



Dear Friends,

Thank you for loving your neighbors by helping them through the coldest months of the year during the 40th season of Room In The Inn. Together, for 150 nights, we have offered shelter and warm hospitality to more than 600 guests who simply needed a place to spend the night.

Room In The Inn was founded 40 years ago on the belief that each of us can do something to help people in need in our community. Systemic issues like homelessness can feel daunting if we face them alone. But if each of us chooses, each day, and each night, to love the person in front of us, and to do what we can for that one person, that love will have real impact. This year, you did your part by welcoming our neighbors into your hearts and congregational homes.

This winter alone, thousands of volunteers helped make it happen. Whether making beds, cooking dinner, waking up early for morning clean-up, or however they participated, people around Middle Tennessee claimed our unhoused neighbors as their own. That creates countless ripples of influence throughout our city, our state, and our world through the thousands of Room In The Inn volunteers for whom homelessness is not just some abstract problem, but humanized by a name, a face, a conversation around the dinner table. We don't always get to know the good that we do, and none of us can know the full, tangible impact your service this winter will mean for our community and our world.

In January, you loved your neighbors while we all weathered a terrible ice storm together. When congregations lost power or had burst pipes, others stepped up to fill in the gaps. When neighbors—housed and unhoused alike—needed safe shelter and warm hospitality, some congregations had the opportunity to say “yes” because they were already prepared to host others through their experience with Room In The Inn guests. You demonstrated the power and grace that comes with being in community with one another.

Thank you for being part of this incredible program. Thank you for your sacrifice of hospitality and love to our unhoused neighbors. Volunteers are the heart of Room In The Inn, and our work would be impossible without your love, commitment, and support. And thank you for being on this journey with us for 40 years. We look forward to many more.

With immense gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rachel Hester'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'H'.

Rachel Hester
Executive Director