

#### July 2024 E-Newsletter

# Expanding with UpSpire (click image to watch video)



**UpSpire is Presbyterian Night Shelter's employment-based social enterprise,** creating hundreds of full-time jobs in commercial landscaping, litter abatement, commercial janitorial, and staffing, removing the barriers to employment for people experiencing homelessness since 2016. Just last year, 58 individuals who were experiencing homelessness were able to move into their own homes, thanks to their employment with UpSpire. But as our enterprise continued to grow, it became apparent that one group was being overlooked.

"There was a sector of our population that, unfortunately, we were missing," states Daryl R. Davis, II, Vice President of Workforce and Career Development, "and so [adding] the warehouse gave us the opportunity to employ individuals who are facing challenges with many of our labor-intensive opportunities that they aren't able to do."

The warehouse is the newest service line operated by UpSpire, created to provide employment opportunities to individuals who may be on disability, or who need part time work in order to allow for more flexibility in their lives. So far, local businesses have contracted with the warehouse to complete kitting projects, light assembly, and organizational projects. At the moment, UpSpire is partnering with a local thrift store to sort and catalogue new items for their inventory.

For employees like Ange, who is a guest at our Morris Foundation Family Services Center, being able to work part-time is a huge help. Like so many working parents, Ange had a hard time juggling her children's care needs and school schedules with the demands of a full-time job. "It is helping," Ange says, "because with three children, moving the schedule is not easy. So right

now, this is working for me, as far as organizing everything else."

"We are only at the infant stage at the warehouse," Davis continues as he discusses future plans for the operation. "We are really looking to just grow our customer base. The more we grow our customer base, the more people we can put to work. The more people we can put to work, the more people we can keep out of the Shelter and in stable living environments."

For inquiries into UpSpire's warehouse services, contact Daryl R. Davis, II at <a href="mailto:drdavis@journeyhome.org">drdavis@journeyhome.org</a>

**Click to Support Presbyterian Night Shelter Programs like UpSpire** 

## **Krystal Lotspeich, LMSW Named Vice President of Housing Services**



Please join Presbyterian Night Shelter in welcoming **Krystal Lotspiech**, **LMSW** as our new *Vice President of Housing Services*, overseeing our housing programs - Journey Home Housing, Family and Individual Rapid Exit (FIRE) and Housing Solutions (HoSo). Lotspeich brings 15 years' experience working in social services, focusing on housing and homeless services. She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Social Work with a Direct Practice Mental Health concentration from the University of Texas at Arlington.

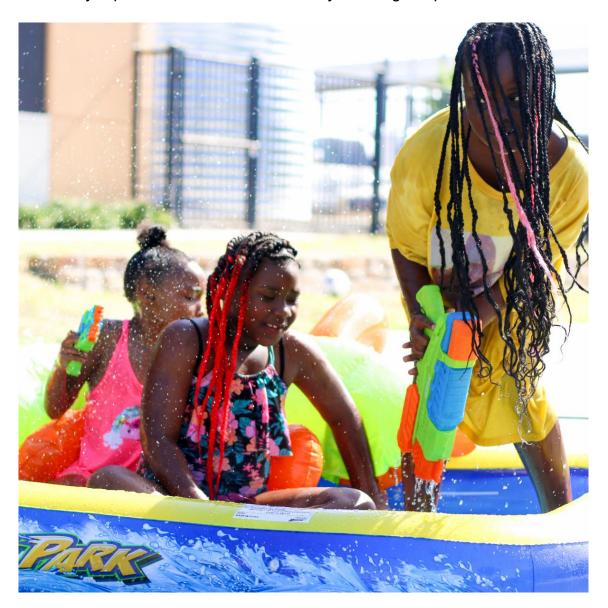
"I'm excited to work for an organization that has strong values and so much love for those we serve," Lotspeich says. "Presbyterian Night Shelter is a perfect fit, and I'm looking forward to effectively growing our housing programs and implementing new initiatives that help in guiding the journey home for those who are experiencing homelessness."

Welcome, Krystal!

(photo credit: Brandyjartandimages)

### **Celebrating Independence Day!**

We're in the heart of Summer and guests of the Morris Foundation Family Services Center enjoyed some splashy fun in the sun and a cook out for the 4th of July! Special thanks to *Charles Henry* for the great photos.











Click to Support Presbyterian Night Shelter Programs

Day of Service Volunteer Sign Up!



Sign up today for our annual Day of Service on Saturday, October 26th from 8:00am-12:00pm. Join other adult and youth volunteers to tackle a variety of projects to beautify our campus and better serve our guests. Projects may include painting, landscaping, and more!

Click to Volunteer for Day of Service!

### **Learn and Share**

One of the easiest ways to support Presbyterian Night Shelter is just a click away! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn to stay up to date on what is happening at Presbyterian Night Shelter and share the incredible stories and life-changing work with your friends and family.















