

YOUR
SUMMER 2019
NEWSLETTER



*Because of your support,
Robert has found meaningful employment.*

www.parkcenternashville.org

615-242-3576

The Working Season

Over five years ago, Robert arrived at Park Center with the goal of finding employment. Like many people living with mental illness, finding an employer that would embrace his gifts without the stigma that mental illness brings was a challenge. Robert spent many years looking for employment and one year ago he met Emily. Emily is a Park Center employment specialist who helped Robert understand his strengths, make connections with employers, taught him about applications, and prepared him for interviews. Robert was interested in an outdoor job like landscaping or working at a garden center. He worked hard with Emily, his tutors, and independently to gain the skills he needed to get his dream job. Recently, Robert interviewed at a local landscaping company and he was hired! Now Robert's days are full of meaningful work that put a smile on his face.



Robert gets to apply his gardening and landscaping skills at work.

Robert finding a job is exciting for him, but it is equally important for the community. Without the support of Park Center's employment program, Robert's gifts of persistence, positivity, and patience and his unique skill sets may never be shared with his employer, the people who receive his landscaping services, his new coworkers, and the community as a whole.

To Robert we say congratulations and we wish you "mulch" success! And to YOU we say, thank you for supporting Park Center programs so that Robert could grow, learn, and achieve his dream.

Donate to Park Center

Employment Services is one of the many ways we help people living with mental illness make positive changes in their lives. If you would like to support programs like these, donate at www.parkcenternashville.org.

Volunteer Spotlight



Employee Jasmyn Alvarez & Uncle Classic employee Trisha Lou Meinzer & owner Amy Tanksley at the 2019 Strobel Awards.

2019 Mary Catherine Strobel Corporate Volunteerism Award Recipient

Uncle Classic Barbershop began volunteering with Park Center in 2013. Since that time, Uncle Classic Barbershop employees have provided countless haircuts for Park Center members. In 2018 alone, they provided 158 free haircuts for our members. Many of our members have barriers, such as a lack of financial resources and transportation, that keep them from getting a haircut.

**"I don't have
to be
embarrassed."**



Dwayne, C., Park Center Member

Significant changes often happen in our members' lives as a result of getting their hair cut. For example, Dwayne had experienced homelessness for over 15 years. He had not had a haircut in at least five years until barbers Forrest and Brittany gave him a haircut and a beard trim. Afterwards, Dwayne said he felt "ten pounds lighter." He said "I don't have to be embarrassed of my braid anymore. I don't have to wear my hat unless it's really hot and I don't want my head to get sunburned."

The haircut that Dwayne received positively changed how he viewed himself and interacted with others. The barbers at Uncle Classic Barbershop provide the same experience to every person whose hair they cut. Uncle Classic's impact on Park Center has been invaluable. Our members feel healthy, confident, and cared for after having their hair cut. Their service has contributed to the success of Park Centers members in reaching their goals towards living and working in the community.

BAND TOGETHER

Park Center's Associate Board presents

BAND TOGETHER

A Singer-Songwriter Night
for mental health awareness
Benefiting Park Center

Featuring

Canaan Cox

Eric Van Houten

Martin McDaniel

Zach Funkhouser

Rochelle DeMint of *Cypress & Co.*

Enjoy a line up of country and alternative music from five amazing songwriters. You'll have the chance to hear acoustic performances and also learn about the artists' inspiration and stories. Tickets are for those 21+ and include general admission and light appetizers. We promise this will be a night you won't forget.

100% of ticket sale proceeds will benefit Park Center.

July 16 | The Old Line | 7:30-9:30 PM | \$20

bitly.com/bandtogethernash