



Phoenix Drop-In Center

When you walk into the Phoenix, there are a couple of things that may strike you: our open industrial space, our awesome red walls, our "well-loved" maroon leather couches, and our eclectic art work! One of my favorite pieces is a series of four small canvases with the words "a place of grace". This phrase is one that we have adopted not only as a motto in the Phoenix, but an ideal to strive for.

What does grace mean to you? By Christian definition, grace is the free and unmerited favor of God. Free and unmerited. From its conception, the Phoenix has always been and remains a place where EVERYONE is welcome. A place where everyone who wants to come inside can; regardless of our level of sobriety, how many felonies we have committed, if we have a home and a job and a loving family, or if we have no place to live, not a single dollar to our name and not one of our family members speak to us. Here in this room, we don't have to be a certain age or gender.

We don't have to have a specific racial or socioeconomic background. Here in this room, we can be dirty, angry, ugly, broken, exhausted, beaten down, drunk, ashamed, forgotten. Here in this room, we can just be. AND we can be loved. We are not all the same, but we are all equal. We all deserve respect, positive regard and unconditional love. We deserve to be heard. We deserve some respite from the seemingly constant barrage of obstacles in life. You see, the Phoenix is a place where love and kindness are freely given, not earned. Respect and positive regard are

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completely unmerited. Is this easily done? Heck no! It is hard to love each other, especially when we have been offended. It is hard to be kind to someone who has hurt our feelings. Some days it feels impossible to respect someone whose choices in life we just cannot understand or just plain don't agree with. It takes a massive amount of strength to look at someone who has treated you poorly and truly believe that they are worthy of our time and respect.

This is the culture that we try to cultivate here in this room. We hope to cultivate this culture in the community. We hope to engage and mobilize the community to freely give love, kindness and respect...to everyone. Especially those with whom we do not agree. Do we sometimes fall short of this goal? Yes. Sometimes very short. Time and time again. But we keep trying and we will continue to

do so. We will try to show kindness, respect and love to EVERYONE. We will exercise patience and tolerance, especially when we don't want to. Because this is the Phoenix, and the Phoenix is a place of Grace.

This month we have seen **655 opportunities** walk through our front doors. We have offered **130 showers** and **42 loads of laundry**. We are so grateful to Casey Evans (our awesome friend from the community!) who hooked us up with the Libman Company from Arcola who donated a TON of needed cleaning supplies!! Thank you Libman Company!! We are also extremely grateful for Heather at The Hope Center in Urbana for partnering with the Phoenix and assembling our shower bags!!! **We are blessed to work with such amazing community members who continue to support our mission in so many ways.**

Want to help support C-U at Home?

We recently had a new local business come to us with the desire to help our friends without an address! Profile by Sanford is offering an exciting way to support our ministry, while receiving some great benefits!

Profile by Sanford was created by physicians to help take the guesswork out of a healthy lifestyle change through nutrition, activity and lifestyle coaching. Anyone who brings in a \$25 gift card or 2 packs of bottled water to their location (902 Meijer Drive, Suite 5) will receive the following perks:

Non-Members: half-off membership and a free blender bottle (when you sign up for services)

Members: free blender bottle!



\$25 Walmart Gift Card

OR

2 packs of bottled water



Executive Director CORNER

Hello Friend,

As the summer sun beats down we are reminded of the extremes that central Illinois can bring. Weren't we just talking about how cold the winter was and how we thought it would never end? It's interesting to look back just a few months and get perspective on how things change. And yet, while the temperatures vary between 30 below zero and over 100, many elements remain the same. **Our friends on the street still need support. We still need to provide them with an opportunity for dignity. And our community still needs to work to view those less fortunate through the lens of Christ.** It has been a blessing to watch stereotypes being broken on what seems like a daily basis.

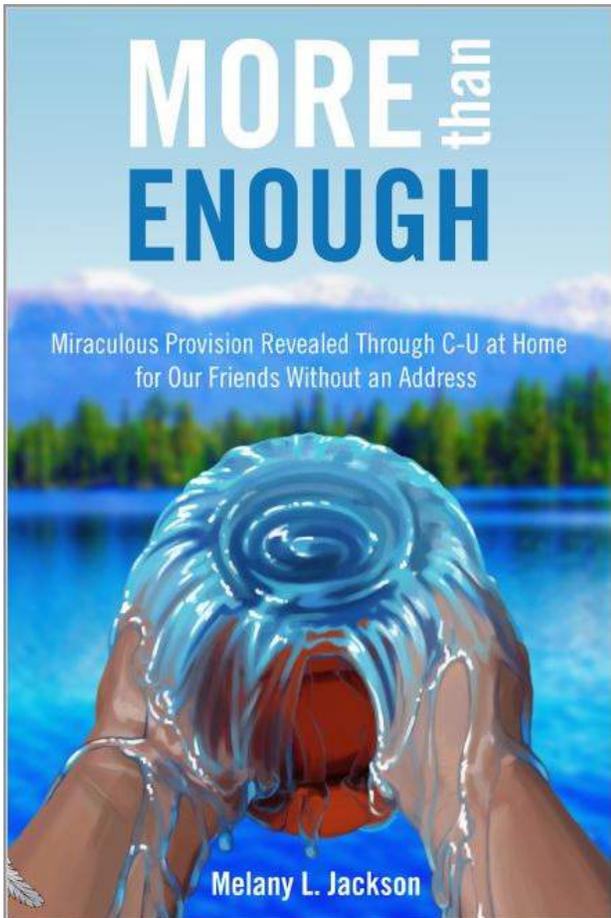
There are so many positive things happening at C-U at Home that it would take the entire newsletter to fit them all in. Suffice it to say that we are looking forward to some exciting developments over the next couple months. **As we move closer to long-term emergency shelter and work opportunities for our friends on the street, I humbly ask for your prayers that God would intervene in the hearts of those able to support such endeavors.** And I pray above all that **His will would be done** in and through our community. We cannot thank you enough for your prayers and financial support as we would not be able to affect so many in the community without YOU!

P.S. Please note **the invitation** at the end of this newsletter as we host our founder and former Executive Director, Melany Jackson, at the Phoenix Daytime Drop-In Center **for a book signing of Melany's recently published book, "More than Enough."** This book documents Melany's journey with C-U at Home from 2010 to 2017 and gives you a peek into Melany's heart and mind as she details the triumphs and trials during that time in her life. Please feel free to come and support Melany as she shares this incredible story in print form!

**In His Service,
Rob Dalhaus III**



Join us for a **book signing with Melany Jackson**, our founder and former executive director, as she debuts her new book about God's provision, "**More than Enough**"!



Mark your calendars! On **Friday, July 13, from 12-2pm**, we will be hosting our founder, Melany Jackson, as she releases her new memoir, **More Than Enough: Miraculous Provision Revealed Through C-U at Home for Our Friends Without an Address**.

The book tells **the powerful history** of C-U at Home, from the time of its birth as Melany followed the Lord's leading to launch this new ministry for our friends without an address in Champaign. C-U at Home continues to thrive, as does her legacy. Melany followed the Lord's call to move to Colorado Springs last September and currently resides there.

Books will be available for \$15.



Friday, July 13th, 12-2pm
Phoenix Daytime Drop-In Center
34 E. Green Street