



FRANCISCAN OUTREACH

Winter 2022



Organizational Update, James Kramer, Franciscan Outreach Board Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to thank our outgoing Executive Director, Richard Ducatzenzeiler, for his dedication, talent, and governance as Executive Director for the past three years.

It is my pleasure to introduce our newly appointed Executive Director, Robret Simpson, who comes to Franciscan Outreach with over 20 years of experience in organizational growth, strategic planning, capital building, and administration. With a passion for serving in organizations that uplift and enhance human capital and that grow and develop communities, we are grateful to have Robret as our visionary leader. We are excited to see where her leadership takes us! Welcome, Robret!



Message from Executive Director, Robret Simpson

"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope." (Pope Benedict XVI)

We hope this newsletter finds you having a joyous and meaningful Advent and holiday season! This month is a time of hope and goodness and an opportunity to renew our collective commitment to providing food, shelter, and comprehensive services for men and women experiencing homelessness.

I am honored to serve as the Executive Director for Franciscan Outreach. Our outgoing Executive Director, Richard Ducatzenzeiler, left our board of directors and staff with a path forward and I am excited to be part of the future of Franciscan Outreach.

Last year, thanks to your generosity, we provided the following services:

- Over 2,800 referrals for access to primary health care, mental health treatment, substance abuse counseling, and legal assistance
- Assisted over 200 guests to become housing-ready
- Conducted over 2,000 housing assessments
- Transitioned over 120 guests to permanent housing – 167% higher than the previous year's goal
- Participated in two Accelerated Moving Events, where we matched 75 guests with housing

Thank you to all who supported our Welcome Home Kits program, providing essential household items for our guests transitioning from homelessness to housing.

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GALA 2022, Honoring Our Past, Celebrating Our Future

Last month, we hosted our Gala, *Honoring Our Past, Celebrating Our Future*. The event raised over \$150,000 to support our mission and work, providing a path from help to hope to our neighbors in need. Many thanks to everyone that made our fundraiser a marvelous success!

With a grateful heart, we celebrated our Pandemic Heroes. Each of our honorees truly brought the meaning of "it takes a village" to life through action, care, and expertise. Without them, we could not have navigated the weekly, daily, hourly, and minute-by-minute challenges of COVID-19, and literally saved lives. Our organizational partners - the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS), Rush University Medical Center, and Lawndale Christian Health Center (LCHC) – and our courageous frontline staff. ***They are forever our Dream Team!***

It was also our utmost pleasure to honor our beloved friend, the late Phil Doran, whose contributions to Franciscan Outreach are too numerous to name! Phil was a man who gave generously from his heart - not to be recognized or even thanked - but for one reason: to make sure our neighbors in need have a safe place to sleep, healthy meals to eat, and access to essential services. He was truly his brother's and sister's keeper and continues to be our guiding star.



At Franciscan Outreach, we believe that thank you is the most important prayer we can say, not only during this season of gratitude, but every day. Our hearts are full for the gift you are to our guests who rely on our services when they have nowhere else to turn. Thank you for joining us in our work and believing in our mission, you are among our many blessings!

With every good wish,



Robret Simpson
Executive Director



SUPPORT OUR FUTURE

Unless otherwise specifically designated, all donations directly support general operations, including providing food, shelter, and care to people confronting homelessness. These services would not exist without your giving!
Donations made on or before December 31 are tax-deductible for 2022. <https://franoutreach.org/>



JOIN "TEAM FRANCISCAN OUTREACH"

Interested in running the 2023 Chicago Marathon? Please contact sally@franoutreach.org to secure your charity runner spot or scan the QR to the left!

Franciscan Outreach

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