

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



*Ending Homelessness
Together*

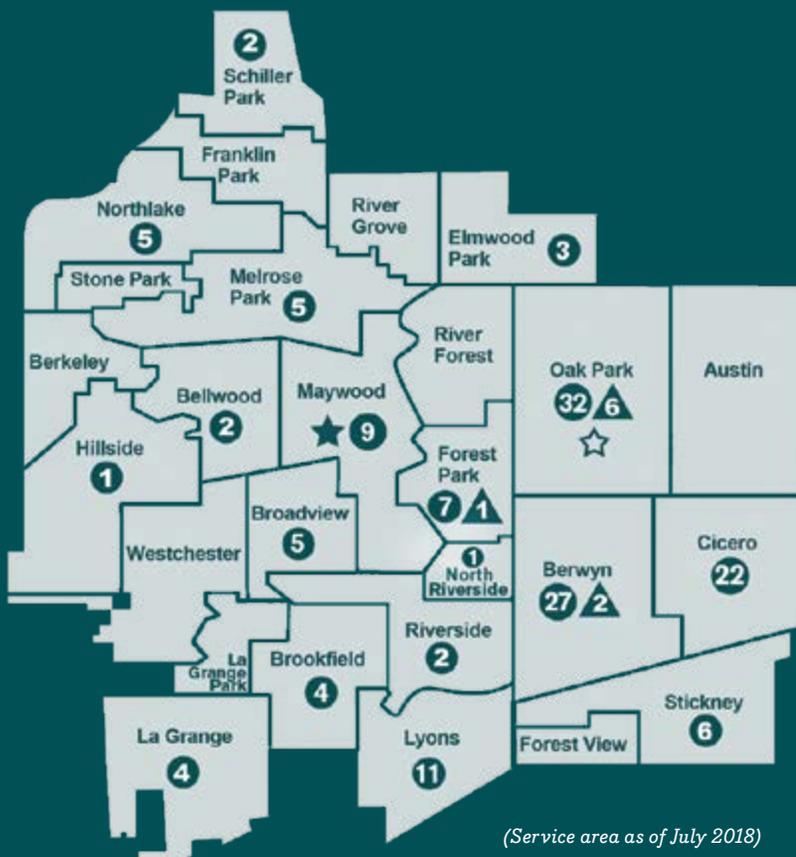
**housing
FORWARD**

who
WE SERVED 1893 CLIENTS TOTAL IN 2017

947 were homeless **18%** over previous year
343 were in housing
603 were at risk of homelessness
53% MEN **42%** WOMEN **10%** CHILDREN

OF THOSE THAT WERE HOMELESS...

294 DISABLED
103 CHRONICALLY HOMELESS
38 VETERANS
46% HAD NO INCOME AT INTAKE
94 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS



(Service area as of July 2018)

▲ SHELTER LOCATIONS ● SUPPORTIVE HOUSING UNITS ★ HOUSING FORWARD HEADQUARTERS ☆ HOUSING FORWARD OAK PARK OFFICE

Dear Friends,

Since our organization's founding in 1992, our mission has evolved from providing a crisis response to homelessness through emergency shelter, to a broader response that includes supportive services, employment, and ultimately, housing for those experiencing a housing crisis. We have evolved from managing homelessness in our community to leading the way to effectuate change and end it. Housing Forward recognizes that tailoring our responses and using our resources most efficiently allows us to engage the larger community in addressing the needs of individuals and families who need our support. Together we lead the way in working to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.



In 2017, we focused on these four goals:

1. Prevent the loss of housing before it occurs

We opened a new program office in Oak Park to expand upon our prevention and employment services that specifically assist those at imminent risk of homelessness. **710** people were assisted; **93** households received **\$134,502** in direct financial assistance to resolve their housing crisis.

2. Alleviate the need for long-term shelter and street homelessness

No one should remain in a homeless situation. **50%** of shelter clients stayed less than 7 nights; **19%** of clients staying 7-29 nights moved into a permanent housing destination; **10%** went to a temporary destination; **30** persons living on the street gained housing (a **50%** increase from 2016.)

