

Franciscan Outreach

Fall 2018 Newsletter



A New Start After 18 Years of Living on the Streets



Robert Hayes is a Franciscan Outreach guest.

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Robert Hayes comes from a family of musicians. His father played back-up guitar for B.B. King and his brother is the legendary blues artist, Willie "The Touch" Hayes, who was inducted into the Chicago Blues Hall of Fame in 2014. Music is definitely part of Robert's DNA.

Music and family have always been a big part of Robert's life. He grew up on the West Side of Chicago with nine brothers and sisters. Although he struggled with a learning disability and dropped out of high school at 16, music became Robert's passion.

"I'm a self-taught musician," says Robert. "I learned how to read and write music on my own."

He took after his older brother, Willie, and became a drummer for a band when he was 18 years old.

"My first band was called 'The Shades of Black,'" remembers Robert. "It was an R&B band and we toured playing clubs like the Cotton Club in Chicago."

Touring with a band at such a young age exposed Robert to many negative influences.

"I got involved in drugs and the fast life," says Robert.

He got into trouble and ended up going to jail.

After he was released from jail, Robert's uncle invited him to play in a gospel quartet group in Indianapolis so he could get away from the fast life in Chicago.

He joined the group and toured with them as they played venues such as churches and colleges in and around Indianapolis, Louisville and Chicago.

"The group inspired my life," says Robert.

Gloria was the singer of the gospel quartet. She and Robert fell in love. At 24, Robert asked Gloria to marry him. They married in Indianapolis, started a family and later moved to Missouri.

Robert landed a position with the University of Missouri. He worked in the maintenance department and was a valued employee for nine years.

In 1989, Robert's life came to a halt when his wife, Gloria, died suddenly from a brain aneurysm.

"I still wake up from nightmares about Gloria's death," says Robert.

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A Message from Ed Jacob, Executive Director



Ed Jacob, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As you read in this Fall Newsletter, Franciscan Outreach is in the process of making some big changes that will result in significant growth opportunities for the organization. Central to these decisions made by the Franciscan Outreach Board of Directors is the ultimate goal of strengthening and expanding our programs and services to serve the needs of our city's most vulnerable neighbors.

The first change happened in July. We expanded our Shelter Program operations by opening a new shelter in the Pilsen neighborhood. (See article on p. 5) This new shelter is an innovative model that is the first of its kind in Chicago and the Midwest. This model is currently in operation in San Francisco and Seattle. It's designed to address the specific needs and concerns of men and women who are living in tent encampments and would like to transition to a more stable environment.

Over the summer, Franciscan Outreach worked with the City of Chicago to open this new, innovative shelter. We're working closely with street outreach workers from the Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) to build connections with people living in encampments and to inform them about the new facility and the opportunities available to them.

What makes this an innovative model is that it operates as a low-barrier facility. This means that it has fewer restrictions than a typical shelter. It's open 24x7 so people have the flexibility to come and go as they like. It allows people to bring their possessions and keep them in lockers and storage areas. People can stay at the facility with their partners. And, it even has a separate room for personal pets.

This newsletter features the story of Robert Hayes who has experienced homelessness over the last 18 years, living in encampments under Lower Wacker Drive. He was one of the first guests welcomed to our new shelter in Pilsen. (See article on p. 1) As you read the article, you get to know Robert's personal story. Like all of us, Robert has hopes and dreams. He's also someone who has had personal challenges that have gotten in the way of his ability to secure permanent housing.

At our new shelter, Robert has a safe place to sleep at night and three meals a day. He regularly meets with his case manager who's helping him to access the services and resources he needs to regain his stability and independence. Robert is on his way to becoming housing ready.

The second change for Franciscan Outreach is the sale of our building in Wicker Park. (See article on p. 6.) At

this location, known as the Marquard Center, we run our soup kitchen Monday through Friday. It's the location where many of our community volunteers serve dinner to our guests. Our guests also meet with case managers at this location and they have access to shower facilities, a laundry service and a mailing address. Our Full-Time Volunteer Program and our administrative office are also run out of this facility.

The decision to sell this building comes at a time where we are experiencing fewer guests accessing our services in Wicker Park, which has become increasingly gentrified since we first occupied this building in 1990. The Franciscan Outreach Board of Directors has decided to use funds from the sale of this building to reinvest in our shelter operations on the city's West Side. We are currently working on renovation plans for our largest shelter at 2715 West Harrison, which will allow us to strengthen and expand programs and services at this location.

The sale of the building will close this fall and we will lease back the property for three to four months during our transition to a new location, which has not yet been determined. We're working with each of our guests to help them with the changes. Our guests will have the opportunity to meet with their case managers at one of our other locations. We're also providing guests with the locations of soup kitchens within close proximity to Wicker Park.

