

Franciscan Outreach

Spring 2018 Newsletter



Gratefulness = Six Years of Sobriety



Chuck is a guest of Franciscan Outreach.

March 13, 2018 marked six years of sobriety for Chuck. Today, he is grateful for the many improvements he has been able to make in his life. However, for Chuck, the path to becoming clean and sober was an extremely difficult one.

Chuck grew up in the Chicago suburb of Oak Lawn. He was raised with three older sisters. In 1982, he graduated from Marist High School, where he was enrolled in honors classes. And, he went on to study economics at Northern Illinois University's School of Business.

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It was in the mid-80s when Chuck was first diagnosed with a manic-depressive illness, known as bipolar disorder. He also suffered from a substance use disorder. In the beginning, he tried to manage these illnesses on his own. For years, he was employed at the Mercantile Exchange in building operations. He also worked as an apprentice electrician but had to go on medical leave in 2001 because of challenges with his bipolar disorder.

In 2002, Chuck's illnesses became even more difficult for him to manage and he ended up going to jail because of DUI charges. When he was released, he lived at a Chicago YMCA and was enrolled in a treatment program for substance use disorders.

"I have mental health challenges," says Chuck. "I was in and out of treatment programs. I was in and out of hospitals. But when my mom died in 2006, there was no sobering up after that."

Chuck's behavior became very unstable due to his mental health and substance use disorders. In 2011, he was kicked out of the YMCA and the treatment program in which he had been participating.

He ended up homeless and living on the streets.

"I slept behind Walgreens, in alleys, and behind bushes," says Chuck. "I slept on the steps of a church. I felt safe there." "If it rained, I was under a porch."

Chuck needed help. He went to St. Peter's Church in the Loop where Franciscan Outreach operates a case management office. Chuck met with case managers who helped him connect with the resources he needed.

"The case managers helped me to get my ID and get set up with a mailing address," says Chuck.

Chuck received his mail at the Franciscan Outreach facility in Wicker Park, where he also ate dinner at the soup kitchen with 100 other guests from the community. At this location, in addition to receiving his mail, Chuck had access to phones, shower facilities, and the only free laundry service for people who are homeless in Chicago.

He also met with case managers who encouraged him to stay at Franciscan Outreach's largest shelter on Chicago's West Side.

"At the shelter, I was glad to sleep inside on a mattress and take a hot shower," Chuck says. "I felt safe, warm and clean."

A Message from Ed Jacob, Executive Director



Ed Jacob, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Each of us is on our own personal journey in life. And, each segment of this journey leads us down a different path. Sometimes the experience on one path is positive, while another path presents us with difficult challenges.

When life's experiences are difficult to manage, most of us are fortunate to have the love and support from family and friends to help us through.

Most of our guests don't have a personal support system to help them through the tough times. That's why Franciscan Outreach exists. We're here to be that system of support to help men and women who are marginalized and homeless find their path toward stability and personal progress in their lives.

At Franciscan Outreach, we have five locations throughout Chicago, including two shelters, two day programs, and a soup kitchen. Each day, hundreds of men and women walk through the doors of these five service sites for any number of reasons.

Each person seeking assistance is considered a guest of Franciscan Outreach and is treated with dignity and respect. When people arrive at our door, they are first welcomed as guests and then we provide for their basic needs such as – food, shelter and clothing.

Most of our guests have been on a difficult path in life that has caused them pain and trauma. Their challenges have become barriers, preventing them from moving forward in their lives. Some of these challenges include the loss of a job and a home, a chronic medical condition, a mental health problem, a substance use disorder, a criminal background, and more.

Our case managers work with guests to address their personal challenges and help them develop a plan to gain stability in their lives. Guests receive help accessing the resources and benefits they need – like social security benefits, veterans benefits and legal services. They also receive employment assistance, job training, and access to support groups so they can build their skills and self-confidence.

Through our community partnerships, guests receive more specialized support such as primary health care, mental health services and substance use disorder treatment. At our largest shelter, we offer guests access to free medical assistance through our onsite health clinic that we operate in partnership with Rush University Medical Center.

