Vita Nova Village 501(c)3
EIN 87-3838394

Vita Nova Village
Tiny Home Community

1201 S BYERS PROJECT PROPOSAL

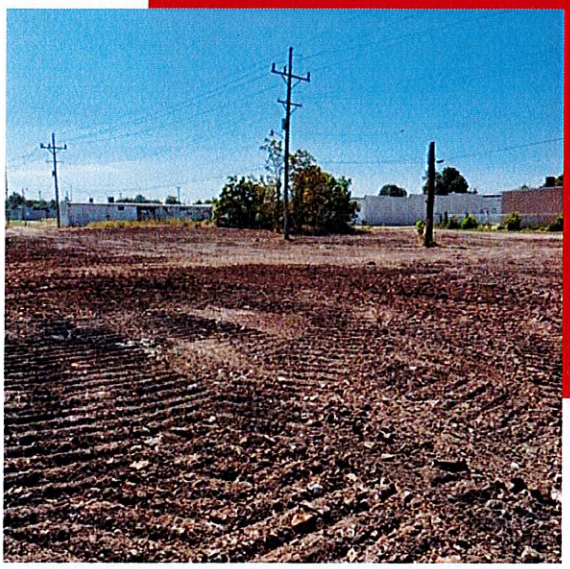
Vita Nova Village provides individuals that are homeless with a private living space while assisting with employment and targeted education for a path to housing stability and a productive & meaningful life.

417-622-2850
315 S Pearl Ave
Joplin, MO 64801

www.vitanovavillage.org

Project For
Vita Nova Village

Project Name
1201 Byers - Tiny Home Community



Our Beginning

In October of 2021, a group of concerned citizens gathered at a local coffee shop to confront the growing crisis of homelessness within our city. Among them was Bill Hilligus. Bill's story is not just his own; it echoes the struggles of countless individuals who have fallen through the cracks of society and found themselves trapped in a cycle of despair. For over five years, Bill battled not only the harsh realities of life on the streets but also the demons of addiction. He experienced firsthand the limitations of existing charitable efforts, which, while providing temporary relief, failed to offer a **sustainable pathway out of homelessness.** It was only when Bill was given the opportunity to attend welding school, thanks to a grant, that he found his bridge to stability. With gainful employment, Bill was able to secure housing and rebuild his life.

Bill envisioned a community where every individual, regardless of their past struggles, is given a hand up, not just a handout. He envisioned Vita Nova Village, a place where affordable housing is coupled with vocational training and education, empowering individuals to reclaim their dignity and forge a path to a brighter future.

Rhonda Thompson

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OUR PROGRESS

Since securing our 501(c)3 status in December 2021, Vita Nova Village has achieved significant progress. We've successfully secured four community grants and garnered a pledge of $250,000 dedicated to constructing the first five tiny homes. Additionally, we've received a generous donation that provides funding for consulting services from Eden Village throughout the development of our inaugural village.



Our Team

Troy Dunlap Board President	**Thomas Ross** Board vice-President
Amy DeWild Board Treasurer	**Wendy Chrisenberry** Board Secretary
Katie Kelley Board Historian	**Mark Farnham** Board Member
Kyle Denham Board Member	**Lance Hoopai** Board Member
Johnny Murray Board Member	Rhonda Thompson Executive Director

Our Project

Vita Nova Village will be a gated tiny home village that consists of a multi-purpose community building, gardens, fruit trees, common areas and 20- 400 square foot tiny homes. The community will provide transitional housing with an educational component that is person-centered.

Purpose

To provide transitional housing for 20, currently homeless, individuals.

Residents

Residents of the Byers Project will be vetted through the area shelters and an application process. Applicants will be individuals that are currently homeless, have been in the Joplin community over two years, have a desire to obtain employments or increase earning capacity, are willing to pay an affordable rent and are on the road to sobriety.

Benefits to the Joplin Community

According to the National Homeless Coalition, each individual that is homeless costs a community an average $35,000 per year. These costs are primarily associated with police involvement, incarceration, emergency room, and hospital visits. Housing twenty individuals can save our community over $700,000 annually.

TIMELINE

The timeline is contigent on the soil testing and location of infrastructure.

FUNDING

Once the site is secured, a capital campaign will launch that includes our brick campaign and naming rights options. We also plan to apply for FHLB funding with the assistance of Nate with Eden Village.

OUR ASK

We are requesting your consideration for the donation of the property located at 1201 S Byers to be utilized as the site for our transitional housing project. We also request consideration in waiving the tax lien currently attached to 1201 S Byers.

