



HOTEL INC

Est. 1981

Community Engagement & Development

Celebrate Good Food For All! | Beth Ramsey, Navigator

HOTEL INC is excited to celebrate the two-year anniversary of the Delafield Co-Op Market on **March 1, 2024**. Since the closing of the Houchens IGA in Sugar Maple Square approximately ten years ago, the Delafield neighborhood had been part of a very large food desert here in Bowling Green, KY. HOTEL INC's dream of offering easily accessible, local products at reasonable costs has come to fruition, as is evidenced by a recent conversation between Gregory Byrd, Market Manager, and a new Market member. A recent transplant from another state, this member has been relying on food obtained from a local retailer and a gas station, neither of which carry fresh produce or meat. He expressed excitement at being able to buy good food he can cook at home while saving money, too!



We welcome all shoppers to the Co-Op. Our retail customers play an important role in offsetting the discount that we provide to our West End customers. Join for a \$60-lifetime membership fee and shop with our retail prices! Follow us on Facebook for more information on sales, and **join us on March 1st as we celebrate with food, prizes, discounts, and give-aways throughout the day.**

Blessed are the Piecemakers | Beth Carroll, Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator

The staff, board and program partners would like to extend their gratitude for the Piecemakers, who have worked behind the scenes for over 30 years and have recently ended their service. The group, founded and led by Vera Gramling from 1992 through 2016, made quilts for people who were moving into permanent housing. Donna Oakes led the group until it disbanded in 2023; volunteers have included: *Vera Gramling, Shirley Schoen, Donna Oakes, Mary Markham, Jane Wilkinson, Wanda Cox, Nadine Sage, Mary Walter, Martha Walker, Traci Ward, Juanita Vance, Becky Taylor, Verna Hyman, Helen Jernigan, and Pam Hanna.*

Shirley Schoen was hooked after her first meeting. "I loved the idea of devoting my free time and energy to those in need. I believe that we are called to love our neighbors without any conditions or boundaries. So, I hope that our quilts, freely given, inspire the recipients to pass on their own unconditional love to those who cross their paths each and every day."



(Left to Right) Volunteers Pam Hanna, Shirley Schoen, and Donna Oakes pose for a picture.

"Once we were housed, we received a beautiful quilt. We have been housed for four years. I have my quilt on a quilt ladder that I can see from my bed. To me this quilt represents safety, security, warmth...and not just warmth from the cold but warmth from someone's heart [who] cared enough to put their love and time into making this special quilt for myself and my family. To some people they just see a quilt but to me I see a light that came from darkness in one of the hardest times in my life. I love and will always cherish my quilt."

**-Patty Lowery,
recipient**






**A Lenten
Read-Along &
Discussion**

Google Meet
Wednesdays, 12-12:45
Feb 21, 28,
March 6, 13, 20, and 27

In this study, we bear witness to love,
compassion, and transformation as we reflect
on life as both beautiful and terrible.

<https://secure.givelively.org/event/hotel-inc/2024lent>

with Dr. Katy Attanasi Barker
Development Coordinator
HOTEL INC



The Power of a Pause

In all areas of work at HOTEL INC we often implement a pause. For Navigators, this pause reminds us to slow down, to actively listen as someone shares their story with us, and to take a closer look at our curriculum as we teach it. For our community engagement staff, this pause is a reminder to let partners and neighbors lead and guide the conversations and decisions. For our development staff, this pause is a reminder to ensure that our programs and outreach align with our mission and values. For our donors, this pause can provide a chance to reflect on the ways that we are investing our time, talent, and treasure in ways that bring real and lasting change. Lent is a time Christians pause to reflect on their own humanity. If you would like to join us as we create a space for meaningful reflection, we invite you to participate in our Lenten Read-Along and Discussion.

