

# OPENING DOORS

7hills  
homeless center 



## Our Mission:

To develop and implement collaborative, local solutions that foster hope, opportunity and stability for people experiencing homelessness.

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Dear Friend,

Summertime is hot on our heels. For a lot of us, that means vacations, pool parties or a cool day at the lake.

For our neighbors facing homelessness, it means exposure to extreme heat, limited access to clean drinking water and kids being out of school and away from free meal programs.

The Arkansas Department of Education reports that 1,609 school-aged children in Benton, Carroll, Madison and Washington County school districts face homelessness.

At school, kids have access to vital services such as free meals, counseling and learning support. But in the summer, accessing these services becomes much more difficult – or simply not possible at all.

Because of you, there is hope.

Thanks to your support, 7hills is open five days a week to provide access to two meals per day, clean drinking water, clean clothes, showers and an array of basic services. This ensures our neighbors experiencing homelessness have basic needs met.

Needless to say, the summer is pretty busy at 7hills. That's why I want to let you know how grateful we are for your generosity that keeps us going.

Read on for stories of your gifts at work.



Thank you,

Mike Williams  
CEO

## Tim Says Thank You For All Your Help

A few years ago, Tim was staying with his aunt and uncle, but he knew he couldn't stay long. He didn't have a lot of money and his mental health wasn't where he wanted it to be.

He was dealing with addiction then – a state of mind that completely alters the brain's wiring and affects relationships with family and loved ones. But deep down, Tim knew he needed help.

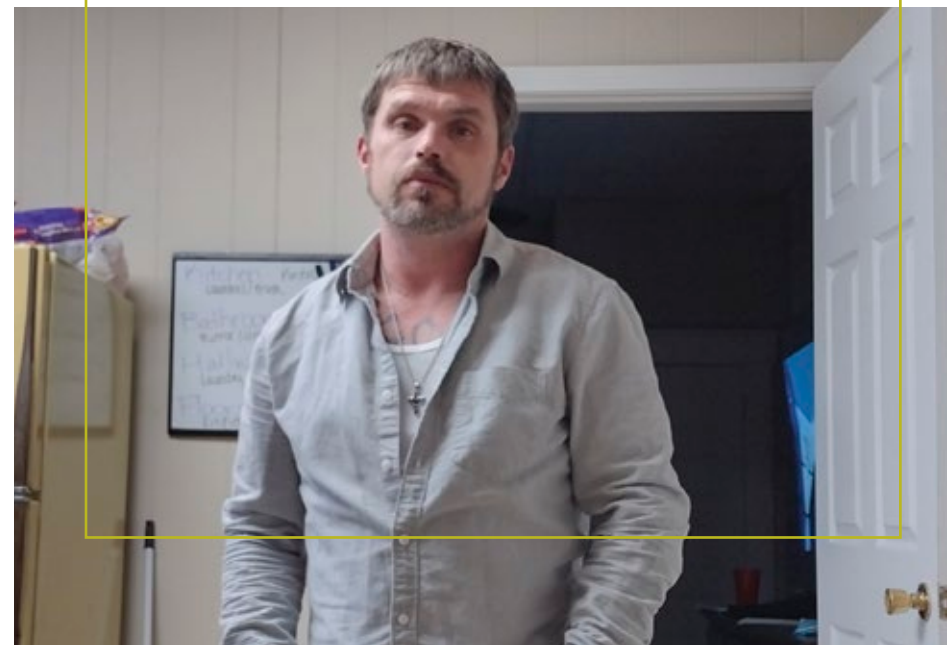
That was when he reached out to [7hills](#), which he'd heard about through some friends.

"I would recommend 7hills to anyone," Tim says. "They helped me a lot with my addiction. They [referred me to] counseling... and if you need food or clothing... they really care."

Tim got help looking for apartments and finding a job, which he's been at for six months now! He's a special projects engineer at a hotel and is hoping to move into his own place very soon.

"Now I'm in Hot Springs doing real good and have a good job. I have money in my pocket and doing good in my head," he says.

To friends like you, Tim shares his thanks: "Thank you to the donors who help 7hills. By helping, [you] allow the center to help [people] who are in need."



## Read Hudson Celebrates Giving Back



Read's passion for giving back to his community is evident in everything he does. For more than four years, he's served on 7hills' board of directors and comes to volunteer every Monday (the busiest day of the week).

"It is a humbling experience and can knock out any preconceived notions," he shares.

What Read loves most about 7hills is the compassionate staff and the neighbors he gets to meet at the center. He has gained a lot of perspective by listening to people's stories.

"[People] don't find themselves homeless overnight, and won't get back on their feet overnight," Read says.

Volunteering has made him a better board member. He wants to focus on the little victories – happy moments that

(see "Giving" on back)



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## Alveia's Dreams are Coming True Thanks to You!

After several evictions and taking on a load of debt, Alveia's family moved in with her mother just to have a roof overhead. But that situation didn't last long, and soon Alveia was found herself trying to keep her kids warm in Arkansas' below-zero winter weather.

Thankfully, the family heard about 7hills through outreach the center was doing on a local college campus. 7hills was able to secure housing for Alveia and her kids in a hotel through St. Francis. She says Jessica, the family's case manager, was incredibly attentive and helpful.

Now, Alveia is working, and her children are in school. She's currently addressing her family's debt and evictions in order to find future stable housing.

She's also focused on finding reliable transportation. She doesn't want to have to move her family again and dreams of a day when her kids can set down roots in a proper home.

Without your generosity, finding housing would be nearly impossible. But thanks to you, soon Alveia's family will have a home of their own to settle down in.

"Thank you," Alveia says. "You've helped so much."

Your kindness makes all the difference. Thank you for helping neighbors like Alveia and her children.

**Giving** (from pg. 3)  
prove "we are there for [our neighbors], not ourselves. Our community is the number one priority."

Read encourages others, "Just let people know you're there for them, whether through a kind word or a gesture. Many people facing homelessness feel invisible and to be genuinely kind is a gift."

You're doing just that when you give to 7hills. Thank you for making our neighbors without a permanent home feel seen and supported.

### To Our Donors and Volunteers...

We want to say a big thank you! Without the support of friends like you, we would not be able to provide the services and care to our neighbors facing homelessness that we do. If you are interested in becoming a donor or volunteer, please visit our website at [www.7hillscenter.org](http://www.7hillscenter.org) or by scanning the code below.

