

New Day Columbia

Providing Hope & Restoring Dignity

Third Quarter 2026



Highlights

Question of the Quarter

What are the plans for Wilkes Blvd. Church?

Review of Legislation

Filings & Columbia's Median Ordinance

Staff Spotlight

Lanny Broadus, Day Room Manager

SERVICES

Coffee Shop

For many of us, the day begins with a simple routine: a hot cup of coffee. At New Day Columbia, that same opportunity is an important part of creating stability, dignity, and a sense of normalcy for our clients.

THE BOARD

Call to Action

Consistent giving has an especially powerful impact. Learn how becoming a regular donor helps New Day plan for the future and sustain its mission year-round.

FINANCES

News From The Back Office

Our move was made possible through responsible financial planning and generous grant support. We continue to look for ways to ensure we can continue serving our community.



Welcome

Providing Hope & Restoring Dignity

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

New Day Columbia

It doesn't get much better than this! Years after planning was initiated, New Day Columbia has settled into the Opportunity Campus after a hectic four days in which New Day's staff packed and physically moved into the new building. On June 29th, New Day opened on schedule, after leaving the confines of Wilkes Blvd. United Methodist Church, where it had resided for over a decade. For those of you who have moved after a long stay in one place, you'll recognize the monumental effort undertaken to accomplish this goal!

We cannot say enough good things about the mission that originated at Wilkes. But truthfully, with our population rapidly expanding, we had outgrown their available space. Moving to the Opportunity Campus has the earmarks of New Day being in the right place at the right time. After all the providers join us in the next few weeks, the expertise provided by New Day Columbia, the Voluntary Action Center, Loaves and Fishes, Waypoint Shelter (formally Room at the Inn), the Center Stone Clinic (medical and mental healthcare), and Campus Companions will offer a stellar combination of services for those in need, essentially under one roof.

In conversations with clients, it is apparent having all services in one location (and on the same level) at the campus — no half flights upstairs and multiple landings — is a huge plus. Some may miss the "warmth" of Wilkes, but the cleanliness and freshness (think adequate showers and bathrooms) is inviting, as is the natural light flooding into the day room and the quiet area of the new structure. There are plentiful lockers, a nice laundry room, a large mailroom, and good sized coffee shop. New Day has all clients enter into the foyer, which gives our door person and staff the ability to ensure they are safe, and determine their needs for the day.

The guidelines that stood the test of time at Wilkes Blvd. United Methodist Church have been continued at the Opportunity Campus. So while the structure is changed, the New Day Columbia program is basically and reassuringly unaltered. As you converse with the clients, there is an appreciation expressed that what they knew before remains intact. They can enter and experience a safe environment— something many of us take for granted. As clients are welcomed each day, there is a letting down of their guard as they begin to relax. It is a process. A thoughtful, welcomed process.

Mel McMorris
Board President

Welcome

Providing Hope & Restoring Dignity

WE'RE IN THE NEWS

New Day Columbia

New Day Columbia's move to the VAC Opportunity Campus has been in the news! Back in February, ABC 17 News reported on the timeline that has unfolded as New Day prepared to leave Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church. Executive Director Darren Morton framed the move as a chance to prove the organization could work well alongside its new campus partners, saying "We want to come in and show that we're a good teammate."

By spring, as construction wrapped up, shelter director Jessica McNear told ABC 17 that we had directly shaped the building's layout, pushing for separate spaces rather than one shared area. "We're going to need more than just one space that transitions." New Day opened its doors in late June. Board president Mel McMorris summed up the organization's outlook heading into the new space perfectly; "It's not just a new day, but let's win the day."

KRCG walked through our role within the complex through McNear's description of it as "the shelter during the day where people can come in and get stuff done." VAC Executive Director Ed Stansberry, meanwhile, credited the whole effort to years of coordination among partner agencies like us, calling it a model built on "a radical level of collaboration between nonprofits."

New Day's role of hitting the ground running on day one has already been highlighted after the move. On July 1, KOMU and ABC 17 both reported about our work opening early as a cooling shelter, with our Executive Director Morton describing the basics, "it's just getting people indoors."

Kyle Olmstead
Board Member

Welcome

Providing Hope & Restoring Dignity

WE'RE IN THE NEWS

New Day Columbia



Click the video above to see a portion of the new space, and hear from our Executive Director! (ABC 17)

See our move mentioned below!

