

ST. PATRICK CENTER CHRONICLES



ST. PATRICK
CENTER

TRANSFORMING LIVES



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OUR MISSION

St. Patrick Center transforms lives through sustainable housing, employment and healthcare, following the compassion of Jesus.

MAY 2021

Operation Safe at Home You Answered the Call, Thank You!

When life gives you a pandemic, you have to think "outside the box" to keep providing critical services. St. Patrick Center Trivia Party raised nearly \$170,000 in February 2020, just weeks before COVID-19 hit our community. We were hopeful to hold Trivia Party 2021, but safety was our top priority during the ongoing pandemic.

Enter Operation Safe at Home – our new fundraising campaign to help prevent evictions for our clients struggling to make ends meet. We asked for your help to keep 164 families, veterans and individuals safe at home (the average cost of homelessness prevention is \$735). You went above and beyond. First, an anonymous donor generously gave a \$65,000 matching gift to jumpstart this campaign. Then, several teams held their own Operation Safe at Home fundraisers, like a March Madness NCAA



basketball bracket, a dessert raffle and a pop-up coffee shop. The top fundraising team was Incarnate Word PSR, raising an incredible \$2,500. And finally, we're proud to report that more than 500 donors

helped 346 families stay safe at home through rental and utilities assistance, a short-term stay at a hotel, a deposit on new housing, food or clothing. We can't thank you enough!

The work is not over, though. When the pandemic finally ends, our clients will feel the ripple effects for some time. It may take years for people to recover from being behind on rent or out of work. We're thrilled so many supporters stepped up to help our clients, yet the need continues. And so will Operation Safe at Home. *To donate or get involved, visit our website, stpatrickcenter.org/osah.*

Kim's Story

A Wish Made in a Tent Comes True in a Tiny House

Kim was the child of alcoholic parents. She had her first drink at age 12 and started using drugs as a teenager. "I tried it all and could quit when I wanted to, but sometimes it got really bad." Kim lost her parents and two brothers over the years, leaving her with just one sibling.

Two violent traumas, including an explosive fire at a rental house, rendered Kim homeless and afraid. "I lost everything here so I headed to Florida, only to find a ton of homelessness there." Kim slept on the streets and in the occasional motel. "I had nowhere to go and no friends, so I hitchhiked up to Nashville." A friend there got her a bus ticket back to St. Louis. During a cold winter, Kim went to the hospital to keep from freezing to death. The hospital

referred her to St. Patrick Center. She joined our Women's Night Program and started working with case managers to find a place to live. Kim took several Shamrock

Club classes – anger management, cognitive thinking, AA, NA and meditation. "But I'll be honest... I was sassy and got kicked out of the program." She lived in a tent behind St. Patrick Center.

One day, Kim mentioned to our Mobile Outreach case worker that she was wishing and praying to live in a tiny house. The case worker knew of one that was available! They worked

with the landlord and St. Patrick Center to make Kim's dream a reality. "I was overwhelmed with happiness. I'm so thankful to everyone. My life today is good." She is two years clean and sober, in a tiny house across from a church she now attends.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



We're well past one year of COVID-19 and serving people in a pandemic. Thanks for all you've done to keep our

mission alive. Our staff have been vaccinated, we've begun Phase Three of our Restoration Plan and we're working with community partners to vaccinate our clients.

Those are the lead stories, yet there is still other news. We launched new branding that we're excited to share with you. See page 3 for our new mission, vision, values and more.

Because we couldn't gather with you at our large Trivia Party event, we began a new campaign – Operation Safe at Home – to prevent homelessness for families, veterans and individuals facing critical worries like job loss and eviction. Our incredibly generous donors helped us to meet our anonymous donor match and surpass our goal. Thank you!

The need continues. The pandemic isn't over yet and its effects will be felt for years. An eviction moratorium doesn't mean rents won't be due. If you're able to give to Operation Safe at Home, please do and know that you will help transform lives and keep people sustainably housed.

On July 1, 2021, we will begin a new three-year Strategic Plan, one that promises to follow our mission while undertaking key initiatives to accomplish our vision for the future of the St. Louis community.

Anthony D'Agostino

Chronicles is a publication of St. Patrick Center, distributed three times a year to share the good news with the community, plus grow the circle of those who believe in and support St. Patrick Center's mission.

If you have feedback, ideas, or would like to **go green** and have *Chronicles* emailed to you, please contact Katie Joseph, 314.802.1976 or kjoseph@stppatrickcenter.org.

Main switchboard: 314.802.0700
Main fax: 314.802.1982
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Website: stppatrickcenter.org

St. Patrick Center is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, for complying with governance, management and service standards. The COA is a world leader in advocating for individuals, families and communities.

