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# A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every year, I sit down to reflect on all that has happened at City Lights, and every year, I find myself overwhelmed—in the best way. Overwhelmed by the resilience of the people we serve. Overwhelmed by the relentless work of our staff, board, and volunteers. Overwhelmed by the generosity of those who believe in what we do and make it possible.

This past year has been no exception. We have walked alongside neighbors as they moved into homes after many years without one. We have been there on the hardest nights, offering warmth, care, and dignity. We have celebrated victories, big and small, and we have mourned losses together. Through it all, City Lights has remained what it was always meant to be—a place of belonging, hope, and an unwavering presence— a community.

At the same time, we've been laying the foundation for what's ahead. We've worked intentionally to strengthen our current programs, ensuring they bring the best resources and care to our neighbors, all while preparing for the opening of City Lights Village. The groundwork has been laid, but there's still more to do. And as we step into this next season, the excitement is undeniable.

None of this happens alone. It happens because of you. Because of a community that refuses to look away. Because of people who show up, again and again, to do the hard work of knowing and loving their neighbors. So as we look ahead, I just want to say thank you. For standing with us. For believing that there is enough for everyone. For being part of this story.

*-Sarah D. Grounds*

Founder & Executive Director

# VISION

Moving people into a lifestyle of service and community.



# MISSION

Loving individuals, giving hope and touching souls through relational service and dignified housing.





# NIGHT LIGHT



Moving friends, neighbors, and volunteers into a lifestyle of service and community for **11 years!**



an average of  
228 guests served  
each week



mobilized 5,425  
volunteers



11,400 meals served

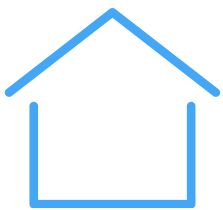


50 nights of the  
year

# HOUSING STABILITY



Ensuring our neighbors feel seen, known and loved.



72 previously homeless neighbors receiving specialized housing stability services



47 evictions prevented through case management



95% success rate of stabilization in housing



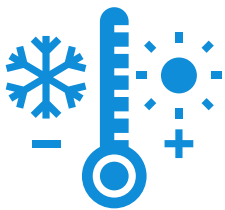
in loving memory of the 3 neighbors we lost in 2024



# MOBILE OUTREACH



Mobilizing to meet the most pressing and critical needs.



188 neighbors served  
during extreme  
weather outreach



20 individuals receiving  
regular outreach/case  
management



140 men given a safe, warm place to sleep for  
7 days at an emergency pop-up shelter  
operated in partnership with Tulsa Day Center

# TRIVIA NIGHT



We believe in connecting human to human, heart to heart.



245 attendees  
exposed to our mission  
in one evening



\$92,897 raised to  
support our neighbors



18% increase in funds  
raised from previous  
year



# CITY LIGHTS VILLAGE



Lighting the journey H O M E....



Awarded a prestigious maximum grant award from the FHLBank Topeka- Affordable Housing Program, which acknowledges our commitment to developing innovative and sustainable affordable housing.



Began and completed critical infrastructure work for the Village, laying the foundation to bring our neighbors home (literally).



Revised our fundraising goal and finished 2024 with over half of the funds raised thanks to our generous community!



# ANNUAL FUND FINANCIALS

## 2024 Revenue Distribution

44%	Misc./Individual Giving	\$ 371,629
22%	Grants	\$ 188,071
11%	Trivia Night	\$ 92,897
9%	Night Light Sponsorships	\$ 73,626
14%	Interest Earned	<u>\$ 122,436</u>
		<b>\$ 848,659</b>

## 2024 Expenses Distribution

63%	Programs	\$ 432,004
20%	Management	\$ 132,663
40 17%	Fundraising	<u>\$ 115,655</u>
30		<b>\$680,320</b>

For a more detailed report, please contact us.

# 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Todd Welsh – President

Catie Coulter – Vice President

Damon Domer – Secretary

Erin Kelley – Treasurer

Lenard Tarkington

Reta Hallam-Jay

Kojo Asamoah-Caesar

Cheyene Charles

Riley Kern

Samuel Kurtz, PhD



# CITY LIGHTS STAFF

Sarah Grounds – Executive Director

Zak Bates – Finance Director

Haley Kardokus – Director of Development &  
Communications

Jacqueline Young – Community Director

Chelsey Kirby – Housing Stability Manager

Ailis Reavey – Housing Stability Coordinator

Sydney Nesvold – Administrative & Development  
Specialist



# THANK YOU!

Thank you for being advocates, givers, and friends of City Lights as we partner together to provide relational service and dignified housing for our most vulnerable neighbors!



## WHERE TO REACH US:

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