



Local Veteran Looking Forward to 2016

If you followed our Facebook page or read our Home Pages newsletter in 2015, you know that the renovation of a home on 7th St. was a major undertaking for us last year. We are pleased to announce that a veteran moved into the house just in time for Christmas. "It's like Santa just dropped a house on me," he said to our Director of Operations, Trina Woods. Thanks to the tremendous volunteer and financial support from Licking County, LCCH was able to upgrade the house with improvements to the porch and landscaping, new paint, appliances, countertops, light fixtures, refinished floors and furnishings. With the assistance provided by the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program and the HUD-Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) system, the veteran should be able to remain in the home as long as he desires.



Thanks to all who helped to make this house a home!

"Miss Debbie, Things are moving forward for me in this great living situation. I took on a lot of responsibility for 2016. It was long overdue actually. I have a lot to be thankful for. The support and care I have received over the months has paid off in some really good ways. Thanks for your time and support."

– Former SSVF client, Current occupant of 7th Street House

Congratulations Rennie!

LCCH Transitional Housing Coordinator and Newark Catholic coach Rennie Bare was recently named the **Fred Dafler Career State Coach of the Year** by the Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches, for his achievements with the Newark Catholic girls Cross Country team. Rennie, who joined LCCH in December 2011, is a lifelong resident of Newark, a runner himself and has coached the Newark Catholic Cross Country team since 1988. His current and former athletes as well as NC parents credit him with being an amazing mentor as well as a great coach. Join us in congratulating him on a job well done!



Rennie, along with his wife Tracy, at the 3rd Annual Home Run. (Of course he is wearing green!)

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide a community forum, to assess housing resources, to identify problems and to create solutions through collaboration.

Find Us on Social Media



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The Tom and Vicki Chapman Endowment Fund

We are thrilled to announce that the matching grant offered by Tom Chapman at the end of 2015 was extremely successful. The qualifying contributions for the Chapman Endowment and/or the Annual Giving Campaign totaled \$26,394.50 This means the entire match was met and the total amount received by LCCH was \$51,394.50. Thank you again to Tom Chapman, and all who contributed.

Executive Director's Corner

Deb Tegtmeyer



The level of activity around here never ceases to amaze me!

With the VITA tax preparation season off to a phenomenal start – thanks to the hard work of our 28 VITA volunteers and several contributing staff members – we seem well on the way to achieving the goal of preparing and submitting 975 individual tax returns before April 18, 2016 - the national tax deadline.

As I pour over the customer survey cards, I'm happy to see exclamations such as:

"I feel this service is very important and helps people not get taken advantage of."

"(a VITA volunteer) was very professional and friendly. Very knowledgeable. Thank you!"

"Did a wonderful job!! Keep up the great work. Thanks everyone for their time."

"All of the volunteers & staff were very helpful & friendly. Thank you for providing this service!!!"

Preparing one's income taxes is not getting any less complicated. With the tying of a health care coverage requirement to one's income via the tax preparation process, an income tax return now includes yet another layer of social policy – and some challenging conversations for both the taxpayer and tax preparer. For many of our VITA clients – particularly those who have had several jobs during the year or who have changed family or household arrangements during the same period – it can take some time to sort out properly. Our VITA team is up to the task.

However, one thing has become increasingly clear: there is definitely a dichotomy between local headlines shouting "County's economic recovery among nation's top 7 percent" and the folks we see struggling to work one or multiple jobs in order to meet their basic needs. Housing costs – rents and utilities – have risen, yet the average wage has not, at least not yet.

In a recent article in the January 25, 2016 issue of Time discussing the likelihood of

another global recession in the not-too-distant future, the author noted that the recent period of "unprecedentedly low interest rates" ended in December 2015 with the Federal Reserve approving the first hike in interest rates since 2006. The author points out that, traditionally, "when (interest) rates rise, it's supposed to mean that the economy is getting stronger, which in the U.S. it has been, at least in terms of job creation. But as too many Americans know too well, there is little or no real wage growth, which is very unusual at this point in an expansion... There are more jobs, but not the kind that put more money in people's pockets..."

