## **Homeless to Homefull**



YEAR 2023

# A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of New Beginnings,

What an incredible second year we've had at New Beginnings. With your support, we've helped 26 of our neighbors off the streets and into a safe, supported, empowering community. We can say with hope-filled confidence: people can and do recover from chronic homelessness.

In the following pages, I hope you enjoy the photos of residents caring for their garden, sharing meals with volunteers, celebrating holidays, heading to work, and moving out into homes of their own. While sharing life has its challenges, the residents have done the work to make our shared space into a community.

Since our first anniversary, we've welcomed 170 volunteers onsite who have helped provide more community connection. We've hosted interns from the U of A who have offered counseling and occupational therapy support. We've seen residents start jobs, receive life-changing medical assistance, complete addiction treatment programs, and attend therapy. We mourned the passing of one resident, Randy who had lived without housing in Fayetteville for more than 10 years. His partner, Ronda, told me "he's home now."

We are thrilled to celebrate the 4 residents who moved into homes of their own! Tony. Tom and Carol. Robert. These 4 residents worked on their personal goals with tenacity and patience. Housing assistance programs help subsidize rent for most of these tenants so please advocate to enlarge and strengthen these kinds of programs in our community. We are excited to celebrate their success!

I'm proud of our staff team who aren't afraid to do the hard work. Supporting people who have been through trauma and homelessness in a community setting can be challenging, exhausting work. This year, we invested in more training and on making time for rest and selfcare at our annual retreat. We are lucky to have nurses who work with residents on health goals and a garden coach who builds community through gardening. We have an incredible staff team who find purpose in promoting the dignity of each person we support.

I'd like to say thank you to the volunteer groups who have cooked meals. And I'd like to add a special thanks to those who made financial commitments to this project. We don't take your support lightly. We could not do this impactful work without your generosity.

Please stay connected to our story. Check out our brand new website (<a href="www.newbeginnignsnwa.org">www.newbeginnignsnwa.org</a>) and join us for our 2nd year Open House on October 22nd from 1PM - 3PM.

On behalf of our staff team, the Board of Directors, and the entire community at New Beginnings thank you for celebrating this two-year anniversary with us!

-Solomon

#### A Year's Overview

# CELEBRATING HOPE AND NEW HOMES TOGETHER

2023 was New Beginnings second full year of operations, and it has been an exciting one! Our residents have been steadily moving forward with their housing and health goals.

4

PEOPLE MOVED INTO PERMANENT HOUSING



12

PEOPLE ENGAGED
IN PAID WORK



23

PEOPLE ENGAGED IN REGULAR HEALTHCARE



26

NEIGHBORS IN SHELTER & OFF THE STREET



12

PEOPLE ENGAGED WITH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



100%

MAINTAINED TENANCY SUCCESSFULLY AT NEW BEGINNINGS



## VOLUNTEER STATISTICS

New Beginnings volunteers had a substantial impact this year



170
Volunteers donated their time and energy and talent



1,300+

Hours of volunteer service given













## HEAR FROM THE RESIDENTS



New Beginnings residents have been working hard to get housing ready during their stay, and have spoken highly of their living experience at the bridge community.

#### **Frances**

"It's a lot better. You've got a roof over your head, showers, free laundry," she said. "Before, you had to go places to take showers; you had to go places for meals. It's just a lot easier."

#### Tony

"If you give someone who's homeless a place where they can be warm and get a cup of coffee and get their day going so they can think straight about what they need to do to fix their lives, then the whole United States would be better off because you won't have as many homeless people in America,"

#### Craig

"When I first walked into New Beginnings it was "what do you need [Craig], what can we do for you?" Now it's not like that. Now it's "what can I do to help YOU". We CAN change, if we're taught, guided, and cared about... This is about giving back to the community. I'm bringing a drug addiction awareness program to New Beginnings and bringing the community in. I have a job, a car, my insurance is paid for... None of that would have happened if I didn't have the space and time that I've had in New Beginnings."

#### **Terry**

"I'm thankful to God and for those people that supported me while I was homeless. People had doubts in New Beginnings, they didn't think we would succeed... But we did succeed, because we've stuck together as a community... Since New Beginnings gave me the opportunity to get on my feet, things have gotten better."



Butch playing guitar in the Stepping Stone Garden



Memory Bear for Randy, who passed away this year



Resident Terry is comforting Housing Specialist Egypt's baby



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner with volunteer Angela and resident coordinator Carol



Volunteer Dr Sherry and Garden Coach Jessica making mango hotsauce



Resident Rhonda with her handmade tie dye shirt



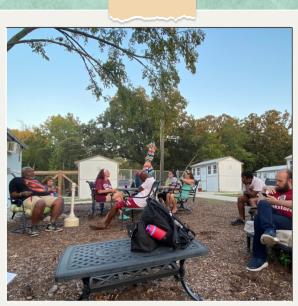
OT Students, Karis and Josie, at resident meeting



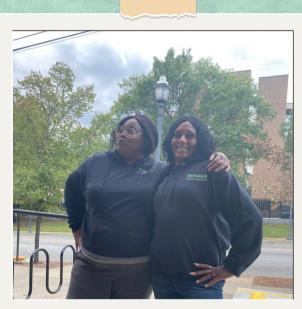
Enjoying a Thanksgiving holiday meal together



UA Volunteers cooking dinner



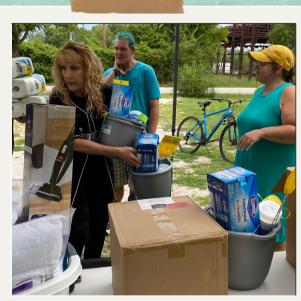
Getting ready for the self-governance community meeting



Egypt and support staff Tamikka modeling NB shirts



Support staff Misty explaining new breakfast corner



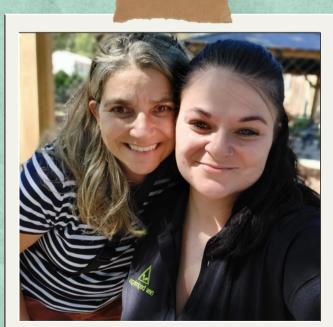
Moving out donation dropoff with donor Lisa and resident Carol



Support staff "Z" holding a NB grown Cucuzza squash



Housing specialist Egypt and Nurse Rebecca at Egypt's baby shower

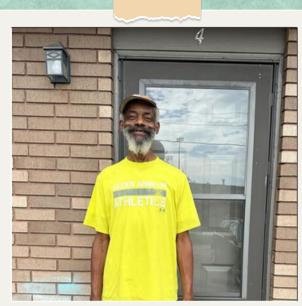


Volunteer engagement coordinator Linda and support staff Lenora at NB 1st anniversary

## MOVE OUT DAY



Tom, Carol and Bella have a new home together



Tony signed the papers and moved into his new place



Robert and Wasim are happy in their new dwelling

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

We look forward to continuing to support our neighbors alongside you. Here's to another great year!