We help our guests to become housing ready and transition into permanent supportive housing. Through our Interim Housing Program, participants meet weekly with their case managers, receive employment assistance and work on a part-time volunteer basis to gain new marketable skills.

We also offer the Streets-to-Home Initiative (STHI) Program (See article on p. 5). This program offers housing, intensive case management and group support to help participants transition into their own apartments.

The STHI is the same program that supports our guest, Chuck, who is featured in this newsletter (See article on p.1). Chuck first met with Franciscan Outreach case managers who helped him connect with the resources he needed to get on the path toward stability and personal progress in his life. Today, Chuck is in his own home and continues to receive case management and group support services. We're thrilled for Chuck because March 2018 marked six years of sobriety for him.

None of the life-changing work we do each day would be possible without the ongoing support from our volunteers. As April is National Volunteer month, we recognize the hard work and dedication of the hundreds of volunteers who serve our guests each day (See article on p. 6).

Please join us for our Spring Gala on May 3, 2018 at the elegant Drake hotel in Chicago (See article on p.3). We're honored to have DePaul University President A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD accept the Franciscan Outreach Community Impact Award on behalf of the outstanding work the university is doing to support underserved communities through its Community Engagement Program and Steans Center and through its Institute of Global Homelessness.

Thank you for your ongoing support. It's because of your commitment, that we're able to provide the critical support our guests need so they may find their own path toward stability and personal progress in their lives.

Together, we're making a difference.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Jacob'.

PS: On March 3, 2018, *The New York Times* featured the article by Benjamin Weiser, "A 'Bright Light,' Dimmed in the Shadows of Homelessness," which tells of the life journey of Nakesha Williams, a woman of promise who graduated from Williams College and who also struggled with mental illness and became homeless. It's well worth reading and can be found at www.nytimes.com/2018/03/03/nyregion/nyc-homeless-nakesha-mental-illness.html. If you get a chance to read it, please send me an e-mail with your thoughts at ed@franoutreach.org. Thank you.



Franciscan Outreach Awards DePaul University



A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD

DePaul University will be the recipient of the 2018 Franciscan Outreach Community Impact Award, which will be presented during the Franciscan Outreach Spring Gala on May 3 at the elegant Drake Hotel in Chicago. President A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD will receive the honor on behalf of DePaul University for the outstanding work it is doing through its Community Engagement Program and Steans Center, which offer community-based service learning opportunities for students and faculty to support local organizations within underserved communities; and through its Institute of Global Homelessness, which is working to end street homelessness around the world.

“Franciscan Outreach has experienced the good work and dedication of DePaul University students and faculty. Their work exemplifies the essence of the Franciscan Outreach Community Impact Award,” says Ed Jacob, Franciscan Outreach executive director.

The Franciscan Outreach Community Impact Award was established to recognize extraordinary individuals, organizations and institutions making significant contributions to help vulnerable people who are living in disadvantaged communities access the critical resources they need to improve their lives.

Franciscan Outreach Spring Gala

Thursday, May 3, 2018

The Drake, Chicago

Tickets \$180 each - \$1,800 table of 10

For more information, visit:
www.franoutreach.org/gala

To purchase tickets, or to sponsor the event, visit www.franoutreach.org/gala
or contact Laura Reilly, Development Director at 773.278.6724
or via email @ Laura@franoutreach.org

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Paul Guthrie, case manager, meets with Chuck.

At the shelter, Chuck was provided with a safe place to sleep, three nutritious meals a day, and a dedicated case manager. He also received access to the critical resources he needed for specialized services such as health care and mental health support.

Guests at the shelter receive free medical assistance through the on-site health clinic that Franciscan Outreach operates in partnership with Rush University Medical Center. In addition, counselors from Thresholds and the Chicago Recovery Alliance meet with guests individually and in support groups to address issues pertaining to mental health and substance use disorders.

However, Chuck's problems persisted until the day he will never forget. "On March 13, 2012, I woke up with my head on fire from drinking and drug use. I said 'Lord, I can't take this anymore.' I surrendered. I prayed that Franciscan Outreach would help me."

