

## WHAT'S INN-SIDE:

### UPDATE FROM OUR E.D.

The latest word from Executive Director, David S. Weber

### EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Meet Monica Barnett-Hunt, Administrative Coordinator

### TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PILOT

Success for Jamillah & Family!

### NOTE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Message from Julie Wolfe

### STORIES OF SUCCESS

Our Clients are Achieving!

### TRAUMA TRAINING 2020

Register for Feb., Mar. or April

### A BIG THANK-YOU!

We Offer Special Thanks

### UPCOMING EVENTS!



# INN-Sider

NEWS, INFORMATION AND EVENTS FROM ROOM AT THE INN

SPRING | 2020

## Anticipation...Good Things Are Ahead!



Hello again, amazing supporters, volunteers, staff, and community leaders. Thank you for all you do to help our clients succeed. Here at Room we're anticipating many good things ahead! First of all, spring is on the way — goodbye to ice and snow, and hello to new growth and promise.

Our calendar is full in the months ahead — trainings, programs, meetings, events and fundraisers. We have lots of activity and there's a buzz of energy and anticipation within our walls.

One of the good things we're very excited about are the bicycles! A generous grant from Cardinals Care provided us with bikes for toddlers, children, teens and adults. The kids can ride bikes around the neighborhood (supervised by their parents), and the adults can use them to ride to work or nearby appointments. We also received helmets, locks, training wheels and a locked outside shed for storage. All this just in time for spring!

Check out the calendar on the back of this newsletter to see upcoming events: Trauma-De-escalation Training in February, March and April; congregation regional meetings in March; a special Volunteer Appreciation dinner in April; and a fantastic on-site **"Mingle with the Inn-Crowd"** fundraiser event in May. No wonder there's a buzz of excitement here!

Our day-to-day activities are in full swing as well. The tutoring programs for children and adults are going strong — twice each week on-site tutoring is available to clients who are taking full advantage of this great resource. Our talented staff continues to excel in the work they do with clients — supporting, making referrals, case management — everything possible to help them reach solutions to their homelessness and create a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Kind regards,  
*David*



## Stories of Success

There have been many good things happening for our clients these past few months — we're proud of their progress, and grateful for all you do to support their journeys. Here are some of their recent successes!

**Kenyatta** got a job at a local day-care called Strawberry International. Staff and volunteers ensured Kenyatta was able to get to work each day by providing transportation. She was soon placed on the housing list, and even though there were obstacles to overcome, she and her two children were recently housed in their own apartment. They are so happy to be in a place they can now call home.

**Christina** was working at Strawberry Hill Academy, and during her time of employment, staff and volunteers ensured she was able to get to and from her job.

**Deitrice** and her 6-year old son moved into (continued on back page)

## It's Always Laundry Day at Room!

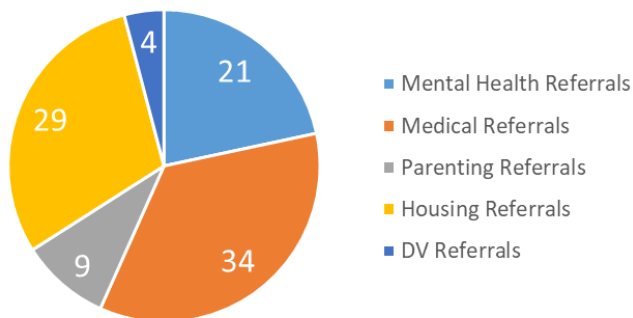
As you can imagine, our washers and dryers get lots of use! With the many families and children that we serve every day, the laundry never stops. Right now, we have an urgent need for **white stackable laundry baskets** and **bleach**. If you can help with these items, please let us know! Just contact David at 314 209-9181 or [dweber@roomstl.org](mailto:dweber@roomstl.org)

