



February 2023

DAYLIGHT

Happenings at St. John Center



WHY WE RAISE THE RENT

Every year, St. John Center gathers this community together to Raise the Rent! This gathering is how we ensure the resources to move people like Paul home for good.



**"I'm one happy camper
- or not a camper
anymore!"
- Paul**

Although he was born in Chicago, Paul has family in Eastern Kentucky and spent much of his life here. After 30 years driving trucks for a living, his spine began to deteriorate and eventually he reached a point he could not drive anymore. Without steady work, Paul lost his housing.

For five years, Paul was in and out of shelters. "I put my boots on the ground," he says, and walked for miles to put together the support he needed. Paul came to St. John Center where he found help getting his birth certificate, a state I.D., and – in January – an apartment of his own.

Since moving home, Paul says, "I'm one happy camper – or not a camper anymore!" If he had one wish, it would be that there was more room at St. John Center. "You need more space so everyone can get in here."

Paul – and the 283 people who moved home in 2022 with your support – are the reason we Raise the Rent each year. Learn how to be part of Raisin' the Rent 2023 in this newsletter.

Join Us!

Any way you participate in Raisin' the Rent this year, you join the community of support that leads to new opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. Here are some ways you can make that happen in 2023:



JOIN US on March 4th at Mellwood Art Center from 6:30 – 10 PM. Individual tickets are \$75 and reserved tables of 8 are \$800 while they last!

TAKE A CHANCE on one or all of our terrific raffle packages. Every chance purchased on a Riverboat Cruise, a week in Asheville, Local Dining for a Year, the Whole Hog raised on a family farm and butchered to your specifications, or the \$10,000 Pot of Gold directly supports our services.



BID, BID, BID on the fabulous Silent Auction packages. The Silent Auction features perennial favorites like the Irish Basket and a week in Hilton Head as well as some new, exciting offerings like custom jewelry, GE Appliances and more. The Auction opens on February 24th and all bids are online, so you don't have to be present to win!

FUND the MISSION with your direct donation to St. John Center.



Atria SENIOR LIVING

The Kramer Family



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Center



Learn more about Raisin' the Rent in this newsletter or contact Jenn Young at jyoung@stjohncenter.org.



WWW.RAISINTHERENT.COM

In February, as Valentine’s Day approaches, some of us remember those little paper hearts – love notes from our friends, family and classmates. Maybe we still send or receive a few. Last month, staff at St. John Center received a note along those lines. We received a message from the heart from a client, T.

Many of the staff and volunteers here know T. well. We’ve seen her in crisis, often in pain, sitting near our front steps. And we all have had the privilege of witnessing her change her life. In her note, she thanked SJC’s Street Outreach Team - for supporting her, for meeting her exactly where she was, and for being the push she needed to live a healthier life. She thanked them for helping her find housing.

T’s note was a note of thanks, but also a love note to herself. She told the team that she was strong and capable of healing, and of helping others do the same. She said she wanted to work towards being a peer support specialist, so she could do for her community what St John Center did for her.

We find similar love notes throughout the Day Shelter and from clients in our housing program. Some of them are written on

napkins or maybe small pieces of paper. Most are spoken. “I AM a great dad; I can’t wait to have my kids back home.” “I AM really good at all this legal stuff. Once I find housing, I’m going back to school.” “Honey, I’m a survivor!”

In all these affirmations, the common thread is that housing provides a starting place so that we can all be the best version of ourselves. This is why St John Center is working to create more of it. We are building more supportive housing, so that more of the people we care about can stop living to survive and be the best versions of *themselves*. **This is why we Raise The Rent.**

At St. John Center, we know that love has a ripple effect and we thank you for loving and affirming the people we serve. We look forward to coming together with you to Raise the Rent, so that more of our friends and neighbors can feel the embrace of our community.

Keep Shining!



Ra'Shann Martin
Executive Director



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On March 4th at 6:30 PM we will once again gather in person to Raise the Rent. Together we will raise \$400,000 to provide Day Shelter, Street Outreach, social services, and permanent supportive housing to people in our community experiencing homelessness. We are grateful to **Atria Senior Living, the Kramer Family, and LDG Development** - and to all this year’s sponsors – for providing the base of support that allows us to gather!

Learn more about Raisin’ the Rent in this newsletter and at www.raisintherent.com.



St. John Center

Atria SENIOR LIVING

The Kramer Family



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St. John Center Wish List

- Small paper cups (Dixie cups)
- Adult winter gloves
- Disposable rain ponchos
- Bleach

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

