



## Welcome Back!

Long-time subscribers to our newsletter may have noticed it has been awhile since one has been published. There are a number of reasons for this. Staff transitions have certainly played a part, but, as we well know, life in general has taken quite a turn over the past year. On October 31, 2019, a severe snowstorm caused us to open our Emergency Shelters a day earlier than planned. By the time we would normally close the shelters in April, Covid had transformed everything. We made the commitment to keeping the shelters open year-round.

Keeping up with the new challenges of year-round sheltering and Covid response demands have kept us plenty busy, and the community's generous response to our increased needs has helped us meet the need to bring more staff on board. We're always thankful for the support we receive from so many individuals, businesses, organizations. We could not do what we do without YOU!

## Hope Givers

The **Hope Givers Campaign** was originally created to provide an opportunity to fund one night of emergency sheltering for our friends on the street. The additional expense of keeping shelters open year round has made the need even greater! As of this week, we are nearing 20% of our goal of **600 Hope Givers** who will commit to an ongoing

monthly donation of \$40 or more to help us sustain year-round emergency shelter operations. Hope is not a word we hear often around here. So many of our friends without an address come to our doors feeling hopeless. Many no longer have the ability to even hold hope in their hearts. Would you consider temporarily holding our friends' hope in your hands until they are ready to let that hope rise once again in their own hearts? Simply go to our our [website](#) and click on the donation button to become our newest Hope Giver!

## Inside . . .

- 2 . . . One Winter Night 2021
- 3 . . . Spotlight on Staff
- 4 . . . Focus on Ministry
- 5 . . . Business Partnerships
- 6 . . . A Word From Rob
- Plus! An Address for All Giving Tuesday Chicken Dinner*



This week we celebrated the kick-off of our tenth annual **One Winter Night** event, which will take place on **Friday, Feb. 5, 2021**, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., in downtown Champaign. We are excited to partner with **The Venue CU** at 51 East Main Street as our new **OWN 2021** event headquarters! This year's fundraising goal is **\$450,000**; a large percentage of our annual budget.

In keeping with long-standing tradition, Executive Director **Rob Dalhaus III** started the **OWN 2021** Church Tour at **Cornerstone Fellowship** in Urbana. Pastor **Seth Kirlin** is always so gracious to welcome us on this kick-off Sunday, and Rob had a chance to share about the challenges and triumphs experienced by our ministry in these unique times. He also had the chance to connect with musician **Jean Rene Balekita**, who has performed for us at past events and will be back for **OWN 2021!**



If you'd like your church to be included in the **OWN 2021 Church Tour**, send your request to [rob@cuathome.us](mailto:rob@cuathome.us) to arrange a time!

Having **The Venue CU** as our new OWN 2021 HQ is a blessing beyond what we could hope or imagine! Rob notes, "Getting to partner with passionate, genuine individuals like the Venue team and being able to honor God in this space with this event is truly a divine blessing." The Venue CU will serve as the staging area for participants and volunteers to check-in. Speakers and musicians will also be on stage at there throughout the night.



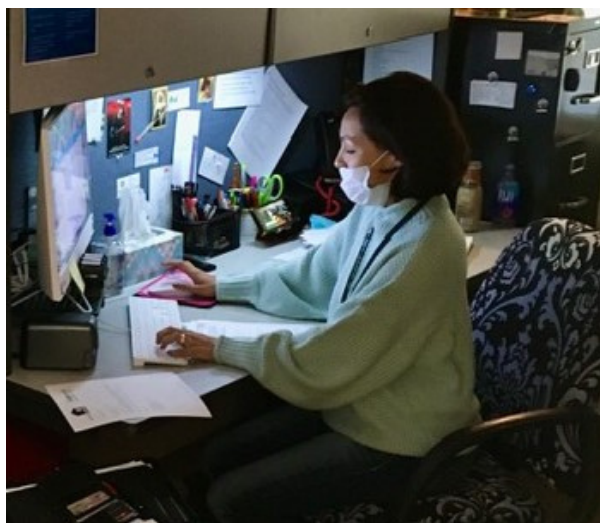
**Participants** who brave the winter cold as they sleep on the streets in cardboard boxes each raise \$1000 through sponsorships. Local businesses and organization can also lend their support as **Business Sponsors**. In response to the unusual circumstances this year, box dwellers will be spread out in several downtown locations. Participants can also gather as a group at churches or in neighborhoods. For those physically unable or uncomfortable about participating in person, a "virtual box dweller" option will also be available.

