



SANCTUARY VILLAGE

WELCOME

Greetings and happy holidays to everyone! I hope you are all doing well and were able to enjoy the Thanksgiving weekend with family, or at least by getting a little peace and quiet. I always straggle behind my neighbors to get my decorations up and I can't believe it's nearly Christmas already. But we have had so much going on! We at Sanctuary Village got our zoning variance in October and are moving full speed ahead. We plan to break ground in the Spring. Our vision is actually becoming a reality thanks to good, caring people like you. Read on.....

Blessings to all of you and especially to those people who need a home.

Gratefully,

Cathy

Board President

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WHAT'S NEW

HAPPENINGS

Recent updates on various Sanctuary Village happenings.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Learn more about how you can contribute to our worthwhile mission.

LET'S CONNECT

We want to hear from you!




Last Minute Gift Idea



A contribution in the name of a friend or loved one can be a thoughtful holiday gift. Send the name and address of the individual in whose honor you are making the contribution, and we will send them a simple ornament with the Sanctuary Village logo to grace their tree. Mail checks and gift recipient information directly to:

Sanctuary Village Alternative Gift
816 Columbia Avenue
Lansdale, PA 19446



It is an easy way to bring joy to both the gift recipient and to someone who needs a safe place to live!

Don't want to wait until our next newsletter to find out what's going on with Sanctuary Village?

Visit our website at:
<https://www.tinyhousecommunity.org>

Happenings

Moving Forward. Sanctuary Village received a positive vote to obtain the needed zoning variance in October 2022. The Philadelphia Zoning Board Administration voted unanimously in favor of the tiny house project and granted Sanctuary Village a zoning variance so we can move toward starting our construction phase.

A big thank you to Leonard Reuter, a Senior Attorney for the City, for his very able assistance. We also want to sincerely thank the people of Holmesburg whose RCO also voted to support this project. The Office of Homeless Services and Councilman Michael Driscoll (Councilman for District 6) have also been steady supporters for us, for which we are so grateful. The economy and the effects of COVID have left hundreds in our city living in vulnerable and dangerous conditions. We are so proud that we will soon be able to offer a path to housing to our neighbors who need it the most.

In the coming months we plan to.....

- ❖ Complete the work to obtain the remaining site permits
- ❖ Secure a general contractor for site/finishing work
- ❖ Finalize details/plans for the community building rehab
- ❖ Break ground (Spring 2023)
- ❖ Prep the site (grading, installing walkways, etc)
- ❖ Start building the houses

Welcome Aboard!

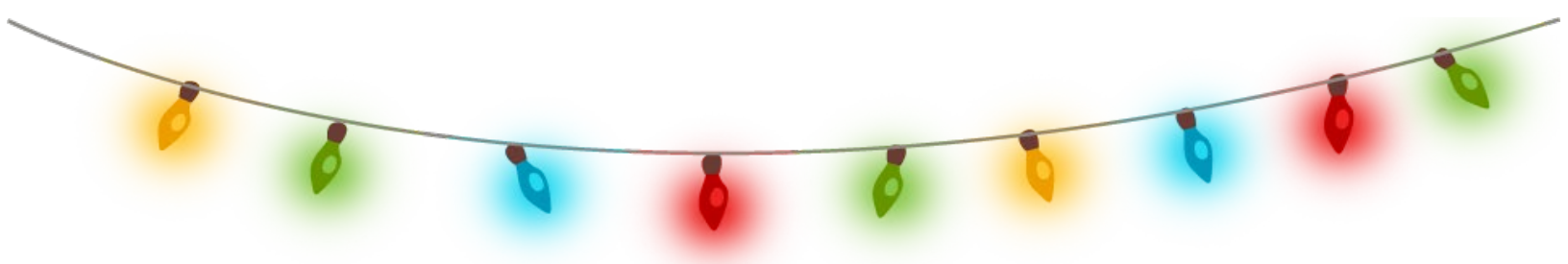


Our First Staff Member! We are thrilled to welcome our very first staff member, Leslie Perlmutter. Leslie has tons of experience working and volunteering for other non-profits and we feel so fortunate to

have her join Sanctuary Village. Leslie says that she is excited to join us at Sanctuary Village as we advocate for and actively impact the lives of women who are homeless in Philadelphia. Leslie writes, "The Board members, mentors and advisors come from varied and diverse backgrounds, but all share a deep commitment to helping those experiencing homelessness. I am proud to work with them and play a role in helping further their mission!"

