# HUNDRED NIGHTS INC.

FALL 2026

## BRINGING COMMUNITY TOGETHER:
## A Look Back at "Homelessness in NH and the US"

In April 2026, Hundred Nights partnered with the Keene State College Sociology Service Learning Class, "Homelessness in NH and the US", to host a community event, raising awareness about homelessness in our region. This gathering focused on the realities of homelessness, available local and state resources, and actionable steps we can all take to drive meaningful change. Through shared personal stories and practical insights, Hundred Nights continues to work toward reducing stigma and fostering a culture of compassion and inclusion.

Coming together at KSC to address the "impossible math" of housing in our region was inspiring. The heart of the event, however, was our panel Q&A featuring community members experiencing homelessness, Ty'Ray & VaiT, alongside the Community Outreach liaison, Cam, from Southwestern Community Services, seen pictured above. Their willingness to share their experiences reminded us that behind every statistic is a human story, a personal struggle, and a hope for stability. Their stories didn't just highlight the challenges; they highlighted the resilience, dignity, and strength found within our community. It served as a powerful reminder of why we do this work—and why your support of our shelter and resource center is so vital.

Continue reading on the next page to explore excerpted Q&A moments with panelists Ty'Ray and VaiT, followed by a special spotlight about one Keene State student who took their coursework beyond the classroom and into the heart of Hundred Nights.

### Hundred Nights Community Outreach

### What is your "Why"?

### 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 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 that every individual in the Cheshire County area will have access to appropriate and stable housing, and be equally valued and supported.*

# GUEST STORIES

**VaiT**

**Ty'Ray**

## CAN YOU SHARE WHAT THE STIGMA OF HOMELESSNESS AND THE SOCIAL BIAS ARE, AND HOW IT AFFECTS YOU ON A DAILY BASIS?

"I can tell you this, the difference between walking down Main St. with a backpack on my back, carrying my whole life with me and not, I definitely get different looks, rude and obscene treatment by local businesses, even if I have money to spend. And, then, when I walk around without a backpack and the stereotyped 'homeless facade' people are friendly, wave and want to know how I am. Once you're part of the homeless community, you get treated with the good and the bad. It's not all bad."

"The stigma is that we are thieves, liars, and beggars. Unkempt and unclean and not in a proper manner for the work environment. On the streets, people will actively try to stay away from me if they realize I'm homeless. But it's a lot of negative looks, judgement and silence. Once people realize you're homeless, they really don't want to interact with you. But, on the plus side you end up learning that there are kind people in the world not just out for their own selfish benefit. Receiving kindness and respect is a blessing in our circumstance; it's definitely helped me count my blessings."

## HOW DO YOU KEEP LONELINESS FROM CONSUMING YOU?

"I don't struggle with loneliness, which is a great thing. I still crave human connection, but I get it. I feel sorry for people who do feel lonely and sometimes human connection is one of the best things you can do for your mental health."

"Loneliness consumes me the moment 8:00 pm hits. Why am I doing this day in and day out? It feels like it would be better if I just gave myself an out. Meaningful interactions with other people are what make me not feel alone. Mental health is an issue, and we need to take steps to understand our own state of mind. Love people, not their situation."

## WHAT GIVES YOU HOPE?

"Warm meals and the volunteers that support us are heartwarming. One way humans show love and caring is through food. It's one of the things that I love to do for people, but don't get the opportunity to do often."

"Hope is a hard one - but with the support of these organizations they show me that I'm important. It's about having that person or community that makes you feel that way. I disassociate but still feel how much they care."

## WHAT IS ONE REASONABLE ACTION THAT OUR SUPPORTERS HERE TODAY CAN DO TO ASSIST OUR HOMELESS COMMUNITY?

"Vote."

"Be kind. One act of kindness could stop a person from doing the unthinkable."

## HOW DO WE BREAK THE STIGMA OF DRUG ABUSE?

"There are a lot of drug addicts that have a house and a job. There are good examples of what not to do. I became homeless working a full time job and not doing drugs. It's definitely a problem in our community, but not the reason. Everyone is an individual with individual choices, but it doesn't take much to want to stop the pain."

