



HOTEL INC

Helping Others Through Extending Love In the Name of Christ

Summer 2020

Advocacy • Education • Empowerment

We're 120+ days into life being different for each of us. Many of us have created new routines that allow time to explore or rediscover hobbies or dreams we have longed to have space for in our calendar. Others of us have experienced sickness, loss and worry with days of uncertainty adding up each week. When a person is experiencing homelessness often their days are filled with uncertainties and worry of safety and shelter, managing or lack of ability to manage chronic illnesses.

At HOTEL INC we continue to stand in the gap. **Advocacy, Education and Empowerment** are not just words in our mission statement but a part of our work each day for housing, health and nutritious food access, sustainability and sharing the work with our neighbors through friendship and partnership.

In June, we modified our annual **Housing Celebration** due to the pandemic. What would have been a BBQ with all our families was instead a visit outside each home of the individual and family that obtained permanent housing and sustained it this past year. Thanks to our event sponsor, **Aetna**, the staff was able to give a gift card to a restaurant and a bag of fresh vegetables to each one. The most enjoyment came from hearing each person talk about what it has meant to them to have their home; the changes in their relationships with family and friends; the joy on their face and pride in their voice of them saying, "Here, take a look at my house," and inviting us to come in and visit was priceless!



WELCOME HOME

Community and housing transforms lives! We invite you to learn more and invest in our Affordable Housing Plan. We are hosting an **Affordable Housing Coffee & Conversation via Zoom on July 28 at 9am**. To register email director@hotelincbg.com by July 24.



Strategic Plan

It's often said that organizations who fail to plan for their future...plan to fail. Even during these trying times, your HOTEL INC team remains committed to ensuring a strong, viable future to serve the Warren County community for years to come. To do this, we dedicated ourselves to building a comprehensive 5-year Strategic Plan that will provide a 2021 – 2026 roadmap to tackle the significant issues we all face. Pairing dedicated, volunteer board members with subject matter expert staff members, and through identification and analysis of significant issues, we created key goals under these five Focus Areas; 1) Advocacy, Empowerment & Education, 2) Homeless & Housing Services, 3) Food Security, 4) Health and 5) Development. *(continued on p. 3)*

FARM to FORK DINNER
September 26, 2020

\$75
per person

Limited Seats Available

Tickets Available August 1 at hotelincbg.com/farmtotable

Grants Awarded

Affordable housing continues to be at a crisis level in Bowling Green and Warren County. In 2017, HOTEL INC began research and planning what role the organization could effectively have in helping to alleviate length of homelessness through transitional housing. Last year we shared with the community and grantors our 5-year Affordable Housing Plan (2019-2023) for acquiring access to 40 doors. The plan includes HOTEL INC purchasing up to 10 homes and master lease of 10-20 units to be used for transitional to permanent housing. Additionally, people will also move directly into their own leased unit. We purchased our first home in the fall and opened it right before Christmas. This home can house up to 4 same gender individuals or 1 family at a time. We were also able to lease 5 apartments for transitional to permanent housing in 2019.



Recently the **City of Bowling Green** awarded HOTEL INC \$260,000 through the **Community Development Block Grant**

(CDBG). These funds will be used to purchase, rehabilitate, and furnish two homes over the next two years. We will be raising an additional \$34,100 in matching funds for this project. The CDBG project will take place in Census tract 103.3 and 103.4. This area is roughly from Morgantown Road to Old Morgantown Road in the Bowling Green city limits.



We are grateful for grants awarded for July 2020 - June 2021 from **United Way of Southern**

Kentucky for each of our focus areas. Homeless & Housing Services were awarded \$22,500 for partial support of the CDBG grant, Preferred Tenant Program and staff. The Street Medicine department was awarded \$17,500 for partial support of medical respite, medical care/supplies and staff. To help address chronic food insecurity \$8,000 was awarded to create a part time position to work with individuals and families on alleviating their risk of hunger and offset the cost of fresh food.



