Inspire
VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA MID-STATES, INC.
Summer/Fall 2017

LIVES CHANGED
REAL PEOPLE. REAL CHALLENGES. REAL SOLUTIONS.
VOAMID.ORG
Dear Friend,

In this issue of Inspire, you will meet people whose lives have been changed. As you read about Jason Brown, Lucius Bell, Eric Holt, Amy Kalber and others, know that they represent so much more than success stories to us. They are the reason we do our work: the opportunity to help deserving people build brighter futures.

Jason, Lucius, Eric and Amy are overcoming challenges and prospering. They are far from alone. For thousands of parents, children, veterans, persons with disabilities and so many more, Volunteers of America is the place they count on in their time of need.

We share our Inspire newsletter with you so that we can let you know about the good work we are doing, but also to say thank you for being a part of the Volunteers of America family. Because of your kindness and generosity, we are able to change lives and celebrate success every day.

I hope you will see how much progress we have made in just the past few months. We have broken ground on our new 2nd Street location in Louisville that will double our capacity for helping pregnant and parenting moms who are struggling with addiction. That facility is the heart of VOA Recovery, our comprehensive addiction recovery and treatment programs. We are expanding HIV testing and outreach to Clark, Floyd and Scott Counties in Indiana. Our comprehensive veterans programs continue to grow. Inside, you can read much more about our services in Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Southern Ohio and Clark and Floyd Counties in Indiana.

At Volunteers of America, we experience the words of Winston Churchill every day. He said, “You make a living by what you get, you make a life by what you give.” Please know how grateful I am that you help make our work possible.

Jennifer Hancock
President and CEO

GO TO WWW.VOAMID.ORG/ROADTOFREEDOMHOUSE TO SEE JENNIFER TALK ABOUT VOA RECOVERY AND OUR EXPANDED FREEDOM HOUSE.
We give people the tools they need to take back their lives

We have a proven record of success working with individuals and families facing addiction. Our services are comprehensive, accredited and family-focused, and we are expanding to meet the growing need in our communities.

If you or someone you love needs help, Volunteers of America can provide freedom from addiction.

**OUR SERVICES INCLUDE**

- Assessment
- Transitional housing
- Residential support and treatment
- Intensive outpatient services
- Medication-assisted therapy
- Family therapy
- Comprehensive case management
- Freedom House serves pregnant and parenting women and their children

At Volunteers of America, we’re about freedom from addiction.

At Eric Holt plays with his 4-year-old daughter, Avery. Eric is a recent graduate of our addiction recovery services for men.

To learn more about Eric’s story, visit voamid.org/voavoices

When Amy Kalber came to Volunteers of America’s Freedom House, she described herself as “completely broken.”

At Freedom House, she “learned to live a life without drugs.” Watch Amy tell her story of recovery, hope and success at: voamid.org/roadtofreedomhouse

facebook.com/voamid
voamid.org/amy

Go to www.facebook.com/voamid to find out more about how we are serving your neighborhood.

VOA RECOVERY LOCATIONS

Every neighborhood deserves freedom from addiction.

2500 WEST BROADWAY
4303 WEST BROADWAY
1436 SOUTH SHELBY STREET

Soon to come:
1025 SOUTH SECOND STREET

Call a recovery specialist at (502) 635-4530 for help or to learn more.

Go to www.facebook.com/voamid to find out more about how we are serving your neighborhood.

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VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA BREAKS GROUND ON STATE-OF-THE-ART ADDICTION TREATMENT AND RECOVERY FACILITY

Volunteers of America is working tirelessly on a six-million dollar capital campaign that will fund the purchase, renovation and expansion of the new home of VOA Recovery, our comprehensive addiction recovery services.

Next year, our 2nd Street facility in Old Louisville will double the capacity of Freedom House, our facility for pregnant and parenting women battling addiction. Our 2nd Street facility will also house residential treatment programs, intensive outpatient programs, a counseling center and provide medication-assisted therapy.

“We cannot arrest and incarcerate our way out of the opioid epidemic. By investing in a state-of-the-art facility for comprehensive, integrated addiction recovery services, we are answering our community’s call for help.”

- Jennifer Hancock

Kosair Charities, our 2017 Community Partner of the Year, is essential to our expansion. The generosity of Kosair Charities means that more healthy babies will be born to moms who win their struggle against addiction.

Jerry Ward, Chairman of the Board of Kosair Charities, and leaders from Kosair Charities attended our groundbreaking to celebrate our plan to increase our capacity to serve moms and children.

Kosair Charities is invaluable to the children we serve and an indispensable champion for children throughout Kentucky.

On pages 8-15, read about our Back to School campaign, comprehensive veterans services, housing services and HIV education and outreach. To see more videos and photos, go to voamid.org.

