



Opportunity House

**2024
Gratitude Report**

**Imagining What's
Possible**

pos·si·bil·i·ty

a thing that may happen or be the case.

A Note of Thanks

What a year it has been! We've made incredible strides, growing our program to support 8 young people (not to mention the babies and occasional friends crashing on the couch). Our partnerships have expanded, and our network of supporters has grown stronger than ever. Throughout it all, we've remained steadfast in advocating for the housing needs of young people in our community, raising awareness and deepening understanding of what it truly means to provide harm reduction focused and trauma-informed services.

While we've faced our share of growing pains, our mission has never wavered. We are witnessing the positive impact of our work firsthand. The young people in our program are achieving their goals: graduating from school, landing their first jobs, maintaining employment, improving their mental health, and building stronger parenting skills. It's not easy, but we are committed to supporting them every step of the way.

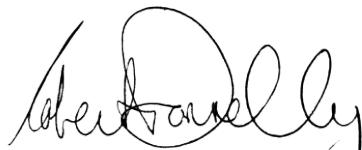
After the recent election, I shared the following message with our young people:

I know things probably didn't turn out the way you wanted. Feeling a bit anxious right now is normal - I'm feeling that way too I just want you to know that I have your back no matter what happens.

No matter what the future brings, we stand by our young people. We believe in the strength of the community we're creating and the limitless possibilities that come from working together.

We can't do this without you.

With gratitude,



ROBERT DONNELLY

FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



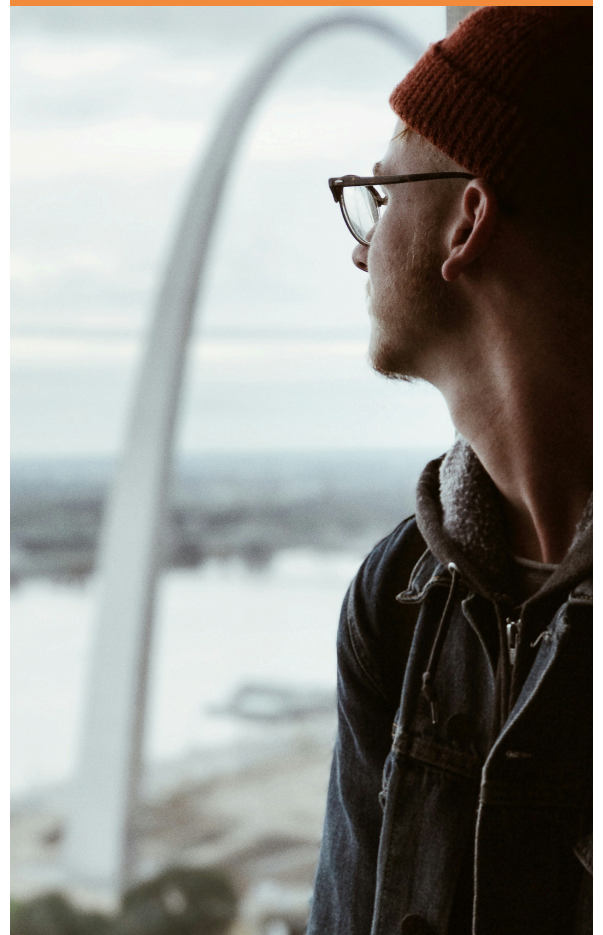
Our Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Our Residents are always on the lookout for ways that they can support their neighbors.

Y'all look

Opportunity House - [REDACTED]



Opportunity House - [REDACTED]

AWW THAT CAT IS SO CUTE

Opportunity House - [REDACTED]

Ikrrrrrr

Opportunity House - [REDACTED]

I wish we could have cats but I also get why we can't

Opportunity House - [REDACTED]

Sameee we named him snowflake and he got pretty blue eyes aswell

Opportunity House - [REDACTED]

Snowflake ate the tuna and drank the water I gave ittt

Opportunity House - [REDACTED]

Then the other cat finished itttt

Opportunity House - [REDACTED]

Cat cuteness overload 😊

Opportunity House - [REDACTED]

Creating Belonging: Key Partners



Tower Grove Community Development Corporation has been instrumental in supporting our work. They have provided the space necessary for our program's growth and have shown great patience as our residents have worked through conflicts with their neighbors. They remain committed to to our mission and the continued growth of our program.

The mission of Thomas Dunn Learning Center is to foster a sustainable region through education. Their flexible HiSET programming has enabled our residents to safely and comfortably continue and complete their education. Their support has been essential in helping our residents achieve their academic goals.



I know things probably didn't turn out the way you wanted. And feeling a bit anxious right now is normal - I'm feeling that way right now. I just want you to know that I have your back no matter what happens.

Our top priority is ensuring that our residents feel safe, comfortable, and supported. This involves offering words of encouragement and fostering an environment where expressing emotions is not only accepted but normalized.

