

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOYS AND PEACE



Hello, friends! As we begin another season of Advent, I find myself reflecting on how joys and peace are integral to life at our home on Cherry Street.

2021 has been the busiest year in the history of Mustard Seed. More women and children have come

through our doors in the past 12 months than any similar period in the past 26 years. Since this time last year, we have provided 10,950 nights of shelter for 123 individuals.

That means ... more joyful sounds of children and peace-filled sighs from mothers tucking their babies into safe, warm beds. More joys of shared meals around our tables ... and peace felt by guests nestling in for the night in their cozy rooms. More joys of celebrations, outings and community partnerships ...

the peace of reflecting on treasured memories, new experiences and new friends. More joys of women and children finding welcome and love in our home – and the peace of watching seeds we have watered sprout and flourish as families carry traditions of joy and peace to their own new homes.

We are sobered by daily encounters with incoming guests whose lives have been filled with instability, crisis, poverty and lack of love. But thanks to you, we are able to welcome, love and support these women and children as they take steps toward better lives.

On behalf of our board, staff and guests, I wish **many joys and much peace** to you this Christmas and in the new year.

Love,



AROUND OUR HOME

Since our last update, we've celebrated countless birthdays, new babies, sobriety milestones and life-changing moments. Here are some other special highlights:



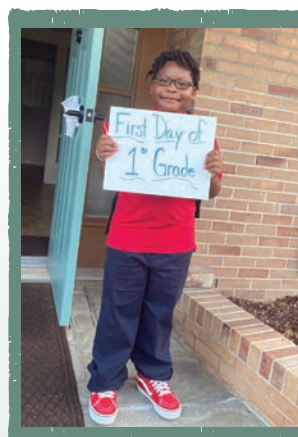
- As of December 1, we have **18 women and 15 children** at our home.
- **52 individuals** successfully moved **from homeless to housed**, with help from our Move Team and the Partnership Center NEST program.

• **11** of our guests have benefited from **Partner Shift Network**, which helps with affordable transportation to employment.

• **7** guests received their **driver's licenses**.

• **17** guests completed **Getting Ahead, Moving Ahead and Staying Ahead** courses through the YWCA Women's Economic Empowerment Program.

• **15** guests found **employment**.



Through their stay at Mustard Seed, all of our guests are connected to a variety of community resources for their physical, mental and emotional health. We celebrate the many ways they are finding their places in the community and taking steps toward independent and productive lives.



Photo credit: Tim Inman



Photo credit: Rilev Hupfer

We have updated our mission statement to reflect “people-first” language, approved by the board at its November meeting.