

OUR COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER TO END HOMELESSNESS



Homelessness can be complicated.

Ebony Martin has known “Miss Alice” for several years. As an experienced Housing Forward Street Outreach Specialist, she’s familiar with Alice’s routines and favorite spots, and has been in contact with family, friends and the police officers eager to improve this woman’s situation.

Even though she resists the idea of being housed and accessing shelter, a wide grin appears whenever Ebony comes to visit. Sometimes water, food, handwarmers and clothing are accepted—and sometimes not. Despite her hearing loss, the two have no trouble communicating. Being part of Miss Alice’s trusted network hasn’t come easily. It took compassion, perseverance and recognition that it takes time to build mutual respect.

DOING WHAT IT TAKES

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

OAK PARK HOMELESSNESS COALITION

Armando Smith, Housing Forward Director of Operations & Client Services, and Cristy Harris, Coordinated Entry Director, stand at the podium to answer questions prior to a key session during the September Oak Park Village Board meeting. The two main initiatives they supported were a Flexible Rental Assistance Fund through the Oak Park Homelessness Coalition, and a new Interim Housing Program; a partnership between Housing Forward, the Oak Park Housing Authority and Loyola Medical/MacNeal Hospital, to help homeless families and individuals with physical limitations or in need of medical respite—which is now known as Sojourner House.

Both votes passed along with another on whether to begin work on an inclusionary zoning ordinance. We thank all who help to address housing sustainability.



Have-A-Heart Gala hosted by Chris and Rachel Sullivan raises a record \$263,000.

St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church becomes a new PADS shelter site designated for families on Sunday evenings, in addition to being a Friday night shelter site.



Housing Forward launches the Rental Housing Support Program, in partnership with Cook County Health, South Suburban PADS and BEDS Plus adding 30 new units of permanent housing for extremely low-income households.



The Flexible Rental Assistance Program (FRAP) begins with funding from the Village of Oak Park’s Affordable Housing Fund to provide additional financial resources to divert area households from becoming homeless.



JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

Housing Forward begins formal discussions with the Oak Park Housing Authority to develop a new Interim Housing model for extremely low income families and persons with mobility challenges.



After 9 months of displacement due to a fire and subsequent water pipe burst in 2017, Housing Forward staff return to their headquarters in Maywood. Jackie, a Supportive Services Case Manager sits at the relocated front desk.



Conversations begin with MacNeal Hospital to explore a medical respite model.



Families in Transition (FIT) begins with Oak Park School District 97 and Oak Park River Forest High School District 200 after both schools sign data sharing agreements to identify and improve access to services for homeless students and their families.



AmeriCorps staff members participate in city-wide Veteran’s Day service project.



Community generosity once again made the traditional Housing Holiday Party & Holiday Gift Program possible for clients.

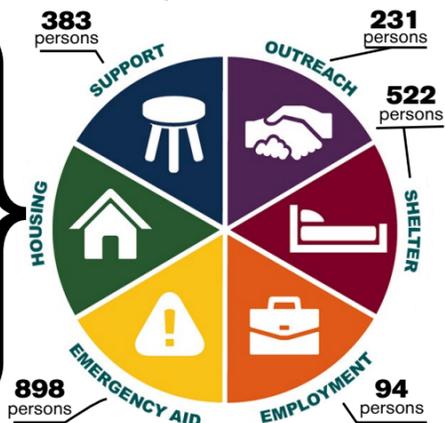


MAKING AN IMPACT

428 clients obtained or sustained housing*



1,935 persons served



Rental Assistance	Transitional Housing	Permanent Housing	Housed Elsewhere
Rapid Re-Housing (RRH): 51 persons served Short-term rental assistance and services with the goal of helping people obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency, and stay housed.	13 veterans served Transitional housing for up to 24 months.	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): 283 persons served Combines affordable housing assistance with voluntary support services for the needs of disabled homeless people. Rental Housing Supportive Program (RHSP): 34 persons served Provides targeted long-term rental support.	47 persons served Exited to a permanent, positive destination outside of Housing Forward or partner resources.

Who we helped



*Three clients moved from one housed program to another.

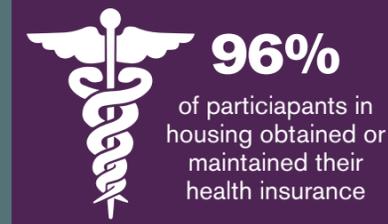
Partnering with companies is invaluable to us.

Whether they support our work financially with grants and sponsorships, encourage employee volunteering, or hire our employment program graduates, we are thankful for their involvement. A team from **Huntington** is pictured here, providing dinner on a Sunday night at a family-designated shelter site.



