



July 2022

DAYLIGHT

Happenings at St. John Center



MINDING THE GAP

St. John Center opened our doors in 1986 because this community identified a gap in the network of services for people without adequate housing. In the mid-1980's the numbers of people experiencing homelessness began to rise. When overnight shelters closed at 7 AM each day the streets in Louisville filled with people who had no place to go. St. John Center became the first Day Shelter in the city, closing the gap in services and providing refuge and resources during the day.

In 2018, a study on homelessness in the Louisville region by the University of Louisville identified the need for more intensive street outreach to people living in places unfit for human habitation. Once again, St. John Center stepped into the gap. We launched the Street Outreach Program to connect people to shelter and services.

Today, St. John Center's Permanent Supportive Housing Program provides housing subsidy and case management for 92 people who were once homeless, but now have a place to call home. Last year, 98% of those people maintained their housing for 12 months or longer. However, the Coalition for the Homeless has identified the need for 800 *more* supportive housing units for people overcoming multiple, complicated disabilities and histories of trauma.

St. John Center remains committed to minding the gap. We do that by partnering with other organizations serving people experiencing homelessness and by stepping into the gap when we are best positioned to meet the unmet need. In the months ahead, we will embark on an expansion of the Permanent Supportive Housing Program and step in to fill the gap in housing and services for people experiencing homelessness. We look forward to sharing the news of this expansion as it unfolds.



St. John Center Wish List

- Toothbrushes
- Bath towels
- Washcloths
- Men's boxers or briefs (M, L, XL)

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

WELCOME!

St. John Center is welcoming seven new community leaders to our Board of Directors.

Julie Goetz

Vice President of Total Rewards at
Signature HealthCARE

Jon Sanders

Raytheon Technologies

Brad Savko

AVP Commercial Lending Officer at
Independence Bank

Keanu "Key" Hackley

U of L Peace Hospital

Mark Homan

Chief Financial Officer at Goodwill
Industries

Jermaine Watkins

Chief Technical Officer at
WeatherCheck

Corey Wise

Reconciliation Manager at Limestone Title & Escrow



Join Us!

Would you like to help St. John Center plan and organize our return to a live Raisin' the Rent? We're hosting our Raisin' the Rent volunteer kick-off meeting in July.

Contact Jenn Young for more information at jyoung@stjohncenter.org or (502) 398-3495.

A few months ago, I saw Jay at St. John Center. I hadn't seen him for several years.

I knew Jay from a program for young people where I worked before joining St. John Center. If you weren't paying attention, Jay seemed to be combative, aggressive, and always on edge. But if you leaned in to really see Jay, you would find that he was loyal, a hard worker, compassionate, and most importantly, just a kid.

Jay was a kid who had been on his own for a long time. He didn't have many friends, he never spoke of family. He craved companionship. He tried to find it by taking a ton of jobs. His co-workers were never quite comfortable working with him. They mentioned that he would talk to himself. His conversations sounded violent. He had an odor. What they did not see – the dots that none of us had connected – was that Jay was without housing. Eventually, Jay was unable to maintain his participation in the program where I worked and after a while I stopped seeing him.

And then a few months ago, I saw Jay at St. John Center.

He had just gotten out of jail and had come to St. John Center looking for help finding work. When I saw him, I was eager to share all of the resources. I listed off options for shelter and services and hoped to get him connected to supportive housing. But Jay shook his head, letting me know he had tried those things. He had burned bridges and "failed out" of so many programs that he felt hopeless.



St John Center is the place people seek help when there is nowhere else for them to go. We are here, every day of the year, for people like Jay. We are here when they are tired, or hopeless, and need to rest. And we are here when they are ready for resources and support. With your help, we step into the gap to meet Jay – and everyone who needs us – exactly where they are so that they can find the support and resources to move home for good.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ra'Shann Martin".

Ra'Shann Martin
Executive Director



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Glenn's Story

When his boxing career came to a close, Glenn was without the support and resources he needed to find and maintain housing. He lived on the street for ten years before he connected with St. John Center's Permanent Supportive Housing program.

"When you have your own place," he says, "it's a whole different ball game. You're able to go here and go there because you know you can go home... that's what (St. John Center) done gave me. I gotta place to go. I really gotta place to go."



To learn more about Glenn's story, visit
<https://www.stjohncenter.org/programs/>.

Moving home