



SHALOM CENTER  
 PHIL'S KITCHEN  
 FRIEND'S PLACE  
 STREET OUTREACH  
 RAPID RE-HOUSING  
 CRAWFORD HOMES

# DIGNITY

Aiding and empowering people experiencing extreme poverty, especially hunger and homelessness

## Your Support is a Beacon of Hope

In the heart of every community lies a beacon of hope, a place where individuals facing hardship can find refuge and support. For Tina and JR, that was Friend's Place. Two individuals with unique backgrounds and struggles were able to find solace and support amidst the challenges of homelessness. Their journey in finding not just a place to stay, but a place to call home, is a testament to the profound impact that your support of Beacon has made.

Tina's path to Friend's Place was marked by a near-fatal car accident that left her hospitalized with a fractured spine, ribs and broken ankle in two places. The lack of support from her ex-

husband and daughter forced her into a state of homelessness for the first time in her life. With no home to return to after the car accident, Tina was connected to a homeless shelter in town where she was able to find temporary refuge before being transferred to Friend's Place. "I thank god that I'm still alive. Cause where I would be now.. I would probably be in the drug scene..I would be lost." (continued on page 2)



## Finding the Light

Six staff members and I recently traveled to Terre Haute for an all-day conference on housing and homelessness. While there were definite nuggets of knowledge I brought home from the workshops and speeches, the most memorable moment of the conference was the former client I ran into who was now working on the conference staff. Dressed in a crisp black shirt and pants, he and I recognized each other immediately with smiles. He told me he had been in recovery for several years and was doing very well. He had a home and was working full-time. I told him I was so happy for him and proud of him.

We parted ways as I moved to a workshop and he continued with his work, but it was a joyous connection I carried with me throughout the day. At Beacon, we work with tragedy every day, witnessing far too much suffering and trauma. People come to us when they're at their lowest, and that's good, because that's when they need us. But so often, when people start to do better, we don't see them anymore. Our successes leave us, which is exactly how it should be. (continued on page 2)

## **Your Support is a Beacon of Hope**

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JR's journey to Friend's Place was marked by the twists and turns of life's unpredictable path. After his time serving in the Air Force, JR settled in Muncie, where he lived with his daughter and mother-in-law. However, when circumstances forced them to relocate to Bloomington, tensions with his daughter's boyfriend reached a breaking point, leading JR to seek solace at Friend's Place. With the assistance of another agency, JR was able to secure housing in Indianapolis. However, the apartment's lack of accessibility led to unforeseen mobility challenges for JR. Recognizing the need for a more suitable solution, JR made the call to reach out to Friend's Place's program director, Lindsey, expressing his desire to return and devise a better plan. "[Without Friend's Place] I doubt I would be sitting right here right now." JR reflected. "The people there, to do that job, you've got to care."

Tina and JR's paths had crossed before, but it was at Friend's Place that their connection blossomed. Through shared experiences and mutual support, they found comfort and companionship in each other. With JR's appreciation for Friend's Place staff and Tina's gratitude for the sense of family they found with both staff and guests, Friend's Place became more than just a shelter. It became a place where Tina and JR could connect, receive support, and begin rebuilding their lives. In addition to the refuge the physical space was able to provide, the array of supports offered by Friend's Place staff including assistance with locating housing, applications, and deposits as well as offering emotional support, allowed Tina and JR to transition from homelessness to stability in a home of their own.

Tina and JR's journey is evidence that a safe space to seek refuge combined with the support of a caring community can light the way forward. In their time at Friend's Place, Tina and JR found not only a place to stay, but also a chosen family and a place to call home.

## **Finding the Light**

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But, it's also easy to miss how many people have used us as a runway to a better life.

Some volunteers and I visited Goodwill Commercial Services recently to explore some potential employment partnerships between our two agencies. While walking through their manufacturing facility, I ran into two employees who had been guests of our facility. Just like in Terre Haute, we smiled and expressed excitement over their accomplishments.

Another staff member shared how several former clients had recently called to tell us how well they were doing: one person relocated to TN and has a home and a job, another has a home in Indy and is saving for a car, and a third had moved into sober living and was thriving.

These are the stories that sustain us, that carry us through, that remind us that this awful moment is not every moment, this horrible instance is not forever.

Beacon is a healing place for the traumatized of our world. Thank you for creating such a place with your gracious support as volunteers, donors, and advocates.

BEACON



# BEACON'S ANNUAL SUPPORTER CELEBRATION

# SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, JULY 25 | 5:00 - 7:00PM

**UPLAND  
BREW PUB  
WOOD SHOP**

350 W 11TH ST, BLOOMINGTON, IN  
SPECIAL PRESENTATION AT 6PM BY  
REV. FORREST GILMORE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**SPACE IS LIMITED!**

PLEASE RSVP BY JULY 18 TO  
MCKALAH@BEACONINC.ORG  
OR 812-334-5734, EXT. 115

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU  
NEED ACCESSIBLE PARKING

## The Big Three Impacts: In April Beacon..



**served 5,085 meals**



**provided 1,159  
nights of shelter**



**housed or prevented  
homelessness for 191 people**

# You Make a Difference

When you make a monthly gift to Beacon, you provide a sustainable future for people experiencing homelessness

**Sign up for a monthly gift at [beaconinc.org](https://beaconinc.org)  
or mail a check to:  
Beacon, PO Box 451, Bloomington, IN 47402**



**\$10** a month provides 60 hot, nutritious meals for people experiencing food insecurity



**\$50** a month pays the security deposit for a family moving into a new home



**\$25** a month shelters a person facing homelessness for nearly three weeks



**\$100** a month covers a month of rent and supportive services for a person experiencing chronic homelessness due to a disability

**Contact Amy Kendall at [amykendall@beaconinc.org](mailto:amykendall@beaconinc.org)  
or 812-334-5734, ext. 123 to talk about the power of your gift**

*Monthly gifts can be changed or stopped at any time*

## Beacon, Inc. - Solutions for People in Poverty

### Coming Soon:

#### Annual Supporter Celebration

5:00 - 7:00pm July 25, 2024  
(See page 3 for more info!)

#### NAP Credits Become Available

July or August 2024

#### Homeless Memorial Vigil

September 2024

#### Beacon's Halloween Bash

October 24, 2024

### Contact Us:



**PO Box 451  
Bloomington, IN 47402**



**812-334-5734**



**[beaconinc.org](https://beaconinc.org)**

