

# WOMEN'S MEDICAL RESPITE



## SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Women's Medical Respite delivers holistic care in a safe and clean temporary home for women experiencing homelessness who are too ill to recover on the streets. **As spring brings new growth and renewed hope, we are delighted to welcome an exciting new chapter at Women's Medical Respite.** With great enthusiasm, we introduce Sandra Wilkinson as our new Board President. Since joining the board in 2023, Sandra has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to our mission, along with a remarkable history of leadership, tenacity, and thoughtful collaboration. Her ability to lead with compassion and serve as a trusted mediator makes her a natural fit for this role. We are confident that under her guidance, our organization will continue to flourish as we deepen our service to women experiencing homelessness and medical vulnerability.



## HOMELESSNESS IN THE OZARKS

For many people, homelessness isn't only about housing—it's also about health. Chronic illness, disability, and the long-term effects of trauma are more common among people experiencing homelessness, often leading to serious care needs at earlier ages.

Long-term care can include healthcare support, help with daily activities, and offer a stable, supportive living environment. At the same time, trusting long-term care can be difficult for people who have experienced homelessness, especially if past systems felt controlling, unsafe, or dismissive of their voice. When long-term care is approached with trauma-informed principles—centered on dignity, choice, and respect—it can reduce crises and support stability and healing.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Beneficial Bingo  
Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>  
6:00pm  
Ozarks Event Center  
842 Guin Rd  
Nixa, MO 65714

## Sip & Support

Come see us at Hold Fast Brewing!

Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>  
5:00pm-7:00pm

235 N Kimbrough Ave  
Springfield, MO 65806



Each month, Hold Fast features a special brew. A portion of special brews sold throughout the month are donated to their not-for-profit Hold Fast Heroes! Shout out to Hold Fast for giving back.

Follow us on Social Media @  
[Women's Medical Respite of Springfield](#)

to stay up to date on our  
upcoming events!

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Betty Kuehn’s life has always been shaped by hard work and generosity. Raised on a Montana ranch, the middle of five sisters, Betty gravitated toward the fields rather than the kitchen—working side by side with her father while her older sisters cooked and sewed and her younger sisters played. That strong work ethic & quiet independence stayed with her through the years.

Years later, Betty began creating sturdy, handmade denim bags and selling them to support students pursuing careers in the medical field—a labor of love that earned her the affectionate nickname “The Bag Lady.”

Today, Betty generously shares both her time and her signature bags with our clients, offering them something personal, practical, and made with care. As Betty humbly puts it, “I’m just a little worker bee—I’m not the judge. I’m there to give them something personal and durable to keep their belongings in.” She adds that what she loves most is that WMR is “smaller and more personable.” We’re grateful for “worker bees” like Betty, whose compassion and commitment make a lasting difference—one bag, and one relationship, at a time.



### GET INVOLVED

Are you interested in getting involved? We are always recruiting volunteers and those interested in board membership! Contact us at (417)225-7409 or email [womensmedicalrespite@gmail.com](mailto:womensmedicalrespite@gmail.com) to learn more about how your time and expertise can support women at the respite.

**CURRENT NEEDS** As a 24/7 facility, the respite offers round the clock recuperative support for women experiencing homelessness who are recovering from illness, injury, or surgery who no longer meet criteria to remain hospitalized but are not yet well enough for a successful recovery on the streets.

Please consider making an in-kind donation from our Wish List to support women in our care:

<b>SPRING WISH LIST</b>		
<b>URGENT NEEDS:</b> Lysol disinfectant spray Clorox disinfectant wipes 30-gal trash bags Tissues	<b>ONGOING NEEDS:</b> Laundry pods Dishwasher pods Dryer sheets Paper towels	<b>WISHES FOR WOMEN:</b> Disposable razors Hairbrushes Hair ties Sunscreen

### THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

