



SANCTUARY VILLAGE

WELCOME

Happy Summer to All!

The summer months may seem more hospitable for being outdoors. When you consider violent storms (including tornado warnings), extreme heat and the arrival of Canadian wildfire smoke in Philadelphia, it is clear that being without safe shelter is dangerous at any time of year. We are eager to have our tiny house community up and running before the weather turns cold, but we are pressing forward with everything we have, knowing that each day lives depend on having a safe place to live.

The health impacts of being without adequate shelter are dramatic. Experiencing homelessness for extended periods effects a person's mental, physical, and emotional health. On average, people who experience chronic homelessness have a life expectancy that is 17 years shorter than those who are housed. Our organization has recently reached out to people with specific interest in the field of health outcomes to bring greater insight. You can read about a new board member and a board mentor in the following pages.

We have been plugging away. We are pursuing the needed steps for site preparation and building. We are fleshing out our plans for programing, preparing HR policies and refining position descriptions so that we can begin hiring staff. And of course, we are continuing to write grant proposals, seek donations, and run fundraisers so that we will be able to see the building process to completion. There are a lot of things to plan for, and a lot of people need to be involved. In this edition, you will read about some wonderful consultant groups we are bringing on to help with all the work to be done. We hope to be breaking ground later this summer and then it's GET BUILDING!

As always, thank you for your support. Getting there.....

Cathy

JULY 2023 / ISSUE #8

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!

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

Great News From The City! The City of Philadelphia, with whom we have been working closely on this project for over two years now, has graciously offered to do some of the heavy lifting. The City will be covering the work to be done for the site preparation – walkways, rehab of the common building (where the kitchen, bathrooms, offices, etc. will be located), electrical work and foundations for the units. We are thrilled to have their help for these items. And happy to know the City believes in this project, as we do!

Yogathon Fundraiser. On April 29, a group of dedicated yoga practitioners met for a day of yoga: varied styles of yoga, a healthy meal, and plenty of breathing and meditation. A big thank you to all who participated, and to our guest instructors, Ruby Considine and James Bishop, who were wonderful! And many thanks to Grace Lutheran Church in Hatfield who let us use their facilities for free. We made a total of \$7,500 from a day of self-care that will also provide care for others!

More houses sponsored. We are excited to share that three more tiny houses have been sponsored in the past weeks. Thank you to the ELCA (Lutheran) World Hunger organization; to the ELCA Deaconess community; and to the congregation of St Peter's Lutheran Church in North Wales PA – each of whom have donated \$20,000. Onward! And by the way – one house has been “half sponsored” – it would be great if someone would step up and pay for the other half (another \$10,000.....)!



Welcome Aboard!

SV Continues to Grow our Board of Directors



Sanctuary Village is thrilled to share that we have a new board member, Daniel Wolfson. Daniel is the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the [ABIM Foundation](#), a non-profit focused on advancing medical professionalism and physician leadership to improve the health care system. Daniel leads the Foundation's [Building Trust](#) agenda, which includes a variety of activities designed to increase organizational trust, promote the imperative of trusting science and facts, and increase equity and reduce systemic racism in the US health care system.

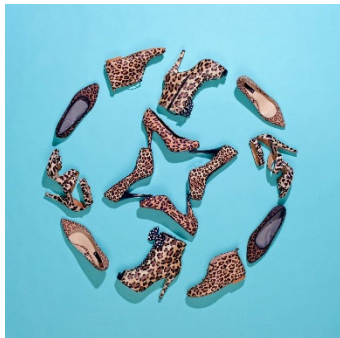
Building Trust is a three-pronged strategy to: Convene leaders to have conversations on the importance of trust; help develop research on the evidence that trust impacts performance; and identify best practices and behaviors that drive trust. The aim is to elevate trust as an essential organizing principle for improving healthcare.

As a Philadelphia resident, Daniel is interested in fair and equitable housing for those Philadelphia residents who struggle daily with homelessness and meeting their basic needs. We look forward to working with – and learning from – Daniel, and discussing the health outcomes that providing housing supports.

Upcoming Fundraisers

Calling All (Local) Lutherans! On Thursday, August 17 at Grace Lutheran Church in Hatfield, Sanctuary Village will be hosting a Trivia Night with a twist: members (and friends) of local Lutheran churches are invited to compete with each other and see whose church family takes the prize! Cathy Farrell, an active member at Grace, will be reaching out to 12 churches in the Hatfield area, inviting their members to come and compete. We will have tables of 8 players. Attendees will be invited to bring their own food, snacks, and beverages. There will be baskets of all sorts of goodies being raffled off, with tickets sold at the event. Please consider coming out to play! For information, contact Cathy at cifarrell@comcast.net. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased at the door or on Sanctuary Village's [website](#). The event will be really fun and – as always – for a good cause.

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Shoe Drive, Round 2 – Looking for Captains!

