

## WHAT'S INN-SIDE:

UPDATE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, David S. Weber

NOTECARD FUNDRAISER  
Cards designed by client Amber!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT  
Meet Steve Jones, Operations Coordinator

OUR CLIENTS INSPIRE US  
Celebrate Their Success

NOTE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR  
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PRE-SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

GOLF TOURNAMENT UPDATE

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EVENTS AT ROOM



# INN-Sider

FALL/WINTER | 2020

## These Three Little Words Speak Volumes

*We are surviving. . .*

Thanks to your kind and generous heart, we have found the courage and means to help our families survive. Covid-19 has taught us many things, not the least of which is how to quickly adapt in times of crisis. With congregations closed, we had to pivot operations to provide 24/7 on-site services, three meals each day, and daily sanitization of our entire building. With these changes came a substantial increase in our costs. And you were there to help...



Through it all, we have remained open. We have not laid off staff or eliminated any services. In fact, our programs continue at full throttle. We now have a colorful, well-equipped pre-school room. And I'm delighted to tell you that we have been able to find permanent housing for four of our families!

Another recent highlight is that one grateful client, Ida Smith, is now a part-time staff person at ROOM — and a member of our

board of directors! So despite the difficulties, many good things continue to happen at ROOM.

If you have the desire to make someone's path a little lighter and their future a little brighter, we hope you will consider donating to ROOM. With the Missouri Domestic Violence state tax credits, you can help yourself while helping others in need. Gifts of \$250 or more are eligible for these credits, and you receive half the amount back. The more you donate to ROOM, the more tax credits you receive to lessen your state tax liability! Just go to [www.roomstl.org](http://www.roomstl.org).

We pray that you and your family are faring well as we weather this storm in our community and world. Seeing firsthand the strength and resilience of families at ROOM, we know that anything is possible with faith and help from others. Thank you for all you do for ROOM! Please be safe. We wish you a Happy New Year — and together let's make 2021 another year for positive change/results.

Warm regards,

*David*

David S. Weber  
Executive Director



## Local Artist Creates Custom Notecards for ROOM Fundraiser!

We had the pleasure of sheltering Amber, a wonderful, talented, 13-year old girl who was our client over the summer. While she was with us, she created a series



of seven beautiful designs which we have reproduced into unique all-occasion notecards.

These cards are available for sale now — use them year round, or as very special holiday cards. These 5" x 4.5" cards come with matching envelopes and have 7 cards per set. They are available for \$15 per set and all proceeds go towards our clients' needs. Please contact **Cindy Warren** at [cwarren@roomstl.org](mailto:cwarren@roomstl.org) or **314 209-9181** to order yours. We will ship them to you — or just stop by ROOM and pick yours up!

Hi everyone. **My name is Steve Jones.** I've been employed by Room at the Inn for a little over two years. Recently I was made the **Operations Coordinator.** I am married with three children and seven grandchildren that have a ton of energy.



I have a degree in Electrical Engineering which led to a 35-year career in embedded and high-performance software development. I worked on a number of different projects including a radar signal intercept device and its trainer, the F5 attack radar, a custom, high performance database that processed all of the financial news for Thomson Reuters, and a system designed to monitor very large networks for ISPs like Spectrum. Ah, those were the days. Heady days for sure but now I enjoy working to help people instead of on products.

The most succinct description of my job is "a jack of all trades and a master of none." My primary responsibilities are to submit reimbursement requests for government grants and manage the building cleaning crew. I also support our new Bloomerang database (including sending out the newsletter emails); update our website; work with our social media consultant, Split Media, supporting our website, Facebook page, Twitter, and LinkedIn; perform minor plumbing, electrical, and general maintenance; consult with David on building maintenance bids and work; transport clients on the shuttle bus; manage our iPads for client use; and oversee the bicycles for our clients. Recently ROOM upgraded the PCs for our fulltime staff replacing equipment that was eight years old. We will be adding two more iPads for our clients and a laptop for staff usage. We have a new website to be released soon. There is never a dull moment and there is always more to do. Through it all I find satisfaction working with the staff to help the homeless with a stable environment and supporting them as they address their needs.

