



# HUNDRED NIGHTS INC.

Reaching for the Warmth of Home

EMERGENCY SHELTER AND YEAR ROUND OPEN DOORS RESOURCE CENTER

Return Service Requested

17 Lamson Street • Keene, NH 03431  
**HUNDRED NIGHTS INCORPORATED**

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## Success: Jim's Story



From sleeping on a submarine, to a Van Hool bus, to a brand-new mattress! For James, or "Jim" as he is often called, life has been full of wild tales. For the 58-year-old retired Navy veteran, he has no shortage of noteworthy experiences: he was a licensed diver for the Navy, did two tours in Iraq as a 1st Class Petty Officer, and worked on a Naval missile destroyer—all before receiving an honorable discharge after 6 years of service.

Jim first came to our shelter several years ago, but with the help of Hundred Nights has been able to regain the sense of stability that permanent housing often provides. In April of 2018, Jim found an apartment with a friend and was no longer in need of our services; however, when he fell into need again a year and a half later, Hundred Nights took him back in and treated him with dignity and respect. While in our care, Jim received hot meals, showers, clothing and personal care products, haircuts (made possible by a local barber), got assistance in purchasing a new ID, had access to laundry services and job postings, was referred to resources at partner agencies, and more!

This last winter, Jim spent many nights sleeping in our converted Van Hool bus, which was parked outside our 17 Lamson St. shelter from the end of December until the end of April 2021. He spoke highly of his nights there—often remarking that his nights sleeping on the bus reminded him of his time in the Navy, sleeping on the submarines' bunk beds!

This time around, Jim had no interest in remaining at the shelter long-term, so once he was referred by Hundred Nights, he met with representatives from the VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). He had complained at the time that his military benefits had never arrived, so with the help of our Hundred Nights case manager and SSVF, Jim was finally able to get his partial pension from the Navy. He was also proactive—frequently looking for available apartments he could afford. And the best part, he shares proudly, he found the perfect one—all by himself!

This past April, Jim moved into a single-family home in West Keene with a friend. When asked about the house, he could not stop raving about the size and space of it all: "We've got two whole living rooms—can you believe it?! And I've got my own bedroom!" He also has received incredible support from the VA and SSVF. The veteran assistance service agreed to pay for 3 months of his rent—and financial assistance going forward in future months. Additionally, the VA bought and delivered him a brand-new bed and mattress, which he loves to sleep on. Overall, Jim is enjoying his newfound financial and physical independence. He has been spending more time visiting his friends and going on fishing trips on the weekends. He is very excited for his future and is overjoyed to be back in stable housing.

Jim chuckles whenever telling his story, laughing, "I feel like I'm a bit of a rags to riches story!"



### NH GIVES

This past June, Hundred Nights was pleased to participate in NH Gives, a statewide 24-hour online fundraiser for nonprofits in our state. The goal of NH Gives is to connect people to the nonprofits in their area, build community, and generate excitement around the work of local nonprofits. This was our first official time fundraising through NH Gives but we were beyond impressed by the generous show of support—in only 24 hours, Hundred Nights was able to raise a grand total of \$7,886 from 68 donors! A huge 'thank you' goes out to our local community and supporters for all of their contributions!

Hello,

*"See the curtains hangin' in the window, In the evening on a Friday night, A little light-a-shinin' through the window, Lets me know everything's all right, Summer Breeze makes me feel fine..."* Seals and Crofts wrote this song when I was a teenager and it has always made me feel that coming home on a warm, pleasant summer day was the best thing in the world. And for most of us, despite the recent changes and disruptions to our sense of well-being and normalcy, the feeling of coming home makes us feel cozy and comforted.

But that is not true for everyone.

For an increasing number of children, women and men, difficult times have gotten even more painful – loss of jobs, social isolation, death of loved ones and, for many, the loss of their homes. We tend to be most concerned for the homeless when it's really cold out, but the reality is that people who have been **our neighbors and colleagues** are, in fact, *"those people"* – and their world is no less harsh in the summertime than it is in the winter. They are trying to survive "living rough", perhaps sleeping in the woods, trying to access three meals a day, hoping they can do something to help their kids. It was always hard, but these days, the challenge is even greater. For the first 6 months this year, we have continued to see a steady need for our services. The Resource Center has seen 290 individuals, who have visited our Resource Center a total of 8,930 times. Of these 290 people, 200 were male, 90 were female, 15 were children under the age of 18, and 12 were veterans. At the shelter, 139 individuals received a total of 6,847 bed-nights of shelter. 93 were male, 46 were female, 13 were children under the age of 18, and 5 were veterans.

