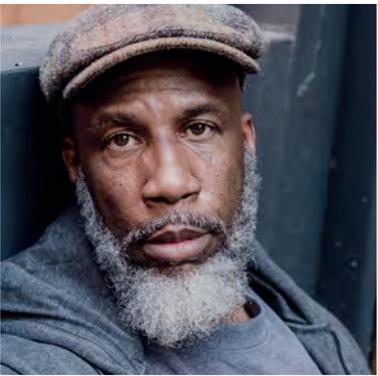




shelterhouse

# 2023 Annual Report



SERVICE. COMPASSION. RESULTS

# Board of Directors

## Officers

Chair	<b>Carlos Teran</b> US Bank Vice President (retired)
Vice Chair	<b>Annie Bennett</b> University of Kentucky (retired)
Treasurer	<b>Vagelis Kontopos</b> Scripps Howard
Secretary	<b>Patty Wolff</b> 84.51 (retired)



## Board

<b>Kent Cashell</b> RBC Capital Markets
<b>Caroline Freiermuth</b> University of Cincinnati, Dept. of Emergency Medicine
<b>Adam Gelter</b> 3CDC
<b>Charles Meyer</b> Dinsmore & Shohl
<b>Steven Petrovic</b> University of Cincinnati, Dept. of Emergency Medicine
<b>Katharine Pinto</b> Resurrection School
<b>Sean Rhorer</b> Easterseals
<b>Patrick Sledz</b> UBS Financial

## Executive Staff

<b>Arlene Nolan</b> Executive Director
<b>Jim Armbruster</b> Shelter Director (Barron Center)
<b>Elizabeth Elliot</b> Senior Program Director
<b>Shawna Hrzic</b> Shelter Director (Hatton Center)
<b>Wei Song</b> Accounting Manager
<b>John Wagers</b> Facilities Manager
<b>Danielle Wilder</b> Chief Administrative Officer
<b>Sheretha Wooten</b> Recovery Director

As we commemorate another year of our ongoing service journey, we must reflect on the impact we have collectively made and the path ahead.

The commitment to serving the homeless community stands as the heartbeat of Shelterhouse, and I am inspired by the tireless dedication exhibited by its residents, donors, board of trustees, staff, and volunteers. In the face of formidable challenges, the organization's mission has illuminated the way for those experiencing homelessness. We have offered shelter, meals, support services, and essential resources, fostering a sense of dignity and belonging. These small acts of compassion reverberate, creating a profound hope for someone who may have felt forgotten by this world.

Looking ahead, let us renew our pledge to advocate for change and confront the systemic issues contributing to homelessness. It's not merely about addressing the symptoms; it's about addressing the root causes with empathy and persistence. By utilizing our collective voice, we can work towards creating a society where no one is without a place to call home.

I am deeply grateful to you for being the driving force behind Shelterhouse's mission. Together, we can contribute to constructing a more empathetic and inclusive world.

Here's to another year of service, compassion, and results.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arlene'.

Arlene Nolan  
Executive Director

# Mission & History

**Mission: Shelterhouse is a community of residents, staff, and volunteers working together to provide basic human services for men and women experiencing homelessness, with a primary commitment to shelter.**



Shelterhouse, originally named the Drop Inn Center, was founded by buddy gray and a group of dedicated volunteers. In the early 70s, gray invited homeless people into his house to prevent them from dying on the streets. In 1973, buddy opened an evening-only shelter for the homeless located in a series of storefronts in Over-the-Rhine (OTR). Volunteers were eventually able to open the shelter 24 hours a day, seven days a week and on January 13, 1978, the Drop Inn Center moved to the former Teamster Hall in OTR where it remained for 37 years.

Through the 90s, the Drop Inn Center continued to add space and programs to address the growing need for services for individuals experiencing homelessness. In 2015 the Drop Inn Center officially became Shelterhouse, operating two new facilities: The Esther Marie Hatton Center for Women and The David & Rebecca Barron Center for Men. These new state-of-the-art shelters help individuals exit homelessness to homes.

