

HOME PAGES NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017

SSVF Helps Veterans Overcome Obstacles



Damon Wright, an honorably discharged Operation Desert Storm veteran, completed his military service in 1993. During his service, he served as 3rd Battalion US Infantry and was eventually assigned to serve as a presidential escort. After discharge from the US Army, Damon worked in different jobs like security and as a national security analyst. He started drinking alcohol in excess and ultimately became dependent on alcohol. Over a period of several years, he continued to battle alcohol dependence.

Throughout his struggle with alcohol, Damon says there were periods where he felt like just "giving up" and during one of these darker moments, his father contacted the Veterans Crisis Hotline. After a period of hospitalization, Damon landed in VA care and was eventually admitted to an alcohol treatment program at the Chillicothe VA Medical Center. Even though Damon would repeat alcohol treatment several more times, he remembers thinking "I wish I could live here." The following year Freedom's Path* was breaking ground in Chillicothe and Damon applied for their housing program.

Damon continued to bounce around, staying with family, but eventually returned to Ohio. In 2015 Damon was referred to the SSVF program after completing an alcohol program at the Chillicothe VA Medical Center and being at the men's homeless shelter. Damon was quickly enrolled in the SSVF program and his SSVF Case manager assisted him with locating housing that

would suit his needs. Damon moved into a boardinghouse and seemed to be on the right track once again.

Over time, however, Damon says he "became hopeless again". In April of 2016, as Damon was stopped by a police officer for a minor vehicle offense something touched his heart. He made a decision to be saved and baptized in April 2016. "This", says Damon, "is what has really changed my life." Since April of last year, Damon has taken steps to treat his alcohol addiction; he is active in his church, Alcoholics Anonymous, and spends time at the public library and at the YMCA. "These are my safe havens."

In August of 2016, a local income-based housing project contacted Damon; he had been on their waiting list for over 9 months and there was finally an apartment opening. The following day, Freedom's Path* in Chillicothe also contacted him. He had a decision to make. Damon says that after he talked to his family (his father and sister) he decided to take the place in Chillicothe.

In November 2016, Damon received a VASH housing voucher which will allow him to remain stably housed while receiving additional support services, if needed, through the Dept. of VA Health Care system.

Damon says he never thought this would be possible. Once settled down, Damon plans to find other veterans like himself and be an example and try to guide them. Damon's final words to his SSVF Case Manager were, "If it wasn't for the VA and its treatment program, I wouldn't be sitting here talking to you. Nothing but positive things have happened to me since April."

*Freedom's Path at Chillicothe is a residential community for homeless or at risk of homelessness Veterans. You can find out more by visiting their website:

www.freedoms-pathchillicothe.com

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide a community forum, to assess housing resources, to identify problems and to create solutions through collaboration.

Our Vision

A community where everyone has safe, stable, sustainable housing.

Find Us on Social Media







Contact Us

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Home Pages by Email?

If you would rather receive this newsletter electronically, send us a quick email at info@lcchousing. org and we will add you to our email address list and remove you from our snail mail address list.

Executive Director's Corner

Deb Tegtmeyer



Photo Courtesy Chisolm Studios

You will see elsewhere in this issue "We Got the Grant!," wherein we thank the Licking County Foundation (again!) for supporting our efforts to streamline the process for assisting homeless families and adults in collaboration with our partner organizations, in particular, the Licking County Coalition of Care, who partnered with us in submitting the latest successful application.

This grant will assist us - LCCH and the community as a whole - in taking the next step towards establishing an effective

Coordinated Entry system. One of our key funders - the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) - has been laying out the requirements for such a system for many months. It is an obligation outlined in the HEARTH Act for those communities utilizing HUD's Continuum of Care funding to address homelessness at the local level. The system must be up and running by January 2018.