Chuck continued to meet with his case manager. And, it wasn't long until he received housing through the Franciscan Outreach Streets-to-Home Initiative Program. (See article on p. 5) This program provides guests with housing and support so they're able to gain more stability in their lives. Participants in this program meet weekly with their case managers and twice a month as a group for community meetings.

Chuck's life changed forever. He moved into his apartment in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood. He has Medicaid and Medicare so he is now able to take medication for his bipolar disorder and address other health-related issues. Chuck meets regularly with his case manager, Paul Guthrie, and twice monthly as a group for community meetings.

At the community meetings, Chuck and the other Streets-to-Home Initiative Program participants learn about a

number of topics that help them remain stable and self-reliant. The meetings focus on areas that include anger management, daily life skills, financial management, medication management, nutritional information, health issues, and more.

Paul, Chuck's case manager, facilitates the community meetings. He says that he comes up with relevant topics so the information he shares is useful to the participants in their daily lives.

"Through this program, participants get ongoing case management so they always have someone to talk to," says Paul. "They have an advocate."

Chuck enjoys the community meetings. "Paul always has something informative prepared." "When I get the handouts, I understand how to apply it to my life." "Paul says that we're like family."

Today, Chuck enjoys volunteering and giving back to his community. He's an usher at his church. And, he volunteers at a local soup kitchen twice a week.

"I'm so blessed. I went from being served at a soup kitchen to serving others at one," says Chuck. "It's amazing to be on the other side of life. I walk down the street and people don't know I used to be homeless."

The one thing that is never lost on Chuck is gratitude. He says, "I am grateful to God for everything I have." Chuck continues, "I am grateful for Franciscan Outreach. They helped to put a nice roof over my head and I have been sober ever since." "I am grateful to be sober."



Paul Guthrie facilitates the STHI community meeting.

Program Highlights

Streets-to-Home Initiative

Franciscan Outreach developed the Streets-to-Home Initiative (STHI) Program in 2006 to provide the opportunity for men and women who are homeless, and who have become housing ready, to move into secure, supportive housing. Through the STHI program, 43 vouchers are provided from the Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) to be used to subsidize single resident occupancy units (SRO) for program participants so they may transition into their own apartments. As part of the program, participants receive continuous individual and group support to help them gain stability in their lives.

Breaking Down Barriers

People who are experiencing homelessness are also experiencing challenges that are a direct result from trauma and other serious life circumstances, including the loss of a job and a home, a chronic medical condition, a mental health problem, a substance use disorder, a criminal background, and more. These challenges have become barriers for men and women as they strive to move forward with their lives.

Franciscan Outreach case managers work closely with STHI program participants to help them break down these barriers by providing them with access to the resources, services and benefits they need to improve their lives, including:

Employment Opportunities
Job Training Programs
Legal Services

Primary and Mental Health Services
Public Aid Resources
Retirement Benefits

Social Security Benefits
Substance Use Disorder Treatment
Veterans Benefits

Continuous Support

Through the STHI program, participants work closely with their case managers, meeting at least once per week, to set goals and work toward achieving those goals. Participants also gather as a group for biweekly community meetings. Although these community meetings are facilitated by a Franciscan Outreach case manager, they foster the development of positive, peer-group support systems.

The meetings cover such topics as:

Anger Management
Financial Management
Health Issues

Life Skills
Local Services
Relapse Prevention

Self Care
Meditation

Client Assistance Fund

Case managers maintain the Franciscan Outreach Client Assistance Fund to provide STHI participants with additional support when they need it. Case managers use this discretionary fund to provide STHI participants with transportation passes so they can travel to and from appointments and job interviews. Most often, participants going on a job interview will need proper attire, so case managers will use the fund to purchase appropriate clothing for them. In their new home, participants may need basic household items, this fund is used for the purchase of these household items. The fund is also used for rental assistance when participants need it.