*Much like the poet e.e. cummings, buddy chose to sign his name always in lowercase – even today, the Shelterhouse keeps his “uncapitalized” tradition alive.*

Gray said that Benson told Hempel that he would check and get back with



## City OKs \$25,000 Grant To Drop-In Center

BY ALLEN HOWARD  
Enquirer Reporter

After months of pleading, the Alcoholic Drop-In Center received \$25,000 from City Council Thursday.

Council passed, by 5-4, a measure to give the center \$10,000 immediately, another \$10,000 March 31 and the final \$5,000 June 30. Payments will be made through the Southwestern Ohio Regional Council on Alcoholism, the center's funding agent.

COUNCILMAN WALTER Beckjord, who earlier proposed a \$25,000 grant for the center, voted against the grant. Council defeated, 8-1, Beckjord's amendment to prevent the center from moving to the old Teamsters' building until the city could find another location.

Appropriation of the onetime \$25,000 grant is interpreted widely as a signal of community support for the center. That support is expected to gain the center an additional \$80,000 grant from Community Development block funds.

The motion council approved does not spell out how the center is to spend the \$25,000, but spokesmen for the center have said it will go for rent. The anticipated \$80,000 is expected to be used to refurbish the old Teamsters hall at 217 W. 12th St.

MANY COUNCIL members explained their votes Thursday. Guy Guckenberger said he had been urged to vote against center funding to help keep the center out of the Teamsters building in the Washington Park area. He said problems already exist in the

area and if neighborhood residents want the center, their wishes should take precedence over those of patrons visiting nearby Music Hall.

Cultural patrons are just visitors and "they'll just have to learn to coexist," he said. James Cissell, noting he reportedly held the swing vote, said he favored funding because the center is valuable in fighting alcoholism. He said the county and state had not lived up to their responsibilities and the city is within its rights to help the center continue.

COUNCILMAN THOMAS Brush said his vote for funding was an endorsement of the center's work. He said the grant was a one-time catalyst to help the center gain funds from other agencies.

Services provided by the center at 1324 Main St., Over-the-Rhine, by state law should be provided by Medicaid, Councilman James T. Luken charged, explaining his "no" vote.

Councilwoman Bobbie Sterne, noting she seldom explained votes, said other agencies give equivalent services and are properly funded. The center's request had been rejected at least three times by council, yet the group continued to harass council members in asking for more than they needed, she said. J. Kenneth Blackwell also sided with those favoring funding and David Mann opposed the measure.

An amendment offered by Beckjord requiring the center to meet city building codes to receive the second and third payments was approved.

## Alcoholics Cheer Life For Center

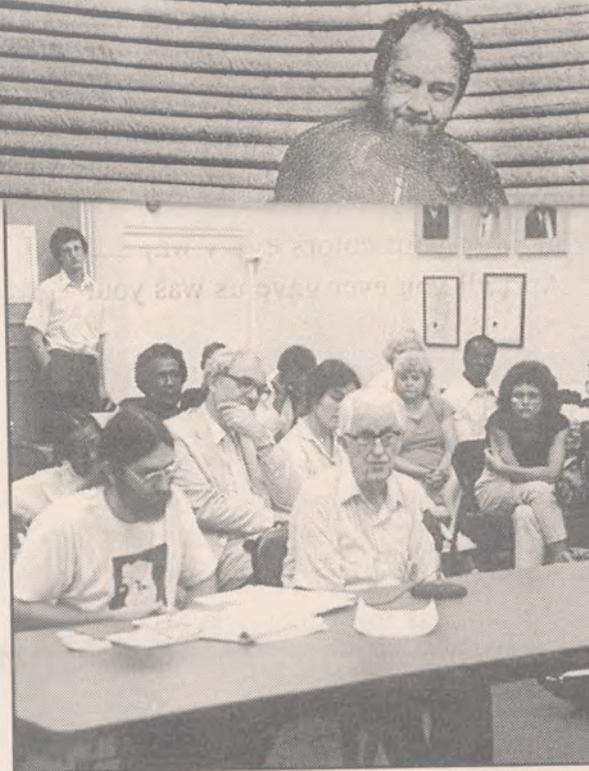
BY KAREN GARLOCH  
Enquirer Reporter

The sick, homeless alcoholics who

## The Day of buddy gray

by Frank Renfrow, c 1996

Buddy was our hometown hero  
He was checkin' on the streets while the  
Sotemperature was zero  
He was always workin', he was never  
paid  
Buddy was our hometown hero  
Now it's the day of Buddy Gray  
Some think it's just a place to have a  
good time



buddy attending a hearing against demolition in OTR with Rev. Maurice McCracker

## Drop Inn Center Celebration

Thirty Years Living At Our Community Home at 12th & Elm



The Drop Inn Center counts your donations of time, goods and money. Here are some current needs:

- Wednesday Evening Shelter Volunteers, 6pm to 11pm
- Saturday Morning ReSTOC V Crew, 9am to 1pm
- Special Fundraising Drives
- Monthly Sustainer Pledges
- Men's Underwear and Socks
- Food in Bulk Quantities

Thank you. If you need any additional information call the Drop Inn Center at 721-0643.

### Our Mountain of Service Drop Inn Center

Shelter	100 to 200 men per night 25 to 50 women per night
Meals	100 to 150 lunch 150 to 250 supper
Detox	3 to 8 persons (14 days)
Live-In	10 to 15 persons (6 month recovery pro)
Graduate Housing	10 persons (6 months and longer)
Over 106,000 nights of service per year	

two two-person rooms, a sitting lounge, kitchenette and bathroom. These rooms will house long-term women residents.

We appreciate the work that our architect, Bruce Goetzmann and his co-architect, John Schueler, have put into the project.

Also planned for the women's section is the installation of an elevator for handicapped access. The elevator will connect the basement/kitchen to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors. Although funding for this project was buried in a city hall for more than a year, construction should begin soon.



# The Esther Marie Hatton Center for Women

2499 Reading Road, Mt. Auburn



**628**  
women served

**99,665**  
meals served

**94,917**  
shelter nights provided

The Esther Marie Hatton Center for Women and The David & Rebecca Barron Center for Men ensure homeless women and men in the Greater Cincinnati Tri-State region have access to basic human needs such as shelter, food, emergency clothing items, toiletries and support services. The Hatton Center is a 60-bed shelter and The Barron Center a 150-bed shelter, both accessible 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Upon entry, all individuals are linked with a case manager to assist them through the process of connecting with community services to achieve stability and exit into housing that best suits his or her needs. Case Management is a vital and necessary component to ensure the success of all who seek assistance with the Shelterhouse.

**2,656**  
individuals received case management

# The David & Rebecca Barron Center for Men

411 Gest Street, Queensgate



**1,728**  
men served

**87%**

of residents exited from one of our step up dorms into positive housing

**92%**

maintained or increased their income

The Emergency Winter Shelter is located in the lower level of The Barron Center. The Winter Shelter is an overnight facility, providing refuge during the winter months for individuals experiencing homelessness.

**1,108**  
individuals served in the Winter Shelter



# Rapid Re-Housing



Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) is a strategy to help people experiencing homelessness move into a permanent home as soon as possible. RRH provides a tailored package of assistance and services to help people obtain and maintain housing and increase self-sufficiency.

**Rapid Rehousing is a primary solution for ending the cycle of homelessness.**

Shelthouse moves more people experiencing homelessness into housing than any other agency in the region.

**98%**

of clients remained in permanent housing at the conclusion of their rental subsidy

**86%**

maintained or increased their income



The Barron and Hatton Centers house NeighborHub Health (NHH) and Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health at its Deaconess Health Check

Clinic. NeighborHub, a healthcare system for people experiencing homelessness, offers physical assessments and Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health offers mental health services and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder.

NeighborHub Health and Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health sees patients regardless of their ability to pay.

**2,641**

medical services were provided to

**1,034**

individuals



## Drug and Alcohol Recovery Program

Shelterhouse provides support to homeless, or formerly homeless, individuals with Substance Abuse Disorder by providing outpatient treatment services and/or making appropriate referrals to outside services. Treatment services include assessment, case management, individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, and referrals.

The Recovery Program is an Ohio Mental Health and Substance Abuse (OHMHAS) certified treatment program.