Here in Licking County, several organizations receive the funding, either from HUD directly or as a passthrough from the Ohio Development Services Agency: The Salvation Army, Licking Metropolitan Housing Authority, Behavioral Healthcare Partners of Central Ohio, Inc., The Main Place, Inc., and Licking County Coalition for Housing. The HEARTH Act also strongly suggests (nay, mandates) that other organizations serving the homeless participate in the Coordinated Entry process in an effort to minimize the time any household is homeless, and target what we know are limited resources to those homeless households who are the most in need (i.e., are facing the most barriers to finding and keeping permanent housing).

In my column of June 2014, I noted that the Licking County Foundation and United Way of Licking County had supported the initial effort to evaluate our current system, having funded the

Coordinated Intake Evaluation project that year. We sought to work with our local partners "to find out who these homeless people really are, their stories, and how can we, as a community, do a better job of helping them get on their feet, permanently." In the end, we determined that, as organizations, we do our best to help with what resources we have available, but we send many homeless and at-risk clients around (and around again) to many of the same organizations, repeatedly. And not always successfully "ending homelessness" for that client or her children.

So, we will take the next steps. We'll get this system working. We'll use what resources we have, limited as they may be at times. With this new funding, and some additional funding still to be obtained, we will focus our collective case management talents and energies in helping those who need help the most. The effort will continue to push the social work professionals and institutions in our community to try new methods, identify additional resources, use existing resources in new ways, and the change will not always be easy.

But, as my dear friend and former director of Newark's Community Development Department Oren Henry used to say, "If it were easy, it would have been done already."

Let's Make Everyone Count!

On the third Tuesday in January, every year, HUD requires that Continuums of Care across the country conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are sheltered in emergency shelter or transitional housing, and who are literally living on the streets. This effort is called the National Street and Shelter Point-in-Time (PIT) count. Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally. LCCH has been the lead agency in Licking County for the PIT for the past several years.

On January 24, 2017, there were five groups assembled to walk the streets in search of homeless individuals. The groups included agency staff, area church members, and folks from the Licking County Metropolitan Housing Authority. The Salvation Army, New Beginnings, and Saint Vincent Haven, as well as LCCH also reported the number of individuals and families that were served at their facilities.

The statistics from this year's PIT count should be available in time to report them in the June issue of Home Pages.



Good Night, Sleep Tight...Don't Let The Bedbugs Bite

By Ron Reed

If you were ever tucked into bed at night by a loving parent, I'm sure you'll recall hearing these same words. For the most part, we gave it very little thought. However, these days, it's taken on an entirely different meaning.

The Cimex lectularius (which I think is Latin for "it makes my skin crawl") is the common bedbug which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) classify as a health pest. Unlike most pests, the bedbug is not known to transmit or spread any disease. Although somewhat harmless, that doesn't mean they are totally without destructive qualities.

Bed bugs require a host on which to feed, and although they will feed on animals their favorite fast-food stops are humans. They feed mostly at night but are not afraid to snack during the light of day. They insert their piercing mouthpieces while injecting an anti-coagulant so the blood won't clot before they are finished feeding. This often leaves nothing more than a rash or welt and with some people,

nothing at all. Because waiting for a bite isn't always the best way to determine if you have an infestation issue, knowing what you are looking for is your best defense.

The adult bed bug is about the size of an apple seed and is reddish in color: darker after a recent feed. They are flat (about the thickness of a credit card) which gives them the ability to crawl into tight places to await their next meal. They can live in the creases formed by the seam of a mattress, any small crevice of a bed frame and other places as well. It's not uncommon, in a heavily infested area, for them to be found inside outlet covers and cracks in the walls near where their meal ticket is sleeping. Other signs include dark spots which are the bed bugs excrements or reddish stains resulting from crushing adult bugs. This unwanted pest knows no boundaries and can be found everywhere from the Waldorf Astoria in New York City to the very bed in which you sleep. The good news is getting rid of these unwanted guests might be easier than you think.

The easiest way to eliminate a minor infestation on bed clothing and similar items is a simple trip in the dryer on a high temp for about 30 minutes. If the item is too big for the dryer, you can use a heat generating device to heat a room or a whole house to a temperature of 120 degrees for 90 minutes. There are also numerous off-the-shelf products that can help eradicate the bugs and if all else fails, there are companies that specialize in bed bug removal.

