

NEW PROPOSED COURTYARD ON THE HORIZON

This spring the Drop Inn Center is gearing up to undertake a capital improvement plan to better serve our residents as well as to compliment other redevelopment efforts currently underway in the Over-the-Rhine community.

In order to decrease loitering activities on 12th Street, the Drop Inn Center is proposing a plan to create an enclosed, outdoor Courtyard area on the south side of the building. This Courtyard would provide adequate space for smoking while also providing positive, alternative activities for residents.

The Main Entrance and Lobby of the shelter would also be moved to the south side of the building; allowing easier access to the Courtyard and our parking lot. All of these improvements are designed to eliminate loitering and negative behaviors while providing opportunities for positive recreation. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

YES, I'D LIKE TO HELP THE HOMELESS

To Donate: www.dropinn.org 513-721-0643 X118
 Donate Food or Items: 513-721-0643 X122
 To Volunteer: 513-721-0643 X122
 Tours: 513-721-0643 X122

ASK YOUR EMPLOYER ABOUT MAKING A MATCHING GIFT CONTRIBUTION.

Gifts to the homeless are evidence of the compassionate humanitarian efforts of our community. There are several ways you can make a gift.

Mail to: The Drop Inn Center
 217 West 12th Street
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Call: 513-721-0643 x 118

On line: www.dropinn.org.
 Click on Donate or Giving.
 All gifts are tax deductible.

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

217 W. 12th Street, Over-The-Rhine
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 513.721.0643
www.dropinn.org
 Free Meals
 Emergency Shelter
 Recovery Programs
 Supportive Housing



NEWSLETTER

TRANSFORMING LIVES *through* UNCONDITIONAL CARE and UNSELFISH GIVING

Volume II • Issue 2
 May 2008

NEW DROP INN CENTER TRANSITIONAL HOUSING UNITS

Over-the-Rhine Community Housing in collaboration with the City of Cincinnati and the Drop Inn Center announced the completion of new, state-of-the-art transitional housing units located at 45 E. McMicken Street, downtown.

Community members who have recently graduated from the substance abuse program at the Drop Inn Center will reside in the transitional housing facility.

Combined with a spacious interior, abundant green space, advanced technology, and highly qualified onsite staffing, this program is strategically focused on ending homelessness and fighting poverty by transitioning the homeless into permanent housing. In a recent HUD annual progress report of OTR transitional housing units, 90% of the community members completing the transitional housing program moved into permanent housing; proving that transitional housing works.

This new McMicken Street program will continue to reduce the percentages of homelessness in the area and revitalize the image of downtown Cincinnati. Executive Director Pat Clifford said, "The Drop Inn Center is grateful for OTRCH, the City, and others who have collaboratively stepped up to the plate in a way that benefits our homeless residents."



A March 27th Ribbon cutting ceremony celebrates the opening of new transitional housing units.



Guests tour the new transitional apartment units on McMicken St.

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE INCREASES

Results from The Drop Inn Center's 2007 Annual Fund Drive are in and we are so pleased to report another increase. Director of Development, Gail Holtmeier said, "Our 2006 Annual Fund Drive was up 25% over the 2005 campaign. Now the 2007 campaign results are in and I'm happy to report that we're up 14% over last year's numbers." The Annual Fund Drive commences in November and continues throughout the holiday season and into January. Individual gifts are the main source of contributions and are crucial to keeping the shelter open every day. Daily food and utility expenses for 200 homeless people are exorbitant which is why all contributions are so vital to our survival.

Did You Know ?

- So many people are surprised to learn the Drop Inn Center receives NO support from the United Way.
- This is one reason we need your help and financial support more than ever.
- Please consider making a gift today. Call 513-721-0643 x 118 or www.dropinn.org, click on "GIVE".

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WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Volunteers have always played a major role at the Drop Inn Center. We would not be able to keep our doors open 24/7 were it not for the incredible volunteers that show up every day to help us fulfill our mission to feed, clothe, and house Greater Cincinnati's homeless.

Hundreds of volunteers are needed each month. This is why the Drop Inn Center is pleased to introduce our new Volunteer Coordinator, Bonnie Dierker, who will supervise all volunteer activities.

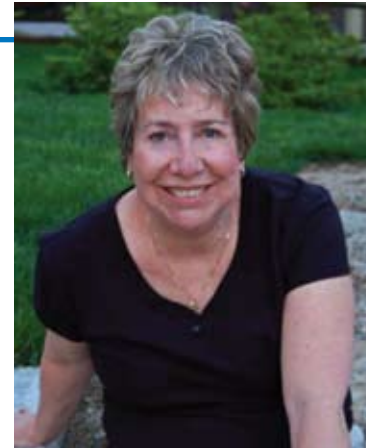
Bonnie brings many years of interpersonal communication experience with her. After graduating from the University of Colorado with a degree in International Affairs, Bonnie spent years studying the cultures of the world with stints in Africa, the Orient, and Asia.

