



**OUR MISSION:** To care for homeless and at-risk persons by providing life-sustaining and life-rebuilding services that are comprehensive and address underlying causes.

**We Help. We Heal. We Give Hope.**

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Lexington, Ky. 40588

**FACILITIES/PROGRAMS**

Emergency Shelter  
Ball-Quantrell Jones Center for Women  
George Privett Recovery Center  
Don and Cathy Jacobs House  
Jacobs Hope Cafeteria  
Fayette County Detention Center Recovery Program  
HopeMobile  
Hill Rise Place Apartments  
Barbara Hardwick Rouse House  
One Parent Scholar House  
Housing First

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## HOUSING FIRST

### The Hope Center and Lexington's newest tool for tackling homelessness



As you probably know, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government has recently undertaken new initiatives in the area of homelessness and has backed them with funding. As part of this effort,

the government created a new office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention. One of the first steps the new office has taken is establishing a Housing First program and asking the Hope Center to develop and operate it.

The basic idea behind housing first is that there are certain homeless individuals who will benefit from being provided permanent housing as quickly as possible. With stable housing and available services they can establish a more self-reliant future.

We got underway with this program in January. With the assistance of other homeless agencies around town, we assessed over 180 candidates. Using a scoring system, we ranked them according to their potential to benefit from the 20 slots the city has made available.

As of the writing of this article, we have housed 18 men and women, moving them from the streets or shelters into their own apartments. Caseworkers meet with these individuals at least weekly to assist them with any needs and to develop a service plan.

Because this is primarily a housing plan, the individuals are not required to accept services in order to remain housed. So far, with one exception, all have accepted.

Many of our first clients are individuals who have not been easy to reach through traditional means. Several of them have a variety of mental and physical ailments, some of them severe. One has cancer. Another has muscular sclerosis. Others have struggled with addiction. Several ended up incarcerated for different reasons related to their conditions. Their criminal records make it hard for them to find housing on their own.

It is early in the three-year commitment to Housing First. We will continue to work with the city to evaluate and develop it. One thing we have observed so far is that these particular clients have made fewer emergency room visits and have been incarcerated less often than before joining the program. We will continue to monitor that.

As I have written in this column before, every homeless person is a unique individual. Some respond better with one approach, some with others. We will continue to provide a comprehensive array of programs in order to help as many different homeless individuals as we can.

Cecil Dunn,  
Executive Director



**Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!**

Your daily dose of inspiration is at the Hope Center.

## CHRIS GARDNER SPEAKS TO SOLD-OUT CROWD AT 2015 DON & MIRA BALL EDUCATION BUILDS HOPE LUNCHEON

Don & Mira Ball present



**EDUCATION  
BUILDS HOPE  
LUNCHEON**

with support from Don & Cathy Jacobs

The 2015 Don & Mira Ball Education Builds Hope Luncheon was a sold-out success! We want to thank our sponsors and in-kind sponsors for their generous contributions, and everyone in attendance for sharing another great event to help single parents obtain higher education.



Chris Gardner and  
Cathy Jacobs

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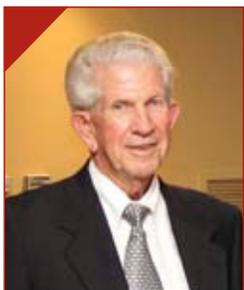
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Pictures from the event can be found on the One Parent Scholar House Facebook page, at [www.oneparentscholarhouse.org](http://www.oneparentscholarhouse.org), or by calling the Development Department at 859 225 4673.

## THE HOPE CENTER REMEMBERS DON JACOBS, SR.



Don Jacobs, Sr.

On April 15, the Hope Center, One Parent Scholar House, and many others in Lexington suffered a tremendous loss at the passing of Don Jacobs, Sr.

Mr. Jacobs was a successful businessman, and he shared his success with those who needed a hand up in life.

"Don was a man who did well, certainly, but also was a man who did good," said Cecil Dunn, Executive Director of the Hope Center. "As far as the Hope Center goes, he and Cathy have been very loyal supporters. They have been generous givers. There are hundreds of people who have felt the benefit of their kindness."

Long-time supporters of rebuilding lives, most recently Don and Cathy Jacobs built the Jacobs Hope Cafeteria on West Loudon, a beautiful facility which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner to hundreds of homeless, veterans and mentally ill clients every day. They also built the Don and Cathy Jacobs House which houses men in recovery, veterans, employment and mental health programs.

As part of his Hope Center involvement, he has supported events, capital campaigns and emergency shelter renovations plus the One Parent Scholar House. He, and his wife Cathy, will always be a part of the Hope Center family. He was a man who put his caring into action and he will be greatly missed.



