

WELCOME TO S.T.A.R. GRADUATION



MARCH



STAR Programming



Thank You!

With gratitude to the United Way, the Center for the Homeless is able to customize programming to meet the individual needs of each guest. These programs connect guests with fellow classmates that are experiencing homelessness and this shared programming gives a strong sense of belonging.



Attaining Self-Efficiency

STAR (Self-Growth, Training, Academics, Relationship Building) is our flagship programming for adults at the Center for the Homeless. Located in our Job Training & Education Center, we provide guests with comprehensive access to the educational and workforce development resources necessary to attain self-sufficiency.

Most program participants currently receive no income; some work part-time or receive Social Security benefits, but their income still falls substantially below the poverty line. Program participants often face a host of barriers to employment, including poor mental or physical health, disabilities, limited work history, and limited or outdated skills. STAR programming allows for the development of hard skills and soft skills to obtain and maintain employment, certification of job readiness, and adult education to remediate gaps in learning.

Guided by the principles of trauma-informed care, specifically the importance of empowerment and choice, we have created a learning space to flexibly meet the needs of each and every guest – regardless of what brought them to our facility. Taking care not to duplicate the wonderful workforce development services already available in this community, we have built our STAR programming into a space that allows guests to connect, create change, and prepare a vision for their future.

Each offering in our program provides a trauma-informed approach to education and skill building. Classes consist of a community orientation and three programming tracks. Six days per week, a computer lab is open to all guests where they can receive assistance applying for programs and jobs, update their resumes and cover letters, conduct research and homework for school, and so forth.



"When I graduated from the Programming I had a new look on life! I took everything and made it work for me."

JAMES

Education and Skill-Building

All of our guests taking part in STAR programming begin with a class in Community Orientation. The core part of our programming is relationship building; this class is where new guests find a support system. It is designed so that guests can choose for themselves what path they will take to work toward self-sufficiency.

TRACK 1

Fostering Self-Growth

Self-Growth gives our guests a chance to refocus mentally, emotionally, and physically. Within this track, guests learn about nutrition, conflict resolution, healthy relationships, time management, budgeting, fitness, and more.

SOSH

Starting Over, Stepping Higher: This program has been created to help guests get focused and healthy. Within this program guests have many chances to work on their physical and emotional health.

DRIVE

Developing Resilience in Veterans and guests Experiences: This program helps guests transition back to independent housing by offering training in financial literacy and tenant education.

HOME

Helping Our Mothers Excel: This program helps mothers who are parenting children to develop the skills to become good advocates for their children, build and model healthy relationships, search for and maintain appropriate housing, and navigate public assistance programs.



TRACK 2

Skilled Training

In this track, guests are given a chance to sharpen their on-the-job skills as well as create and update resumes and cover letters. They also work on basic and advanced computer knowledge and many other crucial skills to getting back in the work force. We want to help our guests get more than a job—we want them to find a career they can enjoy for years to come.

TRACK 3

Improving Academics

Education is a key part of our programs. We encourage guests to get their HSE (GED) by offering on-site, online prep classes and are also preparing computer literacy and reading literacy programs. Finally, we partner with several community organizations that offer educational courses and certification programs.

Cecil's Story

The logo of the Center for the Homeless is a star. The program STAR is aptly named and hints that guests at the Center are more than just skilled, trained, able, ready: They are stars! They possess so many gifts and talents—we want to give them the opportunities to shine.

Cecil came back to visit the Center. He wanted to thank the Center and share one of his drawings. This wasn't just any drawing—it had taken him three months and came from his heart. It was patterned with such details that would mean something to the recipient.

This beautiful pencil drawing was so intricate and detailed and when thanked for such a special gift, Cecil responded that, "It wouldn't have happened without the classes here. I'm still going to school and working on my GED (HSE). But the classes encouraged me to do what I love."

