YOU'RE

H.O.M.E.

WARMTH. CONNECTION. JOY.

Annual Report 2016
www.homeseniors.org
Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to share the results of the work you make possible with your generous support.

Aging is one of life’s passages, but for seniors with low incomes there can be many difficult challenges associated with it. For many of our residents and clients the $735 per month they receive from the Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment is their only means of support. It’s hard to understand that anyone can live in the City of Chicago on that amount of money.

But, that’s where H.O.M.E. comes in. It is our privilege to help low-income seniors stay in their homes, obtain needed repairs, get a ride to a grocery store, move to a new apartment and live comfortably and safely in one of our houses.

I invite you to review this report and see the many good things you have helped us accomplish this past year. Thank you for supporting us with your gifts, by volunteering your time, and by getting the word out to your family, friends and the community concerning H.O.M.E. and its important mission.

Warmly,

Bruce A. Otto
Executive Director

Joel W. Rice
Board President

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www.homeseniors.org
Meet Maria
"It's a blessing to be here."

Maria raved about the mostaccioli that a volunteer Guest Chef made on a recent weekend. “It’s a noodle,” she said in a playful tone that hinted that perhaps her diet didn’t allow too much pasta, “but it was so good.”

Last fall, Maria moved in to the Good Life Senior Residences at Nathalie Salmon House where she has privacy when she wants and assistance when she needs it.

Maria is a friendly person who enjoys meeting and engaging in activities with volunteers, staff, and other residents. She especially likes movie nights, music, and taking walks. She loves her private room which she describes as clean, cheerful, and bright.

“It has big windows and nice furniture,” she says. She proudly welcomes others to her room to see the view and points out the photos of her daughter on the dresser. “[Good Life Senior Residences] is a place where you can learn and grow—change. It’s a good environment where we respect one another.”

Before Maria heard about H.O.M.E., she lived alone in a studio apartment where she didn't have a lot of chances to meet and talk with others. One of her first impressions of Nathalie Salmon House was that she would have more opportunities to socialize. She liked that idea. And she says the people she has met at H.O.M.E. are what make it so great.

In addition to feeling isolated before moving in to Nathalie Salmon House, Maria’s old studio apartment was growing too expensive for her fixed income. She said that it was tough to afford her rent along with paying for groceries. So when she learned that amenities at Good Life Senior Residences included meals and home supplies, she felt relieved.

If she had not found H.O.M.E., Maria fears that she would be “somewhere bad, and very expensive.”

Now she is able to manage her finances, enjoys meals with her neighbors, and gets help with other day to day things as she needs it. Maria struggles with anxiety, but she says she’s less nervous than she was when she was living alone and that she’s on the “road to recovery.”

“It’s a blessing to be here. . . It’s a good place to be. It’s been perfect so far.”
Warmth, Connection, and Joy - thanks to you.

90 people ages 1 to 92 called our 3 buildings home.

642 repairs in 139 households helped seniors remain safely in their own homes.

2,946 individual trips to grocery stores gave those living in 34 affordable senior buildings access to healthy food and home supplies.

38 seniors moved into their new homes with support they needed to feel secure and at peace.

15 seniors received Intensive Case Advocacy & Support services to access the resources they need.
Volunteer Highlights

Over 500 volunteers...

served as Guest Chefs to seniors living in Good Life Senior Residences;
painted 122 rooms in 23 senior homes;
weatherized 328 windows in 28 homes;
assisted our Home Repair Specialists;
and much, much, much more!

Your support makes independence possible. To volunteer or donate go to www.homeseniors.org

World Horizons

This year we partnered with World Horizons, a German-based organization that places volunteers with nonprofits in the U.S. Our first volunteer, Carla, served as a Resident Assistant at Pat Crowley House and coordinated volunteer groups. Here’s what she had to say about the experience:

"It was rewarding to see that some volunteers decided to regularly help out, for example as Guest Chefs or maintenance volunteers. By having the same people come to the house regularly, the residents were able to form meaningful relationships with different people of all ages."
Special thanks to our 2016 Celebration Dinner Sponsors and Community Partners

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University of Illinois & ENGAGE IL
Whole Foods
World Horizons
Youth Works

What makes our donors so special

Did you know that less than 2 percent of foundations give to senior causes?

The need for H.O.M.E.'s services expands each year as the senior population grows, and becomes more impoverished. Research and our nearly 35 years of experience tell us that providing stable housing improves the quality of life and health for low-income seniors. That's something, surely, to invest in!

But unfortunately funding is a continual challenge for senior services.

That's what makes our donors so special. Donors like you join over one thousand individuals, foundations, and businesses who are committed to making a real impact on the lives of seniors in Chicago. Together in 2016, you contributed nearly $800,000 to support our programs.

Thank you for your commitment to changing lives!
Financial Overview

**Total Revenue**
$2,989,695

*In 2009 H.O.M.E.’s Board of Directors created a policy stating that bequests be placed in a special board restricted reserve fund. This has allowed H.O.M.E. to turn an unpredictable source of revenue into a fund to ensure that seniors will continue to benefit from our programs year after year.

This year, we received an unusually generous bequest from a long time supporter, Woodie Barce. You can read about Woodie’s legacy in our Summer 2016 Newsletter at www.homeseniors.org/news/index.

To find out more about legacy gifts, go to www.homeseniors.org/about-us/ways-to-give.

**Total Expenses**
$1,744,176

When donors give us unrestricted support, we are able to fund the true costs of our programs, which include core elements of our organization. Your support makes sure that our programs have the administrative and financial resources they need to help us fulfill our mission.

Thank you for supporting our mission!

To donate or read our full audited financial report visit www.homeseniors.org.
H.O.M.E.
Housing Opportunities & Maintenance for the Elderly

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Mission
Committed to improving the quality of life for Chicago’s low-income elderly, H.O.M.E. helps seniors remain independent and part of their community by offering opportunities for intergenerational living and by providing a variety of citywide support services.