**1,159**

assessments provided in the recovery center

# Success Stories

# Shelterhouse in action



## Meet Victoria.

**Victoria spent 2 years homeless and 10 months in shelter, but her story has a happy ending.**

Upon entering Shelterhouse, Victoria faced housing and job instability, but her determination was clear. She secured employment, and diligently saved money. Eventually, she received a housing voucher from Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Association.

Following the initial inspection of her housing unit, a necessary repair surfaced for it to meet required standards. Although the replacement part arrived, the elapsed time meant a new request to the Housing Association. Weeks passed before the unit could undergo re-inspection, but ultimately received a passing grade.

For an entire ten months, Victoria persevered through her stay at the shelter. Despite moments of doubt and the temptation to throw in the towel, she held on to a positive outlook until the very last day. Victoria managed to cover her own move-in expenses and utilized her time in the shelter to gather essential items for her new apartment.

Her move in day was filled with joy and excitement, marking the end of her homelessness journey.



## Meet Thomas.

**Thomas spent over 8 years homeless and in one month Shelterhouse found him a home.**

Thomas experienced homelessness off and on for decades in California, Washington, and Ohio. Thomas' current episode of homelessness began in 2015 when he lost his apartment.

Thomas used the services of the Emergency Winter Shelter every year, but never sought the full services of Shelterhouse. Eventually, Thomas told us he was "ready for a permanent home". With those words, Shelterhouse staff sprang into action. Less than one month after Thomas entered Shelterhouse, he was moving into a permanent home with Over-the-Rhine Community Housing, marking the end of his homelessness journey.

# Volunteer

# Are you ready to lend a helping hand?

Volunteers are the life line of any nonprofit organization, and Shelterhouse is no different. The unwavering dedication and commitment of Bill Smith from Trade 31 has significantly impacted Shelterhouse, shaping it into what it is today.

His pivotal role as Project Manager for the Shelterhouse, formerly the Drop Inn Center, and relocation project marked the beginning of his involvement. Bill not only facilitated the relocation but also played a key role in the development of both the men's and women's shelters.

When the men's shelter transitioned to The David & Rebecca Barron Center for Men within the former Butternut Bakery building, Bill found a sense of familiarity – his father had been the diesel mechanic for Butternut. What initially started as a project transformed into a long-term commitment driven by a genuine belief in the organization's mission.

Currently, Bill serves as the Chair of the Facility Committee, taking charge of overseeing various aspects such as general facility needs, repairs, upgrades, and so much more. Anything related to the building involves Bill's active participation and oversight.