Despite all of this hardship, though, we have **some good news** to share with you. For **13 people**, this summer is bringing living that is definitely "breezier". Over the past 6 months, Hundred Nights, working with other organizations in the region, has been able to place 13 people, including 4 children, in stable housing! It took a lot of case management, helping to manage each person's situation and helping them navigate the systems throughout the community, but all 13 people were able to move into a real home! **Hurray!**

This is exactly why your support is needed more than ever. Hundred Nights is making a difference, and that's worth celebrating, but it's really **YOU** who are making that difference possible. Thanks to the gifts you've given us in the past year, we have been able to make many of the physical adjustments needed for COVID distancing: more beds, something to separate each space, cleaning supplies and so on.

Your generosity, as a loyal Hundred Nights supporter, will help us continue to be there for those in the community who are among the most vulnerable. You can help us place more families and individuals in stable housing, which means they can hold down jobs, help their kids succeed and stand on their own. You can help every single person who comes to Hundred Nights feel that they will be safe and that they will get the help they need to join those 13 people who succeeded in reaching for the warmth of home.

Please make your gift today – it goes directly to help those who not only suffer from the elements when it's cold or very hot outside, but who suffer from feeling humiliated and ostracized by the community, by losing dignity and by feeling frustrated that they can't stand on their own two feet. **With your help**, they can instead know they are safe and valued and have hope for the future.

Let's work together to help another 13+ people over the next few months. A gift of \$1,000 can help provide the case management each person needs. A gift of \$500 can help provide a month of shelter for a family. \$250 can purchase masks, cleaning supplies and other things needed to ensure that those who are physically frail stay safe. The fact is, **every single gift you make will have a huge impact, because every single gift can save a life.**

Think about how important home is to you, and please share that feeling with those who can't wait to return to a home of their own. With your help, they can! Thank you.

Warmly,

Mindy Cambiar  
Executive Director

P.S. Your gift, if made in the next couple of weeks, will enable us to carry out the planning needed to ensure we have enough space this fall, as well as to care for those living with us over the summer. We expect more people will lose their homes over the next few months due to the ongoing financial crisis – please join me in helping another 13+ to find a clear path to new homes and a new lease on life. Thank you for caring, and may your *Summer Breezes make you feel fine.*

## CDFA TAX CREDIT ANNOUNCEMENT

This year, the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) awarded \$5 million in tax credits to projects with a focus on improving affordable and quality housing, as well as other critical services. Of the many recipients, Hundred Nights, Inc. received the largest award in the State—a grand total of \$750,000 in tax credits were awarded to our organization! This money will go towards our pursuit of a 48-bed emergency shelter and resource center facility in the future. The CDFA found our proposal to be an endeavor that would “offer safer, more efficient, cost-effective, and appropriate shelter and crisis-related services to individuals and families in the Monadnock region” and would benefit the community “by increasing access to shelter and services for homeless individuals” and we couldn’t agree more. We’re excited to see what the future holds!



Jay Kahn (right), NH State Senator, District 10, Mindy Cambiar (second from right), Executive Director of Hundred Nights, Katie Easterly Martey (left), Executive Director of the NH Community Development Finance Authority and Jan Peterson (second from left), Hundred Nights Board Chair.

## Success: Allison’s Story

Allison and her two children first came into contact with Hundred Nights in October of 2020. Allison, a single mother and a disabled National Guard veteran, had been living out of her van with her two children (a son, 14, and daughter, 8) after they were evicted from their home last August. With a limited income and two children still enrolled in the local school district, she was hesitant to relocate her family and instead, tried to make ends meet from their car, which was badly in need of repair.

