

THE STATE OF HOLLIS

FALL 2021.....

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Cautiously Optimistic

It has been quite an eighteen months.

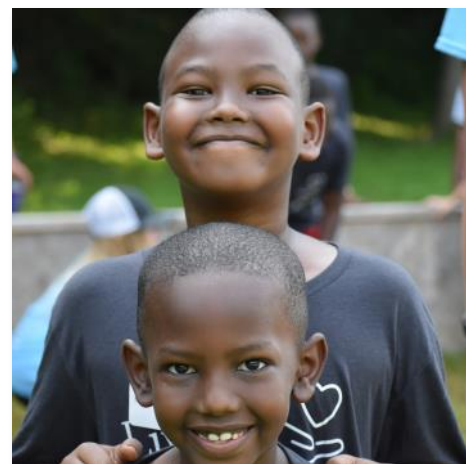
I am very optimistic and the Hollis Board of Directors has to reign me in sometimes. A common expression of cautious optimism is: *expect good things; be ready for bad things*. Be hopeful but avoid blind belief. Have a back-up plan, but avoid spending lots of time in risk reduction. Save for a rainy day, but take time to smell the roses today. Do not let optimism lead you sitting back and expecting good fortune to just happen; be ready to work hard for those good things.

Optimism about the future is very similar to gratitude about the past. When I am grateful for some of the things that have happened the past eighteen months, I can't help but be hopeful about the next eighteen.

So many good things happened at Hollis. We had people Hike for Hollis, we hosted a summer Art Fair and we had kids back at Hollis Crossings Day Camp. It was so good having kids run, laugh, splash, sing and experience God's love and acceptance. All those things happened with your help and with a general optimistic/grateful attitude woven into the fabric of Hollis. Optimism might be a personality thing, but I believe that God has a hand in this as well. That God walks with us in our daily life, woven into the fabric of both the good and the bad.

So our report to you this fall is cautiously optimistic.

Dave



YOU CAME! SUMMER ART FAIR 2021



June 12 marked the return of the Hollis Art Fair!

This rescheduled event, historically happens the first weekend of December, but because of COVID we moved it...and you came! It was wonderful to welcome the Hollis community back to our grounds, and it was a success to boot! Thank you!

Many of our artists will be returning for our **Winter Art Fair, December 4th**—and hope you will return as well!

Big thanks to **Kansas City Steak Co.** for providing steak burgers and hot dogs and **Boy Scout Troop #182** for cooking and manning the concession booth during our event!

HOLLIS 2021 STATS

- 3,850 visitors to Hollis
- 24 scholarships provided
- 840 volunteer hours
- 0 weekends available in the Lodge for remainder of 2021



TINY CABINS—OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

We started accepting reservations for our Tiny Cabins January 2021....and dedicated the spaces on June 12th. These cabins were a dream that became a reality because of the hard work, dedication and support of the Hollis Community.

Funded initially by a grant from the **Sunderland Foundation**, tirelessly built by volunteer labor provided by our Thursday Volunteers, and countless other groups including the **Kansas City Carpenters Union**, we have effectively doubled our overnight retreat space at Hollis.

This summer, our Hollis Crossings Counselors were able to enjoy these spaces ... providing

comfortable private space for them to recharge while serving our campers from the KC Metro.

We encourage you to check out these unique spaces next time you are here!



Hollis has taken advantage of the PAUSE forced upon us by COVID.
We have reflected, recharged and RENEWED for what is to come.
- Dave Mareske, Executive Director

CONSIDER MONTHLY GIVING....

Did you know that instead of writing one big check to Hollis yearly, you could help us budget by giving monthly?

We have a growing number of patrons who support us monthly by donating via Network for Good, PayPal or auto-draft from their banks.

Only 30% of our operating expenses are provided by "for use" donations, so we are dependent on the generosity of the Hollis community to help us continue to offer affordable retreat space for those in the KC Metro.

If this resonates with you, we encourage you to visit bit.ly/HollisMonthly to set up your recurring gift.

RELECT. RENEW. REFRESH!

