

# -S-T-I-T-C-H-E-S-

Vol. 47 No. 2

A bimonthly newsletter of Patchwork Central, Inc.

Fall 2022

## PATCHWORK'S IMPACT *by Amy Rich*

It can be difficult to fully convey the impact Patchwork Central has on our neighborhood.

One way is through numbers. Many, many people pass through Patchwork every year. We stay very busy distributing bikes, distributing food, brewing coffee, answering questions, providing showers, advocating for health needs, and caring for youth after school.

You'll find the numbers in this newsletter. It's a lot.

But these numbers alone do not fully convey what happens at Patchwork on a daily basis. By themselves, they tell the breadth but not the depth of our impact.

We're a place that is relatively small and flexible so we can adapt and meet needs that slip through the cracks at other organizations. We do our best to listen to the people who visit us in order to understand the support that they need and the ways we might be able to help provide it. As a result, our impact can also be measured through these moments with the people who come through our doors.

It's the impact of having a room that's big enough that someone can choose to either take their coffee to a distant table to charge their phone in peace or to join Patchwork's regular "coffee group" who sits around together and discusses everything from politics to the weather.

It's the impact of having neighbors who know they'll be able to stop by and find someone to talk to if they are in need of a human connection. Perhaps they'll join the coffee group, or maybe they'll stop in the main office to update Shawn on where life finds them these days.

It's the impact of having a space for a quirky kid to come after school and feel confidently herself as she swings around the room with her friends and makes square (not round!) pumpkins out of clay because that's exactly the way she wants to make them.

It's the impact of having shower facilities available where a woman currently without housing can know that she will be safe and unharassed as she bathes, allowing her to face the rest of her day on a good note, feeling clean and refreshed.

It's the impact of meeting families in our main office whose stress is written across their faces because they've realized that their income for the month is not going to stretch far enough and they're looking to our food pantry for assistance so they can reserve the money they have for rent, utilities, and transportation.

It's the impact of having a health advocate available to make some phone calls when a man comes in and says with frustration that his doctor's office is misunderstanding something but he can't find his way through a maze of phone trees to get things straightened out.

It's the impact of a centered moment of prayer and a new bike for a man who arrived desperately hopeful on a bike distribution day because he needed to find some form of transportation so he could get a job as one condition of his probation.

It's the impact of being here for everybody. It's working to provide the same kind of welcome to everyone who enters our building, no matter who they are or what their income. It's allowing space for all of our neighbors to come to connect.

Each of these small things adds up—whether it's measured by a checkmark on a sheet tabulating our services provided or by an incremental improvement in someone's wellbeing after a visit. Some of these impacts are difficult to measure and some are simple, but when you add them up their sum is large.

"I always say Patchwork is like a beacon of hope to the neighborhood," Helen Fisher is fond of saying as she serves coffee on Wednesdays during Hospitality time.

Our impact on the lives of our neighbors is what shines out as that beacon. ♦



# PATCHWORK BY THE NUMBERS

*Patchwork has been serving our neighbors near downtown Evansville for 45 years. We are a place where many different people can come together and find respect, safety, and support. Our most recent fiscal year ended on September 30, 2022. Here's what we accomplished in the previous 12 months:*

## ARTS & SMARTS CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

- 29 children and youth in grades K-8 attended Arts & Smarts activities
- 125 days of activities were offered, resulting in 823 individual afternoons of creativity, learning, and growth
- All of our programming was offered at no cost to the children's families, so all children participated as equals. 76% of participants belonged to low-income families.
- Our program evaluation indicated that our participants successfully built relationships within a supportive community of adults and fellow participants who encouraged them to explore their interests and to do better, which are indicators of future success.



## PATCHWORK CENTRAL EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY:

- Served 1495 individuals from 889 households
- Wrote referrals for 882 households in Patchwork's main office
- Distributed over 16.6 tons of food
- Distributed approximately 18,000 meals' worth of food
- Distributed 700 pounds of pet food from the Tuly Pet Food Fund



## NEIGHBORHOOD HOSPITALITY

- Logged approximately 7528 instances of hospitality. These included cups of coffee, phone use, bread, fresh vegetables, referrals to other local agencies better equipped to assist the individual with their needs, and sometimes simply a respectful listening ear to hear our neighbors' frustrations, anger, or celebrations.
- Provided 800 showers for men and women
- Brewed approximately 952 pots of coffee
- Mixed up 88 pitchers of lemonade



# PATCHWORK BY THE NUMBERS *CONTINUED*

## BIKE SHOP

- *Provided 97 refurbished adult bikes to new owners to use for transportation*
- *Gave three bikes to the Arts & Smarts Program to use as incentives*
- *Provided numerous repairs for walk-in clients*



