



# MONARCH VILLAGE

A Partnership of Studio 804  
& Lawrence Community Shelter



## Addressing The Future in the New Normal

Dear Friends,

We are now many months into the COVID-19 pandemic. On our journey towards identifying the right solutions for our guests, what remains clear is what we've known all along: homelessness is a public health crisis. Shelter and housing are basic needs and important prerequisites for good physical and mental health for all.

We know that the economic challenges posed by the pandemic means that the need for access to emergency shelter in our community is only going to increase. This is happening at a time when our capacity to shelter people overnight has been greatly reduced due to the congregative nature of our facility. Less density, social distancing, mask mandates, and daily symptom screenings are the new reality for LCS until a vaccine or viable treatment is made available.

It's in the midst of this quagmire that Professor Dan Rockhill at Studio 804 reached out to us with a simple question: *"How can I help?"*

We put our heads together and landed on a solution: Monarch Village. The tiny home community we are developing allows us to expand our capability to shelter during the pandemic (and after!) in a way that is hygienic and safe, trauma-informed, and more healing.

### **However, we can't do it without your help.**

As I round out my first year at LCS, I have been stunned by the open-hearted generosity of the Lawrence-Douglas County community. I know that when a call goes out to help the most vulnerable, this community will rise to answer. Thank you for answering that call.

Best,



Renee Kuhl, *Executive Director*  
Lawrence Community Shelter



## MONARCH VILLAGE AT A GLANCE

- 12 tiny dwelling units (160 sq ft each) located onsite at Lawrence Community Shelter
- The units will surround a working vegetable garden and butterfly waystation on an existing half acre of green space on the south side of LCS
- Provides access to quarantine and isolation for up to 12 households experiencing homelessness
- Capacity to shelter up to 48 individual family members, once the need for quarantine and isolation is reduced
- Construction begins September 2020, with units completed and installed by March 2021
- Up to 40% of the project costs will be in-kind contributions from Studio 804
- LCS needs to fundraise \$500,000 by end of 2020 to complete the project on time



Monarch Village presents the Lawrence Community Shelter with an innovative shelter solution that better meets the needs of people experiencing homelessness in a rapidly changing world. Homelessness is a public health crisis, apparent in its impact on both the psychological and physical wellness of individuals and communities. Across the nation, homeless shelters struggle with providing safe, trauma-informed environments for families and individuals in transition. Additionally, the crisis created by COVID-19 has brought with it a new sense of urgency to take action.

With the introduction of Monarch Village, twelve tiny dwellings expand our ability to provide supported environments in which individuals experiencing homelessness can quarantine or isolate. These dwellings will be safe, easy to staff, and allow guests access to important services at Lawrence Community Shelter that can support their transition to permanent housing, even in a pandemic context. Over the long term, the dwellings will afford individuals and families staying at the Lawrence Community Shelter a commodity that typically evades households experiencing homelessness: privacy. A lack of private space can feel unsafe and triggering, and is a frequent reason unsheltered individuals and families cite for avoiding emergency shelters in their time of need. Each 160 square foot tiny home at Monarch Village comes with a private shower, toilet, and a small kitchenette. There will be two separate sleeping

quarters, allowing parents and children to rest in their own space. These units are intended to preserve each guests' dignity and feel more like "home." Additionally, some guests have disabilities that require a private bathroom or cooking facilities to prepare special diets. The new units allow us to maintain our current capacity while meeting the needs of our more vulnerable guests. Simultaneously, they would reduce the number of guests sleeping in the dorms, facilitating better social distancing thus keeping our entire population safer from airborne illnesses.

The twelve private domiciles will be placed in pairs with shared covered patios between them. These six "duplexes" will be installed along the east and south sides of our community garden. A new monarch butterfly trail with walkways leads to the 900 square foot open-sided commons shelter with picnic tables which will be directly north of the garden. The walkways will then continue up to a south side entry into the current shelter structure.

In terms of programming needs, Monarch Village offers an improved facility in which to offer shelter to families confronting homelessness. Facing homelessness while raising children puts parents under considerable pressure; parenting without any privacy adds further stress to the situation. Children are often the most impacted by parental stress. Facilitating an environment where parents have room to model behavior and uphold rules that align with their family's values, preemptively deescalates a common source of conflict in family sheltering situations. The "village" style community layout, with private, shared, and common spaces still allows families the option to share childcare and connect with others in similar circumstances.

Monarch Village embodies the vision and values of Lawrence Community Shelter by providing dignified, healing-focused sheltering options that make it possible to meet a wider variety of guests' needs safely in a changing world. Furthermore, this innovative new addition provides a means for those with higher barriers to housing to more smoothly transition out of homelessness. And as Douglas County embraces the Built for Zero blueprint, Monarch Village can be used in service of our shared goal of ending homelessness altogether. In this way,, our community, like our guests, can transform and ascend to new heights in housing. ■

## Studio 804 Mission

Studio 804 is committed to the continued research and development of innovative and advanced building solutions. This is done by examining, on all levels, the standards of human comfort and the nature of urban spaces. With issues of sustainability, affordability, and efficiency dominating our collective interests, Studio 804 educates students through experience in all aspects of construction. Embodied by a holistic approach that includes both design and fabrication, the program is comprised entirely of graduate students that are engaged in every step of the process, resulting in the production of one building annually. It is through the support of organizations and individuals committed to environmental stewardship that we are able to continue our service to the community at large and educate the general public through the use of innovative technologies and sustainable practices.

## Lawrence Community Shelter Mission

The Lawrence Community Shelter offers safe haven to individuals and families facing homelessness and facilitates their next step in transitioning into permanent housing.



## You Can Make a Difference

Everyday we are working to provide better and safer emergency shelter for our community. You can make a tremendous impact on the future of innovative, trauma informed solutions with your support of Monarch Village, the first tiny home community designed to shelter people facing homelessness in the state of Kansas.

### FLIGHT

Recognition in all press releases, print collateral, social media and website

**\$50,000**

### TRANSFORM

Name or dedicate a tiny home or the patio commons

**\$25,000**

### CRYSTALLIZE

Name or dedicate the ADA ramp/deck

**\$10,000**

### ASPIRE

Name or dedicate a Monarch Village bench

**\$5,000**

### NOURISH

Name or dedicate a butterfly in the Monarch art installation (debuts 2021)

**\$500**

For more information about Monarch Village, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest and support of  
Monarch Village



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