

YOUR NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



Nathan doesn't
have to worry
about surviving
on the streets
anymore.

You gave Nathan a home.

Your support gave Nathan safety, healing, and a better future.

After running away from his adoptive family at the age of 16, Nathan lived on the streets for twenty years. After having over 250 ‘homeless arrests’—ranging from trespassing, obstruction of passageway and solicitation—the mental health court judge connected Nathan with Park Center in 2009. Since that time, we have worked with him to obtain disability benefits and permanent housing. We were able to find him permanent housing on three separate occasions; however, because he has spent so much of his life living on the streets, he felt more comfortable being on the streets than being in a home.

This past winter, Nathan found himself on the streets of Nashville again. One night, he was found unresponsive by an outreach worker who had to conduct CPR to revive him. After this incident, Nathan recognized that something needed to change. With perseverance and support from our staff, this spring Nathan moved into his own one-bedroom apartment!

Knowing Nathan's history of housing instability, our staff set up helpful and preventative practices beginning even before he moved in. This includes having the option to sleep in a tent setup outside his apartment if he'd prefer to stay outdoors. Nathan has adjusted to life in his apartment, and he has also kept it exceptionally clean. Nathan is optimistic about the future, knowing that he has Park Center's full support in any goals he hopes to achieve.



YOU
made homelessness
a part of
Nathan's past

Volunteer Spotlight

*Kim
Demirjian*



How did you learn about Park Center and what made you want to volunteer here?

The way I found Park Center and why I want to volunteer with mental health are closely related. On July 16, 2017, my grandfather committed suicide, which was a complete and total shock mixed with unbelievable devastation. His death completely altered the course of my life. Five months afterwards, my uncle made the same decision and ended his life. My husband told me it would be easier to move through the emotions if I focused on something else. I looked at volunteer opportunities on an internal website through my employer. Park Center fit the areas I felt passionate about and I reached out to the volunteer coordinator. From there, I was smitten with everything that Park Center has to offer. I think that Park Center's contribution to my life and my grief journey has been significantly greater than anything I could ever offer this organization.

In what ways are you involved with Park Center?

Since joining Park Center's Associate Board, I have participated in the Lunch Buddies program and was paired up with a lovely lunch buddy! I ate dinner with Park Center members at their home this summer and I have recently joined the marketing committee. Whenever I can, I try to include my family, coworkers, and friends in my time volunteering!

What would you say to someone who is considering becoming a volunteer?

At Park Center, the members are the kindest, bravest individuals that I have ever encountered. Their stories are truly inspirational and will give you a new perspective on your own personal life. It's okay to feel uncomfortable at first, but give it a chance because it will be one of the most rewarding volunteer experiences of your life.

Volunteer with us!

We offer individual and group volunteer opportunities like tutoring, lunch buddies, special group projects, and more. Contact Jasmyn Alvarez at jasmyn.alvarez@parkcenternashville.org for more information! If you'd like to take a tour of Park Center, just let us know- our doors are open!

Save the Date!

How About Dinner and a Movie?

Thursday, February 28 | Belcourt Theatre

2019 Honoree - Edith McBride Bass

Join us at Park Center's signature event featuring a fabulous silent auction, dinner by Dani Kates and a movie. To RSVP, donate an auction item or become a sponsor please contact Amy Shurden at amy.shurden@parkcenternashville.org.



KENDRA SCOTT GIVES BACK PARTY

DECEMBER 6 • 5-7 PM • HILL CENTER

20% of Proceeds Benefit Park Center