



Welcome to the May Newsletter! We wanted to give you an opportunity to get to know our Phoenix Coordinator, KJ a little bit better. She runs our daytime drop-in center each day. Below you can read about her story and what's been going on at the drop-in center this past month!

Phoenix Drop-In Center

Hello! My name is Kelly-Jane (KJ) Monahan and I am the Phoenix Coordinator. I took over for the previous Phoenix Coordinator shortly after we moved to our new location on Green Street a little over two years ago. I have a BA in Acting from Pepperdine University and a Masters in Social Work from the University of Illinois. I recently passed my LCSW exam and accomplished one of my long term goals! I live in the Champaign County area with my husband (a Champaign Patrol Officer) and three children (ages 5, almost 3 and 6 months!)

I moved to Urbana about six years ago to go back to school for social work after spending twelve years in Los Angeles pursuing acting. I only SOMETIMES regret that decision, mostly when its negative 30 degrees here! I met Melany Jackson, our founder, when she came to speak at my Policy class in 2012.

I thought she was nuts! This woman had such a passion for the most vulnerable homeless that she was willing to give up most of her worldly possessions to start an organization called C-U at Home. I thought, "I think I'd like to help her!" And that is how it all began. I volunteered for Mel on and off through the years, babies, grad school, and life. After I graduated, I went to work for C-U at Home part time as an administrative assistant.

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After a few months, I began filling in as a temporary Phoenix Coordinator until the organization was able to hire someone full time. But I LOVED it. I loved learning so many new things every day. I loved meeting people and forming friendships and all of the challenges that go along with trying to assist marginalized populations. That was about two and a half years ago and the rest is history...



I thoroughly enjoy being the Phoenix Coordinator! There are so many different aspects to running a drop-in center, as you can probably imagine. Sometimes I get to be a case manager. Sometimes I get to be an administrator. Sometimes a mother, a nurse, a counselor, a volunteer coordinator, a teacher, a coach, a mentor, a supervisor, a peacemaker, a motivator, an office manager, a taxi driver... The list goes on and on. Although, my favorite "hat" to wear when I am here is that of a friend.



KJ is always smiling and laughing!



KJ mixing up some homemade laundry detergent for our friends to use (left), talking to someone in need on the phone (top right), and displaying some cookies one of our friends without an address brought her (bottom right)!

Phoenix Highlights for April:

- We saw 622 opportunities come through our doors in April. I attribute this to the recent closing of the Emergency Men's Shelter and Austin's Place.
- Our friends without an address took 89 showers and did 23 loads of laundry in April!
- Weird weather! There was SNOW on Easter! (I hate the snow, but my children were delighted.)

Thank goodness for Restoration Urban Ministries! They opened up their doors for temporary emergency shelter as the weather was definitely still frigid. A big shout out to Pastor Williams for helping to fill this gap in services for the community!!!

Executive Director

CORNER



"More than Enough" Book Signing!

Join us in mid-July for a book signing with Melany Jackson, our founder, as she debuts her new book about God's provision, "More than Enough"! Details to follow soon.

Hello friends,

It has been said that "April showers bring May flowers." As I look back over the past month I can't help but wonder what April snowstorms bring? As unpredictable as the weather is, so too are our lives at times. One day we are on the mountaintop, living life to the fullest. The next we find ourselves in the valley wondering how we got to where we are. For many of our friends, this is a daily struggle. But it is one that we get to be a part of and do everything we can to have a positive influence on them. It is so fulfilling to watch a friend who has been in the valley for so long finally have a breakthrough. And while that friend may not be on the mountaintop yet, it is exciting to see them on their way up.

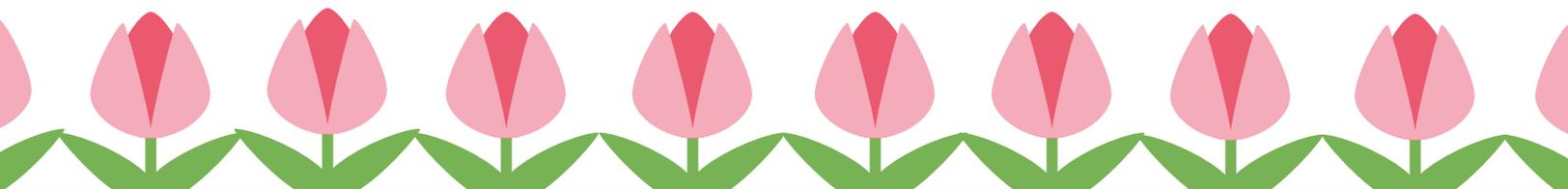
Over the past month we have seen this happen with two of our longtime friends from the street. One of these men hasn't had a bed to call his own for 13 years and is now off the street and working towards long-term sobriety and independent living. You can read more about his story on the next page. These stories touch my heart more than I can even begin to describe.

At it's core, C-U at Home remains focused on the most vulnerable in our community.

We love to show our documentary and talk with churches and businesses about the services we provide, but it's stories like Rich's that stay with you. I almost forgot one of the best parts of that story! After we were able to transport Rich to detox out of town, I had community members reaching out to me asking if we knew where Rich was and if he was okay. This is true compassion. This is true concern. This is true community. Please remember that our friends on the street are craving human interaction just like we do.

I encourage you to stop and say, "Hi" the next time you encounter one of our friends without an address. And then think about how that interaction made you feel...If during the next month, you take that encouragement to heart and step out of your comfort zone, please let me know about it. I'd love to hear about your experience so I can encourage you to do it again...and again...and again. That's how we will bridge the gap between those with an address and those without.

**In His Service,
Rob Dalhaus III**



TRANSPORTATION & STREET OUTREACH UPDATE



I saw him while driving down Neil Street almost every day, camped out between Ten Thousand Villages and Cafe Kopi. Usually he was hanging out with one or two other guys and smoking or drinking. He was almost like a staple of that corner, of that piece of our community. He struggled with various medical issues and his feet were in poor shape. Tony and Terry from our street outreach team had known him for years and had a great relationship with him, but he never seemed ready for change. He was the kind of guy that we hoped and prayed would find recovery. Then, one day this past month, after 13 years.....he did.

Three weeks ago, Tony, one of our street outreach team members, went to go check on Rich. This was a normal occurrence, but on that day, something was different. He asked Rich how he was doing and he responded with, "I'm not doing good, I don't think I can do it anymore." Tony asked Rich if was ready to go to detox.

**He said, "I'm
ready."**

Tony has been checking in on Rich once a week for the past six years. We talk all the time about forming relationships with our friends and the importance of building trust with them. Most of the time those that are struggling with addiction need a friend to be there when they are ready to make a change. Our street outreach team is committed to being on call 24/7 and answering the phone for situations just like Rich's. Our goal is to be there, to show up time after time, no matter what.

than most, because of our relationship with him and the many people in the community over the years that have been rooting for him to take steps towards recovery.

On April 22, Terry drove Rich to a detox facility. After successfully completing three days there, he was moved to a nursing home. Our street outreach team has visited him a few times since driving him to detox. He looks so much happier and healthier. As one person said, "there is life in those eyes!"

Rich has been living a clean and sober life for three weeks now. This is the first time in thirteen years that he has had a bed to sleep in and an address. We are so excited for Rich as he continues his journey of healing and restoration!



Before



Three weeks of clean living!

For us, the decision from Rich was sweeter