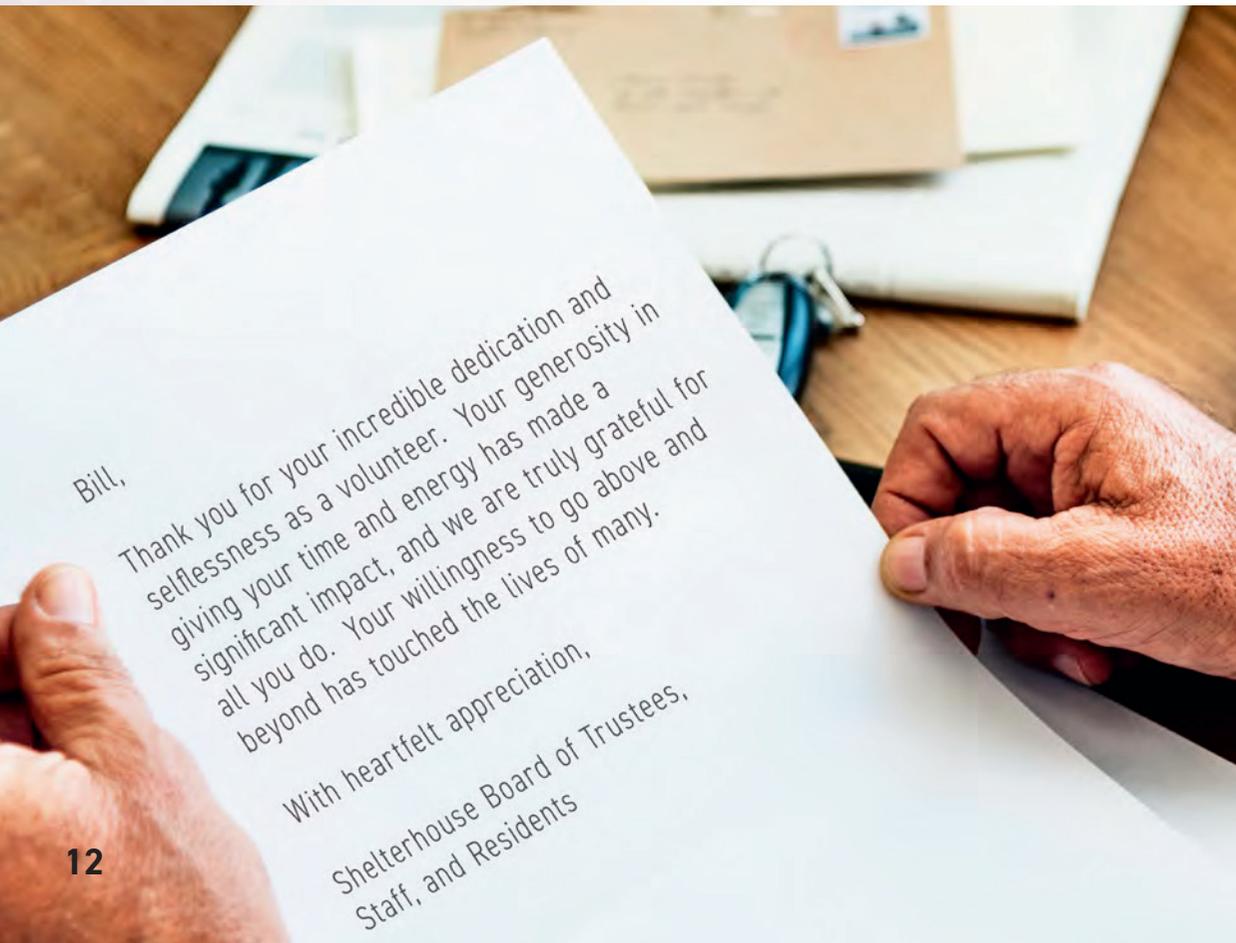
Bill's compassion stems from a deep understanding that anyone can face challenging times, and he is determined to make a positive impact. For him, the essence lies not in personal gain but in the ability to enhance the lives of others. As he puts it, "It is not about what you get, it is about how you make someone else's life better."

Many volunteers participate in the Feed the Need Program. Through Feed the Need, volunteers provide breakfast, lunch, or dinner to Shelterhouse residents, which provides a significant impact to the shelter by reducing food costs.

**Give a gift of your time and talent by volunteering.**

**Contact Brianna Carman at [bcarman@shelterhousecincy.org](mailto:bcarman@shelterhousecincy.org)**

**or 513.835.2352 for volunteer opportunities.**



# Partnership Spotlight



## Shelterhouse celebrates 20 years with The Partnership Center, Ltd.

The Partnership Center, Ltd. (PCL) was established in 1997 to create new ways for organizations to improve their performance and effectiveness in order to address homelessness and poverty issues by creating new service models and collaborative efforts. Using data-driven solutions, PCL's work is focused on helping improve the performance of programs and projects across the country.

Over the last 20 years, Partnership Center has not only provided the data collection platform VESTA, the homeless database platform, but has worked with Shelterhouse to expand the software to fit our unique needs. VESTA is used as a tool to track and evaluate client services, case management, referrals, financial support, and other information that helps agencies and community leaders evaluate the usefulness of services they provide.

# Ways to Help

1. Make a tax-deductible contribution by visiting **shelterhousecincy.org**,
  - ❖ scanning the QR Code - or -
  - ❖ mailing payment in the enclosed envelope
2. Talk to your Financial Advisor about including Shelterhouse in your long-term plans.
3. Register with Kroger Rewards.

For more information about making a financial contribution or if you have any questions, please contact Grants Manager, Katie Brass at **kbrass@shelterhousecincy.org** or **513.345.2055**.



**Thank you for choosing to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.**





**shelterhouse**

Service • Compassion • Results

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**The David & Rebecca Barron  
Center for Men**  
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Cincinnati, OH 45203  
513-721-0643

**The Esther Marie Hatton  
Center for Women**  
2499 Reading Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
513-562-1980