

ARTISTS HELPING THE HOMELESS NEWSLETTER



A Second Chance, A Steady Hand: Partnership in Action

In Lawrence, Kansas, Brandon Reese, owner of Reese's Lawn Care, has been quietly building more than beautiful yards—he's been cultivating opportunity. Through his partnership with Artists Helping the Homeless (AHH), Brandon has opened doors to employment for several men rebuilding their lives. His willingness to offer steady work and mentorship to those re-entering the community embodies the AHH belief that everyone deserves a fair chance to grow.

One of those given that chance is Arthur "Artie" Elmer, who began working with Reese's Lawn Care while staying in AHH's transitional housing program. Over time, Artie became not just a reliable employee but a trusted right hand. His consistency and hard work became a source of pride for both AHH and Brandon, showing what can happen when compassion meets opportunity.

When Brandon was hospitalized with severe kidney stones and unable to work, Artie stepped up—taking on every responsibility from opening the shop to leading crews on job sites. Because of Artie's dedication, the company never missed a beat. "Everyone needs someone to believe in them," Brandon said. "Sometimes all they need is a chance." Their story is living proof that when compassion guides opportunity, communities grow stronger together.

ANNUAL APPEAL
CHECK YOUR MAILBOX

ART SHOW COMING
THIS SPRING



Bringing Hope Through Good Works: A Day of Service with Velocity Church

On Saturday, October 4th, volunteers from Velocity Church joined residents at AHH's Kairos and Meraki Houses in Lawrence for a day filled with purpose and gratitude. Over ten members of the congregation came ready to serve—tools in hand, hearts full of kindness.

At Kairos House, the team cleaned, stained, and waterproofed the large back deck—restoring a cherished gathering space for residents. Meanwhile, at Meraki House, volunteers tackled landscaping projects, transforming the grounds into a beautiful and welcoming space for those arriving to begin their next chapter.

“Bringing Hope Through Good Works” is more than a slogan for Velocity—it’s a way of life. Several AHH residents have even joined the congregation, drawn to its spirit of service and connection. The partnership between Velocity Church and AHH stands as a powerful reminder that when people come together in service, they strengthen the very fabric of our community.



Community Spirit in Action: \$10,000 Award to Artists Helping the Homeless

Artists Helping the Homeless was honored to receive a \$10,000 Spirit Award thanks to the generosity of Commercial Capital Company, who won the top honor at the 2025 Enterprise Games hosted by Enterprise Bank & Trust.



The competition brought together dozens of local businesses for a day of creativity and collaboration, with Commercial Capital's playful Toy Story team capturing the event's Spirit Award and the right to direct \$10,000 to a nonprofit of their choice. To our great gratitude, they chose AHH.

This gift directly supports AHH's mission to reduce the need and cost of care for those experiencing homelessness by providing transportation, transitional housing, and supportive services that help individuals move from crisis to stability. We are deeply thankful to Commercial Capital and Enterprise Bank & Trust for believing in the work we do. Together, we're showing that compassion and collaboration can turn competition into lasting community impact.

ARTISTS HELPING THE HOMELESS
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DONATE



Smart Ways To Give Before Years-End

As the year comes to a close, it's the perfect time to make a tax smart gift that changes lives. Here are a few of the most effective ways to give:

- Using your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) or a direct gift of up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to Artists Helping the Homeless, can potentially provide tax benefits.
- Gifts of Stock or Mutual Funds – Donating appreciated securities allows you to avoid capital gains tax and claim a charitable deduction for the fair-market value.
- Cash Gifts – The simplest and most direct way to support AHH's mission. Checks dated or online gifts made by December 31 count for the 2025 tax year.
- Corporate or Employer Matching Gifts – Many companies match employee donations—doubling your impact at no extra cost.

Your generosity helps us provide shelter, support, and second chances for those rebuilding their lives. Every contribution brings hope home for the holidays.

Consult your tax preparer to see how these provisions might affect you.