

WHAT'S INN-SIDE:

UPDATE FROM OUR E.D.

The latest word from Executive Director, David S. Weber

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Meet Cindy Warren, Volunteer Coordinator

OUR CLIENTS INSPIRE US

Stories of Success

NOTE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

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FRESH NEW LOOK AT ROOM

Our space is renewed!

NEW DATABASE INSTALLED

Very exciting upgrade

CLIENT CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

EVENTS AT ROOM!



INN-Sider

SUMMER | 2020

Your Support & Kindness Keep Us Moving Forward!



Hello again, amazing supporters, volunteers, staff, community leaders and interfaith congregations.

Thank you for all you do for our clients. Your support gives them — and us — strength to move forward with hope and confidence.

Due to Covid-19, our clients have been sheltering in place. Your continued support during this time has helped us keep going! Running a 24-hour a day shelter requires significantly more time, staff, programming and money resources. All of you have truly stepped up so we can continue to fulfill our mission. We'll stay in 24-hour mode through August and possibly September. Then, whenever it's deemed safe, we shift back to our regular night site model. Please let us know when your congregation feels comfortable to resume hosting our clients at night.

If you follow our calendar, you'll see that it's constantly in flux and many activities have been cancelled or postponed, including the remaining de-escalation/trauma trainings, our Volunteer Appreciation dinner, the "Mingle with the Inn-Crowd" fundraiser, and onsite volunteering (this has just been resumed — please see page 4 for volunteer opportunities). Our hope is that most of the previously scheduled events will take place when things get back to "normal", whenever that may be!

I want to share about **a very special in-kind donation we received** over the past several months that has refreshed our space — and our spirits! Inside we have new paint in the hallways, main spaces and staff offices (staff even got to choose their own paint color). We have new vinyl flooring and baseboards, LED light bulbs installed (which creates much-needed energy savings). Outside, our exterior columns have been painted and soffits repaired. We owe this all to Vernon Prinster of VSP Construction Company and his fine team and associates. His unbelievable act of kindness was totally unexpected and we are so, so grateful to Vernon for everything he has done for all of us at ROOM. We think of him each and every time we enter

our fresh, new space!

The day-to-day duties we are responsible for continue to happen despite constraints created by COVID...

Two families have been placed in permanent housing and we have the possibility of placing two more within months. We do have openings for new clients; however we are being extremely cautious and working closely with the County Department of Human Services to ensure strict safety protocols are followed and potential clients are properly screened and quarantined.

We're also taking some time to have a little fun! To beat the St. Louis heat we now have a new sprinkler stand for the kids to run through and small wading pools for the youngest children.

Many thanks to the Hanson family for taking our clients on a field trip to the Butterfly House with lunch afterwards.

And finally, we discovered we have some wonderful bowlers working here! ROOM staff had a bowling out-

ing recently where we had lots of fun, laughs and enjoyed great food. I'll let you guess who had the high score!

Thank you again for everything you do. And as always, I'd love to hear from you with any thoughts or ideas, so feel free to call or email me. My door is open. *Kind regards,*



David

David S. Weber
Executive Director



OUR STAFF ARE SUPER-HEROES...THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO

Come & Meet Cindy Warren

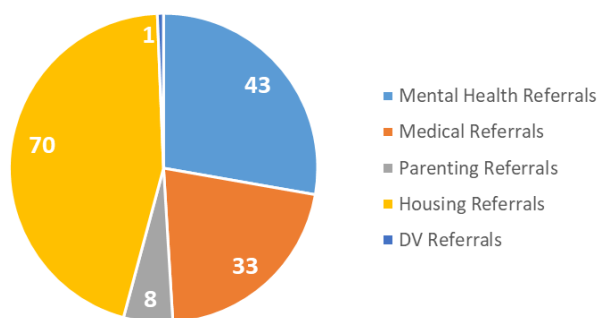
This month we are spotlighting our **Volunteer Coordinator, Cindy Warren** who joined ROOM in September of 2018. Cindy works with the volunteers who serve at our night sites and day site. She also coordinates our tutoring program, designing the curriculum as well as recruiting and managing tutors. Cindy feels very thankful to be part of ROOM's ministry to the homeless.

