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SHELTER • FOOD • CLOTHING • RECOVERY • EMPLOYMENT • HOUSING • HEALTH • MENTAL HEALTH • SOCIAL SERVICES • OUTREACH

PROFILE

A CLIENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Cliff's Poetry

*There was a time,
When I was lost on the street
Hoping to find,
Something to eat*

*Evening would come,
With each passing day
Hungry and lonely,
With no place to stay*

*Ours is a time,
With sorrow and despair
People who are lost,
You'd see us everywhere*

*Ending each day,
With drugs or just booze
Crying in agony,
With nothing to lose*

*Evening comes,
Have I finally found Hope
No more whiskey or vodka,
Not even dope*

*This is my story,
What more can I say
Ending it now,
For there is no other way*

*Remember who wrote it,
What more can I do?
For it was written with love,
From me to you*

*Gone are the days,
Of grandeur and bliss.
Ours is a friendship,
That I will not miss.*

*Often I wonder,
As I stay at this place.
Drinking wasn't all,
That gave me disgrace!*

*But as I look,
Deep at my past.
Yesterday is gone,
Yet the memories will last*

*Finally I realize,
Without pain or sorrow
Recovery today,
Might give me tomorrow*

*Inside my mind,
I'm craving for booze
Ending in pain,
Of all I could lose!*

*Now is the time,
To make this stuff last.
Death surely will follow
If I relive my past*

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.



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
Hill Rise Place
One Parent Scholar House
Barbara Hardwick Rouse House

PHONE

(859) 252-7881

WEBSITE:

www.hopectr.org

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Cecil Dunn

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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 2011

What's different a decade and a half later? *15 years at the Hope Center*

It recently occurred to me that I have been executive director at the Hope Center for 15 years now. That thought put me in a reflective mood.



Cecil Dunn

When I started, the Hope Center had one facility, the emergency shelter, which had opened on West Loudon Avenue in 1993. It housed everything we did. With 116 beds, it averaged about 130 men each night.

Fifteen years later we operate at seven locations: the shelter, two recovery centers, the detention center and three affordable permanent housing facilities, two for people in recovery and one for single parents pursuing higher education. There are nearly 700 men, women and children staying with us somewhere each night. We also help certain individuals who don't stay with us, so altogether we serve nearly 800 people each day.

You are probably wondering whether there are that many more homeless people. Well, it's always hard to say exactly how many homeless people there are. They are a population that is famously hard to measure, as you can imagine. In our case, however, it's not just a question of how many homeless people there are. It's a question of how well we are pursuing our mission.

You see, our mission from the

start has been to serve not only homeless but also at-risk people. For example, that's part of what the HopeMobile does each weekday from various church parking lots. It's also something that is addressed by our mental health housing support work.

Similarly, the men, women and families we house in 164 units of affordable permanent housing at three locations are not, or are no longer, homeless. But they do face risks.

Those in recovery must always be mindful of the risk of relapse, especially if they were to return to the environments where they first acquired their self-destructive behavior. Single parents without education also face risks, especially the risk of not having the means to support and care for their children. That is a formula for homelessness.

Still, we have never forgotten our core mission of providing food, shelter and clothing to those who come to our door. I mentioned the emergency shelter. It hasn't changed much since the day I arrived except in one respect: instead of averaging 130 men each night it now averages 200.

That's over the course of a year. This winter it has averaged about 220. One night we hit 251.

The new transitional housing facility now under construction across the street will help tremendously with that issue.


So, yes, we deal with more homeless people. But we have also greatly expanded the scope of what we do. That's what our mission has called us to do.

It simply is not enough to provide food, shelter and clothing. Needing a place of refuge is not a cause of homelessness; it is a symptom. To do any good, you have to work on actual causes.

*To do any good,
you have to
work on actual
causes.*

In fact, refuge alone has the potential to do more harm than good. It can give homeless individuals the means to avoid facing the hard decisions they need to face in

order to change their lives and circumstances.

At the Hope Center, we do provide refuge and relief, but we never stop working on those things that cause people to become homeless in the first place. 

Cecil Dunn

The Ball Homes NIGHT OF HOPE

PRESENTED BY DON & CATHY JACOBS



On October 28, the Hope Center held the second Ball Homes Night of Hope at The Lexington Opera House. More than 800 people were entertained by Everett McCorvey and his students from the U.K. School of Opera and inspired by Jeannette Walls, best-selling author of *The Glass Castle*. Jack Pattie from News Talk 590 served as master of ceremonies.