- ABC 17 News, "[Local homeless center expects quick turnaround while moving locations](#)" (Feb. 5, 2026)
- ABC 17 News, "[VAC gives glimpse inside new Opportunity Campus](#)" (Apr. 16, 2026)
- KOMU 8, "[New VAC Opportunity Campus starts its rollout as the day center opens for business](#)" (Jun. 30, 2026)
- KRCC, "[Columbia's Opportunity Campus nears full launch as one-stop hub for homelessness services](#)" (Jun. 30, 2026)
- ABC 17 News, "[Part of Columbia's Opportunity Campus opens ahead of schedule as overnight cooling shelter](#)" (Jul. 1, 2026)
- KOMU 8 / Columbia Missourian, "[VAC Opportunity Campus fully opens to public, now accepting overnight stays](#)" (Jul. 13, 2026)
- Columbia Missourian, "[New homeless shelter opens at VAC Opportunity Campus with 150 beds, more services](#)" (Jul. 14, 2026)
- KOMU 8, "[New Day opens cooling shelter overnight to supplement Waypoint at Opportunity Campus](#)" (Jul. 20, 2026)

Articles

Providing Hope & Restoring Dignity

SERVICE OF THE QUARTER

Coffee Shop

How does it function?

Open each morning from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., the Coffee Shop is often the first stop of the day. Many clients enter New Day and head directly there, knowing they can count on a fresh, hot cup of coffee waiting for them. Like the Mail Room, Laundry Area, Day Room, and Quiet Area, the Coffee Shop helps establish the kind of daily routine many of us take for granted. Supervised by Mel McMorris, the Coffee Shop is staffed by a dedicated team of community volunteer lead workers and clients who work together to keep everything running smoothly. Most of the coffee is generously donated through the Food Bank, while New Day Columbia purchases additional coffee supplies with the support of our generous donors. The move to the VAC Opportunity Campus transformed the Coffee Shop experience. At our previous location in Wilkes Blvd UMC, the Coffee Shop was tucked away and difficult to access, requiring clients to navigate multiple levels and stairs. Today, in The Hub, everything is on one level, making the Coffee Shop welcoming, visible, and accessible. The result has been remarkable—the amount of coffee served has doubled.

Arianna Fisher
Board Member

THE BOARD

Call to Action

How Can You Help? Local fundraising campaigns like CoMo Gives do an excellent job of getting our name out and connecting us to supporters of New Day. We are also thankful for local churches who occasionally take up special offerings for us, as well as for individuals who remember us in their holiday or year-end gift-giving. To anyone who has contributed in these ways— we can't thank you enough!

But if you're asking yourself how you can be of greatest help, please keep this in mind: it is difficult to budget on hope, as we never know when things might change in the lives or priorities of occasional givers. **As we begin to plan for 2027, we need to strengthen and grow our community of invested donors.** No matter what size an annual gift to New Day might be, it is extremely helpful when donors spread that giving out by donating monthly or quarterly. Doing so gives us a clear picture of our financial situation and allows us to live responsibly within our budget. Some of our regular donors send monthly checks, or ask their banks to do so; others use [Stripe](#), our donation portal. If you'd like to discuss how you might join our team of regular givers, feel free to contact Darren or Carolyn any time.

New Day Columbia Board of Directors

Articles

Providing Hope & Restoring Dignity

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

News From The Back Office

Now that New Day has settled in at the Opportunity Campus, the first piece of financial management is falling into place. Thanks to smart spending over the past several years, we were able to “rebrand” and complete the move while keeping our budget in good order. That is, we are now on the other side of the move with all bills paid, and we still have the recommended “3-months reserve fund” securely in the bank.

The second piece of financial management is understanding what our new bills will look like now that we’re at the Opportunity Campus. Because we are renting the New Day space, some bills will be covered by the Opportunity Campus, such as internet access, security cameras, and general maintenance and cleaning. But we will still need to pay close attention to the budget, as we have a much larger space to keep cool and warm, and significantly more clients to serve each day. Laundry detergent, shower supplies, and general toiletries and supplies add up quickly, and we must keep track of this extra spending.

We are thankful for the generosity of both the City of Columbia and United Way, as their grants have made all the difference to New Day’s operations. But we cannot operate on grants alone. Going forward, we will also need to expand our fundraising efforts to fill the financial gap, adding as many new donors as possible. We want to serve our clients and our community well, and we can’t do it without you.

If you'd like to support our efforts, please feel free to click on our new logo or go to <https://tinyurl.com/NewDayColumbia>. As always, if you have any questions about our finances or your giving, feel free to contact me any time. Thanks!



