

2024



CARPENTER'S PLACE™  
PROVIDING THE TOOLS FOR REBUILDING LIVES™

# JANUARY

*Inspired by Christ's compassion, Carpenter's Place offers direction with accountability to people with broken lives, helping them find peace with God, themselves and their communities.*



## MEET JOHN – A SPECIAL INTERN

John has been a guest at Carpenter's Place since the spring of 2023. From the very beginning, John demonstrated his determination to turn his life around. In the summer he was accepted into one of our transitional housing programs. The program requires that while seeking employment, a guest must volunteer at an agency of their choice. John chose to volunteer at our day center. John's commitment to changing his circumstances has shown from the very beginning. Rotating through the various departments, he is always willing to do anything that is asked. He has consistently exhibited a willingness to tackle any task, be it maintenance, cleaning, or processing donations. No matter the task, John learned the role, was reliable, and worked hard.

However, it was in the kitchen, that John has truly excelled. When Lyndsay, our kitchen manager, was out on medical leave, John eagerly stepped up, offering his assistance in maintaining a steady meal service. He willingly adjusted his schedule and even assumed a leadership role, arriving early to ensure the kitchen was well-prepared for the day's meal service. John's exceptional work ethic, coupled with his dedication to self-improvement, will serve him well on his path toward achieving self-sufficiency.

## CONGRATS TO LAKESHIA!

Carpenter's Place is overjoyed for one of our moms! Lakeshia started a new job where she will be able to utilize her skills in working with at-risk populations. Lakeshia is very excited to continue working in the mental health field. This is where she finds her purpose. We wish her much success in her new position!

*God has given all of us great purpose!*



## IVORY'S HARD WORK IS AMAZING!



Since Ivory started coming to Carpenter's Place, he has worked very hard on rebuilding his life. In September of 2023, he enrolled in a welding class at Rockford Business College. He attends classes Monday through Thursday, keeps up on homework, and meets regularly with our Employment Specialist, Rob for intern opportunities. He also moved into an apartment at the Grand Apartments. These are big steps in securing his future. Ivory will continue his schooling until graduation in September 2024. He is very much looking forward to that day, which will enable him to obtain a welding job and support himself. Carpenter's Place is very proud of all that Ivory is accomplishing. When he talks about getting that diploma, he gets a huge, infectious smile on his face!

# MEETING THE NEED

## GET TO KNOW...EBBIE



Ebbie started as our morning receptionist in August 2022. Since then, she has worked as the dayroom specialist and is currently our Women's Housing Coordinator and general case manager. Ebbie has transitioned through positions here at Carpenter's Place with an ultimate goal of helping guests in case management (something she did at a homeless shelter in Chicago several years ago). Ebbie has a son, Josh, who keeps her busy

with soccer and soon-to-be basketball. Ebbie is originally from Chicago, moving to the Rockford area 10 years ago. She enjoys getting to know guests, exchanging stories and truly helping make a difference in their lives.

## JANUARY NEEDS

- Travel Size Shampoo
- Men's Boxers or Boxer/Briefs (sizes Small thru 3X)
- Men's Jeans: Waist sizes 30 thru 34 (various lengths)
- Men's Winter Boots
- 55 gallon trash bags
- 8 oz disposable coffee cups
- Powdered Creamer
- Coffee
- Sugar

If you have any questions regarding our in-kind needs, please do not hesitate to reach out to Patti at [PattiF@carpentersplace.org](mailto:PattiF@carpentersplace.org) or call Patti at 779-210-2970.

## OPEN MEALS

### JANUARY:

**BREAKFAST:** 5, 10, 16, 17, 19, 24, 29, 31

**LUNCH:** 3, 4, 9, 16, 17, 22, 29, 30, 31

### TO SECURE A DATE:

Email Mandy at

[MandyB@carpentersplace.org](mailto:MandyB@carpentersplace.org)

or call Mandy at 779.210.2975.

To make a **DONATION**, visit:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/cpdonate>.

