



## SEB SEASONAL OUTREACH

**Community Outreach** involves providing low barrier services to groups of people who may not otherwise have access to those services. These services are administered where those in need are located rather than requiring attendance in a private appointment-based setting.

Over the past year, **Sweet Evening Breeze (SEB)** has partnered with several non-profit organizations around the city to provide community outreach at different encampments and shelters for people experiencing houselessness. In doing so, we have met and engaged with several of our city's houseless neighbors, explored encampments, underpasses, back alleys, and shelters, and have learned what is needed in some cases, and what is not in others. We have learned a great deal this year about the difference between services that are available and services that are accessible to the community. We could not have done this without our amazing community of nonprofits who work with this population. Namely, Feed Louisville, YMCA Safe Place, and Taylrd among others.

Our community of housing focused nonprofits have helped us in our journey of understanding the needs of our neighbors, but a lot of support has also come from some private businesses and individuals who work independently or through different institutions around the city. These partnerships include our volunteers, universities, churches, corporations, youth groups, and the city government.

As **Sweet Evening Breeze** continues to expand our outreach program, we hope to connect more with our specific clientele, who are LGBTQ 18 - 24 year old young adults. We have seen a number of youth in our office who have experienced or are currently experiencing houselessness. Some found their way to us through our outreach program, but not near the number we had originally thought. We have found that the biggest barrier for youth in getting the services they need is transportation. For this reason we will continue to make community outreach a primary function of the organization to serve as many people as possible by meeting them where they are.



For their annual service day, a team of volunteers from **Louisville Youth Group** helped Sweet Evening Breeze and **Feed Louisville** with the distribution of food and the organization of donated goods for the growing community at the **Arthur Street Hotel**.

The outreach team at **Feed Louisville** has helped pave the way for an effective outreach model, and we work with the organization to improve our own program. Feed Louisville has provided us with valuable information such as types of supplies needed & locations of camps for our outreach team. They have also partnered with us and with **UofL's Women and Gender Studies Department** to help us collect data for our research project.

**Middletown Christian Church** donated over 200 pre-assembled emergency kits for our pantry, while also helping to host an outreach BBQ at a local camp where we served full meals to the residents.

**Amazon** donated over 20 boxes of new coats, shirts, pants, and shoes to Sweet Evening Breeze, which enabled us to offer warm clothes to our neighbors for the winter months. A clothing "Bazaar" was held at our office on the 21st and 22nd of December and served over forty clients.

Sweet Evening Breeze **volunteers** play a vital role in our community outreach program, and we would be lost without them. Our volunteers come from all walks of life, some with experience working with houseless folks, some not. For some it's a learning experience, for others it's a personal and emotional experience that touches their hearts. Whatever their reason for support, we know that our team could not function 100% without them. For them, we are grateful.

**Sweet Evening Breeze, inc.** is named for Lexington Kentucky icon, James "Sweet Evening Breeze" Herndon. They were a trailblazer in the LGBTQ community in the early 20th century and founded the Lexington drag scene. They embodied the warmth and welcoming kindness we wish to carry forward in the Louisville community. We honor their legacy by committing to Louisville's LGBTQ+ youth and young adults experiencing homelessness by going beyond the expectations of shelter, hope, and healing.



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