Cindy is married to Phil Warren, who serves as the Senior Pastor at West Side General Baptist Church in St Ann. Cindy plays piano, leads worship, and works with the youth at West Side. Prior to moving to Saint Louis 4 years ago, Phil and Cindy served for 3 years on the mission field in Saipan and the Philippines, where Cindy taught middle school science and math and led choirs. Prior to moving overseas, Dexter, Missouri was their home for 17 years. Phil pastored two local churches during that time, and Cindy taught fourth grade for 11 years in the Dexter Public Schools.

Cindy and Phil have 6 children and 9 grandchildren — and she is “Memaw”, “Momo”, and “Grandma” to those fantastic grandchildren! Besides enjoying her family, she also enjoys playing the piano, flower gardening, decorating her home, riding bikes, and crafting. Cindy's talents and dedication enrich what we do at ROOM, and we feel very fortunate to have her here.



Referrals, Appointments & Visits FEB-JUNE



Our Clients Truly Inspire Us

In the middle of the difficulties in our world today, bright spots of hope shine through! One bright spot is **our client Jason**, who is a current participant of the *STL Youth Jobs* program. This incredible program helps youth 16 and older prepare for their future careers. It promotes early employment leading to higher earnings in adulthood, higher graduation rates, financial inclusion, building stronger communities, and aids in the reduction of youth violence.

Jason said he was inspired by his older brother, who is a graduate of the program. He hopes to become a firefighter, detective, or join the United States Air Force. Thank you, Jason, for providing inspiration for all of us at ROOM!

S. U. C. C. E. S. S. STORIES

We Celebrate Our Clients' Hard Work & Accomplishments

Congratulations to our client **Mike** for continuing to get counseling services twice a week through ROOM's network resources as well as through BJC Behavioral Health. Mike also recently got a part time job. He is on a roll and wants to provide for his family. He and his significant other have two toddler girls and are expecting a baby boy in November.

Our client **Ms. Gordon** is a proud grandmother of a baby boy who was born in June. While at the shelter, this family received a housing voucher and is now searching for a 4-bedroom house.

Ms. Jackie has obtained a full-time job working in telemarketing. She loves her job and goes to work Monday through Friday. Early in the pandemic her job was furloughed for almost two months—and now she's back at work and working hard! Ms. Jackie has been very consistent in going to work and is also participating in mental health services here. Her next goal was to find an apartment — and we're happy to say that she recently found housing and will moving out of the shelter in September!

Our former client **Ida** was referred for housing while at the shelter. During her stay at ROOM, she became extremely helpful by assuming a role as house mother. Because of Ida and her personal service, other clients were able to go to work past

curfew and/or attend appointments, and children were able to attend after-school activities. In June, Ida moved into her own apartment and ROOM assisted her by referring her to several agencies for furniture and household items. We also helped pay off past utility debts, and provided a security deposit and rent. Now, Ida has a part-time job at ROOM and has also recently become a member of our Board!

Shonta was referred for housing and recently placed into her own apartment. She was assisted with past utility debts and furniture. Shonta now has a place to call home and is so thankful for the help that received while being with us.

She was also very grateful for the warm hospitality at our night sites and the wonderful meals she received there. And finally, Shonta was grateful to ROOM staff who gave her a listening ear whenever she needed to talk and vent.

Jamillah and her two toddlers also spent time with us. While at the shelter, she participated in mental health services and life skill classes. Jamillah secured a full-time job at Spectrum while living at the shelter. Through a grant provided by Children's Service Fund, the family was able to live in a motel which allowed her to get her kids to daycare and work at her job (which required her to stay at work past the shelter curfew time). Jamillah and her family now live in a house in Berkeley, MO where she was assisted with furniture for her new home.



March seems so long ago, when the world abruptly stopped to quarantine. I am proud of how quickly ROOM adapted, safely supporting clients, staff and volunteers. This continues as we start ROOM's new fiscal year (2021) and a new school year. Our recently adopted Strategic Plan will help guide ROOM through uncertainty and future challenges. Reduced government assistance is expected to put more people at risk for homelessness. We want to position ROOM to be able to serve more clients and enhance programming, while increasing community awareness of our respected organization. Notably, ROOM has been able to increase support for school-age clients. Tutoring and virtual learning are so important at this time. Staff and volunteers have been working hard to make sure needs are met.

