

# THE DROP INN CENTER

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## DROP INN GOES PUBLIC

Perhaps you've seen and heard a little more about the Drop Inn Center recently. The Drop Inn Center is trying to reach the public with new billboard and television announcements to increase awareness and solicit support. Why?

Unfortunately, there exists a rather large misperception that the Drop Inn Center is funded by the United Way and the City of Cincinnati. On the contrary, the Drop Inn receives no support from either of these sources, which is why a campaign has been launched to let the public know we need the support of people around the Greater Cincinnati region to help us take care of the nearly 4,000



homeless individuals we treat every year.

Since its beginning in the early 1970's the Center has relied primarily on the kindness of strangers to lend not only financial support, but also volunteer support to treat the thousands of homeless individuals that come through our doors each year. The billboard and television announcements direct the public to our web-

site where on-line donations are available. Development Director, Gail Holtmeier comments: "By creating a greater awareness of the homeless plight, I feel confident that the general public and the corporate community will step up to help fund the necessary programs and services needed to transition the homeless into housing; thereby breaking the cycle of homelessness."

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Currently, the Drop Inn Center is looking for the following items and services:

1. We need volunteers who would enjoy providing and serving meals for breakfast, lunch, or dinner.
2. We need volunteers that would like to share a trade or skill to our residents.
3. We also need *fresh fruits, vegetables, and freshly ground decaffeinated coffee.*

Please feel free to drop your donations off between 9am-4pm, weekdays, @ 217 W. 12th St. next to Music Hall in Over-the-Rhine. Questions? Please call Kristin O'Connor at 721-0643 x108. Thank you in advance for your help!

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### RECOVERY SUCCESS

**75%** of Recovery participants are clean & sober at the completion of this 6-month program.

**90%** are employed at completion.

**100%** have secured housing at completion.

**75%** is the success rate for participants in the Homeless Individuals Partnership Program (HIP) for the chronically homeless.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO

The Drop Inn Center recently celebrated some milestones in the lives of our employees. Pictured below is



**Tom Lee** recently celebrated 26 years of employment at the Drop Inn Center. Prior to working at the shelter, Tom Lee was living as a homeless man. The Drop Inn Center was his first real job after a life of addiction.

Tom works as an Emergency Shelter Worker. His real life experiences serve as a great inspiration to others.

**Liz McQueen** received the Gerald Deer Award recognizing her tireless dedication to the shelter. Liz works countless hours in our kitchen. Gerald



Executive Director, Pat Clifford, presents Liz McQueen with the Gerald Deer Award.

Deer was a legendary coordinator of the facilities, who worked non-stop to provide a positive environment for the homeless residents.

**Bobby Lyles**, pictured below, received recognition as a 25-year employee. Bobby is also formerly homeless and is an Emergency Shelter Worker. Bobby has previously worked in our Recovery Hotel as part of our Permanent Supportive Housing Program.



## CORPORATIONS LEND SUPPORT TO RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Drop Inn Center runs a 6-month residential Recovery Program for homeless men who suffer from substance abuse. The program involves individual and group counseling, education, community service, job training, acquiring employment, and securing housing.

New development efforts are under way to significantly enhance the services and programs the Drop Inn Cen-

ter is able to provide to treat substance abuse. Recently, several corporate foun-



dations have stepped up to help fund this vital program. The National City Bank Foundation, the Scripps Howard Foundation, NKU, and the Gale Foundation have all financially contributed to help ensure the long term success of the Men's Recovery Program. These and other gifts to the homeless are testament to the compassionate humanitarian efforts of our corporate community. A very warm thank you to all of our benefactors who make a difference.

## CHCA ROCKS THE DROP INN CENTER

The Drop Inn Center was recently treated to an incredible morning concert by local high school students.

Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy's, *Electric Jazz Orchestra*, livened up the shelter with their extraordinary music, while lifting the spirits of our homeless



residents. CHCA is a private K-12 Christian school in Symmes Township. The EJO features a vast repertoire of musical styles including Jazz, Big Band, Gospel, Funk, Latin, and Rock-n-

Roll.

The EJO is known for its youthful energy and mature sound, and has been entertaining audiences throughout the U.S. and Canada. As part of the school's outreach program, the EJO has given over 150 concerts to many groups including several Cincinnati community organizations. Their performance turned a discouraging day for our residents into a fun and special day.

