



THE HAVEN OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Redemption at its Best

There's something that captures our heart when, after learning of a person's past mistakes, they rise up and make something of their lives. There are many actors that have done exactly this, including Robert Downy Jr, Martha Stewart, Mark Wahlberg, and Danny Trejo. They were all underdogs at one time, yet went on to lead fulfilling lives.

Hayden Fink is no exception. After being evicted from his home due to rent increases he could no longer afford, he wound up sleeping in his car in Pisgah Forest after long nights of driving for Door Dash.

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2023

UNSHeltered HOMELESSNESS ROSE 61% IN OUR COUNTY ACCORDING TO THE POINT IN TIME COUNT.

THE HAVEN FAMILY HOUSE SERVED 76% MORE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN. AND HAD 80% MORE CHILDREN OVERALL.

THE TWO SHELTERS COMBINED SERVED 35% MORE PEOPLE.

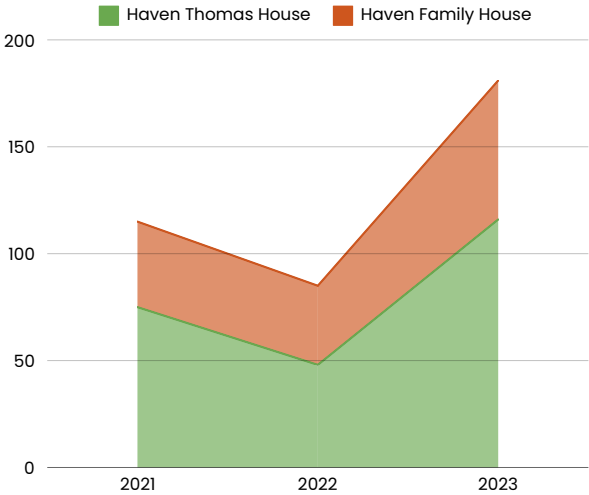


HavenofTC.org

Redemption Cont..

Upon hearing about The Haven from NC Works, Hayden learned that our shelter was safer and more comfortable than others. He said what helped him the most was the support he had from the staff while securing a place to stay. He served as The Haven’s Staff Assistant while staff changes were being made and supported our staff when there was not adequate coverage. This position gave him confidence, responsibility, and prepared him for new place. He moved in his place in June and has since given back by speaking at events (see Helene story, bringing food during the storm, and mentoring others who have moved to the same community he lives in. We get to see this all the time at The Haven and it makes our jobs fulfilling. Many people come in with just the clothes on their back and nothing more. Rising above this takes time and perseverance. To help, we assign each guest a case manager to assist them on their journey. As time passes, they build skills in job searching and interviewing, budgeting, coping mechanisms, and communications. All this allows them to successfully get on with their lives.

Number of People Served 2021-2023



Hayden speaking at World Homeless Awareness Day
Photo credit: Lynne Michael

GARDEN GROWS



Our garden has flourished this year and cooking classes added, all thanks to Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County and the Rotary Club of Pisgah Forest. Earlier this year, upgrades were made to the garden to include raised beds, including one specifically for children.

The garden was planted in the spring, and we are now reaping the harvest of their labors. In addition to squash, zucchini, tomatoes, and herbs, beautiful yellow zinnias and marigolds adorn the fully enclosed and gated beds. Harvesting the garden has been beneficial to our cooking classes. Vegetables and fresh herbs make for the best healthy food! Teaching our guests how to grow, care for, harvest, and prepare the fresh vegetables, makes them more self sufficient.

Welcome Lynne



You may already know Lynne Michael. She is a native to Transylvania County and has worked in mental health for over 18 years. Lynne is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and practical experience which includes working with people with serious mental health issues, persons experiencing homelessness, and with people that need extra care.