3. Increase access to and transition people into sustainable permanent housing solutions to improve housing retention

A record **343** men, women and children were stably housed through our various housing programs. **91%** of those in Permanent Supportive Housing remained housed within 1 year; **97%** stayed housed 3+ years. **95%** of those in Rapid Re-Housing exited to permanent housing; **83%** went into rental housing without a subsidy.

4. Improve jobs and income growth for people experiencing homelessness

We partnered with the Oak Park Public Library, and other education institutions to offer career oriented courses and expand our Career Passport programming for clients at high risk of job loss or in need of new career resources. While in housing, **32%** of our clients increased their income. **35%** of those participating in employment readiness services secured employment.

We recognize the work that is done to fulfill our mission is due to the extraordinary support of our volunteers, area congregations and donors. The crisis of homelessness stretches across all racial, ethnic, and societal boundaries and has the ability to touch anyone's life at any time. We are inspired, humbled and continuously grateful to be supported by a community working together to end homelessness.

In gratitude,

Lynda
Lynda Schueler
 Executive Director

Henry
Henry Fulkerson
 President of the Board



Kim's Story

Kim*, a single mom of two young men, came to Housing Forward in June after losing her home because she was fleeing from a volatile situation. She had been staying in a family shelter in the city when she called the Suburban Homeless Call Center. As she had already lost her home, she was referred to a case manager in our **Rapid Re-Housing Program**. Kim had just obtained a new job, and was working to maintain it, but had to reduce her hours because of her long commute from the shelter in the city while trying to take care of her children, with her oldest having special needs. Housing Forward helped her find housing and secured her deposit allowing her to move the three of them into a new apartment closer to her job. Confident in her new home, Kim has increased her hours to full-time and is able to maintain stability for her family.

“
Thanks to my Housing Forward case manager, my family is in a stable situation now. That means a lot to us.

Kim

* Name changed for client confidentiality.

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

January



Housing Forward **celebrates 25 years** of transitioning individuals from housing crisis to housing stability.

February



Housing Forward **leads Coordinated Entry**, referred to as "Entry Point", with eight partner agencies across suburban Cook County. Coordinated Entry is a system that serves as a front door to connect people facing homelessness to housing and supports.

July



New **Oak Park Stability Services office** and **Entry Point Walk-In Center opens**. The office houses our Preval Emergency Assistance program to address an immediate crisis regarding housing or utilities and our Employment Readiness program to prepare individuals for a successful, sustained re-entry into the workplace.

August



Housing Forward **expands its Supportive Housing** by creating a health and housing partnership in suburban Cook County with BEDS Plus, South Suburban PADS and the Cook County Health and Hospitals System (CCHHS). The program will permanently house 33 single adults and family households who are frequent utilizers of medical care services and are impacted by long-term homelessness.

September



Housing Forward **Headquarters and Support Center in Maywood experienced a fire** contained to the attic of the building. Fortunately, the building was unoccupied and no one was injured. Programs resume in a temporary space two days later.

December



On New Year's Eve, **a pipe burst at the newly rehabbed Headquarters and Support Center**, causing additional damage and forcing staff and clients to delay moving back into the office.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT FY 2017

Financial Summary January 1–December 31, 2017

Statement of Financial Position

| Assets | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|---------------------|----------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 341,584 | 546,210 |
| Grants receivable | 589,633 | 259,964 |
| Prepaid expenses | 31,504 | 2,362 |
| Security deposits | 109,453 | 84,585 |
| Property and equipment, net | 97,645 | 52,392 |
| Total Assets | \$ 1,169,819 | 945,513 |
| | | |
| Liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 211,519 | 55,738 |
| Accrued payroll and payroll taxes | 103,272 | 72,434 |
| Refundable advances | 52,207 | 49,269 |
| Deferred revenue | 51,800 | 30,325 |
| Total Liabilities | \$ 418,798 | 207,766 |
| | | |
| Net Assets | | |
| Unrestricted – Undesignated | \$ 541,463 | 509,374 |
| Unrestricted – Board designated | \$ 110,000 | 61,940 |
| Temporarily restricted | \$ 99,558 | 166,433 |
| Total Net Assets | \$ 751,021 | 737,747 |
| Total Liabilities & Net Assets | \$ 1,169,819 | 945,513 |