WE NEED YOUR HELP
To learn more about how to help Volunteers of America take on the addiction crisis, go to voamid.org or facebook.com/voamid.
Volunteers of America keeps families together. Our family emergency program at our Louisville Family Housing Services provides safe, welcoming housing for families who become homeless. We are one of very few places that serves the entire family in one location as we help them find permanent housing.

Every day, our shelter is home to children who are looking forward to brighter futures. As the children we serve prepare for a new school year, many of our families cannot afford school supplies, clothes and other resources.

Volunteers of America will help every child we serve prepare for a successful school year and be ready to learn the minute they walk into their new classroom, but we need your help.

Study Buddies is our year-round home for learning. Just like every student, the kids at Volunteers of America’s Louisville Family Housing Services need a quiet place to study and learn. Our Study Buddies room has three computers, a library filled with books and reference materials as well as learning aides like globes and calculators.

Our volunteers also stop in regularly to tutor, answer questions and encourage our kids. All children deserve the resources they need to excel at school. When you go to voamid.org/bts, you help to make sure all of our kids have everything they need.

Please visit voamid.org/bts to find out how you can help. Or contact Gema Moreno at (502) 636-4664 or GemaM@voamid.org.

Please help our kids succeed by making a tax-deductible contribution online at VOAMID.ORG/BTS or by donating gift cards that will be used to purchase uniforms and school supplies at budget-friendly stores.
Less than a year ago U.S. Army Veteran Lucius Bell, his fiancée, son and dog had been evicted from their home.

Lucius had been honorably discharged from the army and had never imagined he would be facing homelessness. He was not sure where to turn.

He asked everyone for help and advice. Fortunately his brother, a former U.S. Marine, knew about Volunteers of America.

Soon, Lucius was working with Dustin Starnes, a case manager with Volunteers of America’s Supportive Services for Veterans Families program in Knoxville, Tennessee. Our Supportive Services program provides comprehensive services and case management to veterans in need.

Lucius worked with Dustin and explained that an error was keeping him from getting his veterans’ disability check.

Professionals like Dustin work to correct problems with benefits and help with housing, employment and health care.

Within several weeks, Dustin and Volunteers of America had fixed the error with his veterans’ benefits. We also found Lucius and his family affordable housing and even purchased household items, like kitchen supplies, to make sure they were settled and secure in their new home.

“Dustin and Volunteers of America brought us more than we could ever need. We have not yet gotten over everything Volunteers of America has done for us.”

To hear more of Lucius’ story, go to voamid.org/volunteer

Today, Lucius, his fiancée Amanda, son Luciano and their dog Mocha Latte have a comfortable home and a secure future. He is one of nearly 2500 veterans and their families who have received life-changing assistance from Volunteers of America during the past year.
Every other Wednesday, David Watson and his breakfast crew are up before the sun, cooking a hot breakfast in the kitchen of Louisville Family Housing Services. In the last few years, David and his group of friends have served more than 5,000 breakfasts of eggs, bacon, French toast and pancakes to the children and families we serve.

David, our 2017 Volunteer of the Year, is one of thousands of volunteers and donors who help Volunteers of America serve people in need. We are tremendously grateful to David, the breakfast crew and all of our supporters.

Visit www.voamid.org/voavoices to learn more about David.

Wendell Griffin

“We can finally breathe again. We were homeless, but now, every day, I look forward to making things even better.”

Wendell Griffin is a 14-year U.S. Army veteran who retired as a staff sergeant. After very significant health issues, he and his partner Ann O’Dell found themselves homeless. Volunteers of America’s Knoxville Supportive Services for Veteran Families program found them an affordable home and helped them with move-in expenses. “Volunteers of America turned our lives around,” Wendell said.

To see stories from other supporters, volunteers and clients, search #voavoices on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Who are the voices of VOA? They are veterans and adults with developmental disabilities. They are families facing homelessness, moms and dads struggling with addiction, friends who need answers about HIV. They are donors and volunteers who lend a helping hand. They are the voices of our community, coming together.
Norma Reynolds is an enthusiastic Volunteers of America supporter and donor. Her brother David Price lives in Jeffersonville, Indiana in our Supportive Living Program for adults with developmental disabilities. In Indiana and Tennessee, Volunteers of America serves adults with disabilities with around-the-clock care in welcoming, comfortable, neighborhood-based single-family homes.

Do you have a story about the people of Volunteers of America you would like to share? Use #voavoices on your social media posts to help others connect with you.

David and I were close as children, and we’re still close today. We visit together or talk every week. And he’s always happy to see me. What more could a baby sister ask for? Thanks to the support of Volunteers of America, David has found his place.”

Our Supportive Services for Veterans Families program helped Jason and his twins, Kristen and Kaleb, find an affordable three-bedroom house. We provided beds and needed household items and pre-paid security deposits and rent. Jason struggled with post-traumatic stress after serving in Iraq and Korea, but with Volunteers of America’s assistance, he and his family were back on their feet. Today, Jason is working full-time and living with his children in their home in Clarksville, Indiana.

