

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

VICTORIA JACKSON

TITLE: Early Intervention Services and Prevention Coordinator

LENGTH OF SERVICE: 2 Years

JOB DUTIES: I go to testing sites and educate about the prevention of and ending the stigma surrounding HIV and STI's and test people for HIV and Hep C.



Where did you grow up? Murray, KY

What is your favorite part of your job? Helping our community know their status and understanding HIV better.

Tell us about your family! Most of my family lives in Murray. I have two 2-year-old twin sisters and a 17-year-old little brother. I live in Paducah with my two cats Phoebe and Tonks.

What is your favorite food? I love Thanksgiving staples – mashed potatoes, corn pudding, stuffing, hash brown casserole. I also love almost all pastas, especially spaghetti. Every dinner benefits from a slice of cheesecake for dessert.

What are your hobbies? Video games, cooking, reading, makeup, watching TV and movies, listening to podcasts.

What is one interesting fact about you? I have a record player and collect vinyl records. I love going to flea markets and digging through the bins for vintage records. One of my favorites in my collection is Led Zeppelin IV from 1971.

What is something on your bucket list? Riding in a hot air balloon.

What is a favorite quote or saying? "Right now, there's sorrow. Pain. Don't kill it, and with it the joy that you've felt." Call Me By Your Name, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

- FEB 7** NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY
- FEB 26** TESTING EVENT WITH THE SAMURAI CLUB
(11 - 3PM)
925 Caldwell Street, Paducah, KY
- MAR 10** NATIONAL WOMEN & GIRLS HIV AWARENESS DAY
- MAR 20** NATIONAL NATIVE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY
- APR 10** NATIONAL YOUTH HIV & AIDS AWARENESS DAY
- APR 15** GOOD FRIDAY
OFFICES CLOSED
- APR 18** NATIONAL TRANSGENDER HIV TESTING DAY

LivWell Community Health Services strives to enhance the wellbeing of our community by providing comprehensive health and support services, education, and advocacy, as related to HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and viral hepatitis. Quality health care is provided to persons living with HIV/AIDS or sexually transmitted diseases, support services are provided to HIV clients and their families, and prevention education and testing are provided to all clients, their families, and the community at large. Within the community, we strive to prevent new infections of HIV and STI's and reduce the stigma associated with these various diseases by promoting awareness, acceptance, and equality.

WWW.LIVWELLCHS.ORG



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

2022 - 1ST QUARTER EDITION

HOUSING DEPARTMENT CHANGES

The Housing Department at LivWell Community Health Services is the longest serving department at the agency. In 1996, a group of concerned citizens who were HIV positive formed a consortium dedicated to providing services to others in the region who were experiencing the loss of housing or other support due to uneducated family and friends and the ability to work or produce enough income to afford housing due to illnesses related to HIV/AIDS. The consortium applied for and received a grant through Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) and they began providing housing assistance. In 1998, services were expanded from a housing program to a Ryan White clinic where medical services are provided to those individuals within the community who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Up until July 2021, the clinic operated under the name Heartland CARES, Inc. Rebranding and restructuring were necessary to further expand services for STI testing and treatment, viral hepatitis testing and treatment and increased prevention services to include prescribing PrEP and follow-up services.

In July 2021, the housing department restructured to increase support services in order to bring a stronger focus toward permanent housing stability for clients in our programs. Our goal is to develop a program that will transition our clients into permanent housing within 24 months of entering our programs.

Our goal in the housing department is to assist our clients in locating safe and secure housing. We are here to help when situations arise during the course of everyday life that prevent our clients from focusing on their health and well-being. Beyond our short-term emergency assistance programs and long-term programs, we hope to provide our clients with the tools and support necessary to help them achieve permanent stability in their homelife when transitioning from our programs. We are currently working to develop a comprehensive training and support program for our clients to receive more training and information regarding topics such as how to complete a budget, how to be a good tenant, and how to apply for permanent housing assistance. We also hope to offer programs for clients who would like to further their education or job skills or purchase their own homes in the future.

To schedule an appointment with a member of the housing department for information or assistance, please call 270-444-8183 ext. 2172.



