

SANCTUARY VILLAGE

WELCOME

Did You Know?

Every year, communities across the country conduct a Point-in-Time (or "PIT") count to identify the number of people experiencing homelessness and where they are. Philadelphia's 2022 PIT Count took place in February 2022. In September 2022, HUD approved the results so that they could be published on the Office of Homeless services website.

The 2022 PIT Count showed that over the last five years, the number of people experiencing homelessness in Philly decreased by 22%, which is great news. The combined counted total of unsheltered and sheltered people, both in families and as individuals, was 4,489. However, the 2022 count showed that chronic homelessness in Philadelphia grew by 14% compared to 2021. It is worrisome to see this number creeping up. We hope this is not a trend but with the damage done by COVID, and the number of older adults with limited means to pay for housing increasing, there is cause for some concern. And of note, the count does not include people who are couch surfing with friends or living doubled up with relatives, even when they consider themselves homeless.

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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!

Sponsor a House!



We would love for you or your organization to sponsor a tiny house! To sponsor the costs of an entire house (including foundation and electrical hook-up), we are asking for \$20,000. You can also choose to sponsor at a lower level - please see the various levels of sponsorship below. Anyone who sponsors a house, at any of the levels listed below, will be listed on a plaque on the house itself, as well as on our website.

Contractor:	\$5,000 donation
Construction Manager:	\$10,000 donation
Master Builder:	\$15,000 donation
Architect:	\$20,000 donation

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

What's Coming Next? We obtained a zoning variance to do the Tiny House village (Philly's first!) back in October. We have been busy with all of the tasks subsequent to that, toward applying for an actual building permit. We will submit the application in the coming days and should have the permit in hand by Memorial Day. Also, final details for the tiny houses are being firmed up and we plan to order the first house to be built! We should have photos of the first completed tiny house for our next newsletter.

CBS Consulting Sponsors Half a House! The end of 2022 brought a new organization to help support Sanctuary Village. The folks at CBS Consulting in Devon PA, for their holiday drive, made a generous donation of \$10,000 for half a house! We are pleased and grateful to be able to list them as contributing to one of our houses. Thank you, CBS Consulting!



Calling All Yoga Lovers! On Saturday, April 29, we invite anyone who wants to support Sanctuary Village – and do some

yoga! – to attend an 8-hour “yogathon.” Come and experience several kinds of yoga as well as some meditation. Between 9AM-5PM, a group of volunteers (which can include you!) will do some gentle, hatha, kundalini, and restorative yoga, in between some short breaks and time for a healthy lunch. Meditation and breathing exercises will be included as well. Just what we need during this chaotic time! Classes will be led by three certified yoga instructors. The day is totally free for anyone who participates, so this is a great deal! Location still TBD, but probably somewhere in or near Hatfield, PA. Cathy Farrell and the SV Board will seek sponsors for the day to support all of us doing yoga for Sanctuary Village. Please come and join in on this fun and healthy experience! If interested, contact Cathy at cifarrell@comcast.net.

Welcome Aboard!



The Sanctuary Village Board welcomes its newest director, Marisa Albanese. Marisa is a Lead Product

Marketing Manager for DIRECTV, supporting their STREAM product. She is a Philly native with a BA in Political Science from Temple University and an MS in Public Policy from Drexel University. Marisa has spent the past decade in marketing, specifically working in analytics, project management and strategy. Prior to coming to Sanctuary Village, she served on the Development Board for Dawn's Place and was a consultant for COMPASS – working with the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County (DAP) and Bebashi. Based in Hatboro, PA, her partner, Grace, is a therapist specializing in adolescent mental health. Marisa loves reading, the Flyers, and yoga. She says she is “ecstatic” about joining the board of Sanctuary Village and feels incredibly passionate about its mission. We are thrilled that Marisa has chosen to move this project forward with us!

Recent Fundraisers



Successful Online Silent Auction. Thank you to all who helped make our first on-line silent auction a success! To break out of the winter doldrums, we decided to have our first

on-line auction in February. We had a great team of volunteers led by Monica Oscapinski, Maggie Weber, and Caitlin Gifford and we raised \$5,700! A big thank you to List Perfectly, a company that offers e-commerce solutions for on-line re-sellers, who made a generous donation. We had items that seemed to be crowd pleasers, including Flower Show tickets, tickets to Morris Arboretum, a beautiful hand-made quilt, and Jade® yoga mats. We learned a lot as we did this event and we also had fun.

Thank You, Christ United Methodist Church. Cathy Farrell was happy to be invited to speak at Sunday services at Christ United Methodist Church of Lansdale. This generous congregation collected and donated over \$4,500 for our project, and at a busy time of year (right before the holidays). We send out a big thank you to the congregation at Christ United Methodist and to their pastor, Reverend Zach Hopple, for his help and encouragement.

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](#).



In The News

Why Tiny Houses? The below are excerpts from [Tiny Houses For The Homeless: How To Help & Why It Matters](#):

Tiny homes are one possible solution for those who are housing insecure. They have the benefits of being a dedicated safe and personal space, while being a size that allows for scaling to the local need quickly and cost effectively. Most tiny house communities are comprised of 10 to 30 tiny houses that tenants either rent at a reduced rate or stay in free of charge. Residents of these tiny house homeless communities can usually stay for any length of time, but the goal is typically to help them get back on their feet and reintegrate into society after getting the aid they need.

Homeless shelters and group homes do absolutely amazing, lifesaving work in their own ways. However, one of the biggest benefits that tiny house communities can specifically provide the unsheltered population is a sense of independence. Several psychological studies say that having a place to call our own gives us a sense of belonging, safety, security, and personhood. Even things as simple as having a door that locks, a private kitchen and bathroom, or our own bed to sleep in at night can improve our psyche.

What tiny houses are able to provide the unsheltered population that tent cities or homeless shelters cannot is a sense of ownership, and, in turn, a heightened sense of personhood. Even if someone isn't in a place in their life where they could get approved for an apartment or traditional home, tiny house homeless communities provide a simple home to call their own. This is the power of tiny house villages for the homeless.

Tiny homes can be a good stepping stone to the next phase of a person's journey, a place to find stability and safety. It also allows them to take a step away from survival mode and into a place where they can make decisions about what comes next.

Let's Connect!

Instagram: @phillysanctuaryvillage ■ **Facebook:** Sanctuary Village Philadelphia