



April 2022

DAYLIGHT

Happenings at St. John Center



VOLUNTEERS: THE HEART OF ST. JOHN CENTER

For 36 years, volunteers have been at the heart of St. John Center's work to provide refuge and resources for people experiencing homelessness. Every day, volunteers welcome our guests, retrieve their mail, answer phones and connect them to supplies and services. St. John Center volunteers are often the first people our guests meet.

The last two years have presented more challenges to volunteering than ever before – yet St. John Center's volunteers never backed down. In fact, in the last six months of 2021, 115 volunteers served at least 3,306 hours. Thirty-eight of those volunteers have served 5 or more regular shifts in one month, at least one time. The regular presence of volunteers who make a long-term commitment builds community at St. John Center.



St. John Center volunteer Jon Sanders

Pat Thomas started volunteering in 2007. As soon as she received her first two vaccines, she was back at her post at the front desk. "I actually missed everybody. You just kind of get attached to not only other volunteers and staff, but the men. I missed seeing everybody."

Jon Sanders has a long history volunteering with people experiencing homelessness and economic hardship. He organized a multi-faith community kitchen in California for 15 years. As a new Louisvillian, he was eager to get started at St. John Center and started volunteering as soon as he had his vaccinations against COVID-19.

"When I walked in and saw that masks were mandatory, I felt comfortable. It's like they say on the airplane," he said. "You get your own oxygen mask on and then you reach out and help others."

This year, the family of long-time volunteer Phil Reinhart made a significant gift to support the volunteer program. Phil volunteered for over 30 years and died in January of 2021. With their help, and in Phil's memory, volunteers are helping the people we serve every day.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteers are a vital part of the Day Shelter and Social Services Center, which is open 7 days a week, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (2:00 pm Wednesdays). Volunteers typically serve in 2-hour shifts, which makes volunteering at St. John Center very accessible and flexible. St. John Center asks new volunteers to make at least a six-month commitment. People who are interested in volunteering must attend our Volunteer Orientation. For more information, contact Shannon Frey at sfrey@stjohncenter.org, or call (502) 901-5851.

Volunteers must be vaccinated against COVID and are able to volunteer 2 weeks after their second dose or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine.



I often tell the story of February’s winter storm. The roads and sidewalks were covered with ice. They were barely salted and slick. The Governor called a state of emergency and asked folks to stay home. At St. John Center, we know the people who come here do not have the option of “staying home.”

Still just six months into my new job as Executive Director, I was panicked, and uncertain. Was it appropriate to ask our team to come to work? I called together the leadership team to decide what to do – and learned that staff and volunteers were already en route to open the Day Shelter.

Volunteers were waiting at the building as the staff were still arriving. Committed to showing up for St. John Center, and our guests, St John Center’s volunteers walked those slick, unsalted sidewalks to get to our doors. Others shoveled through mounds of ice to get out of their driveways to be with us. Throughout the day, volunteers continued to pour into the building unfazed by the elements, steadfast in their commitment to show up for St. John Center and our community.

St. John Center volunteers show up everyday! They plow through their own troubles, and push them aside to help fight homelessness. They show up. They bring all of their gifts and talents with them. They are artists, teachers, seamstresses, composers, computer techs, farmers, doctors, and so much more. Everyday they ask how they can use their gifts in service to this mission. They know we are in a state of emergency - one not caused by the weather, but by broken systems that lead people to our doors. Our volunteers help keep these doors open - they are the heart of what happens every day at St. John Center.



To all of our volunteers, board members, interns, and friends, to those we see every week and those we have not seen in a while, we need you. We appreciate you. We love you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ra'Shann Martin".

Ra'Shann Martin
Executive Director



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THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone who sponsored Raisin’ the Rent 2022 and to everyone who bought a raffle ticket, donated to a Virtual House Party, bid on a silent auction item, or made a fund the mission gift. With your help we raised over \$420,000 to provide outreach, day shelter, social services, and supportive housing in our community.

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

The logo for Atria Senior Living, featuring the word "Atria" in a large, elegant script font, with "SENIOR LIVING" in a smaller, sans-serif font underneath.

St. John Center Wish List

- Disposable razors
- Bath towels
- Adult ponchos
- Men’s boxers or briefs (M, L, XL)

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