

Ending Homelessness

Our mission
is to provide
a continuum

ANNUAL REPORT



each person

Working to end
HOMELESSNESS

in NORTHERN
KENTUCKY
by guiding our clients

FROM housing
uncertainty
TO HOUSING
STABILITY

#### Letter from Danielle Amrine, Executive Director



#### Change starts with us.

"Turns out, real life is a little bit more complicated than a slogan on a bumper sticker. Real life is messy. We all have limitations, we all make mistakes, which means - hey, glass half full! - We all have a lot in common. And the more we try to understand one another, the more exceptional each of us will be. But we have to try. So no matter what type of animal you are; from the biggest elephant, to our first fox, I implore you - try. Try to make the world a better place. Look inside yourself and recognize that change starts with you. It starts with me. It starts with all of us." -Zootopia

I have always felt like my duty on this earth was to make the world a better place. What does that mean? How does one go about making the world a better place? Since taking the helm of Welcome House just a short ten months ago, I've had the wonderful opportunity to see just how we make this world a better place every single day.

Sometimes in society we tend to focus so much on what makes us different or better than someone else, instead of trying to find out what connects us. Did you know that just 39% of Americans say they have enough savings to cover a \$1,000 emergency room visit or car repair? And 44% of people said they could not cover an unexpected \$400 emergency expense or would rely on borrowing or selling something to do so? Millions of Americans are one paycheck away from the street. I implore you to take time to find what connects you to your neighbor, to a child, to a student, to a single working mother, to your server at a restaurant, to your cashier, to the person standing in front of you in line, to a homeless person on the street. Explore those connections and celebrate them. Validate your brother or sister's existence. We all want to feel seen, heard, and recognized as a valued person in our society, regardless of our status or rank. Reconnecting and appreciating humankind will make this world a better place. At Welcome House, we do this every day, not just with the people we serve, but with our partner organizations, our volunteers, and our staff.

No matter where we are in life, no matter what our challenges are, no matter what race you are, no matter what sexuality you are, no matter what gender you are, no matter if you are housed or unhoused — you have the power to make the world a better place. Look inside yourself and PRACTICE. Making the world a better place will not happen overnight, but just think if even fifty percent of people committed to practicing five acts of kindness a day, how much better would our world be? Don't wait, start TODAY. Join us! Join our staff, our 1,000+ clients, and our 1,100 volunteers that are committed to making our world a better place, one act of kindness at a time.

"Look inside yourself and recognize that change starts with you. It starts with me. It starts with all of us."

Danielle Amrine Executive Director

#### **Overall Agency:**

- Last year Welcome House served 1,470 individuals; 23% were children.
- 100% of our clients were homeless and living in poverty; 97% had an annual income of \$10,000 or less



#### SERVICE COORDINATION

The Service Coordination area provides assessment, outreach, case planning, financial education/budgeting, housing counseling, employment support, and community referrals services. Service Coordinators work directly with residents staying at the Welcome House shelter and other local shelters, as well as individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless.

Staff members work with individuals and families to obtain employment and/or benefits; locate affordable child care options; foster self-determination and stability; and assist in obtaining and maintaining permanent housing. Service Coordinators establish relationships with local subsidized housing facilities, landlords, and employers. In addition, Service Coordinators also assist clients in searching for housing, filling out applications, and providing transportation.

While clients are experiencing homelessness, Service Coordinators meet with clients weekly (sometimes daily), to provide support and direction. After clients obtain stable and affordable housing, they are offered additional in-home visits to help keep them on their targeted plan of self-sufficiency and to provide additional support for up to six months. The Service Coordination area works toward the Welcome House mission by meeting clients where they are in their journey of homelessness and offering a continuum of services to transition them from insecure housing into stable housing.

#### Client Story

Lenora came to Welcome House extremely ill and living on the streets. Bound to her wheel chair, Lenora had limited use of her legs and had to wear a colostomy bag. Relying on the help of other people living on the street, she was increasingly becoming sicker while living outside during the cold winter months. Surviving only by the help of individuals who would allow her to spend the night, she was ultimately made to leave the next morning to spend the entire day in the elements.

When Lenora was assigned her service coordinator, it was evident that time was of the essence and that if we didn't help Lenora get off the streets she would probably end up in the hospital, or even worse, dying. Working almost daily with her service coordinator to find housing, we helped Lenora find stable housing and appropriate medical care. Today, Lenora has maintained her health and has been housed for over six months.

