



Artists Helping the Homeless

October 2022

Devin Henderson Event

Sunday nights after serving meals to others in Mill Creek Park, 40-50 AHH residents from Kansas City and Lawrence get together for dinner, a recovery related talk and comradery.



Over 100 AHH alumni, family and friends joined current residents on September 28 for a meal provided by the Overland Park (95th St.) Church of the Resurrection and to hear Devin Henderson's message that something greater is always possible.

Henderson, a magician, told of riding life's roller coaster to new peaks only to see his success suddenly dashed. He shared how he overcame those disappointments by putting things in perspective and picking up the ball to be himself. For over an hour, he entertained, inspired, and encouraged those attending to strive toward a bigger vision than you might think possible.

AHH is creating an Arts and Culture Fund at the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation to provide arts, cultural and other opportunities, like this, for people who may not otherwise have those experiences.

AHH in 2021 Looking Back

The challenge of emerging from the COVID pandemic is evident in AHH's 2021 Annual Report. Services no sooner ramped up than a surge of COVID cases would scale things back to avoid the risk of staff, residents or riders contracting the disease. The 1,400 people served was the lowest number in several years.

AHH's Hospital Discharge Assistance accounted for about 55% of those served. While the AHH team works in physical and mental health facilities reaching from Liberty to Lawrence, most referrals came from urban core hospitals. AHH housed one-third of those, either in its facilities, the Shelter-In-Place or hotels while providing a wide range of supportive wrap-around services. The Shelter In Place program created to free up hospital beds during the pandemic wrapped up in March 2021 after filling a housing gap for 195 people, none of whom got COVID. The 14,500 AHH directly housed people equates to 40 people a night.

The Lawrence program which expanded mid-year with the addition of Meraki House (transitional) housed 75 people for over 4,000 nights (an average of 11 a night). About 60% of Lawrence clients were re-entry referrals.

The residents in AHH's programs continued to post high rates of success, securing jobs, stable housing and thriving.

Employee Profile - Zachary Lehr

Hello, my name is Zachary Lehr and I am a House Manager for Artists Helping the Homeless. I have worked for the program for over three years, am an AHH client alumni, currently have four years of sobriety, recently welcomed my first child, I am engaged, and a step parent to a seventeen year old and fourteen year old.

I work at the Bodhi House, and at Finnegan Place as the manager for both houses. I

have a true passion and love for this program because it truly does provide the safety-net necessary to help individuals gain the confidence to overcome their challenges. We thrive on compassion, and meet individuals where they are at in order to help them achieve their goals.

What the program did for me is priceless. I overcame so many struggles. I currently stand at a place in life I never thought possible. AHH helped give me a life I never dreamed I could have. It gave me the confidence to overcome everything that stood in my way, and help me develop myself into a man I can be proud of.

Being able to share this gift with others has been an honor and a privilege. It helps me continue my own recovery journey as well as helps my life have meaning. I will always be grateful to Mr. Woo, and AHH. I let



that gratitude show through my actions, and I let it show through the results of my life.

Former Resident Runs Marathon

Former Bodhi resident, James Hestand, carried the AHH colors in a marathon in Colorado Springs. Hestand completed the 26.2 miles in 3 hours, 18 minutes and placed 38th out of 600 runners.



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

Artists Helping the Homeless

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