



The Big Move!

Happy (end of) October! We are so excited to have you here. It's been pretty busy around C-U at Home lately, but we are excited to share about all that's been happening.

On September 14, we officially moved from our location on 34 E. Green Street to our new space on 70 E. Washington Street (the old TIMES Center building). That week, a few of our staff and friends spent time at the new building doing some cleaning, moving, and even knocking down a few half divider walls. We were blessed by ESS Clean who came and cleaned all of our offices, bathrooms, and main drop-in center area at the new location before we moved in. Our friends without addresses helped us pack up all of our belongings on 34 E. Green and one of our board members and ServPro graciously offered trucks that we were able to use. With that, by the time moving day came, we were ready to go! Friends from the community and friends without addresses helped us load the large moving vans

and other small vehicles with belongings. We were mostly done with moving everything by 2pm that afternoon.

The next day, CU Church came with a handful of volunteers that helped us do more cleaning, unpacking, and organizing. They knocked out some serious projects, like organizing our large back storeroom, transforming the library room into a conference room, cleaning lockers and fridges, in addition to doing some outside work! We were beyond thankful for the small army of people that came out to support us, literally knocking out tasks that would have taken our small staff a few months to do by ourselves. Yet another big blessing!

SNEAK PEEK

- 01 The Big Move!
- 02 CU Men's Shelter
- 04 One Winter Night Season

We were also excited to get a brand new phone system that works beautifully. A huge thanks to John and his team over at DNDC Telephone Company that installed our new phones and walked us through training.

In addition to all of this, Stocks Office Furniture donated new chairs and tables for the drop-in center and Carter's Furniture donated a new couch! We have felt so loved and supported since moving into this new building. We would love to have you stop by and check out our new space!



Snapshot of Services at The Phoenix Daytime Drop-In Center

September: 558 Opportunities, 41 loads of laundry, 125 showers

October: 693 Opportunities, 52 loads of laundry, 176 showers



CU at Work

One of the most exciting things that has happened in the last two months, is **the launch of CU at Work, a pilot work program in partnership with the City of Champaign Township.** The program was inspired by an initiative in Albuquerque, N. M. called "There's a Better Way."

Every Wednesday, Andy Quarnstrom, Supervisor of the Champaign Township, joins us here at our facility, where we meet 5-8 of our friends without an address. Andy, a C-U at Home staff member, and our friends then spend the morning doing beautification projects around the city. After working for the morning, our friends are given a meal and paid in cash for their time working.



The main goal of the work program is to provide our friends with dignity and an opportunity to work. It's also our hope that the more community members see our friends working around the city, the more the stereotypes and negative stigmas will be broken. Instead of panhandling, our friends without addresses are choosing to work and help make our city a more beautiful place! For more information, copy and paste the link given to read a story on the work program by

the News Gazette (this same article was picked up on Sunday, October 28th by the Washington Times!).

Article Link: <https://bit.ly/2CQYpru>

C-U Men's Shelter

In just a few short days, the **C-U Men's Shelter will open on November 12th for it's winter season!** We have the privilege of hosting the shelter here at our facility this year, while Faith United Methodist continues to staff and run the shelter itself. This winter men's emergency shelter will be open until at least the end of March with the hours of 8:30pm-7:30am the next morning. We can't wait to welcome our friends without addresses this winter season. If you would like to get involved with the C-U Men's Shelter, please see the information below!

Providing Food: As our friends come in off the street each night, we provide them with a small, nutritious snack. Would you be willing to provide evening snacks or breakfast food items? All food should be non-perishable and pre-packaged, such as granola bars, cookies, juice boxes, and trail mix.

Clean-Up & Set-Up: The shelter will need help setting up the sleeping areas for the evening and giving the shelter a clean. This work includes sweeping, mopping, sanitizing mats, and general clean-up.

To Donate to the C-U Men's Shelter Online: <https://bit.ly/2ETE1si>



It's officially **One Winter Night 2019** season! If you are new to our newsletter or C-U at Home, One Winter Night is our annual community awareness event that provides a powerful opportunity for our community to learn about homelessness, raise awareness for our friends without an address, and experience what it might be like to live outside, overnight, in the coldest part of winter.

Box dwellers (participants) commit to spending 12 hours outside in a cardboard box in downtown Champaign and raising \$1,000 for the ministry. The entire evening is open to the community, as we also host speaker presentations about homelessness, have a kid's corner, and show our documentary throughout the night. The event is truly an amazing experience, as nearly 250 participants and 200 volunteers come together downtown to take part.

One Winter Night also serves as our major **annual fundraiser, as we are 100% funded by the community.** We rely heavily on this event to bring in two-thirds of our annual

budget. It is our goal to raise \$250,000 this year because of our recent move into a new facility and the goal to expand our services in the future!

We would love to have you join us by signing up to be a box dweller, business sponsor, volunteer, or by donating. Get involved by visiting:

www.cuathome.us/one-winter-night/.

One Winter Night Facts:

- **Overall Goal: \$250,000**
- **64 registered box dwellers**
- **The Champaign County Association of Realtors launched their "Give a little, raise a little" campaign, with the goal of getting 100 box dwellers and raising \$100,000!**

Text OWN2019 to 50155 to donate!

We have text to give this year! Make a quick and secure donation.



Being Comfortable with Discomfort

Dear Friend,

Someone much wiser than me once said, "**Change is never easy.**" As creatures of habit, we generally dislike change. Some may even despise change and do everything in their power to run screaming in the opposite direction; clinging to the comfortable and the status quo. Recently our ministry went through a large change with our transition to a new location. **There were times when the idea of leaving 34 East Green seemed scary and overwhelming. But just on the other side of that move was jubilation, gratitude, and a calming sense of belonging.** There is no doubt in my mind that 70 East Washington St. is the place God had picked out for us!

I fear that as a society, because of our fear of change, we can become addicted to comfort. The products we buy, the promotions we are sold, the jobs we are promised when we enter the workforce, all suggest this unrealistic level of comfort. Friend, I won't claim to know the experiences you've had, the struggles you have endured, or the hardships you've faced. **But this I do know; sometimes life...is...hard. I am so glad we have a Father in heaven who can and will help us through any discomfort we are facing.** My mother used to tell me that if I was going through a tough season, there must be something God wanted to teach me. And, if I kept going through the same struggle multiple times, I hadn't learned the lesson yet and I was being given another opportunity to learn and grow. Things may seem out of control for you right now and fear may be squeezing the joy from your soul, but take heart that **God has it under control.**

This is a concept we have the privilege of sharing with our friends on the street who live in a constant state of "out-of-control." This month, I encourage you to look at those areas in your life where you are feeling discomfort; an area where change is coming or has already arrived, and **instead of asking yourself, "Why am I being put through this?," ask yourself, "What can I learn from this?"** I ask for your prayers for those who are hurting, in dark seasons, or are enduring many changes - that they would find peace, joy, and fulfillment on the other side of that pain.

**In His Service,
Rob Dalhaus III**