Stephanie Gudger, Andy Barr, Cecil Dunn, Michael Botticelli, Janice James

## MANY MINDS CONVERGE AT THE HOPE CENTER TO HELP BATTLE ADDICTION

Many great recovery minds came together on May 7 at the Hope Center's Privett Center when we hosted Congressman Andy Barr and White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Michael Botticelli. Over thirty narcotics recovery experts focused on education and prevention, law enforcement, treatment and recovery efforts.

Kentucky has the third highest drug over dose mortality rate in the US. In 2011 overdose fatalities caused by heroin grew from 5% in 2011 to 32% in 2013.

**"We all want people to be in long term recovery."**

Drug Czar Botticelli

"We are all a part of the solution," said Mike Townsend of Recovery Kentucky. "We look at this as partnerships of all of our community resources to stop addiction.

Drug Czar Botticelli, who meets with groups such as our local experts all over the country spoke of how addiction is not

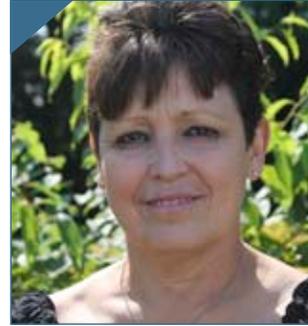
just a Kentucky issue, it is a National issue. And he touched on the problems he sees nationwide including lack of transitional housing once leaving a recovery program, lack of jobs for those in recovery, the need to work more closely with the medical profession regarding both addiction treatment and prescriptions, addicted babies in NICU's and early prevention.

"We all want people to be in long term therapy. The divide between therapies undermines all of our work," he said.

"To battle drug abuse and addiction we need all of our best practices working together," said Andy Barr.

Congressman Barr announced the creation of the Sixth Congressional District Drug Abuse Taskforce whose mission will be to advise him on possible policy and legislative solutions as well as identify needed resources.

## "HOUSING IS THE PUZZLE PIECE THAT IS REALLY GOING TO HELP ME..." LUELLA



I've been homeless on and off my whole life. At 15, I started using heavy drugs. I was working in night clubs by age 17, and I was on the streets from that point on. Anytime I did get a place to live, it didn't last long. It was always interrupted by my inability to maintain my sobriety. I also learned that I suffer with mental health issues. When you have that diagnosis, and you also have substance abuse issues, you have to treat both or the odds of you making it in recovery become very slim.

**"Several clients have serious health problems and being off the streets eases their burden so much."**

-Shelby Palmer, Housing First Caseworker

The Housing First program has made a big difference in my life. Housing has always been an obstacle for me because of my criminal history and my unstable housing history. It was always so stressful, looking around everywhere, paying application fees and losing money. Housing First took all that off my shoulders. For me to have my own apartment is very important, because it's something I was never able

to maintain before. I think God is using this program to save my life. This might very well be the program that helps me keep sober permanently. Right now, I'm going on five months clean. Meeting with my sponsor, going to meetings, taking my meds – all those are necessary, but having housing is the puzzle piece that is going to really help me be successful.

### Housing First Facts

- In its third month, Housing First has housed 18 chronically homeless people.
- One client has MS and another has Leukemia.
- We are working to fill four more spots.
- Thank you to Southland Christian Church, BB&T, Woodland Christian Church and CORE Health Center for helping to furnish the apartments.



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## RECOVERY CHANGES LIVES - CLIENT REFLECTIONS

"I don't have to live in addiction anymore."

**-Kenny**



I was a functioning alcoholic for many years. The first thing I thought

about when I got up in the morning was "I need alcohol." Before I came here, I basically spent two years isolating myself. I came home, went to my bedroom, and drank all night. Then I got up in the morning and did it all again. Toward the end, I was drinking a half-gallon of bourbon a day. I thank God for bringing me here, for the help I'm getting, for being shown that I don't have to live in addiction anymore.

"I'm happy in the person I am today."

**-Amanda**



I grew up in a very dysfunctional home. My mother used drugs, and my dad was

an alcoholic. When I was 14, my mom and I started using together. When I was 18, I became pregnant. Even through the pregnancy, I continued to use. My boyfriend and I robbed someone, and as a result, I did 15 months in jail. I've been to six treatment facilities, but this is the only one that has worked. I'm happy in the person I am today. My family is happy, and they actually trust me now. Things are really good today.

"I feel blessed to be sitting where I am today."

**-Christina**



My drug use landed me in jail several times. In fact, the jailers used to joke that

I was their most frequent inmate. I ended up with lots of felonies, and a lot of destruction in lives that I cared most about. I feel blessed to be sitting where I am today. I have 11 months clean, and my own apartment where my son can visit me. In the past year, my life has changed 150% for the better.

"It's about recovery, but it's like a brotherhood."

**-Charles**



I was a really bad addict and reluctant to come to the Hope Center. Once I got

here, it was great. I learned you can take responsibility for your life, and you can beat addiction. It takes fellowship and being around sober people, going to AA or NA, something to keep you connected. I love this program. It's like a brotherhood. From the minute you walk in, to the minute you complete and shake the director's hand, it's an amazing experience.