LEVERAGING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

40+ Congregations



14,949 Meals donated
44,634 Nights of shelter provided

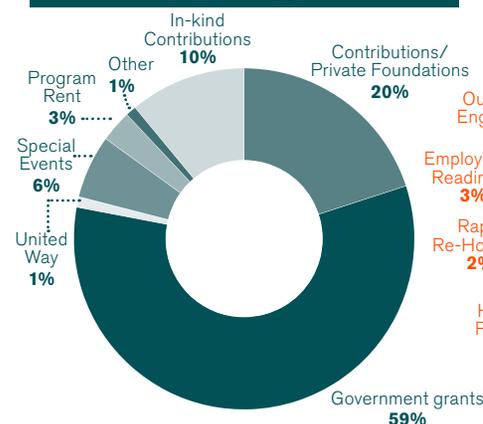


1,200 Volunteers
22,818 Hours

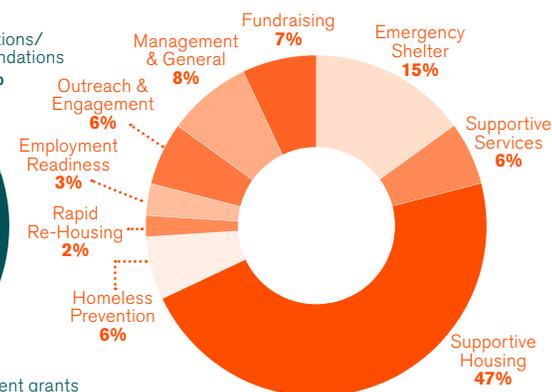


Total in-kind contributions in 2017: **\$456,043**

Revenue and Support 2017



Expenses 2017



Financial Summary January 1–December 31, 2017

Statement of Activities

| Revenue and Support | 2017 | 2016 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Contributions/Private Foundations | \$ 902,827 | 898,314 |
| Government | 4,705,831 | 2,673,337 |
| United Way | 52,600 | 52,600 |
| Special Events | 241,304 | 275,433 |
| Program Rent | 145,895 | 128,304 |
| Other | 187,929 | 24,569 |
| In-kind Contributions | 456,043 | 509,988 |
| Total Public Support | \$ 6,692,429 | 4,562,545 |
| | | |
| Expenses | | |
| Coordinated Entry | \$ 851,404 | 15,309 |
| Emergency Shelter | 597,242 | 641,344 |
| Supportive Services | 258,724 | 247,902 |
| Supportive Housing | 2,956,433 | 2,077,566 |
| Emergency Assistance | 324,788 | 249,769 |
| Rapid Re-Housing | 440,439 | 101,747 |
| Employment Readiness | 162,432 | 152,469 |
| Outreach & Engagement | 312,641 | 284,689 |
| Management & General | 452,066 | 358,818 |
| Fundraising | 323,350 | 316,954 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 6,679,155 | 4,446,567 |
| Change in Net Assets | \$ 13,274 | 115,978 |
| Beginning of year | \$ 737,747 | 621,769 |
| End of year | \$ 751,021 | 737,747 |

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



Harriet Hawkins

Medical Clinic Volunteer at PADS Shelter

Harriet is a part-time nurse at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. She began her nursing career 35 years ago working in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and for the past 16 years she has been focused on teaching other nurses as the Resuscitation Education Coordinator.

In addition to all the other work she does in support of the community, Harriet has been a faithful volunteer at the PADS Shelter Medical Clinic for almost 22 years. With her Sunday school students, she also puts together care packages that her students pass out to shelter guests that include toothbrushes, socks, and a restaurant gift card.

When she first started volunteering with Housing Forward, she admitted "I was expecting the mentally ill and alcoholics, but there are so many others who just had bad luck and misfortune. There are a lot of working homeless people out there that have respectable jobs." She recalled running into an old colleague from the hospital that came to shelter one night. "He was a respiratory therapist... I had worked with him and was so surprised to find him in shelter."

