



# Together we are **ending** **homelessness.**

Andrew is the first medical respite resident at Sojourner House. He went from discharge from MacNeal Hospital following a cardiac procedure to signing a lease on his own apartment in 60 days.

**housing**  
**FORW>RD**



# Dear Friends,

In our Annual Report, we take a moment to highlight the mission advances we are making and the donors who are helping to make them possible. However, since we ended our 2019 fiscal year, our world has been upended. The COVID-19 crisis is changing the way we offer and deliver services and challenging us in unimaginable ways. The crisis has amplified the racial and health disparities that exist in our country, and we are deeply concerned about the threat of a prolonged economic downturn which could force many more households into homelessness.

In these extraordinary times, ending homelessness means addressing it at all levels - we strive to prevent homelessness whenever possible, we respond to the crisis, and work to stabilize those facing homelessness with housing. This is only possible through a wealth of community and strategic partnerships and dedicated donors, aligned around a common goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

In this new environment, we have quickly pivoted our service model to ensure the health and safety of our clients, volunteers, and staff. We are preparing for what the future holds by:

- Reinforcing our prevention services to mitigate future homelessness; and
- Reimagining our emergency shelter model to most effectively served those living on the streets.

We will navigate these new challenges while continuing our commitment to delivering solution-focused programming that ensures our most vulnerable community members still have access to vital services and support.

While the future is uncertain, we will continue to navigate this uncharted territory and are extremely grateful to all who have supported our efforts.

Sincerely,



Lynda Schueler  
Executive Director



Jim Heining  
President of the Board of Directors



# prevent respond stabilize

## ending homelessness

**Housing Forward** invests in bold, comprehensive approaches to ending homelessness. We value and are committed to innovative and structural solutions which build a future in which every person has a home.

Ending homelessness means addressing homelessness at all levels and through strategic partnerships, from the onset of housing crisis to its permanent resolution.



# prevent

Keeping people in their home is the best approach to the prevention of homelessness. We help mitigate the loss of housing to avoid the trauma of eviction and homelessness. We also build strategic partnerships that work to reduce the flow of people entering the homeless system.

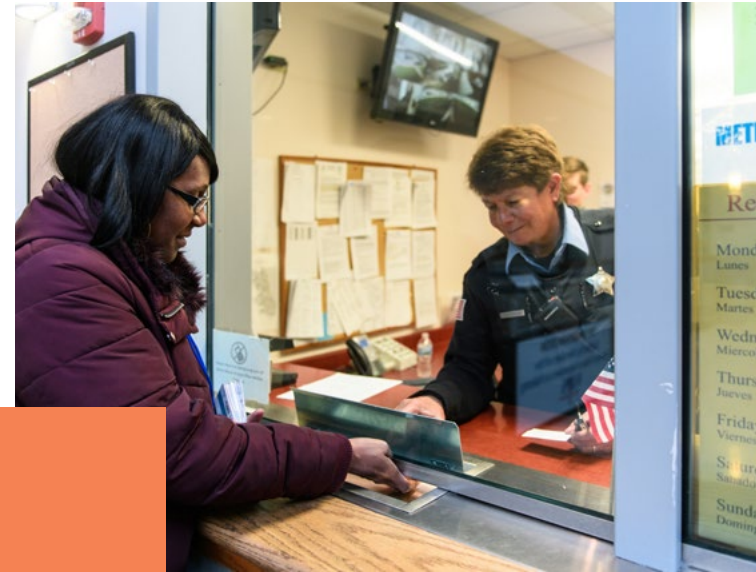


**Emergency Assistance**  
**Families in Transition**  
**Short-Term Stabilization**  
**Homelessness Prevention**



# respond

We identify and quickly connect people experiencing homelessness with basic needs—like safety, food and shelter—then link them to services to begin resolving their crisis immediately. We work to align a community, and its programs and services, around one common goal—to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring.