Now is the time to register to participate as a box dweller and begin securing sponsors! Go to our **OWN 2021 Event Page** to sign up. We will set up a personal fundraising page for you to share with friends, family, co-workers, employers, or other business contacts. You will also receive a Participant Handbook, a commemorative event mask, a yard sign to promote your participation, and a miniature display box.





We are happy to welcome two new additions to our C-U at Home family: Phoenix Drop-in Center Coordinator, **Miranda Jazdyk** and Operations Assistant, **Chloe Hanson**. Both are off to a great start, and we are delighted to introduce them!



**Miranda** (above) brings a warm smile and cheerful disposition to her work here at the Phoenix Center. In her first couple of weeks, she organized and sorted through months worth of accumulated donations, supplies, and other materials in our storage area. It was like Mary Poppins had arrived in our midst!

Miranda originally hails from Texas, but she came to C-U from Colorado Springs, where she served as Director of Volunteer Services at Bold Beginnings, an alternative sentencing program for juvenile girls. She also was a volunteer at the Springs Rescue Mission, where, she says, “God touched my heart and showed me my destiny.”

Miranda holds a BA in Psychology with a Minor in Human Services. She enjoys photography, videography, art, music and reading. Family is

an important priority in her life. She also loves taking walks with her three “fur-babies”: Elvis (“a big happy yellow Lab”), Presley (“my beautiful chocolate princess Lab”), and Baby Yoko (“a spunky pit bull-terrier”).

Almost two years ago, Miranda volunteered here at the Phoenix. “Since then all I could think of was getting back here,” she recalls. “An opportunity arose, and by the grace of God, here I am!”

She sees her role as Phoenix Coordinator as a great opportunity “to serve my community and this amazing organization with my whole heart!” By bringing past experiences together with new challenges, Miranda hopes “to grow and serve as God called me!”



Fans of the musical, “Hamilton,” will recall that one of the lead character’s major roles was to be George Washington’s “right hand man.” By the end of her first few weeks on the job, **Chloe** (above left) had clearly become Managing Director **Aleta Keith’s** “right hand woman!” From developing preadsheets to track services, to her HR duties, to monitoring C-U at Work finances, Chloe does it all!

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Chloe grew up in Champaign and graduated from Mahomet-Seymour High School. She studied finance at the U of I, where she played piccolo in Marching Illini! Her original plan was to become an accountant, but God called her in a different direction.

“I felt the Lord leading me into international missions after I learned about the 10/40 window,” she recalls. “This area of the world, stretching from Northern Africa, through the Middle East, Central Asia and East Asia, is home to 3 billion people who have no access to the gospel and have never heard of the name ‘Jesus.’” After graduating, Chloe spent two years taking the gospel to East Asia in an area with vast spiritual poverty. There, God led her to befriend numerous young adult women “that were constantly overlooked and ignored by their peers.”

“This experience really grew my heart for those that society tends to overlook,” she explained. “Upon returning to the States this past spring, I stumbled upon C-U at Home during my job-search.” Lucky for us!

Chloe’s compassionate heart and analytic mind are key to all she does here. Spreadsheets may be a useful tool for tracking the work we do here, but she knows that behind all that data are the real people whose needs we serve daily.

“It was awesome to see how my personal convictions for reaching the overlooked seemed to overlap with C-U at Home's mission to serve the most vulnerable people and show the love of Christ to everyone,” she says. “I'm really excited to be part of such an amazing organization and dedicated staff team!”

**"I assure you: Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me." -- Mt. 25:40**

## Focus on Ministry

What happens when you are on the streets in desperate need of help getting somewhere for an appointment, treatment, or even to get a fresh start in a different town?

