



May 2023

DAYLIGHT

Happenings at St. John Center



GOING THE EXTRA MILE

At St. John Center, we go the extra mile to help people experiencing homelessness move home for good. Brian McAdams, a member of the Street Outreach Team, met “Carl” at the Day Shelter early this spring. “Carl” is partially blind, recovering from a traumatic brain injury, and experiencing several complex, long-term physical illnesses.

By the time Carl found his way to the Day Shelter at 10:30 one morning, all the overnight shelter beds were already full. While Carl does not meet the requirements for medical respite care, his medical needs are so severe that he has access to an adult day care center that is open every day until 5 PM. Brian drove him there at 11 AM thinking “The clock is running, I have six hours to find a place for Carl so he isn’t sleeping on the sidewalk tonight.”

The adult day care center jumped in to help and called one of Carl’s acquaintances. She offered to help him stay with her for one night. Carl is so medically fragile, Brian said, “I knew I needed a place for him to be for weeks rather than nights. But there is really no place in the city ready for his particular needs.”

Finally, Brian secured four days for Carl at the Feed Louisville Hotel. Then the adult day care center offered to pay for another five days in a hotel. Six hours stretched to 24 hours, then to four days, and then to eleven days. Brian was



The St. John Center Street Outreach Team

building a network of support and enough time to go the extra mile.

Brian used some of this time to make sure there was a backup plan in case one of the steps didn’t work out. He also started gathering critical documentation from Carl’s doctors. With that, he was able to qualify Carl for a spot in one of Louisville’s nine

permanent supportive housing

programs. More accurately, Carl qualified for a spot on the waiting list. According to the Coalition for the Homeless, Louisville needs 800 additional units of permanent supportive housing.

In late April, Carl got the keys to his own apartment. Every journey from homelessness to housing is a journey of a million, complicated steps and requires the cooperation of multiple organizations and agencies. Without the support of someone like Brian who will go the extra mile with you, the journey can feel impossible to undertake. Your support means St. John Center can go the extra mile for each person we serve. Thank you!

Go the Extra Mile to End Homelessness



Happy Hour and Raffle Drawing
June 21

5:00 - 7:00 pm
Mile Wide Beer Co.

As St. John Center nears the end of our fiscal year, we’re asking you to help us go the extra mile by taking a chance on our Extra Mile Raffle. We’re offering 100 chances on each of the following packages. All chances are \$100.



Beach Lover Getaway

The winner will choose a 4 – 6 night stay for four guests in one of three beautiful beach locations: Belize, the Turks & Caicos Islands, or Punta Mita, Mexico.

Ozark Adventure

Win a 4-night trip for six people to the Ozarks for an unforgettable adventure.



GE Appliances Kitchen Suite

This includes a GE Profile french-door refrigerator, GE Profile top control with stainless steel interior dishwasher, and a GE Profile combination convection microwave/convection wall oven.

Buy your raffle chances at www.stjohncenter.org/extra-mile-raffle or send a payment to Jane Walsh at St. John Center, 700 E. Muhammad Ali Blvd, Louisville KY 40202. The raffle drawing will take place at Mile Wide Beer Co. on Wednesday, June 21 st at 6 PM. While you don’t have to be present to win, we hope you join your St. John Center friends for Happy Hour from 5 – 7 PM at Mile Wide Beer Co. at 636 Barret Avenue.

Kentucky Charitable Gaming License Number: ORG-0000323





A 2017 study by a Canadian University reported that people without housing can walk between 10 and 15 miles every day. That's tens of thousands of steps - often encountering barriers along the way.

People usually come to St John Center's Day Shelter on foot. They carry the mental and emotional baggage of trauma along with all of their physical possessions. We try to lighten this load for our guests. We accompany them on a difficult and frustrating journey.

Last month I met "Andy" who carries with him the lived experience of a U.S. Veteran who has seen combat. Andy is on the waiting list for a housing voucher from the Veterans Administration. In the meantime, he joins the over 500 people in our community who sleep outside every night.

While he waits for housing, Andy's temporary shelter is always under threat. Even though they can't prevent it

from happening, our Street Outreach Team is there when encampments are cleared away and people's lives and belongings are uprooted. They go the extra mile for people like Andy who gather their things and move down the road to the next stop.

With his prosthetic foot, Andy walks miles to get to St. John Center. I think about how frustrating and painful it must be to walk so far, and wait so long for something as basic as a place to live. I don't want Andy to make that walk alone. I want to lift the burden and share the miles.

It is such a privilege to spend my days at a place that goes the extra mile for our neighbors without housing. And I am so grateful for the support of this community. Because you walk with us, we can work to ensure that no one has to experience the trauma of homelessness alone.

Ra'Shann Martin
Executive Director



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St. John Center Volunteers are the Village



In April, St. John Center celebrated Volunteer Appreciation month. Since 1986, Volunteers have been at the heart of our mission. Seven days a week from 8 – 4 PM, volunteers greet each guest who enters the Day Shelter and Social Services Center, they make sure people can get their mail and make phone calls, they serve coffee, and they provide toiletry items and towels so guests can shower. Most importantly, the over 150 regular volunteers ensure that St. John Center's work is community-based. **Volunteers are our Village.** Thank you!



To learn more about volunteering at St. John Center, visit stjohncenter.org/apply-to-volunteer/



St. John Center Wish List

- Regular-sized ceramic mugs
- Metal kitchen spoons
- Foot powder
- Reading glasses

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