Celebrating 37 Years of the Irish Open

Join Us and Help Transform Lives

After going virtual last year, our in-person Irish Open Gala and Golf Tournament are back! Presented by Triad Financial Group, the St. Patrick Center Irish Open is our longest-running fundraiser that has raised millions of dollars to transform lives through sustainable housing, employment and healthcare. "An Evening Under the Sea" Gala will be Saturday, June 5, 2021 at the St. Louis Aquarium at Union Station. The Golf Tournament will tee off on Monday, June 7, 2021 at Norwood Hills Country Club. Both events will follow St. Louis City and County COVID-19 event guidelines. Your health and safety are our biggest priorities.

Irish Open supporters help us assist 3,700 people annually who are homeless or at risk



of becoming homeless. As expected, the pandemic increased the need for our services and our donors have been key in our ability to handle that surge. While there is a glimmer of light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel, the need continues.

For the latest Irish Open details, registration and sponsorship information, visit the Irish Open page of our website at stppatrickcenter.org/irishopen.

Mark your calendars for our Fall 2021 event – the Veterans Day 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, November 6, 2021. Visit the Veterans Day 5K page of our website for more information.

Just Announced: New Branding

After a year of work by staff and board, St. Patrick Center has released new branding. The new mission, vision, values and more were considered and vetted word by word. They are also shorter and easier to share with our community. Thank you for your role in "transforming lives!"

Mission. St. Patrick Center transforms lives through sustainable housing, employment and healthcare, following the compassion of Jesus.

Tagline. Transforming Lives

Vision. St. Patrick Center envisions a community where everyone has sustainable housing, income and healthcare.

Values. Compassion. We care about every person and treat him/her with dignity.

Collaboration. We partner with and empower others to achieve our mission.

Commitment. We pledge to do the right thing as community leaders and stewards.

Creativity. We listen and learn from others to continuously improve.

Niche. St. Patrick Center provides the most flexible, diverse, evidence-based approach to client-centric homeless services.

Ten-Year Target. St. Patrick Center partners with the community for systemic change to serve everyone in need.

Volunteer Spotlight

The Women Behind Our Clothing Room

St. Patrick Center receives clothing donations nearly every day of the year and our volunteers are crucial in making sure we're able to get those donations to our clients. For the past nine years, we have had a dedicated group of weekly clothing sorter volunteers. Right now, that team consists of Beth Wendling, Maureen Jennings, Cissy Bahn, Lynn Trout and Christy Lynch (pictured below, left to right. Not pictured is Melissa Kriegshauser). Collectively, these incredible volunteers have given 6,114 hours since 2012. Each Thursday, their team opens bag after bag of clothing donations to attentively sort them for our clients.

Providing dignity in care for our clients is a top priority, and they take that to heart. They make sure the clothes are clean, without holes or stains and seasonally appropriate. Their team goes above and beyond by leading other volunteer groups in sorting and stocking projects. The work they do literally puts clothes on our clients' backs and shoes on their feet. Their dedication, compassion and hard work does not go unnoticed, and we are grateful for the time they share with us.





Program Update

The Latest in Helping People Transform Their Lives

Did you know that St. Patrick Center currently has more than 30 programs? Unlike many organizations that have experienced diminished capacity during the pandemic, we are alive and thriving.

On May 19, we will officially open, bless and give socially distanced tours of our newly renovated Client Welcome Center and Women's Night Program.

To improve upon our practice of trauma-informed care and client privacy, our **Client Welcome Center** underwent construction of five new, private offices for staff to complete client intakes and offer various services.

Begun more than 30 years ago in 1988, the **Women's Night Program** is one of our longest-running programs. Now, the program is expanding from 20 to 30 women on our second floor. Each will have their own "dorm" room plus continued access to Shamrock Club, case management, programs, classes and more.

In March, our Mobile Outreach team partnered with the City in a new **shower program**, hitting the streets of St. Louis to let people refresh themselves with a free soak. The trailer parks in a different location Monday-Friday. Team members distribute towels and hygiene products



Staffer Christina Sterman preps mobile showers for the day.

while building relationships of trust among the homeless population.

Now that it's spring, it's harder to recall the dangerous, Arctic winter we had in February ... but we'll never forget! In the days ahead of those frigid conditions, St. Patrick Center collaborated with the City and other service providers to open and operate a **24/7 safe haven** on the first floor of SPC, where McMurphy's Café used to be. For two weeks, lives were saved by this safe space for people to get out of the life-threatening weather and receive warmth in the form of food, lodging and human compassion.