These changes are exciting for Franciscan Outreach. We know that with the help of our supporters, we will be able to strengthen and expand our programs and services where the need is greatest. As we make these transitions, we'll need to rely on our dedicated community of volunteers in new ways. We appreciate your willingness to help us continue to serve our city's most vulnerable neighbors.

Attending our Helpings of Hope event is a great way to support Franciscan Outreach and the men and women we serve each day. (See article on p. 3) Don't miss this opportunity to start the 2018 holiday season in a meaningful way. It's on Thursday, November 8th. We have local chefs and restaurants providing their special dishes for you to taste. We also have the head brew master from Revolution Brewing who will be there to give you insights on the best local craft beer. And, there will be live entertainment and an Ultimate Tasting Raffle.

We are grateful for your continued support.

Ed Jacob





Provide Help and Hope to Our Neighbors in Need!

Join us at our 6th annual Helpings of Hope event on November 8th to begin the 2018 holiday season in a meaningful way! It's a great opportunity for you to have fun and also make a difference in the lives of men and women who are marginalized and homeless in Chicago.

This premiere tasting event gives all participants the chance to sample delicious signature dishes from local chefs and restaurants. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with chefs, learn from a Chicago brew master about the art of making craft beer, enjoy live music, and participate in an Ultimate Tasting Raffle.

More than 225 community members, philanthropic supporters and local businesses will participate in this event to raise awareness and support for the critical work Franciscan Outreach is doing to address the many challenges facing our Chicago neighbors in need. All proceeds from Helpings of Hope will benefit the guests of Franciscan Outreach.



To purchase tickets and for more information about the event, visit www.franoutreach.org/Helpings-of-Hope.

Helpings of Hope

Thursday, November 8, 2018
7 p.m.—10 p.m.

Salvage One
1840 W. Hubbard Street
Chicago, IL 60622

Tickets: \$100 in advance
\$125 at the door

For more information:
www.franoutreach.org/Helpings-of-Hope

Sponsorships Make an Impact

Sponsorship of Helpings of Hope will make a lasting impact in the lives of those in need. It's also a great way to bring together friends and colleagues.

Each year, organizations participate with staff members as a way to give back to the community and have a good time while enjoying amazing food. Each sponsorship level includes a group of tickets.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Laura Reilly at Laura@franoutreach.org or by calling 773-278-6724 x21.

(Continued from page 1)



Robert used to live under Lower Wacker Drive.

He moved back to Chicago with his children to care for his father who was a widower and struggled with a chronic health condition. While raising his children, Robert also drove his father to doctor's appointments, helped him shop and was there for his daily needs.

After his dad passed away and his kids were grown and moved out of the house, Robert started to play music again. He toured around the country looking for work. He played gigs in Atlanta and Pennsylvania but ended up back in Chicago.

Although he got work where he could selling newspapers and working at a butcher shop, Robert did not earn enough money to afford a place to live.

In 2000, Robert became homeless and ended up living on the streets over the next 18 years.

He lived in encampments with other individuals who were homeless under Lower Wacker Drive and above on Randolph and Lake Shore Drive. He slept out in the open with blankets covering him at night. During the day, he panhandled for money.

Over the years, living on the streets has taken its toll on Robert's health. He developed a chronic hip problem, which has developed into mobility issues. And, he has high blood pressure and a heart condition.

"I need to take care of my health," Robert says. "I've been denied Social Security Disability Insurance a couple of times."

Last July, as Robert navigated his life on the streets, an outreach team from the City of Chicago, which works in collaboration with Franciscan Outreach, approached him about a new facility where he would have a safe place to stay, be able to address his health needs and start to turn his life around. They invited him to con-

sider staying at Franciscan Outreach's new shelter in the Pilsen neighborhood.

Robert was one of the first guests at Franciscan Outreach's new, innovative shelter that opened in July, 2018. This is the first shelter of its kind in Chicago. It's a 24-hour, low-barrier facility that directly addresses the specific needs of men and women who are living in encampments on the streets. (See article on p. 5)

Working in partnership with the City of Chicago, Franciscan Outreach works closely with the city's outreach workers to build connections with people living in encampments and to encourage them to take a look at the new shelter and all the benefits it offers them.

People transitioning from the encampments to Franciscan Outreach's new shelter not only have a safe place to sleep at night, they receive three healthy meals each day, regular visits with a dedicated case manager, storage for their belongings, a place for a pet – if they have one, the ability to stay with a partner and access to the specialized services they need such as medical assistance, mental health counseling and substance use disorder treatment.

