



## The Phoenix

Our daytime drop-in center continues to get busier as the colder weather is finally descending on the area. In the month of November, we saw 414 individuals come through our doors. Our street outreach team fielded several calls each day, responding to housing needs, transportation requests, and calls from the police departments.

We've also been open several times for emergency warming hours already. We welcome friends from the community to come and spend time with us during these cold mornings or evenings. It is helpful to have a list of "on-call" individuals that are willing to hang out with us during emergency warming hours. If you are interested in helping out in this area, please email [bailie@cuathome.us](mailto:bailie@cuathome.us).

## Winter Wish List

This time of the year is one of giving and many of you have asked us how you can support the ministry or help our friends without an address. Each season, we publish a wish list with our most needed items. Our Winter Wish List can be found at [www.cuathome.us](http://www.cuathome.us). If you are interested in giving that way. On the right hand side we also have two very commonly

asked questions about donations during this season.

### **Do you take clothing or coat donations?**

If you have clothing or coats, please contact us to see if we can make good use of them at that time. If we are not able to utilize them we advise giving them to the Canteen Run, a local retired ambulance that gives out food, drinks, blankets, and other warm items to those on the streets.

### **Do you take food, such as cookies or other holiday treats?**

Due to food and sanitation guidelines, we generally do not accept these types of donations unless they are individually packaged and in smaller quantities.

## SNEAK PEEK

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## OWN 2018 is Seven Weeks Away!

We can barely believe it ourselves, but One Winter Night 2018 is exactly seven weeks away and there is plenty of time for YOU to get involved. It takes A LOT of individuals to help us pull off One Winter Night and we are thankful for each and every person that can get involved!

The following opportunities are available:

**Box Dweller** - Embark on an unforgettable 12 hours of sleeping in a box and raise \$1,000 to help our friends without an address.

**Business Sponsor** - Endorse One Winter Night with your business and get your logo on box stations, banners, and programs.

**Volunteer** - Help with set-up, box dweller registration, hospitality, street team, and more!

**Donate** - Donate securely online, send a check to us at P.O. Box 8816, Champaign, IL 61826, or drop off cash. **Don't forget that you can still make a donation that is tax-deductible for 2017!**

You can also help out by spreading the word on social media. Like our Facebook page, C-U at Home, to stay updated on box dwellers, business sponsors, and other exciting announcements about the event. Feel free to share our posts with your friends and encourage them to come out for the event or donate to a specific box dweller by



going to our list of participants at [www.cuathome.us/one-winter-night/](http://www.cuathome.us/one-winter-night/).

Beyond volunteering or being a box dweller for One Winter Night, we invite the community to come out and listen to a host of educational speaker presentations, view our documentary, or enjoy the Kid's Corner that aims to teach children about our friends without an address through fun and engaging activities.

Visit [www.cuathome.us/one-winter-night/](http://www.cuathome.us/one-winter-night/) for more information and details.

**Overall Goal: \$230,00**

**Current Box Dweller Count: 120**

**Current Business Sponsors: 10**

## First Friday Coffee

Two weeks ago, on December 1st, C-U at Home had the opportunity to host the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce's First Friday Coffee. Over 50 individuals came to enjoy a light breakfast, network, and see The Phoenix! We were blessed to have a local catering company gift us with delicious food and drinks for the morning.

Rob had the opportunity to speak for a few moments and share with everyone about the work we do and our upcoming community awareness event, One Winter Night 2018. This event had been scheduled almost a year in advance and was an immense opportunity to share with many business leaders how we are able to help our friends without an address.

We are not only thankful for God providing us with this time, but also expectant of the connections and good gifts we know will come from it!