Until we have more real, permanent jobs that pay a real, living wage, we will continue to have a problem with homelessness and housing instability in our community. As I've said in previous columns, we need more quality housing that is affordable for working households making \$9 per hour. And we need to make sure that the safety net of services that has taken years to develop in Licking County doesn't suffer from ill-conceived notions of "help" or drastic slashes to budgets.

I welcome your assistance in this effort. And I look forward to hearing your ideas. I can be reached at dtegtmeyer@lcchousing.org or (740)345-1970 x 212. We still have more to do.

Staff Profiles

Linda Beard

Linda Beard has been with the Licking County Coalition for a total of 13 years. Born in Japan to an Air Force family, Linda and her family traveled extensively before settling in Coshocton, Ohio where she graduated from high school. Linda continued her education, receiving an Associate's degree in business from COTC and a Bachelors of Business from Otterbein University.

Linda has proven to be a very valuable asset to LCCH as she has worked in several different capacities. Her experience in fiscal operations,

marketing and fundraising, Adult Literacy (ABLE), and direct service has given her the tools that it takes to be an excellent case manager. For the past 2 ½ years, Linda has been working as a Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Case Manager. The SSVF program grant, funded by the Veterans Administration, was awarded to LCCH in 2013. A dedicated advocate for her clients, Linda is hard-working and always puts the interest of her clients first. She is resourceful and good at collaborating with other agencies. She is also always willing to help with other LCCH projects like the annual Point in Time Count and Homeless Awareness activities.

Linda credits the success of LCCH to the consistent leadership and direction from the Executive Director. Linda is thankful to work with a great staff and states that LCCH is a rewarding place to work.

Linda and her husband, Greg, recently moved to a log cabin off of a canal in the Buckeye Lake area. They have three children and a 4-month old Grandson. In their free time, Linda and Greg enjoy being outdoors, walking, and spending time with family. They are looking forward to possibly exploring the Wild West upon retirement.

What is Housing First?

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), one of our key grantors, has made the implementation of the [Housing First](#) model part of its funding award requirements. LCCH has been compliant and has worked hard to adapt its housing programs to this model. In turn, the Veterans Administration (VA) has also begun to incorporate the Housing First philosophy in its housing programs for homeless Veterans.

So what is Housing First? It is an approach designed to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions or barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or requirements to participate in services. Supportive services are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent a return to homelessness.

By contrast, for decades many homeless programs have operated based on a model of “housing readiness,” whereby an individual or a household must work to address the issues that led to

their homelessness prior to obtaining permanent housing.

The Principles of Housing First are:

1. Move people into housing directly from the streets and shelters without preconditions of treatment acceptance or compliance.
2. The housing provider is obligated to bring robust support services to the housing. These services are predicated on assertive engagement, not coercion.
3. Continued tenancy is not dependent on participation in services.
4. Units are targeted to the most disabled and vulnerable homeless members of the community.
5. Embraces a “harm-reduction” approach to addictions rather than mandating abstinence. At the same time, the provider must be prepared to support resident commitment to recovery.
6. Residents must have leases and tenant protections under the law.

7. Housing First can be implemented as either a project-based or scattered site model.

Although there continue to be challenges to implement Housing First, many community partners are supportive. The new reality is that the Housing First model must be adopted by LCCH, or any organization, in order to receive HUD or VA funding. We've adjusted many program practices to meet the Housing First philosophy, while also working hard to meet new program benchmarks — such as a shorter average length of time in a housing program, more stringent employment and income requirements, and higher goals for “program success.” Our initial efforts have been successful, but in the long run, some goals will only be achievable if there are sufficient well-paying jobs and housing in our community that is affordable for our clients.

Help Wanted

If you have a few spare hours each week and would like to contribute your time and talents to helping others, LCCH has a few volunteer opportunities we would love to fill.

Resource Room Monitor: This would be a direct service position, working with the children in our Transitional Housing program. The primary responsibilities would be to provide after-school homework assistance and basic supervision, and to help kids select books and movies in our TH Resource Room. It could also include the development of educational or enrichment activities like story time, craft projects, movie nights or themed parties.