**Street Outreach**

**Support Center**

**PADS Emergency Shelter & Summer  
Transitional Shelter Programs**

**Employment Readiness**

**Medical and Legal Clinics**

**Case Management Services**



# stabilize

We end homelessness one person at a time through housing. Safe, stable housing is the foundation on which clients become self-sufficient and rebuild their confidence so they can not only live, but thrive in their community.



**Sojourner House**  
**Permanent Supportive Housing**  
**Rapid Re-Housing**  
**Long-Term Rental Assistance**  
**Flexible Housing Pool**



# Our Reach

## 2019 Key Areas of Agency Growth






- 33%** increase in total nights of Supportive Housing
- 1,454** total outreach contacts, up 63%
- 22%** fewer turnaways from PADS Shelters

## Our Partners

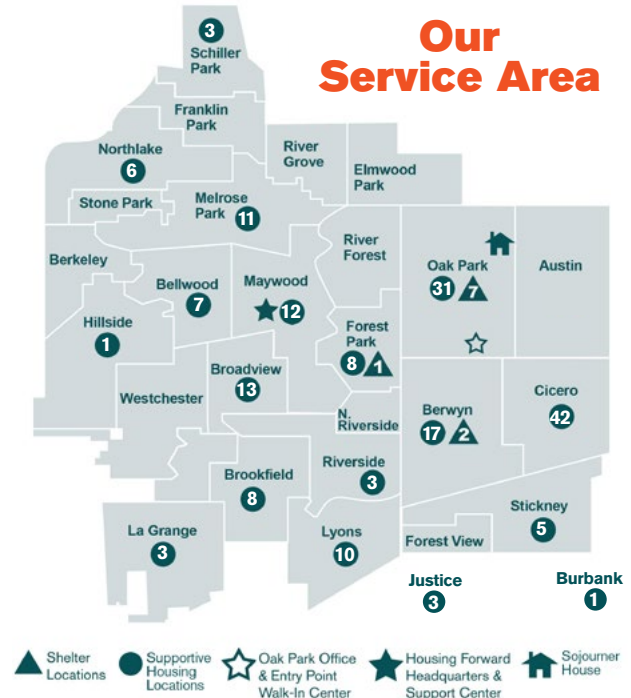
			
<b>20+</b> service partners	<b>40+</b> congregations	<b>1100+</b> volunteers	<b>12</b> AmeriCorps members

Housing Forward is the only service organization ending homelessness in west suburban Cook County. We are the leader in supportive housing and emergency safety net assistance for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness in the area. Since our inception in 1992, we have helped thousands of individuals and families forestall and overcome the devastating experience of homelessness.

## Our Clients

 <b>1,772</b> adults	 <b>246</b> minor children
 <b>989</b> men	 <b>783</b> women
 <b>711</b> people with disabilities	

## Our Service Area



# Our Impact

**\$96,195**

in direct assistance  
provided to avert  
a financial crisis

**21%**

increase in the number  
of domestic violence  
survivors assisted

**40,887**

total meals served to  
emergency shelter clients

**15,400**

nights of shelter provided to  
emergency shelter clients

**407**

total people housed  
(includes partner agencies)

**252**

individuals living on the streets  
received services from  
our outreach team

**127,834**

total nights of housing

**6,022**

Support Center services  
delivered, an increase of  
**46%** over the previous year

**18,987**

total volunteer  
hours donated

In 2019 the lives of **2,018** clients were positively impacted.





# One Client's Story



## A new chapter begins in Bellwood.

On the day Davitta moved into her new apartment, her nine-year-old son was an enthusiastic tour guide. “Come look! We all have our own rooms with closets. We’re going to put up superhero posters in my room.” The running commentary continued, “Look at how big this bathroom is!” Meanwhile, in the kitchen, his mom is both excited and a little overwhelmed as she reviews details about her lease and utilities with her case manager.

Reaching this moment took perseverance and a network of people working together to assist her. Davitta's journey with us began on a train. Following traumatic events which resulted in the loss of housing, Davitta's four children were living with relatives and she rode the train all night.

continued...



