



# COMMUNITY MATTERS

*Building Community. Enriching Lives.*



## SAVANNAH WOOD

*A Message from Savannah Wood, CEO*



As we approach the close of another transformative year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each of you—our residents, neighbors, partners, and supporters. Your unwavering dedication and compassion have been the driving force behind an incredible 2024.

This year has been a remarkable journey, filled with milestones that reflect our shared commitment to building stronger, more inclusive communities. Together, we celebrated the opening of Promise Home, welcomed a new chapter with House of Bread and Peace, and launched initiatives and programs that have touched countless lives. Through partnerships and collective effort, we've made a tangible difference, fostering opportunities, equity, and hope for those we serve.

As the holiday season surrounds us with warmth and connection, we're reminded of the extraordinary power of community. Thank you for standing with us on this journey—it is your support that turns vision into reality.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are filled with excitement for what's to come. New initiatives are on the horizon, and we can't wait to share them with you. Stay tuned for our Annual Report, which will highlight this year's accomplishments and offer a sneak peek at our inspiring 2025 mission theme.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season filled with peace, love, and happiness. Here's to a bright and impactful year ahead! Let's continue to uplift, empower, and grow—together.

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ECHO Housing is proud to announce two new members of our Board of Directors! Please help us welcome them to the ECHO Team!

Mario Reid, the Mental Health/Homeless Liaison officer with EPD's Crime Prevention Unit, is no stranger to ECHO Housing. He has been a vital partner for the past 6+ years.

Lisa Morton comes to us through her role at Fifth Third Bank as a Vice President/Financial Center Manager.



## Mission

Improving lives by reducing barriers to housing, social wellbeing, and economic opportunity

## Vision

Our vision is a community where housing, social wellbeing and economic opportunities are accessible to all, fostering a thriving and compassionate society where every person can reach their full potential.

## Core Values

- Compassion
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Innovation
- Advocacy

## Board of Directors

Dane Chandler - President  
*Banterra Bank*

Lu Porter, Vice President  
*Community Volunteer*

Jason Fisher, Treasurer  
*Old National Bank*

Lucy Himstedt, Secretary  
*Community Volunteer*

Rev. Gerald Arnold  
*NAACP*

Darla Olberding  
*Community Volunteer*

Kendra Nance  
*Community Volunteer*

Beau Dial  
*Partner, Dentons Bingham  
Greenebaum, LLC*

Stephen Feistel  
*Schultheis Insurance*

Chris Brinson  
*Community Volunteer*

Lisa Morton  
*Fifth Third Bank*

Mario Reid  
*Evansville Police Department*



## FROM THE FRONT LINES

### *Christi's Journey: From Service to Stability*

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Since childhood, Christi has dreamed of serving her country in the Navy. In 2001, she made that dream a reality, completing boot camp just before the tragic events of 9/11. Trained as a missile technician, she thrived on the adventure of exploring new places but struggled to be taken seriously as a woman in a male-dominated field.

By 2005, Christi transitioned to civilian life—a journey filled with challenges. Determined to ease the path for others, she founded Worthy Warriors Ministry in Kentucky to support Veterans navigating life after service.

In 2021, everything changed when a tornado devastated Hopkins County, Kentucky. Christi, who was tirelessly aiding others, lost her own home. Left with no viable housing, she spent nine months in an unlivable house before securing an apartment through the Housing Authority. However, in time, her brain injury and trauma cost her that stability. For two years, Christi and her service dog endured the cycle of homelessness, from motels to the streets, to nights in a friend's car.

The weight of guilt, shame, and isolation grew unbearable. Reflecting on that period, Christi shared, "When you've spent so much time by yourself with your dog on the streets, it becomes difficult to face other people. The fear of judgment and the uncertainty of safety keep you wanting to hide."

In June 2024, a fellow Veteran extended a lifeline—a phone number for Adam at ECHO's Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP). It took three months for Christi to summon the courage to call, but that call marked the beginning of her transformation.







Christi discovered a team of Veterans who understood her struggles. "They showed compassion," she said. "That's why I came back." Together, they mapped out goals tailored to her pace, addressing medical, mental, housing, and employment needs. When asked, "What will it take for you to be happy?" Christi found a safe space to dream again.

Today, Christi stands in a place she once thought unattainable. "For the first time in seven years, I feel free. I have my own home, my own life, and the ability to be myself. I can walk into a room and not feel intimidated, deficient, worthless, or disabled. HVRP has been patient and worked hard on my behalf so I could begin to work on my own behalf."

Christi's story is a testament to resilience, the power of support, and the transformative impact of programs like HVRP.



## Let's Get Social

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### IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE!

#ItTakesACommunity



Your donation can ensure that every ECHO Housing client receives a gift package of essential household items for the holiday season! Help us reach our goal of \$2500!



happy holidays

