



housing
FORWARD
ending homelessness

Dear Friends,

We at Housing Forward recognize the great things that can come from partnering with public and private entities to strengthen the support system for individuals and families in our community who are experiencing financial and housing crises. Volunteers, community groups, the faith community, human service organizations, community institutions, and corporate partners make the work we do – shelter, employment, services, housing – thrive and grow to positively impact and transform human lives. As you will see from this report, 2015 was another unifying year in which we learned that when we work together, we can provide more services, improve outcomes, and help more people in need.



Housing is health care

For 10 years, Housing Forward has been offering permanent supportive housing – long-term housing with attached services - for individuals who are homeless and disabled. As the field of supportive housing continues to evolve, numerous studies have shown that housing a person who is homeless improves health and wellness. It just makes sense – a stable, living environment is conducive to healthy living, and without it health deteriorates. All across the nation, supportive housing programs have shown to improve personal health and reduce public healthcare costs, especially when the supportive housing is targeted to frequent users of health services. Read our 2015 Highlights to learn about two new ventures that Housing Forward is part of to address the health and housing needs of our clients.

Strengthening our approach to employment services

When Prevail and Housing Forward began discussions about bringing our agencies together, we envisioned an employment program that would meet the needs of participants who had low- or high-barriers to employment. Clients are now assessed and can choose between two tracks for re-entering the workforce. For those with a longer history of employment, skills-based volunteers help with career coaching, interviewing and job search skills. Clients who have been absent from the workforce or have had ongoing episodes of unemployment, are encouraged to enroll in Career Passport, a group-based, five-week curriculum that focuses on building soft-skills.

Broadening our prevention services

The merger also has allowed us to broaden our assistance to households in the community experiencing a financial crisis by assisting with rental payments, security deposits, utility assistance, identification assistance and transportation passes. One lost paycheck, an accident, or other destabilizing crisis can lead a low income household into homelessness. A referral, case management or emergency financial assistance can prevent homelessness.

As we look ahead, we will continue to build on our strengths and work alongside all of you as there is tremendous promise for deeper impact in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Lynda Schueler
Executive Director

Sallie Smylie
President of the Board

featured **HIGHLIGHTS** of 2015

In July, Housing Forward and Prevail, a 10-year Oak Park based organization, merged and Prevail became a program of Housing Forward. One of the goals of the merger was to strengthen the support system for individuals and families in our community who are experiencing financial and housing crises.

The combined emergency financial assistance and employment programs operated by both agencies pre-merger, fall under the Prevail name. These programs now provide a broader level of assistance and services to meet the varied employment and financial assistance needs of clients.

The result of the merger led to...



- The Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation funding a six-month evaluation of Prevail's job-readiness and Housing Forward's Career Passport programs to align outcomes and determine program integration points.
- The creation of new job developer position to build relationships with training program and employers interested in hiring our clients. The position was funded with a \$25K grant from a private donor.
- 257 persons being served under the combined employment programs.
- Broadened emergency financial assistance for households experiencing a financial crisis or at-risk of eviction or utility cut-off.
- Increased number of skills-based volunteers in combined programs.
- 820 persons assisted; \$81,857 of direct financial assistance provided.

New Partnerships with Hospitals

In October, Housing Forward launched WIN (Wellness Initiative Network) Supportive Housing in partnership with BEDS Plus Care and South Suburban PADS. This 30-unit permanent supportive housing project will serve households impacted by long-term homelessness and a chronic medical condition. The program's goal is to improve housing stability and health while reducing the use of expensive emergency health services for medical care.



In addition...

