

Ashley and Ayva (age 6) live at VOA's Freedom House in Manchester, KY. They are excited about the holidays. Ayva shared, "For Christmas I would really want either a toy riding car (the Lamborghini one) or the insta pics camera that prints out your pictures!"

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Big news deserves a fresh look!

VOA MID-STATES

We're excited to introduce our new logo. This refreshed design represents the strength of our mission, the people we serve, and the bright future ahead.

988 LIFELINE

INSPIRE

HERE TO HELP. IT'S JUST WHAT WE DO.

Fall 2026

A LETTER FROM JENNIFER

Dear Friends:

The holiday season is a time to reflect on the year behind us and express gratitude for the people who helped us along the way.

As I look back on 2026, I am struck by how much can happen when communities come together around a shared commitment to helping their neighbors. This has been a remarkable year for VOA, and none of it would have been possible without supporters like you.

We celebrated the spirit of service through events like Tennessee's Weekend of Champions and our Power of 1 Breakfast.

In Manchester, we unveiled our expanded Freedom House, allowing us to serve even more women as they pursue recovery with their children beside them. We opened Unity House, our family emergency shelter on the Community Care Campus. We cut the ribbon on Monarch Station, an affordable and supportive housing community. And we opened a Recovery Community Center in Murray.

But opening a door is just the beginning. It's the work inside that creates meaningful change -- one person, one family, and one community at a time.

These milestones are possible because of people like you. And that's why our Hope for the Holidays campaign is so important. Your generosity helps ensure that the individuals and families we serve experience the joy, dignity, and hope that every person deserves during the holiday season. More importantly, it reminds them that they are not alone.

Thank you for believing in our mission, standing beside us, and helping create opportunities for people to move forward.

On behalf of all of us at VOA, I wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a hopeful New Year.



With gratitude,

Jennifer Hancock, President and CEO



Seven month old Lyla and her parents live at VOA's Unity House on the Community Care Campus in Louisville. She and her family are excited about the holidays and hope to get toys, a tummy-time mat and books.

Our kids are looking forward to the holidays. With your help, last holiday season VOA supported nearly 500 families in need.

This year, help kids like Lyla and so many more.

DONATE TODAY!

NEWS BRIEFS

OWENSBORO WELCOMES NEW FREEDOM HOUSE

We proudly celebrated the grand opening of our new Freedom House in Owensboro, with the help of Kentucky Sports Radio. The celebration marked an important milestone in expanding support for women and families in recovery. This achievement would not have been possible without the leadership and support of Mayor Tom Watson and our generous sponsors - the City of Owensboro and Vector Security. We were also honored to hear remarks from Rep. Suzanne Miles, Judge-Executive Charlie Castlen, and Rosemary Conder, whose advocacy and commitment to the community helped make this day so meaningful. We are grateful to everyone who joined us.

SHAQ JOINS WEEKEND OF CHAMPIONS

The 17th annual Tennessee Weekend of Champions was filled with celebration, generosity, and community impact, made even more memorable by a special appearance from NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of the dinner and golf tournament. The energy, enthusiasm, and commitment displayed throughout the weekend were a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when a community unites around a shared purpose of supporting adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

UNITY HOUSE: A NEW BEGINNING FOR OUR COMMUNITY CARE CAMPUS

We hosted the grand opening of our Unity House emergency family shelter on the Community Care Campus, an important milestone made possible through the extraordinary support of our community and partners. We were honored to recognize the partnership of Mayor Craig Greenberg and Louisville Metro Government, along with the many supporters and advocates who joined us in marking this special occasion. The event highlighted the transformative impact Unity House will have on individuals and families seeking hope, stability, and a fresh start, while reinforcing our shared commitment to building stronger pathways to healing and housing in our community.

MONARCH STATION OPENS NEW DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY

We celebrated the opening of Monarch Station – 80 units of affordable and supportive housing in Louisville's Meriwether neighborhood. Twenty of the units are reserved for permanent supportive housing, which is a proven, compassionate, and fiscally responsible approach to moving people toward stability. We are grateful to the Caudill family, Mayor Craig Greenberg, Louisville Metro Government, Beargrass Development, Walker & Dunlop, Kentucky Housing Corporation, Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Stock Yards Bank & Trust, and all who helped bring this vision to life.









VOA Voices



KETURAH HERRON, KY STATE SENATE DISTRICT 35

Sen. Keturah Herron is a long-time advocate for restorative justice and other VOA programs.

