



TRANSFORMATIONS | *Restoring Health, Transforming Lives*



Opinion: Sickness without a home during the coronavirus

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I am experiencing homelessness. It can happen to anyone. Today, our world is full of scary stories, my own story culminates with care by people with full hearts and kind souls who risk their own lives daily throughout this COVID-19 pandemic to tend to those of us in need.

For 15 years, I worked in the mail room at The Cincinnati Enquirer, from 1993-2015. To me, this seemed like the center of everything. It was fun and rewarding, with great people. As with many places, things turned at The Enquirer, and I was then able to secure employment at Amazon.

I became sick in 2017, with my legs getting puffy. Christ Hospital let me know "you are greatly impacted" and that if I had not come in, I would have died. I learned that I had diabetes and congestive heart failure. After that, I found out that I had colon cancer.

My landlord evicted me on New Year's Day 2020. Unfortunately, my legs started to swell again. I discovered that my cancer came back and that I now have liver cancer.

After this hospital release, I had nowhere to go. It was also what we learned to be the start of the coronavirus, a frightening time. The hospital staff told me about The Center for Respite Care. My ending up at the Center saved my life.

In the middle of a scary personal situation and a worldwide pandemic, I was introduced to people who cared. During my time here, the staff has taken care of my health, helped me get my disability checks and created an environment that includes fun in our days. We have art classes, hear live music, watch movies and congregate with an amazing staff and others like me.

SPRING 2020

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Our mission is to provide quality, holistic medical care to homeless people who need a safe place to heal, while assisting them in breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Center for Respite Care
P.O. Box 141301, Cincinnati, OH 45250

Transformation Awards
2020
Thursday, October 22
Cintas Center - 6:00pm

We invite you to join the Center for a virtual celebration.

A special mailing with details will be coming to you soon.

Meet this years honorees, on Page 3!

Center for RespiteCare
Homeless Medical Recovery



Message from the Chief Executive Officer **Laurel Derks Nelson**

The Center for Respite Care is nearly 20 years old. We are the only regional organization actively serving adults experiencing homelessness who are ill and have nowhere else to go.

Our clients are parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers and friends. Some of them once had viable careers, tight connections, good health and homes. They are you and me. None expected to be with us. Their time with us helps them to regain a life. And we know, once they leave us, they will be healthier and ready to contribute to society.

These individuals experience a high rate of unresolved health conditions and complications, repeat emergency room visits and extended hospital stays due to improper healing. Substandard living conditions, inadequate nutrition, extreme weather and no or very limited access to healthcare inevitably leads to serious health conditions.

After a stay in the hospital, sometimes extended recovery is needed. Shelters and homeless treatment programs are unable to accommodate the follow-up care that insures someone's true recovery. This is what we at the Center engage in daily. My team has worked steadily, during these tense times, adorned with masks and gloves, to ensure that people are healing.

Our financial model has worked and enabled us to provide more than 144,000 care hours annually. Sadly, we look towards an increased need for the care that we provide.

We rely on personal donations, grants, government-tax levy funds, hospital contributions and corporate giving. Importantly, most people who come to the Center have been sent from an area hospital. Our care costs significantly less than internal hospital costs. While the hospitals have been generous, their own current situations have meant funds are slower to be received by us. And during this time, we commit to continuing care for these people who need us most. We have successfully raised money throughout our lifetime – this time period has simply strained our system. My team and I have worked continually through these challenging times. From the bottom of our hearts, thanks for your faith in us and for your ongoing support.

LIVING THE MISSION EVERY DAY CENTER STAFF UPDATES OUR CORE VALUES TO 5 ACTIONS



Our Core Values

Ignite the human spirit by restoring health, hope, and dignity.

Demonstrate mercy and compassion for all.

Provide high quality health care.

Connect the individual to the Greater Cincinnati/Tristate community through case management.

Serve, collaborate, and educate within our internal and external communities.

The staff of the Center for Respite Care has met several times since April, 2019 to review the board of directors' newly adopted three year strategic plan. This led to each department setting its own goals and objectives and updating the wording of our core values - **with a particular focus on Mercy.**

Transformation Awards 2020 - Meet this year's honorees!

Sr. Rose Ann Fleming is a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur. She has a bachelor's degree, MBA, law degree and PhD in educational administration. She is a special assistant to Xavier President Michael Graham, S.J. In addition to her work at Xavier, she has served as the superintendent of her alma mater, Summit Country Day in Cincinnati and president of Trinity College in Washington, D.C.

Sr. Rose Ann, has been Xavier's athletic academic advisor for three decades. Since 1986, Xavier has graduated every senior men's basketball player, 94 and counting, and is consistently ranked as one of the top 15 schools nationally for overall student-athlete graduation success rate.



In September 2014, Carole and Edwin Rigaud received the Jacob E. Davis Volunteer Leadership Award from The Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

Mr. Rigaud's numerous volunteer roles include being a past member of the National Museum and Library Services Board, appointed by President Bush in 2002. His many volunteer activities include Honorary Chairman of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, and serving on the boards of the Williams College of Business at Xavier University in Cincinnati, and UC Physicians at the University of Cincinnati Medical College.

Mrs. Rigaud has been honored as an Enquirer Woman of the Year, a Girl Scouts Great Rivers Council Inc., Women of Distinction, and with the Lighthouse Youth Services 2010 Beacon of Light Humanitarian Award.

Tender Mercies transforms the lives of homeless adults with mental illness by providing security, dignity, and community in a place they call home. Founded in 1985, with the support of compassionate donors and funders, Tender Mercies has grown to six buildings located in Over-the-Rhine and the West End. Each year, nearly 200 homeless men and women with mental illness rebuild their lives in their home at Tender Mercies.



This year the Center for Respite Care honors two very special Volunteers of the Year and their volunteer companions. Therapy dog, Sadie (Left) and Carolyn Wiedamann were faithful visitors going back to the Center's time in Avondale. Sadie passed away last year, and we honor her fond memory. Therapy dog Jasmine (Right) makes weekly visits with her companion, Jennifer Tenney. Jasmine's peaceful presence is always a delight to our clients.





(Left) Clients vote weekly to pass the torch and a certificate of appreciation to the client “who’s been the most helpful.” (Center) Clients gather with medical and case management staff to discuss staying safe during the health crisis. (Right) Clients volunteer time to stamp the donation envelopes included with this mailing.

We pass the torch of appreciation to you!
Your ongoing financial and volunteer support truly makes the Center’s mission possible!



IN THE LAST FISCAL YEAR
Clients served unduplicated: 122
Bed nights: 6,018
Hours of Service: 128,496
Community Resource Connections: 625
*Unduplicated count per area hospitals: 122

*All other: 18
Christ Hospital: 13
Mercy: 7
St. Elizabeth: 18
TriHealth: 3
UCMC: 63

Center for Respite Care 2020-21 Board of Directors

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- Laurel D. Nelson, Chief Executive Officer
- Robert Donovan, SM, MD
Physician

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:
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