



## ADVENT

*(On a theme by Dietrich Bonhoeffer)*

By Pamela Cranston

Look how long  
the tired world waited,  
locked in its lonely cell,  
guilty as a prisoner.

As you can imagine,  
it sang and whistled in the dark.  
It hoped. It paced and pattered about,  
tidying its little piles of inconsequence.

It wept from the weight of ennui  
draped like shackles on its wrists.  
It raged and wailed against the walls  
of its own plight.

But there was nothing  
the world could do  
to find its freedom.  
The door was shut tight.

It could only be opened  
from the outside.  
Who could believe the latch  
would be turned by the flower  
of a newborn hand?





# HOUSE NOTES: MAY – OCTOBER 2022

by Meridith Owensby, Lydia's House co-director

In a way, summer of 2022 meant building back the community that had withered out of necessity during the pandemic. We had abundant, capable staff, with three talented participants in our fellowship program, Ebony, Savannah, and Macey, a knowledgeable property manager in Aaron, and a new bookkeeper/leasing specialist, Sachi. As the weather became good enough to be outside again, we collectively set to work finding ways to be together.

We kicked off the season with our traditional Mother's Day gathering at the shelter. While the mothers (and some grand- and god-mothers) received flowers, the kids ate their fill of snow cones and shook all that sugar around in the bounce house. Volunteer photographer Whitney captured a number of mother/child front porch moments, images which we later turned into keepsakes to honor the love shown by all the mothers present at the party.



Ebony reached out to some local sports teams for summertime tickets, and the Reds came through for us. We took a group of 35 to the Reds game, not anticipating the difficulty of getting one year old twins and their stroller up to the nosebleed seats. Popular activities at the ballpark included eating ice cream and playing on the in-house playground. Less popular activities included watching the

Reds play. We may just stick to ice cream and playgrounds in the future.

King's Island, that giant playground, again proved to be a popular destination. We spent a hot June day there, alternating between the water park and the roller coasters. Kuddos to those Lydia's House alumni families who made their way via public transportation to this location: it was a long trip, but the youngest kids had a blast splashing one another and darting under the drenching waterfalls.



Appreciation of water was a common theme, as we were able to provide thirteen former guest families with memberships at the Norwood Pool this summer. We rented out the pool one Sunday in June for a dual community party and farewell to our beloved community member Anne Housholder who moved back home to Wichita this summer (see Mary Ellen's tribute to Anne elsewhere in this newsletter). Though a summer storm blew through during the party, it lasted only 30 minutes or so. Afterward we were able to plunge back into the water. Dermatologist Anne provided sunscreen and sun protective clothing to all who requested it, which were few (and mostly staff).

As the kids and grass grew taller with the months, other things sprang up as well. Three years ago, friend of the community and talented artist Lyric Morris-Latchaw held a brainstorming group with our shelter guests to plan a mural design for the Virginia Coffey building. It took several years for the city of Norwood to allow murals within city limits, but once they were permitted, we were ready! In July, Lyric hosted an afternoon paint party for all who wanted to contribute their talents to the mural in progress, some of whom had contributed to the initial design. The result is beautiful, and it deserves a visit when you're in the neighborhood.





Post painting party, we hosted a cookout at the shelter. Office manager Sachi managed the grill in impressive fashion, and we ate our fill of burgers, hot dogs and chips. To cap off the evening, we ventured down to Montgomery Road to watch the Norwood Day parade. The generous offering of candy from parties in the parade made it feel like Halloween in July.



It wasn't all play in Norwood, however. We also hosted some hard workers this summer, in the form of student groups on retreat with the Jesuit Spiritual Center. These middle and high schoolers took four hours out of their retreat time to work on our yards, helping us with both the vacant lot next to the shelter and the edible landscaping in the backyard of our office. It was hot, dirty work, requiring the removal of many weeds, and our space looked much better when they were through.