Donation Collection: Our Property Manager moves a lot of furniture every month and if you have a strong back and could ride along on donation pick-ups this is the opportunity for you. Obviously, heavy lifting is required. It would require about 3 hours every Thursday morning.

Contact Kathy Scott (740-345-1970 or kscott@lcchousing.org) if you are interested in either of these chores.

RHO is Achieving Goals

Jim Durant, Returning Home Ohio Case Manager

The Returning Home Ohio (RHO) program is specifically designed to assist those leaving Ohio Correctional Facilities with Mental Health issues and/or who are HIV positive to obtain and maintain housing of their own. RHO is currently operating at near capacity. The program which placed its first tenant in housing in May of 2015 has assisted eleven individuals with Permanent Supportive Housing. These individuals have already overcome many obstacles in their journey to independence.

While all of the individuals who have been accepted into the RHO program face challenges, some address these obstacles head on. For instance, there is one participant who was recently released from Noble Correctional Institution. At the time of his release, he was given \$75.00 and the clothes on his back. After arriving and settling in at his new apartment, I met with him

and together we developed an idea of what he wanted his life to become. We identified his needs and wants. Through this interaction, we were able to develop a plan to achieve these goals.

Almost without hesitation this individual began addressing the issues that he felt would lead to a better life. He has remained free of alcohol and drugs, and is actively working on his mental health recovery. He has obtained and maintained part-time employment and his fellow employees state that he is the model employee. He has assumed payment of the majority of his rent, and is paying his utility bills without assistance. He has also regained his driver's license, and has purchased his own vehicle. This client has worked hard, and has achieved the overwhelming majority of his goals. He is currently working on the next goal... obtaining full time employment.

An Intern's Perspective

Kristen Griley, The Ohio State University, Class of 2016

Kristen Griley

I am studying Social Work at The Ohio State University and was placed at the Licking County Coalition for Housing for my senior year field placement. As my final semester at Ohio State is quickly coming to an end, I wanted to take the time to reflect on what I have learned and share my personal feelings about this agency thus far.

When I started at LCCH in August of 2015, I was a little anxious because I did not know what to expect. However, as a couple weeks went by, I realized that I was very fortunate to be placed at this agency because the staff was very helpful and accepting of me. I started to feel at ease. The Coalition has a staff that is passionate about helping their clients, which is so very important in the field of Social Work. This agency has provided me with both the opportunity to observe and hands-on experience. I have learned about the different

programs that this agency has to offer, and how to interact with clients in a professional manner.

I have done several home visits with my field supervisor, Jim Durant who is the Returning Home Ohio specialist. Home visits help to ensure that clients are taking care of their responsibilities. I have had the opportunity to sit in on several coordinated intakes with Linda Beard and Tim Binckley, who are the Supportive Services for Veteran Families case managers. I have also attended meetings with the Veterans Service Office in Licking County, and learned the importance of collaboration with other community resources (Salvation Army and Ohio Means Jobs, to name a few) in order to better serve clients. As a future Social Worker, I have to become familiar with the community resources because I could potentially be linking clients with services that they will need.

I came to this agency at the right time because the staff was reaching out to

learn more about Mental Health, which is one of my fields of interest in terms of employment after I graduate in May. I was given an opportunity to attend a Mental Health First Aid training with the rest of the LCCH staff. The training, which was presented by Mental Health and Recovery for Licking and Knox Counties helped me to understand more about anxiety and depression, and taught me how to effectively help an individual in crisis or to de-escalate an episode.

I look forward to my future as a Social Worker, and I have enjoyed getting to know the staff at the LCCH. I will have a hard time leaving the agency. Deborah Tegtmeier, Executive Director at LCCH, has a staff that is filled with wonderful individuals, herself included, who show leadership, compassion, hard work, integrity and so much more. They go above and beyond to serve the homeless community, and I am extremely grateful for this experience at an agency that I highly respect.

Former TH Client Loses Home in Fire

Those of you who attended our 2015 Annual Meeting heard an emotional and inspirational message from Brittany, a former Transitional Housing client. In January, only a few weeks after moving into her brand new home, her house and the one next to it, both built through Habitat for Humanity Mid-Ohio, caught fire and were totally destroyed. Brittany and her family were able to escape unharmed, but lost most of their belongings. Fortunately, both homes were insured, and Habitat has pledged to rebuild them. In the meantime, though, Brittany and her family are doing their best to keep their lives moving forward.