Key Areas of Agency Growth

- 18%** increase in families prevented from losing their homes
- 32** new permanent supportive housing units added
- 142%** increase in short-term/diversion stability services
- 8%** increase in annual operating budget



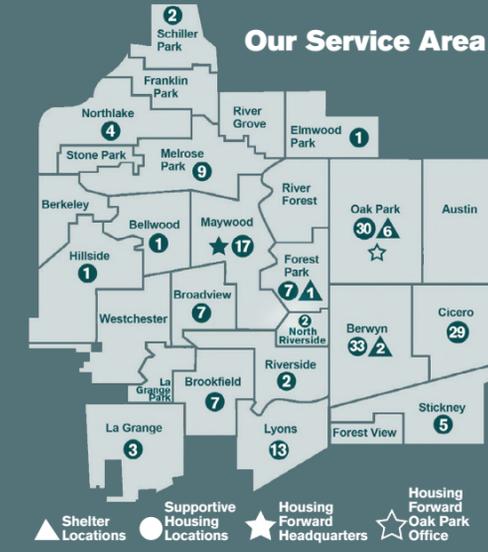
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WORKING TOGETHER



Students at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School in Bellwood donated more than **1,100** pairs of socks during their "Socktober" donation drive.



We gratefully acknowledge ALL of the funders and donors who make the work of Housing Forward possible. The following list reflects total contributions made during 2018. (January 1 – December 31)

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Oak Park Township Proviso Township Mental Health Commission
River Forest Township The Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. (CEDA)
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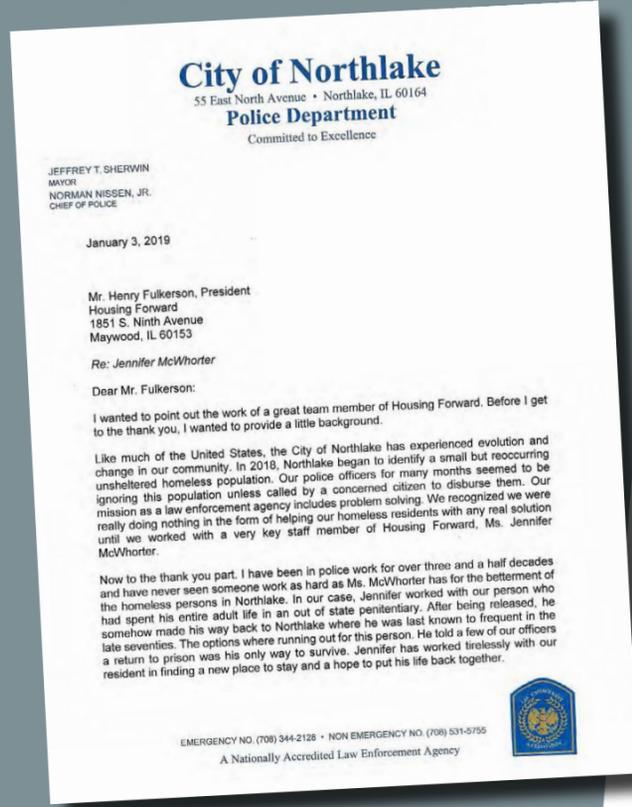
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Christopher Watson
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Walter Pietryga
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Bill Clark and Sue Tresselt Clark
Jerry Daley
Jasmine & Amani Dola
Rick Easty
St. Edmund
Jim Gillespie
Asher Gottlieb
Patrick Herron
David Hill
We make every effort to properly recognize the donors who so generously support our mission with monetary gifts of \$100 or more in FY2018. For a complete list of donors, please visit our website.
If you find an error or omission, please accept our sincere apologies and contact our Development staff so we can correct our records.

*Denotes monthly donor

CHANGING OUTCOMES

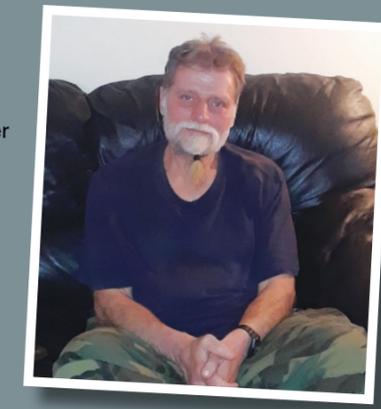


Have you ever encountered someone living on the street and wondered how you can make a difference? You can—especially if you have the right contacts.

