

## TRANSFORMATIONS IN A BUSY BUILDING

There is always a lot going on at Patchwork. Our building transforms itself time after time throughout the day and throughout the week.

In one moment, it's a neighborhood coffee shop with folks sitting around tables and visiting with one another. A few people charge their phones in different areas around the room. The tables are filled with cups of coffee, plates of snacks, and bags of food from the food pantry that are waiting to go home.

In another moment, it's a space where children gather, laugh, and explore their creativity. They stand at the front of the room while they recite "The Creed Official," which is posted on the wall. They sit around tables adorned with sunflowers like Vincent van Gogh used to paint, and they create their own paintings.

In a different moment, it's a reliable meeting space for other community groups like Narcotics Anonymous and Greater

Evansville Youth. The semi-circle of chairs at the front of the room becomes a space for group members to listen to one another or to a presenter.

On Sunday evenings it's a place of worship when the Patchwork Community gathers together beneath the circle window. A bouquet of flowers or a candle might grace the table at the front of the room along with communion bread and wine.

For each part of the day and week, it can be a leap of imagination to envision the space at a different time. In each moment, the space seems so perfectly aligned to the current use. Then the moment changes, and the space is perfectly aligned again for a different use. It is something we do well at Patchwork.

What follows are some of the latest developments within the broad range of programming that fill our space with people connecting to create community.

## SOZO HEALTH MINISTRY

The Sozo Health Ministry walks with people through whatever health challenges they're dealing with. No matter how big or small the request, all find support from John Rich, Katie Loehrlein, Mary Damm, and others who are part of the health ministry. It may be someone who is adjusting to life on dialysis. It might be someone whose feet show the wear of walking across the city on a daily basis. It might even be someone who needs to designate someone as their legal medical representative because they're going through a procedure that they may not come out of alive. Or, it may be someone who just needs access to some simple, over-the-counter medication.

One morning, Gail found me in the main office and said a man was having back spasms and had asked if we had any ibuprofen. It was a simple request, and we got him some. Later that morning as he was headed out for the rest of his day, he popped his head into the main office and said, "You saved my life! Two ibuprofens and a hot shower took my back from an 8 to a 3!" He told me he is plagued by significant back pain that limits what he is able to do, but after the morning at Patchwork he was feeling good.

John has been excited about this new development in the Health Ministry:

In addition to helping clients meet their health needs, Sozo is now helping to train the next generation of family medicine physicians. The Deaconess Family Medicine Residency Program has chosen Patchwork Central's Sozo Health Ministry as one of



its multiple Community Partners through which residents rotate to gain valuable health care experience. The goal of the rotation is to familiarize the residents with available community resources and to start introducing them to the concept of trauma-informed care, community partnership, advocacy, social determinants of health, etc.

*"Sozo Health Ministry" continued on page 2*

## SOZO HEALTH MINISTRY *continued*

We have had several medical residents join us in the mornings. They see the different programs, services, and resources that Patchwork offers. They learn about our neighbors and the challenges those neighbors face in accessing health care. They also help us in the work of the Sozo Health Ministry—taking blood pressure readings, answering medical questions, dressing minor wounds, dispensing over-the-counter health supplies, and, of course, “taking a look at that,” whatever “that” is worrying the person at the time.

One doctor brought in his digital otoscope (the thing they use to look inside your ears) which had a camera connected to his tablet, so he could show people what he sees when he looks inside their ears. Another resident was planning on going into sports medicine. He happened to rotate through Patchwork on a particularly busy morning. He could have just gone through the motions, taken some blood pressures, and not really cared

about this population because it wasn't his intended specialty. Instead, this doctor jumped into the deep end, going out of his way to talk to as many people as possible. He talked to one man about a knee injury, giving lots of detailed education and advice. He helped Nurse John dress a wound for a woman who had been there twice before for the same problem. Both doctor and nurse were very pleased with how well the wound was healing.

We are pleased that the Deaconess Family Medicine Residency Program provides these kinds of educational opportunities for their residents to prepare future family medicine physicians to understand and care for these complex patients who face barriers and discrimination when attempting to access health care. We are honored that they have chosen the Sozo Health Ministry to partner with them in providing this kind of preparation for the future. ■

## FOOD PANTRY

Usage of Patchwork's Food Pantry continues to grow after declining during the worst of the pandemic. Our monthly numbers served still aren't as high as they were before the pandemic, but we've seen a steady increase. Currently, we're averaging around 150 individuals from 90 families who utilize our food pantry every month. Some of the final pandemic assistance programs are due to end soon, so this, along with inflation, may lead to additional increases in use.

Our Food Pantry has a weekly routine with dedicated volunteers who come once a week every week to staff the pantry on their designated day. Every day, they wait, ready. Some days they assemble only one or two food orders in the 2.25 hours the pantry is open. Other days it's a whirlwind of five or six large families who just happen to all arrive at the same time. Guests can also get pet food, can openers, and (on occasion) necessities like toilet paper.

