



*Servants Center helps the mentally ill homeless and poor get off the streets and provides ongoing support with dignity, reflecting Christ's love.*

November 2022

From the Executive Director

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*“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”  
Proverbs 31:8-9*

As I reflect on God’s faithfulness in so many ways in 2022, He deserves all the praise and glory! I am thankful for the current staff that God has assembled. We are a team that works very well together. He has uniquely gifted each of us with a caring heart, a willingness to serve Him, and the experience and skill to serve the mentally ill homeless and poor in the Grand Rapids area and beyond! This is a population that involves hard, labor-intensive, hands-on attention; individuals that are cast aside by society. There are difficult days and difficult decisions to be made, however the good days far outweigh the difficult ones. We face each challenge with a heart of joy knowing we are doing what the Lord would have us do for these precious individuals. We are thankful for each opportunity we have to engage in conversations about spiritual matters, Heaven, Jesus and God’s immense love for each one of them. And we are thankful for your prayers and generous donations that have kept us going these 31 years!

Today, as always, I am grateful for each and every one of you and your continued partnership in helping Servants Center live out its mission, *“to help the mentally ill poor and homeless get off and STAY off the streets!”*

**Moving in the Right Direction**

We are giving praise to God for the progress “Adam” has made over these past several months! Adam is the young man we wrote about this summer. We became Adam’s guardian during an emergency guardianship hearing earlier this year. He suffers from schizophrenia, has a mild cognitive disorder, has misused substances including inhaling gasoline causing injury to his brain, and he has suffered burns over 60% of his body. He spent time living in tents on state land after being banned from most motels in the area. He had no income, no friends, and no hope.

After Servants Center became involved, Adam was placed in a boarding home. He was successfully granted disability benefits. A primary care physician has been established, case management has begun, which includes regular visits with a psychiatrist. He was prescribed certain medications which have resulted in a *Huge* improvement in his behavior and well being. He is compliant with the medications, which in itself is big. Adam is happy and cautiously interacts with a couple of residents. Please pray for “Adam”, for continued compliance taking his medications, that he will continue to follow house rules, and that we can have more meaningful conversations about spiritual matters and the God that loves him.



*Tents are beginning to spring up along the river.*



*Helping the mentally ill homeless get off and stay off the streets . . . .*

### **Facing Daily Challenges**

We became guardian of Mary a year ago. Mary lives in subsidized housing and must maintain her disability income to stay housed. Periodically the Disability Determination Service does reviews to see if an individual is still disabled. Mary refused to go after rescheduling twice. If no in-person review, her disability benefits will stop. No money means no ability to pay rent, resulting in homelessness. Her mental illness is so severe that she won't open her door, has told us to call her but refuses to answer her phone, refuses to talk to us through her door, and pushes papers back to us when we slip important papers under her door. Recently she was petitioned through the court and was picked up and taken to the hospital to be medically cleared and then placed in the psych unit in a local hospital. Because she is hospitalized, the Disability Determination Service has agreed to try a 3rd time after her hospital discharge. Medication treatment began and we are seeing quite an improvement in Mary. She will now talk with us face to face. She has shown enough improvement to be discharged soon. Please pray for Mary, that her paranoia will be managed well with the new medications, that she will be compliant in taking her medications regularly, and that she will agree to let us take her to the Disability Review, as they have agreed to not terminate her benefits just yet due to her hospitalization.

### **The Need Continues to Grow**

The Ottawa County Community Mental Health agency asked if we would consider a contract for our guardianship services. They know Servants Center's reputation in working with difficult individuals. Our most labor intensive and time-filling service is the hands-on care, transportation, and advocacy we provide our clients as their guardian. Our staff of 8 cannot manage the many guardianships they would send our way without adding to our staff. Would you pray with us as we look to the Lord for guidance should He lead us to extend our care to those in this neighboring county?

### **Join our Team?**

We are continuing to get referrals for our services. The need is so great! We'd like to add an additional Client Services Specialist to our staff. Will you help us with this? We are hopeful to have enough to fund this position for 2 years.

We are the feet on the ground and your gifts help keep us going!

***If you would like to underwrite part or all of this position, we would love to hear from you! Email us at [scgr@scgr.org](mailto:scgr@scgr.org) or call us at 616-456-8512.***

### **Donate with Assurance**



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James has been in and out of housing. It's hard to live out on the streets with a wheelchair. Apartments cost more than his disability benefit. We found a low-cost motel where he doesn't have to share the room. He is happy to have his own space and privacy!



**We just learned as I was writing this newsletter that a long-time client was found deceased outdoors this afternoon. We are saddened with this news. We've had him in many housing placements, but he continued to walk away after a few months. He said he felt safer and in control living outside! Keeping our clients housed continues to be a challenge for us.**



*Home in the winter months*

**Please help us expand our services so we may help more homeless and mentally ill individuals.**

**Will you consider making a regular monthly or quarterly gift?**