"I've been sober for 15 years. Why does someone START doing it? It's mental health. The drug doesn't change the problems. If that's the only escape, then why not keep doing it? Unfortunately people don't see the full picture of the situation, they just see the quick fix. I had a friend that made one mistake that ended it all."

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## *Welcome to the Hundred Nights Family!*

Growing up in a small town in Massachusetts, Resource Center Coordinator Brandon was originally drawn to Keene State College for its music department. As a drummer, he connected to the program through a KSC alum, but soon shifted focus toward his growing interest in human behavior and community advocacy. Inspired by his mother's political involvement and a deep empathy shaped by watching loved ones navigate substance use, Brandon pursued a degree in Sociology with an Addiction minor.

In the spring of 2026, Brandon enrolled in KSC's Sociology Service-Learning Class, "Homelessness in NH and the US" For his service requirement, Brandon co-planned and executed our major Spring Community Event, working closely with Executive Director, Becky. Brandon balanced his class and work schedule, while also volunteering at the Overnight Warming Center, jumping in to learn and help, as much as he could.

Recognizing his incredible impact, our team knew we couldn't let him go. His calm, focused, and welcoming demeanor brings a vibrant, positive presence to our shelter. Today, Brandon helps oversees the Kingsbury Resource Center on Water Street, providing acute care, compassionate support, and vital resources to our community members.

We are so grateful to have such a dedicated, inspired colleague on our team. Stop by the Water Street Resource Center to say hello and welcome Brandon to the Hundred Nights family!

# HUNDRED NIGHTS 2025 IMPACT

### RESOURCE CENTER SERVICES

| | |
|---|---|
| 408 individuals sheltered | 35,083 meals served |
| 22,874 visits to the Resource Center | 28 **NEW** applications for housing |

### SHELTER SERVICES

| | |
|---|---|
| 130 individuals sheltered | 4 families served |
| 17,646 number of bed-nights | 11 children sheltered |

HUNDRED NIGHTS INCORPORATED

### OVERNIGHT WARMING CENTER

Open January 20 - March 31, 2026
69 Individuals served
1,045 overnight visits

### WRAP-AROUND SERVICES

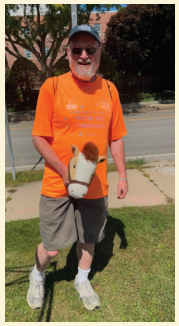
- 17 individuals transitioned to more permanent housing
- 9 guest received transportation to appointments or jobs
- 12 Birth Certificates and 23 ID cards
- 370 loads of laundry and 125 people received clothing
- 531 showers to visitors without a bed

# Hundred Nights
# AMAZING RACE FUNDRAISER

What an unforgettable day! The Amazing Race Fundraiser in September, presented by Savings Bank of Walpole, saw 19 teams race through downtown Keene. From physical challenges to brain teasers across 20 partner locations, the course was packed with energy and community spirit.

Most importantly, this amazing effort raised over **$28,000** directly benefiting individuals and families relying on our shelter and supportive services. To our dedicated racers, hardworking volunteers, and generous sponsors: thank you for bringing hope and warmth to our community!

See all the pics on our event page: www.hundrednightsinc.org/AmazingRace



## UPCOMING Events

## NOVEMBER IS *Homelessness Awareness Month*

### volunteer *opportunities event*

**November 5, 2026**
**Keene Public Library**
**5:30-7:00 pm**

Winter brings many volunteer opportunities to connect with our mission & meet some of your neighbors! RSVP to join us & learn more! https://tinyurl.com/k4ttjmm9

A global event which highlights the major impact of collective giving. Consider sharing why YOU give of your time, resources or both on your Facebook page & tag Hundred Nights in your post! Join in the power of your collective giving at https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=AYUC3GUH283RU

Every December we honor our unhoused neighbors who passed away this year. Join us on December 21, 2026 for a candlelit procession and memorial. Full event details here: https://hundrednightsinc.org/updating-events/candlelight-memorial-vigil-for-the-homeless/