WE HAVE GOOD NEWS

Sharing Client Successes

After losing his job due to the pandemic, a client reached his goal of getting a full-time job with benefits in his desired janitorial field.

Thanks to his case manager, a client enrolled less than a week secured a job.

From a client following meditation class in the Shamrock Club: "St. Patrick Center is my safe place. I like who I am now."

A client who was chronically homeless and struggled with severe substance use worked very hard in our programs to accomplish more than two years of sobriety plus paying his rent and utilities monthly.

Yes, this happened: While walking to our Tucker building with donated shoes, our CEO encountered a woman with tattered shoes and promptly gave her a pair from the newly acquired inventory.

From a Marine veteran after we connected him with programs and other resources: "I'm immensely grateful for the work that went above and beyond to help me upon my discharge from the hospital."

Our Immediate Support team helped a stranded veteran avoid shelter and get back to his family and friends in New York.

A Rosati Place client who is a frequent utilizer of the hospital due to behavioral health achieved no hospitalizations for two weeks.

A Rosati Place client obtained his driver's license after not having driving privileges for years.

A Workforce Development client worked very hard with case managers on his employment barriers and was hired for a full-time job with benefits.

After working survival jobs during the pandemic, a client collaborated with her case manager to find a full-time job in her chosen field of medical billing.

ASK THE STAFF

On a relief-filled day in January, followed by another four weeks later, St. Patrick Center staff members and some clients got their COVID-19 vaccines. The happiness in the room was palpable as West Pine Pharmacy employees administered the Moderna shots. "We have worked with St. Patrick Center for more than 20 years," said West Pine Pharmacy president Devin Dalpoas. "It's our goal to take care of the clients and staff, and we were lucky to file the paperwork early and get approved to provide vaccinations."

We are so thankful to the West Pine team for helping us to lead the battle against COVID-19. How do our staff members think life will change now that they're fully vaccinated?



"I'll be more comfortable but still plan to practice safety measures."
Ann Rotermund, Shamrock Club



"This is for the greater good and to get back to normal. I'm going to travel to see my grandkids."
Herice Vereen, Rosati Place



"I'll feel safer at work. I'm going to recommend others get vaccinated, too."
Carl Murray, Shamrock Club



"It will be one less thing to worry about at work."
Art Tullock, Supportive Services for Veteran Families



"This provides another layer of relief in my work with veteran clients. I can't wait to travel."
Gil Davis, Project HERO



"I'll get to visit my aging parents who have been at greater risk."
April McLaughlin, Rosati Place





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stpatrickcenter.org
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WAYS TO HELP

Irish Open Gala

We need 50+ Irish Open Gala volunteers for June 5, 2021 at the St. Louis Aquarium at Union Station. Help with set-up, gala registration, silent auction crew, live auction raffle sales and live auction spotter. All volunteers must adhere to a semi-formal dress code (except set-up) and be 18 years or older. Groups are welcome.

Dinner Preparation

The Women's Night Program has returned to our main building and we need volunteers to prepare dinner for 30 women served at 6pm each evening. Volunteers prepare the meal at their own expense and choose to serve the meal or drop it off.

Lunch Service

We need three lunch service volunteers each weekday from 11:15am to 12:15pm to package hot casseroles into disposable containers and prepare sandwiches.

For all opportunities, volunteers must wear masks, social distance and follow our other safety measures. To sign up, visit stpatrickcenter.org/volunteer or contact Sarah Webb at 314.802.0681 or spcvolunteers@stpatrickcenter.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

St. Patrick Center Irish Open Gala and Golf Tournament
June 5 and 7, 2021

Veterans Day 5K Run/Walk
November 6, 2021

Give Thanks Thanksgiving Program
November 22, 2021

Christmas Wishes Family Sponsorship Program
December 15 and 16, 2021

CAPTURED ON CAMERA



Susan and Jay Trevisano in late December presented a record-breaking \$26,132 donation from their Teddy Bear Christmas Land light display.



Congrats and many thanks to Chief Program Officer Nancy Yohe, who retired in November after 20 years of service.



Thanks to Keeley Cares team members for their large February donation of blankets for our clients.



Michael Neimeyer with Workforce Development (left) in February led barista training of participants Larica Williams, Shannon Friet and Robert Walton.



Thanks to Steve Ewing (left) and Steve's Hot Dogs for their gift of 100 hot dog meals every week in February. Also pictured: Shamrock kitchen manager Davey Griffin.



Board member Jimmy Williams, Jr. (left) along with other local McDonald's franchise owners in March donated 22,000 McRib sandwiches. Also pictured: Paula Breitenbach (center) and Crystal Miller (right).