



MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERS



Every year on Christmas Eve, we make sure all of the presents are in place by family group for easy distribution. We drink Asti Spumante by the fire and listen to holiday music, whereupon I plead to be allowed to open "one" present, while the magnificent aroma of my famous Crown Rib Roast and dressing for Christmas dinner surrounds us. My favorite time of life. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All.
-Melanie

A Family Tradition

I'll say our family is pretty large. Every year one family member hosts Christmas Breakfast. The tradition used to be whoever had the youngest child would host. That went well for a while until there were no more babies being born LOL. Someone was the host year after year. As you could imagine, that wasn't fun nor fair to that family member.

We decided to take the pot luck approach. Everyone was in charge of bringing a dish or two. It has been working well so far.

We always have someone dress as Santa which excites the little kids and Santa tells those underlying dirty jokes for the adults. The older kids are Santa's elves and they help pass out the gifts.

We sing all our favorite Christmas songs and play games.

The best part is that this one time a year is that we are ALL together!

-Stacey



After all of these 35 yrs. I am still in awe of how far we have come in the journey to end homelessness in our city. Over the past 10+ yrs. as President of FDC, it has been my responsibility to secure Featherfist Inc. owned and operated facilities and housing for the benefit of our participants and staff. Happy Birthday Featherfist and may we all have a Blessed Christmas and a Wonderful New Year.

-Araina

"WHAT IS YOUR FAMILY TRADITION OVER THE HOLIDAYS?"

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY LUPE BARRAGAN

For the last couple of years my wife, kids and I have been volunteering to help feed the homeless at our church on Christmas. For a while we would celebrate Christmas at home. At first it was hard, then it became easy to do.

-DeJesus Shelton



My family tradition is receiving a new set of pjs on Christmas Eve. My parents started this tradition with me when I was a child and I have continued it with my children. It makes for great photos on Christmas morning. My children and I also bake cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve. I'm not sure how much longer this will last since my oldest "is only participating for the baby."

-Leslie Levy



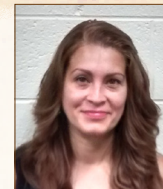
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-Melanie Anewishki



My whole family has a big Christmas Eve party and at midnight we open gifts from secret santa. Christmas day, with immediate 1st thing we open gifts in the morning and then a big breakfast and relax the rest of the day.

-Evette Vasquez



My family tradition for the holidays is gathering with family.

-Jolee Jackson



CLIENT SUCCESS STORIES

BY ISIAH NORRIS

Featherfist has a long history of helping to empower the most vulnerable of our city's population. The agency has, for 35 years helped countless individuals and families go from homelessness to permanent housing. This year we had two individuals who benefitted from our services whose stories particularly stood out that we thought we would share during this holiday season.

Chris W. is a chronically homeless veteran who had been sleeping in a van behind his mother's house for more than 6 years. The Jesse Brown VA Outreach coordinator referred Chris to Featherfist SSVF and within 3 weeks the veteran was in his own apartment and referred to our new Shallow Subsidy which will make the unit sustainable for years to come. The veteran's current Case Manager Sylvia Phipps and his assigned Housing Locator Troy McDaniel were very instrumental in finding and obtaining permanent housing for this challenging veteran.

Timmie M. is a single father who was between jobs and had fallen behind on his rent. Timmie who is an honorably discharged veteran was referred to Featherfist for Prevention assistance. Not only was Featherfist able to bring the veteran's rent current but was also able to enroll the veteran in our new Shallow Subsidy which will pay more than half of the veter-

an's rent for the next two years. The veteran has since obtained permanent employment and should be able to provide for his family again. This writer was very glad to be a part of this moving story which reminded me again of my purpose.

So this holiday season while you're celebrating and spending time with family (good or bad), remember that there are two things we should always be grateful for, that things are not worse than they are, and that God has purpose for your life. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year one and all.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

BEVERLY ABELS



What is your role and what you do at Featherfist?

I'm a case manager, I meet with clients monthly and do unit inspections. I counsel and encourage clients to look at life from a different perspective by creating plans and goals of where they want to be in 3 years. I also help them

in budgeting and refer them out for needed services and provide transportation as needed.

What do you enjoy the most about the agency?

I enjoy that its family oriented. I enjoy the clients.

What's something about your job that others would be surprised to find out?

I'm usually available 24hrs a day to my clients. I try to donate as much stuff as possible to the clients. I'm always open to listen.

What do you think would make a person successful in your position?

Being empathic kind and understanding. Friendly and Encouraging . Be a great listener

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Tinley park IL.

Outside of work, what would we most likely find you doing?

Taking care of my family.

What do you like most/ least about Chicago?