## Meet Monica Barnett-Hunt!



**Monica Barnett-Hunt** is our Administrative Coordinator. She has worked at the shelter since August 2016 and is responsible for assisting the Executive Director in day-to-day operations. She handles IT work; accounts payable; maintains databases, and runs monthly reports. She also assists the Client Coordinator with Intakes for our clients entering the shelter. Monica previously worked for St. Louis County Housing Authority, managing over 500 clients and certifying them for section 8. Monica is very familiar with the Social Service and Administrative field and has expressed that her passion is finding a way to help mothers and fathers become self-sufficient and stop letting government programs enable them. She is the CEO of a non-profit called Sisterhood Elite, established in 2005, providing mentoring services for youth. Sisterhood Elite collaborates with the Urban League, St. Patrick's Center, etc., and conducts workshops in self-sufficiency, self-esteem, etiquette and the program "Mind your Manners." Monica holds an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice, and plans to obtain her Bachelor's degree in Non-Profit Management.

Referrals, Appointments & Visits NOV-JAN



### Have You Gotten Your Ticket?



Room at the Inn

May 16, 2020

9am-12pm

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**"Mingle With The Inn-Crowd"**

Please join us for

#### "Mingle With The Inn-Crowd"

a fundraiser to support Room at the Inn programs at our day site - 3415 Bridgeland Drive

This is an invitation-only open house to get a special "Inn-side" view of our daysite and mingle with our board members, staff, volunteers and former clients. Individual ticket price \$30

- Continental Breakfast • Education Sessions • Night Site Hosts
- Facility Tours • Speakers • Program Overviews • Special Raffles

Call David Weber, Executive Director for sponsorship opportunities and questions...314.209.9181

## Transitional Housing Pilot a Success

### Many Kudos to Our Amazing Staff — and an Amazing Client!

We have many, many stories at Room at the Inn -- as many stories as there are people. Some are happy, some are not, all are unique. Here is a happy story about a client who's been on a very long journey and has now arrived home.

Jamillah came to us in August of 2019. Our staff began its amazing work and helped her begin her journey to finding a permanent home. While in our program, Jamillah was connected with Parent's as Teachers to receive parental education that helped her learn how to be a more supportive and capable parent to her two toddler children. She was also referred to BJC to receive mental health services, which helped her coping skills. Jamillah became our first client to participate in our Transitional Housing Pilot Program; she was able to select the motel of her choice and move her young family there.

With Room's support, Jamillah conducted a thorough job search and landed a job offer from Spectrum in St. Ann. She began training last November (which she successfully completed) for her position as MAC Coordinator. She speaks about her job with enthusiasm and enjoys working for Spectrum. Her employment there enabled her to find

reliable childcare, and she enrolled her children at a learning center.

Jamillah committed herself 100% to being successful at work. Just getting there every day showed incredible commitment. Her daily commute was not easy -- in fact, to arrive at work on time was quite a journey in itself. She travelled nearly two hours by bus, then walked for 20 minutes from the bus stop (with her 1 and 2-year old children in tow) to the childcare center. After her children were settled in, she then walked the same 20-minute route back to the stop to take the bus to her job at Spectrum. When she got off work, she repeated the process in reverse. She did this Monday through Friday each week...

#### A Brief Update to the Story

We have one more update to share — in the middle of February Jamillah and her little ones moved into a house in Berkeley.

She received a donated refrigerator from a kind donor to help her meet the inspection requirements for her new home. Jamillah and her family are home at last.



If you know someone in need of services, please have them call:  
 St. Louis County Homeless Helpline: (314) 802-5444 or (866) 802-7155

## Board Chair's Note

I treasure Anne Frank's quote, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Everyone associated with Room has done this from the start. We continue today, adapting to constant change. We all work generously to sustain Room's mission. It's now time for us to develop a 2021-2023 Strategic Plan. The process will align Room's mission, vision and values with attainable goals and strategies. It will enable us to ensure that Room is growing, changing and improving – and we all have a role in this going forward.