Don and Mira Ball, who have been so generous

to the Hope Center for so many years, enthusiastically threw their support behind this event for the second year by providing the title sponsorship through Ball Homes.

The Hope Center sincerely thanks all of our sponsors for making this evening possible:

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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.

- Second Presbyterian and Tates Creek Christian Church provided a wonderful dinner for our community Thanksgiving dinner.
- Many generous supporters provided Hope-in-a-Bag by filling bags with personal needs items (travel-sized shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, etc).
- Central Baptist Hospital Cardiology Unit provided a delicious dinner for our Community Christmas party.
- Many generous supporters provided food and gifts for our clients and the men, women and children who attended our Community Christmas party.

- The following families and organizations provided a meal for our clients during the 12 Days of Christmas celebration:
 - Ball Homes
 - Beaumont Presbyterian Church
 - Buddy's Bar & Grill
 - Daybreak Community Church
 - Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
 - Faith Lutheran Church
 - First Presbyterian Church
 - Gethsemane Baptist Church
 - Meadowthorpe Presbyterian Church
 - Nigoff Family & Friends
 - Oasis Community Church & Youth Group
 - Robertson Family
 - Second Presbyterian Church

- Southern Heights Baptist Church
- The ladies at the Women's Center enjoyed the holidays too thanks to:
 - Midway Presbyterian Church
 - Banana Republic
 - St. Paul Catholic Church
 - Toys for Tots
 - Tates Creek Christian Church (Men's Ministry)
 - Christ the King School
 - Lynn Marketing Concepts
- A big thank you to Jack Pattie from News Talk 590 for being Santa for our Community Christmas party and the Christmas party at the Women's Center.

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

Quantrell Cadillac CAR RAFFLE



Quantrell Cadillac very generously donated a 2011 Cadillac SRX Crossover that was raffled during the Ball Homes Night of Hope. More than 450 tickets were sold and the lucky winner was Tammie Franks of Lexington. Thanks to Quantrell Cadillac and everyone who supported the Hope Center by purchasing a raffle ticket.

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

Meals Served
(including Privett Center & Women's Center) 92,917

Nights Lodging
(including Privett Center) 30,755

Clothing Issued 8,696

Mobile Outreach 2,375

Volunteer Hours 1,436

Health Clinic Visits 2,517

Mental Health Services 6,311

Men's Recovery Admissions 69

Housing & Employment 1,034

Hispanic Program 752

Women's Recovery Admissions 17

INCOME (October-December)

Grants \$601,560

Individuals \$212,910

Churches \$14,935

Businesses \$66,714

TOTAL \$896,119

New Transitional Housing for Men Underway




Former Mayor Jim Newberry, Governor Steve Beshear and Cathy and Don Jacobs toss the first shovel of dirt making the groundbreaking of the new transitional housing for men official

The Hope Center broke ground on a new 140-plus-bed facility on West Loudon Avenue, across the street and just east of the Emergency Shelter. It will house many of the program clients now sleeping in the overcrowded shelter. The shelter will become more of what its name implies, a place where men in immediate need can find shelter, food and clothing.

This new building would not have been possible without a critical million-dollar gift made by Cathy and Don Jacobs. This extraordinary act of generosity is a testament to their commitment to the plight of the homeless. It also tells of their faith in what the Hope Center does not only to get people off the street but to give them the personal tools they need to stay off the street.

With the help of Central Bank, the Hope Center was able to secure another million dollars in the form of a grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati. Kentucky Housing Corporation also provided a significant grant. Lexmark donated the land.

The building is scheduled to be complete by late summer. 

Please Visit Meijer this Spring!

From March 13 - May 14, the Meijer on Reynolds Road in Lexington will hold its Simply Give for Spring campaign and they have chosen the Hope Center as the recipient. Every customer will be given the opportunity during checkout to purchase Meijer gift cards that will be donated to the Hope Center. Please support this campaign and tell your friends and family.



Top 5 Things We Need

- Towels
- Shower Shoes (Flip Flops)
- Gloves
- Socks
- Cold/cough medicine (alcohol free), Tylenol, etc.

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

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