#### In 2017...

- Service Coordination worked with 74 families with children and 436 total households (606 individuals; 436 adults and 170 children)
- 57% of households exited into permanent housing
- 34% increased their total income
- 95% of adults accessed public benefits



## programs & services

#### **INCOME & BENEFITS**

#### Representative Payee Program

This program assists persons with mental and/or physical disabilities by direct management of their disability income because they do not have the capacity to manage their monthly bills. Welcome House acts as a financial agent (called a Payee) for clients without an appropriate adult in their life to fulfill this role. Payees pay rent, utilities, and other monthly bills on the clients' behalf. The Social Security Administration and the Veterans Administration both require that some persons receiving disability payments have a Payee to represent them. Without a Payee, the client cannot receive disability income or medical coverage. The overall results of the program focus on improved quality of life and stabilization of a vulnerable population. Clients often transition from living on the streets with debilitating illnesses to having an income, housing, medical coverage, and the support necessary to lead a more independent life.

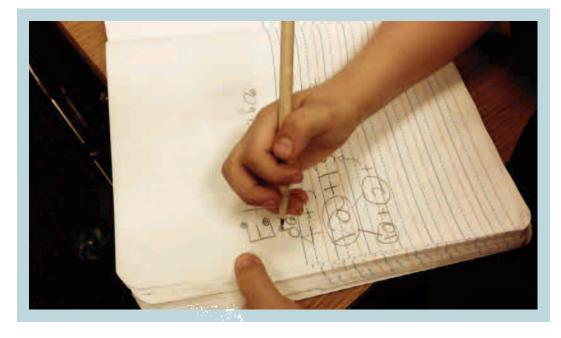
#### In 2017...

- The Payee Program assisted 130 people with physical and/or mental disabilities by direct management of their disability income.
- 100% of payees maintained housing and developed a budget and savings plan
- 79% of Payee Clients were in affordable housing; defined as paying less than 30% of their income on rent

#### Client Story

Kevin, 40, grew up with several developmental disabilities, including PTSD and depression. Throughout his life, he bounced from home to home, never really having the support network that would help him navigate some of the instabilities that were happening in his life. In his adult life, Kevin found himself alone and living on the streets. Navigating his untreated disabilities, along with being street homeless proved to be too much for Kevin.

When he came to the Welcome House Payee program, Kevin felt he was at the end of his rope and on the brink of giving up. With the help of his Payee Service Coordinator, we were able to get Kevin on SSDI, help him with his finances, and house him at our King's Crossing location. Everyday Kevin helps Welcome House staff with little tasks or chores around the building to show his gratitude for his home and for the support he has found within our walls.





# programs & services

#### Outreach Program

**The Outreach Program,** called Open Door, has been active since July 11, 2017. It is an interdisciplinary team composed of 3 members – a Kenton County/Campbell County outreach worker, a Boone County outreach worker and a Nurse Practitioner. Holistic street-based outreach has been a long standing gap that was lacking in previous iterations of outreach teams in the past. Having this understanding allows us to address not only housing, but also physical and emotional needs. Our goal is to bring emergency stabilization services to the aforementioned counties, and also plan to expand to the rural counties. The outreach team's priority is to spend time searching for those experiencing homeless as well as to build relationships with them as we address physical and emotional needs. Another priority where the team shines is our goal of educating and connecting community resources together. The team continues to knock down barriers by negating the transportation barrier by meeting the clients where they are in the community.

#### In 2017...

- 79 individuals were served through the Outreach Program
- 65% of those served were men
- 35% of those served were women

**The Social Security Outreach Program** (SSO) uses the S.O.A.R. (Social Security Outreach, Access & Recovery) method to complete Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) applications for individuals who have mental and/or physical disabilities and who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. Partnering with the Social Security Administration and Disability Determination Services, the program seeks to identify, support, and alleviate individuals from poverty and homelessness by helping to provide stable, permanent income, access to medical insurance programs such as Medicaid and Medicare, and social services coordination.

#### In 2017...

- 127 applicants were assisted in applying for social security benefits last year.

