



HOTEL INC

Est. 1981

Community Engagement & Development

2022 Summer

Here we GROW!



The plumbing is set, the walls are starting to go up and the trusses are on!

We are so thankful for all the prayers and financial support that has gotten us this far. The neighbors and partners are anxious to have a new space that will provide areas for meetings, education, the Warren County Public Library, computer lab, neighborhood gatherings, and a commercial kitchen!



This space will be called the *Karen F. Schulte Memorial Community Hub*.



We know this is one giant step in providing a place - a hub - where we can begin to see more lives thrive. It's because of your generosity and that of people like you that this is happening. To continue to support this project and the lives it will impact, go to <https://hotelincbg.com/> and choose the Capital Campaign for your designated gift.



GOAL: \$441,964



Delafield Co-Op Market

The Delafield Co-Op Market is overflowing weekly with beautiful fruits, vegetables, dairy, meats, eggs, flours, jams, breads and other shelf staples. Most importantly it is filled with co-op members and other shoppers who are doing their weekly or bi-weekly grocery shopping! Our neighbors share regularly their joy of having fresh food access and being able to afford the groceries they want and need.

Since opening in March, the co-op has had over 200 households become members. During this time over 65% of the shoppers are neighbors who live in the West End with most living within a mile of the market. Part of the economic impact for the market and its sustainability is making sure we have a diverse group of co-op members. This includes both residents who



live in the West End neighborhoods and those who live outside of this area. Each time we shop, we

are making a commitment to each other and our community to have fresh food access (ending the food desert in Delafield), that we believe in supporting our local farmers and makers, and creating jobs in the neighborhood. Together we can improve food security, nutrition, and overall health!



Luis Batista, Market Associate I began volunteering in the co-op when it opened in March. I was hired as a Market Associate in July. I really enjoy working in the market and meeting more neighbors. The market is a great place to shop. The food is so fresh! I have lived in Delafield for a few years and it is really nice to have the co-op in the neighborhood now.

 We want to stay connected with you. Please update your information with us. This will be kept in our donor database and never sold.

UPDATE
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Street _____ State ____ Zip _____

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Contact Preference: Email USPS Text

Please return by mail to PO Box 1688, Bowling Green KY 42102 or via email to Shelley Carter info@hotelincbg.com.



Thank you to Bishop White of The Episcopal Diocese of KY for supporting the Delafield Co-Op Market with a generous donation of \$5000.

DID YOU KNOW...

HOTEL INC now offers **Seeking Shalom** and **Reimagine Charity** training for other organizations such as churches, civic groups, schools, and more? Contact us at info@hotelincbg.com for more information on our training and consulting offerings.

We will offer **Seeking Shalom** beginning September 27, 2022 through November 8, 2022 from 5:00-7:00 pm. Call 270-782-1263 and ask for Beth or Email Beth@hotelincbg.com if you are interested in joining us. Cost is \$25 for workbook.

Reimagine Charity will be offered on Tuesday, September 13 from 5:00-8:00 pm. Call 270-782-1263 and ask for Beth or Email Beth@hotelincbg.com if you are interested in joining us. Cost is \$10 for dinner.

A Neighborhood Walk

by Beth Carroll, Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator



The Social Connectedness Committee, a sub-committee of City Shapers, was created to help develop “roadmaps” with neighbors for sustainable solutions to improve social connectivity in the Delafield neighborhood. At our meeting in May one member suggested a neighborhood walk to see what our neighbors see every day. Our City Shapers consultants, the Lupton Center, suggested we invite a

neighbor to walk with us. On June 8 we set out on our walk beginning at HOTEL INC with three neighbors, whose residency in Delafield spanned from two years to 22 years, as our guides.

It is not uncommon to make assumptions about those we see “in need.” Statistically, Delafield is an economically poorer community and when we look through the lens of poverty (or need) it is the deficits we expect to see. Though most of the committee had been to HOTEL INC, they had never just driven, much less walked, through the neighborhood. However, no one knows the assets in a community better than those living in the community. Our guides are proud of what they have and shared with us the many gifts of living in Delafield. Assets we observed in the neighborhood included:

- Lush gardens (flowers and vegetables)
- Homes and yards that were valued and cared for
- Neighbors greeting neighbors
- A neighbor picking up trash around an apartment complex
- Several churches and several greenspaces

Of course there are concerns in Delafield as well, and neighbors openly shared those concerns, which included issues that local businesses have brought to the residential area and how those have impacted where they live. They mentioned issues that had and had not been addressed and ways in which they had not felt heard in the past. The walk allowed us to follow the lead of those who know their community - its assets, resources, and potential for renewal. As followers, we focused on listening and seeing with genuine curiosity. One thing is certain, those who walked this neighborhood saw it differently when they left than how they assumed they would see it when they arrived.

If you are looking for ways to get to know the Delafield neighborhood here are a few simple suggestions that should not take you too far out of your comfort zone:

- Come to the Co-Op Market to shop or look around.
- Drive a different route in and a different route out. Map apps will kindly “reroute” you when you drive a different way.
- If there are others shopping in the Market, perhaps you too will meet a neighbor or hear Patty or Luis conversing with one.



Seeking Shalom

Partnering with First Christian Church

by Shelley Carter and Beth Carroll

Shelley and Beth had the opportunity to facilitate the 7-week **Seeking Shalom** curriculum written by The Lupton Center at First Christian Church in the spring. We were thankful for the opportunity to share our knowledge, struggles and time to process new ways for approaching material poverty. As always, the more we present the material the more we learn ourselves. First Christian was open to hearing fresh material on moving the poverty needle and processing how a new way might impact their ministry. We learned the importance of creating a space for relationships to be built with the materially poor so we can better get to know them and partner with them to better their situations. Neighboring is all about getting to know each other and utilizing each person's gifts and talents to build strategies that impact the community for good.