At the shelter, Robert meets with his case manager on a regular basis and takes advantage of the many programs and services available to him. For instance, he's working with an attorney through the Legal Council for Health Justice, a Franciscan Outreach community partner, who's helping Robert to get his Social Security Disability Insurance.

Part of what makes this new shelter unique, is the mutual respect the staff and guests have for each other. They're working together to make the new program a success. Each person plays a role in keeping the facility clean, safe and appropriate.



Robert meets regularly with his case manager.

Program Highlights

Innovative Shelter Opens in Pilsen

In July, Franciscan Outreach opened the first shelter in Chicago that is directly focused on the specific needs and concerns of men and women who are transitioning from living in tent encampments. This low-barrier facility is unlike any other shelter in Chicago.

Franciscan Outreach worked with the City of Chicago to open this new shelter. We work closely with the Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) street outreach workers to build connections with people living in encampments to better understand their specific needs and to encourage them to consider staying at the new shelter located in the Pilsen neighborhood at 1856 South Loomis.



Franciscan Outreach guest outside the new shelter.

This innovative shelter offers a stable environment that reduces the health and safety risks people have been exposed to while living outdoors. It also provides them with access to an array of programs, services and resources they need to gain stability and independence in their lives. People are able to meet regularly with a case manager who provides them with access to specialized services such as medical assistance, mental health counseling, substance use disorder treatment, legal assistance, support groups and job opportunities.

People who transition from living in encampments to the new shelter receive:

- 24-hour shelter access
- A safe place to sleep at night
- Three healthy meals each day
- A dedicated case manager
- Daily support services
- Storage bins for personal items
- A special room for personal pets
- Access to housing programs and other specialized services



The mural outside the new shelter.

Franciscan Outreach will continually assess the needs of people who are living in encampments. We're determined to offer an optimal living environment for people who would like to transition from encampments so they can access to the programs and services that will help them to find their path toward stability and self-sufficiency in their lives.

The location of this new shelter is the former site of the San Jose Obrero Mission that closed in February, 2018. The colorful and inspirational mural covering the outside of the building depicts a strong connection with the community.

We're grateful for the Resurrection Project and the City of Chicago for providing the ongoing support and commitment to preserving these much needed services in Pilsen.

Building Sale Allows for Program and Service Expansion

The Franciscan Outreach Board of Directors has made a strategic decision to sell the organization's property at 1645 W. LeMoyne, known as the Marquard Center, in order to reinvest in our shelter operations on Chicago's West Side and to strengthen and expand our programs and services where the need is greatest.

Franciscan Outreach has owned this property in Wicker Park since 1990 and over the years this area has become increasingly gentrified. In recent years, we have been serving fewer guests at this location.

Our reinvestment plans, include the renovation of our largest shelter at 2715 W Harrison to strengthen and expand the critical programs and services we provide to hundreds of men and women each day.



Franciscan Outreach shelter guest.

The Wicker Park building is under contract and the sale is scheduled to close this fall. We will lease back the building for three to four months to provide a smooth transition for the men and women who receive services at this location.

Over the next several months, we will continue to provide the same programs and services that are currently offered at this location, including the soup kitchen that provides dinner each week night and lunch two days per week, case management services each week day, shower facilities, laundry services and mail services.

We are currently meeting with each of our guests to help them transition to another Franciscan Outreach service site. We will also provide guests with access to alternate resources and locations that offer comparable services.

In addition to the programs and services offered to guests, this location is a popular site for Franciscan Outreach's community volunteers who serve dinner at our soup kitchen. Until the winter of 2019, when we move from this location, we will need community volunteers to continue to serve dinner at our soup kitchen. Community volunteers are always needed to serve dinner each night at our Harrison Street shelter.

Our Full-Time Volunteer Program is run out of this facility as well as our administrative office. We're currently reviewing options regarding a new space for this program and our offices.

These are exciting changes for Franciscan Outreach. We are dedicated to providing compassionate care and support to our most vulnerable neighbors. That's why we're taking this opportunity to reinvest in our West Side locations to strengthen and expand critical programs and services where the need is greatest.

(Continued from page 4)



Robert helps prepare meals at the new shelter.

"I can't work like I used to," says Robert. "But I do work at the shelter – cleaning the bathrooms and the kitchen." "We're all trying to get along together."

Now that he's in a more stable environment, Robert has been able to reconnect with his family. His oldest daughter is a U.S. Marine and has three children. His son is also a U.S. Marine and has two children. And, his youngest daughter is a Registered Nurse and has two children. He says that he's very proud of his children and happy for them.

Robert is also focused on his goals for the future, which include becoming housed. His Franciscan Outreach case manager has made certain that Robert is included in the city's Coordinated Entry System, which is the central database that connects people who are homeless to permanent housing.