Coffee & Conversation
via Zoom

details/register via email director@hotelincbg.com

● **Affordable Housing Plan**
July 28 at 9 am (register by June 24)

● **Homeless & Health**
Aug. 25 at 9 am (register by Aug. 21)

● **Food Access & Poverty**
Sept. 29 at 9 am (register by Sept. 25)

Preferred Tenant Program

The **2nd Quarter Preferred Tenant Program** took on a very different look due to our pandemic state. The education program was adapted to an online format to be able to offer some semblance of normal. And, we've learned a lot. First, access for people experiencing housing insecurity is greatly limited. Traditional means of internet connection are even more limited. Libraries and restaurants that offer connection services have been closed. Lack of income means month to month cell phone plans are unable to be renewed. Face-to-face access is even more limited. While the online version offered the ability to connect anytime and work at one's own pace, very few participated. Even fewer completed the series. Sometimes, though, the data doesn't tell the whole story. Numbers leave out very important details. Scores don't always reflect the true change.

What have we learned from the current state of the **Preferred Tenant Program** has been glaring. Connection with people brings about change. Sharing a meal allows for relationships to be built. Interacting with one's peers provides support and encouragement, along with a sense of belonging in a situation in which one may feel they are alone on a journey that no one could possibly understand. Motivation can suffer in the absence of a support team. Mental health deteriorates in isolation and fear of uncertainty. So, the housing department began street outreach and engaging in ways that meet people where they are. Housing applications were filled out in parking lots Job applications were submitted through an iPad. Food and income resources were accessed in new ways.

When it seemed the world stopped, participants have still been moving forward. Jobs were acquired. Housing was obtained. Education was accessed. Relationships were restored. Assessments and referrals took place at picnic tables and muffled behind masks. Dignity and grace were extended in mutual exchange, each person doing their best. Teamwork shines as we have all come together to meet goals and provide safety and security. God restores hope even in times that seem so hopeless. Change is reflected in each person's story, something of which the numbers will only give us a glimpse into.

— Elisabeth Fielder-Hix
Housing Stability Coordinator



Seeking Shalom is a 7-week small group course that engages our minds and hearts to look at 5 elements of Shalom that each of us can learn from and be transformed as we work in the community with others to transform their lives.

Class may be in person or via Zoom. In person class participants will be asked to health screen each week.

September 1— October 20 3-5 pm (register by August 20) Cost is \$20. Email beth@hotelincbg.com for more information or to register.

Strategic Plan *(continued from p. 1)*

We are in the final phases of our five-month process, and are currently outlining the individual steps, milestones, timelines and resources that will be required to complete these crucial goals. Throughout the process, your input and feedback has informed our thoughts and actions. Rest assured, the hours and energy we expend now, will pay huge dividends in the future. We look forward to continuing to partner with you, city and county leaders and business/organizations to inspire the “Common Unity” that underpins our strong community. As we successfully execute our Strategic Plan, we will create the vision each of us see as possible for our individual citizens and community as a whole...a vision where every single person is valued and has equal opportunity to thrive.

— Charlie Cole
Board of Directors, Strategic Plan Facilitator

Volunteer Celebration of 2019 Service Awards!

Since we were unable to safely gather to celebrate, we want to recognize those volunteers who so selflessly served alongside our neighbors in 2019. Thank you all!



Volunteer 2019 Service Awards

Bronze Award (100- 249 Hours)

Iver Alenciks
Rick Beliles
Charles Benson
Cheri Brown
Harold Bucy
Sallie Carwell

Chris Chiles
Judy Clark
Paul Clark
Joan Everhard
Priscilla Ferrell
Lynn Goodman

Kevin Gregory
Gordon Hanna
Pam Hanna
Leslie "Ace" Horton
Pat Mc Cann
Eve Main

Therese Maris
Brandon Miles
Kellie Mysinger
Cristen Page
Garry Preston
Karyn Preston

Judy Riemer
Larry Sensing
Wanda Weidemann

Silver Award (250– 500 Hours)

Ann Bray
Lorie Donohue
Cheryl Harlow
Debbie Head
Laura Hite

Lee Jordan
Paula Maier
Rita Schneider
Loyd Van Hooser

Gold Award (500 Hours)

Shirley Lowe
Jay Maris

We want to thank **Pam and Gordon Hanna** for their many years of service in the Manna Mart pantry. We are grateful for their continued participation in Piecemakers for Pam and for Gordon's help around the building.

Board of Directors Recognition

Andy Wilkins has actively served as a member of the Board of Directors from 2013-2019. He first filled a vacant position and then continued to serve two full terms. We are grateful for his leadership and dedication to HOTEL INC during his board tenure. Andy continues to volunteer with us on our City Shapers Bowling Green team, as well as, serving on the Housing Committee.

