



“Unlikely partners taking shared risks to renew our community for Christ’s sake.”

## THE FRONT PORCH PROJECT

by Amber Cullen

The Front Porch, to me, has always been a place saturated with the heartbeat of the Kingdom of God. I remember stepping through the South Akron doors in 2012 during the summer of my sophomore year



in college, and knowing that this place was something special. Often I would come in and sit to eat at the café and have an enriching conversation with someone on staff, a fellow patron, or community members. One time, I sat down with a

few people from an organization around the corner, *Choices: A Community Center*, and we talked and laughed in community about our journeys with mental health and depression. Five years later, that conversation still sticks with me as a moment of an unlikely partnership.

In that first summer of 2012, I learned that the building was under construction. The hope was for a clinic in the back room, rooms on the top floor for community meetings, trainings, art, and leadership development. At that time, the top floor was nothing but a bunch of wooden studs, cold drafty windows, and a lot of prayer and vision.

Flash forward to a few months ago I was sitting at The Front Porch for an evening program. It was a Tuesday night, and all was a bustle in the building. I was at a leadership development cohort on the second floor offered by The Akron Leadership Foundation, downstairs in the café the Reentry Network was finishing up their meeting, a recovery group was on

deck to use the space after, and in the back clinic free urgent care was being offered through Faithful Servants. For some reason, that night it struck me—this place has become the answer to years of prayer. Every dollar raised, every contractor that labored, every volunteer that gave blood, sweat, and tears, was so that an evening like this could become a reality in our South Akron community.

I would guess that upwards of seventy-five people journeyed through our building that night to be a part of programs of healing, restoration, development, recovery, and community. And that number didn’t even include daytime café patrons.

In early 2018, we recognized the need to grow the brand of The Front Porch to encompass the bustle of activity in this place. I stepped in to guide us through the process, working with AMP Strategies and Silver City Design to craft The Front Porch website, logo, tagline. It has been a process full of remembering, recalibrating, and growing pains. But I can say, indeed, that it is Good.

The Front Porch, to me, has always been a place saturated with the heartbeat of the Kingdom of God. We are a small place making a big difference—together.

*The Front Porch is a vision of South Street Ministries and is in partnership with the Akron Leadership Foundation, Faithful Servants Care Center, and various community groups. Visit our NEW WEBSITE to see more upcoming events! [www.frontporchakron.com](http://www.frontporchakron.com)*



THE FRONT PORCH  
A Vision of South Street Ministries



## SERVE WITH SOUTH STREET

This is a great time to support South Street! Here are a few ways to serve and get involved:

### MAKE A MEAL

Bring a meal to one of our programs! South Street leads the weekly Reentry Meeting every Tuesday at 4:00, and we try to provide a light snack/meal. Open Gym is running on Thursday evenings with meals at 6 pm. E-mail [joe@southstreetministries.org](mailto:joe@southstreetministries.org) to sign up!

### SERVE WITH US

Rich Kids and Open Gym are both in need of volunteers! E-mail Jocelyn Grant at [jgrant@southstreetministries.org](mailto:jgrant@southstreetministries.org) to sign up! Rich Kids programming runs every Monday through Thursday afternoon from 2:30 to 5:30 and Open Gym is on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 8:30.

### VISIT THE FRONT PORCH CAFE

The Front Porch is open Tuesday through Friday from 7 am to 2pm. Come and eat at the Front Porch and in doing so help support the training and ministry happening in the building!



### Want to Give Back?

Contact us at:  
South Street Ministries  
130 W. South Street  
Akron, OH 44311  
phone - 330.761.1992

website - [www.southstreetministries.org](http://www.southstreetministries.org)  
email - [lcrabbs@southstreetministries.org](mailto:lcrabbs@southstreetministries.org)

### Cafe Hours

In addition to Tuesday through Friday 7-2,  
Cafe will be open on Saturdays starting  
March 2nd 8am-4pm.

Kids under 10 eat pancakes for free!  
The Café is available for catering at any time;  
email [lcrabbs@southstreetministries.org](mailto:lcrabbs@southstreetministries.org)  
to place a catering order.