If you'd like to make a donation to help the two Habitat families affected by the fire, please go to the website at HabitatMidOhio.org/PhoenixEmergencyFund. For a video with further information, see <https://vimeo.com/153903728>.

SSVF helps Vietnam Vet

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) prevents homelessness by helping qualifying Veterans and their families gain access to the resources they need in order to successfully transition to or maintain permanent housing. Case in point is Richard K.

Richard came to LCCH in August of 2015 via our dedicated partners, the Licking County Veteran Service Commission. Due to some unexpected financial problems, Richard turned to payday lenders for quick cash. Soon Richard was in a downward financial spiral, owing five different payday lenders. As a result of trying to keep up the payments and the huge late charges on his five payday loans, Richard could not pay rent and lost his housing. He was sleeping in his car.

Richard is a 64 year old Vietnam veteran that is receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a federal monthly benefit for disabled adults (and children) who have limited incomes.

He also receives a very small VA pension. Once Richard was enrolled into the SSVF program, he was housed and put on a payment plan. The SSVF program paid the majority of rent each month while Richard followed the loan re-payment plan. With the assistance from the SSVF program, Richard was able to pay off one payday lender each month, from September of 2015 to January of 2016.

As of February 1, 2016 Richard has repaid all five payday lenders and is now free and clear of that financial burden. By following the plan that his SSVF case manager helped him develop, Richard was able to successfully obtain permanent housing, eliminate his debt and will be able to maintain housing on his own, without further assistance from the SSVF program.

The Payday Lending Trap

A fairly common practice for many low-income families is the use of payday lenders. For some, payday loans seem like the only option when an emergency repair is required, or an unplanned expense occurs. But all too often the loan from a payday lender flips borrowers into a debt trap that can go on for weeks, months or years. The following information from The Center for Responsible Lending may help consumers identify and avoid predatory payday loans.

- **Triple digit interest rates:** Payday lenders often express the cost of their loans as fees. For example, a payday loan may cost \$15 per \$100 loan for a two-week period. This equates to an annual interest rate of 390%. Requiring repayment of the full loan in a short period of time, plus the fee, usually forces the borrower to take out back to back loans.
- **Short term due date:** Payday loans are due in full on the borrower's next payday, often two weeks, sometimes one week or a month. This catches most borrowers in a cycle of repeat loans that put them in a worse financial position than when they first borrowed.

- **Bank account funds at risk:** Payday lenders secure their loans by holding the borrower's signed personal check for the amount of the loan plus the fee, or by accessing the borrower's bank account electronically. If the borrower does not pay off the loan when it is due, the lender can deposit the borrower's check, causing bounced check fees, which can lead to closed bank accounts.

Alternatives to payday loans include:

- **Payment plans with creditors:** Many creditors, including some landlords, will negotiate partial payments if a payment plan is in place. Working out a payment plan can allow the consumer to adjust budgets and pay off debts over a longer period of time.
- **Consumer Credit Counseling:** There are various consumer credit counseling agencies throughout the country that can help consumers work out a debt repayment plan with creditors or develop a budget. These services are available at little or no cost.
- **Emergency Assistance Programs:** Agencies like LCCH, as well as

faith-based groups and community organizations provide emergency assistance. It can be more effective to request assistance at the onset of financial difficulties, than after months of cyclical debt.

- **Advances from Employers:** Some employers may grant paycheck advances to employees. Because this is a true advance and not a loan, there is no interest and the advance is therefore cheaper than a payday loan.
- **Responsible Small Loans:** Loans should include at least a 90-day repayment term- repayable in installments, with reasonable limits on renewals and full consideration of the borrower's ability to repay the loan. They should not include a personal check mechanism or other unfair collateral such as a car title.

Other alternatives include borrowing from family and/or friends (and paying it back!) or a tighter household budget. For more information, refer to the Center for Responsible Lending at www.responsiblelending.org, or the National Foundation for Credit Counseling at www.nfcc.org.

