



Artists Helping the Homeless

March 2023

Hitting the Reset Button

A 22-year old from Texas crossed the map, getting in legal binds in 3 states before landing at Johnson County Detention Center. That's where AHH met him and learned his desire to be a Marine. Despite the legal and substance use challenges, he exhibited a bright mind, strong heart, and dedication to rebuilding his life. Bodhi house offered him food, shelter and essentials free of cost so he can take stock and make plans to move ahead.

That's exactly what he did. After getting his birth certificate (from Texas), ID, Social Security card, he found employment on the Plaza. He next tackled his legal challenges. As he built his resources, he moved to AHH's Finnegan Place. Finnegan residents pay most of their living expenses, while having access to AHH transportation and services. He also saved up funds to resolve all his legal issues without leaving the state. Now, over six months sober, a solid job history and legal issues resolved, he could enlist. On a cold January day, he boarded a flight for San Diego where he would start boot camp.

This young man is a prime example of how people facing adversity can accomplish whatever they put their mind to. With a little help and accountability he left no stone unturned in facing and overcoming his challenges. At New Century he had two paths: Keep on doing what had wound him up in a detention center or "hit the reset button" and change direction to pursue his goal. The AHH team is grateful we had the

privilege of being part of his journey and confident his future is brighter because he dared to chase his dream.

Rolling Hills Sponsors New AHH Van

Each year, the Christmas offering at Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church goes to help others in our

community. This year, AHH received the offering for the purchase of a 2021 Ford Transit Van. As the AHH program grows, so do the transportation needs to fill gaps in the local safety net and to provide wrap-around services. With the larger Transit Van, the need to shuttle residents to events, meetings, community service, social reintegration and other activities is reduced, saving time and money. The new van (pictured above) was used when residents toured Arrowhead Stadium before hearing Kevin Lockett share his motivating life story. AHH residents participated in Advent events, including the Luminary Walk, at Rolling Hills.



Arts and Culture Fund

A generous donor provided AHH funds to start the “Arts and Culture Discovery Fund” to provide educational, artistic, cultural, and other experiences and to recognize progress in recovery, re-entry or reintegration as part of a structured program. Many of those who participate in AHH programs have not experienced events many of us take for granted. The fund was conceived when AHH residents attended the symphony’s July 4th concert at Union Station. Several residents said they really enjoyed it, noting they had never been to a concert, let alone the symphony, before.

The donor has also offered to match (dollar-for-dollar) any gift towards The Arts and Culture Discovery Fund or to the AHH scholarship Program, both at the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. The latter funds educational opportunities, enabling job training, GED’s or college degrees.

Dustin - Employee Profile

Dustin Moore epitomizes the objectives of AHH’s Residential Recovery. In his early 20s, Dustin fell into a cycle of drug addiction, homelessness and incarceration that culminated with a 1 year state prison sentence. Upon his release in 2019 he moved to Kairos House in Lawrence

where, while on parole, he formulated and began executing a plan to change his life.

In March 2020, he found a passion becoming a peer monitor at Kairos and shortly thereafter was released from parole. Having walked the walk, Dustin provides a role model as well as understanding and sound first-hand advice for residents struggling with addiction. As he expanded his training and skills Dustin became Community

Manager for AHH in Douglas County. Today, Dustin helps others in the community by sharing his experience and skills as a peer facilitator of SMART recovery meetings at the Douglas County Jail.

Dustin noted that “for the first time in my life, I’ve had the same job for 3 years.” That’s not his only first. In May 2022, Dustin married and became father to “two incredible children”, bought his own car, maintained stable housing for over 2 years and achieved 4 years of sobriety. Dustin and his wife are planning to add to this list of firsts by purchasing their own home.



Lawrence Homeless

Lawrence, Ks opened a temporary relief location for individuals experiencing homelessness located in North Lawrence (across the Kansas River). The Lawrence Homeless shelter, currently located a few miles West of Lawrence, had been



struggling through the COVID pandemic to accommodate the amount of unhoused people in town. AHH has been providing support from the initial construction of tents and fencing and continues to provide maintenance to give shelter during the winter weather. On Saturdays you can find several AHH vehicles at the camp bringing warm meals, clothing, toiletries, other items as well as encouragement for those residing here.

The camp will be open till about June 2023 when the city of Lawrence hopes to open its pallet homes project for the homeless.

Donate

Please share this with family, friends and neighbors. Stay safe and healthy.



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