For more information about the life and times of the common bed bug, go to www.epa.gov/bedbug.



A prevalent but uninvited house guest, a bed bug resembles an apple seed.

Staff Profile

Ron Reed



LCCH continues to improve our roster of dedicated professionals with the introduction of a new Maintenance Coordinator, Ron Reed. Although he has only been with us since November 8, 2016, Ron has already proven to be a welcomed addition to our team.

A native Buckeye, Ron was born in Cleveland, OH, but moved to Lewisburg, TN where he spent his childhood years. Shortly after graduating from Marshall County Senior High School, Ron enlisted in the United States Air Force where he trained as an Electronic Warfare Systems Technician. After traveling the world in defense of our nation, he elected to take an early retirement and become a stay at home dad in support of his wife's military career.

Shortly after retiring, Ron embarked on a mission to fulfill a life's goal to further his education. He enrolled as a student at Wright State University, Dayton Ohio, where he earned a degree in Elementary Education. He was able to put his degree to work in a string of different states while accompanying his wife on various assignments for the Air Force. He's also dabbled in everything from selling Pampered Chef to having his own handyman service. Not only

was Ron involved in the Boy Scouts with his sons, but at one time was a card carrying Girl Scout!

Ron is married to Victoria Reed (USAF retired) and they have two sons, Ryan and Cody. They have traveled around the world, having moved 19 times over a span of 35 years in service to our country. They moved to Newark five years ago and are setting roots in the local community.

Ron's interests include riding motorcycles, camping and most things outdoors. He also mentioned something about Pina Coladas and getting caught in the rain. When asked what he has enjoyed most here at LCCH, he responded "using my extensive maintenance skills and creative solutions to give something back to the community, and the awesome people that make up the Licking County Coalition for Housing team."

Fair Market Rents 2017

At LCCH, we know that there is a shortage of affordable housing in Licking County. But unless you are in the housing or real estate business, you may not realize how expensive it has become to rent in Licking County.

A 3-bedroom apartment can rent for well over \$1,000. Below are the 2017 Fair Market Rents for Licking County, as calculated by Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Rents have raised as much as 15% from the 2015 rates, with the largest increase in the smallest units-efficiency/studio apartments.

Bedrooms:	Fair Market Rent:	Increase Over 2015:	
0	\$580	15.8%	
1	\$687	10%	
2	\$886	9.2%	
3	\$1,135	8.5%	
4	\$1,328	9.8%	

HUD Grant Renewed - Plus a New Program!

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the Licking County Coalition for Housing a total of \$595,499 to support two housing programs for homeless families and adults under HUD's Continuum of Care Program. LCCH will use \$530,945 to continue its Transitional Housing program for homeless families and adults. Since 1995, LCCH has used HUD funds to operate over 40 units of such short-term housing with intensive case management services. In 2016, 88% of the transitional housing participants successfully left the program for permanent housing.

LCCH will use the remaining grant funds of \$64,554 to start a new Rapid Re-Housing program based on a national model HUD and the Veterans Administration have been promoting for the past several years. LCCH will work with up to five households consisting of single, homeless adults or adult couples without children. LCCH typically has far more homeless single adults than families on its waiting list for transitional housing.

According to the National Conference on Ending Homelessness, "rapid rehousing" is a housing model designed to help people quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. Rapid re-housing assistance is offered to

homeless persons without preconditions (such as employment, income, sobriety), and services are tailored to the unique needs of the household. LCCH staff will help the household find appropriate housing, help with rental costs for a few months until the household can pay on their own, and assist with arranging other services that may be necessary for the household to maintain their housing.

LCCH has been providing rapid rehousing services for the past several years with other funding sources.
One, in partnership with The Salvation Army of Central Ohio, serves families only. The Ohio Development Services Agency -through the Ohio Housing Trust Fund - provides rapid re-housing funds for both families and adults without children. In addition, the City of Newark provides Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to assist up to five homeless single adults (who are not Veterans) that cannot be served by another funding source.

