

# JOURNEYS

## THE ROAD HOME<sup>SM</sup>

# August 2018

Providing shelter and services to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in suburban Cook County.

## Shared Community, Shared Problems, Shared Solutions

A message from Beth Nabors, Executive Director

JOURNEYS has always held the belief that for our organization to create lasting solutions for the social problems of homelessness and poverty in the northwest suburbs of Cook County, we need to coordinate our efforts and work together around a clearly defined goal. This approach is known as collective impact.

JOURNEYS has been operating in this way long before it had a name. JOURNEYS has engaged in collaborative and independent action aligned with those goals since the agency's inception. We continue our focus on the collective goals of our community, our client base and our strategic partnerships. We share accountability and serve as a backbone for our region.

The community recognizes JOURNEYS for sharing their vision for social change that includes a common understanding and a joint approach to finding solutions. JOURNEYS is consistently chosen as the charity that will accomplish the goals of our shared community – and accomplish those with efficiency, expertise and compassion.

Our success is reflective in the 2,500 strong volunteer team of warriors for change! Our success is reflective of the 160+ people we housed last year. We get consistent feedback that we need to “keep on keeping on” because our community is strengthening. We are making a dent in ending homelessness and stabilizing lives on a daily process.



**Beth Nabors**  
Executive Director

JOURNEYS has grown in leaps and bounds because the need continues to grow and the community asked us to respond. Sadly, the need for JOURNEYS to expand continues. For the first time in the almost 30 years since JOURNEYS began serving those in need, we have had to run a lottery system for our shelter program due to being at capacity.

If you haven't joined the JOURNEYS family by gifting us of your time, talent or treasure please consider doing so as we gear up for another year of meeting the community's needs. Stay tuned...we will continue to change lives and we invite you to be part of it!

Inside this edition of the JOURNEYS Newsletter:

- Summer PADS Impact
- Making a Difference
- Board Spotlight
- Corporate Spotlight
- Annual Meeting
- Hometown Hero
- Connect with JOURNEYS
- It Takes a Community
- Get Involved

# Summer PADS Impact

With the success of the Summer PADS Pilot Program last year, this season's goal was to grow. We were incredibly blessed to have two sites added, taking us to a total of 5 nights available. The impact of this program's success has been immense for our clients.

## Carol's Story

For over 15 years Carol and her son have both been on disability. After her son's tragic car accident, she found a way to sustain them both by becoming his care taker. Unexpectedly, social security said she owed them money based on her income, causing her to quickly fall into debt, and subsequently onto the streets.

After navigating Chicago shelters for nearly a year, Carol and her son found their way back to the suburbs and into the care of JOURNEYS. She was relieved to learn our summer shelters would be able to keep them together, while JOURNEYS worked to find them housing. When an option finally came through, Carol had to turn it down due to the location. She tried finding options herself but kept getting rejected because of her income level.



Carol continued using our shelters for the full 5 nights a week as her disability made her top priority for the shelter lottery. On the days without a site open, she often slept at the train station. She was thankful for those nights in PADS as they made her feel safe, especially as a woman. As we cross over to the last half of the season, Carol has some good news: her son was able to move out of state, establish himself, and find a house.

When the going first got tough, Carol and her son told themselves they'd be out of homelessness in 2 years. In June, Carol moved in with her son less than a week before her goal. Despite her struggles, she still finds positivity thanks to the support she experienced in our Summer Program, "I learned that I'm stronger than I thought I was," she says.

## Brittany's Story

Brittany had been homeless once before a long time ago, but in the Chicago system. This time, she was in the middle of living her dream of being surrounded by beautiful homes, families, and nature out in the suburbs. Last year she unexpectedly lost her job, and not long after, her housing.

She was referred to JOURNEYS last year just as Summer PADS ended. She had been spending nights sleeping in her car but was frustrated with the lack of safe places to park where the police wouldn't come tapping on her window. Her first night in Summer PADS was emotional. The hot food, showers, laundry, and even a TV were more than she expected after her experiences in Chicago. She was speechless and grateful. "We were almost treated like royalty, considering" she claims, "It was the next best thing to having a place of your own."

This season, Brittany remains in PADS, but sees the light at the end of the tunnel. Our Summer Program gave her the safety and security she needed to study up and pass her licensing exam to practice massage therapy. Now she's waiting for that license so she can begin job searching. Brittany says the support of PADS, her faith, and the inspiration she finds in this community has kept her going. She is excited for the future and for the chance to rebuild her life here.