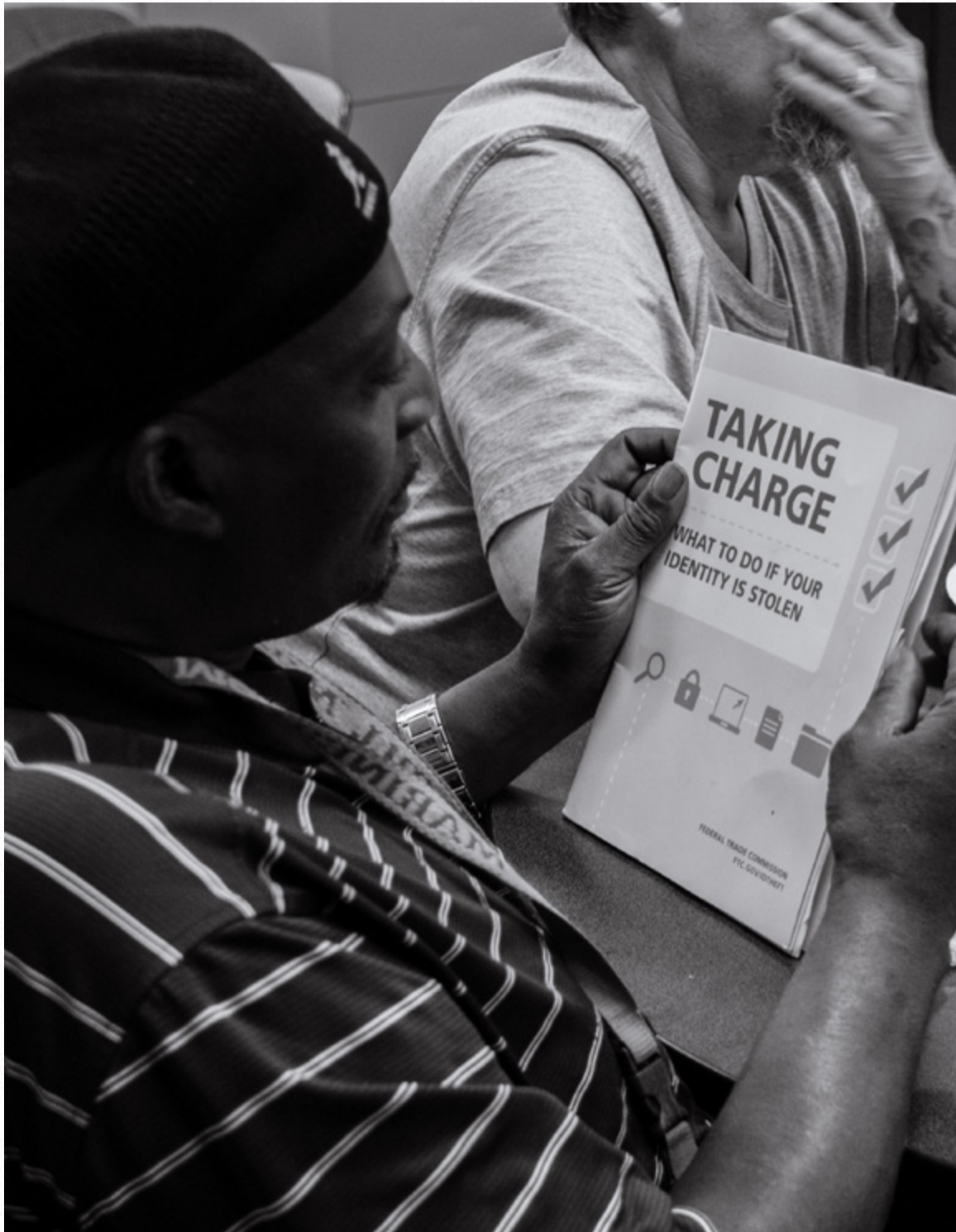
Cecil has been commissioned to draw other portraits, and now has the potential to supplement his income with his beautiful and powerful art. His journey has been inspiring... and his talent can now shine.



▲ CECIL'S STAR GRADUATION 2009



▲ CECIL VISITS THE CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS 2019





**Center for
the Homeless**