# One Client's Story...

*"It took some time for her to trust me."*

Ebony,  
Family Support Specialist

A woman Davitta befriended suggested someone who might be able to help— Ebony Martin, our Family Support Specialist. "It took some time for her to trust me," admitted Ebony. "We used to talk at Mills Park in Oak Park because she felt safe meeting me there."

After her situation became clearer, Davitta began working with a Housing Forward case manager, Tiffani Gardner, and Housing Navigator, Doug Smith. They worked with her to find a suitable apartment where she could reunite with her two youngest children.



**Tiffani, Davitta and Doug on move-in day.**

Once a client is housed, a new chapter of their story is just beginning. Davitta still participates in regular case management meetings. She works with staff who offer life skills

continued...



**Father Tom of St. Vincent Ferrer Parish unloads Home Kits collected for newly-housed clients like Davitta's family.**



# One Client's Story...



Davitta tags items chosen at The Chicago Furniture Bank to furnish her new apartment.

like budgeting, employment services, and mediation services. “Sometimes clients need encouragement to advocate for themselves, with landlords and others,” shared Tiffani. “We are here to support them so they can continue to be successful.” Davitta is developing an employment plan to lessen her need to rely solely on supplemental security income.

*“We are here for support so they can continue to be successful.”*

Tiffani,  
Davitta's case  
manager

Shortly after her move-in day, Davitta and Doug visited The Chicago Furniture Bank, a non-profit that matches clients who are exiting homelessness with the donated, gently-used furniture of their choice. The furnishings she chose included the table where she served the large turkey she received from members of the community and roasted for her family's Thanksgiving dinner two months after moving in.

Homelessness does not have one root cause, so ending it requires a wide range of permanent solutions. Our mission has evolved from offering a short-term fix, to creating a network of problem-solvers to offer an ongoing, systemic approach aimed at providing what each person needs in order to succeed.



# Our Funders, Bold Ventures



Pictured clockwise from top left; Wheaton Franciscian Sister Fran Glowinski, Sojourner House Program Manager Holly Rotman-Zaid, and Sister Pat Norton celebrate the Sojourner House Community Dedication on the steps of the coach house, Sept. 2019.

## Risk-taking partners

The Wheaton Franciscan Sisters live the Gospel following the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, and their foundress Mother M. Clara Pfaender. Through loving presence and service, they foster personal and community growth while responding to the needs of the church and the times.

While planning Sojourner House, we found the perfect partner in the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters. This bold venture strongly aligns with the Order's mission focus of innovation and risk-taking. The interim housing model is a creative solution to long-standing issues that all involved parties grapple with: the participants' immediate need for stable, accessible housing; our health system partners like MacNeal Hospital/Loyola Medicine who focus on ensuring discharged patients achieve a full recovery and prevent readmissions; Housing Forward's resolve to provide alternative options for vulnerable populations that cannot navigate emergency shelters.

The Wheaton Franciscan Sisters have committed to supporting Housing Forward for a three-year period starting in 2019. We are grateful for the commitment to creating participant-centered solutions and appreciate their generosity.



# In Gratitude

**We gratefully acknowledge all of the funders and donors who made the work of Housing Forward possible in fiscal year 2019. This list includes all donors who made contributions between January 1 – December 31, 2019.**