To help veterans like Jason, go to voamid.org/voavoices

“So many times I was just inches away from having a very different end to my story. As you think about Volunteers of America, I hope you’ll realize that the smallest things can make the biggest difference in someone’s life. Someone who cares, someone who helps, someone who gives you a second chance.”

Norma Reynolds & David Price

Jason Brown

Voices

#voavoices
Srinivasan and the Volunteers of America Board of Directors work every day to make our mission possible.

As a Program Manager at GE Appliances who wanted to give back to his community, L. Srinivasan had many choices of organizations to support.

After painting and doing yardwork at Volunteers of America’s Louisville Family Housing Services, his decision was easy.

“What drove me was their very clear purpose. A deep understanding of the needs and the gaps. Volunteers of America really gets it. I’ve never seen an organization that has so many metrics to measure their work. Coming from the business world those metrics really matter to me,” he said.

Since Srinivasan’s first day of service almost ten years ago, his commitment has regularly increased in ways that make a life-changing difference to the people Volunteers of America helps.

Working with his colleagues at the Indian Professional Council, he founded an annual golf tournament that has raised thousands of dollars. To help kids at our Louisville Family Housing Services, he arranged computer donations for our Study Buddies room. He also introduced Volunteers of America to many colleagues at GE Appliances.

“I thought the Veterans Network at GE would be a great fit for Volunteers of America and all of the good work we do for veterans. They have helped with resume writing and getting veterans back into the job market.”

Srinivasan is in his sixth year as a member of the Volunteers of America Board of Directors, where he raises funds, provides guidance and connects friends and colleagues to the VOA mission.

“I see the deep compassion for people Volunteers of America has at all levels. We don’t just help you at the moment of your crisis. Volunteers of America holds you up and helps you to stand for your whole life.”

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP
Jennifer Hancock, President/CEO
Tim Delaney, Associate Vice President of Program Services
Rita Finnie, Associate Vice President of Program Services, West Tennessee
Tom George, Chief Financial Officer
Tiffany Cole Hall, Vice President of Addiction Recovery, HIV and Homeless/Housing Services
Jonathan Kuehl, Vice President of Operations Support
Jennifer McMinn, Vice President of Veteran Services
Vic Melendez, Vice President of Information Technology
Teresa Roberts, Vice President of Human Resources

At Volunteers of America, we live by five core values that guide our work. Those values are compassion, commitment, diversity, integrity and justice.

Our dedicated and highly-skilled Board of Directors and executive leadership team ensure that we display these values every day. Please go to voamid.org/advisorycouncils to read more about more leaders and our Advisory Councils, who guide our work in Lexington, West Tennessee and Middle Tennessee. We are very grateful to our Board, our leadership, our dedicated staff and all of the volunteers and donors who make our work possible.
Be Part of the Volunteers of America Family

Volunteers of America wants to connect with you. We want to share our success stories, answer your questions and tell you how you can help make a difference. How easy is it to stay connected? As easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. To learn more about our mission and the people we serve, text LEARN to 66186, or (502) 636-0771.

2. To see more videos, explore photo libraries and read in-depth stories about the people and projects of Volunteers of America, go to voamid.org/inspire.

3. To connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat: @voamid or search #voavoices.

Take a Journey with us.

We want to share our mission with you. Our Real Journeys are great opportunities to see the work we are doing and meet the people whose lives we have changed.

Shelby Street Clinical Campus
1436 S. Shelby Street
Louisville, KY 40217

- August 10 | 9-10 a.m.
- August 29 | 6-7 p.m.
- September 26 | 9-10 a.m.

Louisville Family Housing
1321 S. Preston Street
Louisville, KY 40208

- July 27 | 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- August 17 | 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- September 18 | 6-7 p.m.

Clark and Floyd County Indiana Campus
2676 Charlestown Rd, Ste 3
New Albany, IN 47150

- August 9 | 9-10 a.m.

Email Brittany Penny at BrittanyP@voamid.org to RSVP.

Are You Ready to Help?

Every dollar you donate or hour you give directly helps the people we serve.

To donate, text GIVE to 66186. Or go to voamid.org/support to give online.

Have questions? Call Farrah Ferriell at (502) 636-4639 to find out more.

To help homeless children start back to school with the tools they need, visit voamid.org/bts, contact Gema Moreno at (502) 636-4664 or email GemaM@voamid.org.
Your donation of a used vehicle allows you to participate in serving some of your community’s most vulnerable people.

DONATING WITH VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA IS:
- 100% tax-deductible
- Fast, easy and convenient
- Free – we’ll tow the vehicle at no charge

Donate your vehicle now:
1-800-407-2600
or visit www.voamid.org to start the process.