Working with the homeless has taught me two things. First, our clients have become homeless due to some issue in their life. The issue may be simple, or it may be complex. It may be external or internal. But being homeless compounds the problem. Second, we who have a home are blessed indeed. We have someplace, and usually someone, to go to at the end of the day. Room At The Inn provides the foundation of a temporary home from which lives can be reshaped.

## A Very Special Thanks Goes Out To . . .

**Kaylee Patterson**, who volunteered her time in September to come to ROOM and clean up our flower beds! She did a fantastic job — and we really appreciate her special effort and gift of time. Kaylee and her family attend Eliot Unitarian Chapel, one of our night site partners.



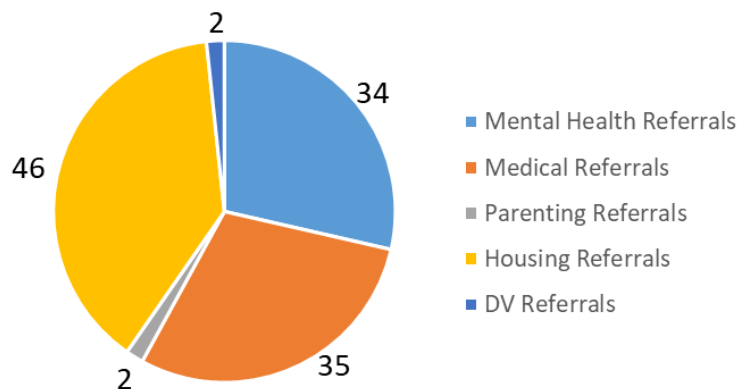
**Jessica Etim**, a student at UMSL who volunteers for us. She had knee surgery and needed an alterna-

tive way to do volunteer hours, so our Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Warren suggested doing a fundraiser for towels and toiletry items. Jessica ran with the idea! She created a flyer, sent it out and collected these much-needed items for our clients. She also spoke in her classes promoting ROOM and our mission. She shared our need for volunteers to work with children. As a result, one student has already reached out to us about working with the children! We are so very grateful to Jessica, and thank her for her wonderful efforts, energy and commitment to helping everyone at ROOM.



**THANK YOU** to Kaylee, Jessica and all of the amazing volunteers who generously give of themselves to help others!

## Referrals, Appointments & Visits JUL-OCT



## Our Golf Tournament Was a Real Record-Breaker!

ROOM's Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser took place at Old Hickory Golf Club on August 24 and it was literally **the biggest success — ever!** We had more golfers than ever before and made the most net revenue ever! We were absolutely delighted to provide a wonderful day of golf and camaraderie for the players while achieving a resounding success.

Several changes were implemented for this year's tournament which we think made it better, including:

- Moving the tournament to Old Hickory Golf Club in St. Peters
- Changing event hours so that everyone could get home in time for dinner
- Serving a hot lunch "right off the grill" instead of box lunches
- Providing an appetizer bar post-golf during our raffle and auction

Of course, this would not have been possible without the generous support of our wonderful volunteers, sponsors, employees and board. **THANK YOU!**

**Mark your calendars for next year's tournament — August 23, 2021**

As we enter this new fiscal year for ROOM amidst a still (and perhaps even more) tumultuous time in our world's history, I am incredibly honored to step into this new role as the Board Chair for Room at the Inn. Since joining the board in 2017, I have continuously been heartened and amazed by the incredible work that our wonderful staff and volunteers have tirelessly performed in service of our client families. This school year started much differently than many of us had hoped it would, and the most recent news from city and county officials – and the related restrictions – only seems to insinuate that the difficulties will likely get tougher before they get easier. That means that we just need to fight harder for one another and for those in our community who have been effected by homelessness during this coming year. And fight harder we will!

