

## THIS YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS *by Amy Rich*

The building is becoming increasingly busy here at Patchwork Central! Especially in the last few months, the number of people utilizing all of the services we provide has increased to levels we haven't seen since before the pandemic began. This is likely due to a broad combination of things including everything from the end of pandemic-related assistance for families to people's increased

comfort being back in public spaces. It has felt good to be busy again and to be housing such a vibrant and lively community of folks coming together. At the same time, it is difficult to observe that so many folks continue to struggle with situations and systems much bigger than themselves. We hope that they find hope, community, and caring while they are here. ♦

### THE PATCHWORK CENTRAL EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

**What we did:** Last year, our food pantry served 1858 individuals from 1120 households by distributing over 16 tons of food. The Pantry is open Monday-Thursday mornings and is one of six that make up Evansville's Emergency Food Pantry Consortium (EEFPC). Individuals are eligible for a food order every 30 days. Our main office staff manage intake and verify eligibility through the EEFPC call center. Each food order includes 3-4 days' worth of food, meaning we distributed approximately 22,000 meals-worth of food. Our food pantry also distributed over 1350 pounds of pet food from the Tuly Fund so recipients did not have to choose between feeding themselves or their pets.

**What this looks like:** All morning people arrive in the main office, some sure of where they need to go and others hesitant and clearly finding their way in a new place. "I heard you have food?" they might say, or, "am I in the right place for the pantry?" or, "I need some groceries."

They begin the process with Shawn. She checks their name and other information before calling it into the EEFPC call center to see whether they've used an EEFPC pantry within the last 30 days. If they have, they aren't eligible for food from our pantry, but we do our best to make sure they don't leave empty-handed. Shawn will give them a list of other independent pantries to try, and they can look to see if we have any bread or fresh produce that's available to everyone. If they are eligible for a food order, Shawn sends them back to the food pantry where our staff and volunteers put together their food, giving them options when possible and listening if they have any special requests. ♦



The Patchwork Central Emergency Food Pantry

### ARTS & SMARTS AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

**What we did:** From September 2022 through August 2023, 37 children and youth in grades K-8 attended at least one day of Arts & Smarts activities. A total of 123 days of activities were offered in that time, resulting in 696 individual afternoons of creativity, learning, and growth. Of those children, 78% belonged to low-income families. All of our programming was offered at no cost to the children's families. Daily activities included one-on-one homework help, visual arts, gardening, leadership training, and substance abuse prevention. Through these activities, children gained important skills for life. Our program evaluation indicated that they built relationships within a supportive community of adults and fellow participants who encouraged them to explore their interests and to do better. Both of these are indicators of future success.

*Continued on Page 2*



Arts & Smarts After School and Summer Children's Programming





## ARTS & SMARTS AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING (CONTINUED)

**What this looks like:** Ventriloquist dummies aren't for everyone, but for Guinnie in our Arts & Smarts program, they're her spark. Sparks are the things that interest, excite, or inspire each one of us. Guinnie is in elementary school and regularly brings Lester, her ventriloquist dummy, for an afternoon visit. Everyone knows his name and greets him at the door just as cheerfully as they greet Guinnie. Perhaps some of our staff think Lester is a little creepy, but they don't let onto that fact in any way. It's Guinnie's spark and we want to encourage and celebrate it. Studies show that kids who know their sparks and who have adults who support those sparks will have higher levels of thriving than their peers.

On the day of Lester's most recent visit, we also had Denise, a folk artist, helping us create containers using gourds decorated with hand drawn creatures colored with markers. Denise shared her own artwork with our participants, then shared books illustrated with animals both domestic and fantastical for the kids to use for inspiration for their designs. A group of 3rd-6th grade boys gathered at one corner of the tables, joking and laughing as they worked on their gourds. The sound of Denise's saw punctuated the conversation in the room as she cut tops or sides off the gourds to make containers. Jane sat with the two youngest girls who are in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, and they practiced the drawings that they wanted to put on their gourds. These drawings were quite ambitious for such little hands, but Jane was undaunted and showed them side-by-side how to draw something by breaking a larger image down into its smaller parts. By the end of the day, all the kids had had fun exploring a new art form and a collection of gourd containers had begun to form. ♦



