



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN



The Heart of Mission

January 12, 2021

My mother texted me a picture of her back deck. She lives in Central Texas. It was covered with a thick layer of snow! Snow! What a rare sight in Central Texas! But, snow is not rare here in Champaign during January and February. It is COLD here! All the more reason to highlight this week the ministry of **CU at Home**, one of our mission partners. February 5 is the 10th anniversary of their ***One Winter Night***, their primary annual fundraiser/education event.

CU at Home chooses to rely upon local funding from churches, families, and businesses rather than pursue state or federal funding; although, they are a 501(c)3 organization and money donated to them is tax deductible. They rely solely on the community to financially support their efforts.

Remember what I said last week about building relationships in order to reduce poverty. Friends, this is truly a partnership ministry in our neighborhood, with our neighbors for our neighbors. The Champaign Urbana community has come together during these last ten years to develop a top notch program to help our friends without an address. **CU at Home** thanks us and all their business and church partners for that but we should be thanking them.

This is what **CU at Home** does:

Phoenix Daytime Drop-In Center: (12:00-5:00pm, Tuesday-Friday)

The Phoenix is a casual, welcoming space with a living room, computers, board games, musical instruments, and most importantly, companionship. Each person who enters the facility has access to showers, laundry, and assistance from our staff. The facility offers our friends with an address an opportunity to build a lasting relationship with our friends without an address. Whether you have an address or not, anyone is welcome to come and enjoy an experience that could change their life.

Transitional Housing: **C-U at Home** operates a six bed Men's Recovery House, Step Above House, a two bed Women's House, and small Family House. Residents stay for 6-12 months and are provided with weekly case management and a spiritual advisor. Our goal with each resident is to support, encourage, and mentor them so that they can successfully become more independent, self-sufficient, and enjoy a stable life on their own.

Year-Round Emergency Shelters: **C-U at Home** took the C-U Men's Emergency Shelter and Austin's Place Women's Shelter under their umbrella of services at the close of the 2019 season to be a refuge for those who have no place to be safe at night. The need for a 'damp' shelter for those who might be under the influence of alcohol or drugs is vital both to save lives and to alleviate the frequent overuse of medical and law enforcement resources, when they are not the best solution.

Transportation Ministry: Through the use of donated vehicles and volunteer drivers and riders, we are able to provide safe transportation for friends who seek detox, shelter, and housing assistance in other communities across Illinois.

Street Outreach: The street outreach team takes time each week to go into the streets and connect with all of our friends without an address. This allows us to continue to build relationships with them. The street outreach team is on-call 24/7 and often receive calls from local law enforcement and hospitals to provide assistance in person or over the phone.

Education & Advocacy: We provide an opportunity for the community to learn more about our friends without an address, the specific challenges they face, and how we break the negative stereotypes associated with the "homeless" population. This is done through viewings of our documentary film, The Phoenix: Hope is Rising and speaking engagements at churches, schools, etc.

C-U at Work: As a collaboration between **C-U at Home** and the City of Champaign Township, the **C-U at Work** program offers our most vulnerable friends without an address an opportunity to work doing municipal

beautification projects for the city of Champaign. At the end of each 4-hour shift, participants receive payment for their work as well as a meal.

Please contact Rob Dalhaus III at 217-991-0356 or rob@cuathome.us with questions or to find out more about how to sponsor **C-U at Home *One Winter Night 2021***. It is an opportunity that will impact our community in positive ways throughout the next year!

Find out more about ***One Winter Night*** by going to www.cuathome.us/one-winter-night/

Let's build relationships with people in our community who are helping our community.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews, Mission Coordinator

Let us keep all our mission partners in our prayers, those who are waiting to go back to their place of ministry and those who are able to work where they are. Listen for God's call to you in their ministry.

Our PC(USA) Mission CoWorkers:

Mark Adams and Miriam Maidonado Escobar (Mexico)

Farsijanna Adeney-Risakotta (Indonesia)

Jeff and Christi Boyd (Central Africa)

Jo Ella Holman (Caribbean and Cuba) – And, for the mission coworker you are preparing to take her place.

Bob and Kristi Rice (South Sudan)

Our regional and global mission partners:

Kemmerer Village (and Camp Carew)

Lifeline Pilots

Marion Medical Mission

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Opportunity International

Friends of Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan Presbyterian Cuba Partnership

Special Offerings of the PC(USA)

Theological Education Fund

Young Adult Volunteers

Here in Champaign – Urbana:

CU at Home

CANAAN S.A.F.E. HOUSE

CANTEEN RUN
COURAGE CONNECTION
DREAAM
eEMPTY TOMB, INC
FAITH IN ACTION
JESUS IS THE WAY PRISON MINISTRY
THE REFUGEE CENTER
RESTORATION URBAN MINISTRY
SALT & LIGHT

Here at First Presbyterian Church

FPCC Amateur Preachers
FPCC Environmental Committee working with Faith in Place
FPCC Presbyterian Women
FPCC ESL
FPCC Children, Youth and Families
FPCC Mission Possible/Go and Serve



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
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302 W. Church Street
Champaign, IL 61820
217-356-7238
info@firstpres.church