Thank You

Stephanie Robbins

**Your years of dedication to the HOTEL INC newsletter
are greatly appreciated!**

Empowering Communities | Shelley Carter, Neighborhood Engagement Specialist

In November, the Delafield Neighborhood Group was awarded the Model Neighborhood Award by the Bowling Green City Neighborhood & Community Services Department at its annual Neighborhood Builders Awards. This award recognizes neighborhoods that have achieved a model level of community spirit, cooperation, and communication. The leadership team of Joyce Tann and Anna Beason represented the Delafield Neighborhood Group to receive the award. They were celebrated for focusing their “efforts on improving the neighborhood by engaging in activities that facilitate neighbor relations, neighborhood aesthetics, safety, food access, and overall desirability of the Neighborhood.” Their work makes both the neighborhood and the city of Bowling Green better “I’m proud to be living in Delafield. I grew up here and will do all I can to make it a better place to rear future children and have better housing for those renting and homeownership,” shares Anna Beason, group secretary.



Anna Beason and Joyce Tan with Mayor and city council members.

A Living Wage | Rebecca Troxell, Lead Navigator

One of the most common misconceptions surrounding those who are experiencing homelessness is that they don’t want to work. Many of the people who are experiencing homelessness want the opportunity to earn a living wage and provide for themselves and their families. However, for those experiencing homelessness & “getting a job” is not as easy as it sounds. Also, it is important to note that “living wage” is not a minimum wage job. Even a person making \$15 per hour in Bowling Green can only afford about \$700 in rent. So how can someone working their hardest on minimum wage possibly afford a place to live and to pay application costs, security deposits, and utility deposits. These difficult situations can feel all but impossible to overcome. We must advocate for affordable housing options that align with people’s incomes. No one should be forced to live on the streets or in a shelter simply because their job doesn’t pay enough for them to have a roof over their heads. As a community, we work towards a more equitable society. When more people are making higher wages it injects more money into our economy, which then leads to more overall economic growth.

First Southern

National Bank

WE **BELIEVE** IN YOU

Thank You!

2024 TITLE SPONSOR

“We are honored to partner with HOTEL INC and support the critical work they do in our community. Their deep understanding of the **complex** obstacles surrounding poverty, affordable housing, homelessness and food insecurity make them the **ideal advocates** to educate and empower an impoverished community. We are thankful for their team and their **diligent work** in support of a vision where all people are valued and have an **equal opportunity to thrive.**”

—Rebecca Reeves Brinkley, Community President

You're Invited!

LANDLORD LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, MARCH 19
12-2 pm, 1005 Boatlanding Road

- ✓ Hear from current landlords on the benefits of working with our program participants

Learn from our Navigators how to

- ✓ Accept vouchers, Section 8, and KHC
- ✓ Interpret Utility Charts

RSVP for Los Volcanes Lunch by March 12 to rebecca@hotelincbg.com

Increasing the availability of affordable housing units in Bowling Green together.

First Southern National Bank

The Presbyterian Church

abc 3 WKRC
Cares

REYNOLDS

JC Kirby & Son, Merry Maids, American Legion Post 23, Teresa's Restaurant

Grace Church of Bowling Green, Odd Fellows Lodge #51, Print Media



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**HOTEL INC &
Delafield Co-OP Market**



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HOTEL INC



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Upcoming Events

**FEB
12**

Ash WedneSday Service

12:30pm in the Chapel |
Led by Rev. Christy Allen

**MAR
1**

Market Anniversary Celebration & Open House

Drop-In from 8:30am-4:00pm

**MAR
19**

Landlord Luncheon

12pm-2pm
(RSVP to rebecca@hotelincbg.com)

**MAR
28**

Maundy Thursday Service

12:30 pm in the Chapel |
Led by Rev. Christy Allen

**APR
1**

Transformational Development WKU Society for Lifelong Learning

11am-12:30pm | Sign-Up through WKU

Get Involved!

- Attend a First Friday Open House,
- Join the Delafield Co-Op Market,
- Shop regularly at the Co-Op,
- Attend an educational activity,
- Volunteer,
- Become a Landlord Partner,
- Attend a fundraiser,
- Set up a monthly gift,
- and remember HOTEL INC in your will!