

Fall 2022 Update

After the summer fun of block parties, renewed friendships at the staff/volunteers/alumni picnic, and excitement around the success of the \$35K in 10 Days fundraising campaign, it's time to get back to the school year rhythm. No, I'm not in school any longer, but I still get to be



a part of it all as a Field Instructor with our social work interns. I did my BSW internship right here at NOAH, so I know how valuable this hands-on experience is. Building relationships cannot be taught in a book. As a teaching site, the NOAH Project intentionally models radical hospitality,

showing how this relationship building is key to the work we do. We have five social work interns from Wayne State University this fall. Four will do casework at the NOAH community center, and one will work with the street outreach team.

NOAH's street outreach program has really grown in the past few years and will continue to grow with the hiring of a third full time street outreach case manager early next year. Currently NOAH does basic needs outreach, which means that case managers go out around Detroit to locate unsheltered people and offer assistance like water, food, blankets, and connections to the emergency shelter system. NOAH has housing navigator partnerships in place to refer clients who are not interested in being in a shelter but are ready to take steps toward permanent housing. Starting in 2023 though, NOAH case managers will be able to directly assist clients with permanent housing.

Getting into permanent housing is a long and intensive process, made even more difficult when a client is facing not just the regular hurdles of proper identification and lengthy applications, but also the additional day-to-day hurdles of being unsheltered on the streets. That's one way the NOAH street outreach team truly makes a difference: they show up consistently. They realize that some days clients simply do not have the physical, emotional, or mental capacity to deal with the multiple steps to secure housing, yet the team doesn't quit these cases. They meet clients where the clients are, day in and day out, looking to build trusting relationships that aren't based on clients meeting any conditions. It's hard work and I am proud of NOAH's street outreach case managers!

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Our vision is to be an anchor of hope leading the Detroit community in ending homelessness.

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The NOAH Project is a program of the Central United Methodist Church of Detroit Community Development Corporation, a 501(c)3 organization.

Winter Is Coming!

We are already gearing up to provide winter items to our clients.



Clean, dry socks remain the #1 preventer of frostbite. (Groups are still

bringing in their collections of men's socks for "Sock It To Me September," so watch our Facebook page and e-newsletters for updates to that total.)

We also pass out hats, gloves, sweatshirts, sweatpants, sleeping bags, and blankets whenever we have those available. If your church or community group would like to host a winter item drive for NOAH, please contact ops@NOAHProjectDetroit.org to arrange for drop off.

\$35K in 10 Days

Total with Match:

\$80,495.22

THANK YOU!!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you or your group would like to help with Bag Lunch either during



servicing time (10-12, M-Th) or during another window of time to do prep work, we would certainly appreciate the help!

First Time ID Card

When Demetrius first came to NOAH ... wait, that isn't how this story starts. In fact, since NOAH Street Outreach began bringing services directly to people experiencing homelessness on the streets of Detroit, many of our client narratives have changed. People who, for a variety of reasons, were unable or unwilling to take that first step inside our building could still have their basic needs met and could still gain entry to emergency shelter thanks to street outreach. People who felt invisible in their homelessness felt SEEN. Relationships grew based on a foundation of trust.

And this is how Demetrius's story began with NOAH: When NOAH first came to Demetrius, street outreach case managers met



Demetrius where he was, which was unsheltered and staying on the streets in downtown Detroit. At first "meeting him where he was" simply meant showing up consistently and meeting any immediate needs. Next came help navigating the process of identity restoration, as Demetrius had none of the vital documents required to enter the housing system.

The street outreach team is trained in how to get a person's social security card, birth certificate, and then a state ID card, but more importantly, staff members are fully on board with NOAH's model of extending radical hospitality without conditions. When someone experiences homelessness, identity restoration is not always their top priority even though it is always important. NOAH meets people where they are physically, emotionally, and mentally, at every interaction.

It took six months of perseverance on Demetrius's and the staff's part, but this September, Demetrius got the first state identification card of his adult life. His journey toward permanent housing continues, but his NOAH case managers will walk alongside him the entire path.