- We partnered with The Better Health Through Housing Collaborative to pilot a program with UIC Hospital to provide permanent housing for individuals with chronic medical conditions.
- Secured in-kind donations of hospital linens and laundry service from West Suburban Hospital and Rush Oak Park Hospital reducing laundry expenses by 60% annually and established a new team for linen pick-up and delivery from hospital to shelter.

who WE SERVED

811 *were homeless*

1,151 *were at risk of homelessness*



63%
MALE



37%
FEMALE



14%
CHILDREN



46%
DISABLED

16%
CHRONICALLY
HOMELESS

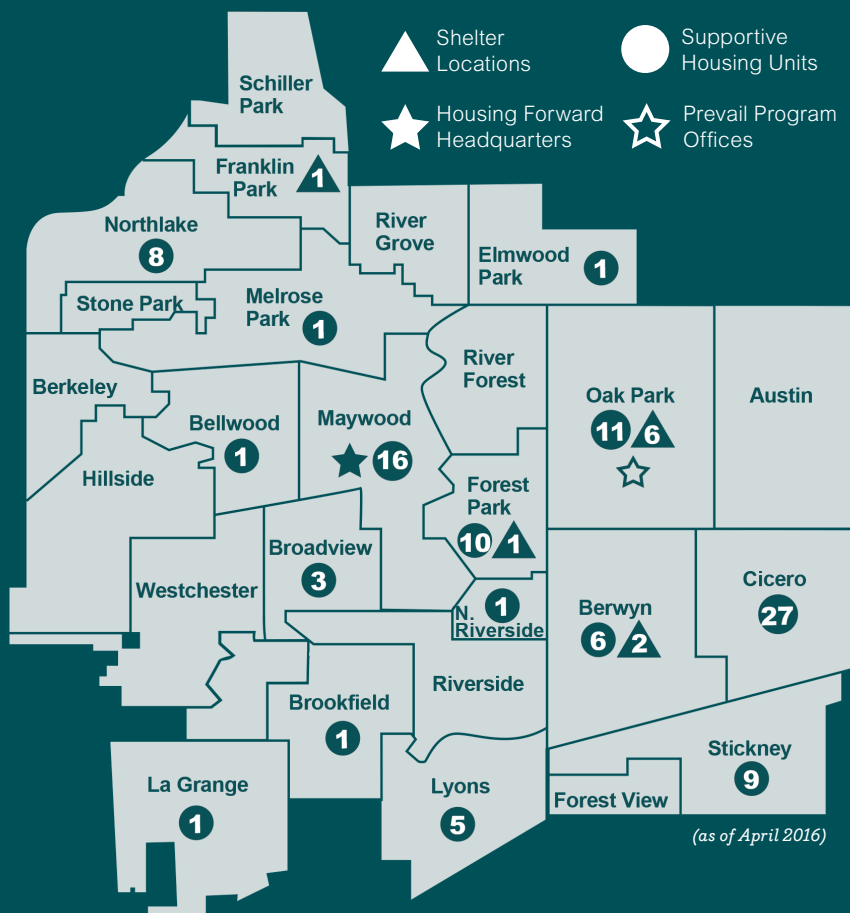


11%
VETERANS

48%
HAVE NO INCOME
AT INTAKE



24%
HAVE NO HEALTH
INSURANCE AT INTAKE



(as of April 2016)

our comprehensive **SOLUTION**



OUTREACH & Engagement

- > **In-reach:** a team of Outreach & Engagement Specialists assigned to the PADS Shelter to connect clients to services and housing and who maintain a case load for chronically homeless clients.
- > **Street Outreach:** a team of Outreach & Engagement Specialists assigned to finding, engaging and connecting with persons living on the streets, in their cars, or other places not meant for human habitation to provide basic needs (food, water, clothing) and a connection to services and housing.

SHELTER

- > **PADS Shelter** provides immediate, temporary crisis response for 40 to 70 persons per night from mid-September to mid-May.
- > **Transitional Shelter** for up to 15 persons per night includes case management, support group activities and life skills training from June to mid-September.

345 OUTREACHED
ON THE STREETS

141 outreached for basic needs only (one-time encounters)

204 engaged and received services; **73** linked to medical, mental health or substance abuse services; **12 individuals housed**

509 SHELTERED

12,320 nights of shelter provided

36,960 meals served

EMPLOYMENT *Readiness*

- > The **Prevail Employment Program** provides clients counseling toward sustainable employment, including resume and cover letter development, career counseling, application assistance and interview preparation.
- > **Career Passport** is an intensive 5-week curriculum-based group program for clients who are committed to resolving their long-term barriers to employment.