Although at the PADS Shelter Medical Clinic Harriet provides basic healthcare and wellness checks, she believes that what the clients need most is human interaction. "Homelessness is not just not having a place to live, but it's not having people to connect to," Harriet reflects. "They want someone to sit down and talk to them, touch them... I can't believe how thankful they are for everything when they have so little."

Through her many years of volunteering, Harriet has also made a number of new friends. She also loves seeing the children volunteers and watching them grow over the years.

“
**Volunteering with
 Housing Forward is a lot
 of fun. I meet so many
 people there... I love it.**
 Harriet
 ”



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 for their enduring support.

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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 2017 (January 1 – December 31)

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Proviso Township Mental Health Commission
River Forest Township
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Village of Oak Park
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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\$50,000+

Chicago Community Trust
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\$10,000-\$24,000

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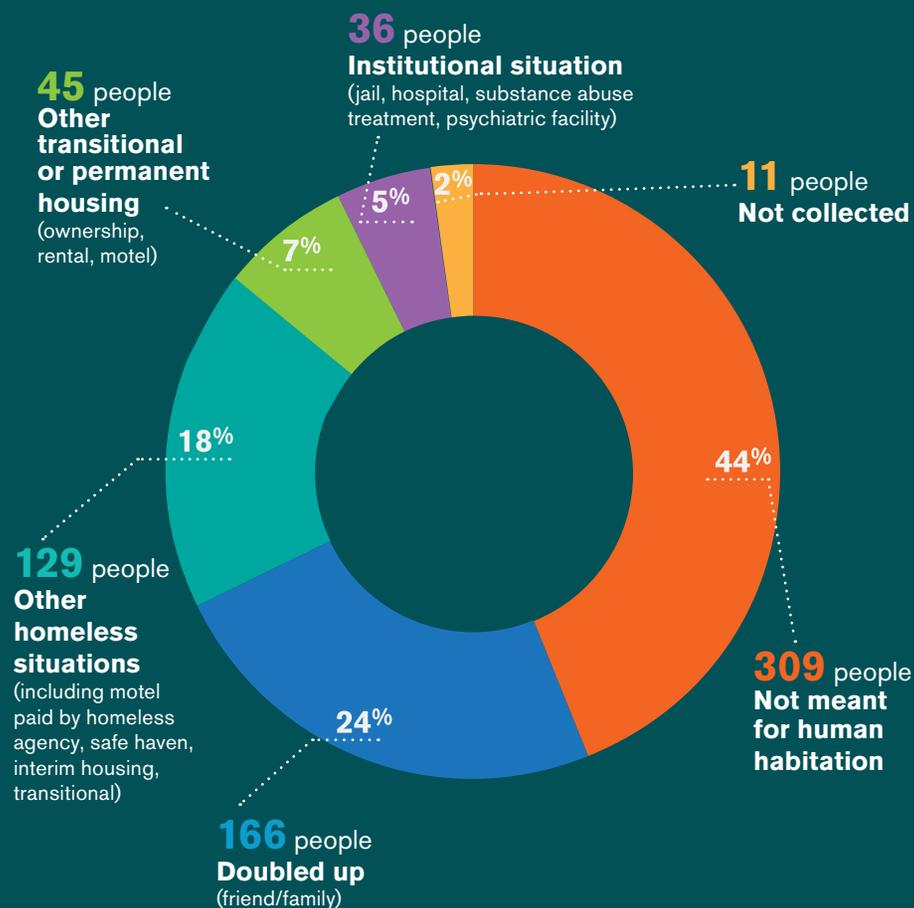
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homeless PRIOR LIVING SITUATION

In 2017, prior to entering the shelter,

44% had spent the previous night in a place not meant for human habitation

24% were living in a “doubled up” situation with friends or family



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 St. Giles Church

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 Pilgrim Congregational Church
 Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation

\$2,500-\$4,999
 Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church
 First United Methodist Church
 Grace Lutheran Church
 St. Edmund Catholic Church
 St. Giles Family Mass