## SOZO HEALTH MINISTRY

- *Provided 1537 total health encounters for 158 total clients. Services included:*
- *115 instances of transporting clients to medical appointments*
- *345 checks of blood pressure*
- *550 instances of medical supplies distributed*
- *9 occasions in which staff identified emergency health situations in clients and 911 was called or the client was transported to an ER.*
- *30 foot soaks*
- *184 instances of complementary and alternative medical services or supplies*



## BUILDING USE

- *Provided space for other organizations who, like us, are working to make a stronger, healthier, and more peaceful community. Last year, these groups included:*
  - *Narcotics Anonymous*
  - *The Evansville Friends Meeting*
  - *Greater Evansville Youth*



## COMMUNITY GARDEN

- *Patchwork maintains an urban garden next to our building.*
- *It provides green space for our neighborhood, and it serves as an educational tool to use with the children in our programs.*

## WORSHIP

- *Patchwork holds weekly worship services on Sunday evenings at 5:15 pm. Services are ecumenical and completely volunteer led.*



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS TO PATCHWORK CENTRAL!

|  |   |  |                                 |   |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Leola Ahrens   | Leonard & Annie Dowhie                    | Stacy & Tedd Hurt                              | Teresa & Jimmy Mitchell         | Steve & Jean Spradley                                   |
| Aldersgate UMC   | Rita Eades                                | IBEW Local Union 16                            | Maris & Donald Mobley           | St. Peters UMC  |
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| The Beckman/Flanagan Family Fund                         | Ann & John Farrar                         | Daniel Kelley                                  | Patricia Novack                 | Helen Templeton   |
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| Darlene Blagg Estate                                     | First Presbyterian Church of Evansville   | Phil Kinsey                                    | Shane & Patricia O'Neill        | Dawn Murtaugh & William Tortoriello                     |
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|  |   | Gino Mioli                                     | The Sparkjoy Foundation         |   |
|  |   |  | Abigail Sperry                  |   |

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## **GIFTS GIVEN IN MEMORY:**

*Gifts in Memory of Alan Winslow & in Honor of his 100th Birthday:*

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John Whinrey  
Pete & Mary Ruthenburg

*In Memory of Others:*

Nelia & Calvin Kimbrough in memory of Bill Shelton

Bob & Chris Gustin in memory of CeCe Goerlitz

Jean Hess in memory of CeCe Goerlitz

Thomas Loesch, Jr. & Billy Hedel in memory of Darlene Blagg

John & Sue Schaeffer in memory of Darlene Blagg

Laura Weaver in memory of Darlene Blagg

Jane Staton in memory of Dorothy Becker

Joan Coates in memory of Ed & Marion Oulette

Jane Staton in memory of Gale "Gus" Gustafson

Jerry & Deanne Cheadle in memory of James Cheadle

Ann Kautzmann in memory of John Gordon Kautzmann

Pam Cahoon in memory of Judi Jacobson & Alan Winslow

Barbara Jacobson in memory of Judi Jacobson & Alan Winslow

Silver Jacobson in memory of Judi Jacobson & Alan Winslow

Gail & Bill LaFief in memory of Kevin Fleming

Jane Staton in memory of Marge Lynn

Suzanne Rosenquist in memory of Mike Goebel  
Janice Workman in memory of Mike Goebel

Gloria Bryant in memory of Nancy Shively

Jane Staton in memory of Patti Ladato

Jane Staton in memory of Robert Leigh Erwin

Jane Staton in memory of Sallie Lee Wade

Jane Staton in memory of Stephen Ray Brown

Rita Eades in memory of Sue Reel

Gail & Bill LaFief in memory of Tony Kupferer

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Darlene Blagg

Randall Brown

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Samantha Buente

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Karen Edwards

The Fahrlander Family

Fairlawn UMC

First Baptist Church

First Ebenezer Baptist Church

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Jodie Neufelder-Pariadean

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Nothin' But Net BNI

Spencer Payton

Pets for Vets

Wendi Pleiss

Debra Reynolds

Salem UMC

Simpson UMC

Sojour Church

St. Ben's Church

Veltri Taylor

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Raymond Wang

Carol Watson

Mary Jane Wedding

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Daniel Wilson

George Xiao

*These lists include gifts received and volunteer time completed between 10/1/2021 and 9/30/2022. We are very grateful for every donation we receive. While we have worked to assure that this list is correct, we apologize for any errors we may have made. We appreciate your support and understanding.*

# VISITING FOLK ARTISTS

Over, under, over, under.

Get to the end of a 16-inch string, then pick your next color and begin again.

Over, under, over, under.