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Matthew Hill	Elizabeth and Margaret Kirsh	Jean Caffey Lyles*	Ann O'Connell	Marguerite and Robert Rourke	Lisa Ginet and Bob Spatz
Ann Hillman	Joshua Klayman	Catherine Lynott*	Nancy Ohalla	Robert and GERALYNNE Russ	Robert and Judith Steed
Keiki Hinami	Joe Kleinhans	Jessica Mackinnon	John O'leary	Mike Ryan	Marianne Stefanski
Deborah Rowe Hinde	Laura Kliever and Devin Kliewer-Foster*	Lori Malatesta	David Olson	Jenny Steffes	Larry and Susan Stephens
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David and Suzanne Holmes	Dennis Kmiec	Debbie and Martin Marchand	Lisa Sorensen and Steven Ourada	Mike Ryan	Hanna Stotland
Stasia Jamell and Mark Holzberg	Jennifer Koehler	Leslie Markman-Stern	Jodi and Edward Pacer	Matthew Rychetsky	Patricia Strickland
John Ditzel and Rhonda Huber-Ditzel*	Patricia and Paul Koko	Thomas and Kathleen Masters	Jennifer Packheiser	Laura Sakiyama	Joan Suchomel
Susan Harrold and Richard Huettel	Rose Krogh	Yousef Matariyeh	Jacqueline Pardo	Alfia Sassetti	Judy Weik and Rick Sumner
Martha Huffman	Steven Kvaal	Vanessa Matheny	Deb Patnode	James and Beatrice Schejbal	William Sundberg
Elizabeth Huggins	Erica Lankfer	John and Barbara Mayes	Libbey Paul	Linda and Mario Schembari	Alison Sunzeri
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Margaret Hutchings*	Ronald and Amy Lazzaretti	Michael and Virginia McCarthy	Soula Perakis	Bill and Laura Schmidt	Leah Talaber
Kevin Iverson	John and Nancy Leavy	Terry and Jana McIlroy	Bertha Peterson	Joel and Ruth Schoenmeyer	Pat Johnson Temkin and Ted Temkin
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Joyce Wesolowski and Rory Joyce	Geoffrey Greer and Valerie Lester	Lindsay Miller	Robert and Joan Pope	David Schwartz and Carolyn Newberry Schwartz	Patrick Variali
Carolyn Kalina	Ryan and Katherine Liebl	Bart Miller	Dan and Jamie Poro	Laura Scott	Abbey Vavrik
Catherine and Seth Kaufman	Michaelle Van Linden	Stephen and Kimberly Miller	Douglas and Pegeen Reichert Powell	Thomas Shaer	Leonard and Elisabeth Verhagen-Metman
William and Sandra Keefe	Alexander Lippitt, Jr. and Elizabeth Lippitt	Tony and Miriam Mitchell	Michael Prus	Donna L. Shaft	Christine and Robert Vernon
Laura Kehoe	Jacqueline Lohmann	Larry and Carole Mitchener	John and Elsie Radtke	Larry Shapiro	
		Kristin Monthye	Donald and Dolores Register	Lisa Shea	
		Elizabeth Morton	Chasse Rehwinkel	Barbara Sivertsen	
			Sherlynn Reid	Nancy and John Sjostrom	
			Karl and Ruth Reko		
			Kristine Reynolds		
			Jeremy Richter		
			Frances Ritchie		



Chris Mickens and  
Marty Vernon  
Colleen Vihtelic  
Arthur Goldberg and  
Phyllis Voosen  
Mary and Jim Vostal  
Nancy Waichler  
Stephanie Walquist  
Margaret Walsh  
Jenny Wang  
Erika Washington  
Mark Watson  
Christopher Watson  
Art Spooner and  
Sharon Watts  
Karen Weinberg  
Deborah Wess  
David and Barbara  
Westerman  
Mary Ellen Wetteman  
and Mary Ellen  
Wetteman  
Alvold and Lynne  
Whitaker  
Sue Wiemer  
Loren Williams  
Sue Winchell  
Gary and Judy Woll  
Rachel Wright  
H. Edward Wynn  
John Yackley  
Barbara Yena  
Margaret Zak  
Deanna Zalas  
Craig and Julie Zeller  
Claudia and Leo Zinanni

\*Denotes monthly donor

**Gifts Made  
in Honor Of:**

3rd Wednesday  
Breakfast Team  
AJ Abraham  
Armando Smith  
Bob Hahn  
Bob Spatz and Lisa Ginot  
Carmen Velasquez  
Carolina Zaid  
Cheryl Carlson  
Cheryl Verville  
Chris Craveiro  
Debra Stephens  
Dennis McLaughlin  
EDUCO Einstein Trivia  
Night Sponsorship (2)  
Elaine S Smith  
Elan Long and Doug Watt  
Elan Long and Family (2)  
Emily K and the OP  
Ladies Running Club for  
the 2019 Marathon (2)  
First United Methodist  
Church, Oak Park  
Heidi Vance  
Henry Fulkerson  
Holly Rotman-Zaid  
Erik Johnson from his  
team at Easterseals  
DuPage and Fox Valley  
Jerry Daly (7)  
Johanna Strouse  
Kendra Kozek Ferry  
Kyobi Sumrall (2)  
Laura and Steve Derks  
(2)  
Louise and Jim Gates (2)  
Lucien Vernon  
Mark Kuczewski

