

JOURNEYS

THE ROAD HOMESM

February 2018

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

JOURNEYS Growth

A message from Beth Nabors, Executive Director

Serving the most fragile among us continues to be a challenge. It has been imperative for JOURNEYS | The Road Home to thrive and grow in this very uncertain economic environment because the need for our services and resources continues to increase.

At JOURNEYS, we have learned to master the art of adaptation. We have been able to easily respond to environmental changes by engaging creative solutions. We have nurtured our corporate, non-profit and civic networks, inspired volunteers, and shared leadership. Establishing and engaging in peer and community networks helps us share ideas and resources, rally others to join our cause, and coordinate actions to achieve greater impact. Additionally, a focus on affirming and refining our agency's purpose has helped us know what's happening outside our organization.

JOURNEYS has taken this year to continuously evaluate our progress and develop plans to improve or adapt. These practices have proven to be a crucial component for our growth. JOURNEYS has also utilized this past year to focus on infrastructure development which was essential for sustainable growth. We hired new staff, we increased training opportunities and we engaged in best practices. JOURNEYS is proud to share that we strengthened our board by recruiting additional members with purpose and passion. Governance strengthening, continual communication, and seeking external advisors/mentors has been pivotal for our growth.



Beth Nabors
Executive Director

JOURNEYS must be stable so that we can stabilize lives. Thank you so much to our community of supporters. Without you and your commitment to helping your neighbors who are struggling, we could not do what we do. JOURNEYS | The Road Home promises you that we will continue to be the agency to meet your community's needs.

Thank you for believing in us!

Inside this edition of the JOURNEYS Newsletter:

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- Vocational Program

Vocational Program Success

Case Manager Kevin Mathew has been hard at work getting clients connected with jobs.

Since August 2017:

- 3 Job Fairs
- 18 Clients secured jobs
- 3 awaiting responses

Since Kevin started his role at JOURNEYS last August, he's already seen major victories in the vocational program. This past month, he hosted the most successful job fair to date. "The job fairs are really important since many of the clients at the agency have difficulties with transportation and it gives the clients a better chance for a job opportunity since they are meeting with a recruiter face to face," says Kevin. Local partnerships have also resulted in employees coming to volunteer with JOURNEYS.

"I do not provide a list of various jobs and tell the clients to apply to one of the jobs. I meet with clients to assess if they are job ready, their strengths, and I ask the client about which job field they are interested in. I want clients not only to obtain job opportunities but I want them to obtain job opportunities that they enjoy and that could potentially lead them to a career."

His most memorable success story came out of a hiring event he found on LinkedIn for Whole Foods after they were bought out by Amazon: "Social media and job boards have been very beneficial for me to find out about hiring days and other job opportunities in the area."

With the success of job fairs, the goal is to hold more throughout the year. Kevin also has plans to spread the word and forge more partnerships with local businesses looking to hire. He's hoping businesses will also become interested in the program and come to JOURNEYS directly with opportunities for our clients. It's important to grow and maintain these relationships within the community, "Every partnership provides the clients with a greater chance to obtain a job opportunity."



Current Partnerships:

- First Student
- Taking Care of Our Seniors
- Northwest Community Healthcare

If you would like more information, or know of an opportunity to share with our clients, contact Kevin Mathew at 847-963-9163 x119 or email at k.mathew@journeystheroadhome.org

Your Support in Action

From volunteers, to the persistence of our case managers, our new vocational program, and the kindness and generosity of this community, we were able to get Julia and her family not only out of homelessness, but also out of unemployment.

Julia walked into the JOURNEYS office on a chilly spring day, determined. She looked everyone straight in the eye. She had to – her kids all looked to her for answers. Her husband Peter was with her. He was tall, husky, and much more soft-spoken. The two of them were a dynamic partnership.

Julia got straight to business when she sat down with her Case Manager. Her family was street homeless and needed our shelter. As with many of the families that come in, few vacancies are available for renters with spotty credit.

Months earlier, Julia's family had lost their apartment because Julia's temporary job had not gone permanent. The family got behind on payments to a couple creditors, their credit score dipped, and the apartment would not renew their lease. Instead, they stayed at hotels and with family.

However, family could only allow them to stay for a limited time before they risked the ire of their own landlords. Julia and Peter had a plan. They would use the shelter while Peter continued to work full-time, overnights, for minimum wage and Julia would find a full-time position. They would try to save money and stay current with their debt. In turn, this would raise their credit score enough that they would find a landlord willing to rent to them.