The new program will allow LCCH to provide additional case management and longer periods of financial assistance, if needed, to an expected five homeless adults experiencing significant challenges to maintaining housing. The HUD funding will be available for one year.

VITA Schedule

Just a reminder that FREE income tax preparation continues through April 15th, at the following times and locations:

Mondays Jan 30-Apr 10

Licking County Library, Main Branch 12:30-6:30 PM Appointments and walk-in

Wednesdays Jan 25-Apr 12

Ohio Means Jobs 10:00 AM-3:30 PM Appointments only

Thursdays Mar 2-Apr 13

LCCH Office 4:30-7:30 PM Appointments only

Saturdays Jan 28-Apr 15

LCCH Office 9:00 AM-Noon Appointments and walk-in

REQUIREMENTS:

- \$54,000 income limit per return
- Personal returns only no businesses
- Photo ID and SS card required for all taxpayers
- SS card required for all dependents
- Bank account & routing numbers required for direct deposit
- Bring all tax forms and documents:
 - W-2, 1099s, 1098-T, SS statement
 - Health insurance forms 1095 A,B,C
 - Student loan statement(s)
 - Receipts for childcare (w/ SS# or tax ID of provider)
 - Mortgage, property tax, medical statements (for itemized deductions)
- Copy of last years return (optional)
- Taxpayer must be present (no drop off)
- Both spouses are required for Married Filing Joint returns.
- Some restrictions apply, some issues are not in scope for VITA

The Future Looks Brighter

Robert is a 56 year old father with a 29 year old daughter, and a 4 year old grandson. He is a former resident of Franklin County who graduated from Westland High School in Galloway, Ohio. He has had many jobs in the past, and at one time operated an advertising firm. He is currently unemployed but is actively searching for employment.

Robert was released from North Central Correctional Complex after having been an inmate there for three years, and has been a resident in the Returning Home Ohio (RHO) program for 4 months. He is happy to have been released to Licking County, because it has allowed him to make a fresh start. He believes that if he had returned to Franklin County he might have fallen back into his old habits.

Another reason that Robert is thankful are the services available for single males. There are services available to him in Licking County that weren't available to him in Franklin County. The mental health assistance that he has obtained here is very good. He especially values the mental health drop-in center here in Licking County. Robert reports

there is nothing like it anywhere he has ever been. When asked if he thought this time would be different than the other times he has been released, he answered that this is the best chance he has had in a long time. Robert feels that RHO is providing him with the structure he needs. He says that in the past he had no assistance, and was unaware of the services available. For Robert, the Returning Home Ohio program has allowed him to look to the future.



has gained full-time employment!

in Eleking County

Christmas Thanks

On behalf of our clients, LCCH would like to thank all those who helped to make the 2016 holiday season a happy one, by donating gifts, blankets, food and holiday items. It is truly a pleasure to be a part of such a giving community.

Thanks to:

Community Wesleyan Church Audra Croft-Keener Altrusa of Newark-Granville Newark Eagles #387 Bellezza Salon and Day Spa Joan and Doug Mock The Energy Cooperative Stacy Bland and family Donna Stevens
The Hartshorn Family
Family of Donna McLaughlin
Shirley Migliore
Stacy Miller
First Baptist Church of Newark
Medha Sutliff
Friends and family of Richard

and Kathleen Gummer

A special thank you to the Newark Elks Lodge and Skip Salome for providing a wonderful Christmas meal for those in need this holiday season.

Household Donations

As always, LCCH is in need of household items and furniture to stock our Transitional Housing apartments, and to provide to our clients who move into permanent housing. We would like to make you aware of a few policy changes:

Mattresses and Box Springs
We are no longer accepting used mattresses and box springs.

Linens

All linens must be freshly laundered. Bed linens are accepted in Twin, Twin Long and Full sizes, only. Please label bed linens with the size.

Televisions

Older, tube-style televisions are accepted if storage space permits. They must be small to medium size, with the quick-connect jacks (red yellow/white) for AV components.

