ROOM IN THE INN

ANNUAL REPORT 2025–2026



Everybody Needs Somebody

In my more than 30 years at Room In The Inn, we have continually adapted and changed in response to the needs of our unhoused neighbors — always by leading with love. This year, I was simultaneously grateful for that experience and challenged to respond to the unexpected when Ice Storm Fern paralyzed our city.

It was a time when each of us could have chosen to turn inward. When ice blanketed Nashville, many of us were unsure if we could care for ourselves, much less care for others. But true to form, Nashville reached out instead of turning in. You called to check on us. You showed up at our campus, dinner in hand. And even if it wasn't safe for you to get out, you sent us gloves, scarves, and warm socks.

After all these years, maybe I should be used to the generosity of our community, but it still brings me to tears. Our founder, Charlie Strobel, used to quote his Mama, saying, "People don't have to be nice to you." And believe me, I know it, and it astounds me every time you show up — in the middle of an ice storm, during a pandemic, in a polar vortex — always right when we need you most.

Everyone needs someone, and I am so grateful for every single one of you who have been there for us since day one. For more than forty years, you have helped us to remain the place that our unhoused neighbors can trust to help them with emergency services and long-term solutions. That is no small promise. We all face moments when we need a village to help us through.

Thank you for being that village for our community here at Room In The Inn. We truly could not do this without you.

With gratitude and love,

Rachel Hester

Rachel Hester, *Executive Director*

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Room In The Inn by the Numbers

124,000
Total Meals Shared

15,600
Winter Shelter Beds Provided

1,100
Identifying Documents Acquired

10,200
Showers

6,500
Hope University Classes & Activities

175
Participants Moved into Permanent Housing

48
Permanent Supportive Housing Units

20,600
Beds Provided in Our Guest House

660
Veterans Served Across All Programs

4,500
Total Unique Individuals Served

Emergency Services

Out of our core values of hospitality and respect, we meet our neighbors experiencing homelessness where they are. Hospitality begins with our Winter Shelter program, offering safe shelter in partnership with 110 congregations from around Middle Tennessee. Responding to basic needs year-round on our campus is what allows us to move forward together. This year, our team provided **nearly 14,000 navigation services** to help neighbors take steps toward recovery, well-being, income, and housing. Our neighbors can have the courage to try again when supported by a loving, nonviolent community.

Long-Term Solutions

At Room In The Inn, we believe that everyone deserves safe, dignified housing. Being the only comprehensive, single site of services for neighbors experiencing homelessness in Nashville means that we accompany community members all the way from emergency shelter, to engaging in our daytime services, to recovery-based transitional housing, and even providing apartments in our permanent supportive housing program onsite. This is how we have loved **4,500 neighbors** this year: by affirming the dignity and potential of every person, and by walking with them as they heal, grow, and take steps toward stability and community.





Love Your Neighbor Y'all

You are welcome here! We need everyone in the movement to respond to Nashville's housing crisis. Email us at **volunteer@roomintheinn.org** to schedule a tour, or make a difference with a financial contribution by visiting our website at **roomintheinn.org/donate**. Thank you for loving your neighbors!