### Executive Director Corner



It truly is the most wonderful time of the year. As we have turned the calendar to December, I'm reminded how much I love the Christmas season. Do you have one of those moments each year when you know the holiday season is upon us? Maybe it's watching a particular movie, or making cookies with a loved one, or putting up decorations and a tree. Growing up, I always knew Christmas was on its way when I began hearing Christmas music on the radio. I will never forget the first time I heard the song, "Christmas Shoes" by Newsong. The song details the story of a man on Christmas Eve, who is caught up in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. He is standing in line behind a little boy who is attempting to buy a pair of shoes for his mother who is close to death. When the boy realizes he doesn't have enough money for the purchase, he doesn't know what to do. The man behind him covers the remaining cost, the boy is overjoyed, and the same man who entered the store "not really in the Christmas mood," now had this to say, "I knew that God had sent that little boy to remind me, what Christmas is all about." I pray that if you are struggling this Christmas season that you would take heart in the knowledge of what Christmas is all about. A baby, born in a humble manger, who would grow up and make the ultimate sacrifice for you and me. The man in the "Christmas Shoes" song showed compassion to a little boy in need. Who has God placed in your life right now to remind you what Christmas is all about? And what can you do to show the love, compassion, and grace of Christ to everyone you encounter during this Christmas season? From the bottom of my heart, I wish you a Merry Christmas! Thank you for your continued prayers and support for the ministry of C-U at Home.

**In His Service, Rob Dalhaus III**



***Excerpt from Come Let Us Adore Him by Paul Tripp***

*The angels sang because the everlasting Father had come to extend arms of redeeming grace to all who would give their hearts to him.*

It is a wonderful, mysterious, hard-to-grasp, and beyond-the-scope-of-our-normal-reasoning story. But when you get it, when you come to fully understand the purpose and implications of this story, you will sing too. This story's amazing plot wasn't written when Mary got pregnant or when prophets began foretelling it or when God announced it after the disastrous rebellion of Adam and Eve. This story is so miraculous in every way that it could have only come out of the mind of God in eternity before the foundations of the earth were laid down by his mighty hand. It points to the divine imagination and screams the power of the divine hand. No man could write this plot and if he did, no man could expedite what he had written. This story is itself an argument for the existence of God and is a portrait of His holy character.

The beautiful world that God had created was now broken and groaning - the direct result of the rebellion of the ones God had made in his own image and had placed his guiding and providing love upon. The evidence of its brokenness was everywhere, and from the inner recesses of the hearts of people, to violence and corruption of government, to the existence of plagues and diseases. Sure, there was beauty still to be seen, but the whole world groaned under the weight of its brokenness. It would have been just for God to stay his distance, to let the world quake and groan. It would have been a just response to the arrogant rebellion that brought this brokenness on the world. But in one of the gorgeous mysteries of God's sovereign grace, he looked on his broken, rebellious world with eyes of mercy.

Yes, God would act decisively, and his actions would be what he had planned in the beginning, but they would be a stunning surprise to every mere mortal. His response would not be condemnation and judgment. His response would not be a meting out of justice. Rather, his response would be intervention and rescue. He would do in grace what the law could never do. He would do in grace what we could never do for ourselves.

He would do what philosophers could never conceive, what leaders could never strategize, and what poets could never imagine. He would offer the only thing that would ever address the need and solve the problem. He, himself, would become the greatest, most costly, most transformational gift ever. God would take on human flesh and invade His sin-broken world with his wisdom, power, glory, and grace. But He wouldn't descend to a palace. Instead, the Lord Almighty, the Creator, the sovereign King over all things would humble Himself and take on the form of servant; He would live on our behalf the life we could have never lived, He would willingly die the death that you and I deserve to die, and He would rise from His tomb as the conqueror of sin and death. He would suffer every single day of his life so that He could, with his life, give grace to rebels, extend love to those who would deny his existence, impart wisdom to those who think they know better, and extend forgiveness to everyone who seeks him. His coming stands as an affirmation that he will not relent, he will not be satisfied until sin and suffering are no more and we are like him, dwelling with him in unity, peace, and harmony forever and ever.

It is true that you just can't write this stuff! The majesty of the patient and forgiving love of this story defies words. The implications of this birth are not only transformational to the cosmos, but also eternal in their extent. This is the story of Jesus, born in a barn in Bethlehem. The Messiah the earth cried for now cries to be held by Mary and will soon cry in torment of the cross of salvation. He came to suffer because he came to save. The angels sang because finally hope had come. Don't you want to join them?

**Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel,  
praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”**

**Luke 2:13-14**