



HUNDRED NIGHTS INC.

Reaching for the Warmth of Home

Emergency Shelter & Open Doors Resource Center

P.O. Box 833

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Tax ID: 45-2798171

Fall 2020 Update



54 individuals and families housed

Dear

Positive change is truly possible when a group of compassionate and dedicated volunteers, donors, staff, advocates, and friends work together to achieve a common goal.

Thanks to your generosity, Hundred Nights collaborated with partner agencies to help 54 individuals and families get back into permanent housing between June 2019 and June 2020.

Learn More About Your Impact in the
2019 Annual Report
bit.ly/HN2019AR

We couldn't have done this without your support! On behalf of those experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in our region—**thank you.**

We at Hundred Nights (HN) are also deeply grateful for the outpouring of support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. When a national emergency was declared in March, Hundred Nights responded quickly to ensure its shelters and resource center continued to be safe and welcoming spaces for clients and visitors. Here are some of the practices we continue to follow:

- Common area surfaces and sleeping spaces are sanitized frequently during peak times, in addition to daily deep cleanings that occurred prior to the pandemic.
- Hand sanitizer, masks, and tissues are placed in readily accessible areas throughout the building.
- Signage reminding all to wash hands and cover sneezes and coughs is placed around the Lamson Street facility and was posted at overflow and decompression sites.
- Beds in each facility are spaced 6 feet apart and rearranged for head-to-toe sleeping.
- Staff work directly with guests to ensure consistent hand washing and mask-wearing and to communicate protocols and identify guests with potential symptoms.
- Staff and guests are updated daily on COVID-19 and CDC recommendations.
- Hand-outs with CDC recommendations are available in the shelter and resource center.

One critical resource Hundred Nights has lost to the pandemic is the invaluable help of many dedicated volunteers who logged more than 9,000 total volunteer hours in 2019. To our volunteers: We miss you and are grateful for your service!

Since the onset of the pandemic, the need for more space has intensified.

Hundred Nights shelter has 26 beds (including two staff beds) accessible by stairs on the second floor of its rented facility on Lamson Street in Keene. Two overflow locations, each supplying 12 beds, were provided pre-pandemic by the United Church of Christ (UCC) from January to March and by St. James Episcopal Church from November 2019 to June 2020. During peak

months, Hundred Nights operated 48 total beds at three separate locations in downtown Keene each staffed with an awake overnight shelter supervisor.

In March, the UCC overflow shelter closed early due to the pandemic. Hundred Nights' landlord graciously donated two rooms in the front of the Lamson Street building for temporary overflow. St. James Church planned to close April 15 and decided to stay open until June 15. Over the summer, the conference room at Lamson Street was converted into bed space to operate at full capacity of 26 beds distanced 6 feet apart.

Hundred Night's 600 square foot resource center struggled to keep people physically distant in cold weather, requiring visitors to rotate in and out of the building so that everyone shared the warmth inside. During the cold weather months, the resource center typically hosts 30-50 visitors daily. Monadnock Family Services donated a vacant storefront for April and May as an additional resource center decompression site that allowed 30 people inside with 6 feet of separation.

Hundred Nights has been working to identify additional shelter and resource center decompression spaces for the '20-'21 cold weather season since June to prevent the potential loss of 24 shelter beds previously provided by UCC and St. James Church and to provide additional daytime drop-in shelter.

The UCC and St. James will not provide shelter to mitigate the risk of exposure to the coronavirus. Suitable spaces have been difficult to identify given zoning in downtown Keene and extremely low vacancy rates of rental apartments in Cheshire County. Numerous locations have been exhausted as viable options for temporary shelter this winter. Although local hotels were unwilling to rent affordable hotel rooms when the state-mandated stay-at-home order was in effect in spring 2020, one hotel group may lease rooms at an affordable rate this coming winter. Some funding is still available through the CARES Act to purchase, lease or modify space to decompress guests in shelters, make up for lost beds, or cover increased operating costs caused by COVID-19.

Hundred Nights received permission from St. James to use its former thrift shop space in the Daniels Building as a temporary resource center decompression site this winter for Lamson Street shelter guests and unsheltered visitors. The space is about four times the size of the current resource center and will be a tremendous asset this winter to help keep people warm during the day.

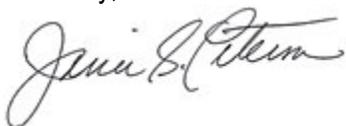
Hundred Nights reached a critical milestone this fall by receiving a zoning variance for 122/124 Water Street in Keene, the proposed site of Hundred Nights' future emergency shelter and resource center facility.

Thank you to all who wrote letters to the Keene Sentinel and the City of Keene Zoning Board and attended zoning board meetings remotely to advocate for the variance and for those in need to Hundred Nights' services!

Unfortunately, the property cannot be used this winter to help make up for the loss of overflow beds. A petition was filed during the appeal period to rehear the variance application which was denied at the November 2 meeting of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The petitioners now have 30 days to appeal the decision to superior court. There are more milestones to meet before we can move forward with further project planning.

We are fortunate to have a fantastic team of volunteers working with us who are dedicated to finding short-term and long-term solutions to meet the needs of those experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. I am hopeful that with the growing support of our community we will succeed in our efforts to provide better shelter and services to those we serve.

Sincerely,



Jan Peterson, Board Chair

P.S. You can help more people get out of the cold and back into permanent housing this year.

Visit <http://bit.ly/hnidonate> to learn more!



The mission of Hundred Nights, Inc. is to provide shelter and crisis related services to the displaced or homeless. Our goal is to collaborate with and enable the community to see, hear and support those among us who are equally deserving of dignity but who currently lack the means to live independently. Our vision is a community whose members, regardless of means, are equally valued and supported.