Case Managers immediately started searching for an affordable two-bedroom apartment. This was a difficult but not impossible task. Affordable two-bedrooms are rare in the northwest suburbs. The family started using the HOPE Center for clothing, food, showers, and laundry. Julia's Case Manager worked with the Department of Human Services to expedite Julia's food stamp and medical insurance application so the kids never went hungry and had access to healthcare.

Multiple pillars of social support make it more likely that a family will succeed in getting out of homelessness.

Next, the Case Managers facilitated Julia and Peter's connection with a local faith community. For many of our clients, faith is an integral support that helps them cope with being without a home. After a month, the faith-community offered a gift. They would connect the family with a month to month apartment lease through a parishioner who was out of the country. Case workers advocated heavily to the kids' school social workers to get the transportation situation straightened out. Shortly after things got settled, our contact with the family became limited.

Then October arrived, and the parishioner subletting the apartment returned to the U.S. and the family had to move out. This brought them back to JOURNEYS.

Sometimes, families move out on their own with just one assist from JOURNEYS. Other times, it takes a bit longer. Once the family came back to JOURNEYS, Case Managers established two priorities: find a job, and find housing. Our new vocational case manager worked with Julia to get her placed into a position with a local warehouse. The other Case Managers identified a local landlord interested in renting to them. With JOURNEYS coaching, the family aced the rental application.

Within the space of a month and a half, Julia had a new full-time job through a lead offered by a JOURNEYS volunteer, and the family moved into a nice and reasonably priced apartment. Everyone involved was excited. JOURNEYS, as always, was a consistent and stable force that helped the family negotiate the challenges on their path to permanent housing.



Young Professionals Board

Dedicated members volunteer their job skills and free time to help fundraise for JOURNEYS, and add depth to their careers.

Founded in 2016, Young Professionals Board started with only a few members and one mission: support the work of JOURNEYS through outreach, building awareness, and fundraising. Now, they are comprised of over 10 members ages 21-39 who are looking to make a difference in their community using the same skills that have built their careers. YPB President Melissa Swartz says she loves working with the group: "I feel like I'm having a positive influence in my community. The YPB is a great group of enthusiastic and passionate people who are dedicated to helping others."

With its uptick in membership, the group has been able to really get creative with their fundraising. Last year they held 2 dine & share events, began taking part in JOURNEYS' Superhero 5K, and even partnered with JP Wood Martial Arts to hold a Women's Self Defense Seminar that brought in more than \$400. This year they are hoping to increase membership and organize more drives and fundraisers, as well as forge more partnerships with local businesses.

If you are between the ages of 21 and 39 and want to make a difference with JOURNEYS as well as add experience and depth to your career, YPB accepts rolling applications and members must be able to attend events and monthly meetings. Email Emily Labeledz at e.labeledz@journeystheroadhome.org for more information and be sure to follow us on Facebook for current happenings!



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD

JOIN US!

For more information contact
Emily Labeledz at
847-963-9163 x116

Connect with JOURNEYS

Upcoming Events

Sponsorship opportunities available for both events.
Visit the Events Page on our website for more information.



Women's Luncheon
Garden of Giving
Wednesday, April 18th
Inverness Golf Club
Event Chairs
Sharon Griffin & Mary Baur



Superhero 5K Run/Walk
Saturday, June 16th
Downtown Palatine
Event Chairs
Katie Ford & Shari Rabin

Stay up to date with the latest JOURNEYS news



Like us on **Facebook** for updates and all of the local drives and collections in the area!

Visit the **News** tab on our website to stay up to date with the latest articles about JOURNEYS!

Sign up at on our website to receive our monthly e-newsletter **JOURNEYS Journal**

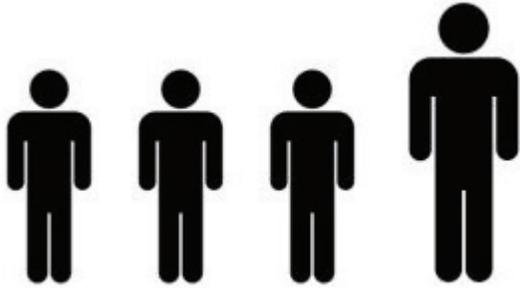
MAKING A DONATION TO JOURNEYS IS SIMPLE

Make a secure donation
ONLINE at
www.journeystheroadhome.org

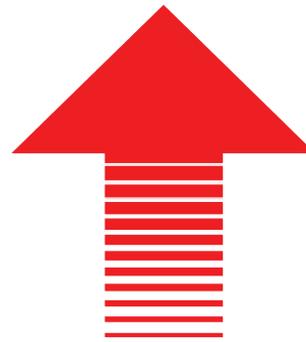
MAIL OR IN PERSON
JOURNEYS | The Road Home
1140 E Northwest Highway
Palatine | Illinois 60074

PHONE
Call 847-963-9163 x116

In this year...