Even with all the at-home gatherings, we found opportunities to venture out for camp. We sent nine campers to Camp Joy this year, despite missing the departure time for the bus for the older kids. Thanks to Mary Ellen, who drove the whole way there to ensure the kids still got to attend.

The Procter Center welcomed us back with open arms this past July, and the hospitality of Rev. Jed Dearing was appreciated. We think he learned the names of all of us by the time the four-day camp was over. We had a good mix of first-time campers and established campers, with the smores time and

movie nights being special favorites for the kids. The talent show offerings were a wonder to behold, with Lydia's House families offering cheerleading showcases and beatbox competitions.

All good summers come to an end, however, but our events did not. In anticipation of heading back to school Savannah organized a shopping day at Once Upon a Child, a gently used clothing boutique here in town. Timed to perfectly coincide with tax



free weekend in Ohio, the store opened its doors early to allow Lydia's House alums time to shop. We had 22 families participate, and it's been fun to comment on good looking back to school outfits and hear "It's from Once Upon a Child."

The end of summer also meant some moves for Lydia's House guests that had become friends over the summer. We celebrated four successful moves in a short period of time, with destinations ranging from just up Mills Ave to Walnut Hills to Westwood. We immediately missed the dinnertime joy of the departing toddler contingent, and we're hopeful we'll see more of them at our future activities.

Finally, our summer sendoff occurred when New City Church invited us to their annual celebration at Stricker's Grove, a small amusement park about 30 minutes from Norwood. Kids and parents alike rode rides that spin you in all directions, while those of us over the age of 40 offered to watch younger kids to avoid those same rides.

It was restorative to come back together in big ways after a pandemic apart, and we are grateful for everyone who helped with planning, providing for needs, or just showing up. There's no Lydia's House without all of you, and we look forward to further opportunities to be together this upcoming holiday season.



# WHAT MAKES A GOOD LH VOLUNTEER?

Here at Lydia's House, we rely heavily on volunteers to assist with meeting the needs of our guests and furthering the mission of our organization. Our volunteers come from different walks of life, varying from the Catholic church, student groups, and retired professionals. We look forward to seeing our extended Lydia's House family each week, as they show up for their "shifts" at the shelter. What makes our volunteers exceptional?

- They show up on time for their shifts each week. If they are unable to come for any reason, they let us know in advance via an email or a text message.
- Our volunteers not only read the volunteer handbook, but they also read the resident policy handbook, so that they are aware of the expectations we set for our guests.
- Our volunteers never use their cellphone when at the shelter on the main floor, and instead use that time for building rapport and relationships with our guests and their children.
- Our volunteers are respectful to the families we serve. They never take photos of our guests without their permission, and they refrain from using foul language at the shelter.

Our volunteers provide care of the property as well as a positive presence in the lives of guests. We ask that community volunteers come in a spirit of mutuality and solidarity, and possess a desire to share their skills and resources. Stability and consistency are vital in our hospitality ministry. If you are interested in joining the Lydia's House family as a volunteer, our current volunteer positions include:

## MEAL ANGELS

Lydia's House Meal Angels provide meals to everyone who lives in the house. On average, this includes anywhere between 10-15 adults and 5-8 children, as well as you and your family if you choose to eat with us. As a meal angel you would be responsible for providing dinner, either delivering the meal already prepared or cooking in the Lydia's House kitchen. Lydia's House will have staples available including rice, pasta, frozen meats, and produce. If you would like to use the food here instead of purchasing your own, feel free to call the volunteer coordinator and see what's available.

## HOUSE DUTY

Lydia's House on a typical afternoon can be a hive of activity: kids playing in the yard, meals being prepared, donations arriving, volunteers working in the garden, and so forth. Regular activities for a volunteer on house duty include answering the door, sorting donations and the mail, light housework, and simply being present. Ideally, house duty volunteers would be present for a four-hour shift (10am-2pm or 5pm-9pm) Monday-Thursday.