Mark Kuczewski and  
Kate Nolan (2)  
Mike DeHaan  
Molly James-Lundak  
Music and Potlucks  
Nabila Diorio  
OB/GYN Group at Loyola  
Otto Miller  
Patrick Quinn  
Patrick Quinn and  
Governor Pat Quinn  
Rachel Weaver &  
Jason Smith  
Rosemary Funk  
Sarah Dolan  
Sojourner House  
Opening  
Stephanie and Tim Cross  
Suchomel/Ziehl Family  
Susan Lucci  
Vivian Smith (2)  
Warren Jepson (3)  
Zoe Daly

**Gifts Made  
in Memory of:**

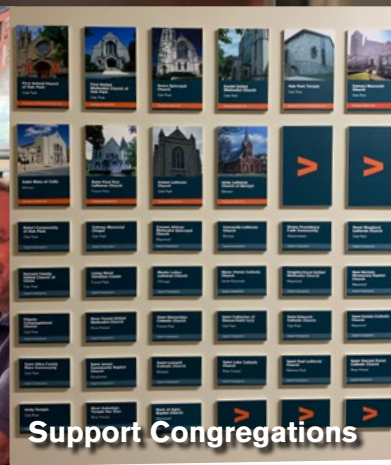
Aaron and Brad (2)  
Adrienne Fischer  
Carol Nolan  
Cheryl Toth  
Eileen (Nana) Slavick  
Eileen Tauber Slavick (17)  
Elsie Radtke  
Harold Cleve Grimm  
Lynn Carole Pivarski (8)  
Mark Rogovin  
Mary Arvai (2)  
Mary Tower Marling (11)  
Ottar Aasvang  
Patricia Wilson  
Phil Wagreich