The Board invites you to join us at **Old Hickory Golf Club** for our **Annual Golf Tournament** on **August 24th**. The team planning the event has worked with Old Hickory to arrange a fun yet safe day with various protective measures in place.

Your support is invaluable, enabling us to continue operations amid changing circumstances. I am honored to have served ROOM alongside those that act with character and compassion, respecting the dignity of others. You make it possible to provide a safe, secure environment for women and families.

Best Regards, *Julie Wolfe*

Our Fresh New Look is Bringing Lots of Smiles!



Thanks to the outstanding generosity of **VSP Construction Services, Inc.**, ROOM has a fresh, new look — inside and out! This unexpected and incredible blessing we've received over the past several months has really brightened up our days as we've sheltered in place here at our day site. Vernon Prinster and his crew at VSP Construction truly transformed our surroundings, both inside and out.

VSP did all demolition of flooring, drywall, carpentry and painting.

Flooring Systems, Inc. provided new flooring materials and labor. **Sherwin-Williams** provided paint supplies.

Our clients, staff and volunteers are thrilled with our fresh, new, bright space! It has warmed our hearts and really uplifted our spirits. We are forever grateful for this great kindness and generosity.



Creating even more smiles at ROOM are two very generous anonymous in-kind donations for:

- the repair of pot holes in our parking lot. We now have a smooth, safe surface for cars, vans, bikes and people.
- The replacement of lightbulbs with energy efficient, long-lasting LED lights. It's made a huge difference at ROOM — and will save us money for years to come!

Great News — ROOM has a New Database!



We are so happy to have our new Bloomerang database! In early July we consolidated our three existing databases into the new database. This is a big win for ROOM

in that it will allow us to be more efficient with our communications as well as reduce our database costs. Staff is very excited about this change.

As with any major change, there may be hiccups that occur as we work through full implementation. Should you experience any difficulty with donor communications, please let us know right away. Reach out to **Steve Jones, ROOM Operations Coordinator**, at sjones@roomstl.org or call Steve at 314 209-9181. Thanks for your patience as we make any needed adjustments to finalize this transition.

Board Members

Aigul Abdylidaeva,
MBA Nonprofit Management

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

David K. Buenger PA, *Favazza & Associates*

Al Fressola, *Psychologist*

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

Jim Gissy, *President, Capital Management Services*

Melvin Goldman, *Account Executive*

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

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

Sr. Ann Pairn, *Sisters of Divine Providence*

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

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

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**

Do You Have Some Time to Help?

There are many ways to lend a hand!

- We need people to **answer the phones** at the day site Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon from 12-4 p.m.
- Like **yard work**? Our flower bed in front needs to be prepared for the upcoming fall & winter.
- Interested in taking clients on **an outing**?
- Would you like to **mentor** an adorable 13 year old young lady who would like to make crafts, bake or play games? She is very bright, a delight to be around and is free in the evenings. We are looking for a woman or young lady to serve in this role.

If you'd like to help, please call **Cindy Warren**, Volunteer Coordinator at **314 209-9181**.

Recent Client Classes & Activities

Over the last several months, our clients have participated in a variety of weekly classes, including:

- **Parenting with "Tapping Our Parental Power"**
- **Financial Literacy with "New Found Freedom"**
- **"Nutrition- Healthy Eating on a Budget" with Sue Picus**
- **"COVID Education" with Dr. Kathy Brunts**



Clients have also participated in:

Summer Camps, Metro Theatre, Basketball, Math Workout, Counseling (provided by St. Louis Counseling and Great Circle).

Thanks to our wonderful

staff for arranging a broad variety of educational, physical & mental health, life skills and fun activities for our clients — and thank you to our outstanding providers and educators, as well!

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.



ROOM AT THE INN

3415 Bridgeland Drive
Bridgeton, MO 63044

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
- Twanita Hudson

CONTACT INFORMATION

- 314 209-9181
- dweber@roomstl.org
- www.roomstl.org

Events at Room!

- Clients recently enjoyed a fun and educational visit to the Butterfly House in Chesterfield
- Have-a-Haircut Day in July
- Coming soon! Clients head to Six Flags for a day of fun!
- It's almost here! ROOM's Golf Tournament Fundraiser is at Old



Hickory Golf Club on AUGUST 24. A few spots are still available — sign up soon!