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PROFILE

A CLIENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Sherry's Story

Drug use had a devastating effect on Sherry's life, but the onset of her addiction was later than most.

Sherry had a normal childhood and was very active in school activities. After high school she continued her education, raised children and lived a normal life. At 29, she began using drugs because of peer pressure and the desire to fit in. She believed she had the ability to use drugs successfully. By the age of 35, Sherry had two felonies and had served two years in a county jail.

In December of 2007, Sherry had another felony charge and was sent to the Fayette County

She began to realize that sometimes you have to do something different to change. With a lot of tough love and support from those around her, she began working through the program.

Detention Center. She soon heard about the Hope Center Recovery Program being offered in the jail and decided to attend. At the time, she thought her bond was \$6,100 so there was no way she was leaving jail. By the time she learned that was a typo and

her bond was actually \$1,600 she was working through the recovery program and decided to stay in jail and finish.

A judge then ordered Sherry to the Hope Center Recovery Program for Women on Versailles Road. She struggled with the strict program and as a consequence for her actions her peers sent her back to the first phase of the program. She wrote letters to the judge asking for permission to leave because this program was not for her!

But slowly, Sherry started changing her mind. She began to realize that sometimes you have to do something different to change. With a lot of tough

love and support from those around her, she began working through the program. She eventually told the judge she had changed her mind and didn't want to leave the program.

Sherry completed the Women's Recovery Program in February of 2009. From February to October she worked as a Peer Mentor and in October she was hired as Hope Center staff. Today she serves Hope Center clients as a Relapse Prevention Specialist and is working on a degree in social work. 🌐

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 6
Lexington, Ky. 40588

FACILITIES/PROGRAMS

Emergency Shelter
Ball-Quantrell Jones Center
for Women
George Privett Recovery Center
Fayette County Detention
Center Recovery Program
HopeMobile

PHONE

(859) 252-7881

WEBSITE:

www.hopectr.org

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The Hope Center's mission is to care for homeless and at-risk persons by providing life-sustaining and life-rebuilding services that are comprehensive and address underlying causes.

W O R D S O F
H O P E

www.hopectr.org | WORDS OF HOPE | FEBRUARY 2010

One Night of Hope and Many More

Ball Homes event an inspiration – Shelter providing for more all the time

Numbers have been on my mind lately. Some of these numbers have been of the uplifting kind, and some have been of the challenging kind.



Cecil Dunn

Among the uplifting kind were the large numbers of people who showed up at the Ball Homes Night of Hope and filled the Lexington Opera House in November. Those of you who were there know just what a remarkable night it was. Everett McCorvey filled the hall with inspirational music, and then Chris Gardner held the audience spell-bound as he told his amazing story of homelessness and success.

Gardner, the author of *The Pursuit of Happiness*, related his real-life account of living on the streets with his young son while struggling to find the work and the resources he needed to provide the two of them with a home. Everyone I talked to that night was deeply moved and thankful to have been a part of the evening.

I am thankful for the good hearts of so many people who wish us well, people like you.

Indeed, one member of the audience, calling it "one of the more remarkable presentations that I have ever heard," dropped a \$5,000 check to the Hope Center in the mail the next day.

Thanks to the many generous sponsors, starting with Ball Homes, the night was also a major financial boost for the Hope Center.

The challenging numbers I have had on my mind have everything to do with why events like the Ball Homes Night of Hope are so important. These numbers are the ones that count how many people stay at the Hope Center Emergency Shelter each night.

The city-owned Shelter is home to several aspects of the Hope Center's efforts, including overnight shelter, mental health, employment and transitional housing. It has been stretched for several years now. In 2008, when we opened the George Privett Recovery Center and moved

the Recovery Program for Men out of the Shelter, we thought we had solved the problem. At first that appeared to be true as the Emergency Shelter numbers drifted down. However, within six months, the numbers at the Shelter not only returned to previous levels but surpassed them.

That situation has continued now to the point that it is obvious that shelter capacity is a challenge that has to be addressed. For several months now we have been working diligently to develop the resources needed to move our transitional housing clients out of the shelter and into a new facility. We aren't there yet, but we are getting closer. Between the generosity of friends and applications for grants, we will get there.

I am thankful for the good hearts of so many people who wish us well, people like you. So, I can tell you, are those whose lives we change. The Night of Hope was just one example of the commitment of so many people to the homeless of our community. With that kind of help, we will continue to do the work you want us to do. 🌞

The Ball Homes NIGHT OF HOPE

The Ball Homes Night of Hope was held at the Lexington Opera House on November 17, 2009. Special guest speaker Christopher Gardner received a rousing reception from the nearly sold-out crowd. Everett McCorvey and his students provided special music and WVLK radio host Jack Pattie served as the master of ceremonies. The Hope Center thanks our sponsors for making the Ball Homes Night of Hope possible.