## DROP INN EMPLOYEE SAVED LIFE

Many times we read about “the story behind the story” which as we know is usually more interesting than the reported story. That certainly was the case on Wednesday, March 7th at the Drop Inn Center.

You may have read in The Enquirer that a knifing incident occurred at the Drop Inn Center. That part isn't quite right. The incident occurred down the street from the shelter, not in the shelter, nor in front of the shelter. What also didn't get reported is the heroics displayed by a Drop Inn employee.

On the afternoon of March 7th, a fight took place between two men, down the street from the shelter. At the same time, Reception Coordinator, Leah Crisp, was across the street from the shelter

on a break, when she noticed the scuffle. By this time, one of the men had pulled a knife, severely wounding the other man. Putting herself at great risk,



Leah succeeded in separating the men, not before the knifing victim ran down the street and collapsed in front of the shelter doors. Leah later commented

the man was bleeding so profusely, she was sure he must be dead.

While onlookers began congregating around the victim, Leah immediately began administering first aid until the paramedics arrived. Once help arrived, the paramedics took over, but noted the man would have died on the sidewalk if it had not been for the quick action of Drop Inn employee, Leah Crisp.

The Drop Inn Center acknowledges and appreciates the heroics of 30-year old, single mother, Leah Crisp, for her successful effort in going above and beyond the call of duty to help a dying individual. Most people would have run the other way and not gotten involved. Thanks Leah for a job well done! By the way, the victim made a full recovery.

## SHELTER PLUS CARE

Shelter Plus Care (S+C) is a new service being offered by the Drop Inn Center. This program provides rental assistance for hard-to-serve homeless persons with disabilities and represents a new paradigm in homeless services.

The Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care has awarded the Drop Inn Center 29 S+C certificates. Each certificate affords one chronically homeless person permanent scattered site

housing over the course of five years. Each participant must abide by the lease set forth by the landlord and maintain case management compliance with the established community case manager and the S+C Coordinator.

Referrals for the program will initially be taken from the Drop Inn Center's Homeless Individuals Partnership Program, which serves the chronically homeless. After the pro-

gram is firmly established, referrals will be taken from other professionals/agencies who serve the chronically homeless.

The chronically homeless represent about 5% of the homeless population in Greater Cincinnati. By definition, the chronically homeless represent those individuals who have been homeless for one year or more or who have experienced homelessness at least four times in a three-year period and are nationally recognized as being a high priority/high need population.

*“The Shelter Plus Care program will allow us to serve more of our long-term homeless residents with housing subsidies.”*

*-Executive Director, Pat Clifford*

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Two trends are largely responsible for the rise in homelessness.

A growing shortage of affordable rental housing and a simultaneous increase in poverty.

- Homelessness is expected to increase **15%** each year in the U.S.
- Families with children are the fastest growing segment of the home-

less population in the U.S.

- **46** million Americans have no health insurance.
- **65%** of all Americans live paycheck to paycheck.
- There are **3.5** million homeless Americans.
- **40%** of homeless men are veter-

ans.

- About **33%** of the homeless have severe chronic mental illness.

- **25%** of the homeless population are chronically homeless; being homeless for over 1 year.



## YES I'D LIKE TO HELP THE HOMELESS.

To Donate: [www.dropinn.org](http://www.dropinn.org) or 513-721-0643 x118  
To Donate Food or other items: 513-721-0643 x108  
To Volunteer: 513-721-0643 x108  
Tours: 513-721-0643 x108

Ask your employer about making a matching gift contribution.

*Transforming Lives through  
Unconditional Care and Unselfish Giving*

We're on the Web  
[www.dropinn.org](http://www.dropinn.org)



The Drop Inn Center  
*Cincinnati's Largest Homeless Shelter*  
217 W. 12th Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

## Mission Statement

The Drop Inn Center is a grassroots community of shelter residents, staff, and volunteers, organized to end homelessness by promoting human dignity, supporting positive social change, and offering a wide variety of services.

*"When I talk about alcoholism in the household, domestic violence, child abuse, illiteracy, and all of those issues...those are universal issues; those are not just confined to ZIP codes."*

-Chris Gardner, The Pursuit of Happyness



Looking for workers? The Drop Inn Center is willing to post any job opening you may know of. Send your job information to [gholtmeier@cinci.rr.com](mailto:gholtmeier@cinci.rr.com). We will post job listings inside the shelter. Please note: The Drop Inn Center is not a job referral agency, but is happy to pass along any job opening information.

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