Creating Opportunity: Organization Events

Pride Events

This year, we had the opportunity to participate in both Tower Grove Pride and the Black Pride Expo. These events allowed us to connect with nonprofits, engage with the community, and raise awareness about the needs of young people experiencing homelessness.



Robot Battle

This year, we introduced a fun new event – Roomba Robot Battle. It was a creative and laid-back way for us to engage with our supporters. Seventy-five people joined us to play games and battle Roombas. The event gave us the chance to build meaningful connections with friends both new and old.

Trivia Night

One hundred fifty people attended our second annual trivia night and silent auction. Half of the participants were first-time supporters. The event successfully engaged attendees with many reaching out to Opportunity House afterward, sharing how much they enjoyed the event.



Idk what to say, but I just realised I never actually said anything in this gc yet and I probably should lol, so Hi I'm [REDACTED] also where is the BBQ again?

Opportunity House [REDACTED]

Well I'm [REDACTED] heyyy and it's going to be in our back yard a house over from you

Opportunity House [REDACTED]

And what's your pronouns if you don't mind me asking

Opportunity House [REDACTED]

Oh thanks - also they/them

Opportunity House [REDACTED]

Ok bett same

Opportunity House [REDACTED]

Though not always easy, we are committed to fostering a sense of community among our Residents. In turn, our Residents work to build that same sense of community with their peers. We understand what is possible when people feel safe and welcome.

Creating Opportunity: Resident Events

Game Night

Our Residents understand the importance of building community. To strengthen connections with each other, they hosted a game night. As Uno and Monopoly were played well into the evening, it provided a fun way for Residents to deepen their relationships.

Voting Day

With an upcoming election, our residents were eager to learn more about the voting process, the candidates, and the issues on the ballot. For four of them, it was their first time voting. On voting day, there was some nervousness but with a little encouragement and support, everyone cast their vote. They expressed a deep sense of pride and excitement participating in the democratic process.

Garden Party

Several of our Residents expressed an interest in beautifying their apartments. In partnership with the Advisory Board, they worked together to landscape their gardens. Advisory Board members generously donated plants and bulbs from their own gardens. With help from the Residents, plants were put in the ground. This effort beautified the neighborhood and provided an opportunity for Residents to build connections with Advisory Board members.

BBQ

Over the summer, our Residents hosted a BBQ, inviting friends and members of the Opportunity House community. The Residents took charge of cooking the meal, and everyone enjoyed an afternoon of stories and games.



Super easy way to resolve it is asking yourself, “Hmmm where am I going to live if I am asked to leave? Is it safe? Is it clean and comfortable? Can I afford it?” You’ll be a lot less likely to respond to bullshit after you answer those questions.

Navigating conflict can be tough, no matter how much guidance we receive. Sometimes, all it takes is a gentle reminder from a peer to help us see what is possible.



Creating Change: Henry

The needs of young people in our community are constantly evolving. As we identify new possibilities we actively adjust our services to make those possibilities a reality.

When we were asked to provide services to a 17-year-old, we were hesitant. Supporting individuals under the age of 18 can present unique challenges. But our commitment to our mission often requires us to step outside of our comfort zone. It is through embracing this discomfort that we can fully realize our mission.

In their words

I moved in with my older sister when I was 14. Before that I bounced around from place to place. My mother couldn't support me emotionally or with food and other things. Living with my sister was challenging. As I got closer to turning 18 my sister suggested I move out. I didn't have anywhere to go.

Since moving into Opportunity House, I've started to learn to live on my own. Going to school fulltime and maintaining my apartment is challenging. But with the support of Opportunity House I am learning to manage it all.



Creating Change:

Lexi

Nearly 29% of young people who exit foster care will face homelessness before turning 21. Without the right support, these young people often struggle to find stability they need to thrive. That's where we step in.

At Opportunity House, we are committed to bridging the gap in services within our community. We strive to envision and create a future where all young people have the resources and support they need to realize their goals.

In her words

When I was 13 I entered foster care. It was a challenging experience. I bounced around between foster homes. My identity made it hard for me to find a safe home. When I turned 18, I made the decision to leave foster care and I became my own guardian.

I wanted to live independently but I didn't know how. I still don't. But I am learning. Opportunity House is giving me a safe place to learn to be an adult - a place where I can be myself and feel accepted for who I am.

The Possibility in Impossibility

Nikita Gill

Yesterday, you spoke to me
about impossibilities
and how certain relationships
lives and moments were not destined to be.

For you, I collected these;
in hope that if you do not trust me,
at least you will believe
these facts from the galaxies.

On Venus (and yes, I know you will find this bizarre),
it snows in metal and rains in sulphuric acid
and a teaspoon of a dancing neutron star
weighs more than everyone together in the world.

What I am trying to say, my darling,
is that I know you said you wouldn't survive this day
but across our beautiful universe,
what is impossible is happening everyday.

