



Ben Keefe, avid runner and AHH new  
Philanthropy & Communications Dir

### AHH HIRES FIRST DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Introducing, Ben Keefe, our recently hired and first Philanthropy & Communications Manager with AHH. As part of our efforts to increase capacity to serve our mission, Ben will be working to build partnerships and opportunities as well as sharing the good name of Artists Helping the Homeless with the entire metro area and beyond.

Ben moved to Kansas City in 1999 and immediately started putting down roots in the community. For over twenty years, he has been involved in providing recreational sports programs to young people in the Northland. As the President for the non-profit, The Northland Sports Alliance, he has worked hard to advocate, increase and maintain rec sports opportunities for kids.

He is also a father and a coach. A proud Dad of two independent young women. One pursuing her education through the A+ Program here in Kansas City and one a sophomore student athlete. Coaching has been a large part of his life and he currently is the Head Coach of the Track & Field Teams at The Pembroke Hill School.

Helping others is part of his own personal mission. In 2008, Ben entered a recovery program and will have seventeen years of continuous sobriety this July. Service isn't just a calling; it's a way of life. The alignment of who he is and what he is about gives us great confidence in what he can do in this role. Welcome Ben!

### River City Humanitarian Award

The Lawrence Board of Realtors awarded Kar Woo and Artists Helping the Homeless (AHH) their annual River City Humanitarian Award. In their recognition of Kar Woo and AHH they said "This organization has become a cornerstone of support for hundreds of people each year, providing essential resources in numerous ways."



Representing AHH: Tim Shoulderblade, Charlie Jacobson,  
Kar Woo and Dustin Moore.

Representing Board of Realtors Susan Parker

## We Need Help

### Dustin Moore & Leadership Lawrence

Congratulations to Dustin Moore on his graduation from Leadership Lawrence. Dustin, an AHH-Lawrence graduate, is the AHH Community Manager for Douglas County. He also serves on the City's Homeless Response Team where his lived experience provides perspective and helps build rapport.

Leadership Lawrence is a 9 month program of the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce for young professionals. The program is based on a leadership curriculum built by The Kansas Leadership Center as well as a deeper look into all the different civic responsibilities within the city of Lawrence where strong and dedicated leadership is paramount for success.



Dustin Moore & Karr Woo

Transportation – driving the people we serve from home to school, work, doctor's appointments, you name it, is critical to our mission. Having reliable vehicles that get us back and forth are always necessary. That is why we are highlighting the need we have for replacing the driveway at Kahana House.

It's crumbling...



This makes it difficult to navigate, with the multitude of potholes, cracks, and gravel spots. Keeping our tires and suspension in good working condition is challenging. It also continues to erode at an increasing pace when we have any type of precipitation.

We need your help. The bids we received for the project were in the upper five figures, approaching nearly \$100,000 which is not something we take lightly. We are pursuing numerous avenues to fund this replacement and are looking for a company or individual who can help us with this at reduced cost.

If you can help or can point us in the direction of someone who can, please email [ben.keefe@ahh.org](mailto:ben.keefe@ahh.org) or call 816-888-9252 so we can start a conversation around getting this smoothed out.



## AHH - Model for Other Communities

Artists Helping the Homeless (AHH) has over the years continually evaluated and refined its program and strategies. This involved assessing where we can be of the most use, what the greatest needs are, and where we can have the greatest success. That has brought us to our system of residences combined with a full set of services and a commitment to the individual as long as they are committed to the process.

This model has not only been highly successful for AHH and its clients, but has been noticed by other communities that are looking to address their homeless citizens. The most significant of this interest came from Douglas County, which approached AHH a number of years ago, which led to a close, and expanding, partnership. AHH now has two respite houses in Lawrence and has established a close working relationship with public safety and other organizations in the community.

However, Kar Woo has also been approached recently by other communities. A county in Rhode Island and a non-profit in Arizona have been communicating with AHH about how they can use the strategies developed by AHH and apply them in their communities. AHH has also been discussing the AHH model with the City of Independence.

## A Note from Russ Townsley - Our Unsung Hero

Two posts on Woo's Facebook are worth a quick look as a thank you for guiding AHH to make a difference in peoples lives.

Tim Shoulderblade's graduation from Haskell. Tim's story was in the last newsletter. With his degree in social work, he hopes to help others with a culturally adapted 12-step program. Tim is a Douglas County staff member.

Joey Garrett's video presentation to last Sunday's meeting (less than 10 min). Joey met Woo when AHH was 2 men and 2 vans. He was one of the guys Woo dragged to the gym that eventually started dragging Woo to the gym. He told a reporter doing a story on the exercise element of AHH's program that "he guessed he'd traded one addiction for another, but this one is much healthier."

I used to remind Woo he cannot save the world. He'd answer, "Yes, but if I help one person, and they help one person, it'll be a better place." These guys demonstrate that he was right. As the BE THE CHANGE program marks its 15th year, thank you for helping make the world a better place.

Artists Helping the Homeless  
12307 State Line Road  
Kansas City, MO 64145  
816-668-1007

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