Recent United Way training on building skills related to potential new funding focused on exploring strategic alliances and strengthening the strategic planning process. It introduced us to other organizations providing services that complement Room. It's an exciting time having been gifted a building, knowing we can collaborate to expand services and better meet client needs.

I invite you to share any thoughts you may have at [planning@roomstl.org](mailto:planning@roomstl.org), an email allowing you to connect with us. Consider what we do well and any thoughts and ideas to improve so that we continue to serve our community for years and generations to come.

Best Regards, *Julie Wolfe*

## A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Thank you *All Saints Catholic Church, St. Joan of Arc and Living Word United Methodist Church* for taking an extra night in January to help fill our night site calendar. Thank you Dawn Goldstein, Sister Jeanice, Lynn Aldridge, Mickey Button, and Rick Heitman for serving as innkeepers. Thank you Lyn Schaeg and Clark Yentzer for providing the evening meal. And welcome to *Fee Fee Baptist Church!*

### Living Word Grant Check Presentation to Room at the Inn

Thanks to a generous grant given to Room by **Living Word United Methodist Church**, we were able to:

- Repair a major water leak into our building (before it could cause even more significant damage)
- Install much-needed parking lot light upgrades
- Provide rental assistance and other needed items for our clients.

A formal check presentation was held on February 18 at Room. This grant arrived at a very opportune time—and we put it to great use immediately!

Shown in Photo: *Living Word Missions Committee Chairperson Jeff Chaney, Room at the Inn Board of Directors Chairperson Julie Wolfe. Also pictured are Room at the Inn Executive Director David Weber and Living Word Missions Committee representative Margaret Howard.*



## Board Members

**Aigul Abdylidaeva**,  
*MBA Nonprofit Management*

**Brandy Bowdry**, *Bowdry's Independent Paralegal Services, LLC*

**David Buenger CPA**, *Favazza & Associates*

**Al Fressola**, *Psychologist*

**David Gerst**, *Senior Sales Executive, Fiserv Card Services*

**Jim Gissy**, *President Capitol Management Services*

**Melvin Goldman**, *Account Executive*

**Daniel Manning**, *Attorney, Doster Ullom & Boyle, LLC*

**William Oesterle**, *Realtor, Re/Max Gold*

**Sr. Ann Pairn**, *Sisters of Divine Providence*

**Jeff Pattison**, *Director of Human Resources, LMI Aerospace*

**Shannon Peters: VICE CHAIRPERSON**,  
*Attorney, Husch Blackwell, LLP*

**Crystal Settlemoir**, *Attorney, Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard P.C.*

**Terianne Turner: SECRETARY**, *Development Coordinator, Optometry Cares-The AOA Foundation & Exec. Assistant, Sam & Marilyn Fox Foundation*

**Julie Wolfe: BOARD CHAIR**,  
*Chief Financial Officer, St. Charles City-County Library District*

## Trauma Training 2020 is Open for Enrollment

**Trauma and De-escalation Training** is a valuable resource which is made available at no cost for Room volunteers. This informational training explores the topic of trauma and offers appropriate responses to real life scenarios that could occur in night site environments. The training includes an interactive segment featuring hands-on group trauma simulations. **We strongly encourage all volunteers to take advantage of this training.** It provides invaluable information to learn and share with others. Sessions will be held in February, March and April at locations around the community. Pre-registration is required and all participants receive a Certification of Completion. To register contact Cindy Warren @ 314-209-9181 or [cwarren@roomstl.org](mailto:cwarren@roomstl.org)

**Attention All Drivers!** How would you like to drive for Room at the Inn? We use our Room van to drive clients to work, the doctor, interviews, appointments for housing, food pantries, etc. We'd love to have you join the **Room Driving Team**. No special driver's license is needed. Please call us if you're interested.