Emergency ASSISTANCE

- > **Financial Assistance** to address an immediate crisis regarding housing or utilities.
- > **Referrals** for urgent and basic necessities.
- > **Client Counseling** to develop a plan of action to resolve the crisis situation.
- > **Shelter Diversion** services include assessment and linkage to resources as alternatives to the emergency shelter.
- > **Basic Budgeting** sessions to educate clients on how to create a plan focused on financial stability.
- > **AfterCare** for Housing Forward graduates to improve housing retention and prevent their return to homelessness.

234 OBTAINED
EMPLOYMENT
SERVICES

24 (66%) graduated from Career Passport

40% of clients enrolled in Prevail's one-on-one services improved their resume development competencies

56 became employed

820 RECEIVED
EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE

\$68,180 in one-time rental assistance provided

\$13,677 in non-rent assistance – utility, transportation & identification assistance provided

415 received case management assistance





Supportive **HOUSING**

- > **Permanent Supportive Housing:** long-term housing plus services for individuals & families who are homeless and have a long-term disabling condition. Dedicated units for veterans and chronically homeless persons.
- > **Rapid Re-Housing** for individuals & families who need immediate but short-term rental assistance to return to stability.
- > **Transitional Housing:** rental assistance and services for up to 24 months for veterans.

Supportive **SERVICES**

- > **Basic needs** (showers, laundry, lockers, phones and a physical address to receive mail) available at our year-round Support Center.
- > **Life skills** and **wellness classes**.
- > **Case Management** to move clients' focus from survival to self-sufficiency including enrollment of entitlement benefits & employment resources and access to health and wellness services.

191 **HOUSED**

46,089 nights of housing provided

97 served in permanent supportive housing

61 served in Rapid Re-Housing

17 served in veteran-only transitional housing

421 **ACCESSED SUPPORT CENTER**

231 received ongoing case management services

168 received medical assessments and/or treatment via the Medical Clinic

49 obtained housing

38 increased income or benefits

27 assisted via the Legal Clinic

FINANCIAL STATEMENT **FY 2015**

Financial Summary January 1–December 31, 2015

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	2015	2014
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 311,422	327,414
Receivables from foundations and donors	---	---
Costs recoverable under grants	243,648	168,659
Prepaid expenses	9,857	4,034
Security deposits	65,740	37,323
Property and equipment, net	101,392	109,002
Total Assets	\$ 732,059	646,432
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 32,474	24,205
Accrued payroll and payroll taxes	62,786	36,509
Refundable advances	0	47,402
Deferred revenue	15,030	17,850
Total Liabilities	\$ 110,290	125,966
Net Assets		
Unrestricted – Undesignated	\$ 486,051	417,996
Unrestricted - Board designated	\$ 110,718	48,000
Temporarily restricted	\$ 25,000	54,470
Total Net Assets	\$ 621,769	520,466
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 732,059	646,432

