the archives in newsletters and on social media.
- Stay tuned for news of an outdoor gathering with your St. John Center community in the fall!

RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Together, the SJC Community did something truly remarkable. In a year when we could not gather in person, we raised over \$470,000 to provide services and support to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. While we missed seeing you in person, we felt the love and solidarity.



Congratulations to the **raffle winners!**

Pot of Gold: **Michele Mitchell**
Private Bourbon Tasting: **Thomas Tabb**
Big Green Egg: **Mary Alice Fortener**
Local Dining for a Year: **Karen Graehler**
Caswell Beach, NC Vacation: **Tom Herman**
Vacation in Asheville: **Carey Addison**



Thank you to our **Virtual House Party Hosts!** Together, you raised over \$150,000. The Virtual House Party hosted by Don Erler and Chris Dischinger raised over \$30,000 to defeat homelessness! And the Reinhart family brought 121 guests to their Virtual House Party in memory of one of St. John Center's original volunteers – Phil Reinhart.



Thank you to our **sponsors**, and especially to our Presenting Sponsor, Atria Senior Living.

Thank you!

You met the Challenge! On March 2, we learned that the Price Foundation would match \$2 for every \$1 raised for Raisin' the Rent between March 2 and March 6th. You met that challenge within 26 hours!

With the support from Raisin' the Rent, St. John Center is meeting the challenges of the pandemic, and increasing our focus on long-term supportive housing solutions. Thank you!

A piece of yellowed and tattered notebook paper hangs from a cupboard door in my office. Written by Larry Otto when he was the board chair, the note reads; “This is to be the last meeting at Christ Church Cathedral. Since the new offices and meeting room will be completed by the March meeting, the board will meet at St. John’s on March 20 at 3:30pm.”

I imagine the excitement of opening day, April 14, 1986, when a few staff and a large crew of volunteers opened the doors and exclaimed, “Welcome! Come on in!” No matter your appearance, no matter where you’ve been, you are here now. Welcome.

“St. John Center is the soft heart of the city.”

I remember Sharon Whetstone describing the value of being a welcoming space. She said, “Just like at home when we’re having guests, we ready the space so It’s clean and tidy. We greet our guests at the door and call them by name.

St. John Center
for HOMELESS MEN
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stjohncenter.org

We show basic hospitality.” We offer hospitality in the midst of a hostile world, or as Sister Carol described it, “St. John Center is the soft heart of the city.”

On March 18, 2021, the headline of an article in the New York Times reads, “Homelessness in the U.S. Rose for 4th Straight Year, Report Says.” We have a lot of work to do as a country. Until our services are no longer needed, St. John Center will open the shelter doors each day and say, Welcome.



Maria A. Price
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Executive Director

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Shot of Hope

St. John Center clients, and people experiencing homelessness throughout Louisville, began receiving the COVID-19 vaccine in mid-March.



Welcome, Welcome!

St. John Center is joyfully welcoming volunteers back. In 2020, we lost the daily presence of volunteers for the first time in our history. The availability of vaccines means that, once again, volunteers are warmly welcoming clients to St. John Center. We are so grateful.



Thank You

Thank you to Don Erler and Chris Dischinger who support St. John Center because **Housing is a Right.**



Wish List

- Towels
- Hair picks
- Washcloths
- Toothbrushes

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