

# THE DROP INN CENTER

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## DROP INN GETS A MAKEOVER

Wednesday, April 18, 2007 was no ordinary day at the Drop Inn Center. By 7:30am the center was all abuzz with the sounds of workers preparing their tools and projects for the day. Familiar faces from General Electric's Aircraft Engine department were getting ready for a day of repairs and painting.

For several years the same group of G.E. engineers led by coordinators, Mike Cimini and Nancy Burkhart, were once again volunteering to improve the environment at the Drop Inn Center. Today's project would be highly visible to everyone entering the building because these volunteers were preparing to paint the main entrance of the building. The exterior of the shelter has not been painted since 1990 so a fresh coat of paint was in order.

Over time the once vibrant yellow color of the building has diminished into a faded drab exterior that screamed for an update. However, because of limited funding, only the small one-story entrance of the building was able to be repainted.

"We're still looking for the

*Before*



*During*



necessary funds to hire professional painters who have the appropriate equipment to paint the remainder of the building, which is two stories high", said Development Director, Gail Holtmeier. Flower boxes (as seen on page 4) added the finish-

ing touch and were graciously provided by volunteer, Beth Cuprill. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this significant transformation possible. If you have a skill you'd like to share with the shelter, please give us a call.

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### **Did You Know?**

- The Drop Inn Center receives *no* financial support from the Greater Cincinnati United Way.
- We need your help more than ever! Please consider making a gift today.

## PARTNERSHIP PAIRS JOBS WITH RESIDENTS

The Drop Inn Center was recognized as the **2007 Jobs Plus Ministry Partner of the Year** on June 7, 2007. The award was presented by the Jobs Plus Employment Network.

Jobs Plus is a non-profit organization that helps break cycles of poverty and unhealthy dependencies for individuals in low-income communities by providing job opportunities and a network of support and accountability leading to healthier lifestyles.

The Drop Inn Center has partnered with Jobs Plus for 12 years as part of the Men's Recovery Phase 2 Program. Each individual in the Men's Recovery Program must complete the Jobs Plus program.

Graduates of the Jobs Plus program complete about 30 hours of training as

they prepare for the real world of interviews, supervisors, coworkers, and responsibility. But what often makes the greatest impact is the spiritual dimension of the program, which addresses issues of the heart through Bible study and relationships with staff and other clients. In 2007, a new partnership with the Drop Inn Center's Men's Recovery Program resulted in 17 client referrals to Jobs Plus and 9 full time job place-



Jobs Plus Executive Director, Burr Robinson, DIC Recovery Team Coordinator, Debra Brundidge, Team Member, Ruby Lucas, and Executive Director, Pat Clifford.

ments. The Jobs Plus program provides job readiness programs to help individuals re-enter the work force.

### Men's Recovery Graduates:

A few weeks ago the Drop Inn Center's Men's Recovery Program once again celebrated the successful graduation of two more individuals who completed the 6-month recovery program. Stephen Blue and Raymond Boyd successfully finished the rigorous 6-month recovery program and are now clean and sober. Both gentlemen are now *formerly* homeless, living on their own, and are employed! Congratulations! Recovery graduations are celebrated throughout the year. A \$100 donation will provide a nice party for our graduates, their friends and family, and the recovery staff. Any donations are welcome and appreciated!

## CONGRATULATIONS

Drop Inn Center Advocate, Sherran Harris, received the Walter Corbean Award on April 20, 2007 at The Phoenix. The award was part of the Recovery with Dignity Day which was celebrated at a luncheon during the "Pass the Light" ceremony. The Walter Corbean Award is presented to an individual for outstanding service to the black alcoholic and their families.

The luncheon was hosted by The Alcoholism Council of Greater Cincinnati

Sherran has been an Advocate at the Drop Inn Center for over 3 years. She recently graduated from Northern Kentucky University with her Bachelor's degree in Social Work and will soon begin working towards her Master's degree in Social Work.

Unfortunately for the Drop Inn Center, Sherran has accepted a position as the Administrative Coordinator at the Cincinnati Health Network, one of our partner organ-

izations, where she will continue to serve the homeless. A heartfelt thank you to Sherran for her outstanding service to the Drop Inn Center and to the homeless. We wish her all the best in her exciting new endeavor.



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## A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

The Drop Inn Center is so thankful for the generous support of our benefactors. Recently we have received gifts from the following contributors:

Fifth Third Bank, Sam's Club, National City Bank, J. Jill, General Electric, Northern Kentucky University, Scripps Howard, Duke Energy, Union Savings Bank, Guardian Savings Bank, Fullgraf Foundation, AGNF, Gale Foundation, Wyoming Women's Club, Weston Fund,

Conway Foundation, and American Financial. With the untimeliness of many state and federal grants, our homeless center relies on the support of many individuals, corporations, and foundations to keep our doors open 24/7. Gifts to the homeless are testament to



the compassionate humanitarian efforts of our community.

