

JANUARY 2021

THE CROSSWALK: BENILDE HALL'S NEWSLETTER

Benilde Hall—Safe Haven—Matt Talbot



JANUARY'S ISSUE:

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Matt Talbot Apartments Provide Community for Former Benilde Hall Clients

Benilde Hall provides transitional housing and substance use disorder treatment for men experiencing homelessness. When clients successfully discharge from Benilde Hall, they have the opportunity to apply for housing at the Matt Talbot apartments, located across the street from Benilde Hall. The name Matt Talbot comes from the Venerable Matt Talbot, who is "the patron of men and women struggling with alcoholism" ([Franciscan Media](#)). The Matt Talbot apartments opened in 2006 and is a 12 unit permanent housing apartment complex. The location and tight-knit community make it easy for former clients to continue being involved with Benilde Hall after they have completed the program.

Art, a Vietnam veteran, recently had quadruple open heart surgery. He ended up losing his home, and he was referred to Benilde Hall by the VA. Although he does not have substance use disorder, he stayed at Benilde Hall for five months. He currently lives at the Matt Talbot apartments and describes the apartments as "so quiet." Art continues to say, "It's clean, it's safe." He volunteers his time to give back to Benilde Hall. He teaches the Self-Motivation group and works in the kitchen when needed. "I like the environment," Art says. "I like everybody here."

Danny, who is the Senior Counselor at Benilde Hall, also lives at Matt Talbot. "I've been living at Matt Talbot for two years and seven months. I love living there because it's my first apartment I ever had by myself. I always had someone living with me. Kent Jewell suggested I move there after a few bad rental decisions. I think it's a great place for clients to transition to because it still holds them accountable."

To learn more about Matt Talbot, go to <https://www.benildehall.org/our-services/permanent-housing.html>

Benilde Hall Success Story: John Clark

John Clark was born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas. He experienced a difficult childhood with parents who struggled with substance use disorder. John had his first child at age 12 and dropped out of school when he was in 6th grade. During adolescence and adulthood, he began using drugs and experienced homelessness as a result. "I was in a hopeless state of mind," John says. He started his treatment at Benilde Hall on July 6th, 2016.

John describes his recovery as happening "one day at a time." When John came to Benilde Hall, he learned "everything he could" to manage his substance use disorder. He has worked for many areas of Benilde Hall. John started working on the lawn crew and then secured a job at General Motors for two years. He came back to Benilde Hall and worked as a monitor. For John, finding an uplifting community was essential to becoming sober. "I had to stay in contact with positive people because everyone that I knew was negative. I had to stay away from everybody. The way the program is built, you have to change everything." John continues to attend a 12-Step program regularly and believes that "almost every day is a teachable moment."

John became a student at Literacy KC and in 2019, he passed his HiSET exam (a high school equivalency test). He has shared his recovery story at Literacy KC events and has been featured in a Literacy KC billboard campaign and on their social media pages. John is currently training to become a counselor at Benilde Hall. "It's never about money; it's about who I can help." John has been sober for four years.



To read more Benilde Hall Success Stories, go to facebook.com/BenildeHall.

Past Benilde Hall Success Stories can be found on benildehall.blogspot.com.

MEET THE BOARD: Q&A WITH VICE CHAIR, JEFF ZANDE

Can you tell our readers a little bit about yourself?

"Originally from the East coast, I spent 36+ years with Hallmark Cards before retiring in August of 2015 as a senior manager and Sales VP. While with Hallmark, we relocated here to the Kansas City area in 1991 and have been here ever since. For the past 4+ years, I have been a residential real estate agent with Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate doing something I truly enjoy. Married for almost 40 years, I have two children and four grandchildren with a fifth due in February - all here in town!"

How did you become involved with Benilde Hall?

"A friend of mine and I attend the same church and sit together as part of a separate business group and he told me about BH and the opportunity to join the board."

What led you to the decision to become a board member?

"As I learned more and more about BH, I wondered if I could provide any insight and guidance along the way as BH continues to define and craft its goals and course for the future. The leadership of BH are phenomenal individuals and if there's a way I might provide some helpful input to their decision making, I wanted to be in a position to do that."

What do you hope to see for Benilde Hall in the future?

"A keener awareness of just what BH does for citizens of KC. There are so many worthy causes that deserve attention and support, yet I'm hopeful that BH becomes more broadly recognized for all they do thus receiving the increased community support it so deservedly needs."

"There are so many worthy causes that deserve attention and support, yet I'm hopeful that BH becomes more broadly recognized for all they do thus receiving the increased community support it so deservedly needs."-Jeff Zande

HOW TO HELP



Want to help? There are many ways you can assist us with our mission!

Monetary donations are always appreciated, and we will provide a tax donation receipt.

You can go to <https://www.benildehall.org/how-to-help/donate.html> to make a monetary donation.

Are you hiring? You may employ one of our residents. Feel free to post your available positions on our job board, or email info@mail.benildehall.org with job info!

Is your organization looking for volunteer opportunities? Call 816-842-5836 x 100 to register your volunteers to assist with needs around our campus.



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