LEVERAGING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

17 *Partner Agencies*



40+ *Congregations*

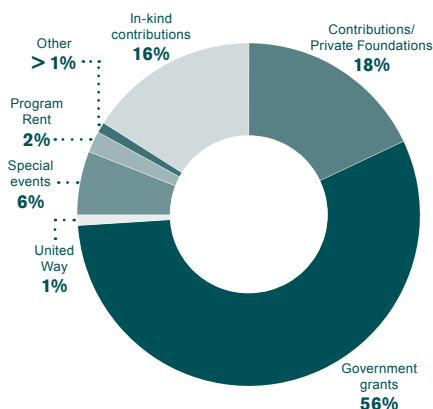


1,100 *Volunteers*
23,649 *Hours*

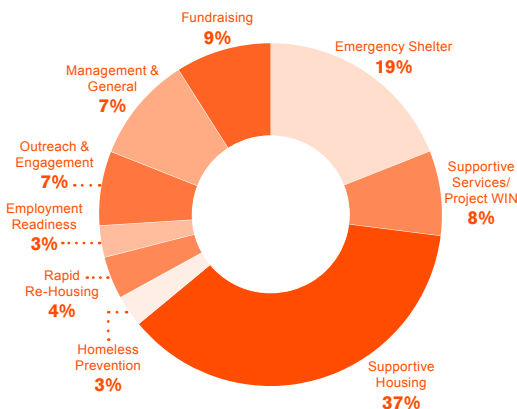


Total in-kind contributions in 2015: **\$562,413**

Revenue and Support 2015



Expenses 2015



Financial Summary January 1–December 31, 2015

Statement of Activities

Revenue and Support

	2015	2014
Contributions/Private Foundations	\$ 639,465	513,329
Government grants	1,954,138	1,469,945
United Way	52,168	54,179
Special events	222,963	198,443
Program rent	59,560	42,551
Other	23,953	12,056
In-kind contributions	556,535	473,306
Total Public Support	\$ 3,508,782	2,763,809

Expenses

Emergency Shelter	\$ 654,655	664,810
Supportive Services/Project WIN	279,513	280,162
Supportive Housing	1,300,865	851,087
Homeless Prevention	127,016	71,296
Rapid Re-Housing	131,647	121,958
Employment Readiness	107,011	76,472
Outreach & Engagement	251,081	205,249
Management & General	354,553	250,646
Fundraising	308,095	275,269
Total Expenses	\$ 3,514,436	2,796,949
Change in Net Assets	\$ 101,303	(33,140)
Beginning of year	\$ 520,466	553,606
End of year	\$ 621,769	520,466

Includes July–December Preval assets and expenses. To request a copy of our independent auditor's report, please contact our Director of Finance & Administration at (708) 338-1724 ext. 263.

ending homelessness TOGETHER

We gratefully acknowledge ALL of the donors who make possible the work of Housing Forward.

The following list reflects total contributions made during 2015 (January 1 - December 31).

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Cook County Department of Planning & Development
Corporation for National & Community Service (AmeriCorps)
Illinois Department of Human Services
Oak Park Township Proviso Township Mental Health Commission
River Forest Township Village of Oak Park
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

COMMUNITY, CORPORATE & BUSINESS PARTNERS

\$50,000+

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\$10,000-\$24,999

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\$5,000-\$9,999

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Anonymous

Housing Forward's Leadership Giving

Circle recognizes the agency's sustaining
donors of unrestricted, private donations from
individuals and family foundations of \$1,000 or more.

We thank them and recognize them for their enduring
support.

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Laura Jordahl

Laura Jordahl, and her husband Eric, have been donors and volunteers of Housing Forward for more than 15 years. Her involvement began through volunteering at their church and later as a site captain for the shelter site that is hosted there weekly.

Laura has further used her talents as the project coordinator through funding from the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation Future Philanthropists Program for Housing Forward's collaboration to develop educational kits by engaging approximately 100 students and their student council to be used by the children in the rotating PADS Shelter and Maywood Support Center.

Laura not only tells others about Housing Forward, but she finds ways for them to be more deeply involved in our mission with the goal of creating systemic change and "knows that her support is spent in a powerful way to working towards eliminating homelessness." She appreciates being able to see clients' growth towards stability and is proud to support our comprehensive programs and services that support that growth. Housing Forward is fortunate to benefit from her passion, talent, and commitment to making real change within our community.



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CLIENT SPOTLIGHT:

Theodore

Theodore and his daughter were clients in our Summer Transitional Shelter program in July of 2015. Theodore had found himself homeless after a serious medical condition caused him to lose his job. After exhausting all favors from his family and friends that were able to take him in for the night, Theodore slept in parks, a friend's storage shed and once in a graveyard. During the day, Theodore walked from place to place looking for work to provide for and support himself and his daughter.