Carolyn Hunt
Operations Manager

Highlights

Providing Hope & Restoring Dignity

What are the plans for Wilkes Blvd. Church?

In 2012 Wilkes Blvd. United Methodist Church was at a crossroads. The membership was dedicated but older and the church was not growing. Their pastor, Meg Hegemann, had big ideas. She believed that the church's location offered unique possibilities for service to the community. The first step was offering Loaves & Fishes the use of church facilities to provide an evening meal for those in need.

The idea was for Wilkes to create a resource center for individuals experiencing homelessness. Would the church be willing to modify the building and open its doors for the unhoused of Columbia? It was a hard decision but the answer was yes. Construction began and in 2014 Turning Point Day Center opened. It was thought that the center was only going to be needed for 2-3 years since the City of Columbia was investigating a more permanent facility.

Turning Point initially operated with a fully volunteer staff. The need for regular employees soon became apparent. Starting by hiring a director, the center slowly refined their procedures and added a small staff. Funding from the city developed slowly as Turning Point continued to provide a reliable program of services. They also began a long-term relationship with the Heart of Missouri United Way. In 2022 Turning Point began to provide overnight shelter during periods of extreme cold. And in 2023 this was expanded to include extremely hot conditions.

When the Opportunity Campus was finally becoming a reality, Wilkes Blvd. United Methodist Church faced the fact that they would not survive. With few members and dwindling financial resources, the church would need to close. The members are currently seeking new church homes. The fate of the church building has not been decided yet, but it is likely that it will continue to be a resource for the Columbia community.

Diane Peterson
Wilkes Blvd. UMC Treasurer

Highlights

Providing Hope & Restoring Dignity

2026 Missouri Legislative Session: Filings

Postsecondary support for homeless and foster youth:

A pair of companion bills (SB 1610 and SB 1612 in the Senate, HB 2721 and HB 2722 in the House) would have required Missouri's public colleges and universities to designate a liaison for homeless and foster students, and in some versions extended in-state residency status to homeless students under 19. All four were referred to committee but never received a floor vote.

A bill of rights for the unhoused:

HB 3266 would have established a formal bill of rights for people experiencing homelessness in Missouri. It was referred to the House Emerging Issues Committee and did receive a floor vote.

A tax credit for homeless services:

HB 3268 would have created a state tax credit for organizations providing services to homeless individuals. It stalled in committee without a hearing.

Kyle Olmstead
Board Member

Columbia's Median Ordinance

While Jefferson City was quiet on homelessness policy this year, Columbia's city council was not. On February 2, 2026, the council voted 5-2 to approve a "median safety" ordinance, framed publicly as a pedestrian-safety measure. It took effect July 1.

The ordinance bars people from standing on narrow medians (under six feet wide) on roads with speed limits of 35 mph or higher or daily traffic above 15,000 vehicles, except while actively crossing. It also prohibits pedestrians from approaching moving vehicles and bars drivers from handing items to pedestrians in traffic. Columbia Police will give warnings to first-time violators, with citations reserved for repeat or particularly dangerous conduct.

The ordinance functions as a de facto panhandling ban even though it's written in safety-focused language. At the council meeting, most of the public comment was in opposition, arguing the measure targets panhandlers and criminalizes homelessness.

Two weeks after the ordinance took effect, seventy downtown Columbia businesses and organizations sent the city a letter asking for a separate urban camping ordinance to address encampments, sidewalk obstruction, and sanitation downtown. Notably, the letter included an ask that any new ordinance be paired with shelter referrals, mental health support, and substance use outreach. This space is worth watching to see whether that pairing survives if it actually reaches a council vote.

Kyle Olmstead
Board Member

Highlights

Providing Hope & Restoring Dignity

Staff Spotlight: Lanny Broadus, Day Room Manager



EMPLOYEE

SPOTLIGHT



LANNY BROADUS
DAY ROOM MANAGER

Lanny's story is one of perseverance, hard work, and hope. A Columbia resident for more than 50 years, Lanny first came to New Day for services in 2018 while experiencing homelessness. His incredible work ethic quickly stood out. Lanny began volunteering, always showing up early and ready to help, and eventually earned a place on the New Day staff. Today, Lanny is someone everyone can count on.

Lanny also hopes his story reminds our community that people experiencing homelessness are good people who may simply be going through hard times. Some of Lanny's favorite memories are playing football at Hickman with his good friend Gary Anderson, who went on to play for the Arkansas Razorbacks.



*"Never give up on yourself. Keep trying,
there are still opportunities."*

Jerrell Jackson
Board Member