Veteran Stand Down Held Dec 7th

The LCCH Supportive Services for Veteran Families program, in partnership with the Licking County Veteran Services Office (LCVSO) held a Veteran Stand Down on Monday, December 7th which coincided with Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Held at the Civic Engagement Center in Newark, the Stand Down was open to anyone living in Licking County who served in the military. Lunch was provided by the Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree, Assembly #830 and the Grill at the Works.

There were 21 veterans who attended the Stand Down and the services offered were well received by all. Veterans and their families had the chance to meet with an employment representative, apply for VA health care, get flu shots on site, and get housing, legal, and other benefits information all in one location.

VA Justice Outreach, Southeast Ohio Legal Services, VA Health Enrollment Outreach, and DVOP Licking County were all a part of the collaborative effort which made this event a success.

Through the generosity of the Licking County community, winter outerwear was given to men, women, and children who needed it.

Troy Mallow, a U.S. Army veteran of Desert Storm and Desert Shield, was there applying for medical assistance. He said he hopes other veterans reach out for help if they need it. "Be proud to be a veteran, but be proud there's help here," Mallow said. "If you need it, you need it. If you ever need help, they're right there."

For information about future events, follow our Facebook page or call 740-345-1970 and ask for Linda or Tim.



Troy Mallow, US Army Desert Storm/Shield Veteran applies for healthcare during Stand Down



Lunch provided by Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Assembly #840

What LCCH Has to Offer

Most people know that LCCH offers a variety of programs to serve those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. But what are those programs, and who, exactly, are we able to assist? Those questions are a little trickier. Funded by several public and private sources, as well as donations, all of LCCH's programs have different eligibility requirements, income limits, goals and outcomes. Below is a summary of the programs we offer. (This is general information and not an offer or guarantee of assistance.) Contact LCCH to find out if one of these programs can help you or someone you know.

Phone: [740-345-1970 ext. 200](tel:740-345-1970),
 Website: www.lcchousing.org,
 Office: 23 South Park Place, Newark,
 open M-F, 8:30-12:30 and 1:30-4:30.

Transitional Housing (TH)

Description: TH provides fully furnished apartments to homeless families and individuals. The average stay in the program is approximately eight months and the maximum time allowed is twenty-four months. Using intense case management; coordinators link residents to supportive services in the community and provide the guidance needed to achieve permanent stable housing. The program usually has a 1-4 month waiting list.

Eligibility: Clients must meet the HUD definition of homeless (see end of article). Household income must be at or below 35% of area median gross income to enroll, and clients must be able to obtain and maintain employment. Other factors that could prevent acceptance into the program, including a violent offense within the last 24 months, multiple evictions, inability to live independently, dishonesty, failure to maintain weekly status reporting and/or prior dismissal from LCCH programs.

Results: This past year, LCCH provided transitional housing for 108 adults and 71 children, in 44 TH units. 78 of the 91 households who left the program entered permanent, stable housing-an impressive success rate of 86%

Project Homeline (PH)

Description: PH is a homeless prevention program to help families and individuals maintain their current housing, find affordable housing or prevent utility disconnection through case management services, referrals, and/or financial assistance. Clients meet one-on-one with a homeless prevention specialist to determine what is available to assist the household in achieving housing stability.

Eligibility: Eligibility guidelines change with the source of funding. Call to request a Project Homeline or Housing Options appointment, and bring proof of income for the last 30 days, social security numbers for all members of the household, current utility bills, and a lease (if applicable).

Rapid Re-housing (RR): RR assists homeless families and single individuals with case management and financial services to move from homelessness back into housing in the shortest time possible. A PH appointment is the first step in determining Rapid Re-housing eligibility. Clients must meet the HUD definition of homeless (see end of article) and make 50% or less of the area median gross income. Time of assistance is limited and households must develop a plan to show their future ability to maintain stable housing.