## ATRIUM VOLUNTEERS

During our children religious education program on Wednesday evenings, we need volunteers to assist in our childcare room. Included in this gig is watching children between the ages of newborn and 10 years old, and providing a safe and fun environment for the children.

*If you would like to volunteer, contact Ebony at [ebony@stlydiashouse.org](mailto:ebony@stlydiashouse.org).*





# SACRED BIRTH COMES TO LIFE

by Lyric Morris-Latchaw

It is so surreal to finally be able to say that after nearly 4 years of drawing and planning, countless city council meetings, hours of community engagement sessions and volunteer painting, this beauty which I've named Sacred Birth, is finally completed and in the world.

This mural means more to me than any other I've ever painted, for so many reasons. First, it is right around the corner from my home. It was such a joy to be painting for MY people in MY neighborhood; heartfelt thanks to all of the neighbors and friends who came by to say hello, bring snacks and coffee, and more. This is (I believe) the first mural painted in Norwood since public art was made legal here earlier this year, and I hope that this piece makes the city a more beautiful, inclusive, and welcoming place for us all.

Second, it is in collaboration with an organization that I care deeply about, and whose story has been interwoven with mine for many years. Lydia's House provides housing for women and children in crisis and transition. Several years ago, they recognized that in addition to their shelter, there was a deep need in Cincinnati for long-term affordable housing for these guests after they moved out of the emergency housing. This building, the Virginia Coffey House, is their first long-term affordable housing unit for these women and children! They have always valued beauty and comfort, and hold a deep respect for the dignity and quality of life of their guests.

And finally, I am so moved by this imagery. Two women who lived at Lydia's House at the time, helped me brainstorm this concept in 2018; I am so grateful for their vision! In America, there is a long history of pregnant bodies (especially those of women of color) being ignored, undervalued, and at worst the subjects of violence and fetishization. Art is powerful! And has real power in shaping the narratives in our communities. I pray that this image is one of strength, growth, and empowerment for all who see a piece of

themselves in it.

Thank you to my painting assistants: Kayla Walker, Kenya Carter, and Anissa Pulcheon.







## GOODBYE ANNE

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A Tribute by Mary Ellen Mitchell, Lydia's House co-director

When we first started Lydia's house we had a category of volunteer that we called "Bread and Roses." Meridith came up with it, with the thought that we needed a place for people that would bring both practical and nice things to the guests. A few months back I cleaned out the old volunteer folder and got rid of that job, thinking "well that never panned out." And then I paused and reconsidered... actually it did, surprisingly well with one person, Anne Housholder.

The term Bread and Roses—a Catholic Worker Favorite—has a storied history. It started in a poem, moved into a suffragists' speech about what women were fighting for with the vote, and then came as the rallying cry of striking workers at a textile mill in 1912. Young girls, tired of poor working conditions, carried signs "We want bread and roses too."

Judy Collins wrote a tribute to the marchers

*Small art and love and beauty*

*Their drudging spirits knew*

*Yes, it is bread we fight for*

*But we fight for roses too*

*As we go marching, marching*

*We bring the greater days*

*For the rising of the women*

*Means the rising of the race*

There are few people I can think of that exemplify the spirit of this rallying cry or the term "Bread and Roses" more than Anne. Of course, Anne has never been a textile worker, even if she is an accomplished seamstress. But what she understands is that people need both the basic and the beautiful. Life cannot be lived with only bread, though if she had to choose one food only, I imagine bread it would be! Lord knows, Anne brought plenty of bread to Lydia's house over her 8 year tenure. But it's the roses she'll be remembered for. There are literal flowers, growing all around the garden that she paid for at 2005 mills. And there are the feminine touches that created the unique charism of Lydia's house, mostly the combined efforts of her and Meridith- the banners, the badges, the cakes, the table cloths and the screen printed t-shirts.