## NEIGHBORHOOD HOSPITALITY

**What we did:** One service Patchwork provides to our neighbors is simply our presence. We call it Neighborhood Hospitality. Last year, we logged approximately 9167 instances of hospitality. These included cups of coffee, phone use, bread, fresh vegetables, and referrals to other local agencies better equipped to assist the individual with their needs. It also included 1275 showers for individuals who, for various reasons, had no other access to shower facilities. We also brewed approximately 1210 pots of coffee and mixed up 169 pitchers of lemonade. Sometimes this hospitality was simply having a staff member able to lend a respectful listening ear to hear our neighbors' frustrations, anger, or celebrations.



**What this looks like:** A man came into the main office with questions about bikes and food and the Narcotics Anonymous group that meets at Patchwork on Wednesday evenings. Shawn listened to him and gave him the information she had related to each of his questions. He thanked her and started to leave the main office, but at the door he turned back to her and said, "I just want to say: Your customer service skills are excellent. I mean it. They really are and it makes a difference. I wouldn't automatically assume it."

Meanwhile in the kitchen, Gail was serving coffee and snacks. As she greeted each person she served, one man looked at her and said, "I've been a lot of places around town. This is my favorite place to come because people say nice things to me here."

Back in the main office, a couple checked in for showers. Shawn let them know how many people were ahead of each of them so they have a rough idea of how soon their turn would come. "What do you need? Soap? Shampoo?" Shawn asked and gave each person the toiletries that they requested. In addition to the soap and shampoo, we try to stay stocked on deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion, conditioner, and socks. With everything set, they headed out to the main room for some coffee while they waited. ♦





## BIKE SHOP

**What we did:** The Bike Shop provides refurbished bikes to people who need them for transportation and repairs bikes to allow existing bike owners to keep their means of transportation roadworthy. Last year, we provided 166 refurbished adult bikes to new owners, five bikes to the Arts & Smarts Program to use as incentives, and we provided numerous repairs for walk-in clients.

**What this looks like:** We distribute bikes on designated days every month or two. The frequency is determined by how quickly our bike shop volunteers can refurbish enough donated bikes to meet the demand. As word has gotten out about the opportunity to get a bike at Patchwork, the number of people arriving on a giveaway day has increased. During the giveaway at the end of August, we gave out a record 39 bikes and could have given out more if we'd have had them in stock.

These bikes represent so much for their new owners. They're the key to a fresh start after jail or at the start of sober living. They are the promise of new and better job opportunities across town. They are a reliable way to keep appointments. They can get someone so much farther than travel on foot alone. They represent much hope.

A few weeks ago, Brett brought his bike back for a minor tune-up. He also wanted to show Pete and the other bike shop volunteers how nicely his bike had shined up thanks to just a little TLC and elbow grease. The volunteers were all very impressed with Brett's work and were tickled to know how much of a difference the bike had made. ♦



Bike Shop

## SOZO HEALTH MINISTRY

**What we did:** The Sozo Health Ministry promotes health and wholeness through weekly health screenings, education, advocacy, non-emergency medical transportation, complementary and alternative medicine services, and spiritual care. In addition to their work at Patchwork every morning that the building is open to the public, our Sozo staff can also be found at Central Library on the first Friday morning of every month. Last year, we provided 2353 total health encounters for about 220 total clients. Services included 131 instances of transporting clients to medical appointments, 392 checks of blood pressure, and 1724 instances of over-the-counter medical supplies distributed. Last year we also provided or distributed 145 complementary and alternative medicine services or supplies. Last year there were 19 occasions when staff identified emergency health situations in clients and 911 was called or the client was transported to an ER.

**What this looks like:** Katie was helping a man use an automatic machine to check his blood pressure. The resulting reading was outside the normal range, so Katie called Nurse John over. John provided the man with information about high blood pressure and suggested that the man follow up with his doctor so he could be diagnosed and get appropriate medications or other treatments. John talked to the man about the things that can contribute to high blood pressure like foods high in salt or even insomnia.