Results: PH staff met with over 872 households last year and handled 1,964 phone inquiries. PH provided housing options or made community referrals for 660 clients and provided financial assistance to 212 households, in the amount of \$45,250.89. An additional 20 families were rapidly re-housed.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

Description: SSVF is a program designed to promote housing stability for low-income veterans and their families. With both homeless prevention and rapid rehousing components, SSVF case managers coordinate available resources and work to help both individuals and veteran families find and maintain suitable housing. The funding for this program is made

possible through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Eligibility: SSVF clients must reside in Licking or Knox counties, must have served in the armed forces (individual, head-of-household, or spouse), and must make 50% or less of the area median gross income. Clients must be homeless, or at imminent risk of homelessness with no available options or resources. If you believe you may be eligible, call for an appointment. Be prepared to bring a photo ID, a social security card, an original DD-214, proof of income and proof of residency (eviction notice or shelter referral is acceptable).

Results: Last program year, 231 military households contacted SSVF. Of that number, 53 were literally homeless and were provided with housing, 42 were assisted financially in order to avoid homelessness and 136 were linked to other resources in the community.

Returning Home Ohio (RHO)

Description: The RHO program is designed to provide housing and assistance to those who are being released or have recently been released from State of Ohio prisons. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections is funding this program in an attempt to reduce the number of former inmates returning to prison.

Eligibility: Clients must be within 60 days prior to or 120 days after release from an Ohio prison. They must be diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness and/or be HIV positive. Only single, unaccompanied adults are eligible (no couples, no children). Residence in Licking County prior to incarceration is not required, but they must be willing to relocate. A picture ID and social security card is required. Please call for an appointment ([740-345-1970 ext. 226](tel:740-345-1970)).

Results: In less than one year, RHO is running at 100% capacity. 100% of participants have access to mental health services, 63% are paying some portion of their rent, and 38% are employed.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Description: VITA is an IRS-sponsored program which uses certified community volunteers to prepare and e-file federal, state and school district returns for income-eligible clients.

Eligibility: VITA prepares personal income tax returns only (no businesses, farms or rental income). Most taxpayers whose Adjusted Gross Income is \$54,000 per year (including Married Filing Joint returns) or less are eligible. VITA operates primarily from late January through mid-April. Some services (prior year returns, amendments) are available all year. Call 740-345-1970 ext. 224 for more information.

Results: In the filing year 2015, 23 community volunteers gave 724 hours to the VITA program, prepared 918 returns for local taxpayers, and helped them collect \$1,093,974 in federal and state refunds. The average Adjusted Gross Income of LCCH VITA clients was \$17,272.

Disability Housing

Description: In partnership with Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities, LCCH owns and provides property management for 12 single-family homes in Newark and Heath, which offer independent living for adults with developmental disabilities.

Eligibility: The homes are occupied exclusively by LCBDD consumers. All eligibility requirements and occupancy determinations are made by that agency.

Results: Nearly 40 developmentally disabled individuals were able to live independently in homes for which LCCH provided property management.

HUD Definition of Homeless includes: living on the streets, in a shelter, car or other place not meant for human habitation; within 14 days of a court ordered eviction; living in a motel paid for by an agency or church; in jail or residential treatment in which you have resided for less than 90 days and were homeless before entering. (Staying with friends and family does not qualify under this definition.)

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Area Median Gross Income Table — Licking County, Ohio

Family Size	30%	35%	50%	80%
1	\$1,245.83	\$1,449.58	\$2,070.83	\$3,316.67
2	\$1,420.83	\$1,656.67	\$2,366.67	\$3,787.50
3	\$1,674.17	\$1,863.75	\$2,662.50	\$4,262.50
4	\$2,020.83	\$2,070.83	\$2,958.33	\$4,733.33
5	\$2,367.50	\$2,236.50	\$3,195.83	\$5,112.5
6	\$2,714.17	\$2,402.16	\$3,433.33	\$5,491.67
7	\$3,060.83	\$2,567.83	\$3,670.83	\$5,870.83
8	\$3,407.50	\$2,733.50	\$3,908.33	\$6,250.00

This table indicates gross (before deductions) monthly income.

Park Place Bistro Helps to Pay it Forward

It is always heartwarming to see how generous the community is to our clients at Christmas. The families in our Transitional Housing program, especially, have gifts under the tree thanks in large part to the kindness of others. That fact was not lost on Tiffany, a single mother who is in the process of moving out after a stay of about 19 months in our TH program.

