

Lawrence Community Shelter

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Lawrence Community Shelter

Our Mission

The mission of the Lawrence Community Shelter is to provide safe shelter and comprehensive support services and programs that provide a path to a positive future for people experiencing homelessness and people who are at risk of homelessness.



Family Program Success Story



Nickie (all names have been changed to protect identities) was seven months pregnant when she arrived at the Lawrence Community Shelter in June 2010. She was fleeing a domestic violence situation and worried for the safety of her unborn child. After she enrolled in the LCS Family Program, Nickie worked with a family case manager as well as an OARS advocate through SRS to learn ways to keep herself safe while planning a future with her child. Being in the Family Program meant that guidance was provided to Nickie for filling out housing application forms and through the LCS Back-to-Work program for her job search. Due to complications with her pregnancy, Nickie was on bed rest until she delivered her healthy baby boy. As a family, they returned to the shelter. Continuing to work with her family case manager, Nickie made further progress in filling out and applying for a Housing Authority Voucher and Vocational Rehabilitation Services for work and school support. With the help of a woman friend who became a roommate, Nickie and her son made the transition out of homelessness in early December just in time to enjoy the holidays in their own home. She is happy to report, also, that not only has she found housing but she started a job on December 8 and she has turned in the application for the high school diploma completion program to begin classes in January. Nickie and her son are beginning the new year in a strong and new way!

Capital Campaign Charges Ahead

The challenges of locating a new home for the Lawrence Community Shelter has been described in the news frequently over the past several years. In early 2010, the board of directors decided to focus on a building at 3701 Franklin Park Circle. With a strong Steering Committee co-chaired by John Tacha, Rosy Elmore, and Linda Morningstar and having as its Honorary Chair Marianna Beach, the capital campaign to relocate the Lawrence Community Shelter has achieved major success in a few months of 2010. Still in its private phase, the campaign is 72% of the way towards its \$3 million goal. To date, the campaign has received a major gift of \$289,000 from the Kansas Health Foundation, a challenge grant of \$540,000 from the Mabee Foundation, a \$200,000 federal HUD appropriation, a \$200,000 gift from George Stephanopoulos, donations from the Shumaker, Morningstar, Capitol Federal, and Piersol foundations, a stimulus funding grant of \$79,000 from the City of Lawrence, and scores of generous contributions from individual, business, and religious supporters throughout the community.

Despite frequent negotiations throughout this year, the trustees for the industrial park continue to assert the use of that building as a homeless shelter is not permitted under the covenants in the park. The Board of Directors and lawyers representing LCS assert that the covenants address only general appearance and aesthetics issues.

The Lawrence Community Shelter entered into a contract to purchase the 3701 Franklin Park Circle building on November 23rd. That same day, lawyers representing LCS filed a request for a declaratory judgement with the district court so a judge can adjudicate the matter. LCS feels this matter should be settled by the court within a month or two and LCS can close on the property by March 31, 2011.

The process to secure a new site for LCS continues – not always smoothly – but in recent months it has gone in the right direction with strong support from all parts of the community, for which we are very grateful. Soon we will begin the public phase of the capital campaign. Keep up-to-date on the latest information and events in printed newsletters and mailings as well as on our website, Facebook page, and e-mail newsletters.

This process has been like a marathon... thank you for your help in getting us the first twenty miles or so, and we hope you will stay with us for the big kick to the finish.



The Board President and Director Say Thank You and Ask Your Support

Dear LCS Friends and Family,

We want to share with you a few thoughts during this wonderful holiday season. Over the last year or more the Lawrence Community Shelter has had to face and overcome many challenges as it fully assumed its role as this community's sole emergency shelter. A path to a positive future for most people experiencing homelessness can only be accomplished when basic human needs are met and people are provided the opportunities and tools they need as individuals to help them take steps on that path. LCS and its supporters should be very proud of all that LCS has accomplished but we know there is much more to do. We need an adequate facility where we can improve our existing services and have the appropriate space to enrich our current programs, and create and expand other programs and partnerships.

We have enrolled a strong and capable group of individuals as the Capital Campaign committee which has done an extraordinary job of fundraising during an extremely poor economy.

We have had the opportunity to know and work with a dedicated and gifted staff, a committed board of directors, many loyal friends of LCS, and countless others who in their own way have volunteered and donated to support LCS. We are humbled by this experience and consider it a great privilege to be associated with LCS, its guests, and supporters.

So many of you continue to give your time, money and support to LCS and for these gifts we are very grateful. Yet contributions are spread thin at LCS as some money that would normally be directed toward our operational budget has been going into the relocation and building fund. While we need this to happen, we still depend upon your charity to provide for day-to-day operations and expenses during an LCS growth period where we see significant increases in families and our overall guest population. Night-time guest count during the current freezing weather has regularly exceeded 100 to 110 families and individuals staying in the main shelter and neighboring churches.

This is a time when we want to thank you personally for your past support and to ask you to reach into your heart and pockets once more to give to the great work LCS does every day. Your donation at this time will help the Lawrence Community Shelter continue as a trusted provider of services to the families and individuals experiencing homelessness in Lawrence and Douglas County.

We wish you the best of this Christmas and holiday season and hope that all good things will come your way in the New Year.

Sincerely,



Don Huggins
President, Board of Directors



Loring Henderson
Executive Director

Did You Know?