We had some down time...and thanks to the hard work of our Thursday Volunteers took advantage and gave few of our buildings a much needed face lift.



LAUNDRY ROOM INSTALL!

More buildings and beds means more laundry! We converted a storage closet in the Campus Restrooms into a central laundry room for all Hollis facilities.



HIDEAWAY REFRESH

The Hideaway is a work in progress...and so far we have replaced all mattresses, adding a second queen, replaced all the linens, and updated décor. We have more to do, but it's looking great!



HOLLIS LODGE FACE LIFT

The Lodge is almost always in use, so finding time to work on the space without disrupting guests is at times difficult. We refaced all of the kitchen cabinets, repainted the floor and walls and installed granite countertops in the restrooms, thanks to **ROCKTOPS—Stone & Granite Fabrication of Olathe!**

BIGGER! BETTER! BEDS!

The Meadow Cottage previously only had twin & full beds. We have replaced the full with a brand new queen mattress, and the bunk bed room now is outfitted with a with a brand new full bed. The comfort level of the space improved 100%!



..... save the date



LOOKING AHEAD

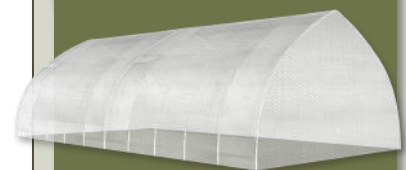
We are cautiously optimistic about our events this fall. Obviously, we will adjust as needed, but we are moving forward as planned. Stay tuned!



COMMUNITY GARDEN?

We are exploring the idea of building a high-tunnel community garden to be maintained in partnership with various home school groups & additional community organizations.

If you are interested in supporting this exciting project, reach out! We could use the hands!



2021...AND BEYOND

Hollis has been in our present location for 33 years now...and much like your homes, every once in a while we need to update and repair a few things. We started this process during the height of the pandemic lockdown, and it has become obvious that more things are in a need of repair and updating!

HIDEAWAY NEEDS

- **Repair road to the Hideaway**—The road is full of ruts, caused by use and water run off, and constantly in need of repair. Our goal is to permanently address the issue and pave it with asphalt.
- **Renovate shower**—22 years of use takes its toll. The only shower in the Hideaway needs a facelift and a redesign to ensure ADA accessibility.
- **New living room furniture & fresh coat of paint**—Sometimes your favorite chair just wears out and needs replacing. We have a couch that needs replacing, and the entire space could use a fresh coat of paint.

ADDITIONAL NEEDS

- **Replace windows in Lodge**— Every month or so another one breaks and can no longer be opened. Repairs are impossible as replacements parts are unavailable.
- **Build ADA accessible ramp for Tiny Cabins**—The last part of the construction for Tiny Cabins is the addition of an ADA ramp. The increase in material costs prohibited us from completing this section of the plan.
- **Rebuild Hollis entry sign**— Our beautiful entry sign is slowly deteriorating due to weather and age. Our plan is to meticulously deconstruct, and rebuild with cedar with the help of our Thursday Volunteers.



YOU CAN PRACTICE HOLLIS HOSPITALITY!

1. Make connections, build community every chance you get
2. Turn the welcomed into welcomers
3. Create a safe place to wonder about God
4. Invite play and humor into daily life
5. Make room inside yourself for the stranger
6. Know that things will break
7. Look for ways to stretch the margins of hospitality
8. Be improvisational, Jesus is my drummer not my conductor

BRICKWORKS | FAMILIES GIVING BACK

Back in 2018 we began our partnership with **The Giving Brick**. Since that first summer we have hosted over 20 BrickWorks events, and welcomed hundreds of volunteers to the Lodge. Volunteers break apart and sort donated Legos, which are eventually repackaged into complete sets. These are given to foster children served by **CASA of Jackson County**.

This summer we were able to welcome families back to the Lodge each month. Families from all around the KC metro took time to help a stranger...it was a great opportunity to give back.

If you would like to attend our next BrickWorks event follow us on Facebook & Instagram for up to the minute updates.



Presented by  **HOLLIS**
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In Partnership with  **The Giving Brick**

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