\$1,000-\$2,499
 Ascension Church
 Christian Church Foundation, Inc.
 Evangelical Lutheran Church
 First Presbyterian Church of River Forest
 Presbytery of Chicago
 St. John Lutheran Church
 United Lutheran Church

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 Oak Park Friends Meeting
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 Woodridge United Methodist Church

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A New Chapter: OAK PARK OFFICE AND ENTRY POINT

Housing Forward's Oak Park Office provides an immediate and compassionate response to individuals and families facing a financial crisis and offers them supportive stability services that lead to housing security. Programs and services at that office include:

- Prevail Emergency Assistance including eviction prevention, short-term stabilization services, assistance in applying for income benefits, community resource referrals, public transportation passes for job interviews and medical appointments and assistance in the obtainment of identification.
- Employment Readiness Services including one-on-one job coaching, group soft skills training and counseling, job placement assistance and access to our computer lab where individuals can search for jobs and refine their resume.

What is Entry Point?

Entry Point is the suburban Cook County program that gives individuals and families accessibility to homeless service providers across Cook County and connects them to the appropriate, and available, resources. Working together with the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County, and 8 other partner agencies, Housing Forward is leading this effort to make homelessness a rare, brief, and one-time occurrence. Housing Forward is also one of four designated Entry Point Walk-In Centers in suburban Cook County providing in-person, comprehensive intake and referrals in our Oak Park office for those experiencing a housing crisis.



(Above left) A freshly painted entry greets guests at the September 2017 open house.

(Above right) Attending the ribbon cutting ceremony were State Representatives Camille Lilly and La Shawn K. Ford, President of the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce Robert Stelletello, Housing Forward Executive Director Lynda Schueler, President of the Housing Forward Board Henry Fulkerson, State Senator Don Harmon, Coordinated Entry Director Cristy Harris, and Executive Director of The Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County Jennifer Hill.

PATH TO HOUSING

Housing Forward helps individuals and families who are at risk or experiencing homelessness. Read how Brenda, Dave, Angelina, Richard and Cindy transitioned from housing crisis to housing stability. While each individual's

path is different, we know that access to resources and case management makes the difference in stabilizing families and individuals. [Learn more about Housing Forward and other clients by visiting housingforward.org.](#)

| | BARRIERS TO HOUSING  | ACCESS POINTS  | PATH TO HOUSING  | HOUSING RETENTION SERVICES  |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Brenda Age 43 Single Homeless 6 months | No income, lost custody of her children, family conflict | Entry Point Walk-In Center | Employment Readiness, Rapid Re-Housing | Case management, health services, benefits assistance (food stamps, Medicaid), employment resources Savings Incentive Plan, family reunification, and intensive housing search |
| Dave & Angelina Married with two children ages 5 and 3. About to be homeless | Both employed but Dave was recently injured and just filed for worker's compensation. Not earning enough income to cover rent. | Suburban Cook Call Center | Homelessness Prevention Services | Aftercare Services |
| Richard Age 57 Single Homeless 2 years | Addiction, chronic illness, no work history, did not graduate high school, criminal background | Street Outreach | Permanent Supportive Housing | Case management, health services, benefits assistance (food stamps, Medicaid), employment resources Motivational interviewing, GED tutoring, and sealing criminal record |
| Cindy Age 63 Homeless 10 years | Mental illness, chronic illness, some income, no work history | PADS Shelter | Permanent Supportive Housing Program in partnership with Cook County Health and Hospitals System | Case management, health services, benefits assistance (food stamps, Medicaid), employment resources Mental health referrals, crisis intervention, and home furnishings |

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Congregation Spotlight:

ST. EDMUND, ASCENSION, ST. GILES PARISHES IN OAK PARK

In the fall of 2017 Housing Forward applied for a grant that provides up to \$20,000 in matching funds for Catholic Activities from the Raskob Foundation. St. Edmund Parish along with St. Giles and Ascension agreed to participate by fundraising for and collecting donations for Housing Forward's House to Home Kits as an integral part of their Lenten service work.