Anne holds the unique ability to see the need for roses but not forget the bread. Never one to dismiss the basic needs of each human, she might (literally) be sewing an intricate merit badge while examining a puss filled growth, all in the Lydia's House living room after she cooked dinner, moving quickly from practical to beautiful and back. Who among us can claim such a foot in two worlds? For the staff she provided all the furniture in our office building, and then also bought season tickets to plays and fun drinks to fill the fridge. For my children, there was sun protective swim wear coupled with a trampoline in her backyard. For our guests, carefully crafted gender reveal cakes followed by advocacy for pain management in the delivery room. Anne provided the first major donation for our affordable housing building and then created custom cocktails themed for the edifice to be served at subsequent fundraisers (Mutual Ade anyone?). On both extremes extravagance; on both extremes an acknowledgment that a small group of committed people can save the world, but that said saving comes in both the daily and the grand. As a popular Catholic Worker quote goes, "Everybody wants to start a revolution, but nobody wants to do the dishes." Anne was here for both the dishes and the revolution.



# MONICA'S STORY

by a Former Lydia's House Guest

My name is Monica and my daughter's name is Olivia\*. Our homelessness journey started well before becoming a part of Lydia's House. In 2019 I decided to move back in with my family, specifically my grandparents, to get help with Olivia while I went back to school. In my head this was a great idea, but Lord knows I wasn't expecting the whirlpool of changes ahead of us.

My time with my grandparents ended pretty quickly. We did a lot of house-hopping over the next few years, as we moved from my grandparents' house to a friend of mine's house over the river in Kentucky, to my uncle's small one bedroom apartment, and lastly to my mom's place.

This was a very hard time for me, and even though Olivia was only three/four years old at the time, I knew this took a toll on her as well. These two and a half years included an overwhelming amount of mental chaos, pressure and emotions. It felt as if I were dying a slow death. Every day felt like an attack. Every day felt like a battlefield. I was exhausted.

Finally, my mom's place was no longer an option for us. We were looking at yet another move, and I had to face the fact we were homeless. This time, I was adamant about doing what I needed to do to do for Olivia and I to receive the help we needed. I reached out to my oldest sister who was a former Lydia's House resident, and she told me how to reach out to the shelter. I checked the website, and applied for a room.

The first person I spoke to was Macey. Macey held the interview with me and briefly asked a few questions about Olivia and our living conditions, and more about my employment status. She then told me that my application would be reviewed, and I will be contacted with a move-in date if everything looked good and my background check came back okay. Days later I received a phone call with an official move-in date. I knew this was going to be the



change that me and Olivia needed!

I wasn't sure what we were walking into, but I knew that I was ready. On March 3rd 2022 Olivia and I moved into Lydia's House. It felt really good to not have to sleep in a basement for one more night.

My first impression of Lydia's House was bitter sweet. It was sweet because Lydia's House is one of the best shelters in the city. It was bitter because even though we had stable shelter, my reality was still staring me in the face.

The first 30 days were rough. I had to adjust to the rules, the structure, the personalities of the women and children who moved in shortly afterwards. There were so many names I had to remember!

I call the rules at Lydia's House discipline. There is a 9:00 pm curfew, a daily time period for guests to be out of the shelter, mandatory dinners, and a no drugs & an alcohol-free policy. It was exactly what I needed after coming from almost three years of living astray. After adjusting, I just tried my best to stay consistent and show that I could get through my shelter stay.

I have a few appreciations from our stay at Lydia's House. My first appreciation would be the family dynamic at the dinners that were held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. My second appreciation would be

the structure & rules. They keep the organization's morality firm, as they hold current and former guests to a standard as well as the staff of Lydia's House. My third appreciation I would say is the Lydia's House team involvement with their guests. They showed true patience and empathy.

