



July 2021

# DAYLIGHT

Happenings at St. John Center for Homeless Men



## PUTTING HOUSING FIRST

Without a place to live, Bill lost his best friend -- his cat, Turtle. He will tell you that when he moved into his own apartment 4 years ago, the best part was reuniting with Turtle.

This is why St. John Center is a Housing First organization. We understand that the immediate need of people experiencing homelessness is reconnection to permanent housing. And we understand that *with housing* the things that make our lives meaningful can come into place. Once a person is in housing, they have a space to welcome pets and friends, a place to rest and recuperate from illness, and a safe place to do the hard work of recovery or to start again with a job or relationship.

Housing First does not mean Housing Only. Once in a safe home, Housing First programs provide support services including in-home health care, case management, support in daily tasks, access to treatment and recovery programs, and more to ensure that housing is maintained. At St. John Center, we know from experience, as well as from national studies, that when people’s basic need of permanent shelter is met, they are better able to stay safe and begin to work on their goals.

Without the support to live in his own apartment, Bill would never have been able to reconnect with Turtle. Stories like Bill’s are why St. John Center puts Housing First.

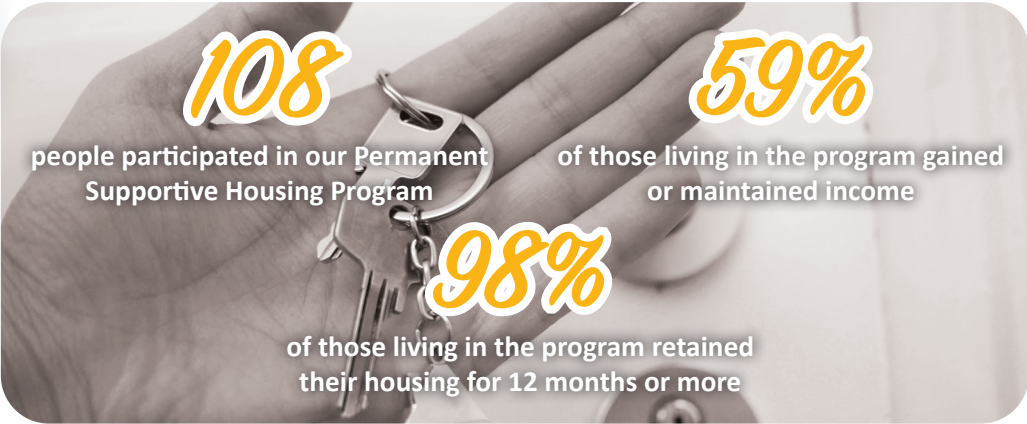
To hear more from Bill, visit:  
[www.stjohncenter.org/35th-anniversary/](http://www.stjohncenter.org/35th-anniversary/)



## ST. JOHN CENTER PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



St. John Center provides Permanent Supportive Housing – a housing first program that combines an apartment with on-going, permanent case management. There are no requirements of sobriety, behavior, or income to enter housing. **In 2020:**



We know there is a need for more Permanent Supportive Housing, and we’re working to address that need every day. Your support means we put Housing First.

Ms. Shirley sent a donation to St. John Center each Christmas in memory of her son. Damien found peace here, some sense of stability in the midst of the chaos of trying to survive on the streets. He would call his mom to assure her he was safe and people at St. John Center were trying to help him. Ms. Shirley and I connected over the phone, sharing memories of her sweet son.

“When people see my son, they want to look away,” she told me once.

Of the many things I love about St. John Center, perhaps what I love most is that we strive to really connect with each person we meet. We are a ‘come as you are’ kind of place and who you are is enough. Damien could just be himself at St. John Center.

This kind of connection is important, too, in our supportive housing work. By design, Housing First is a model that offers the support of a case manager to an individual moving from homelessness to housing. It honors the need we have as humans to have someone in our corner – an advocate who

bolsters our confidence when it wanes. It values support and connection.

**“We are a ‘come as you are’ kind of place and who you are is enough.”**



Furthermore, studies from many fine academic institutions around the world tell us what we know to be true: connectedness increases housing success. Our own outcomes point to the same conclusion. And how lucky are we? To be invited into the lives of the people we serve, to journey with them, and encourage their success in stable housing of their own, is a gift.

We cannot look away from Damien, or the challenges our community faces. Let us do a little something each day on the side of hope and justice. Shine on.

*Maria A. Price*  
**Maria A. Price**  
Executive Director



700 E. Muhammad Ali Blvd.  
Louisville, KY 40202  
502-568-6758  
stjohncenter.org

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #1453  
Louisville, KY

## Thank You!



With your support and the relaxing of restrictions, we are expanding the capacity of our day shelter! We welcome this “return to normal.” We are beaming behind our masks as we welcome more people into the Day Shelter each day.

## New Hours

St. John Center is now open Thursday – Tuesday from 8 AM – 4 PM and Wednesdays from 8 AM to 2 PM.



## Thank You

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



## Wish List

- Men’s boxers or briefs (M, L, and XL)
- Men’s crew socks
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper

For more information, contact Jim Fulkerson at (502) 398-3505 or [jfulkerson@stjohncenter.org](mailto:jfulkerson@stjohncenter.org)