In partnership, the three Oak Park parishes collected enough funds and supplies to create 23 home furnishing kits more than doubling the funds needed for the grant.

The Catholic Parishes in Oak Park have been part of the creation of **House to Home Kits** since Housing Forward started Open Door Housing in 2013.

What is a House to Home Kit?

Imagine what it would be like to live on the streets or in an emergency shelter for months or years, focusing on survival, with all of your possessions in a backpack. Housing Forward works with volunteers to furnish supplies and household items to help individuals and families more quickly transition from homelessness and into stability. House to Home kits provide the comforts of home through the generosity and compassion of our donors. **For more information and a detailed list of the items found in a kit, click on the "Give" section and select "Wish Lists and Donation Acceptance Policy" at www.housingforward.org.**

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Donor Spotlight:

Bill Brauneis has been a Housing Forward supporter and volunteer throughout much of his life. Bill and his wife Gerri Brauneis, who passed away in February of 2016, committed much of their volunteer time working for issues of social justice and helping to support the homeless population in and around the Oak Park community.



The pair met while volunteering with Catholic organizations after graduating from high school, so it is no wonder Bill and Gerri became involved in helping to transform the Oak Park community soon after moving here in 1973.

In the early 1990's, they helped re-establish a then failing shelter called Public Action to Deliver Shelter, popularly known then by its acronym: PADS—what was eventually to become the beginning of Housing Forward.



Gerri Brauneis, PADS Board 1998-2001

As a couple, Bill and Gerri volunteered as part of the morning shift at First United Methodist Church through the St. Giles Parish community.

Bill says of his drive to help others and his volunteer commitment, "Dignity for all individuals is of the utmost importance."

"Dignity for all individuals is of the utmost importance"

—Bill Brauneis

Bill started his early career washing dishes in high school. He then entered a wood pattern maker apprenticeship and began making molds for the plastics industry. He eventually founded his own company employing over 65 individuals, which he ran for 25 years until his retirement 21 years ago. He continued to support research and development initiatives in the field.

Currently in his 80s, Bill makes time for yoga, volunteers as a dog walker for the Animal Care League and spends time with his close-knit family. Although his support of Housing Forward has been outstanding, Bill considers himself to be pretty average, "Making my way through life, helping other people where I can."

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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The advancement of service coordination as well as building community support for addressing homelessness remains a core strategy of Housing Forward in our efforts to end homelessness in our community. Each of our programs collaborates with community-based agencies and institutions to maximize service provision.



Leading efforts locally and regionally to end homelessness

- Housing Forward is a lead partner in the Oak Park Homelessness Coalition bringing together public servants, schools, social service agencies, businesses, and other stakeholders to educate the public about homelessness and implement coordinated strategies for addressing homelessness in Oak Park.
- We continue to be the lead agency of HUD's new Coordinated Entry program for the entire suburban Cook County. We foster collaboration across service providers to prioritize individuals facing homelessness with the greatest needs to expedite housing solutions.

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We make every effort to properly recognize the donors who generously support our mission with monetary gifts of \$100 or more in FY2017. For a complete list of donors, please visit our web site. If you find an error or omission, please accept our sincere apologies and contact jgow@housingforward.org so that we may correct our records.

what is SUPPORTIVE HOUSING?

Supportive housing combines permanent, affordable housing with services that help people live more stable, productive lives. By combining affordable housing for persons with very low or extremely low incomes along with supportive services and case management, we can ensure that we are meeting the special needs of each individual or family. When targeted effectively, supportive housing can be cost-effective for communities.

Who does supportive housing serve?

Supportive housing is designed primarily for those impacted by long histories of homelessness due to persistent challenges such as serious mental illness, substance abuse, or chronic medical problems.