Our food pantry clients all start in the main office where they check in with Shawn Craddock and get a referral from her. Everyone is eligible for a full food order once every 30 days, but even if they've come too soon we do our best to make sure they don't leave empty-handed. On a recent morning, a woman stood in the main office talking to Shawn and said of her friend, “I told him, let's go to Patchwork! They're a good place! They'll help!”

Bill Hemminger gives the following illustration of a morning in the Food Pantry:

Wednesdays are the big delivery day at the Patchwork Food Pantry. Right at 9 a.m. Phil gets the Patchwork van, drives to



Tri-State Food Bank, loads the weekly order, and adds whatever fruits and vegetables are available. Amanda volunteers in the pantry on that day, but by the time Phil pulls around back of the building, several other people have come to help unload the van (several hundred pounds of food at least)—and to distribute food to the freezers, fridge, and shelves. Johnny and William are usually already in the building, and Jerry drives into town just for this purpose. The unexpected but much-appreciated help is typical of the unscripted generosity that characterizes Patchwork and its family. ■





## NEIGHBORHOOD HOSPITALITY

Patchwork's Neighborhood Hospitality is made up of innumerable small services that combine to make a much larger impact. A remarkable part of it is the way we help meet both people's immediate needs and their greater need to belong to something bigger than themselves.

The immediate needs are easy to see and understand. They include things like shampoo, a bar of soap, a towel, a toothbrush, and a safe place to bathe. They include a snack and some hot coffee to feed an empty stomach. They include a loaf of bread and some oranges to go. Or they include the use of a phone to make appointments or call for needed information.

The need for belonging may not be as apparent at first, but through my time being part of mornings at Patchwork, I can clearly see how much, no matter who you are and no matter how much or how little you have, you want to be part of something meaningful and good. Patchwork makes space for people to be part of something. They share a space with other guests and greet one another, checking around if someone hasn't been seen lately. They pitch in for the larger Patchwork effort by helping to clean the showers or taking out the trash when they see something that needs to be done. They are part of Patchwork. They are part of the community that forms here, and it would be a mistake to think that this sense of belonging is less important than the food or showers or phone use.

Shawn tells the following story to illustrate this:

One of our friends, who suffers from sometimes debilitating mental illness, stopped in the office the other day to share with me that the night before he had been suicidal. He recognized the state he was in and was able to ask for the help he needed.

## BIKE SHOP

Our Bike Shop volunteers (Known around here, with gratitude, as "Pete and the two Pauls") continue their work completing repairs for walk-up customers and refurbishing donated bicycles to give out on monthly bike distribution days. Bike distribution days are scheduled for the first Tuesday of most months and they start early—usually around 8:30 am. Even then, people show up earlier for an opportunity to get a new-to-them ride. We distribute 12-18 bikes each month to people who will rely on them for transportation.

This service remains deeply needed and highly valued by those who benefit from it, as evidenced by this review left on Facebook by Britt:

Volunteers n Selfless Folk are to me Evansville's best kept Secret. Serving our community n caring for others. Giving of their personal time to assist maybe less fortunate or just people in general. Amazing n Beautiful in and of itself. I'm 54 tomorrow if I make it thru tonight n the best Bday gift I got in advance is the fact that Mr Pete, who has helped me multiple times in our dealings, took care of my back tire this morning, as I been outta commission for over a week—fixed for me. You might laugh, but in my old age I'm like a little kid in a candy store cuz I'm mobile



They got his meds worked out and he was feeling much better. I gave him a hug and told him how happy I was that he recognized how he was feeling and was smart enough to ask for help. He said he loved coming to Patchwork because he knew that people really cared about him, and he was thankful for John because he had helped him with some medical issues the week before. These types of interactions happen often, with different people, for differing reasons and that is a piece of what we do here at Patchwork. It's not just about the services, it's about being a welcoming refuge from a sometimes-callous world. Our connections and our interactions bring comfort and hope to all of us in return. ■



again, Reason being Cause of Him n I hate walking. I really don't have much to offer, but I'm truly Grateful to utmost n value n appreciate not only Him but all the Special Ladies in the kitchen that greet us daily with smiles, Staffers, My Friend who I can talk Basketball with, n just all involved. Your kindness n courtesy n generosity is witnessed all week by us-Thank You Much. ■



## ARTS & SMARTS CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

This semester has been full of theme weeks and artwork in the children's program. Our participants helped come up with the weekly themes. We started with "There's Snowbody Like You" Week when everyone created snowflake frames for photos of themselves. Then came Money Week, when one of our volunteers shared her interest in coin collecting, and we looked at money from around the world before everyone designed their own currency. Then came Pajama Week, then an assorted week that included Western Wednesday (a highlight for many), Silly Sock Week, Welcome Spring Week (we created several kinds of paper flowers), and Book Weeks.

In addition to the theme weeks, our Arts & Smarts participants have been learning about famous artists' work. Last fall, they learned about Dale Chihuly's glass art and created a large found object sculpture inspired by it. This spring, they learned about Vincent van Gogh's painting, including his color choices and his work with impasto, which is thick, textural paint. To be like van Gogh, the participants all donned hats to help them focus while they painted. This spring our participants also learned about the art of M.C. Escher, and they created their own tessellations which evolved into mixed media works that included pen on paper and woven yarn.

