

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 6
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

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THINKING ABOUT HOME, AGAIN



I recently ran across an old piece from this page that dealt with the whole notion of home. I decided it was an idea worth revisiting.

As a statistic, homelessness is an indicator of a societal problem. As a constant presence in the richest nation in the history of the earth, it's an anomaly. As an abstract term, it's a pretty simple concept; it's the state of being without a home.

So, what is a home? It's shelter, of course, but it's a lot more, too. It's refuge, a place where the world can be kept at bay for a while. It's a place where human relationships grow. It's the anchor that holds us in place when life gets a little stormy. Home is a place, but it is also a construct, something built in the mind and relied upon by us – most of us – to make life familiar and sustainable.

Being without all that is being without a lot.

I wrote the original article the same year we had endured an ice storm, as we do from time to time. I noted that the aftermath of the storm produced a small taste of homelessness. Even though many of us remained in our houses during the resulting power outages, things were not the same. Our homes weren't the reliable havens they had always been. They were cold and dark. They were uncomfortable. Frankly, they were depressing.

I'd like you to take some of your own memories of that time, or simply use your imagination, to think of those conditions as a permanent state of affairs. No warm place to go to. No dependable way to store and prepare food. No place to look after your

family. A relentless feeling of insecurity. Yes, seven or eight days of that were miserable. Try living that way all the time. That's what the homeless do.

I want you to think of these things in personal terms because that's what homelessness is. It's personal. Individual people suffer its indignities and uncertainties.

If you have read this newsletter regularly you know how many different ways we help homeless individuals. We have now begun a new project under contract with the city. It's called Housing First. You can read more about it inside. The idea is to get a homeless person off the street and into housing immediately.

You can also read about Nina, one of the first clients to take part in Housing First. She became homeless in 2009 after fleeing from an abusive husband. She has lived since then in a variety of ways, none of them stable: on the street, in shelters, in friends' places, in a car. Most recently she was living under a tent in a homeless camp. That's where we found her. We evaluated her and determined she was eligible for Housing First. She moved in on the fourth of March. Since then she has been hired to a part-time job that has now become full-time. She has a job and a home. Each will help her keep the other.

Not every client of ours is like Nina. Each has his or her own story. Each has his or her own pain. But most have one need in common. They need a home.

Cecil Dunn,
Executive Director



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Your daily dose of inspiration is at the Hope Center.

HOUSING FIRST: INNOVATION IN DEALING WITH CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



In December 2014, the Hope Center was awarded a contract to provide housing and case management through the

Housing First Pilot Project. Through this program, 20 homeless people in the community will be placed in permanent housing and assigned a caseworker.

"When LFUCG asked for proposals for this program, it seemed like a natural extension of some of the efforts that we were already making to address the problems of homelessness," says David Shadd, Director of Programs. "The model targets those that we have not been able to reach through our other services and attempts to get those who are at the highest risk off the streets."

Housing First has been adopted in other cities, including New York City, Nashville, Atlanta, Salt Lake City, and Louisville, and has so far had great success in serving those who need it most – as well as reducing financial strain on public services. "We hope to get the hard-to-house into homes and to show that it is more cost-effective to move these individuals off the streets. The clients targeted by the Housing First model are high utilizers of our emergency rooms, detention centers, and psychiatric hospitals."

On March 4, 2015, one day before our record snowfall, the first Housing First client was moved into an apartment. "Thus far, we've screened over 170 homeless men and women," Shadd reported.

If you can help us furnish Housing First apartments, contact the Hope Center Development Department at 859-225-4673.

OUR FIRST HOUSING FIRST RESIDENT - NINA



My first experience with homelessness was in 2009, when I escaped an abusive marriage. In November 2014 I found myself homeless once again. When you're living outside, walking everywhere to take a shower or get something to eat, that's all you do. Being a woman, alone on the streets, is not a good

feeling. Between the risks of being attacked and the chance of freezing to death, I was never sure if I would make another night. This was my first winter sleeping outside – in the past I've had a car or could go to a shelter. No one knows just how cold it is and how hard it is to be out in that weather until you've done it.

I feel like God led me to Housing First. One morning, I saw the HopeMobile parked outside a church and went to get a sandwich. The caseworker told me that there was staff at the church screening for a new housing program. My mind told me that there was no way they would choose me, but my spirit told me to go for it. I applied, and two weeks later, they accepted me.

It's a blessing. It helps me to be able to rest my mind and my body, and I can focus on my health, and make plans for my future, like finishing school. I recently found out that I have cancer, and if I have to have surgery, I have a place to heal. Now I know that I have somewhere safe to go.