HOUSING DEPARTMENT STAFF

Suzie Webb
Program Director

Carrie Wren
Housing Department Business
Coordinator and Emergency
Assistance Navigator

Kristen Vied
Housing Services Navigator

LeeAnna Meadows
Housing Case Manager &
Permanent Stability Navigator

HOUSING DEPARTMENT SERVICES

- Emergency short-term rental, mortgage and/or utility assistance
- Transitional short-term rental and/or utility assistance
- Long-term rental and/or utility assistance
- Rental and/or utility deposit assistance
- Permanent stability assistance
- Life skills coaching and training

HOUSING DEPARTMENT SERVICE AREA

LWCHS housing department serves clients in the western Kentucky counties of Allen, Ballard, Barren, Butler, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Edmonson, Fulton, Graves, Hart, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Metcalf, Monroe, Muhlenberg, Simpson, Todd, Trigg, and Warren.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: DONNA REEDER

HOPE SHINES THROUGH



In a world that is filled with stories of hate, crime, and illness, a ray of hope shines through the clouds of the worst of circumstances; and, I believe, lives are changed when hope shines through. On December 20, 2021, a potent storm system moving across the central United States resulted in widespread severe weather across our region as stated by the National Weather Service (NWS). NWS storm surveys found a violent EF-4 tornado began in far northwest Tennessee and moved across western Kentucky, resulting in significant destruction to portions of our area.

Although LivWell Community Health Services was not in the path of the destruction, several of our clients were directly impacted. Staff of LivWell immediately began reaching out to clients located in the storm hit areas to discover many were without power and basically lost everything. Fortunately,

we were able to assist our clients with immediate needs through grant funds with food, hygiene products, gas, and hotel stays. However, grant funds cannot be used to assist the families of our clients.

This is when our “ray of hope” came shining through. Two agencies reached out to us offering support for these families. Nashville Pharmacy Services (our contracted pharmacy) donated \$7,500 towards the affected families. A call came in from Samaritan Ministry, a non-profit based in Knoxville, Tennessee through Central Baptist Church of Bearden, who had heard of the destruction. Samaritan Ministry is a faith-based AIDS Service Organization and they wanted to know how they could help. We soon received a check in the amount of \$6,000 to help our clients and their families!

Funds will be used to purchase such items as clothing, winter supplies, food vouchers, baby products, and paper supplies. One particular family of ten members in the household comes to mind who are from Mayfield, Kentucky and lost everything. What a blessing to be able to provide needed supplies for them, their children, and their grandchildren ages ranging from 5 months to 7 years old.

Paul McCartney recorded a song, “Hope for the Future.” A verse from the song goes, “Hope shines brightest in the dark when nothing’s ever seen. Lighting undiscovered places no-one’s ever been.” For those of you who have supported in some way, you are the hope for the future and thank you for bringing light into the darkness.



SHOP WITH THE RD

Let our dietitian create a whole new shopping experience for you!



LivWell Community Health Services Registered Dietitian, Josh Morehead, will assist you with a more creative shopping experience while keeping you within your food budget. Did you know simple things such as making a list and not going to the grocery store hungry can significantly impact your waist line and your pockets?

Schedule a shopping experience catered specifically to your needs and learn how to become a smart shopper and prep for success in the kitchen!

Contact Josh Morehead at (270)444-8183 or by email at jmorehead@livwellchs.org to schedule your personal shopping trip!

SPRINGTINI TO-GO 2022

We’re gearing up for another year of our annual SpringTINI event! Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we felt it would be best to host this event in the same “to-go” style that we did last year. Last year’s event was very successful and we know this year can be even better! Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 26th and stay tuned for some exciting announcements!



CLIENT EVENTS

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, we have decided to put a temporary pause on in-person client events for the safety of both our clients and our staff. We genuinely hope that these events can return soon, as they are a key part of our mission. In the meantime, we are working to continue offering a variety of contact-free support services and will continue monitoring COVID-19 guidance from various agencies to determine when we can return to in-person events. Thank you for your understanding!

WELCOME TO THE TEAM



LEEANNA MEADOWS

HOUSING CASE MANAGER &
PERMANENT STABILITY NAVIGATOR

LeeAnna comes to LivWell with her bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a master’s in Human Development with a focus in nonprofit management from Murray State University. Her passion in life is working for nonprofit organizations and she has done so for ten years. LeeAnna loves spending time with her family and having weekend dance parties with her kids. She loves to enjoy a nice cup of coffee, performing random acts of kindness and listening to classic rock. LeeAnna brings so much passion and experience to our team and we are so lucky to have her!