Mixed throughout all of this were walks to Haynie's Corner to restock the Little Libraries there, discussions of everyone's "sparks" (the things that interest and excite them), work making ceramic whistles and fairy villages in our studio, visits from folk artists, open-ended game time, visits from international students studying at the University of Southern Indiana, and time learning how to give one another meaningful compliments.

Many of our participants are siblings or children of past Arts & Smarts participants, demonstrating the strong connection that people feel toward our programming. Being a part of the Arts & Smarts Program is something that was so meaningful that families want to make sure that additional generations experience it as well.



As a reminder that this connection and impact goes back decades, this spring we had a visit from Callie, the first child to ever be registered for Patchwork's children's program when it started back in the early 1980's. Her family lived near Patchwork and her mother told her in no uncertain terms that Callie would be part of the programming. She was back in Evansville for a visit and made a point of stopping by Patchwork because she has fond memories of this place and the encouragement that she found here. Now she has a Masters in Social Work and works as a social worker for the VA.

We never want to become complacent, so this spring we have also embarked on a strategic planning process that will help us look to the future of the Arts & Smarts Program. If you have received a survey about our Arts & Smarts Program and have filled it out for us, thank you! ■





## GARDEN

Patchwork's gardens continue to provide reflective and calming green spaces within the city. This year we will add a new, artful seating area in the green space on our front lawn in memory of Alan Winslow, Beth Stone, and Darlene Blagg. We will also plant a tree in memory of Helen Templeton. All of these long-time Patchwork members have died in the past few years.

Meanwhile, we are grateful for our continued partnership with the Master Gardeners of Southwestern Indiana. The group has helped us create and maintain raised beds for our vegetables and has provided educational gardening lessons for the Arts & Smarts Program to go along with the things planted in this garden. ■



## HELEN TEMPLETON TREE DEDICATION

Helen Templeton, a longtime Patchwork Community member, passed away in May 2022. On Arbor Day 2023, Bill and Jill Hemminger and Jean Beckman gathered in Patchwork's garden to plant a yellow magnolia tree that will grow in memory of Helen. ■



## WORSHIP

A committed group of Patchwork folks still gather every Sunday at 5:15 pm for a worship service. You are welcome to join us! Each week is different as each service is led by a different volunteer. A potluck meal follows each service. You can attend in person or watch via a livestream on the "Patchwork Central Worship" Facebook page. ■



## PANCAKE EXTRAVAGANZA

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! to everyone who helped make our Pancake Extravaganza such a success!

We're grateful for everyone who came out to eat breakfast with us, everyone who came to volunteer, and everyone who donated a little extra to help support our programming! It was wonderful to have our friends, old and new, back in our building for the event. It feels like it had been much too long since we had seen many of you!

Special thanks to FC Tucker Emge and Stephanie Morris Homes for providing the coffee that kept everyone fueled for the morning. Thank you also to Bethany Christian Church, Greater Evansville Youth, and the BNI Nothin' but Net Chapter for sending extra volunteers to help the event go smoothly. ■





# UPCOMING EVENTS!

May 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

June 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

July 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	7	1
2	3	4	5	6	14	8
9	10	11	12	13	21	15
16	17	18	19	20	28	22
23	24	25	26	27	4	29
30	31	1	2	3	11	5

August 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

September 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

## FIRST FRIDAYS

The year's First Friday events begin on Friday, May 5, 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm, and run on the first Friday of every month through October. At Patchwork, you'll find live music on our front lawn, the street blocked off, and an array of food trucks parked on Washington Avenue. You can eat on the lawn or come inside Patchwork for tables, restrooms, and air conditioning. From Patchwork, you can stroll down to Haynie's Corner for more Haynie's Corner Art District First Friday music and activities.



## MEMORIAL DEDICATION

On Saturday, May 20 at 2:00 pm, we'll dedicate a new, artful seating area located just outside Patchwork's front doors. The area is being created in memory of three long-time Patchwork members who have died in the past few years: Alan Winslow, Beth Stone, and Darlene Blagg. The area will feature a colorful mural "carpet" painted on the sidewalk by artists with Twymon Art Gallery. Benches will be installed on two sides of the mural. We hope that this seating area will add to the welcoming sense of peace and reflection in this place for everyone who passes by.



## 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. You are welcome to join us!*

## PATCHWORK CENTRAL, INC.

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

Amy Rich	Editor & Photos
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## 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.*



## PATCHWORK CENTRAL STAFF

John & Amy Rich	Co-Executive Directors
Shawn Craddock	Hospitality Coordinator
Bailey Korschgen	Program Assistant
Jane Case Vickers	Director of Arts & Education Programs

Molly Fahrlander	Program Assistant
Bill Hemminger	Food Pantry Coordinator
Pete Emery	Bike Shop Coordinator
Katie Loehrlein	Associate Health Minister



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[www.patchwork.org](http://www.patchwork.org)

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*Updated photos, useful information, newsletters, online giving, and more!*

*Memorial Dedication*

• *Upcoming Events: First Fridays and*

• *Transformations in a Busy Building*

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**PATCHWORK  
CENTRAL**