Dressers

We are especially in need of dressers at this time.

Pick-up

We make pick-ups of donated items weekly, usually on Thursday mornings. To schedule a pick-up call or email Ron Reed: 740-345-1970 ext 216 or rreed@lcchousing.org.



a collection to honor her mother, Donna McLaughlin, who passed away in 2016.
The effort raised enough to provide 30 sheet sets, 200 laundry packets and numerous gas and grocery cards for our clients.

Rapid Re-housing / Re-building Families

Bill is a single father with two minor children. In March 2016, Bill terminated his relationship with the children's mother, due to reported substance abuse issues that subsequently led to her incarceration.

From March 2016 until January 2017, Bill and his children moved in with his father and step-mother while he pursued legal action to obtain full custody of his two children, accumulating almost \$15, 000.00 in legal fees. By the end of 2016, with the help of his family, he was able to significantly decrease his legal fees. While Bill expressed gratitude for their help, he reported that moving in with family and accepting their financial assistance put a lot of strain on his relationship with his father. During the 2016 holiday season, Bill reported that he and his father had a "major blowup" and his father asked him to leave

the home until he could find housing of his own. The children were allowed to remain in their grandfather's home. Bill recognized that the relationship between the children and their grandfather was important to all of them, and he did not want to dismantle that relationship by staying in the home and creating additional stress.

With nowhere else to go and finances that were limited due to the legal fees and the termination of his seasonal job, Bill's only option was to stay in his car while he continued to search for housing. He was able to go to a friend's house to shower, but staying there would have been a violation of the lease, which would have endangered his friend's housing as well.

Bill came to LCCH on January 10 of this year, seeking assistance with housing. He met with the Project Homeline

case-manager and was assessed for Rapid Re-Housing. After verification of homelessness, Bill's intake was completed. With the assistance of his case-manager he was able to locate suitable housing. On January 13, Bill signed a lease and he and his children moved into their own apartment. The Rapid Re-Housing program provided deposit and first month's rent for Bill and will provide on-going casemanagement to assess the need for future assistance and to help with other housing issues such as budgeting, material assistance, etc.

Since his placement in housing, Bill has secured full time employment and is also doing side-jobs to increase his monthly income. Of most importance, Bill and his children are living under one roof and he and his father are rebuilding their relationship.

An Intern's Perspective

By Lurinda Rivera-Graham

In August 2016, I started my internship at the Licking County Coalition for Housing for my Social Work field placement through The Ohio State University. Through this experience I have had the opportunity to work with some very incredible people. The work that they do has solidified my admiration for the Social Work field. The staff work extremely hard to provide their clients with the best care and service they can offer. They are the reason the Coalition does so many great things for the community.

LCCH is an incredible agency and I have learned a great deal about working with the community resources and clientele. Even though working with the homeless population was not one of my interest before my field placement, I now realized that I enjoy working with this population. This is the reason why an internship is so important for students to gain hands on experience.

I had the chance to become involved with every program and department during my internship. Learning more about each program has helped me see the different ways that LCCH serves their clients. With each program, there are different eliqibility requirements, grants and

funding, and resources available. Being able to work within each of them has broadened my education and knowledge as a Social Work student.

Throughout my time at LCCH, I have worked closely with my supervisor in the Returning Home Ohio Program, by being able to observe and take part in home visits. I have also had the opportunity to do client call-backs and observe coordinated intakes. Working with the Project Homeline homeless prevention team, I have had the chance to see many different challenges that LCCH clients face. This is very important to me as a future Social Worker- to be able to see and understand the clients' situations.

More than anything, I have grown as a professional and my experiences while working here have taught me so much about the Social Work field. When I started, I was very nervous. As I continued to learn and grow I became much more confident and comfortable when interacting with clients. The Licking County Coalition for Housing has been a wonderful place to start my Social Work career and I will always be thankful for the opportunities they have provided me with.