Developing recovery plans, preventing relapse, making exit plans and ensuring that the mental health needs of our guests are met are what she does best. Lynne creates a stable environment and empowers our guests to handle their circumstances more effectively with a goal toward healthy independence. She also follows up with guests later after they leave our shelters. This "after care program" will follow former guests for up to a year or as needed, filling an important gap in care. Thankfully, many are taking advantage of this opportunity, leaning on Lynne for assistance during this life transition.

We are so grateful that Lynn has joined our team. Lynne is determined to make a difference in the lives of our guests – and we know she will! The Haven is grateful for her services, looking forward to seeing more lives impacted not only by our programs, but also her expertise.

New Logo

You might notice the new logo at the top which incorporates everything we stand for. First, notice the home over the people. We are more than just a bed, we are a home, and more importantly, a program. Next, look at the people, they are all different, have distinct needs and are made up of all colors and sizes. We serve people from all ethnicity, races, ages, genders...you name it...we are here to serve. Period.

Finally, notice the hands below the people which represent the support our guests receive under our roof. That support may come in various forms, but that's what we do. We're The Haven of Transylvania County!!

New Offices Open

The newly completed office space has allowed staff to be able to provide better and more useful services to our guests. Included is a private space for the case manager as privacy is critical when guests are sharing their vulnerabilities. The new area also encompasses a meeting room to hold educational classes and meetings, and a sheltered waiting room, important as guests previously were forced to wait outside in the elements while staff coordinated entry into the office of two small rooms that 7 staff members shared.

The expansion was made possible by you, our great community, through a capital campaign and a supplemental grant from the Cannon Foundation. Thanks to another grant from Henderson Community Foundation, furniture and desks were purchased. A big shout out to all those who assisted us to serve people with a higher level of care. Thanks too to our contractors Roess Contractors who did a superb job!

HURRICANE HELENE

Hurricane Helene was devastating to Transylvania County and our surrounding neighbors.

The tragedy we suffered is unmeasurable, and many will feel its effects for a long time. Our hearts go out to all who have been effected as community trauma and survival's guilt are real issues that we all are dealing with.



The Haven was able to coordinate with Cove Shelter to open an emergency shelter for the first two nights of the storm as we were near capacity. At The Haven, as power went out along with phones, internet, and cell service, we were able to shelter in place and allow our guests to be able to stay in place for an extended period of time. Staff was innovative in the way they performed their jobs, ensuring guests were well looked after despite the challenges presented by the emergency.

We are grateful for all the kind words, encouragement, unity, and financial support which came our way during the catastrophic storm. 

In the aftermath of Helene, we have seen our communities come together with resiliency. We had planned on having an event on October 10th for World Homeless Awareness Day. This turned into a decompression meeting and updates from agencies working at the grassroots level from this storm. We gathered at Grace Brevard along with agencies, county and city officials, and the public to discuss relief efforts, talked about "how" we are doing, and shared insight on what lies ahead. We also had a guest speaker, Hayden Fink, a previous guest at The Haven (story on front), who shared his perspective from his lived experience of homelessness to commemorate World Homeless Awareness Day. He spoke about his professional experience as an Independent Human Rights and Civil Rights Advocate and Activist, and that while we readily recognize civil rights, it is not the same as human rights: the right to have affordable food, shelter, clothing, employment, and recreation. People experiencing homelessness, including families with children are often lost, forgotten or deliberately ignored with regard to internationally recognized human rights. Dignity, honor, respect are bedrock human values that are often forgotten or ignored in our society's attitudes and actions towards people experiencing homelessness. We need to change that!

Nutrition with Sharing House

The Haven and the Sharing House have teamed up to bring additional education to our guests, to use supplies at Sharing House that do not get utilized, and to teach our guests how to prepare a nutritious meal in a rush or from cooking in a microwave! Bunny from the Sharing House is supplying the ingredients. Lynne, Bunny, and our intern are teaching the classes together. This week they were able to prepare an omelet with veggies made in the microwave! Who knew you could do that? We learn so much here at The Haven!