**Have-a-Heart Gala**

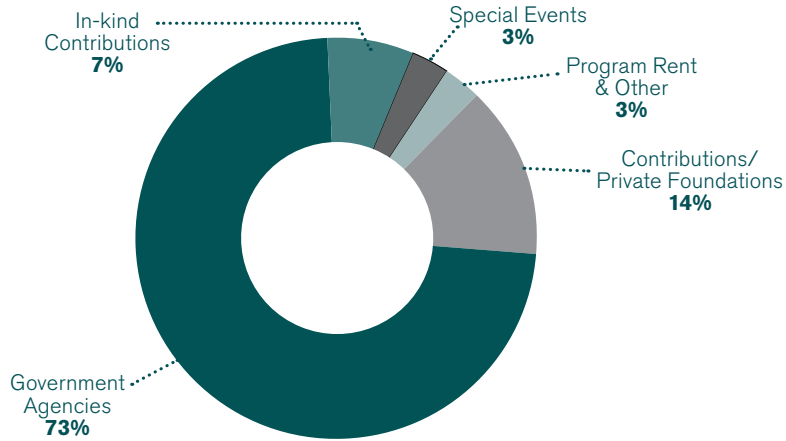


**Progressive Dinner**



**Support Congregations**

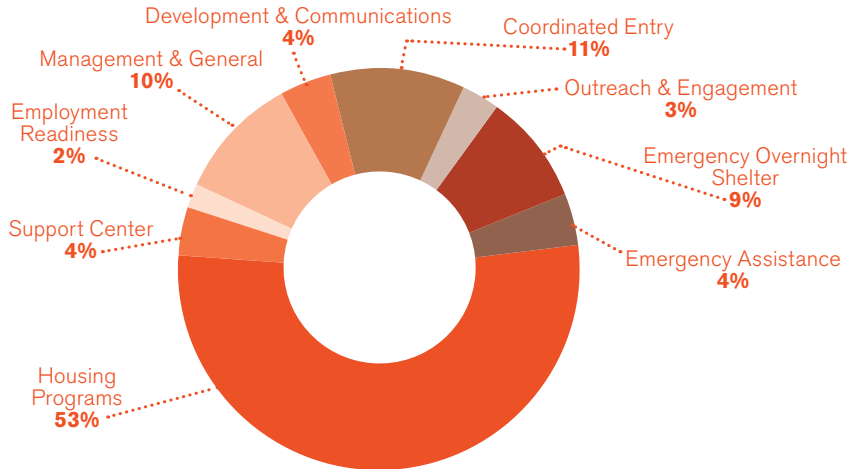
**Revenue and Support**



**Revenue and Support**

Government Agencies	6,106,524
Contributions & Private Foundations	1,142,775
Special Events	261,112
Program Rent & Other	253,458
In-kind Contributions	604,845
<b>Total Public Support</b>	<b>8,368,714</b>

**Expenses**



**Expenses**

Coordinated Entry	867,264
Outreach & Engagement	279,820
Emergency Overnight Shelter	760,269
Emergency Assistance	358,777
Housing Programs	4,393,755
Support Center	345,848
Employment Readiness	144,105
Management & General	824,733
Development & Communications	365,808
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8,340,379</b>
Change in Net Assets	28,335

To request a copy, please contact our Director of Finance & Administration at (708) 338-1724 ext. 263.





*Welcome to*  
**SOJOURNER  
HOUSE**  
A BRIDGE TO HOUSING STABILITY



**housing  
FORWARD**  
ending homelessness



**Through generous support and dedicated community partnerships, we launched Sojourner House—the first interim housing program of its kind in Suburban Cook County—in September 2019.**

Pictured at left; The community gathering for the building dedication. Inset: Sallie Smylie, former Board President, and Jim Heining, current President.

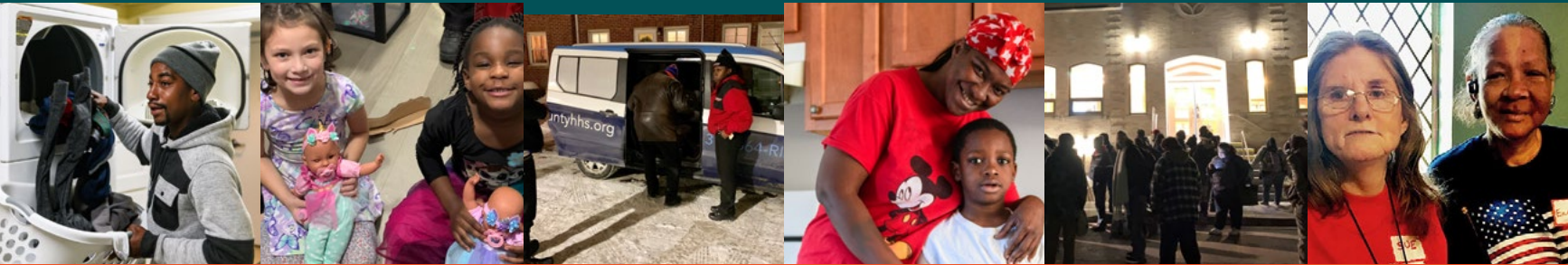


# Our Values

Compassionate Empathy  
Person-Centered  
Approaches

Engaged Community  
Innovative Solutions

Meaningful Impact  
Inspired Teamwork



**The progress we are making would be impossible without our community of partners and supporters. Please join us. To give a gift visit [www.housingforward.org/give](http://www.housingforward.org/give).**

Housing Forward Headquarters  
1851 S. 9th Avenue  
Maywood, IL 60153

Housing Forward Oak Park  
6634 W. Roosevelt Road, 2nd Flr  
Oak Park, IL 60304

708.338.1724 (p)  
888.338.1744 (toll free)  
708.338.1745 (f)  
[www.housingforward.org](http://www.housingforward.org)



**housing  
FORWARD**  
ending homelessness