During cold weather months a maximum of **76 people** may stay at the LCS building each night.

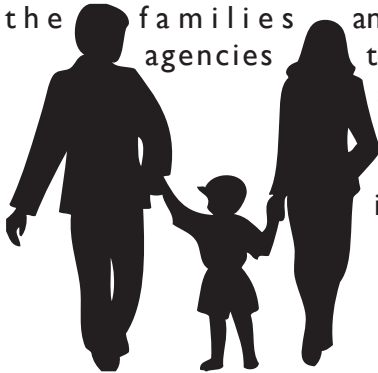
When the temperature is predicted to drop **below 32°F** at night, LCS has an arrangement with several churches in the immediate vicinity of LCS to allow up to 15 guests per church location a place to sleep.

Most nights, the need has been so great that it is necessary to send people to **two separate overflow churches**.

Approximately **110** of our less-fortunate friends in our community need our help **each night**.

The Family Program Grows Bigger and Stronger

In 2009, the new LCS Family Program helped 14 families with 24 adults and 24 children in a seven month period. As of the second week of December, 2010 six families were active in the program with 14 children and 7 adults resident for the holidays. The LCS Family Program is committed to assisting and strengthening families in their time of need. Each family has requirements they must meet which include but are not limited to participation in the LCS employment and savings programs, compliance and/or participation with Lawrence Housing Authority guidelines, and participation in random drug screenings. Many services will be provided by LCS with the focus on strengthening and supporting the family bond. The program is designed to enhance, restore, and adjust all family members. Jennifer Davis, the Family Case Manager, works closely with the families and collaborating agencies to bring as many services as possible to bear on each individual case.



Over the first eleven months of 2010, the Family Program served:

50 families

68 adults

82 children

33 single parents

14 pregnant women

36 days average length of stay

41% moved to a better situation

16% moved to a situation not as good

43% moved to another situation of their choice



Chocolate and Tea at Three

Nearly 200 people joined us on Sunday, November 14th for the 10th annual Chocolate and Tea at Three fundraising event. The afternoon event, hosted by Mark Bradford (Chief of the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Services) featured an expansive array of chocolate goodies made by friends and fans of LCS as well as gourmet tea and coffee donated by La Prima Tazza. Volunteers from the Key Club at Free State High School helped the afternoon run smoothly from set-up to clean-up.

Ticket sales, sponsorships from corporate donors, and an auction led by the ever-lively Ric Averill helped raise over \$30,000 (after expenses) for operations at LCS. Thank you to everyone who made the afternoon a success!





The Spirit of Christmas at LCS

Gifts at Christmastime can be a luxury for individuals and families struggling to find jobs and save money to move out of homelessness and into their own home. This year, 131 adults and 18 children created two-item wish lists for gifts that will be distributed Christmas Eve morning. Dianne Huggins, the staff director of the Christmas program, has the pleasure of coordinating volunteers from area churches, the LCS board of directors, and generous people from Lawrence to help fulfill those gift wishes for guests at the Lawrence Community Shelter.

The Lawrence Community Shelter is especially crowded this year, so gifts are being taken to North Lawrence to a storage container, donated by BC&R Storage, until it's time to distribute the gifts to appreciative and thankful people.

About 6 years ago, Amy Rousselo (then a college student) began what continues to be a Christmastime tradition of volunteering with her family. Even though Amy has graduated and is currently living and teaching in Honduras, she is returning to Lawrence to prepare Christmas Eve breakfast for over 100 LCS guests with her parents, Tammy & Tom, her brother Jeff and his wife, and her aunt and uncle.

Your generous donation helps LCS to continue programs and services for the homeless families and individuals in our community.

Volunteers

Jesse Rowley, our volunteer coordinator, now has a new Assistant Volunteer Coordinator. Morgan Shockley is a pre-social welfare student with plans of joining the Peace Corps after she graduates the Bachelors program. She started volunteering the same way Jesse did, as part of the SW220 class at KU and has just been an extraordinary volunteer who went above and beyond.

Volunteer turnout has been fantastic this semester. Thanks to everyone who gives their time so generously. We hope we will continue to see you at LCS and are most sincere when we say

thank you.

In Memoriam

Mary Giles

Current Needs

twin-size blankets

twin-size sheets

bath towels

disposable razors

socks

dry cereal

coffee

HE-compatible laundry soap

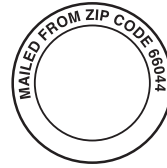
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lawrenceshelter.org



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there's **NO**
PLACE
like **HOME**

LAWRENCE COMMUNITY SHELTER

a RED SHOE EVENT
 TO BENEFIT THE

Mark Your Calendar!
Friday, February 4th
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

at

The Barrel House
729 New Hampshire St

There's No Place Like Home, a red shoes event to benefit the Lawrence Community Shelter will be held on **Friday, Feburary 4th** at the **Barrel House**, 729 New Hampshire, from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. Fun, food, drink and dueling pianos, along with a live auction of area artist pieces. Attendees are encouraged to wear their funkiest, fanciest or funnest (not really a word, but you get the point) **red shoes**. Be creative because there is a contest for the best red shoes! Have a chance to win a great new pair of red shoes, boots, stilettos or tennies of your choosing for a small donation. There's fun to be had and it all benefits the Lawrence Community Shelter!