Tiffany entered our program in July of 2014 after spending 4 months at the New Beginnings shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence. She began to put the pieces of her life back together, re-gaining custody of her two children and finding full time employment. She remembers coming home that first Christmas in TH (with a sick child, of course!) to a tree-full of presents that proved to her children that “there is a

Santa Claus.” Most of the presents her kids opened that first Christmas in TH were provided by a donor who “adopted” the family and shopped for items from their wish list.

Christmas 2015 was an entirely different story. By that time, Tiffany had been employed as a waitress and bartender at the Park Place Bistro in downtown Newark for about 8 months. She was able to buy Christmas presents for her kids and was making plans to leave the program for permanent housing. Knowing that there was still a great need, and remembering the kindness that had been shown to her, Tiffany approached the owner of the Bistro, Danielle Good, and asked if the staff could “adopt” a family. Her co-workers pitched in, (about 75% of the staff contributed!) and they purchased nice winter coats, boots and

lots of fun gifts for a single dad and his two boys. They even wrapped the presents and provided the Christmas tree. The Dad was very appreciative and hopes to uphold Tiffany’s tradition of “paying it forward.”

Tiffany will have left Transitional Housing by the time you are reading this newsletter. We wish her well in her new 2-bedroom rental home!



Tiffany, Danielle and Stephen of Park Place Bistro with the gifts provided by all the staff for their “adopted” family.

One Strong Lady

Tiffany Davis, Transitional Housing Supervisor

In February of 2015 Nicole entered our Transitional Housing (TH) program directly from New Beginnings domestic violence shelter. At the time of her entry into TH, she was working on a reunification plan with Children Services and also working a full-time job. The reunification plan started a brand new chapter in the lives of Nicole and her three children. She successfully enrolled all of the kids in school and began building positive relationships within her family. Although her history included extensive drug use, Nicole remained focused on her recovery by attending meetings and counseling. She decided that her next goal was to go back to school, and started attending classes for her State Tested Nurse’s Aide (STNA) during the day when her kids were at school. It looked like everything was finally falling into place.

On April 27, 2015 Nicole regained full custody of her kids and in October 2015 her Children Services case was closed. In July of 2015 she received her National Association Training Program certification as an STNA. In August of 2015 she completed her NHA certification as a phlebotomy technician, and in September of 2015 she

received her EKG NHA certification. At this time she actively is looking for employment based on her completed certifications. Another milestone for Nicole was November 4, 2015, when her divorce officially ended a very long, abusive relationship.

In November of 2015, just nine months after entering the program, Nicole and her three kiddos moved out of Transitional Housing and into permanent housing. Nicole was able to move into an affordable two-bedroom apartment and finally has a place that she and the kids can call home! At first, the move out of TH was a scary prospect for Nicole, but she and the kids have adjusted well and all four are doing great.

Nicole has fought so many battles throughout her life, but she is finally coming out on top. She is still attending her meetings and has been clean for 559 days. It has been an honor and an inspiration to work with her, to watch her grow as a person and to watch her rebuild her relationship with her children. Nicole is one strong lady, who has opened my eyes to some things as well. I know she has many more good things coming her way.

Get the Facts

It is a myth that only middle aged men experience homelessness. Last year, LCCH served women through all of our programs. Below is the percentage of clients we served, by program, that were either single females, or families with a female head of household.

Rapid Rehousing (HCRP): 36.6%

Homeless Prevention (HCRP): 58.8%

Rapid Rehousing (Salvation Army-Cols): 66%

Supportive Services for Veteran Families: 4.1%

Returning Home Ohio (Re-entry): 25%

Transitional Housing: 66%

Additionally, 40% of the women we served through Transitional Housing reported being a victim of domestic violence within the last 12 months. 75% of those women had children in the household.

Our Shelves are Empty!