You, our supporters... no... our family, have already proven time and again that we are all in this together, and for the long haul. Case in point: you may recall that the last INN-Sider included our Chair Emeritus, Julie Wolfe, inviting all of us to the annual ROOM Golf Tournament that took place on August 24, 2020 at a brand new (to us) venue, Old Hickory Golf Club. As you can imagine, we were cautiously optimistic that at least SOME folks would turn out to support ROOM, but given the times, we were prepared for the worst. Well, not only did our folks turn out... you all turned out BIG! 2020 was, hands down, the most successful golf tournament we have had since I have been blessed to be a part of the organization – and possibly ever! And we owe that success to you!

Even in the midst of a pandemic, we were also able to continue to raise critical operating funds by putting on a safe, socially distant, and successful fundraiser which, thanks to our new partners at Old Hickory, not only raised much needed funds but also raised a whole lot of FUN for the players on the course! We cannot thank them, or you, enough for continuing to support ROOM through possibly one of the most difficult and uncertain times in recent history.

And now we look to the future. We continue to move forward with the strategic plan created this year and we continue to press on to new horizons, new partnerships with like-minded organizations and fresh, new ways to support our families through enhanced programming and services. I hope you are as excited as I am about what the future holds for ROOM and our families. In the face of adversity... onward and upward we will strive... together. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and God Bless.

— Shannon D. Peters, Board Chair

## We Celebrate Our Clients' Hard Work & Accomplishments



**Jackie** became homeless due to losing her job. While at ROOM, she obtained employment at a call center located in Hazelwood, MO. She likes her job and sees herself growing with the company. She was assisted with creating her resume. She also participated in life skills classes. ROOM assisted her with mental health appointments and securing transportation to see her psychiatrist. She was referred for housing and was accepted. Our Client Coordinator referred her to Santa Ana Apartments, and she moved into her new home. Jackie was assisted with obtaining furniture for her apartment. A volunteer assisted her with buying household items and cleaning supplies. This volunteer and her family delivered the furniture and helped move it into her home. Jackie was so thankful that she has a place to call home! She continues to work at the call center.



**Ms. Ann** was referred for housing through Coordinated Entry. Her name came up on the list, and she recently moved into her new home with her grandbaby and five children. It was hard getting her housing due to having three evictions on her rental history. A landlord is giving her a second chance. This landlord is willing to take any of our families that have issues obtaining housing due to their credit history. While at the shelter, the family was assisted with counseling services that were needed due to a history of trauma. Also, the family participated in life skills classes. The children were able to ride bikes and scooters while at the shelter—they would ride the bikes and scooters for hours. The family was given a referral at Home Sweet Home which will assist them in getting their home furnished.



**Mr. Walton** got a job while at the shelter. He is now a driver and delivers goods at several businesses. He likes his job, and his boss is impressed with his work. The family participates in several counseling sessions, and they are still meeting a counselor weekly. The wife was assisted with getting mental health services. Also, the family was referred to the health department for medical and dental services. The family was placed in our transitional motel program. The goal is for the family to be assisted with housing through the veteran program. This family is trying hard to get back on their feet.

