



## Phoenix Drop-In Center

We (the staff at C-U at Home) are always talking about what "success" looks like when working with our friends without an address. Our friends are so often plagued by substance abuse, mental health issues, trauma, and constant barriers to receiving the help they so desperately need, that **the traditional definition of "success" is often an idea that seems impossible and intangible.**

At times we will work with someone for months to get help for addiction issues or to receive counseling or connect with medical help, and that friend ends up back in the unhealthy situation they found themselves in to begin with. I wish I could say that most of the time, the people we work with will identify goals for their lives and then make positive steps toward those goals and eventually the goals become realized; they are "successful" in reaching their goals. But that isn't always the case. **The truth is that most of the people we help do not realize their goals.** Most of the people don't even want to set goals for their lives anymore

because they believe themselves incapable of accomplishing anything other than surviving each day. You may wonder why we continue to try to help. If we know the odds of "success" are so low, why do we keep reaching out, encouraging, assisting, referring, and loving? **The answer is because success for our friends without an address looks much different than society's view of "success".** For our friends, success might mean that they haven't had a drink yet today. It might mean that they deleted the number of their dealer and they no longer go into the place where they know their dealer is. Maybe

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they took their medication this morning, even though they don't like the way it makes them feel. **The measuring stick for success for our friends without an address is a completely different length, color, and shape than the traditional one. And that is okay.**

There have been times when we assist an individual getting to a treatment center or a detox facility out of town so that they can start a new life and get away from their toxic life, only to have them return to town, still shackled by their addiction. Does that mean we stop helping them get to detox? No. **Because maybe the fact that they reached out for help is a success.** Maybe stepping foot in a rehabilitation facility is a success for that individual. They don't have to have a year of sober living to be considered successful. So when we have the opportunity to help someone, we do it. Not because we are banking on their long term "success" (although I will admit that is always somewhere in the back of my mind!) but because they are reaching out for help and we have the opportunity to walk along side them on their journey, encouraging and mentoring them.

This month we had **the privilege of working with two people (let's call them Michael and Lacy)** who have been struggling with homelessness on and off as individuals and then also together as a couple. Michael has a troubled background, but has held down the same minimum wage job in the fast food industry for the past couple of years. He has become a valued and respected member of their team. Lacy also suffers from a traumatic past and has been on disability for years. Like many of the friends without an address that

we work with, Michael has a felony on his background, which was preventing them from being considered for housing.



The couple had been searching for housing for weeks, but the desperation of their situation was heightened when they discovered they were expecting a child. And despite the work they were putting in searching and applying for housing they were growing frustrated with all of the "no's" they were receiving. This frustration was taking a toll on their relationship.

One of our friends from the community, who had been gently guiding and encouraging this couple for a while reached out to her friend who happens to own a few rental units. Her friend willingly agreed to rent to the couple knowing full well that their relationship was rocky and that their situation was volatile. **Despite Michael's felony and Lacy's background, this community wrapped around them and provided them with the opportunity for housing.** Not because they were counting on the couple's success as tenants or because it

it was a sound business practice but because they were given an opportunity to help.

Because it didn't matter if that help was going to "pay off" in the end. **They saw people in need and gave them a chance to thrive.**

**Sometimes success comes from being given a chance. Sometimes it comes from being given multiple chances. And both are okay.**

In the end, Michael and Lacy were not able to make it work in the house, but I know with all my heart that if presented with the opportunity to help again, both of the friends from the community wouldn't change a thing. It is important to remember when we start to focus on long-term "success" for our friends without an address that what matters most is not simply that they get a full time job and an apartment or that they stay sober (although, again, that would be great!), **but that they take small steps towards a better life.** One step at a time as we walk alongside them and help them realize what success looks like for them.

## Snapshot of June Services



545

opportunities

36



loads of laundry



112

showers

## TIMES Center



In the first few days of July, **we announced some BIG news** that we wanted to share here in our newsletter in case you missed it. **We are in the process of finalizing an agreement with Rosecrance to move into the TIMES Center!**

For the past two years, all of our services have been located at 34 E. Green Street. C-U at Home has continued to be blessed by community support and growth.

Our Executive Director, Rob Dalhaus III said, **“We are excited about this new opportunity! It is such a blessing to see God work and continue to provide for our ministry.** It has been a goal of C-U at Home to be able to have a larger facility and to provide more vital wraparound services to our friends. We have had the pleasure of working closely with Rosecrance to ensure that the building remains a place where community, relationships, and hope can grow and thrive.”

All of our day-to-day operations, services, and offices will be moved (date TBA) to the building located on 70 East Washington Street in Champaign. **We can't wait!!!**

Executive Director

# CORNER

**Hello Friends,**

It seems that every January 1st, the majority of the population **set goals for themselves** for the upcoming year. New Year's resolutions are made as we commit that the new year will be the best year of our lives. Losing 40 pounds, reading one book a month, or attending church every Sunday. Well friends, as we turn the calendar from June to July, **the year is officially half over**. How are you doing on your goals? Maybe you are right where you want to be. That's amazing! Keep up the good work!

If you're not doing as well as you would like, don't worry and don't beat yourself up about it too much. Making changes in our lives can be difficult. We truly are creatures of habit and it takes time to create new habits. If you are struggling to make a change in your life, let me encourage you with this thought. **Don't think too big. Take each day and embrace it. Embrace the possibility of successes AND the chaos that comes with each new day. We each have 24 hours worth of opportunities to inspire and encourage those around us.** Whether it's buying coffee for the person behind you in line, putting a quarter in the parking meter for the car next to yours that has expired, or saying "Hi" to one of our friends on the street, I encourage you to **do the small things** that can make a difference in someone's life.

Also, as you read on the previous page, **we are working on an agreement with Rosecrance that would allow us to utilize the TIMES Center facility for our offices, drop-in center, and a 365 day-a-year men's shelter.** I am thrilled at the opportunities this will open up for our ministry and for those in need! This would allow the facility to once again be focused on the homeless population. We are also excited to continue our collaboration with the C-U Men's Shelter as we work together to make this long-term shelter dream a reality and bring a much needed service back to our community. Stay tuned over the next few weeks as details are finalized and moving day gets set!

**In His Service,  
Rob Dalhaus III**