The Board of Directors would like to recognize **Brandon Miles** as the *2019 Board Member of the Year*. Brandon is currently in his first term and is the chair of the Marketing Committee. Brandon's expertise in marketing continues to be an important asset to the organization. We would also like to thank him for managing our website and social media platforms.

In Memory of

Barb Cowles

Barb and her husband Mike were both volunteers here at HOTEL INC before Melissa (Street Medicine Coordinator) started, her mom being the conduit to connect Melissa with Rhondell. Barb will be remembered as a force to be reckoned with. She had a passion for defending and fighting for those who had yet to discover their own voice. Her passion spilled over to her daughter and we know her legacy will live on through Melissa.

Gene Iglehart

Gene has been building and fixing computers and other technical issues for HOTEL INC for the past 30 years. We last spent time with Gene at our Christmas party in December. He had a strong faith and we are thankful for all he did for us and the community.

2019 Kentucky Colonel Awards



Christy Allen has been a volunteer at HOTEL INC since 2012 serving the spiritual needs of the staff, volunteers and participants. She has provided leadership in our chaplain services and led memorial, Easter and Christmas services over the years. She has been committed to spending time with

people on a regular basis at our facility that are experiencing homelessness and providing care and compassion. She has given people hope. Christy has extended our services to meeting with people on the street with our medical team and also visiting people in the hospitals here in Bowling Green that have no familial support systems.



Joan Everhard has been volunteering at HOTEL INC for 8 years. She has been dependable in her roles as front desk receptionist, data entry, Manna Mart pantry interviewer and answering the phones. She has covered multiple positions at short notice and she is always willing to help whenever she can. In the past 2 years Joan has been intentional about learning more about

the shift we are making in addressing poverty. She participated in Seeking Shalom and has been a class assistant in our Preferred Tenant Program. She takes time to develop relationships and support individuals' commitments to changing their circumstances. In an organization where we deal with so many people in places of hardship she is a listening ear, a resourceful help in connecting people to what they need and is generous in both her time and talent.



Lee Ann Crawley works by day at the Bowling Green VA CBOC (clinic) as a RN. She has been a part of the Street Medicine program as one of our nurses since its conception in 2012. She has served as a team outreach leader in a weekly & bi-weekly manner with a gentle and compassionate spirit. Lee Ann takes health care to the most vulnerable people of our community. She has been dependable and resilient in her work, developing relationships as she seeks health and connections for the people she serves. Her courage and compassion are inspiring. She believes wholeheartedly in the work she is a part of as a volunteer with HOTEL INC.

— Beth Carroll
Volunteer Coordinator

Gatton Foundation Creates Opportunity of Expansion

With a two year grant of \$96,400 awarded from the **Gatton Foundation** we are thrilled to announce our Street Medicine program will be expanding this year and into 2021. This grant is allowing for the addition of an ARNP in Psychiatry (Joy Cornelius) and stipends for internships with WKU Social Work and Public Health, School of Nursing and UK School of Medicine.

Many times people experiencing homelessness encounter various barriers to obtaining the healthcare they need. The Street Medicine Institute's motto is, "Go to the People." Having Joy on staff with us will allow us to provide psychiatric care in the field. We now have the ability to meet people at HOTEL INC, at their camp sites or cars, and even at McDonald's if that is where they are most comfortable meeting with her. **Join us as we welcome Joy to our team.**



Joy Cornelius

I am excited to be joining the HOTEL INC Street Medicine department and becoming a part of your great team. This is my seventeenth year as a nurse practitioner and I am honored to be able to participate in this community effort to reach more people. My goal has always been to work at lessening the disparities in healthcare and to further reduce the stigma associated with mental health diagnoses. This opportunity supports my passion through providing mobile services and increasing the availability of mental health and I am again thankful to become a part of the team.

— Joy Cornelius APRN
Psychiatric & Family Nurse Practitioner

HOTEL INC
1005 Boatlanding Road
PO Box 1688
Bowling Green KY 42102-1688



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Kevin Gregory

Vice President - Lori Gordon

Treasurer - Kellie Mysinger

Secretary - Jason Ross

Charlie Cole, Brandon Miles,

Currie Milliken

Rhondell Miller—Executive Director

director@hotelincbg.com

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By signing below, I am authorizing a donation to HOTEL INC of a one time amount listed above to be charged to the Credit Card # listed above. For Recurring gifts, I agree to charge the Credit Card # starting on the "Start Date," and each month after for the "# of Months to Charge." To cancel donation at any time, please call the HOTEL INC offices.

Signature: _____ Date: _____