Publicity. A recent article in Axios (by Mike D'Onofrio) was one of several that highlighted Sanctuary Village. This one informed readers that each tiny house will be rent free, the development is near Pennypack Park, and that social services will be provided on site. To read more, click [here](#).

A Little Help From Our Friends. We are excited to share that the rehab of the shared space at the tiny house village will be paid for by funds secured by Councilman Mike Driscoll (Councilman for Philadelphia's 6th district, where our site is). We also are grateful to Mayor Kenney, Liz Hersh and Office of Homeless Services, and former Councilman for the 6th district, Bobby Henon, for this help in preparing space at the site.



Recent Fundraisers



A Successful Harvest Festival. Thanks to the folks at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Horsham PA who held their Harvest Festival to raise money for Sanctuary Village. Their Council President, Kathleen Duncan, and Pastor Ellen Meissgeier led their congregation in a fantastic day of live music, great

food, beer and wine tastings, and wonderful baskets that attendees could use tickets (part of the price of admission) to bid on. It was a fun day in spite of the odd monsoon-like weather we had! With people like this supporting us, we are going to make this village a reality in no time!



Did You Know?

Even if you've never touched a hammer, there are dozens of ways that you can help construct our village. The best part is, as a registered 501(c)3, time spent with us can count towards a service or group project. Below are some of the ways that you can help us raise money and awareness. If there is something you are passionate about (knitting, recycling, fashion design), you can work with a community member and turn it into a project. Contact us any time to learn more!

Some examples of a service project:

- Help Publicize/Attend an Event for Us
- Craft and Give a Presentation
- Social Media Campaign
- Shoe Drive

Contact Maggie at mab.farrell@gmail.com with any questions.

How You Can Help

Remember Someone Special. Brick by brick...you can support Sanctuary Village's tiny house community - by purchasing a brick that will be built into the landscape of our village in Holmesburg (NE Philadelphia), you can help change lives. You can honor or commemorate someone important to you by ordering a brick [here](#).

What A Tiny House Will Mean to Someone...



Linette (name changed to protect privacy) struggles to carry a heavy bag and has an overfilled backpack that makes

a large mound under her coat. Wear and tear shows on her face, making her look much older than she actually is. Linette sleeps on a park bench in Center City, wearing her backpack which covers most of her thin body, underneath several damp blankets.

Linette tries to stay where she is so her belongings do not get thrown away by city workers. Even using the bathroom at the library a block away poses a risk. But she needs to get there while the library is open since relieving herself outside somewhere, she can be arrested for indecent exposure and put on record as a sex offender.

Linette has some snacks and sandwiches although an animal (a rat? a mouse?) has clearly already helped himself to one of them. Linette has children and grandchildren whom she misses. She has not contacted them in a long time because she feels too ashamed to have them know that she is living on the street.

A house in Sanctuary Village can offer Linette security, dignity, safety and a supportive community. Linette would be free to leave her belongings in a space that is hers, behind a locking door, and even have her grandkids over to visit. What is more, Linette could have a chance to develop and offer her gifts to the community again, as well as to her friends and family. Sanctuary Village will be a miracle - that you can be a part of.



Philly's Point in Time Count

The OHS has published the results of Philly's 2022 Point-in-Time (PIT) count. PIT counts are a snapshot of the number of people experiencing homelessness (as defined by the federal government) on a single night, in February of this year. It does not count people who "are couch surfing with friends or living doubled up with relatives, even when they consider themselves homeless." Details can be found [here](#).

According to their numbers:

- 4,489 individuals are unhoused (includes both sheltered + unsheltered people)
- 784 are children (under the age of 18)
- 3,254 are African American
- 1,060 are chronically homeless

The 2022 PIT count shows that, unlike many other communities, Philadelphia's PIT count found no families with children living in the street. However, chronic homelessness, defined as having been continuously homeless for a year or more (i.e., sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation or living in a homeless emergency shelter) grew by 14% compared to 2021 in Philadelphia, mostly among those who are unsheltered.

Upcoming Event Alert



Want to help build our village while scoring some serious deals? Want to declutter while supporting a great cause? Get involved in Sanctuary Village's virtual auction! Sign up as a collector and help us reach out to our followers and partners to gather gift cards from local businesses, services, beer and wine tastings, unworn jewelry, artwork, etc. Publicize our event, including how each donation/bid helps to put a roof over someone's head. And the most fun part, attend our auction in February from the comfort of your own home: win items and have them shipped right to your door. We can really use your help reaching out to potential donors and attendees. For info or to help, please contact Monica at mk.oscapinski@gmail.com