I can honestly say I'm very proud of myself for sticking through with the program. I am happy that I've opened myself up to the opportunities and the many gatherings Lydia's House had to offer. This really helped me build my confidence and self-worth. I really began to feel like family. My relationship with Olivia grew stronger within this time too. We have truly come a long way.

Currently, I am working with Radio-One where I am a Promotions Assistant, a job I started while at Lydia's House after graduating from Ohio Media School. I hope to continue to expand in the field of Radio, Broadcasting and Media.

It's been a huge year not just for me, but for Olivia as well. She experienced daycare for the first time ever in her four years of life. She also celebrated her fifth birthday with the Lydia's House community, and this fall she started kindergarten like a pro. Olivia is my little trooper, and I am grateful for her.

I strive to be a good mom for her. Which is why I am focusing on how I can better myself. Better my health, better my wisdom, be better in kindness, and better myself with God. I believe If I can expand who I am this betterment will overflow into Olivia's life.

One thing I would like to remember from my time at Lydia's House is what it felt like to be in a safe environment. For me this speaks volumes, because nothing feels better than being in a place where you have nothing to worry about.

Thank you, Lydia's House.

*\* Names have been changed to preserve the writer's anonymity.*



# WHAT WOMEN NEED AND FEAR IN A POST ROE OHIO

by Mary Ellen Mitchell, Lydia's House co-director

June 2022

For 10 years I've been co-directing Lydia's House. When we started the shelter we thought that, perhaps, we'd be asked to accompany women to have abortions and we wondered what pastoral care would mean in that context. The truth of the last decade, however, is we were never asked. We heard from women in our shelter and aftercare program that they'd had miscarriages, and we heard from others these miscarriages were actually abortions, but we never fully knew. To some extent, we were grateful that they thought us too fragile for this knowledge or invitation. When asked where I/Lydia's House stood on issues of "life" by supporters or the curious, I responded bluntly, "I'm not sure what more we could do to support women to have their babies. Does it matter what we think politically? We're doing the work."

This week I find myself exhausted; our new affordable housing building can't open because of supply chain issues with electrical meter hubs, our recently installed solar panels aren't working correctly, today we're moving in a mom and her baby, who was born at 24 weeks of gestational maturity and who has a feeding tube, and I'm reading the headlines that Roe has been overturned. No victory laps here. Just a resignation that the proverbial dog caught the bus but we're supposed to help the passengers deal with the screeching halt, the bodies thrown about in chaos. Dogs aren't good at childbirth accompaniment, housing poor families or building affordable housing, after all.

In preparation for this moment I've been reading



all I can about the changes that have happened for women over the past 50 years. I know that poverty, in many ways, is worse now than then for white women, and that men of all racial backgrounds are much less likely to live with or support the children they father now than in 1973. It's hasn't been a constant curve into a better life for women in the bottom ½ of the economy, even if higher income women have significantly benefited from contraception, abortion rights, greater education and more options around when and how to parent. I'm one of those beneficiaries; our guests at the shelter aren't.

In a series of interviews conducted since April, I asked guests and former guests about the possibility of a Roe overturn, the end of legal abortion in Ohio, their experience of parenting and what their opinions are around contraception and reproductive choice. I asked them all, "What would make life better for you as a mom." I did this knowing that we needed to be ready to respond to today, when today came.

Here are some of the takeaways:

1) Women from our shelter largely define themselves as in favor of abortion rights for others, though personally against abortion for themselves. The language they prefer is pro-choice. They said again and again that they feel very limited in choices because of their life circumstances and emphasized, "I don't want to have less choices than I have now!" Many said they want the legal choice to end a pregnancy but also want the choice to have babies; to keep their babies; and the ability to support their babies even if they don't have a partner. Their fears around abortion limits quickly turned to fears they all hold closely that **soon there could also be limits to who can parent, not just who can't.**

2) **Many women mentioned not understanding their bodies or the specifics of how and when they get pregnant.** Unprompted by Catholic preferences for natural family planning, they mentioned wanting to understand natural contraception, fears they have around chemicals, and a general reality that they've been kept in the dark around how their bodies work. One woman said "I use a combination of condoms and knowing my body; I like knowing that there are



days I am fertile and days I am not.” However, others said they have no idea when they can get pregnant and wished they knew.

