



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

PROFILE

A CLIENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Ron's Story

Ron grew up with a loving mother and an abusive alcoholic father. He started abusing alcohol when he was 12 years old, marijuana at 15, cocaine at 18, and from 21-36 he was a crack addict.

Life was tough on the street. He slept in abandoned buildings, parks and gutters, stealing for food and drugs. Ron would always carry a quarter in his pocket because a quarter


"I never thought after living hell on earth in the disease of addiction and alcoholism, being cold, hungry, homeless and destitute that I would ever have the willingness to experience the solution of recovery until I experienced it at the Hope Center. The Hope Center saved my life."

Ron

would buy a Little Debbie snack cake and that gave him "permission" to enter a store to cool off or get warm.

After going to prison twice and attempting suicide Ron was tired and ready for a change. He knew a friend who went through the Hope Center's recovery program and wanted the change he saw in his friend.

Ron completed the recovery program and moved into transitional housing. Eventually he started his own painting business carrying his brushes in a back pack and balancing his two paint cans on the handle bars of his donated bicycle.

Now Ron is a successful painter and designer. He owns his business and his home. 

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 6
Lexington, Ky. 40588

STREET ADDRESS:

360 W. Loudon Avenue
Lexington, KY 40508

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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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 | NOVEMBER 2009

“Homelessness” is not the end of the story

Pursuit of Happyness author shares his at the Ball Homes Night of Hope

Homelessness does not have to be a dead end street.

That is a simple and powerful fact I have learned over the years. Over and over, I have seen Hope Center clients take control of their lives and rebuild them, become productive and find a way to take care of themselves.

It's not easy, and most of the time it requires help, the kind of help that you provide to Hope Center clients through your faithful generosity. But it can be done, and it is done, all the time.

I think of so many people who originally came to the Hope Center dejected and discouraged, penniless and with nothing and no one they could fall back on. They got the help – and the hope – they needed.

Today, former Hope Center clients work as carpenters, cooks, janitors and restaurant managers. They sell cars and maintain bowling alleys. I can point you to a phlebotomist, a law office aide and a physician's assistant as



Cecil Dunn

well as a teacher, a social worker and a nurse. There are self-employed people fixing cars, landscaping grounds and running a jewelry repair business. One former client works in a collegiate athletics department. Because they have something special to offer, several

work with people in need of recovery from substance abuse.

These men and women beat the odds. They took what life threw at them, and they overcame.

The lessons that these clients teach us are critical, and they will be echoed November 17 when we welcome Christopher Gardner to Lexington and


the Ball Homes Night of Hope. Mr. Gardner is an entrepreneur and motivational speaker whose 2006 memoir, *The Pursuit of Happyness*, was made into a major motion picture starring Will Smith. His

book recounts the struggles he endured and the challenges he overcame as a homeless father caring for his young son while working his way into a career as a stockbroker.

I'm looking forward to hearing Chris Gardner speak to us about the story of his life, and I hope you'll join me at The Lexington Opera House to hear him. You can find details about the event inside.

To be sure, not every homeless story has a happy ending. Many end in sadness and tragedy. However, that is no reason to despair. In fact, it is all the more reason for us to pursue the work we do. It is also all the more reason for you to join us in that work.

Several years ago, one of the first men who completed our recovery program said that when he came to the Hope Center he didn't have anywhere left to go. He called it the "last house on the block." Well, because of the hard work he did and the assistance we gave him, he found out the street didn't end here. It kept going, and so did he. He made amends to his family. He became a builder. He met a woman, and they got married. Whenever he got a moment, he came back to the shelter to sit with desperate people who needed someone to tell them that there is hope.

Chris Gardner found hope. Our clients find hope. Thank you for helping put hope where they can find it. 

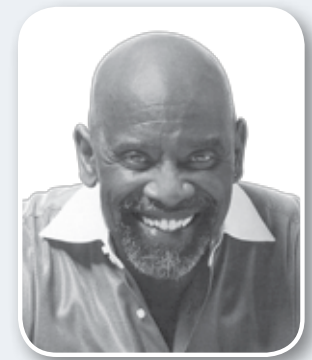
The Ball Homes **NIGHT OF HOPE**

Portrayed by **WILL SMITH**
in the film **The PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS**

CHRISTOPHER GARDNER



brings his inspirational story to Lexington to benefit the Hope Center during **NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS WEEK**



Christopher Gardner

draws on his remarkable personal story of homelessness, faith, hard work and fatherly devotion to bring a stirring message on how to break cycles that hold people back.

Please join us for this inspiring evening that will benefit the men and women served by the Hope Center.

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

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009
6:45 p.m.

The Lexington Opera House

Tickets:
\$15, \$25 and \$50

Tickets can be purchased by phone at **(859) 252-7881**, online at **www.hopectr.org**, or at **Joseph-Beth Booksellers** in Lexington Green.

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

Meals Served (including Privett Center & Women's Center) 79,456	Mobile Outreach 1,647	Men's Recovery Admissions 62
Nights Lodging (including Privett Center) 25,965	Volunteer Hours 2,149	Housing & Employment 214
Clothing Issued 9,360	Health Clinic Visits 1,332	Hispanic Program 104
	Mental Health Services 682	Women's Recovery Admissions ... 28

INCOME (July-September)

Grants \$916,665
Individuals \$52,722
Churches \$15,956
Businesses \$17,169
TOTAL \$1,002,512

You Can Make the Holidays Special for Others

- Our community Thanksgiving dinner will be held on Monday, November 23 from 5-6 p.m. We expect to feed 400 people. Food donations are needed to make this dinner special.
- Hope in a Bag will run from October 31 – December 31. This is a great project for groups. Simply fill bags with personal needs items (travel-sized shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, razors, etc) and drop them off at any UPS store in Lexington or Winchester, or at the Hope Center's Emergency Shelter on Loudon Avenue. All of the personal needs items will be distributed to our clients.
- The Hope Center will host a Community Christmas party on Thursday, December 17 from 6:45-7:45 p.m. We will distribute gifts to our clients and their children as well as other families in need who attend. We expect more people than ever to participate this year, so our need for gifts for men, women and children is great. Could you help by donating some gifts?
- Our annual Twelve Days of Christmas will be held from December 26 through January 6. During this time we ask that Hope Center supporters either provide a meal or donate money to cover a meal for our clients at the Emergency Shelter. This makes the holidays special and relieves some burden from the food costs.

To participate in any of these opportunities, please contact Heather Mitchell, hmitchell@hopectr.org or Kim Livesay, klivesay@hopectr.org, (859) 252-788.



Top 5 Things We Need

- Sheets
- Gloves
- Women's personal hygiene items
- 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

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.