#### Client Story

Steven, 65 and street homeless, had hit a wall when it came to obtaining social security (SSI). The bureaucracy surrounding him receiving benefits was becoming too much for Steven and he was close to resigning himself to spending the rest of his life on the streets. Wanting to give his application one last try, Steven was referred to our Social Security Outreach Program (S.O.A.R., Social Security Outreach, Access & Recovery).

After two weeks of working with his coordinator, Steven's claim was filed and three weeks after that he was approved for SSI benefits. While waiting for his benefits to start, Welcome House was able to supplement Steven with new clothing, food, and hygiene items while he stayed at the local Emergency Shelter. Once funds started to arrive, Welcome House was able to find him stable housing. After many years on the street, Steven now has a roof over his head and a place to call home.





generosity

## housing

#### **HOUSING**

#### Temporary Housing

#### **Shelter**

The Welcome House Emergency Shelter provides a safe place to stay for approximately 30 homeless women and children a night. Residents of the Shelter work with Service Coordinators and other Welcome House staff to increase income and access affordable housing, while removing any challenges or barriers to success.

While working toward greater stability, clients are offered a safe place to live, nutritious meals, hygiene supplies, and extra assistance (such as help with transportation and referrals to area resources). Shelter residents benefit from the caring support of a 24-hour staff, volunteers, and donors who help meet their needs.

Of the 197 individuals served in 2017, 36% were under the age of 17. Children who stay in the Shelter (as well as those of other families served by the other Welcome House services) have the support of a staff member dedicated to meeting the needs and protecting the rights of homeless children and youth. Mothers are offered assistance in enrolling children into school and daycare, and in meeting the material needs of their children.

#### During their stay at the Shelter in 2017...

- 197 individuals stayed at the Emergency Shelter (126 adults and 71 children)
- The average length of stay at the Shelter was 41 days
- 99% of the households met and worked with a Service Coordinator to establish goals pertaining to income and housing
- 71% exited shelter into positive housing outcomes



#### Client Story

All Nicole, 33, wanted to do was love and take care of her six year old daughter, Maddie. But being a single mom, lodging in a chaotic household with multiple family members, and living pay check to pay check kept Nicole from focusing her attention on the only person that mattered in her life.

When Nicole and Maddie came to the Welcome House Shelter for Homeless Women and Children, Nicole was able to receive the support needed to find her own housing, childcare, and even secure her own transportation to work. In the thirty days that they were here, Maddie and Nicole were able to live in a stable, caring environment where their needs were met and they never had to worry about where their next meal would come from. Today, Maddie and Nicole live in their own apartment, where Maddie has her own bed and, most important, a place to call home.





## housing

#### Affordable Permanent Housing

#### **King's Crossing Apartments**

Eight subsidized apartments (efficiency, 1, and 2 bedrooms) are located in the Eastside neighborhood of Covington. Tenants must be homeless at the time of application and a member of the household must have a disability.

#### **Scattered Site Affordable Housing**

Twenty-three apartments (efficiency, 1, 2, 3, and 4 bedrooms) with subsidies are located in the Mainstrasse neighborhood of Covington, and 19 efficiency apartments are located in the Eastside neighborhood of Covington. Welcome House completely renovated these units to create a modern and updated living space.



#### In 2017...

- 84 Individuals were served with Rapid Re-Housing Assistance and 96% obtained stable housing
- 13 individuals (9 households) were served at King's Crossing

#### **Rapid Re-Housing**

This program provides rental assistance so that individuals and families can move quickly from a shelter or living on the streets into an apartment of their own. The assistance provided is customized to match the individual needs of each household; some households receive one-time assistance while others may receive assistance over several months until they are stable.

#### Client Story

Patty, 55, was living on the streets for over 10 years with a mental illness. With the help from community members trying to find her housing, Patty ended up in our Shelter for Homeless Women and Children for three months while her service coordinator helped her apply for social security benefits. In the interim, we worked with Patty to find permanent supportive housing in one of our 23 Mainstrasse housing units. When the funding came through for Patty, she was immediately housed in one of our rehabbed apartments in Mainstrasse—which meant that Patty was able to stay in her community that rallied so hard around her. Patty now has a roof over her head and she is able to see her friends that she has met over the years, but return home to a safe and happy space.