3) **Our guests are afraid for the children born to mothers who don't want them and assume that more of these babies will be born in a post Roe Ohio.** About 50% of the adults we served spent some time in foster care and they know intimately that there is a shortage of foster parents and even fewer families who are willing to adopt older children. A plethora of research says that new babies born post Roe will not be placed for adoption; rather most mothers will attempt parenting. **The result, as our guests imagine, will be more kids abused and in foster care.**

4) Poor women fear pregnancy because they fear bad outcomes, bad health care, and post-partum depression. When asked “what would make pregnancy better for you,” several women mentioned **better prenatal care, being listened to in appointments and the delivery room, and more support post-partum.** One woman also mentioned not being able to get care in an emergency room after having a miscarriage. **First hand, staff and guests have seen the racial and class disparities in prenatal, delivery and post-partum care.** We all agree, we have a long way to go on making childbearing humane in this country.

5) **Mothers need more supportive relationships.** Our moms mentioned many times that they find single parenting to be extremely difficult, though they count their children as their greatest blessing and, in many cases, “my reason for living.” Women wish that fathers would step up and that friends and grandparents would offer more care. While a post Roe Ohio is, in theory, an Ohio that wants women to bear the children they conceive, the actual fabric of our current culture sends the resounding message that mothers and mothers alone bear all of the responsibility for their babies. **Individualism and pro-natalism don't go together, and the calls that we get daily to our shelter prove that out in a painful and perplexing way.**



6) Women want government support that doesn't end as they do better financially or get a partner. The reality is that our moms are women building a life and family in a state and country that doesn't value them or believe they should conceive children. They build life with the scraps they have, out of circumstances that most were born into. The benefits they get, whether food stamps, childcare or housing, are only available if they stay single and stay very poor. Most of our moms want to work, find partners and do better financially, but they are deathly afraid of falling off a benefits cliff and ending up homeless again. **It's not the babies they want to avoid; it's the poverty.**

We've already got a number of things going on in the works to respond to these interviews. We've hired Savannah, a Black woman, certified doula and amazing advocate, to manage our prenatal and post-partum care. We've long been working and continue imagining ways of creating communities of support around single moms experiencing poverty; we're enrolling families in the “family self-sufficiency” program through Section 8 housing to allow them to save money as their income rises; and in the coming months we'll be rolling out a program to teach women about their bodies and fertility.

As today you stand either victorious or defeated, might you ask yourself **“What am I going to do to support women and children in a post Roe Ohio?”**



## SAVE THE DATE!

Mary Ellen is on sabbatical this fall so we'll be delaying Women for Women and making it a Summer garden party on

**Sunday, June 4, 2023.**

We can't wait to see you all again!



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Jaime Miske

## FOR THE LOVE OF WOMEN, UPON THE BACKBONE OF COMMUNITY

I am certain that I am a very lucky human.

To be here, the chances are incalculable. We possess this unique gift, this incredibly rare and truly slim chance of coexistence. How beautiful that is. How powerful, how utterly earth-shattering. It is groundbreaking to know one another and be in community as we are. It is a true honor, to know each of you and exist in your resilient, revolutionary energies.

Four years of intentional community, rooted in love and authenticity, have intertwined my path with the lives of humans of Norwood, astounding me beyond words. A recent graduate of Xavier University, I held the privilege of being in community with Norwood through the Community-Engaged Fellowship. Moriah Pie, For the Life of the World Cafe, Lydia's House, Woven Oak, Friday Fun Life, the Norwood Gardens and Girls Safe Space are the most poignant and prominent Norwood community sites that have shaped my heart and shaped my life. A pay-as-you-can pizza restaurant and breakfast nook, an emergency women's shelter, communal and fiscal nonprofit, a children's after school program, and a safe space for young women in the community — a wide array of types of engagement. The common thread? Community. Intentional, rich, deep community rooted in love and kindness. It has been an honor to be embraced in this community, to have been a part of such intentional care and kindness. One of the most significant joys and privileges of my life was to be a part of this space, a part of these people, a part of this communal love.