John's mention of insomnia connected with the man. He explained that he's been having a lot of trouble sleeping lately. This connected with Katie. Katie has identified poor sleep as an issue that many of our guests face, so she has created a pamphlet about how to get better sleep that includes many suggestions grounded in complementary and alternative medicine. Katie gave the man a copy of her pamphlet and talked to him about ways to get better sleep.

The man left with an understanding of how to follow up with his doctor, an idea of the traditional medicines his doctor might prescribe, and some alternative techniques he could use to help him feel better, both for his blood pressure and for his general well-being. It was a good example of how traditional medicine along with complementary and alternative medicine in addition to conversations based in relationships make the difference for Sozo clients. ♦



Sozo Health Ministry

## BUILDING USE

**What we did:** Patchwork provides space for other organizations who, like us, are working to make a stronger, healthier, and more peaceful community. Many people pass through our building on a weekly or monthly basis to visit these organizations. Last year, these groups included Narcotics Anonymous, the Evansville Friends Meeting, and the Greater Evansville Youth Group.

**What this looks like:** Every week our building transforms time and again. The Meetinghouse is a space for more than just Patchwork's programming. It is a place of stability for others in the community who may never experience Patchwork's direct services but who have come to know us through the other organizations who meet here. For these folks, the Meetinghouse is a place of welcome, community, inclusion, and safety. ♦

## WORSHIP

**What we did:** Patchwork holds weekly worship services on Sunday evenings at 5:15 pm. Services are ecumenical and completely volunteer-led. Worship has been important at Patchwork since its beginning as a neighborhood ministry in 1977. Worship services are held both in person and on Facebook Live.

**What this looks like:** Worship goes back to Patchwork's founding when the three founding couples gathered together in each other's homes to worship on Sunday evenings, followed by a potluck supper. This continues today with a small group made up of many folks who share a deep commitment to Patchwork and its mission. ♦

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

**What we did:** Patchwork maintains an urban garden next to our building. It provides pleasant green space for our neighborhood and serves as an educational tool to use with the children in our programs.

**What this looks like:** You can see the seasons changing in Patchwork's garden. In spring, you may find children's program participants planting lettuce, radishes, carrots, or kale. In the summer, you may find children searching the bushes for ripe blackberries or Master Gardeners leading us in planting tomatoes. In autumn, you'll find the kids excitedly digging through the tallest raised bed to extract sweet potatoes from its depths. Neighbors are welcome to stop by to pick tomatoes or okra. They can sit and enjoy the beauty and solitude of the meditation area or watch for butterflies or birds in our native plant garden. Our gardens, like everything at Patchwork, are welcoming to all. ♦



Community Garden

## THANK YOU!

*Everything that Patchwork Central accomplished in the past year would not have been possible without financial and in-kind contributions from:*

Leola Ahrens	Brian & Susan Bohrnstedt	John & Barbara Cheadle	Evansville Recovery Alliance	Miriam & Ryan Goertzen-Regier	Thomas & Jean Hunsberger
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Bob & Nancy Bock					



# THANK YOU!

John Lawler  
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Susan North  
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Thomas Stratton  
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Nelia & Calvin Kimbrough in honor of Amy & John's 15 years  
Sammie Ruthenford in honor of Amy & John's 15 years  
Ann & Bryan Craney in honor of Calvin & Nelia Kimbrough  
Phil & Elaine Amerson in honor of Calvin & Nelia Kimbrough  
Marylu Sonntag in honor of Jean Beckman  
Kelly & Marilyn Haley in honor of Patchwork staff & volunteers  
Donald Roberts in honor of Phil & Helen Fisher  
Phil Amerson in memory of Darlene Blagg  
Douglass Korb in memory of Donald McKinley Freeman  
Bill & Jill Hemminger in memory of Helen Reed  
John & Leah Eads in memory of Helen Templeton

