



February 2022

DAYLIGHT

Happenings at St. John Center



WHY WE RAISE THE RENT

Each year, this community gathers for Raisin' the Rent to raise core operating support for Street Outreach, the Day Shelter and Social Services Center, and Permanent Supportive Housing at St. John Center. While we are gathering virtually this year, your support is more critical than ever and provides a continuum of resources and care for our homeless neighbors.

With the help of Raisin' the Rent, St. John Center is here year after year to help people who need us. Sarah lived outside on and off for 15 years – and in the last two years Trouble has been her constant companion.

Trouble is her dog. Trouble is also a big part of Sarah's support system – and she is his. "People don't understand this," Sarah says, "but I couldn't just leave him to go into a shelter. And I had to wait a long time for housing because he needed to move into housing with me."

On New Years Eve, Sarah and Trouble moved home for good. "I really did spend the first two days in the bath – just enjoying it," she says. "I waited a long time for housing." Her new tattoo bears witness to the values she held throughout her difficult journey. Faith. Hope. And Love.

"I never lost faith, I never lost hope, and the people around me who genuinely loved me never stopped loving me." She credits St. John Center, Free2Hope, Forgotten Louisville and other volunteer outreach efforts with connecting her to the people who would not give up on her. "They were family when I didn't have anyone."

"Homelessness is a journey," Sarah says, "but its no kind of life." We Raise the Rent to support Sarah, and so many more, on the journey home. Join us!



"They were family when I didn't have anyone."

-Sarah



Once again, we are gathering virtually for Raisin' the Rent 2022. No matter how you join us, you will be part of creating change for people experiencing homelessness. You can participate in all of the following ways between now and March 5th!



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 join as many parties as you want.



Buy raffle chances for one or all of our fabulous raffle packages. Take a chance on a New Orleans or a mountain get-away, or a finish line suite at Churchill Downs the Wednesday of Derby week with food and drink for up to 40 people, a Pot of Gold and more.



Bid on the unique offerings of our all-online Silent Auction. Bidding opens online at midnight on February 25 and closes at 7:15 PM on March 5th. You don't want to miss a chance to bid on a week at Hilton Head, original pieces by the artist Bob Lockard, quilts, the traditional Irish Basket, and much more.



And tune in for our virtual event streamed on March 5th from 7:00 – 7:30 PM!



Atria SENIOR LIVING

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

Justin and his wife were the first two people we moved into permanent housing in this new year. When I met Justin, he could not say enough about how patient and persistent the staff who helped him were. He talked about the piles of paperwork he could have never done without their steady hands. Excited and relieved he talked about this moment as though he had witnessed a miracle.

When we hand someone a set of keys, the air is light at St. John Center and you can hear circles of cheer throughout the building. Everyone drops what they are doing to make note of the moment, that feeling -- the reminder of why we are all here. Days like these are the reason we Raise the Rent each year, and why we ask you to join us.

Even as we celebrated with Justin, he knew that to stay in housing his family needed ongoing support - support not immediately available with the type of housing voucher that moved him quickly into housing. Without ongoing services, Justin's housing is at risk.

Justin and hundreds of others in our city need housing

combined with wrap around supportive services - like those we offer in our Permanent Supportive Housing program. While our 92 spots in that program are full today, St. John Center is working to expand our support services and access to affordable housing so that more people can stay in the housing they work so hard to get.

As we launch Raisin' the Rent 2022, we're reminded that Sister Kathleen Sheehan believed that each one of us has a role to play in ending homelessness. Raisin' the Rent is your invitation to join us in the work of moving people home for good.

Keep Shining!



Ra'Shann Martin
Executive Director



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The Legacy of Sister Kathleen Sheehan, SCN



St. John Center celebrates the remarkable life of our founding Executive Director, Sister Kathleen Sheehan. Sister Kathleen died on January 7th, 2022. In 1986, she responded to the desperate need for day shelter for people experiencing homelessness. She built a team of staff and volunteers who shared her deep commitment to the dignity of every person. She was a fierce and tireless advocate for the poor and disenfranchised, a loving colleague and friend, and a woman who lived her faith fully. Her legacy is present at St. John Center every day.



Thank You

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



- Winter hats
- Handwarmers
- Gloves
- Men's boxers or briefs (M, L, XL)

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