"Volunteers of America Mid-States is making a lasting difference in our community by creating opportunities for people and families to thrive. The continued success of Freedom House and new housing options like Monarch Station reflect a shared commitment to ensuring that every person has access to stability, dignity, and opportunity. I'm proud to support their work and the positive impact they are making throughout Louisville."



JIM RECHTIN, HUMANA CEO

Jim Rechtin was part of a group from Humana that spent three days in Clay County, bringing clinical and business expertise and learning about local efforts that help improve health outcomes, support recovery, and strengthen rural communities.

"When I visited Volunteers of America Mid-States' Freedom House, I saw firsthand the care, collaboration, and commitment it takes to help people recover and rebuild. I left reminded that you can't build healthier communities on your own. You need trusted local relationships, people working together, and a willingness to learn from one another. I'm grateful to everyone who welcomed me and shared their work."



ROGER HUGHES, MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT AT VOA's SPANISH COVE SENIOR HOUSING

As Maintenance Assistant at Spanish Cove, Roger Hughes has spent nearly a decade ensuring residents have a safe and comfortable place to call home. Roger is often one of the first people residents turn to when they need a helping hand.

"I've been blessed to work at Spanish Cove for nearly 10 years now. As I look forward to my retirement in the near future, I have a better understanding of the challenges our senior citizens face on a daily basis in this economy. Volunteers of America Mid-States provides affordable housing with services on-site to help seniors maintain their independence at Spanish Cove, and that's something I am really proud to have been a part of."

HUMANA COMMUNITY IMPACT TRIP HIGHLIGHTS VOA'S WORK



We were honored to welcome Humana team members from across the country, for a firsthand look at VOA's impact across Southeast Kentucky and a special visit to Freedom House. We are grateful for Humana's continued partnership and shared commitment to creating hope, healing, and lasting change in the communities we serve.



Jim Rechtin, CEO of Humana, with Christina and baby Riley, and Jennifer Hancock, CEO of VOA, at Freedom House in Manchester, Kentucky. Riley, born on September 21, is the 27th healthy baby welcomed through our Freedom House program in Manchester.

18th Annual

Power of 1 Breakfast

"No matter how far gone you think you are…you're not. No matter how many days or decades you spend in active addiction, there is always a path out."

-Sue Fox,
2026 Keynote Speaker



"When you hear Power of 1, I want you to think about this: One person walking into a Recovery Community Center for the first time. One person finding hope. One person deciding to try again."

VOA's Community Outreach Supervisor, Sue Fox, helped us celebrate our Power of 1 Breakfast this year and shared how her life was changed when she found VOA.

Sue shared her powerful story of going to prison, finding recovery, discovering VOA, and celebrating 10 years of sobriety.

We can't serve people like Sue without you. We are grateful for everyone who attended and supported us at our 2026 Power of 1 Breakfast.

Do you want to support more people like Sue?
Visit voamid.org to change the future of people in your community today.



Asia, Curtis and baby Lyla, who is 7 months old.

A FRESH START FOR A GROWING FAMILY

"They make sure you have bed sheets, soap, towels, and hygiene items. And if you need something, you can ask," Asia said.

This holiday season, Curtis and Asia are finally feeling hopeful about their family's future.

The beginning of the year looked very different for the couple. Asia was pregnant, Curtis was struggling to find employment, and they were experiencing homelessness.

When their daughter, Lyla, was born in March, the family was desperate to find a safe place to stay. They turned to the Coalition for the Homeless and were connected with VOA.

Curtis, Asia, and Lyla are among the first residents to live at VOA's new Unity House emergency family shelter on the Community Care Campus.

Unity House has served families experiencing homelessness in Louisville for more than 40 years. The shelter currently supports 24 families at VOA's original location on South Preston Street. The new location on the Community Care Campus in the Smoketown neighborhood provides 29 additional units of safe shelter for families as they work toward permanent housing.

The safety and stability Unity House provides have enabled Asia and Curtis to save money, secure employment, and plan for their family's future.

"Being here with all the amenities that they offer is just great," Curtis said.

"I've been able to calm down, sit down, and focus a little more on other things."

Curtis is now employed at Bristol Bar & Grille. While he is at work, Asia cares for Lyla and searches for stable housing.

They hope to move into a new home just in time for the holidays.

As cold weather approaches, Curtis and Asia are in need of winter clothes for Lyla. They would also love toys, a tummy-time mat, books, and other developmental items to support Lyla's growth and make her first holiday special.

Visit voamid.org/holidays to learn how you can join our Hope for the Holidays campaign and make this holiday season brighter for Curtis, Asia, Lyla, and the 500 families VOA serves.

Online donation and donation drop-off details can be found here