## housing

#### Specialized Housing

Opened in 1996, the **Gardens at Greenup** is a supportive housing program for adults pursuing their post-secondary education and their children. It is designed to strengthen families by providing affordable, subsidized housing with on-site support services, which includes case management, education planning and support, career planning, financial literacy, life skills training, and childcare. The program is unique in setting a holistic standard for self-sufficiency, including personal growth development, family activities, and building a community of support. Clients work on goals in the following areas: education, income, family support, self-sufficiency, and budgeting. In addition, residents are supported through the Women's Leadership Council of Greater Cincinnati with monthly events and mentoring opportunities. A resident may stay as long as they are fulfilling their education goals, though the majority has an average stay between 2-3 years. The length of stay is determined by the resident's progress toward goals and compliance with the program requirements.

#### In 2017...

- Gardens at Greenup served 27 households
- 100% of residents increased access to eligible benefits
- 96% of the children demostrated literacy improvement
- 90% of the children were enrolled in high-quality pre-school

#### Client Story

Molly, 18, and Hailey, 2, found themselves jumping from couch to couch while Molly was trying to finish her high school degree. When Molly came to Welcome House in an effort to find housing, we were able to get her into our Garden's at Greenup program and provide her with permanent supportive housing in one of our 20 units located on Greenup Street in Covington. A year later, Molly is now attending a local college for her nursing degree and Hailey is enrolled in one of our pre-school childcare centers located right across the street from their apartment. Molly and Hailey now have the support to overcome any barriers that might arise and Molly hopes for a brighter future where she can provide the best life to Hailey.





SUPPORT

### volunteers



Volunteers are essential to the success of Welcome House. Without the support and help from numerous individuals and groups, we would not be able to achieve all that we do.

In 2017, we were excited to host many corporate volunteer groups from the area for their company-wide days of service.

During the holiday season, Welcome House hosted multiple corporate volunteer groups from Fidant Wealth Partners, Sinkula Investments, Remke, FBT Law, and Bottom Line Systems. These corporate volunteer groups helped wrap gifts donated through our Adopt-A-Family program, and hosted holiday parties for the residents of the Shelter. Thanks to these volunteers, our clients and their children are able to celebrate regular holidays and maintain a sense of normalcy while they reside in the Shelter and as they work to rebuild their life after homelessness.

In 2017, Welcome House had 1,117 total volunteers. Out of these 1,117 individuals, 675 volunteered in direct services and 442 in indirect services. These individuals contributed a total of 4,203 hours of volunteer work to Welcome House which is the equivalent of \$96,963 in cost-free assistance.

#### Volunteer Spotlight

Employees from L'Oreal's plant in Florence, Kentucky joined us multiple times throughout the year. In June, a group of employees spent an entire workday at Welcome House, helping to sort donations and painting bedrooms at our Shelter for Homeless Women and Children. That first day of volunteering ignited a new passion in those employees, who decided to return in November with bigger projects in mind. With the financial support of L'Oreal and those employees themselves, the group built new shelves for storing donations, new shelving in the bedroom closets at Shelter, they painted more bedrooms at Shelter, and installed a gazebo on the Shelter deck to provide shade.

We have many ways you can get involved with Welcome House. Whether you are an individual, a family or group of friends, or a corporate group, we have the volunteer opportunity for you! To learn more about these opportunities, please visit our website at welcomehouseky.org.





## volunteers

#### IN-KIND DONATIONS

In 2017 Welcome House received \$31,932 in food and non-food donations. Because of our generous donors, toys were available for our children in Shelter for their birthdays, hats and scarves were provided during the winter months, and every client was able to receive hygiene items when needed. However, we are always in need of new air mattresses, Pack N' Plays, and bedding. This year's donations helped provide the basic necessities to our clients so that they could focus on housing for them and their family.

Resource Bags continued to help support our clients in 2017. This form of an in-kind donation contains essential items pre-purchased and bagged by donors for delivery to Welcome House. Bags vary in theme and items, from food to household cleaning supplies, and help Welcome House direct service staff get resources out to clients faster. Last year, Welcome House received approximately 700 bags!



