



THE HAVEN
Safety & rest for those in need

Brick By Brick

The Haven Newsletter

SPRING 2024 - VOLUME 20

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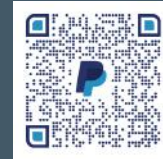
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Donate:
[www:havenoftc.org](http://www.havenoftc.org) or
scan QR code below:



A Message to Our Donors

We want to begin by thanking you, our wonderful supporters for responding to our need for help to meet our expenses in 2023. **Last year we were able to almost double the number of children served!** It was only through your generosity that we were able to do this, and we are very grateful.

Our goal for 2024 is to expand our program to serve even more individuals, families and children who are experiencing homelessness. Our program success has been due to the tools and support we are able to provide to make our guests flourish in their transition to independent living. (Read Kelby's story on page 3 to understand what a difference you can make in a family's life.)

Our expansion project is almost complete, and we hope to have a grand opening in late April or early May. This will allow even more space for group classes and counseling.

We're reaching out to you because you've already demonstrated your compassion for those less fortunate. With your support, we can impact our community in a lasting way - 65% of our revenue comes from individuals like you.

Please join us by making your gift on our website or by sending a check in the enclosed envelope. Remember that you can use your required retirement distributions as well.

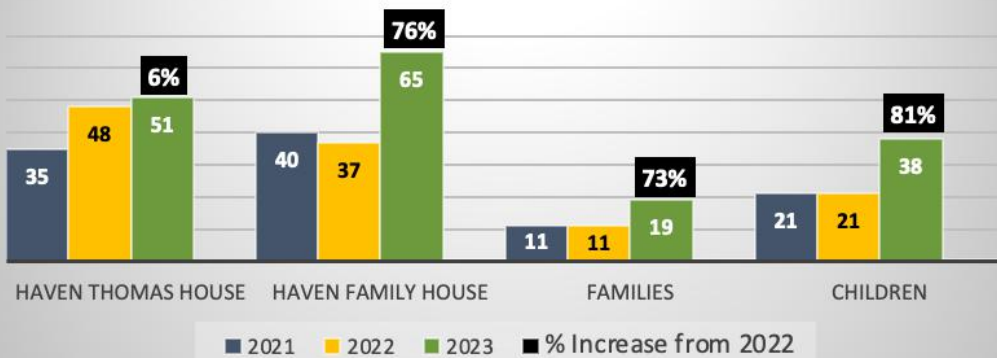
The lives of many individuals are at stake.

With gratitude,

Emily Lowery
Executive Director

Jay Farrell
Board President

Number of Guests Served



Contact Us:
Office: (828) 877-2040
office@havenoftc.org
Fax: (828) 877-4407
Mailing address:
Post Office Box 25
Brevard, NC 28712

SOCK HOP

to benefit The Haven

May 17, 2024

SCHEDULE:

5:00 – 6:00 pm: Hors d'oeuvres
Cash Bar, Silent Auction,
Photo Booth

6:00 – 7:30 pm: Dinner

7:30 – 9:00 pm: Dancing, Best Costume
and Dance Contests

PLATINUM: Connestee Falls Realty

GOLD: Southern Quality Company

SILVER: Platt Home, College Walk,
First Citizens Bank

 Connestee Falls
REALTY

 Southern Quality Company
Licensed Roofing Contractor

 PLATT HOME
- BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA -

 COLLEGE WALK
A SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

 First
Citizens
Bank

Tickets on sale now!

To purchase tickets go to our website:
www.havenoftc.org

All proceeds go directly to The Haven

From Board Member Dick Benson

My name is Dick Benson, and I am a member of the board of directors of The Haven of Transylvania County. I am writing to tell why this organization is most deserving of our community's support.

Through Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church, as a member of our church's Outreach Ministry Team, I served as liaison to The Haven. I met the Haven's Executive Director, Emily Lowery, to learn more about her agency. I learned about this remarkable and dedicated servant, whose faith is the centerpiece of her commitment to the mission of The Haven.

Emily has experienced the worst that life has to offer, including incarceration and homelessness. She would be the first to say that she made many bad decisions when she was younger, and the kindness of others led her to her faith and her determination to begin anew. What began for her as a volunteer gig with The Haven turned into a paid position, ever-increasing responsibilities, and eventually the role of executive director. But for her, the job runs much deeper. As people come through the doors of The Haven and move to a better life - one of housing and economic independence.

I remain profoundly impressed by Emily, as both a person and the leader of The Haven. When the opportunity arose for me to join the board I readily accepted. As readers may know, it is the only year-round homeless shelter in our county. But what drew me to it is the commitment not simply to provide a place of temporary respite for the unhoused, but its determination to empower our guests by working with them to obtain the tools each needs to become housed and financially independent. Each guest agrees to participate in either educational or vocational programs. Counseling is made available as needed. And guests must agree to remain substance free while participating in our program. We seek not to put a bandaid on the issue of homelessness, but to invest in our guests in an effort to equip them with the tools to learn to become self-sufficient.

And what makes Emily a capable and inspiring leader is that she, herself, is living proof that one can do just that. Her experiences have informed her, and created in her a passion for the mission of The Haven. Transylvania County is a kinder and more compassionate community for having Emily and her staff at the helm of The Haven.

Thank you for your continuing support of our mission.