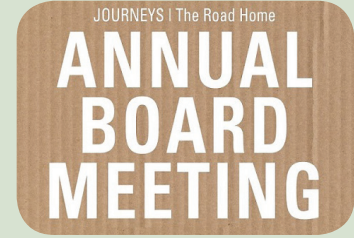
# Making a Difference



In May, Assistant Director of **Palatine Library** Melissa Gardner came to the HOPE Center with a new initiative: a cart of free books for our clients. The purpose was to bring a bit of the library to those who may not be able to physically make it there themselves. During the launch at the Center, one client spoke up and caught Melissa's attention.

She informed Melissa that she didn't feel JOURNEYS clients were treated fairly by the library. Their library cards had limited access, and it'd be nice if they had the same privileges as other residents. Melissa took their conversation to heart, and after a few sleepless nights trying to figure out a solution, she presented a new policy idea to the library board. Unanimously, the change was approved.

Starting this summer, clients of JOURNEYS will receive full access to all of the library's resources, and the same privileges as any other Palatine Library patron. The dialogue between Melissa and our client was brief and maybe seemed insignificant at the time, but to our client's surprise, she made a difference by speaking up, and changed an entire policy for the rest of our clients. Both JOURNEYS and Palatine Library are incredibly proud to announce this new partnership and look forward to what the future holds!



**JOIN US!**

**What: Annual Meeting**  
**Where: JOURNEYS | The Road Home**  
**When: August 21st at 6:30pm**

We will report on last year's fiscal and client numbers as well as upcoming news and goals!

Please **RSVP** at [annualmeeting@journeystheroadhome.org](mailto:annualmeeting@journeystheroadhome.org) to let us know if you will be attending.

# It Takes a Community

*A heartfelt thanks to everyone who supports JOURNEYS through time, talents and treasures. You are truly selfless, giving, passionate and dedicated.*

**Allstate** employees collected over 2,000 pairs of socks for our clients!



**Miss Teen Illinois** held a period drive for us and collected over 600 pads and tampons!



**National Night Out** is on **August 7th!** Come see JOURNEYS at North School Park in Arlington Heights!

**Over 60 volunteers & staff and 334 runners** helped to make the Superhero 5K on June 16<sup>th</sup> the largest to date!



[www.journeystheroadhome.org](http://www.journeystheroadhome.org)

# Corporate Spotlight

## Keller Williams Realty

Long-time neighbor **Keller Williams Premium Partners** decided this year to include JOURNEYS in their annual RED Day activities. RED stands for renew, energize, and donate and the event is recognized on the second Thursday of May. During their time at JOURNEYS, they reorganized our clothing closet, food pantry, and spruced up our entrance with some freshly planted flower boxes, as well as raised money in the days leading up to their event! We were blown away by their enthusiasm and wowed by their work once they were all done.

But that's not all— the next week, employees surprised us when they stopped by with boxed lunches for our clients! We are incredibly grateful for their generosity and dedication to being great neighbors! We are proud to call them a JOURNEYS Corporate Ambassador and welcome them to our family!



## Bid for HOPE

*You're Invited*  
to attend the annual Bid for HOPE Gala

Friday | November 9  
The Meadows Club

Table of 10 | \$1,600  
Table of 8 | \$1,280  
Individual Tickets \$175

Contact Emily Labeledz at [e.labeledz@journeystheroadhome.org](mailto:e.labeledz@journeystheroadhome.org)  
or 847-963-9162 x116 for sponsorship opportunities



## Connect with JOURNEYS

Stay up to date  
with the latest  
JOURNEYS news



### MAKING A DONATION TO JOURNEYS IS SIMPLE

Make a secure donation  
**ONLINE** at  
[www.journeystheroadhome.org](http://www.journeystheroadhome.org)

**MAIL OR IN PERSON**  
JOURNEYS | The Road Home  
1140 E Northwest Highway  
Palatine, Illinois 60074

**PHONE**  
Call 847-963-9163 x116

# Board of Directors Spotlight

## Fernando Egea Board President

Fernando has been on JOURNEYS' board since 2014 and served as Board President for the last 2 years. His day job is IT Program Manager, at Abbott Laboratories



### **What about JOURNEYS caught your interest and why did you decide to get involved?**

I had been volunteering with PADS and kept asking "Who organizes all of this?" My curiosity led me to JOURNEYS where I kept asking more questions, wanting to know more. Seeing the incredible work and the opportunities, I was finally brought onto the Board by [Outgoing Board President] Burt Jensen.

### **What do you enjoy most about working with JOURNEYS?**

I love working and interacting with the JOURNEYS staff. I have never seen people so passionate and so dedicated to their work. The culture they have created is like none I have seen. I want to be a part of it.