## Our Board Members

**Aigul Abdyldaeva**,  
MBA Nonprofit Management

**Brandy Bowdry**, Bowdry's Independent  
Paralegal Services, LLC

**David K. Buenger, CPA TREASURER**

**Al Fressola**, Psychologist

**David Gerst**, Senior Sales Executive,  
Fiserv Card Services

**Jim Gissy**, President, Capitol  
Management Services

**Melvin Goldman**, Account Executive

**Darryl Grimes**, Interim CEO  
Better Family Life, Inc.

**Daniel Manning**, Attorney, Doster  
Ullom & Boyle, LLC

**William Oesterle VICE CHAIR**, Realtor,  
Re/Max Gold

**Sr. Ann Pairn, CPD**, Sisters of Divine  
Providence

**Jeff Pattison SECRETARY**, Director of HR,  
ELANTAS PDG

**Shannon Peters CHAIR**, Attorney,  
Husch Blackwell, LLP

**Vernon Prinster**, Owner VSP Construc-  
tion

**Ida Smith**, Former Client

**Julie Wolfe PAST CHAIR**, Chief Financial  
Officer, St. Charles City-County Library  
District

If you know someone in need of services, please have them call:  
St. Louis County Homeless Helpline: **(314) 802-5444** or **(866) 802-7155** or simply **211**

## Do You Have a Little Time to Help Out?

Are you a volunteer who loves a good children's book, playing with kids, singing children's songs, cutting and pasting, playing learning games and sharing lots of smiles? Then we need you!



Our hope is to partner each pre-school child in our shelter with a volunteer from **9-11 a.m. weekdays**. During this time the children's parents will be working on tasks and attending classes. We are all set to go with numerous resources to help educate our preschool children — but we need volunteers to help. If you think this opportunity is calling your name, please contact **Cindy Warren**, Volunteer Coordinator at [cwarren@roomstl.org](mailto:cwarren@roomstl.org) or **314 209-9181**.

## Recent Client Classes & Activities

### New Programs

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD/ PRE-SCHOOL

- In addition to our pre-school setting, ROOM has added onsite early childhood assistance



### Client Activities

- Clients continue to meet with a therapist weekly on-site and virtually
- School-aged children attend school virtually
- We celebrated 3 birthdays this month and "It's Your Birthday" sponsored the party
- Clients completed a career readiness workshop facilitated by Connections to Success
- Clients receive budget and financial literacy instruction sponsored by New Found Freedom
- One client received employment as a commercial driver for Point-B Delivery & Warehouse Service Inc.
- One family transitioned to our transitional housing program

### MISSION STATEMENT OF ROOM AT THE INN

Furthering the mission and the legacy of the Sisters of Divine Providence, Room at the Inn provides emergency shelter and a stabilizing support system to women and families in need in St. Louis County, using a collaborative, interfaith effort of congregations and organizations throughout the St. Louis Region.

*Room at the Inn is a temporary emergency shelter for homeless women and families. We empower our program participants to create solutions to their homelessness through education, referrals and case management. ROOM serves approximately 150-250 clients per year, including single mothers with children, single women, two-parent and single-father families. Our program capacity is 20 clients per day, and we assist homeless throughout the St. Louis region. Founded by the Sisters of Divine Providence, Room at the Inn is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency, incorporated in Missouri. We are supported by a robust network of approximately 2,000 volunteers and more than 50 interfaith congregations who serve as night site partners. Our night site partners come from 15 faith traditions and a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds. We also collaborate with outside agencies to make needed services available for our clients, serving as a catalyst for the St. Louis community to help people create solutions to their homelessness.*

### STAFF MEMBERS

- David S. Weber, *Executive Director*
- Angela Hamilton, *Client Coordinator*
- Cindy Warren, *Volunteer Coordinator*
- Melanie Matthew, *Program Coordinator*
- Monica Barnett, *Administrative Coordinator*
- Steve Jones, *Operations Coordinator*

### SHELTER MONITORS

- Eula Johnson
- Shalia Rice
- Felicia McRoberts
- Lenora Hull
- Ida Hall
- Kathy Martin

### CONTACT INFORMATION

- 314 209-9181
- [dweber@roomstl.org](mailto:dweber@roomstl.org)
- [www.roomstl.org](http://www.roomstl.org)

## Events at Room!

- Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for clients will be provided by our wonderful volunteers
- Annual Christmas Dinner for clients will be provided by our wonderful volunteers



**ROOM AT THE INN**

3415 Bridgeland Drive  
Bridgeton, MO 63044