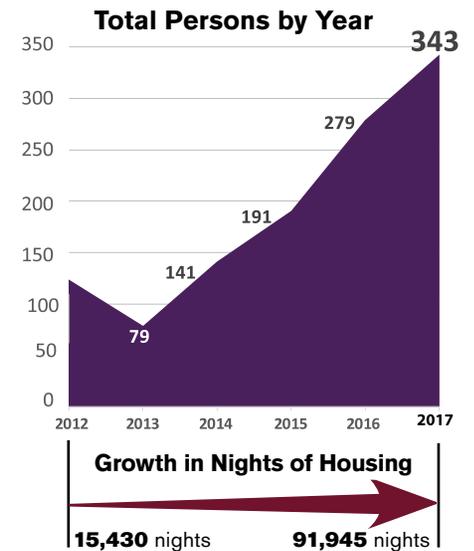
What is Housing First?

Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements.

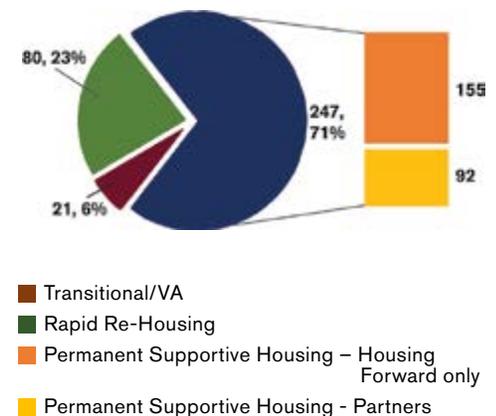
Housing Forward uses the Housing First approach for:

- Permanent Supportive Housing for those that have a prolonged disability.
- Rapid Re-Housing for single adults and families who need short-term rental assistance and supports to facilitate a transition to long-term stability.

Our Housing Stability Impact



By Housing Type



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

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Friends of Housing Forward is an advisory committee of the agency's board of directors. It is an open network of supporters who secure and strengthen important relationships for the agency that expand and enhance the agency's support.

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ways to **GIVE**

Be inspired... transform a life... **help end homelessness in your community!**

Gifts of Securities

Gifts of securities, especially if appreciated in value, are very helpful to Housing Forward. For the donor, they may also provide greater tax benefits than gifts of cash.

Charitable Trust or Annuity

A charitable trust or annuity is an extraordinary way to provide lifetime payments for yourself or a loved one and, as part of your legacy, help ensure the ability of Housing Forward to help those that are facing homelessness.

Bequests

One of the simplest ways to support Housing Forward's future, a bequest provides a gift for the agency in your will. There are no minimum dollar requirements or limits to the amount you can leave and bequests are entirely free from federal estate tax.

Sustained Giving

We rely on weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly donations throughout the year that ensures Housing Forward has resources to be there for families and individuals in our community. Please call us to learn how your contributions can happen on a regular basis.

Corporate & Foundation Grants

Invite us to apply for funding with your business or family foundation giving team. We are always looking for new and meaningful ways to partner. Check out our Corporate Partner Opportunities at housingforward.org/give

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

Online

Make an immediate donation online at our website www.housingforward.org and click on the "Donate" box.

By Mail

Make a check payable to "Housing Forward" and mail it to:

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

Housing Forward is a not for profit 501(c)(3). All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Housing Forward's Tax ID #36-3876660



SEPTEMBER 2017



JUNE 2018



FIRE FUND

A number of our community members were able to assist Housing Forward after our fire and subsequent flood in 2017. Thank you to those who contributed allowing Housing Forward to continue services for our clients, rebuild, and plan for a renewed Headquarters and Support Center.

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Victor and Iris Yipp
Michele Zurakowski & John Flanigan



1851 South 9th Ave, Maywood IL 60153

Ending Homelessness Requires a 'Housing First' Approach

"Housing First is a homeless assistance approach guided by the belief that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before attending to anything less critical, such as getting a job, budgeting properly, or attending to substance use issues. Additionally, Housing First is based on the theory that client choice is valuable in housing selection and supportive service participation and that exercising that choice is likely to make a client more successful in remaining housed and improving their life.

Core principles of Housing First:

- 1.** Immediate access to permanent housing with no housing readiness requirements
- 2.** Client choice and self-determination
- 3.** Recovery orientation
- 4.** Individualized and client-driven supports
- 5.** Social and community integration