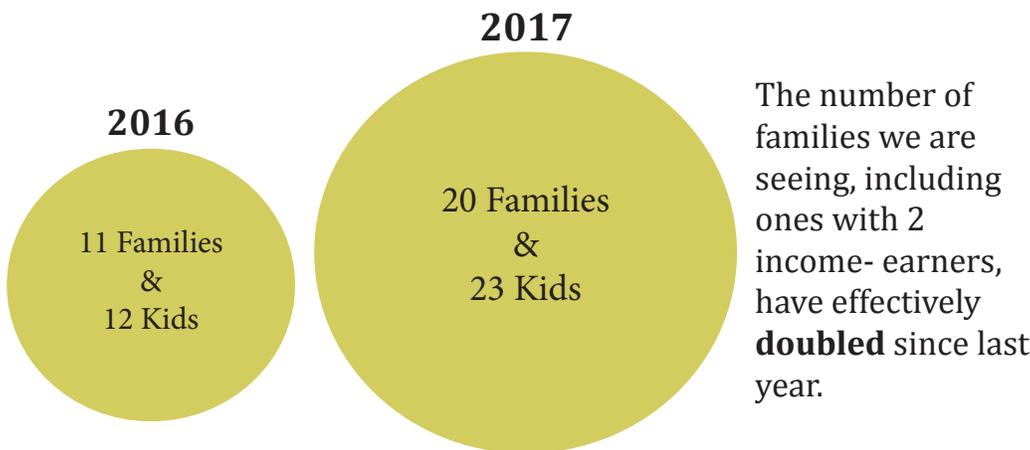


Every **4th person** to use PADS is new compared to last year.



Case managers have been seeing close to **90 clients a day**, and have broken our daily record multiple times.

...the Shelters have never been busier.



The number of families we are seeing, including ones with 2 income- earners, have effectively **doubled** since last year.



Summer PADS

This winter, we have seen a **23/% increase** in the number of PADS clients. With this in mind, we are once again opening sites this summer to accomodate the growing need. Below are the sites for this year. To volunteer, attend one of our volunteer sessions!

Summer PADS Sites:

Tuesday
Kingswood United
Methodist Church
Buffalo Grove

Wednesday
Lutheran Church of the
Good Shepherd
Prospect Heights

Thursday
Church of the Incarnation
Arlington Heights

NEW site this year!

Saturday
St. Colette's
Rolling Meadows

For more information, contact our Volunteer Coordinator,
volunteer@journeystheroadhome.org or 847-963-9163 x121

www.journeystheroadhome.org

Call for Volunteers!

The HOPE Center is
open Monday-Friday
&
Summer PADS Season
begins in May

Orientation Schedule Spring/Summer 2018

All Orientations are held at
JOURNEYS | The Road Home
No registration required

DATE	TIME
Wednesday February 7	6:30pm
Saturday February 17	10:00am
Tuesday February 27	6:30pm
Tuesday March 6	6:30pm
Thursday March 15	6:30pm
Saturday March 24	10:00am
Wednesday April 4	6:30pm
Saturday April 14	10:00am
Tuesday April 24	6:30pm
Thursday May 3	6:30pm
Saturday May 19	10:00am
Tuesday May 22	6:30am



NEWS

JOURNEYS | The Road Home

1140 East Northwest Highway | Palatine | Illinois 60074
Phone 847 963 9163 | Fax 847 963 9120
Hours 7:30am-4pm | Monday-Friday

Connect with us!  |  | 

Board of Directors

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

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Lorenzo De Leon
Katie Ford
Steve Griffin
Kurt Knuth
Beth Nabors
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Caroline Starr
Alan Stoeckel

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Paul Heinze

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Suzanne Ploger | *Development Director*
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Bill Decker | *Grant Writer*
Erica Whelan | *Grant Writer*
Shaina Makani | *Database Specialist*
Emily Labeledz | *Development Associate*
Kevin Mathew | *Vocational Case Manager*
Michelle Dubil | *Housing Case Manager*
Nicole Harris | *Case Manager*
Velma Jackson | *Transportation & Facilities Manager*
Al Schmelter | *Bookkeeper*
Pete Florio | *Driver*
Sue Nelson | *Driver*
Kelly Gordon | *Driver*
Ray Chlopek | *Vocational Custodian*



Upcoming Events!



Palatine St. Patrick's Parade
Saturday, March 17, 2018
Downtown Palatine



Women's Luncheon
Wednesday, April 18, 2018
Inverness Golf Club



Superhero 5K
Saturday, June 16, 2018
Downtown Palatine