#### WELCOME HOUSE OUTREACH

Welcome House Outreach, also referred to as the WHO, has been an auxiliary fundraising group for Welcome House since 1990. The WHO organizes and hosts the annual Summer Sunday event held the first Sunday in August and the WHO Shower held in April. The group is comprised of approximately thirty women who donate their time and energy toward making these events and their volunteer work successful. In 2017, the WHO raised over \$50,000 for Welcome House! In addition to their event support, the WHO also volunteers monthly by making a meal for the women and children in our shelter and contributes frequently to our in-kind donation efforts.



They have been a strong source of support over the years and we are extremely thankful for their consistent support.

Shawn Baker	Juanita Griffin	Terri Jameson	Karen Smith
Karen Cady	Elizabeth Heist	Brittaney King	Tasia Steigelmeyer
Laura Canter	Ann Hemmer	June Kocsis	Gabrielle Summe
Louise Canter	Pat Hemmer	Melissa Moore	Stacy Tapke
Cindy Carl	Shannon Hill	Marie Piccola	Alecia Webb-Edgington
Karen Daugherty	Becky Hood	Rebecca Reckers	Lynn Wurtz
Valerie Dyas	Kristen Inman	Betsy Schuler	Jean Zeck
Dana Griffin			

#### LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIRPERSON



Dear Friends.

This past year was highlighted by planning and engaging in leadership transition for Welcome House of Northern Kentucky. The year was filled with the emotion of celebrating Linda Young our retiring Executive Director and her immeasurable contributions to Welcome House as well as the excitement of welcoming Danielle Amrine, as the new CEO of Welcome House effective August 2017. Danielle's wealth of personal and professional social service and business experience have made the transition of leadership smooth and enhanced the strength of the Welcome House of Northern Kentucky mission.

Welcome House of Northern Kentucky continued to emphasize its role as a community planning partner with all entities in the region to further address the needs of all Welcome House clients. As statistics reflect homelessness has no boundaries and needs an approach that is not centered in one area but regionally. Welcome House continues to be a leader and set in motion strategies to expand its impact with clients and as a voice at the regional planning table working to implement an optimal service plan for clients and the community. Those strategies have focused on regular interaction and participation on newly formed committees at the planning level with leadership at the state, city, county and neighborhood level, as well as refining approaches to expand our footprint and seek out clients who may want to take advantage of services Welcome House provides.

One such client centered program that has flourished this past year is the mobile homeless outreach team, called Open Door, active since July 2017. It is an interdisciplinary team composed of 3 members – a Kenton County/Campbell County outreach worker, a Boone County outreach worker and a Nurse Practitioner. The outreach team's priority is to spend time searching the streets, river banks, over passes, woods and other areas of refuge for those experiencing homelessness. Then connecting these potential clients with our service providers to address housing needs as well as address their physical and emotional needs. This mobile interdisciplinary approach has resulted in success by reducing some transportation barriers to getting assistance and meeting with clients where they are in the community. The continued development of the outreach model implemented by Welcome House over the 2017 year has received much state and local attention from media and state representatives looking to educate the community at large and those in positions to assist in addressing homelessness. Personally, it is my intent to shadow the outreach team on one of their daily journeys.

Whether it is searching to find those in need or being a leading presence in the region to address homelessness none would be possible without the exhaustive efforts of the Welcome House of Northern Kentucky leadership team and staff. On behalf of the board we cherish those efforts. In closing the board and the entire organization would also like to thank our generous donors such as the WHO and the multitude of individual donors for their continued support. Your passion and support are essential to the impact delivered by Welcome House.

Warm Regards,

Tom Hausterman, (Board Chairperson

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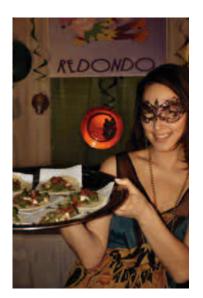
Marie Schenkel

Elizabeth Stewart-Pirone,

Vice Chair

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## Events



#### **MARDI GRAS**

Mercedes Benz of Fort Mitchell in partnership with Northern Kentucky Restaurant Association (NKRA) presented the 2th Annual Mardi Gras for Homeless Children on Thursday, February 23, 2017 at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center. The spectacular event hosted by the NKRA featured food and drink vendors and was a very memorable evening that generated revenue for Welcome House and two other nonprofits. The money raised from the event paid for meals for the children in our shelter. Aside from food and drink booths, there were amazing Mardi Gras beads and live and silent auction items available. In 2016, the Welcome House raised \$27,715 to help meet the needs of children staying at the Welcome House Emergency Shelter.