The kids in the Arts & Smarts Program watched carefully as Peggy Taylor, the day's visiting folk artist, showed them what to do. Then they tried it themselves, weaving strands of yarn to make strips of fabric to use as bookmarks or other decorations. They were fully engaged in the project, working hard to finish their weaving in order to create their own textile.

Peggy was the first in what will be a monthly series of folk and traditional artists who will share their artwork with our Arts & Smarts participants. The series is a unique collaboration with local folklorist Taylor Burden. Taylor has identified local folk and traditional artists through fieldwork and artist interviews that were part of a folklife survey of our area. The artists identified represent the vibrant traditions and art forms of Southwestern Indiana.

Taylor is helping facilitate the sessions at Patchwork. From September through April, Patchwork will host monthly guest artists who may include weavers, dulcimer makers, wood carvers, fiber spinners, or accordion players, among other tradition bearers. Each session will feature a folk or traditional artist demonstrating their craft for participants then leading a hands-on activity so participants can learn a creative skill associated with the artist's craft or creative tradition. Guest artists will also discuss how they find meaning in their art and how their art form not only serves as a valuable creative practice but also enriches their own lives and the lives of others in their communities.

Taylor sees great value in teaching children about folk art, and if the project is successful at Patchwork, she hopes to expand it to other organizations and schools.



*She says: Folk arts contribute not only to students' understanding of cultural traditions, but also to their ability to think critically, gather and analyze evidence, and express their ideas and interpretations through personal creativity. Folklife and the tools of the folklorist can support learning in all subjects, including the arts, and even math and science, among other disciplines. Folk arts are uniquely suited to explore the ways in which traditional art forms reflect the history, culture, geography, and values of different cultures and communities, especially when students are presented with the opportunity to learn from vibrant local craftspeople in our own region.*

*Southern Indiana is saturated with a broad spectrum of folk arts and traditions offering Patchwork an important opportunity to enrich their arts teaching. Folk artists give participants an opportunity to learn with artists who look and sound like themselves, their families, and community members, which is what this project seeks to do to help cultivate intercultural understanding and a deeper appreciation of our neighbors.*

Valli Rigling was our second visiting folk artist. She does stitchery, works with materials she finds in thrift stores, and showed us her work depicting everything from her family, playful pairs of shoes, chickens, streetscapes, people from around the world, and all sorts of whimsical things. She led the kids in stringing yarn through cardboard carrots, using yarn to embellish magnolia leaves, and stitching water for fish to swim through on found fabric. Again, everyone was engaged in the project. They listened to Valli share about her work, looked at her fabric pieces, and tried all of the stitching variations that she presented. In the end, many interesting pieces of art were created.

*We're very grateful to the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana for providing Sponsorship of the Arts grant funding to make this special project possible.*



## E-NEWSLETTER

MORE STORIES! MORE PHOTOS! MORE NEWS!

Sign up for our bi-weekly e-newsletter!

You will receive email updates highlighting the most recent happenings at Patchwork. Simply visit our website, [www.Patchwork.org](http://www.Patchwork.org), and click the "join our mailing list" link!



## BEQUESTS

The next time you update your will, please consider adding Patchwork Central, Inc. as a beneficiary. As a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization, Patchwork is eligible to receive donations from bequests. Any size of gift makes a big difference in providing for our programming and contributing to our long-term stability.

*Please be generous as you consider sending your cash contribution in the envelopes provided for your convenience. Your generosity will help us to continue the Patchwork tradition of providing these many creative programs.*

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

Every Sunday at 5:15 pm, the Patchwork Community meets for worship both in person at Patchwork and virtually on the Patchwork Central Worship Facebook page. In person attendees must be fully vaccinated. You are welcome to join us!

### PATCHWORK CENTRAL, INC.

100 Washington Ave.  
Evansville, IN 47713-1521  
(812) 424-2735  
[www.patchwork.org](http://www.patchwork.org)

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Patchwork Central creates community, honors personal dignity, empowers people, and encourages spiritual and social growth through its programs and hospitality, its opportunities for learning, its creative atmosphere and cultivation of the arts, and its work toward reconciliation and a more peaceful and just world.*

### -S-T-I-T-C-H-E-S- STAFF

|                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Amy Rich</b>        | <i>Editor &amp; Photos</i>   |
| <b>Laura Weaver</b>    | <i>Proofreader</i>           |
| <b>Mooney Printing</b> | <i>Layout &amp; Printing</i> |



### PATCHWORK CENTRAL STAFF

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>John &amp; Amy Rich</b> | <i>Co-Executive Directors</i>                    |
| <b>Shawn Craddock</b>      | <i>Hospitality Coordinator</i>                   |
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- Patchwork by the Numbers
- Thank You for Your Gifts to Patchwork!
- Visiting Folk Artists

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CENTRAL**