Bringing music into his life is another extremely important goal for Robert. He says he's determined to "get back to his music." He spends time during the day writing songs in his notebook that he keeps on his bed. And, he reads inspirational books to keep a positive outlook.

When asked to describe the new Franciscan Outreach shelter, Robert says, "It's a beautiful program." "I thank God for it every day."

Make a Lasting Difference for Those in Need

There are a number of ways you can make a lasting difference in the lives of our Chicago neighbors in need. A gift, of any amount, can make a real impact in people's lives. Please consider making a contribution in one of the following ways:

- \$100** will provide safe shelter for the night for 10 people who are homeless.
- \$250** will help 6 people sign up for Social Security.
- \$500** will sponsor a bed for a year for one guest, including shelter, meals, and case management.
- \$1,000** provides showers for a month to those in need.
- \$1,500** will help 75 people with specialized services such as mental health support.
- \$2,500** will provide 7 newly housed guests with a Welcome Home Kit full of home essentials.
- \$3,000** will cover the cost of two new commercial refrigerators and a freezer at a deeply discounted rate for the new shelter in Pilsen.
- \$3,500** will support the Interim Housing Program for two months to help guest become housing ready.
- \$4,600** will cover the cost of a new industrial dryer for the shelter that will ensure the cleanliness of all 342 beds.
- \$5,000** will cover the cost to operate the Franciscan Outreach soup kitchen for one week.

Guest Wish List

We are always in need of basic supplies to give to our guests. The following "wish list" is composed of things that are most in need.

- ♦ Men and women's socks
- ♦ Full size bath towels
- ♦ Men's underwear - sizes: M, L, XL, 2X and 3X
- ♦ Women's underwear - sizes: M, L, XL, 2X and 3X
- ♦ Men's crew neck t-shirts - sizes: M, L, XL, 2X and 3X
- ♦ Gently used twin-size bed sheets
- ♦ Toiletry items, including toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, bar soap, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, moisturizer
- ♦ Single-use CTA cards
- ♦ Gift cards in small denominations (\$5, \$10, \$15, \$20) to Walgreens, Jewel or Marianos

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Laura Reilly at 773.278.6724 x 21 or laura@franoutreach.org

Stock Gifts Have Extra Benefits

Are you planning on making a donation to Franciscan Outreach in 2018? Please consider making it a gift of appreciated stock. There may be extra tax benefits for donors who donate stock they have owned for more than one year that has appreciated in value.

By transferring appreciated stock directly to Franciscan Outreach, instead of selling it outright, you could avoid costly capital gains taxes while taking an immediate tax deduction for the full market value of the stock.

Giving stock is easy and it can be immediately liquidated by Franciscan Outreach. For more information on how to give gifts of stock, contact Sharon Nelson at (773) 278-6724 x24 or sharon@franoutreach.org



Looking to Get Rid of a Used Car?

Your old car can help find a new home for someone who's homeless.

We need to drive our guests to interviews for housing opportunities.

If you'd like to donate your car, please call Sharon Nelson at 773-278-6724 x24.

Franciscan Outreach

1645 W. Le Moyne Street
Chicago, IL 60622



Our Mission

To provide shelter, food and help in building a better life, while affirming the human dignity of people in need in the Chicago area.

We are supported in part through grants from the Department of Family and Support Services, through the following funding streams: Corporate Funds, Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant, Aviation, and Parking Meter.

In accordance with the Federal Law and US Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the bases of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write the USDA, office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Bldg., 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD.) The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Please include Franciscan Outreach in your will or trust.

UPCOMING EVENT

Helpings of Hope

Thursday, November 8, 2018

7:00—10:00 p.m.

Salvage One | 1840 W. Hubbard

\$100 in advance; \$125 at the door

Interested in learning more about events and sponsorship opportunities at Franciscan Outreach? Please contact Laura Reilly, Development Director, at Laura@franoutreach.org or 773.278.6724x21

Franciscan Outreach provides people who are marginalized and homeless with the critical services they need to improve their lives. Through daily assistance, Franciscan Outreach helps hundreds of people access meals, shelter, housing and support services. It offers people guidance as they strive to gain stability, security and independence in their lives.

Franciscan Outreach Soup Kitchen

1645 West LeMoyne St.
773.278.6724

Franciscan House Shelter

2715 West Harrison St.
773.265.6683

Franciscan Annex Shelter

200 South Sacramento Blvd.
773.533.4595

Franciscan Outreach Shelter

1856 S. Loomis St.
312.536.6874

Franciscan Outreach Day Program

10 South Kedzie Ave.
312.746.5695

Franciscan Outreach Day Program

St. Peter's in the Loop
110 West Madison St.
312.628.1253



Administrative Office

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