C-U at Home's **Transportation Ministry** offers rides to our Emergency Shelters, appointments with community support organizations, or for medical needs. We also transport individuals to addiction treatment centers and help arrange out-of-town travel for those wanting to start life over somewhere else, or to simply help them get back home to family.



Shelter Coordinator **Steven Harper** (above right) also oversees Transportation and Outreach. Since the beginning of this year, more than 60 people have been helped by C-U at Home with rides, the cost of bus or train tickets, and other assistance. We come alongside whatever they can offer to get the help they need, by covering part of the cost or through helping out around our facility.

This year alone, our drivers have taken people to Bloomington, Peoria, and Danville. We also have assisted with bus or tickets to Chicago, Kankakee, Centralia, St. Louis, and a dozen different states! If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, we are always in need of drivers to help in the **Transportation Ministry**. Go to our [website](#) to learn more and to sign up to help!



# TALKING POINTS

Our mission here at C-U at Home “to help our friends without an address” is our local response to a much larger cultural and social dilemma. In this section of our newsletter, we’ll take a brief look issues related to homelessness in that broader context.

On the September 22, 2020 episode of the 99% *Invisible* podcast, Host Roman Mars asked Deidre Mask, author of *The Address Book*, “So what does an address give you access to?” She responded,

*Well, this really comes up when I was researching homelessness, because in my head, I was like, who are the people who don't have addresses? Obviously, it's people without homes. And one thing I found from talking to experts in homelessness, but also activists, was that when people without homes are asked, what do you need? Well, by definition, they need a home, but what a lot of them actually said was that they needed an address.*

*When you apply for jobs, it lists address. Even though there's no way you're going to get mail to this address, or employer's going to show up at your door, but they said they needed an address. So to go back to your question, there's all sorts of things you can't do. You'll struggle to get a bank account; you'll struggle to vote.*

This may not be the first thing that comes to mind when we think about homelessness, but it is an important service our **Phoenix Drop-in Center** provides. Our friends can have mail delivered here, and they can use our address as theirs. What a difference an address makes!



## Business Partnerships

If you check in regularly on our Facebook page @[cuathome](https://www.facebook.com/cuathome), you know that for the last couple of months Executive Director Rob Dalhaus III has been all over town personally thanking our **OWN 2020 Business Sponsors** for their support. He's pictured above with **Joe Lamb** of **Champaign Asphalt Company**.

Our ministry benefits greatly from partnerships with local business and organizations. **One Winter Night** is just one example. A number of businesses are **Hope Givers** and many others are regular supporters.

In the coming weeks, we will be announcing some exciting news about a very generous gift from **Champaign Asphalt** that will be used as a match for this year's **Giving Tuesday**, coming up on **December 1**. Check in on Facebook and local media for more details, coming soon!



## A Word from Rob

Every day here at C-U at Home, our goal and purpose in the community is to develop close, lasting relationships with our “friends without an address.” We make a conscious and intentional effort not to refer to those we serve as “homeless,” and we strive to break down the barriers put up by society relating to our friends.

At the Phoenix Daytime Drop-In Center, each person who enters the building signs in on the same sheet of paper. This is true whether they have an address or not. Our volunteers, or our “friends with an address,” are asked to simply spend time with those without an address. Through getting to know a person's story, their struggles and future goals, a deep relationship is developed.

As relationships grow, it is our experience that we can begin to hold that person accountable, much like you would with a close friend or family member. That person starts taking steps forward, such as looking for work, and they begin feeling the joy that empowerment can bring.

When you take the time or provide the resources for someone else to walk alongside our friends, they can begin their journey towards healing and restoration. That is the mission of C-U at Home, and we could not do it without you! Thank you for your generous support!

**In His Service,  
Rob Dalhaus III  
Executive Director**



## Chicken Dinner

From Spring through Fall every year, long-time supporter **James Moreland** (above left), with the help of volunteers from local churches, serves free meals to many of our friends and others in need every Monday afternoon in West Side Park. Near the season's end, a sumptuous chicken dinner is provided! We had the honor of hosting that event here in our **Phoenix Center** on September 21. It was a blessing to us all!