*"I love doing what I do and don't count the years. I just keep going."*

### **What is something you've learned from your time on the board?**

I have learned just how pervasive the problem of homelessness is in our community. Walking into the Hope Center, the number in my head was what I saw at PADS (30-40 people). Learning the reality shook me to the point where I thought, "What can we possibly do?" But then I started learning about the all work done by the staff and their responsiveness to the clients' needs.

### **Is there a particularly memorable experience from your time with us you could share?**

A couple of years ago, I found out that a client died from an illness that could have been prevented. I knew him from PADS and talked to him many times. This hit home. Something we take for granted-- the ability to remedy a simple illness--killed a friend. We have the ability to prevent this from occurring again, so I tasked myself and the board on figuring this out. **Now we have a plan and we are acting! I can't say more, but stay tuned, good things are coming!**

## Hometown Hero



JOURNEYS was incredibly excited to learn that we had a TV celebrity living right in our community! **Tavares Chambliss, aka the Neon Ninja**, grew up in Wheeling, lives in Palatine, and is known for his appearances on the show American Ninja Warrior (seasons 7 & 10). In May, we reached out to see if he'd be interested in getting involved with our Superhero 5K and we ended up getting much more than we bargained for.

Tavares came into our HOPE Center to get a tour a few weeks before the race. It was then we found out being a hero for the homeless was literally in his blood. Growing up, his mom was extremely philanthropic and took Tavares on outings to shelters and homeless camps where she handed out care packages judgement-free. Tavares was moved by their reactions and his own misconceptions of what it meant to be homeless or in need. He was thrilled when we contacted him because this was his chance to continue the legacy of his mom, who had recently been forced to pause her work due to health reasons.

Our Superhero 5K was a hit with the Neon Ninja present, as he raced around on his golden hoverboard and kept spirits high despite the extreme heat! We were honored to have him there and are elated that both Tavares and his mother have plans in place to get more involved with JOURNEYS. **In our opinion, the Neon Ninja is a true hometown hero!**



## Volunteer Orientation Schedule Fall 2018

All orientations are held at  
JOURNEYS | The Road Home

\*No registration required\*

DATE	TIME
Tuesday   August 7	6:30pm
Saturday   August 18	10:00am
Wednesday   August 29	6:30pm
Thursday   September 6	6:30pm
Wednesday   September 12	6:30pm
Saturday   September 22	10:00am
Thursday   September 27	6:30pm
Tuesday   October 2	6:30pm
Wednesday   October 10	6:30pm
Saturday   October 20	10:00am
Monday   October 29	6:30pm



1140 East Northwest Highway | Palatine | Illinois 60074



# NEWS

## JOURNEYS | The Road Home

1140 East Northwest Highway | Palatine | Illinois 60074

Phone 847 963 9163 | Fax 847 963 9120

Hours 7:30am-4:00pm | Monday-Friday

Connect with us!  |  | 

### Board of Directors

Fernando Egea | President  
Burt Jensen | Outgoing President  
John Kenney | Vice President  
Norene Rolenitus | Secretary/Treasurer

Margaret Brueck  
Lorenzo DeLeon  
Anton Duvall  
Kurt Knuth  
Beth Nabors  
Shari Rabin  
Caroline Starr  
Christine Svenson  
Melissa Swartz

### Advisory Board

Fr. Corey Brost  
Katie Ford  
Steve Griffin  
Paul Heinze  
Alan Stoeckel

### Staff

Beth Nabors | *Executive Director*  
Todd Stull | *Clinical Director*  
Suzanne Ploger | *Development Director*  
Jon Rapp | *HOPE Center Manager*  
Carol Marie O'Marrah | *Shelter Manager*  
Emily Labeledz | *Development Associate*  
Erica Whelan | *Grants Manager*  
Shaina Makani | *Database Specialist*  
Michelle Dubil | *Housing Case Manager*  
Kelly Kucharski | *Case Manager*  
Nicole Harris | *Case Manager*  
Vel Jackson | *Transportation & Facilities Manager*  
Al Schmelter | *Accountant*  
Pete Florio | *Driver*  
Sue Nelson | *Driver*  
Kelly Gordon | *Driver*  
Ray Chlopek | *Custodian*



## Upcoming Events!

**ANNUAL BOARD MEETING**

**Annual Meeting**

Tuesday, August 21, 2018



**Bid for HOPE**

Friday, November 9, 2018

The Meadows Club

DETAILS INSIDE!



United Way of Metro Chicago