Delafield Neighborhood Group

In June, the **Delafield Neighborhood Group** invited City Code Compliance Division Manager, Brad Schargorodski, to present to the neighbors. Brad spoke to a group of 13 residents, which included both homeowners and renters. His presentation explained that the Code Compliance and Animal Protection Division focuses on the safety and well-being of the public, where they live and where they work. Brad gave examples and showed pictures to explain what issues were under the purview of this Department to address. He explained how to make a report and the process which the department follows to address these reports. Neighbors had time for questions and to voice their concerns.



Feedback from the neighbors who attended was very positive. They felt heard and have already seen evidence of action taken regarding concerns that were shared. Copies of the Code Compliance presentation have been made available for neighbors who were unable to attend.

In July, City Neighborhood Services is bringing the Bowling Green Police Department to Delafield to introduce the Neighborhood Watch program to residents. This program focuses on creating a sense of security, well-being and a sense of community. All neighbors in the area were invited to attend.

Foundation Cohort Reunion

by Rebecca Troxell

We are so excited to announce our very first Foundation's cohort reunion! As we continue to speak to our past and present Foundation cohort partners regarding their experiences and things they would like to see incorporated into the cohort, we have found that many people want to stay in touch with their fellow classmates. The bonds they form while participating in a Foundations cohort last well beyond their last day in class. A cohort reunion is a unique opportunity to continue to build upon those connections and foster lasting friendships. Foundation cohort reunions will allow past partners to come together to celebrate success, share

ideas and catch up on where life has taken them since graduating. It can be comforting to be reunited with peers who are going through the same thing. It is important to recognize life's successes, disappointments, and share our highs and lows. It is our hope that cohort reunions will help to promote and build a community of proximity; which simply means getting to know those who live closest to us. While reaching out does require courage; building such a community has many benefits. For example, in a moment of crisis, the neighbor next door or just down the street is probably more helpful than the friend or family member who lives on the other side of town. The first of many of these reunions will take place on July 28. We cannot wait to have all these amazing people together again.



Join us
**FARM TO TABLE
DINNER**

Plan to join us for a 4 course KY Proud dinner at Tayvin Gardens with Chef Brittany Vincent

September 10th, 6pm
www.hotelincbg.com/dinner

   

Foundations

The navigators celebrated the second cohort graduation of **Foundations** this summer, and it was the largest graduating group since the pandemic began!

The 16 graduates met at Christ Episcopal Church, and they were joined by family ranging from children to grandparents and friends, too. Before receiving their graduation certificates, everyone enjoyed creating their own tacos with delicious food from *Local Taco*. Thanks to various donations of new and unopened houseware as well as outdoor essential items, the navigators also conducted a fun raffle, with graduates writing their names for items they would like to win. Navigators then drew names for the giveaway prizes.



Housing Celebration

The group supported each other through the eight weeks of class, getting to know each other, asking thoughtful questions, and participating in discussing the informational material. This support was evident in the comfortable and festive mood graduation night as others cheered for the prize winners, took pictures with their certificates, and enjoyed conversation with each other over dinner.

Though the graduation was a month ago, the relationships that were built during the eight weeks of class are continuing to grow. Graduates are still meeting with their respective navigators one-on-one to work toward their goals. Recently five of the graduates found housing, and four more currently have housing choice vouchers to help them obtain and maintain affordable housing. Others are working on their

budget to save money for moving costs and getting connected with appropriate doctors for their healthcare needs. While this group flourished together in class, many expressed they missed spending that time together after the classes ended.



Lacey Kimball, Navigator In late May, I took a new position with HOTEL INC as a Navigator. I've enjoyed observing how HOTEL INC seeks to bring individuals together in a way that fosters connection with each other and with the broader community. One example of this is the Foundations cohort. In Foundations, not only are partners receiving helpful material on topics such as housing, budgeting, education, and health, but they are also part of a group. They are learning together. Seeing the same faces each week grows a sense of familiarity, accountability, and belonging. Foundations also invites leaders from different fields to speak with the cohort on various topics. These visitors encourage an environment of connection to the larger Bowling Green community. From what I can tell so far, the work of HOTEL INC always has the goal of connection at its core. I'm excited to be a part of the team.

Aftercare

by Harold Bucy, Navigator

One of the rewards of walking alongside someone in **Aftercare** is being able to witness that individual's progress to becoming more independent and self-sufficient. Tony, a partner we have worked with for several years, has progressed from being street homeless and fearful of people to maintaining his own housing for the past seven years. For many years Tony would only allow one person to assist him and often wouldn't reach out until he was in crisis. He recently faced a health crisis and had to leave his job. Although he was anxious to reach out, he made the choice to call us and after several weeks of working with our street medicine doctor to address his illness he has returned to work. He has been able to stop taking his mental health medications and is no longer as fearful of people.

He has started a walking routine to assist with weight loss and greatly reduced the amount of soda he drinks daily. He is also going to public places without someone accompanying him. Tony told us he realized that he is loved and just as good as any other person God created. Partnering with Tony and sharing his journey is such a blessing to all of us who know him.



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Become an Impact Partner

Your monthly gift supports the ongoing work of HOTEL INC with our neighbors for Impact, Growth, and Change. Donating to our overall organization allows us to offer a holistic partnership as we provide navigation, education, and resources for people to move to a more stable life. Become an Impact Partner at www.hotelincbg.com or by completing the form below.

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Choose your own amount \$ _____

I choose to be an Impact Partner with a monthly gift I choose to make a one-time annual gift

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