



July 2023

DAYLIGHT

Happenings at St. John Center



HOUSING IS THE ANSWER



In May, the Coalition for the Homeless and the Metropolitan Housing Coalition brought Gregg Colburn to Louisville to talk about his new book, *Homelessness is a Housing Problem*. Mr. Colburn has a well-researched answer to the people in cities across the United States who look around and ask “Why am I seeing so many people experiencing homelessness?”



Mr. Colburn shows that while many people try to explain homelessness in terms of personal circumstances -- including mental illness or substance use -- or in terms of the conditions of a particular city or state -- such as weather or the generosity of non-profits or government assistance or even rates of poverty -- the only factor that consistently predicts rates of homelessness in any particular place is the housing market.

Louisville is facing a housing shortage – and our rates of

homelessness are increasing. As a result, we see more and more people living in encampments, in cars, and in other places not fit for human habitation. To change this, we need new affordable housing in every neighborhood of our city.

St. John Center is proud to be working with LDG Development to be part of the solution. This fall, we will break ground on Sheehan Landing. This supportive housing community, named after our founder Sister Kathleen Sheehan, SCN, will provide 80 1-bedroom apartments in a building with 24-hour staffing as well as on-site case management,



healthcare, and other social services.

With your help, we will continue to make strides toward ending homelessness in our community.

Welcome!

This month, St. John Center is welcoming four new board members -- Kristy Inmon, Business Development Manager with Miranda Construction; Bob Johnson, Associate Vice President at Humana; Gail Strange, Strategic Communications Consultant; and Jamie Webb, Director of CX, Creative and Marketing at Hello Spoke. We look forward to a big year ahead with their leadership and support.



Kristy Inmon



Bob Johnson



Gail Strange



Jamie Webb



St. John Center Wish List

- New / gently used towels
- Bleach for laundry
- Toilet paper and paper towels
- Coffee and sugar

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



Last August, Ron – a young man who has experienced ongoing homelessness since his family was relocated from the Beecher Terrace neighborhood as part of that area’s revitalization – found his way to St. John Center.

Ron is unable to read and lacks a high school diploma. This limited his opportunities for stable employment and increased his struggle to afford housing. He resorted to temporary hotel stays and inhabitable boarding situations but never found a safe and affordable place to call his own, consistently ending up on the streets. Last summer, Ron participated in an employment program that provided temporary housing. However, upon completion, he found himself earning less than a living wage and was without housing again.

He sought assistance at the Day Shelter and Social Service Center, where he met St. John Center’s Housing Specialist, Nikki. She helped Ron secure a special housing voucher to

subsidize his rent. With your support, Nikki was able to help Ron navigate complex rental applications despite his literacy challenges. Ron submitted six applications before finally finding an affordable and safe place to call home this month. Support from this community meant that SJC could pay for the multiple application fees, including holding fees of up to \$200, which would have burdened Ron’s already insufficient income. Now that Ron has a stable home, he feels empowered to pursue his GED.

At St. John Center, we believe housing is a right and we acknowledge that homelessness is a housing problem. The road to stable housing is complex for every person we serve. But with your help, we keep going. Thank you for standing with us, Ron, and those still searching for the dignity and stability of decent housing. Keep Shining!

Ra'Shann Martin
Executive Director



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St. John Center's Permanent Supportive Housing Team

Supportive Housing

“Buddy” was living in an encampment when he met workers from St. John Center’s Street Outreach Program. They connected him to St. John Center’s Permanent Supportive Housing Program. Since moving to his own apartment, Buddy experienced a stroke and lost his sight. The support he receives from his Housing Case Manager ensures that apartment living is still possible for him. St. John Center knows that supporting people to stay in housing is the key to ending homelessness for good.

Save the Date!



Give for Good, our community’s biggest day of giving, will be back on September 14, 2023. We hope you will save the date and include St. John Center in your giving on that day!