There are several ways to make a gift to the Drop Inn Center.

**Mail to:** The Drop Inn Center, 217 W. 12th St., Cincinnati, Oh. 45202.

**Call:** 513-721-0643 x 118

**On line:** [www.dropinn.org](http://www.dropinn.org). Click on Donate or Giving. All gifts are tax deductible.

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

by: Pat Clifford

As a private non-profit organization, the Drop Inn Center is run by a governing board which represents community volunteers, residents and staff concerns. Our board members are a primary reason that our organization has been open and improving for nearly 35 years. We are happy to invite several new members to the Drop Inn Center governing board:

**Nancy Burkhart**, an Administrator from GE Aviation in Cincinnati, joined in May. She has helped lead volunteer crews for several years.

**Donald Whitehead**, former Director of the National Coalition for the Homeless (and proud Drop Inn Center graduate), joined in July. He currently works for Goodwill and the Recovery Hotel. He has recently been involved organizing community support for Permanent Supportive Housing for the Chronically Homeless here in Cincinnati.

**Elissa Pogue**, CCDC III-E, is the Coordinator of Project Connect, an organization that ensures that homeless children in Cincinnati have access to education. She will join the board in August.

These new members join our current volunteer board members Elizabeth "Libby" Wiggs (Chair), Doug Ostholthoff (Treasurer), and Dan Burke (Secretary). There is one more volunteer position open which we hope to have filled in August. Our Resident representatives are Steve Anderson, Fazl Mughni and

Jeff Smith. Several additional residents are chosen each month directly from the Emergency Shelter. In addition, our Staff representatives are Fanni Johnson, Joe Wynn, Kristin O'Connor and Sheran Harris.

We have two emeritus members, both who were former Chairpersons: Bonnie Neumeier, one of the founders of the Center, and Don Gardner, who served actively for ten years. They continue to remain available with their wisdom and guidance.

The most important role of our board is to listen. The Drop Inn's greatest strength is, and has been, that we have been in touch both with the needs of our residents and with the solutions that work to improve their lives. We are thankful to all those who choose to listen and act with us here in Over-the-Rhine!

### HOMELESS INITIATIVES

Central Florida embarks on a noble effort trying to end homelessness within 10 years. Recently, a University of California study found that 15 chronically homeless people cost San Diego \$3 million over 18 months. The Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program tracked 119 chronically homeless for five years and added up more than 18,000 emergency-room visits. The average cost: \$1,000 a pop.

Chronically homeless people consume more than 50 percent of the federal, state and local dollars allocated to

homelessness, but the money is wasted because they stay on the streets and never get better. More than 300 communities across the United States have done the math and turned to a business formula of supportive housing that includes apartments and mental-health and substance-abuse services.

Housing itself has a therapeutic impact. Rather than make people more dependent: provide opportunity. Money spent on the front end may seem like a lot, but the research says that it's going to be considerably more expensive on the back end if nothing is done. (*reprinted from the Orlando Sentinel: June 25, 2007*)

The Drop Inn Center initiated its own program to deal with the problem of chronically homeless in Cincinnati two years ago. Our Homeless Individuals Partnership Program (HIPP) utilizes a 6-person collaborative case planning team to engage, assess, and provide case planning and treatment for chronically homeless men and women. This team provides intensive services designed to help the individual access mainstream disability support services (mental health, substance abuse, etc.), and assists them in securing housing and income and/or benefits to sustain themselves. The HIPP program has proven to be very successful with 75% of participants securing housing and income!

## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING UNITS TO MOVE

The Drop Inn Center operates 24 units of transitional housing which provides an important first step in helping a person transition from homelessness to permanent housing.

Two transitional housing buildings owned by the Drop Inn Center currently operate at the intersection of 12th and Elm Streets. These buildings sit on the future site of the new School for

the Creative and Performing Arts. In order for construction of the school to begin, these transitional housing units need to be relocated. Discussions to accommodate both parties have been underway for months now.

Although no contracts



have been signed, the Drop Inn Center plans to sell the buildings to the school and move the transitional housing units about 1 mile west to McMicken Street. The 12 new McMicken housing units will represent a significant upgrade in environment and facilities and feature specialized support staff and counseling.

**YES, I'D LIKE TO HELP THE HOMELESS**

TO DONATE: WWW.DROPINN.ORG 513-721-0643 X118  
TO DONATE FOOD OR 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)**

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*Newly painted front entrance*



*Serving compassionate care to Cincinnati's homeless*

**Free Meals      Emergency Shelter  
Recovery Programs      Supportive Housing**



The Drop Inn Center  
*Cincinnati's Largest Homeless  
Shelter*  
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Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

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