LeFevre Fellows

The LeFevre Fellows from The Ohio State University-Newark campus continue their service to the community and LCCH this semester. We are happy to have the following students with us:

Madison Gajarsky

Alexa Bartlett

Zac Colopy

Colton Ruck

Nyssa Luckey

Adrionna McCoy

Jessica Parker

This semester their tasks include preparing taxes and providing support for VITA, marketing and outreach, facilities support, and client contact. Thanks to all of them for their interest in service and their efforts on behalf of LCCH and our clients.

We Got The Grant!

With many thanks to the Licking County Foundation, LCCH - in partnership with the Licking County Coalition of Care - received word that we "got the grant" to establish a new system for homeless families and adults to quickly gain access to local housing and financial resources.

The new effort - initially dubbed "Licking County Coordinated Access" will establish a single point of entry for people and families in Licking County who are homeless or in financial crisis who need quick access to services and support. The project will enable effective, optimal coordination among the many existing Licking County "safety net" providers who choose to participate in the project. When fully implemented, the system will: 1) shorten the length of stay on the streets or in emergency shelters, and 2) eliminate the need for clients to contact multiple services for

assistance. Rather, local agencies and organizations will work in a coordinated fashion to quickly assess and address the individual or household's needs.

Licking County Coalition of Care will administer the web-based database that will provide for sharing of information (both client and resources) in real time between participating agencies. The project should reduce the need for duplicative client interviews and data collection across individual agencies. Each client will be assessed by trained staff housed by LCCH, who will also provide ongoing case management, as needed.

While additional funds are needed, the Licking County Foundation grant is a huge help in getting this important effort implemented. We look forward to updating you as the project gets underway!



Deb Tegtmeyer, LCCH Executive Director and Larry Palur, Executive Director, Licking County Coalition of Care attend the Licking County Foundation's Community Impact Celebration.



LCCH Project Homeline staff members Candace Elkins and Mark Louden are happy to get the grant!

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Goodbye Carrie

We would like to offer our best wishes to Carrie Hunt, former Transitional Housing Coordinator, who left LCCH in January to accept a position in her hometown of Delaware, OH. Carrie is continuing in the field of Social Work, using her skills to help survivors of sexual abuse and human trafficking.

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Save The Date

THE GREAT GRANVILLE GARAGE SALE

April 8 & 12: Sellers Seminars

Get last year's registration rate and all the best-kept secrets for staging a successful sale! Hosted by Mollie Prasher at the Granville Village Hall, 141 East Broadway. Hosted by Mollie Prasher on Saturday, April 8, from 10:00-11:00 AM and Wednesday, April 12, from 7:00-8:00 PM at the Granville Village Hall, 141 East Broadway.

March 15: Registration Begins

Register a sale at your location for \$25! (\$30 for a booth at Granville Farmers Market and \$40 for a spot at Opera House Park). Registration Forms available at the Granville Village Office, Granville Recreation District and Licking County Coalition for Housing. Also available online at www.lcchousing.org, or by phone at 740-345-1970 ext 229.

May 6: Shop Till You Drop

Great bargains and unusual items at quality yard and garage sales in and around Granville, Ohio. Over 50 participating sales last year, with more expected in 2017. Maps available the evening before the sale. Maps also available the morning of the sale at the Granville Farmers Market and the Granville Public Library. See the GGGS Facebook page and the LCCH website (www.lcchousing.org)

April 18

Income Tax Filing Deadline

for more information.

It's not too late to get FREE tax preparation through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). See page 7 for the VITA schedule.



May 6 - October 28

Stop by our booth and get a cup of River Road Coffee from LCCH staff and volunteers, as you check out the local produce and homemade goodies offered by the other vendors. Every Saturday morning, on North Main Street in downtown Granville.

June 16

13th LCCH Annual Golf Outing

Join us for a great day of golf, fun and food at the Trout Club Public Resort. More information will be on our Facebook page and website (www.lcchousing.org) in the coming weeks.

Return Service Requested

P.O. Box 613 23 South Park Place, Suite 200 Newark, Ohio 43058-0613

Licking County Coalition for Housing