Bill & Jill Hemminger in memory of Helen Templeton  
Gail & Ron Riecken in memory of Helen Templeton  
Ann Kautzmann in memory of her brother  
Mary Ruthenford in memory of James and Michael, two Sozo clients  
Dixie Wilsbacher in honor of Jane Vickers  
Lois Alfsen in memory of Judi Jacobson  
Silver Jacobson in memory of Judi Jacobson & Alan Winslow  
Susan Laird & Mel Mobley in memory of Judi Jacobson & Alan Winslow  
Gloria Bryant in memory of Nancy Shively  
Eric & Toni Robeson in memory of Steve Wilson  
Kelley Coures in memory of Traci Dallas  
Gaylia Carlton in memory of Vi Shively  
**Volunteers**  
***The following 82 adult & high school volunteers contributed over 2,900 hours of volunteer time to Patchwork's programming:***  
Ollie Allen  
Ana Avila  
Tom Ballard  
Tressie Barber  
Seth Barr  
Delaney Bigler  
Bob Bock  
Nancy Bock  
Brittany Brown  
Michelle Brown  
Shelby Brummer  
Azariah Campbell  
Jennifer Carter  
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Christy Ferguson  
Paul Ferguson  
Tamera Fields  
Helen Fisher  
Susan Fowler  
Hannah Girtan

Campbell Glaser  
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Kyana Goines  
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Tom North  
Lindsey Olson  
Carole O'Neill  
Gary O'Neill  
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Andrew Pendle  
Judy Pereboom  
Cindy Pike  
Reaksa Pin  
Steve Pitt  
Harry Pyae Thukha  
Edwin Ramirez  
Nancy Roberts  
Maya Rose  
Alexis Sales  
Connie Samples  
Kahra Schmitt  
Shami Sorrells  
Nikita Thomas  
Mary Jane Wedding  
Rita Wedig  
Daniel Wilson

***These lists include gifts received and volunteer time completed between 10/1/2022 and 9/30/2023. We are very grateful for everything we receive. While we have worked to ensure that this list is correct, we apologize for any errors we may have made. We appreciate your support and understanding.***

## A PLACE TO REFLECT

In May, we held a dedication of the new seating area created on Patchwork's front lawn in memory of Alan Winslow, Beth Stone, and Darlene Blagg. We also dedicated a magnolia tree planted in our garden in memory of Helen Templeton. A wonderful mix of folks gathered as a community to celebrate the new space and to bless it on behalf of all who will sit on the benches and enjoy the view.

In the time since the dedication, it's been heartwarming to see the blessing that this seating area has been for everyone visiting Patchwork. The benches are located in a pleasantly shaded spot by our front doors. The space has quickly become well used and well loved.

It's a peaceful spot. It's a beautiful spot. It's a spot that encourages contemplation. It's a spot that encourages conversation. It's a spot that encourages community. It's a spot that engenders much of who Alan, Beth, and Darlene were. It's perfect.

Many thanks to artist Helen Pope for creating the mural that is part of the seating area and to Twymon Art Gallery for coordinating the mural project. As was observed at the dedication, the mural is composed of many layers, giving it depth—much like the lives of the people it honors. ♦



A Place to Reflect



## SOUP, SALAD, & STYLE!

On October 11, Patchwork supporters gathered in the beautiful event space at Venue 812 to enjoy a delicious lunch of salad and soups along with a lovely fashion show of clothing from Wildflower Boutique. Conversation was lively and the mood was light as the luncheon moved into an auction of artwork by children in Patchwork's Arts & Smarts Program along with artwork by artist Emily Gartner.

It was a wonderful luncheon, and, better yet, all of the funds raised will support Patchwork and the work we do in our neighborhood. We're grateful for everyone who joined us, and we're especially grateful for the following sponsors who helped make the day such a success! ♦

Soup, Salad, & Style!



## SPECIAL THANKS TO: OUR SOUP, SALAD, & STYLE SPONSORS

### VENUE 812 • WILDFLOWER BOUTIQUE

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## 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.*

## 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!*



*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.*

*Want to make a contribution to Patchwork Central?*  
**DONATE HERE!**



*Mail check to:*  
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## PATCHWORK CENTRAL, INC.

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

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

Amy Rich	Editor & Photos
Laura Weaver	Proofreader
Mooney Printing	Layout & Printing

## 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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- *Soup, Salad, & Style!*
- *A Place to Reflect*
- *Thank You!*
- *This Year's Accomplishments*

**IN THIS ISSUE...**