## Child Care Needed — Do You Have a Little Time to Help?

We currently have a darling little 11 month old girl named Zoey whose mother could greatly benefit from having childcare weekday mornings from 9-11 am. Mom needs to continue her job search and have time to work with our client staff. If you are able to help this mom, please call Cindy Warren, Volunteer Coordinator (314-209-9181).

### Stories of Success - cont. from front page

their own apartment in O'Fallon, MO where they were assisted with furniture and household items to make their place feel like home. They are so happy to be in their newly furnished place!

**Latanya** was placed on a Mainstream Housing list and will be getting a housing voucher in just a few months. Her children were able to attend after school activities while at Room. Her son is in the school band and was able to practice his music here. This family enjoyed being here and we were grateful to help them.

**Kim** went to substance abuse treatment while at Room. We all celebrated her monumental achievement of moving to the next level in her treatment program at Queen of Peace. Staff assisted Kim with getting a housing voucher, and she is now searching for housing.

**Ida** is a client who has taken on a role of "house monitor" for us. She assists with overnights held at our day site, explains house rules to new clients, and helps them adjust to day-to-day life at Room. Because of Ida, other clients have been able to work and have their children attend after-school activities. Ida is doing an excellent job and she's helping many people. Ida now has a housing voucher and will be finding a place of her own soon. We thank you so much, Ida!

**Shonta** was placed on a housing list, has received a housing voucher, and has found a place that she likes! She and her son will be moving there soon. Shonta continues to meet with her Places for People case manager at Room each week and is doing a great job keeping up with her mental health services.

**Amy** is a former Room client who stopped by to see us last week. She told us the resume she used while a client in the Job Readiness Program landed her a job with General Motors! Amy is now a homeowner and has a car. We are so very happy to share that Amy and her children are doing well. A heartfelt congratulations to Amy!

### STAFF MEMBERS

- David S. Weber, *Executive Director*
- Angela Hamilton, *Client Coordinator*
- Cindy Warren, *Volunteer Coordinator*
- Melanie Matthew, *Program Coordinator*
- Monica Barnett, *Administrative Coordinator*
- Steve Jones, *Administrative/Database Coordinator*

### SHELTER MONITORS

- Eula Johnson
- Tanzania Johnson
- Felicia McRoberts
- Teresa Hedge
- Sharon Richmond

### CONTACT INFORMATION

- 314 209-9181
- dweber@roomstl.org
- www.roomstl.org

## Upcoming Events at Room!

- **Trauma and De-Escalation Training — FEB 27, MARCH 3, 11, 31 and APRIL 7**
- **Congregation Regional Meetings — MARCH 19, 24, and 26**
- **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner — APRIL 16**
- **"Mingle with the Inn Crowd" Open House & Fundraiser — MAY 16**
- **Room Golf Tournament Fundraiser at Old Hickory Golf Club — AUGUST 24**

### MISSION STATEMENT OF ROOM AT THE INN

Furthering the mission and the legacy of the Sisters of Divine Providence, Room at the Inn provides emergency shelter and a stabilizing support system to women and families in need in St. Louis County, using a collaborative, interfaith effort of congregations and organizations throughout the St. Louis Region.

*Room at the Inn is a temporary emergency shelter for homeless women and families. We empower our program participants to create solutions to their homelessness through education, referrals and case management. Room serves approximately 150-250 clients per year, including single mothers with children, single women, two-parent and single-father families. Our program capacity is 20 clients per day, and we assist homeless throughout the St. Louis region. Founded by the Sisters of Divine Providence, Room at the Inn is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency, incorporated in Missouri. We are supported by a robust network of approximately 2,000 volunteers and more than 50 interfaith congregations who serve as night site partners. Our night site partners come from 15 faith traditions and a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds. We also collaborate with outside agencies to make needed services available for our clients, serving as a catalyst for the St. Louis community to help people create solutions to their homelessness.*



Room at the Inn

**ROOM AT THE INN**

3415 Bridgeland Drive  
Bridgeton, MO 63044