Theodore learned about Housing Forward from a community resource and received integrated case management, financial planning and housing opportunities while in the shelter. He worked with a Housing Forward case manager who helped him get important information to his doctor and access medical benefits, and ultimately, helped Theodore and his daughter become housed.

Theodore is currently studying sustainable agriculture at Triton College where he also works. He and his daughter are grateful for the support of our donors that enabled him to access the programs and resources that he needed to get back on his feet and raise his daughter.



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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Amy Morton

For the past ten years, one of Housing Forward's most devoted volunteers has been Amy Morton. Ms. Morton began volunteering at the PADS Shelter with the intention of engaging her children in her church's youth ministry to support those in the community that are homeless. As a teacher, Amy understood the need to engage youth in service and philanthropy that would be a learning experience that would continue throughout their lifetimes.

Ms. Morton has also been instrumental in organizing the collection of "House to Home" kits. These kits are used to furnish apartments for individuals and families who were formerly homeless in our community. Her coordination with other churches in this initiative worth thousands in household supplies, allowed Housing Forward to receive a matching grant from the Raskob Foundation.

Ms. Morton is a site captain at a PADS Shelter the second Friday of every month. According to Morton, "I'm proud to be a volunteer with Housing Forward. I know that when people come to the shelter for help, all of Housing Forward's resources are brought to bear to help improve that person's life. Their housing, support services and case management have been very successful at helping people get back on their feet and restart their lives. That's something I am honored to be a part of."



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Contact Janet Gow, Director of Development and Communications via email at jgow@housingforward.org or call **708.338.1724 ext. 262.**

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Sandra Stillo, Office Manager

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Renée Kuhl, Grants Manager

Stacey Triche Development Manager, Special Events

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Tonisha Daniel, Volunteer & Outreach Manager

Hannah Williams, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator (AmeriCorps)

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Dale Nowicki, Shelter Manager

Kevin Glenz,
Vincent Johnson,
Mary Rinder, 2nd Shift Staff

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Jake Bradley, Outreach & Engagement Manager

Jennifer McWhorter,
Ebony Martin,
Lalema Bakate, (AmeriCorps)
Outreach & Engagement Specialists

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

E. Carol Fuller, Housing Coordinator

Colin Fagan,
Jessica Ellenwood,
Chelsea Dare,
Brittany Robbins,
Elvis Lomeli,
Leticia Rodriguez,
Alexis Singleton Housing Case Managers

Cristy Harris, Prevail Program Director

EMPLOYMENT READINESS

Betsy Kelly, Job Developer

Romeshia Tucker, Job Readiness Coordinator

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Catherine Rison, Emergency Assistance Case Manager

Tiffani Gardner, Homeless Prevention/Shelter Diversion (AmeriCorps)

Kimberly Rhoten, Stability Services Case Manager

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Janet Hotch, Supportive Services Manager

Betsy Rogers, Nurse Case Manager

Jackie Powell, Supportive Services Case Manager

Gail Diop, Case Aide (AmeriCorps)

AUXILIARY *board*

The Auxiliary Board plays an integral role in the success of Housing Forward's Have-a-Heart Gala.

Bobbie Albrecht
Katy Bergholz
Monique Brandonisio
Deb Clause

Tanya Fisher
Tom Galassini
Bern Homberger
Scot McIntosh

Laura O'Shea
Eileen Zuniga Rancharan

ASSOCIATE *board*

Housing Forward's Associate Board is an innovative group of young professionals who are committed to furthering the friend-raising and fundraising efforts of Housing Forward.

Christine Gilfillan
PRESIDENT
United Home Loans

Kendal Cross
SECRETARY
BMO Harris Bank

Whitnie Bernard
CenterPoint Properties

Emily Davies
Venture One Real Estate

Audrey O'Hern
The Schiller Team - @properties

Gabrielle O'Connor
American Dental Association

Richard Ludka
Taproot Foundation

Chasse Rehwinkel
Illinois State Treasurer's Office

Laura Ullman
BMO Harris Bank

the
WHOLE
is



the sum of
OUR PARTS