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TRIVACO

Welcome House Outreach



#### ANNUAL SHOWER

Playing off the idea of a traditional bridal or baby shower, this event is hosted by the WHO (Welcome House Outreach) with the purpose of bringing in-kind donations to Welcome House for the residents of Shelter. In 2017, the Shower speaker was Sharmili Reddy. As Fort Mitchele City Administrator, Sharmili Reddy shared her journey of immigrating to the U.S., opening doors to opportunity and leading the vision for the region. Attendees brought a new item from the invite wish list – such as comforter sets, bath towels, pack and plays, and much more. These items are extremely important as our clients move into stable housing. Instead of spending their limited funds on basic household necessities, they are able to save this money for their down payment, furniture, or any number of other moving and living expenses.



#### SUMMER SUNDAY

Summer Sunday is a fundraising event hosted by the WHO and held at Grandview Tavern. The sixth annual Summer Sunday event was held on Sunday, August 6th, 2017. The event was a great way for friends and family to gather and enjoy live music by The Verbs, cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, and a grand raffle. Summer Sunday is our biggest and highest revenue generating event of the year. Money raised by the event allows Welcome House to continue operating the Emergency Shelter and provide the continuum of services to meet clients where they are at in their journey of homelessness. This is the only fundraising event where ALL revenue goes directly back to Welcome House and the clients we serve. In 2017, the event raised \$55,000 which helped provide over 1,400 nights in our Shelter for women and children.



Platinum Sponsor

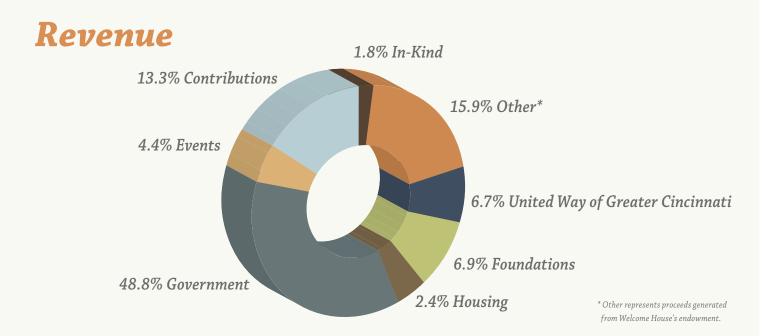
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## financials

In 2017, Welcome House had net assets of \$5,602,982, revenue of \$2,279,683, and expenses of \$2,425,203.









Revenues and Expenditures are unaudited numbers

## donations

All those who contributed to Welcome House in 2017 are recognized on the following pages. These contributions make it possible for us to continue to work toward our mission of ending homelessness and helping those who are the most vulnerable in our community move from housing uncertainty to housing stability. Thanks for your consistent and ongoing support.

The contributions listed below are funds received above and beyond funds given through government agencies and pass-through dollars. Every attempt was made to include all individuals/groups who made a contribution to Welcome House in 2017. Please forgive any inadvertent misspellings or omissions.

WE APPRECIATE YOU -







#### **HERITAGE** (Gifts above \$25.001)

Kroger Company St. Elizabeth Hospital The Butler Foundation United Way of Greater Cincinnati

#### **LIFE** (*Gifts of* \$10,001 – \$25,000)

The R.C. Durr Foundation, Inc. Episcopal Society of Christ Church Cathedral Greater Cincinnati Foundation Tom and Brenda Hausterman Robert M. Krolage L'Oreal USA PFAU Foundation Scripps Howard Foundation The Spaulding Foundation Wild Flavors Inc.

#### **HOPE** (Gifts of \$5,001 – \$10,000)

Anonymous Apartment Association Outreach, Inc. Arkansas Community Foundation

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#### **SPIRIT** (*Gifts of* \$1,001 – \$5,000)

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Carl Allison, Jr. Amazon Smile Ron and Mary Amend AMERIGROUP Corporation Danielle Amrine Donna Anderson

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A special thank you to our staff who work tirelessly to make our mission of ending homelessness possible. It is because of you that we are truly able to take our clients from housing uncertainty to housing stability.

You are appreciated more than you will ever know.

<sup>\*</sup> represents Welcome House employees as of December 31, 2017





# Ending Homelessness

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