Since the start of the STHI Program, 96 participants have moved from program housing into their own homes. This has been a 70 percent program success rate. With the ongoing support participants have received through the program, a majority have been able to maintain stability and move forward in their lives.



Case Manager, Vicki Ervin meets with STHI participant.

Serving Others During Volunteer Month and All Year Long

Volunteering is essential to the work of Franciscan Outreach. We're grateful to the hundreds of community volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to help us provide critical services to men and women who are marginalized and homeless each day. Although April is designated, National Volunteer Month, the Franciscan Outreach community of volunteers make a big difference in the lives of our Chicago neighbors in need all year long.

A Community of Volunteers

At Franciscan Outreach, we count on our compassionate community of volunteers for their invaluable commitment to the organization. Volunteers offer their services in a variety of ways, including serving meals to guests, organizing food pantry shelves, sorting donated items, providing support through group activities, assisting in our administrative offices, and working on beautification projects at our facilities.



Community volunteers serve Franciscan Outreach guests each day.

You Can Join Us!

Franciscan Outreach is fortunate to have a community of caring, hardworking volunteers who dedicate their time as individuals, with their families and friends, through church groups, corporations, and school groups.

We could not do the life-changing work we do without the help from our strong community of volunteers. Take a look at the different types of individuals and groups who volunteer at Franciscan Outreach. See if you might fit into any of the following categories:

Individuals – Many people are prompted to volunteer at Franciscan Outreach after seeing a homeless person in their community. People come in alone or with a family member or friend. They help out in any number of ways. We find that people contact us because they simply want to give back by spending time in service to those in need. Individual members of our volunteer community often leave with a feeling of satisfaction or are humbled by their volunteer experience.

Church groups – Franciscan Outreach has the great privilege to host more than 10 regular church groups. Some of these groups have been volunteering for more than 20 years. A majority of these groups also prepare the meals they will serve. Other church groups prepare meals and deliver them to be served by a different group of volunteers. Providing service to others and developing a community of fellowship are critical components of their volunteer experience.

Corporations – We have a growing number of corporate volunteer groups at Franciscan Outreach. Some corporations contact us to volunteer as a team-building exercise with their colleagues. Other companies volunteer as part of their corporate volunteer programs that they find help them increase employee engagement, improve the ability to recruit younger employees, and increase the company's visibility in the community. Corporate volunteer groups often bring along in-kind or monetary donations to aid in our service to the many men and women we support every day.

School groups – Many school groups contact us to help students obtain their service hours for the year. Once students spend a fulfilling day providing service to Franciscan Outreach guests, they often return with family or friends. Students must be 15 years old to volunteer individually. It's always great to hear that student volunteers enjoyed their service so much that they keep coming back.

Contact Us for More Information

For more information about joining our community of volunteers, visit www.franoutreach.org/part-time-volunteering or contact Jaime Smith at Jaime@franoutreach.org.

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 support the Interim Housing Program for two months to help guests become housing ready.
- \$3,500** will purchase a steel fire door for the shelter that will help keep guests safe and secure.
- \$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
- ◆ Women's underwear - sizes: S, M, L, 2X, 3X
- ◆ Men's underwear - sizes: M, L, XL, 2X
- ◆ Men's crew neck T-shirts - sizes: L, XL, 2X
- ◆ 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 Mariano's

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 EVENTS

Young Professional Board's Hops for the Homeless

Sunday, April 15, 2018
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Revolution Brewing
2323 N. Milwaukee Ave.
\$40 - Online & At Door

Spring Gala

Thursday, May 3, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
The Drake Hotel
140 East Walton Place
\$180 - Ticket; \$1,800 - Table/10
Online: www.franoutreach.org/gala

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

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 Street
773.278.6724

Franciscan House Shelter

2715 West Harrison Street
773.265.6683

Franciscan Annex Shelter

200 South Sacramento Blvd.
773.533.4595

Franciscan Outreach Day Program

10 South Kedzie
312.746.5695

Franciscan Outreach Day Program

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



Administrative Office

1645 West LeMoyne St.
Chicago, IL 60622
773.278.6724
www.franoutreach.org