Thank you

Thank you for making the holidays special for all of our guests. The amount of donations, both monetary and in-kind, received during December simply warms our hearts. Along with Christmas gifts for each of our housing guests, we also received gifts for each of our day room guests. We have received piles of coats and boxes of hats, gloves, and boots. Monetary donations received will allow us to continue to provide showers, laundry, meals, support, and housing to those most in need. Your kindness, compassion, and support reaffirm the mission and ministry of Carpenter's Place. To continue to support and provide for the homeless in our community, you may make a financial donation online: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/cpdonate> or mail your donation to 1149 Railroad Ave., Rockford, IL 61104. To provide immediately needed items, please visit our website.

## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS!



Each month we celebrate those who had a birthday. We sing, share a small gift and enjoy a special treat. Happy Birthday to our special guests in December – we love celebrating you!!

If you would like to find out more about donating a birthday treat, please contact Mandy at:

[MandyB@carpentersplace.org](mailto:MandyB@carpentersplace.org) or 779-210-2975.

### SHERWIN WILLIAMS GIVES GENEROUSLY

Thank you to our friends at Sherwin Williams who had a toy drive this December. These wonderful toys will be used as birthday gifts for the children in our Family Services Program throughout the year. These toys will bring much joy to our youngsters. **Thank you!!**



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# THANK YOU!!



**Christmas at Carpenter's Place is always extra special thanks to our many donors and volunteers! Here are some of the wonderful highlights!!**

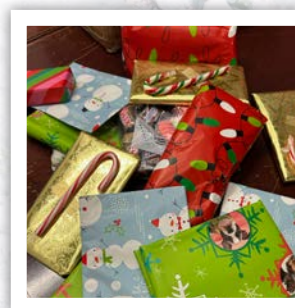


For the 12 business days prior to Christmas, we have special gifts each day for each of our guests. These range from individual games and treats to blessing bags.

The last two days are extra special . . .

## BINGO FUN!

The Sylvester family has been coming to Carpenter's Place for 10 years, playing Bingo with our guests and then showering them with many wonderful gifts. This year, Nancy (top right) and Holly (sitting right) were joined by John and Angie. This is a highlight of our CP Christmas season!



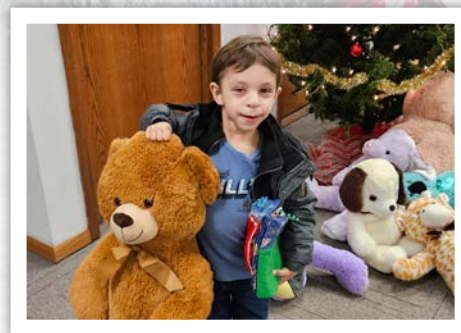
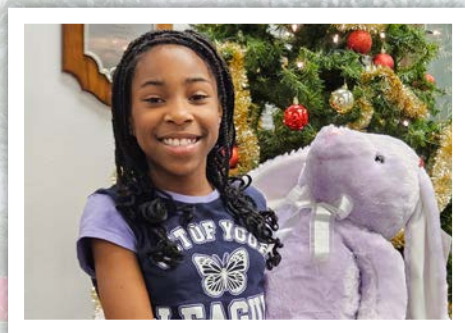
## DAYROOM HAPPENING!

We played a special game which at the end, each dayroom guest got to choose a present. Once everyone had a present, for those who wanted to (some wanted to take home and save for Christmas Day), we open them together! Field Fastener provided all the gifts for our dayroom guests.



## STUFFED ANIMALS FROM ROCKFORD ICEHOGS

It's a tradition that on a scheduled date, fans attending the Rockford IceHogs game throw a stuffed animal out on the ice at a certain time in the evening. These animals are then given to various organizations. Carpenter's Place was a recipient of some of these animals. They were a big hit with our families.



## OUR ADULT HOUSING PROGRAMS CELEBRATE!

Our housing guests joined together at CP for a Christmas celebration. There was wonderful food, laughter as they played games and presents. Thanks to some very special individual donors, every guest in our adult housing program received something special.



## SANTA VISITS OUR FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Santa and his elves (Giggly and Theodore) stopped by to celebrate Christmas with those in our Family services. The children's faces were all aglow as they entered the chapel room at Railroad. Families were showered with gifts thanks to individual donors, Christ the Rock Lutheran Church and Collins Aerospace. There was also a delicious dinner followed by special treats baked by a wonderful group of ladies.