Have you ever considered what you would need if you had to furnish your home from scratch? What does it take to start all over again? Our Transitional Housing units include basic furniture pieces (sofa, chairs, end tables, lamps, TV, beds, dressers, night stands, dining table and chairs) which are usually provided through donations or auction purchases. We also provide the household items necessary to cook, eat, sleep, clean and keep house. Unfortunately, changes in our federal funding requirements mean that we can no longer purchase all of the items we used to. The changes also mean that folks can't take as much with them when they leave our units for permanent housing.

If you have gently-used furniture or household items, please consider

donating them to LCCH. We have weekly pick-up for large items, or you can drop off smaller items at our office. (All items must be in usable conditions, without major rips or stains.) If you are affiliated with a church, youth group or service organization, you could coordinate a supply drive for new linens, toiletries or cleaning supplies. Your office could hold a "housewarming" party with each guest donating items from our stock list. Kids could bring paper towels, toilet paper or cash donations to Vacation Bible School or add another level of competition to school sporting events. For more ideas or information, please contact Kathy Scott (740-345-1970 ext. 229 or kscott@lcchousing.org) or refer to our website (www.lcchousing.org).

Items Needed

In addition to furniture, we stock our Transitional Housing units with the following items:

- Sheets
- Blanket(s)
- Pillow(s)
- Shower curtain and rings
- Towels and washcloths
- Silverware and tray
- Plates, bowls, mugs
- Glasses
- Pots and Pans
- Cookie Sheet
- Cooking Utensils
- Dish towels and Dish cloths
- Strainer
- Can Opener
- Measuring Cup
- Trash Can and Bags
- Broom and Dustpan
- Bucket and Mop
- Toilet Brush
- Plunger
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- All-purpose cleaner
- Dish soap
- Laundry soap
- Toilet bowl cleaner

The cost to provide these items new is approximately \$105 for a single adult and \$205 for a family of four.

Christmas Spirit is Alive and Well

Christmas last year for our Transitional Housing clients was amazing! We had so much help from individuals, organizations and churches to make this a Christmas that our clients will never forget. **LCCH staff would like to thank all of the following for their generous Christmas Spirit:** Barbie Siner & family, Newark-Granville Altrusa Club, Bunko Babes, Joan Mock & family, Dave Humphrey & family, Donna Stevens, The Scott Family, Community Wesleyan Church, Kari, Leon & family, Bob & Margret Kieber, Lori Baker, Granville

Kiwanis, Park Place Bistro, The Hegele Family, Jan and Dwight Akins, Audra Croft-Kenner & family and the Eagle Riders.

The single adults in the SSVF program received care packages as well, and for the second straight year, Sam Nesbitt and fellow students at Newark High School provided Christmas gifts for all of the families in SSVF.

Your support, during the holidays and always, is very much appreciated!



Sam Nesbitt of Newark High School delivered gifts for Veteran families.



The LCCH Transitional Housing Coordinators' offices looked like Santa's workshop.



The Newark Eagle Riders delivered Christmas on their cycles to a former Transitional Housing client, now in her new home.



All of the children in our Transitional Housing program had a Merry Christmas, thanks to the generosity of so many.

State Farm Supports Free Tax Preparation

LCCH would like to thank State Farm for sponsoring the LCCH Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program again this year. They have been steadfast in their support of free tax preparation and financial literacy for the residents of Licking County. We are grateful for their generosity.

State Farm has put our VITA program on their national corporate website. Visit st8.fm/taxassist and <https://goo.gl/Lnx6IT> to see for yourself!



Zola and Rilous Byrd work with VITA Volunteer Doug Price to quickly and accurately file their federal, state, and school district taxes.

FREE Tax Preparation Schedule

You have until Thursday April 14th to file your 2015 income taxes for FREE through VITA. Call now for an appointment or information.

Wednesdays 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Ohio Means Jobs,
998 East Main Street
Appointments only

Thursdays 4:30 – 7:30 PM

LCCH Office, 23 South Park Place
Appointments Only

Saturdays 9:00 AM – noon

LCCH Office, 23 South Park Place
Appointments and Walk-in

For Info: 740-345-1970 ext. 224
For Appts: 740-345-1970 ext. 200

Return Service Requested

P.O. Box 613
23 South Park Place, Suite 200
Newark, Ohio 43058-0613

Licking County Coalition for Housing



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