



May 2023 Newsletter

May is here! We are moving right along with raising awareness for Community of Hope. This month we would like to share with you our friend Richard and his story from our Cardboard Stories Video. To read his story and watch the video, see below!



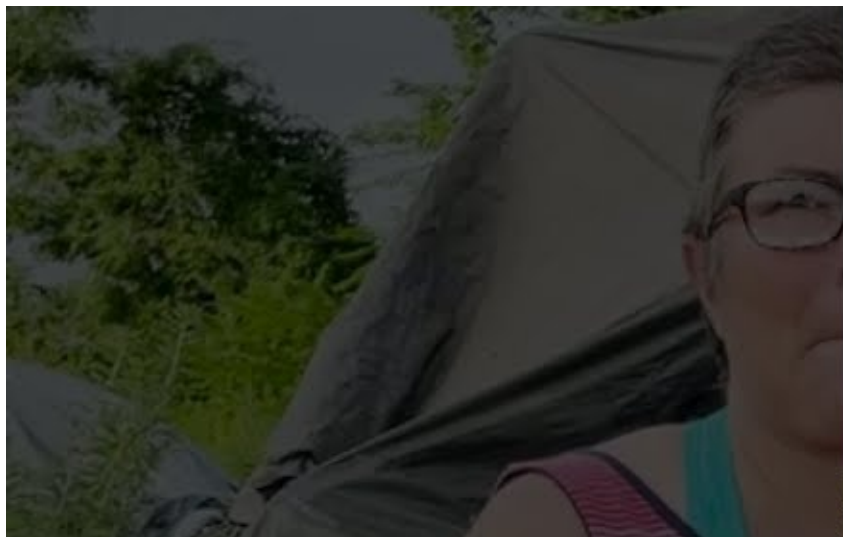
RICHARD'S STORY

On a hot July afternoon, the Community of Hope team went into the camps to visit with our homeless friends. This particular steamy day, we were working on a project to break down stereotypes of our homeless community. We had taken our community development master plan with us to show our friends the latest developments. When we showed Richard, he was so excited to see all the details and started asking questions about all the amenities we would have on-site. At one point, pointing to the grey rectangles on the plat, he turned to ask us if that is where they would be able to put their tents? We responded back with much excitement, "No, not at all! Those are tiny homes, a place where you can call home." Richard was overcome with emotion and began wiping tears from his eyes. A spark of hope was lit in those eyes that day, and our hearts broke to think the biggest he could dream was a tent to call home.

This excitement rallied other homeless friends around us and in that moment each of us were overcome by hope. In those few minutes we were showing ten or so friends where the houses would go. We were explaining the plans we had for gardens and animals. The places of employment opportunities were shared. Their excitement grew. At that moment, time stood still. Our friends were not thinking about how hot it was, how bad the mosquitoes were, where their next meal would come from, or where they would lay their head down at night. They were overcome with hope, and dreaming of home.

We are committed to make this vision a reality and provide homes to our chronic homeless. In order to do that we need you to come alongside us. We want to make a lasting difference to our homeless community. One by one we can end their homelessness. Together we can bring hope. Together we can bring them home. They need you!

"Perhaps the greatest psychological, spiritual, and medical need that all people have is the need for hope." -Billy Graham





Make a Difference



Updates from Restoration Works

Restoration Works is excited to share that we hosted our first event where we were able to provide a dignified income to our homeless women staying at Downtown Rescue Mission! This is the first event of many more to come where our homeless friends can earn some money by crafting beautiful, hand made pieces of jewelry that will be available for purchase in upcoming events.

At this event, our volunteers shared a heartwarming story that we would like to share with you.

"A young lady came to make jewelry at our recent event. She shared how exciting it was to tell her mom that she had gotten a job making \$10 an hour. She wanted to make earrings that night and then use some of her money earned from that evening to buy her mom a pair of earrings that she had made as a gift for Mother's Day. She was so proud to sign her name on the back "Made By:" and could not wait to give them to her mom."

Another volunteer shared "It was a dignifying opportunity for her to earn money to buy her mom a gift and the fact that she was the designer of the earrings made it that much sweeter! She was so proud of her skills from the previous event. She repeated over and over how her parents were proud of her. I hope we get to hear the end of the story where her mom received this precious gift!"

Thank you to our Restoration Works volunteers, staff and especially our friends over at Downtown Rescue Mission for all your hard work, talents and time put into these events! This is why we do what we do! It's stories like these that keep us going and show us we have a beautiful mission and dream for Restoration Works and Community of Hope! To learn more about Restoration Works, click the button below!

[Learn More](#)



**A Word from our Founder &
Chief Goodness Officer, Mandy Kilgore**



Our homeless population is continuing to grow. The recent numbers for the point-in-time count have been released and our homeless population has grown by roughly 100 individuals in our area. Community of Hope is excited about being able to alleviate the struggle with our homeless population growing, by focusing on filling the gap in affordable housing and supportive community.

Another thing I'm very excited about, is getting to share the work that we are doing with our partners, Third Lens Ministries, Chapman Sisson Architects, and The Library Of to bring this vision to life. In the coming weeks, you will see renderings and videos for what Community of Hope will look like architecturally. We couldn't be more excited to share!

Thank you for joining our journey to bring long term systemic change to our homeless population!

Here's to Goodness!
Mandy

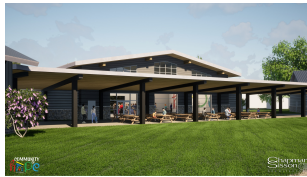
Here's a little glimpse of the future of Community of Hope from our partners, Third Lens Ministries!



Greenhouse



Market

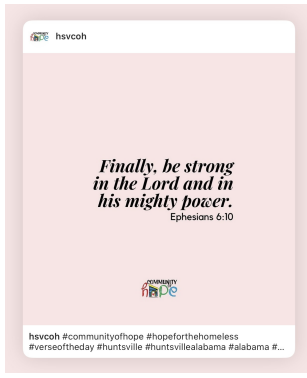


Symposium

Are you following us on social media?

Click the icons below to see our latest updates!





Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}

{{Organization Address}}

{{Organization Phone}}

{{Organization Website}}

{{Unsubscribe}}