



# OKC Metro Alliance, Inc. Newsletter

SUMMER 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

## Beans & Cornbread

More than 350 people attended the annual Beans and Cornbread luncheon this year at St. Luke's United Methodist Church on May 10<sup>th</sup>. This humble meal helps everyone remember the needs of those with substance abuse disorders and those who receiving substance abuse services.

Over \$63,000 was raised by the event in support of recovery. The annual luncheon helps educate the public about Metro Alliance programs as well as raise funds to continue services and improve facilities.

Celebrating Freedom from Addiction: It's Worth Celebrating was the theme of this year's event. Mike Turpen (pictured

above) from Riggs Abney was the emcee for the. Kelly Dyer Fry, Oklahoman Editor, provided the keynote address. Firststep employers were recognized for their commitment to the program with plaques presented by Estela Hernandez of Keller Williams.

The mission at OKC Metro Alliance, Inc. (Metro Alliance) is to assist Oklahomans who want to recover from substance abuse by providing long-term residential work recovery and to offer alternatives to incarceration.

Don't miss next year's Beans and Cornbread event May 9, 2019.

Want more information?

[www.okcmetroalliance.com](http://www.okcmetroalliance.com)



### Women's Firststep Kitchen

Funding partners Sarkeys and the Oklahoma Hospitality Club are providing the seed funding on the new Women's Firststep kitchen. Page 2



### Men's Lodge Update

Men's Firststep is poised for construction of a new 20 unit apartment complex. Assistant Director Hank Gaines (L) and Director Mike Cody (R) pose with Judge Kenneth Stoner at Beans and Cornbread Page 3

## Women's Firststep Kitchen

Developing a new kitchen at Women's Firststep is an important next step in becoming a certified substance abuse treatment provider in the State of Oklahoma. In May, we received a \$50,000 grant from the Sarkeys Foundation to begin the new kitchen project. The Oklahoma Hospitality Club also provided a check for \$23,000. This was raised through their annual "Ladies in the News" fundraiser in April.

Women's Firststep currently operates a tiny residential kitchen serving up to 56 women every day. It needs major improvements to meet the standards of the county health department.

We are partnering with SDG Architects (Southern Design Group)



led by Beth Windel and Tayler Thompson to design a new kitchen and dining room that will meet our needs over a long period of time. Other partners include SRB, Amundsen Commercial Kitchens, the City-County Health Department, and Oklahoma State University Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Firststep is taking referrals. If you know an individual in need of services, please encourage them to call.

CONTACT INFO  
Womens Firststep 405-794-2834

Men's Firststep 405-799-7540



Board Treasurer Diane Strube, Diane's mother, Women's Firststep Director, Jennifer Francis, and Courtney Hamilton, OU social work student attending the sponsor art sale.

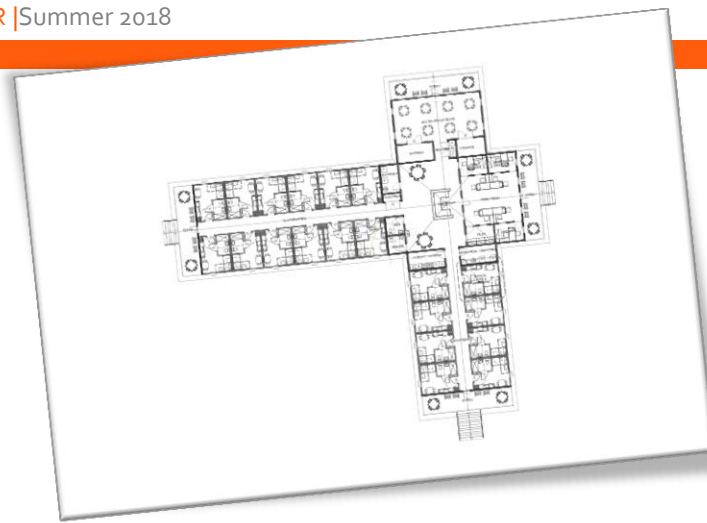
## Working with Art

Two art shows were held in conjunction with the Beans & Cornbread luncheon. On May 3, sponsors and major donors were invited to a pre-show at our corporate offices in Oklahoma City. The

second art show was held before and after the Beans and Cornbread luncheon. Altogether, \$3,153 was raised. Of this amount, \$2,426 went directly to the Firststep artists. Remaining sales of \$727 were

donated to the agency fundraising efforts.

In Spring 2017, the Oklahoma Art League provided a \$5,000 grant to support the Women's Firststep art program. Funds are being used to purchase art supplies and equipment. This year's show included pieces of fused glass created with a small kiln. Each year community artists volunteer at Women's Firststep, teaching residents new techniques.



Men's Lodge layout is shown to the left.

**MEN'S LODGE VIEW**



**Exterior**

Porches will be featured on the new apartments for a welcoming gathering place for residents, friends and family members.



**Interior**

The new building will create a new welcoming area for new residents to the program.

**FAST FACTS**

**54%**

Percentage of men at Firststep who are court involved.

All other residents are voluntary. 286 men participated in the program last year.

**45%**

Percentage of Men at Firststep under 30 years of age.

# Men's Lodge

In a few months we will be breaking ground on a new 20 unit apartment complex at Men's Firststep.

The Men's Lodge is being funded through partnerships with the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency (Housing Trust Fund), the City of Oklahoma City (CBDG and Home), the Inasmuch Foundation, and Dolese.

Allen Brown Architects is leading the project. Other team members include Johnson & Associates (engineering), SRB (survey), and Bill White, construction consultant.

The number of individuals served on this campus will increase from 70 to 90.

The Men's Lodge is designed to encourage longer participation in the program. We offer a six month program based on a Therapeutic Community model. Individuals who participate in a therapeutic community program for longer than 90 days are much less likely to relapse according to research presented by the National Institute of Drug Addiction (NIDA).

In order to support more residents living on campus, the Oklahoma City

Water Utility Trust is replacing the current waste water management system. Eventually, all buildings at Men's Firststep will be linked to the city sewer system.

<b><u>Men's Lodge</u></b>	
Funding committed to date:	<b>\$1,529,000</b>
Funding needed:	<b>\$147,355</b>
<b><u>Waste Water Project</u></b>	
Funding committed to date:	<b>\$193,000</b>
Funding needed:	<b>\$180,000</b>



# Public Inebriate Alternative

OKC Metro Alliance, Inc. was established in 1973 when a group of concerned citizens banded together to address criminal justice reform. This work is as relevant today as it was 45 years ago.

The Vera Institute reports that public drunkenness (2,297) is the number one most frequent underlying municipal charge for individuals in Oklahoma County Jail, while driving under the influence of alcohol (1,394) and possessing marijuana (942) rank

at the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> causes, respectively (Roth, 2017).

The Public Inebriate Alternative (PIA) was established to minimize the numbers of individuals experiencing incarceration following an arrest for public intoxication.

The PIA offers individuals with the opportunity to “sleep off” their intoxication and, after 10 hours, reenter society without criminal charges and a stomach full of food. The program is funded by the City of Oklahoma City in partnership with OCPD.



Senator David Holt touring the PIA with Shilmila White, PIA Director, and Connie Schlittler, Executive Director in May 2017.

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Metro  
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Newsletter

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