I love the Chicago architecture, the lakefront and the beautiful scenery. I least like the violence.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Probably Paris, Because it looks beautiful to me and I like the architectural stuff. I like buildings and construction, the history, the coliseums the food. I like the Ambiance, The architecture, the art, the cafes the food. It's on my bucket list to visit. My second choice would be Hawaii.

What is your favorite movie or show?

I like 'You Got mail' and 'Sleepless in Seattle'. My new favorite tv show is Bob Hart's 'Abasolo'. I like to destress when I'm not at work with comedies.

If you were on a desert island all by yourself, what are the 3 items you must have?

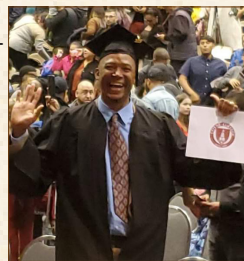
Suntan lotion because I burn. Sunglasses, Water. An axe, because you can use as a knife or a hammer and you have to be able to build a shelter.

Featherfist News

Educational Accomplishment

I just recently graduated of from Coyne College with my HVAC-R Diploma. I was taking night classes while I worked in the morning. I am thankful for my wife watching the kids at night while I went to school. But it was a good feeling to walk across the stage and celebrate my graduation with my family and classmates. There was some weekends I had to study hard to pass the quizzes and tests! But I did it!!!

-DeJesus Shelton



The Gift of a Donation

I made a donation in November for Men's clothing and a couple Fur coats. Here is one of my students that received a coat. She was very grateful and thinking of places to go so she can wear it. The FEAT Dept. Usually start with the class and the regular Walk in customers with accessing a need. We then pass it on to the rest of the company. There will be more donations coming soon.

-Terrance Steele



Leading the Way

Our SSVF Team Members Represented us well at the Federal Permanent Housing Conference held in Dallas, TX. The team deliveled presentations 'The Case for Positive Landlord Engagement', and Chicago's Response to 'Rapid Resolution Deep Dive'. Presenters Kendra Jenkins & Abraham House-EL respectively.



My Grandson

Sept. 14 was a bright, sunny afternoon @ 12noon Speer Academy vs. Richard T. Crane was an exciting football game. My grandson DuShawn Smith aka (Duce), #3 ran for 2 touch downs. Final Score 54-14



HOLIDAY MEAL FOR OUR VETERANS

BY TIM ZENNER

On Tuesday, 11-19, Justin Blake of the Black Underground Recycling Program organized a meal for FORT 3 guys. The VP of the school (who is also a veteran) and 7 students served. Here are some pictures of the event..



A TIME FOR THANKS

I am thankful for my mom...

This past June my mom had a massive stroke. After rehabilitation, the doctors told us she would need 24 hour care. My mom was very independent before her stroke. In the beginning, she was unable to talk and eat. She is still unable to walk and needs assistance with everything other than feeding herself but she's still here and she's still a DIVA! I am thankful she will be able to join the family for Thanksgiving dinner.

-Kendra Jenkins



HOLIDAY RECIPE BY CHANDRA SMITH

Mac and Cheese

Ingredients

32 ounces of rotini noodles
2 cup heavy cream
8 ounces of Monterey Jack cheese
8 ounces of Sharp Cheddar Cheese
8 ounces of Mild Cheddar Cheese Shredded
8 ounces of Mozzarella Cheese
8 ounces of Gouda or Smoked Gouda (for best flavor buy this cheese from the deli)
8 ounces of Velveeta Cheese or any pasteurized cheese block
seasoned salt (optional)
white pepper (optional)
Large aluminum pan



Directions

Prepare noodles as directed and put in the aluminum pan
Cut cheese into cubes
Bring heavy cream to a simmer boil and begin stirring in all the cheeses except for the mild shredded cheddar cheese, once the cheese sauce in complete pour it over the noodles. and top with the mild shredded cheese, season to your taste. then put in a pre heated oven at 350 degrees for about 12 minutes or until the top cheese has melted.

Note: You may use any combination of cheeses or noodles these are just the ones I enjoy.



If you have something that you would like to share on the agency's social media page, please email:

llevy@featherfist.org. It can be a photo , a quote , or a picture. If you have any old photos from your time at Featherfist, client stories or anything else that you would like to share, please start sending at your earliest convenience and



FEATHERFIST BIRTHDAYS

Dec.

Steven Saunders 2-Dec
Joel Jones 21-Dec
Stephen Teneng 25-Dec

Jan.

Cynthia Brown 29-Jan
Ceandra Daniels 25-Jan
Melanie Anewishki 21-Jan

Feb.

Jada Middleton 25-Feb
Francisco Lopez 26-Feb
Dolly Kasali 29-Feb