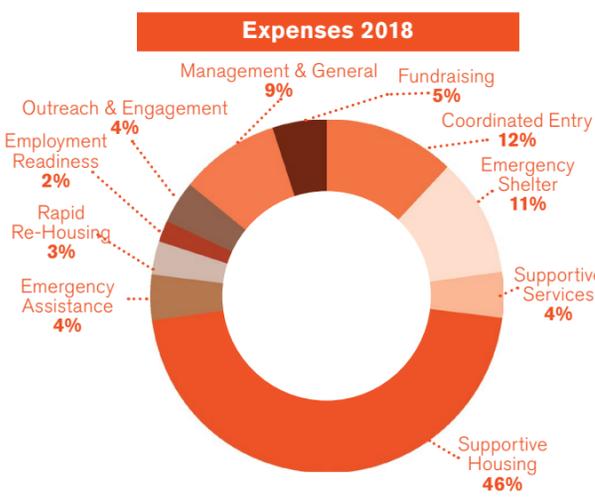
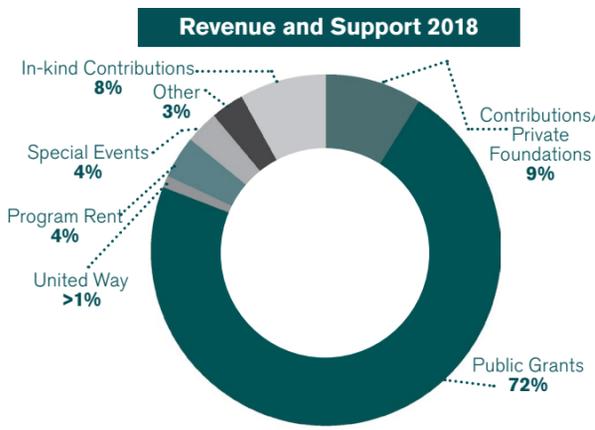


The Housing Forward Outreach and Engagement Team connects the most vulnerable individuals living on the streets with resources.

Last winter, Engagement Specialist Jennifer McWhorter received a call from a Northlake police officer about a man who was living in a parking lot. Residents had filed complaints, but since it is not illegal to be homeless in Illinois, it wasn't clear what to do. No crime had been committed, but very often that man, whose name Jennifer learned was Jeffrey, would get very, very drunk. After she was able to earn his trust, she learned Jeffrey usually drank intentionally until passing out as a way to make it through the longest, coldest nights. She also discovered he suffered from several



health issues, and was not regularly taking prescribed medications to control seizures. "I enjoyed working with Jeffrey," says Jennifer. "He taught me how to see things through his eyes, and act with a more compassionate heart. I didn't see a homeless man, I saw a human being and treated him how he deserved to be treated all along." Jeffrey was assigned a case manager and is now living in his own apartment, which was furnished with a House to Home Kit donated by our supporters. After he moved in, the Northlake Chief of Police and members of his department came to meet our staff to learn how they can better help those who are experiencing a housing crisis. He also sent a letter praising Jennifer and her intervention. "Jennifer worked with our person who had spent his entire adult life in an out of state penitentiary. The options were running out for this person. He told a few of our officers a return to prison was his only way to survive," he said. "I have a good idea what would have happened if Jennifer McWhorter, on behalf of Housing Forward, hadn't stepped in. We avoided a person returning to prison and probably someone from being a crime victim in Northlake."



Financial Summary January 1–December 31, 2018		Statement of Activities	
	2018	2017	
Revenue and Support			
Contributions/Private Foundations	\$ 657,911	\$ 902,827	
Government	5,210,539	4,705,831	
United Way	45,618	52,600	
Special Events	310,764	241,304	
Program Rent	193,167	145,895	
Other	189,659	187,929	
In-kind Contributions	607,794	456,043	
Total Public Support	\$ 7,216,508	\$ 6,692,429	
Expenses			
Coordinated Entry	\$ 849,485	\$ 851,404	
Emergency Shelter	780,054	597,242	
Supportive Services	319,157	258,724	
Supportive Housing	3,361,500	2,956,433	
Emergency Assistance	323,810	324,788	
Rapid Re-Housing	229,718	440,439	
Employment Readiness	140,216	162,432	
Outreach & Engagement	301,809	312,641	
Management & General	733,175	452,066	
Fundraising	340,699	323,350	
Total Expenses	\$ 7,379,623	\$ 6,679,155	
Change in Net Assets	\$ (163,115)	\$ 13,274	
Beginning of year	\$ 751,021	\$ 737,747	
End of year	\$ 587,906	\$ 751,021	

Note: Financial summary was condensed from an independent auditor's report conducted by Dugan & Lopatka. To request a copy, please contact our Director of Finance & Administration at (708) 338-1724 ext. 263.

soh-jurner;
a person who resides
in a place temporarily



Excitement is building for SOJOURNER HOUSE.
The first dedicated "bridge housing" in suburban Cook County serving vulnerable men, women and families who are experiencing homelessness, is set to open August 2019.

This unique, ground-breaking service model is currently under development, and is designed to:

- Keep families together with short-term stable housing until a permanent solution is identified.
- Serve as an alternative to the PADS Shelter for people with mobility challenges. Plans are underway to build an accessible ramp.
- Provide a temporary residence while recovering from medical treatment.

SOJOURNER HOUSE will be located at 324 N. Austin Blvd. in Oak Park and features 5 separate apartments and a detached coach house providing temporary housing (up to 90 days) for 6 households. Referrals will come from our community partners. Homeless patients needing medical respite will be referred by Loyola Medical/ MacNeal Hospital.

LOOKING AHEAD

We need your support!
To learn more, and donate, visit www.housingforward.org/SojournerHouse.