Some of you may remember the SHOE DRIVE we held in September 2021 when we collected hundreds of pairs of gently used or new shoes to be sold by vendors overseas,

helping them to earn a living. We like this fundraiser for a number of reasons: although the money earned by Sanctuary Village is not a lot (only 40 cents for each pair of shoes), we do make some money from it; the shoes we collect allow someone else to earn a living and provide foot wear for people who don't have a lot of money at a reasonable price; and last, but not least, this keeps hundreds of pairs of shoes from being tossed and ending up in landfills...something we all really need to think about since the planet is running out of space for our trash! So this is a win-win-win fundraiser. We hope you consider signing up to be a Captain for our collection in September, to collect and bag up any shoes that haven't been worn recently. Please contact Maggie Weber at mab.farrell@gmail.com to learn more.

FALL GARDEN?

We would love to plant a garden at the village – it would have to be in the Fall with things that can live through the winter. Are you an experienced Fall planter? Cathy would welcome any suggestions – please email cifarrell@comcast.net and let her know your ideas!

In The News

An excerpt from [Uncovering the Reasons Behind Philly's 18% Unsheltered Homeless Population](#):

Why do some people still decline the offer to go to a particular shelter? Why do some people avoid them altogether? Social science researchers have some answers. First, it is important to recognize that for many people, homeless shelters are a lifeline that represents the beginning of the end of their housing crisis. It is also important to recognize that many homeless service providers take seriously and exemplify the core values of the Social Work profession: service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence. But the fact remains that entering shelter is not an easy decision. It often involves fear, threats to one's health, dignity, and identity, and disruption of relationships, routines, or coping mechanisms. Therefore, when a person experiencing homelessness demonstrates ambivalence toward a particular shelter or the shelter system in general, it is inappropriate to blame that person for their homelessness or to imply that they "want" to be homeless. If we want people to come inside off the streets, we need to make sure that what we offer there meets their needs and addresses their concerns. In some cases, mental illness is a key factor in the decision to avoid shelter. The most recently available data indicates that 3/4 of people experiencing homelessness have a mental health diagnosis, and that nearly 1/4 of them have schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders. A person with psychotic symptoms might decide not to go to a shelter because of delusional thoughts about the shelter itself (i.e., it is managed by the CIA). Alternatively, a person may also avoid the shelter because, even when taking their antipsychotic medications as prescribed, they find that the community shelter overstimulates them and exacerbates their symptoms. People seem to avoid [shelter] housing out of fear. Foremost among these is fear of violence. According to one study, 20% of shelter guests reported being victims of violence in a shelter, and more than half reported witnessing violence in a shelter in the past month. Sometimes the fear is related to bed bugs, lice and other pests, or hygiene concerns. Another study states, inadequate ventilation systems, unsanitary bedding, and overcrowding are common environmental issues in shelters that facilitate the transmission of bugs or infectious diseases. Often, the fear is specifically related to sexual violence. For example, the ACLU recently completed a yearlong investigation in California, that found that female shelter guests were repeatedly the targets of sexual coercion, abuse, and harassment.



SANCTUARY VILLAGE | *it really does take a village...*

Sanctuary Village Partners. To date, the SV Board of Directors has been a “working board” of volunteers, donating their time (on top of their full-time jobs) to seeing the tiny house project move forward. As you can imagine, now that we are getting close to the exciting time of making our vision a reality there is a lot of work to do and much more than a group of volunteers can handle. SV is happy to share that we have just engaged the services of:

- ❖ Dunleavy & Associates, a professional services firm focused on building capacity and bottom lines for nonprofit organizations, they use a collaborative model, drawing on the extensive experience of their team enabling them to serve in a cost-effective manner. Dunleavy will step in to serve as an interim Executive Director for our organization, as well as other supportive services, as needed.
- ❖ Tim Snyder of ASI International. Tim’s expertise includes resource development, organizational change, and intentional partnership building. Tim will guide us in formulating our short- and long-term fundraising plans.
- ❖ WatchDog, Inc, specialists in real estate project management and owner representation for construction projects, to oversee the work involved in the construction and installation of the tiny houses.
- ❖ Laura Solomon, Esquire – Over 20 years experience exclusively working with nonprofits.

We are excited to be working with these professionals who each have decades of experience doing what they do, and who will help move us forward into the next critical phase of (literally) getting the tiny houses off the ground!

Sanctuary Village Mentors. The Sanctuary Village Board appreciates that there are many individuals in our community who can provide their skills to furthering our mission but lack the time for full participation as board members. We seek the advice, guidance, support and leadership that these individuals can provide. Their role is distinct in that they do not have the fiduciary duties of the board members. But their expertise makes them special, and their service to the organization impactful. Presently we have two mentors, and we are looking for additional individuals to help in this capacity.



Ms. Staci Scott is our newest mentor. Staci has 25 years of experience in strategic planning, business and workforce development, philanthropy, and community/public relations. Her personal mission is to work in support of individuals who believe themselves to be voiceless and who have been marginalized by mainstream society. Staci is the COO at North10 Philadelphia. In her role, she leads strategic and operational efforts in support of the organization’s mission: to improve the life outcomes for community members in Hunting Park and East Tioga.