



# COLOR OUTSIDE THE LINES



**TONY'S PLACE IS A DROP-IN CENTER FOCUSING ON LGBTQ+ YOUTH UP TO 25 YEARS OF AGE WHO ARE UNSTABLY HOUSED, COUCH SURFING OR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.**

## **TONY'S PLACE NEWSLETTER**

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**HELLO SUMMER!**

**Our members face unique challenges throughout the year.**

**The summer heat is no exception!**

**Here are the Top 5 ways summer is dangerous for the homeless, and what you can do to help.**

### ***Limited Access to Air Conditioning***

For the homeless, turning on the AC during a hot day isn't an option. If they can't find a restaurant or store where they can get in out of the sun, they stand at increased risk for hyperthermia or heat stroke. On days when it's 95 degrees outside or more, that's deadly. Restaurants and stores often have a "Customers Only" policy that puts the homeless at a severe disadvantage when it comes to cooling off.

### ***Threat to Medication Compliance***

Mental illness is something a large part of the homeless population lives with and medication is often used as treatment. Medication can affect the way the human body reacts to heat. Antidepressants can prevent the body from sweating or prevent the blood flow to the skin from increasing, which puts them at greater risk of overheating.

## ***Staying Hydrated Is Hard***

Staying hydrated during the heat is super important as dehydration can worsen pre-existing health conditions. Having ready access to fresh water is a luxury many people don't have when they are barred from public restaurants and stores.

## ***Poor Foot Hygiene Can Have Bad Consequences***

The homeless are often on their feet all day long, and the hot weather can lead to severe athlete's foot, pitted keratolysis, ingrown toe nails, and more.

## ***More bugs = More Biting***

Bugs, like mosquitoes and tick, multiply during the summer. While they can be annoying for everyone, they can be especially dangerous for the homeless trying to find a safe place to sleep in a park or wooded area. Without adequate protection like bug spray, these insects can keep someone up all night, cause infection, or spread diseases.

## ***What You Can Do***

### **Make a Donation:**

- reusable water bottles
- socks
- sunscreen
- bug spray
- hats
- fans
- sneakers



## ***WE NEED YOUR HELP?***

Tony's Place is run by a small staff team and a host of dedicated volunteers. We would love to have you volunteer. Our volunteers serve in a variety of ways to ensure that we treat all members with dignity and respect while helping them. We are looking to fill the following roles:

### **Direct Youth Worker**

Works directly with members in drop-in center on rotating shift. Monitors and Inventories services provided (food, shower, laundry, clothing closet), assists with cleaning, establish rapport, provides feedback and advice as needed.

### **Member Activity Worker**

Conducts, coordinates and/or assists with group activities during scheduled programming time (art, music, psycho-education, process group, movies, TED talks, game day, etc...). Professionals open to donating services (counseling, legal assistance, medical care, mentors, haircuts etc) are welcomed and appreciated.



## ***GET INVOLVED***

Tony's Place currently receives private funding. Most of our funding comes from small donations, so fundraising is imperative.

**Here are several ways to get involved:**

- ***In-Kind Donations***-Donations of goods, services or time instead of cash
- ***Online Fundraising***-Create a fundraiser use Facebook's birthday fundraising tool
- ***Grant Writers***-Explore and help develop grants and funding proposals
- ***Business Fundraisers***- Host a fundraiser at your place of employment or research options at your favorite hang out spots
- ***Special Events***-Have a good idea? Share it with us. We are all ears!

# Meet our **TEAM**

## **Our Board:**

Al Amado, Justin Hayes, Micki Grimland,  
Tony Shelton, Tara Soileau,  
Elizabeth Wilson, and Britton Tempton

## **Our Staff:**



**Alyssa Kelly**  
Program Assistant



**MaDonna Land**  
Program Assistant



**James Valincano**  
Program Coordinator



**Daquam "Deiko" Taylor**  
Swing Staff