Thank you for Making the Holidays Special

Because of your outpouring of generosity, our clients felt very loved and cared for over the recent holiday season.

- You provided food for our community Thanksgiving dinner.
- You provided Hope in a Bag by filling bags with personal needs items (travel-sized shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, etc).
- You provided food and gifts for our clients and the men, women and children who attended our Community Christmas party.
- You continued the holiday spirit for our clients by providing special meals for our annual Twelve Days of Christmas celebration, December 26 through January 6.

Thank you for all the support and kindness you show Hope Center clients!

Thanks to our sponsors for making the Ball Homes Night of Hope possible...

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Community Action Council

Gordon Food Service

FOR THE RECORD / Services provided for October - December (at the Emergency Shelter unless otherwise noted)

Meals Served

(including Privett Center & Women's Center) 97,559

Nights Lodging

(including Privett Center)..... 28,974

Clothing Issued 9,864

Mobile Outreach 1,900

Volunteer Hours 2,793

Health Clinic Visits 1,503

Mental Health Services 5,975

Men's Recovery Admissions 77

Housing & Employment 464

Hispanic Program 739

Women's Recovery Admissions ... 22

INCOME (October-December)

Grants \$694,835
 Individuals \$219,560
 Churches \$21,417
 Businesses \$97,150
TOTAL \$1,032,962

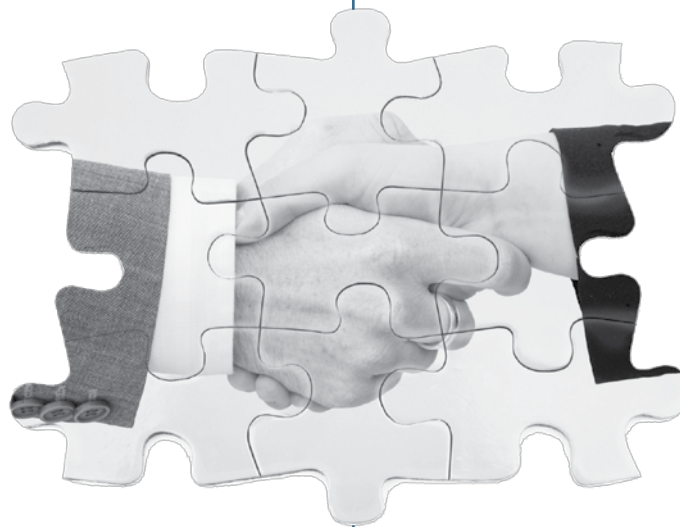
No Matter the Size: Every Gift Counts

In 2010, let's all join the battle to end homelessness. That may sound like a daunting task, but not if we all work together. Imagine if everyone in Fayette County – all 270,000+ of us – made a donation to the Hope Center? Even if it was a small donation, if we put it all together the outcome could be substantial.

- **Come visit one or more of the Hope Center locations, take a tour or volunteer.** Come see who we are, meet our clients and see exactly how your donation will be used. After meeting our clients, you will likely become quite an advocate for the Hope Center.
- **Think creatively!** To honor a friend or loved one on their birthday, Mother's/Father's Day or other holidays and special occasions, give a gift in their honor to the Hope Center.

- **Businesses can partner with the Hope Center in a number of ways.** Perhaps you could donate a portion of each sale of a particular item to the Hope Center, or designate an event held by your company to benefit the Hope Center. A study by Cone, a Boston-based marketing firm found that price being similar, 81 percent of consumers will choose companies they know to be socially responsible.

Thank you so much for your support of the Hope Center. Thanks to you, each day people receive life-sustaining tools such as shelter, food and clothing. This is followed up with life-rebuilding tools such as recovery programs, mental health programs, employment assistance programs, transitional housing and more. Thank you for caring enough to change a life! ☀



Top 5 Things We Need

- Coats
- Sheets
- Gloves
- Towels
- New underwear (men's and women's)

See full list of needed items at www.hopectr.org



The Hope Center provides services to the homeless in Lexington, Kentucky, including the immediate needs of food, shelter and clothing and the longer-term needs of detox and substance abuse recovery, diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, health clinic services, employment counseling, life skills, housing support and transitional housing.

DONATE ONLINE | www.hopectr.org

Update Your Information

Please help us make sure we have your most updated information. Would you like to be added to our e-mail list, do you have a change of address or name, would you like to be deleted from our mailing list, etc.? If you have a change of any sort, please contact Heather Mitchell at 859-252-7881 or hmitchell@hopectr.org.

Leave a legacy of hope by including the Hope Center in your Planned Giving. For more information, please call Kim Livesay at (859) 252-7881.