We visited him every day. He was never one to flag us down or walk over to the van, we would have to pursue him. It took years to learn how to engage with him; the more silly we were with him, the more he would open up. We started to learn what his likes were - Popeye's take out, McDonald's. When we learned what music he enjoyed we would play it on Youtube as we pulled up to him; being as silly and "annoying" as possible. Even if we saw him the day before, we made it a big deal to see him everyday like we hadn't seen him in weeks.

We asked many times over the years if he wanted housing, and he always said no. Late last year an outreach specialist asked what his goals were, and he replied that he wanted 1) to have a girlfriend, and 2) to go to the mall. The outreach worker suggested how nice it would be to take his girlfriend back to an apartment and he responded "I never thought about that". Ben then agreed to agree to go into “a motel”, he signed the housing paperwork and we told him we'd get him a special type of motel that he wouldn't have to leave.

Born and raised in Albany, Ben was well known in the neighborhood. He had previously worked in a local motel and later wholesale store. He was living in his own apartment then. Family reports that his employer changed his department and he wasn’t happy about that. He quit on the spot and abandoned his apartment. Neighbors and former classmates kept contact with Ben and helped with food and needed items. Ben has siblings who made many frustrating attempts to coax Ben from the streets. He politely declined all offers from well-meaning citizens and non-profits. The county’s mental health mobile crisis team had ongoing contact with Ben. And yet he remained in the streets for more than a decade.

We visited him every day. He was never one to flag us down or walk over to the van, we would have to pursue him. It took years to learn how to engage with him; the more silly we were with him, the more he would open up. We started to learn what his likes were - Popeye's take out, McDonald's. When we learned what music he enjoyed we would play it on Youtube as we pulled up to him; being as silly and "annoying" as possible. Even if we saw him the day before, we made it a big deal to see him everyday like we hadn't seen him in weeks.

"...we need to have patience, compassion, consistency and love."
On the day of the move, Ben loaded his bags from his cart into the back of the van and he moved to a former motel that is now converted to apartments. Ben has been there since last Spring.

We plant seeds every single day and we all play a part. The people we work with know when they will be ready; we need to have patience, compassion, consistency and love. We need to let them know every day that we are there when they are ready; this was a monumental event, but we celebrate all victories, small and large.

Joseph’s House & Shelter joins SEIU Local 200 United

We congratulate SEIU Local 200 United for their successful campaign organizing our staff that elected union representation this past August. The election was fair and transparent, facilitated by the National Labor Relations Board. We look forward to future collaborations with our employees and their represented union in order to support staff in the very challenging and rewarding work we all do.

Re-Connection Celebration

Joseph’s House & Shelter will hold an in-person celebration on December 8th, from 6-8pm at the Hilton Garden Inn Troy, N.Y. It will be a time to re-connect learn what we have been doing the last year with a short video. Look for your invitation soon!

The Principles of Housing First

- Move people into housing without preconditions of sobriety, treatment acceptance or income.
- Target the most vulnerable members of the homeless community.
- Offer robust support services to tenants in housing. These services are offered through assertive engagement, not coercion.
- Embrace a harm-reduction approach rather than mandate abstinence. Also be prepared to support tenant commitments to recovery.
- Provide tenants with leases and protections under the law.
- Achieve nearly 90% annual housing retention and 6 years average tenancy.
In this edition we recognize the long-standing commitment of the congregation members of Christ Church United Methodist for their 15 years hosting/co-hosting our Winter seasonal shelter named **Inn from the Cold**. The church hall located on St. Paul’s Place near Fifth Street has accommodated up to 15 adults who needed overnight shelter during the coldest months of the year. While the congregation hosts the shelter in the church hall, Joseph’s House provides the cots, bedding, supplies as well as the staff and volunteers to accommodate the guests. Thank you Christ Church members for your ongoing commitment.

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**Josephy’s House & Shelter Recognized by the Capital Region Chamber**

The Capital Region Chamber awarded Joseph’s House & Shelter the 2021 Non-Profit Organization Award.

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**Our Mission**
Provide non-judgmental services to end homelessness

**Our Vision**
A community where everyone has safe and affordable housing

**Our Values**
We recognize each person’s strengths, capacities, and right to self-determination
We affirm each person’s dignity through non-judgmental advocacy
We commit to Housing First and harm reduction principles

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Like Us on: 
Facebook [facebook.com/JosephsHouseTroyNY](http://facebook.com/JosephsHouseTroyNY)

Twitter [@JosephsHouse_74](http://twitter.com/JosephsHouse_74)

Instagram [instagram.com/josephs_house_troy](http://instagram.com/josephs_house_troy)

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Fall 2022
Make Us Your Charity of Choice

You can support Joseph’s House’s mission to end homelessness in several ways:

• **Make a Cash Donation**: 90% of every dollar donated goes directly to homeless services; shelter costs, food, supplies, staffing.

• **Become a Sustaining Member**: Sustaining members contribute a fixed amount, as much as they choose, on a regular basis so we can anticipate revenues for on-going costs to run our shelters.

• **Cook a Meal**: Our kitchens count on volunteer cooks to help with weekend or weeknight meals. Prepare dinner ahead and deliver. Great activity for family or group.

• **Throw a fund-raiser**: Be creative and host a party or event with friends as a fund raiser for our homeless service programs.

• **Volunteer**: Spend some time each week or monthly to help provide outreach or shelter hospitality.

• **Give a donation of stock**: Contribute your gift of stock to our dedicated investment fund.

• **Make a bequest through Planned Giving**: Include Joseph’s House in your will or legacy trust.

• **Shop**: Contribute a portion of your online purchases by registering through Amazon Smile.

Contact us for more information at ptullgren@josephshousetroy.org or call (518) 874-1247

Want to LEARN MORE?

Visit us today to Learn More at https://www.josephshousetroy.org/