Bonnie also served as Director of Public Relations with the Betty Blake Company and as the Executive Director of the Cincinnati International Visitor's Center.

While raising her family, Bonnie spent six years working in the Wyoming City School district before joining the Drop Inn Center. Bonnie is married to husband, Dave, and has two teenage sons, Ryan and Patrick.

If you would like information on volunteer opportunities, please give Bonnie a call at **721-0643 x122** or send her a note at bdierker@dropinn.org. Volunteers are needed right now to prepare and serve lunch or dinner for 200 homeless people at each seating.

The following items are also needed at this time: NEW men's and women's socks and underwear in all sizes, sweatshirts, sweatpants, and t-shirts in all sizes, fresh fruits and vegetables, canned goods, napkins, toilet tissue, and styrofoam cups, bowls, and plates.



*Volunteer Coordinator
Bonnie Dierker*

NEW SHELTER BASED CASE MANAGERS



Sherran Harris and Kenny Havens have joined the Drop Inn Center as Case Managers for the newly created Shelter Based Case Management Program or SBCM. The SBCM program is a new

initiative designed to make significant improvements in service delivery by offering individualized counseling and support to homeless residents.

Each Case Manager is responsible for a smaller case load of 20 to 25 clients, which affords them the opportunity to access financial, physical, mental, and/or substance abuse support in a more effective and efficient manner.

"I pray I can make a difference in my clients' lives to help them become self-sufficient, give them hope, and build their self esteem," said Sherran Harris, a former Drop Inn Center Advocate.

Kenny Havens previously worked as a Case Manager for the Homeless Individuals Partnership Program, which treats the chronically homeless and is operated by the Drop Inn Center. Kenny knows from this previous work experience that individualized counseling is the key to success in rehabilitating the homeless. More Case Managers will be added to the program as additional funding is secured. If you would like to financially support the SBCM program, please call Gail Holtmeier at **721-0643 x 118** or gholtmeier@cinci.rr.com.



NATIONAL SHELTER SHORTAGES

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, an unfortunate trend in cities around the country over the past 25 years has been to turn to the criminal justice system to respond to people living in public spaces. This trend includes measures that target homeless people by making it illegal to sleep, eat, or sit in public spaces, usually including criminal penalties for violation of these laws.



Another national trend documented in the report is increased city efforts to target homeless persons indirectly by placing restrictions on providers serving food to poor and homeless persons in public spaces.

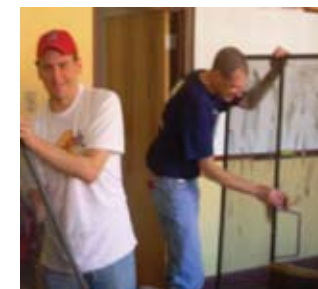
At the same time, however, the housing and homelessness crisis in the U.S. has worsened with many cities reporting an increase in demands for emergency shelter. While cities are cracking down on homeless persons living in public spaces, according to the latest U.S. Conference of Mayors Hunger & Homelessness report, many cities do not have adequate shelters to meet their needs:

- 71% of the 24 cities surveyed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors reported a 6% increase in requests for emergency shelter.
- 16% of overall emergency shelter requests went unmet.
- 32% of emergency shelter requests by homeless families went unmet in cities surveyed.

* This report was prepared by the National Coalition for the Homeless, August 2007.

G.E. VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE DAY OF GIVING

"Volunteers from G.E. come here several times during the year and are an absolute God-send to us. I wish we could clone them!" said Volunteer Coordinator, Bonnie Dierker.



Kenny Noyes & John Pfeiffer

Forty employees from the General Electric Manufacturing and Quality Technology Department spent Wednesday, April 16th volunteering at the Drop Inn Center.

Some G.E. volunteers spent the day repairing ceiling tiles and installing new base boards in the women's dormitory while others cleaned windows, and performed general maintenance repairs in the basement.

And if that wasn't enough, G.E. prepared and served lunch to our homeless residents. G.E. volunteers say they enjoy helping the homeless while bringing about positive change to the community.



Meghan Hudson & Nicole Smith

Did you Know?

The Drop Inn Center takes care of nearly half of all homeless people in Greater Cincinnati; making us the largest homeless provider in the region.

On any given day, the Drop Inn Center houses and feeds 200 homeless people.

The Drop Inn Center has a complete menu of programs to rehabilitate the homeless including a six month recovery and treatment facility, transitional and permanent supportive housing programs, and exceptional case management workers who care for and support our chronically homeless initiative.

There are 3.5 million homeless people in the United States.

Homelessness is expected to increase each year by 15%.

33% of homeless Americans are afflicted with chronic mental illness.

Families with children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population in the U.S.

65% of all Americans live paycheck to paycheck.

46 million Americans have no health insurance.