Kelby's Story

Walking through the door of the shelter was a lot different for Kelby in April of last year compared to when he walked through it 10 years before. This time was different because, "I was going to do the best I could this time." "My friend told me that if I just went and gave it a try, and do what they said, I would get housed." That's all Kelby wanted. All he wanted for his two girls was a place to call home and a place for them to come home to Daddy. He was tired of living on couches and had pretty much outstayed all of his welcomes.



At first when he called to make the appointment for an intake, he was worried that some pending charges would keep him out, but that was not the case. "I was grateful for the chance to get a bed at The Haven. I was ready to do anything they asked and trusted that I would be housed in the long run." Having stayed here before, the question is always asked, "How is this time going to be different?" That resonated with Kelby. His answer was very simple, and was the advice of his friend. "I am going to try."

Soon after his intake, with the influence of staff, Kelby landed a good job and started working. It would take 90 days of working 30 hours or more a week to get the 'working preference' from the housing authority, but he was ready, willing, determined, and able to finally get his life on track. His 20's had been spent living the lifestyle of a famous rock star, playing gigs, and jamming with friends were his life goals. Dabbling in drugs and alcohol had become normal, and he knew he had to get away from them. Kelby completed our program in nine months, and this time was different from the last time he 'exited' the program.

As he carried his stuff out, he was moving into his own apartment with a lease in his own name. He would be leaving for a home that he worked hard for, a home that he made for his two girls.

As he left that day he said, "I truly did the best I could. It got me right where I needed to be. Everything I was told got me right here. Thank you, ALL of you guys. Ya'll have seriously been a Godsend and I am so thankful to have ya'lls support!"

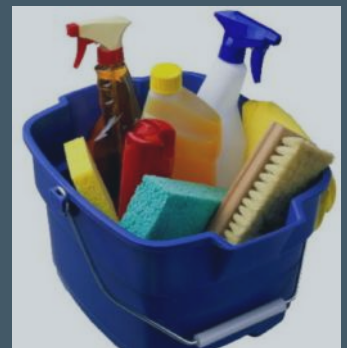
He walked out of the shelter door that day, signed his lease, and it was exactly his 30th birthday. What a great birthday present. "My 20's was absolutely awful. Looks like things turned around for me in time for 30, and just perfect for the girls." Kelby's wish is to see more success stories to give hope because he knows it's possible.

Ways You Can Help

- Evenings from 4 pm – 8 pm. Volunteers help by answering the phone, fulfilling individual needs of guests & overseeing guest check-in.
- Sundays from 12 pm – 4 pm, Volunteers assist with individual guest needs, answer phones.
- Administrative – Answer phones, greet guests, watch cameras.
- Gardening – Volunteer to help tend to our garden with our guests.
- Painting – Opportunities to paint rooms and spaces.
- Cooking – Come and teach/share a meal.
- Provide weekend food – On the weekends when the Bread of Life is closed, church groups, civic groups, friends, put together meals for the Haven Thomas House.
- Landscaping – Help keep the facility beautiful by weeding, trimming, and maintaining flower beds.



The Haven needs a regular and continual supply of household supplies. See the list of items on our website by clicking on donate supplies.



Our Board

Jay Farrell – President
Richard Zollinger – Vice President
Nancy Watts – Secretary
Ruth Falck – Treasurer

Jill Beach
Susan Brorein
Desmond Duncker
Tyree Griffin
Elly Leidner
Colin Pelton
Craig Zimring

Our board members come from very diverse backgrounds including past lived experience.

We are seeking new board members!

We are especially interested in potential members with fundraising experience.

If you want to assist with fundraising, and have experience but do not want to make a board commitment, please email treasurer@havenoftc.org.

From the Director's Desk

by Emily Lowery

Our mission statement is “The Haven shall assist families and individuals in crisis in Transylvania County by providing temporary refuge in a clean, comfortable shelter”. That sounds pretty simple, but The Haven provides so much more than that. We are unique in what we do. It's not about just providing a place to sleep.

Our goal is to provide people with the tools they need to rebuild their lives and become self-sufficient. What sets us apart from others is what happens inside. Not only inside these walls with programming, encouragement, coaching, and opportunities, but what happens inside of a person. I see people grow and expand their knowledge. I witness individuals working hard to replace what the homeless experience has taken away.

Not having a place to store your belongings leaves you not having or wanting many things. Many come to us with just the backpack they are carrying with no ID, social security card or birth certificate. To those that do not understand the gravity of not having any or only one of these listed above, you may not realize the difficulty to replace such items. If you have no address, what address would you put on your ID? You have to provide proof of address to list one on your ID, which means you must present a piece of mail or something equivalent to show residency.

This process takes time and patience. What if you had some sort of anxiety issues and it was absolutely overwhelming to try to start this process? Do you see why people just give up? I do. Recently a friend of mine had to have some lab work done. She called her doctor to get it scheduled. They told her to call her insurance company to make sure it was covered. She called them and they transferred her to a person that was hard to communicate with. It was so frustrating, she gave up. She hung up the phone and said she would have to see if the doctor would try for her.

Now, change the roles here. Imagine you did not have a phone and were borrowing someone's phone to make these calls trying to get your birth certificate in order to get your ID. You see where I am going? People give up. But then one day, those same people decide that they want a new start, and they knock on our door. That is why we are here. As you can see, we are here not only to give them a place to sleep. We are a place to give help. A place with an address to put on that ID, so one can go to work. A place where a case manager can help them navigate, advocate, or represent to that person on the other end of the phone that does not understand. They rely on us. We rely on you.

Thank you for all your support, and thank you for helping us help others.