TOP 5 THINGS WE NEED

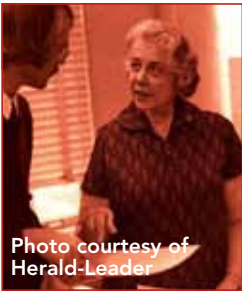
- ▀ Sandwiches for the HopeMobile
- ▀ Furniture for Housing First
- ▀ Socks and underwear
- ▀ Shower shoes
- ▀ Toiletries

See full list at
www.hopectr.org



online at www.hopectr.org

A LEGACY OF EMPOWERING SINGLE PARENTS: ALBERTA COLEMAN AND HELEN BURG



Alberta Coleman

A longtime advocate for the poor, Alberta Coleman was the first executive director of what would eventually become One Parent Scholar House. In 1982, Coleman and Rita Story, a fellow advocate, went to then-mayor Scotty Baesler to discuss establishing a program that would provide transitional housing and social services to low-income, single-parent families.

"Alberta almost camped out in [Baesler's] office and said 'You will do this. We will have this facility,'" says Jane Graham, a friend of Coleman's. Eventually, with help from city, state, and federal governments, the University of Kentucky, and other groups, the Single Parent Housing Project, later renamed Virginia Place, opened on Virginia Avenue. It was the first of its kind in the state, and only the second in the country.

Two years after Virginia Place opened, another community advocate, Helen Burg, joined the staff. Both Helen and her husband David were often at Virginia Place, doing everything from making basic repairs to fundraising alongside Ken Kerns. During her 10-year tenure as Executive Director, Virginia Place grew from 15 to 56 single-parent families and, thanks to Mr. Kerns and Don Ball, moved to a whole new campus on Horsemans Lane, where it is now.

"That these residents were bringing up their children and trying to give them the best was something Helen really admired," said Graham, one of Helen's best friends. "Many women came back to Virginia Place to tell Helen that she saved their life," says David, Helen's husband.

After nearly 30 years, their passion for empowering single parents lives on at One Parent Scholar House. These two remarkable women turned their compassion into a program that has helped change thousands of lives.



Helen Burg

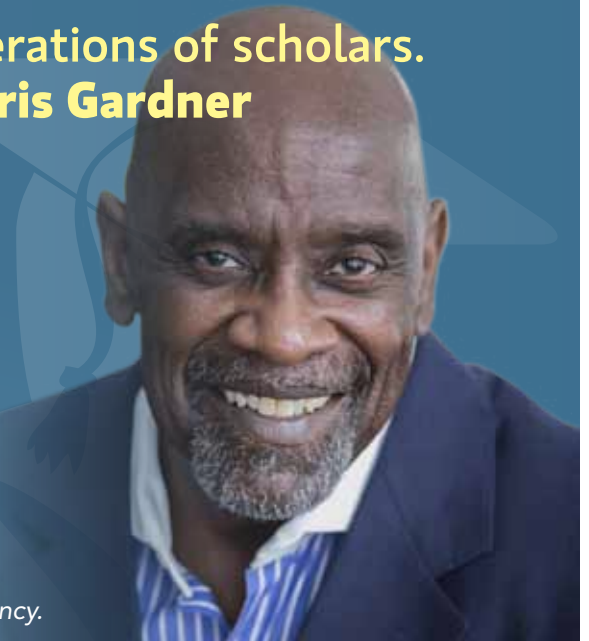
You're invited to give hope to two generations of scholars.
And enjoy the inspirational story of **Chris Gardner**

Don & Mira Ball present

**EDUCATION
BUILDS HOPE
LUNCHEON**

with support from **Don & Cathy Jacobs**

All proceeds benefit the One Parent Scholar House, a Hope Center agency.



MAY 14 AT 12:15 PM | THE CARRICK HOUSE

Tickets: \$60 each. Sponsorships available. Call (859) 225-4673 for more information.

Buy Your Tickets Today at oneparentscholarhouse.org



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CLIENT REFLECTIONS...*Single Dad Puts Kids First: Gerald*



With two unhealthy relationships in my past, and leaving college for one of those relationships, I realized I would need to go back to school. I was living with my mom and working hard to balance school, work, my two children, my debt and other activities. I was very down on myself and began feeling depressed and

had suicidal thoughts. It was overwhelming. I finally enrolled at Somerset Community College and could see some light at the end of the tunnel. But my mom said to me, "You need help. You're spinning your wheels and you're not going to get ahead like this." I got online to find anything I would qualify for, that would get me out of this rut, and I found One Parent Scholar House.

I feel really blessed to be here. I really enjoy being around people who have similar goals; people who can relate to trying to work and go to school and raise a family. We're all experiencing this life. Everyone on the staff and in the community is willing and eager to help. Being here is just as much about my kids as it is about me. There are more resources for them here, and being around more

culture and diversity is something I value for them. A lot of the kids at One Parent Scholar House don't have positive male role models, so I feel a responsibility to present myself in a respectful way, to show them how to respect women, and to be an example. But it's a privilege to be where I am, and I don't take any of it for granted.

Support the scholars at oneparentscholarhouse.org

Don & Mira Ball present
**EDUCATION
BUILDS HOPE
LUNCHEON**

with support from **Don & Cathy Jacobs**

featuring **Chris Gardner**

**MAY 14 AT 12:15 PM
THE CARRICK HOUSE**

