

Spring 2022 Update

It seems every season is a busy one here at NOAH, and there is always so much to share with you! There are a few things I want to take a moment to highlight.

When I took over as Director of the NOAH Project, one of my priorities was to continue to encourage and develop partnerships that benefit our clients. One partnership we've found to be especially beneficial is with WAVE, Welcoming All Valuing Everyone. The volunteers at WAVE bring their free-standing shower trailer to our parking lot every Thursday, allowing clients to take a dignity restoring hot shower. We provide a clean set of undergarments, and WAVE takes care of all the rest, including staffing the showers!

A new weekly partnership started this year with More Than A Bus, a non-profit focused on meeting the needs of "the hurting." Also coming



to our parking lot on Thursdays, More Than A Bus distributes clothes and serves soup and bread to augment our sandwich bag lunches. By serving out our missions in the same space, we give our clients the opportunity to have their immediate needs met and consistently provide a chance to

build relationships that can lead to the trust needed for clients to start their individual paths toward shelter.

Really the key to ALL our work is relationships. And so I want to thank you for being instrumental in building those for our clients. Our biggest fundraiser of the year is coming up later this month. The money raised during our \$35K in 10 Days Challenge (and the matching \$35K grant if we reach that goal!) is instrumental in our ability to build trusting relationships with clients. Much of our grant money is restricted, but these funds can be used wherever it's most needed, including on staff. Hygiene kits, socks, and sandwiches are immediate needs, but life-changing impacts come from our caring, dedicated staff. There is no replacement for the human connection so many of our clients seek and find at NOAH. So again, I thank you for your continued support and hope to see you at the end of the month downtown at our Block Party!

Stacie Vaughn-Covington

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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.

DOUBLE your impact during the

\$35K in 10 Days Challenge!

June 15-24, 2022

Once again we have an amazing anonymous team of NOAH supporters who are offering to do a DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR MATCH during our annual campaign challenge. While your support year-round is truly appreciated, this is the best time of year to make a gift because it gives us the opportunity to DOUBLE your generosity. If we raise \$35,000, it will immediately turn into \$70,000! By fundraising such a substantial sum in just ten days, we free up our staff to focus on what really matters: our clients! Watch your email and social media for updates. Donations can be made at the special \$35K in 10 Days link coming soon or by check sent directly to NOAH with memo line "\$35K in 10 Days." THANK YOU!

HAP to Sponsor the NOAH Block Party



Come help us welcome summer on **Thursday, June 30th** from 10AM until 1PM. With a cookout, by Taste for the Homeless (all the way from Chicago,)

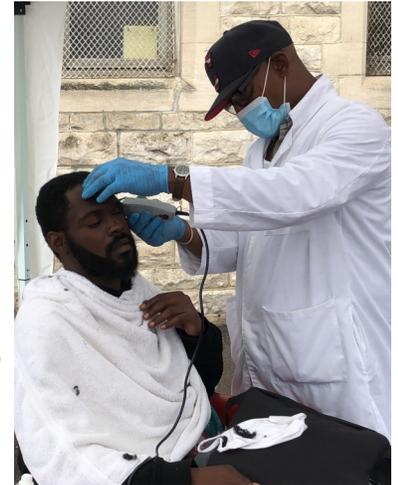
games, and music by a fantastic DJ, the NOAH parking lot will be hopping! ALL are welcome to enjoy the day with us!

If you are interested in helping with set-up, activities, or clean-up, please contact DaJon at dfisher@NOAHProjectDetroit.org.

A Fresh Cut

Chris B. first became part of the NOAH community in 2018 when he came in for social services. At that time Chris had already been homeless for two years and was living under a bridge. Prior to him being homeless, Chris had been living and working in Plymouth while dealing with a dual diagnosis of substance use disorder and mental health issues.

His substance use played a big role in his homelessness. At that point, he felt street drugs helped him more than prescription drugs, so he used those until he hit rock bottom. It was at this point that Chris knew he needed to get sober.



Chris went into treatment in 2020 and has been sober ever since. From there he went into Light House Sober Living and goes to Team Wellness for mental health support. He started his path to housing at NEW Horizons in Redford. Even though Chris could have stayed as long as he wanted, after six months he decided to get his own place. He worked hard and saved his money until he was able to get an apartment and now his own car.

Chris has the philosophy that "recovery works if you work it." Chris does the work that he does in giving back because, in recovery fellowship, a person must be involved in something productive. NOAH has given him the opportunity to give back to the community he has long been a part of. Chris says, "I cut hair because it's a form of therapy, and it allows me to talk to people and tell them my story."

Many clients can relate to Chris's story and experiences. He uses his time cutting hair to listen and be an example that there is hope and that people care. "Clients are appreciative of my story and how openly I speak about not only what I have been through but that I survived to talk about it." Chris makes an impact at NOAH every week, and we are so pleased to have him here!