Hundred Nights took the family of 3 in and soon was able to set them up in a room at the Keene Inn, until other arrangements were later made for the Holiday Inn in Keene. From November 2020 until the end of May 2021, Allison and her two children remained guests of Hundred Nights at these two nearby hotels. While there, Allison had full access to Hundred Nights services, including our case manager, who helped to connect her with local resources. Each week, Allison and her children received hot dinners delivered by a Hundred Nights volunteer from The Community Kitchen and boxes of food staples and basic cleaning supplies assembled at the shelter. Hundred Nights worked as a liaison between the family, their school district, and various veteran and social service organizations to help the single mother manage her responsibilities and begin looking for more permanent housing. At Christmas-time, Hundred Nights was able to deliver the family wrapped Christmas presents—including gift cards, clothing, and small toys for the children—that had all been donated by our local community. This large show of support would not have been possible without our generous community, so thank you!

Hundred Nights also got in touch with Veteran's Affairs on Allison's behalf, advocated for her National Guard status, and

worked to coordinate assistance with both the VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program and Easter Seals. SSVF works specifically with low-income veterans who are at risk of homelessness, while Easter Seals is a nonprofit that works directly with veterans with disabilities. As a client of Hundred Nights, Allison and her family were placed on the Housing Prioritization List, which allowed them to slowly advance towards the next possible housing opportunity.



In the spring of 2021, SSVF began to play a more active role in the family's case. After transitioning out of Hundred Nights' care at the end of May, Allison and her two children became clients of SSVF's. The VA program paid for the family's hotel room in June until the children finished the school year. Suddenly, a 2-bedroom apartment became available in Ashuelot, NH—an opportunity that was only available to Allison because of her placement on the Housing Prioritization List! In July, Allison and her family were able to move out of the Holiday Inn and into subsidized housing run by Southwestern Community Services (SCS). Truly a team effort and we wish them the best in this new chapter!

To save a life is a real and beautiful thing. To make a home for the homeless, yes, it is a thing that must be good; whatever the world may say, it cannot be wrong. – Vincent Van Gogh

# SAVE THE DATE

**A BENEFIT FOR HUNDRED NIGHTS**  
REACHING FOR THE WARMTH OF HOME FOR 11 YEARS!



**Hundred Nights has teamed up with Machina Kitchen Art & Bar to create "Fall into Brunch," a new fundraiser to feed the soul. Two ticket levels are available.**

**EPICUREAN:** Your choice of a serving of quiche or cream cheese stuffed french toast, either comes with chocolate covered strawberries. Epicureans will be served on-site at Machina Kitchen & Art Bar at 11 am. There will be a live cooking demonstration and live music! Seating is limited, make your reservations now! **\$75 per person.**

**BON VIVANT:** Your choice of a serving of quiche or cream cheese stuffed french toast, either comes with chocolate covered strawberries, and your choice of OJ or Virgin Mary mix. Your choice of delivery to your door if you are within a 10 mile radius of downtown Keene, or curbside pick-up starting at 9:30 am. **\$30 per person.**

**OPTIONAL ADD-ON:** Mason Jar mug engraved with the logos of Hundred Nights and Machina Kitchen & Art Bar. **\$25 each**

**TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS GO TO**  
<https://hundrednightsbrunch.eventbrite.com>



## WISH LIST

Below are some of the items needed most at this time. Please continue to check our website for more items as our needs are updated!

- Disinfecting Wipes, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper
- Lightweight Jackets, Rain Jackets, and Rain Ponchos
- Men's and women's Long-sleeve shirts and jeans
- Powdered Creamer, Sugar, Hot Chocolate mix
- Microwavable Mac 'n Cheese cups and Cup Ramen Noodles
- Vegetarian soups and stews
- Drink Mixes (lemonade, ice tea, Tang), sturdy Plastic Cutlery
- Deodorant (men's and women's), Razors (with multiple blades), Shaving Cream (travel size)
- Small packages of Q-tips, Belts
- Women's Bras and Panties (all sizes) and Men's Boxers (all sizes) \*\*NEW or gently used!
- Shampoo & Conditioner (Full Size), Hairbrushes and Combs, Hair Ties, Socks
- Backpacks, Tents, Tarps, Rope, and Flashlights
- Laundry Soap (HE), Spray Air Freshener
- Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags (13, 30, and 55 gallon bags)

## MISSION STATEMENT



The mission of Hundred Nights, Inc. is to provide shelter and crisis related services to those at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Our goal is to collaborate with and educate 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.