Lydia's House is a home. A home occupied by women, in community with women and all the

magnificent humans of Norwood. It is a home built in the name of women, for the love of women. It is a home that embraces guests and volunteers alike, offering a safe refuge and a harbor of hope amidst our wild world.

It is a labor of love, largely supported by women of all walks of life, all of whom have traversed their paths with immense fortitude, grace, and resilience. It is a gift to be surrounded by such powerful women. They have cultivated a structure of support for women of all kinds to rediscover belief in themselves, be one with an intimately caring community, and leave Lydia's House equipped with both the tools and the love to carry them far.

Each week, I garnered connection with women, with children, in community, in cooking, and with the deep cleaning supplies of Lydia's House. Though objectively deemed "dirty work," the housekeeping role and those who share this responsibility at Lydia's House are integral to all other roles in community with one another to not only exist but to flourish in supporting residents of this home. It felt purposeful, powerful; to be a part of something much greater than myself. It was an honor to then build trust with residents of Lydia's House and to hold deep conversation, share laughter and meals, lead childcare efforts for the mothers' rest. Truly, it is difficult to explain with true justice the magic shared within the walls of this home, among the humans there. It is an honor I do not take lightly, to have been a part of and to have witnessed such beauty, such joy, such connection, such healing, such growth! Such love!





# WE'RE HIRING!

Lydia's House is excited to open hiring for the second class of "Fellows" for our Dorothy Day Fellowship Program.

## THE 2023-2025 PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE UP TO FOUR POSITIONS:

- "Community Ministry" Fellow
- "Maternal and Family Health" Fellow
- "Non-Profit Leadership" Fellow
- "Early Childhood Education" Fellow

Every position will include mentoring in the work of Lydia's House and in the fight against family poverty and homelessness, and all positions share the work of maintaining and staffing the shelter.

The positions will each have a duration of 24 months, include a living suite and a generous compensation package including:

- A monthly living stipend
- Wellness funding for counseling, spiritual direction and retreats
- Connection to the larger Catholic Worker and Christian social justice movement through gatherings and shared experiences
- Meals with the community
- Communal prayer times and structures for accountability and growth
- Professional development funding and opportunities for learning
- Health Insurance via Ohio Medicaid
- Housing and utilities
- A program grant to create and implement new programming
- The option of taking classes at nearby Xavier University at a reduced rate.

Each living space can accommodate a single woman or a married couple. The positions are full time and require night and weekend work. Women of color are strongly encouraged to apply. Applications are being accepted now for a rolling start as early as January of 2023.

For more information please visit our website at [stlydiashouse.org](http://stlydiashouse.org) or contact [ebony@stlydiashouse.org](mailto:ebony@stlydiashouse.org)



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## 1801 MILLS AVENUE APARTMENT UPDATE: IT'S OPEN!



Supply chain issues literally hit home for us this year, when we were delayed in opening our four renovated units to families due to a lack of a meter hub. Our patient contractor, Bob, endured many phone calls asking "Any news?" Finally, in September, the meter hub made it to Norwood. Within weeks the electricity was on and families were moving in. What was dark and quiet for months is now illuminated and full of life. We are grateful to our many donors for making this possible, and to those who donated their skill and time to renovate the third floor (Especially The "D Trio" of Dan, Dane, and Dennis, along with honorary members Kevin and Steve). We are excited to house more families in Norwood as we add these four units to our portfolio, and we look forward to continuing to make change in the lives of women and children in crisis.

