

VOICES FROM H.O.M.E.



H.O.M.E.

Housing Opportunities & Maintenance for the Elderly

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



"I was one of those guys that liked to be dancing and clowning around with the family."



"Everybody gets to know a little bit about everybody at Nathalie Salmon House."



"Once I got out of the army, I got into school and had a blast. I loved playing with hair."



"Independence is very important. I think you live longer to some extent when you know that you are self reliant."



DEAR FRIEND OF H.O.M.E.,

July 2020

Few words conjure up more different meanings for people than "independence." In the case of the Declaration of Independence, the cornerstone document of our nation, it means political emancipation from the oppressiveness of a monarchy.

"Independence" more colloquially connotes complete self-reliance, the proverbial lonesome cowboy who doesn't need a hand up. This has become a cultural icon of heroism.

But this is not independence. This is an impossibility.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. often pointed out that the coffee we drink in the morning comes to us through an "interdependent structure of reality" of farmers, laborers, manufacturers, and distribution networks. "Something should remind us before we can finish eating breakfast in the morning we are dependent on more than half of the world."

"Independence" for H.O.M.E. is about an end result that simply cannot be achieved without interdependent cooperation of people in a loving community.



First and foremost, H.O.M.E. operates under a principle of deep respect for our elders and what we see as their right to live their own unique and full lives. We recognize that this is especially difficult for low-income seniors or seniors of color who live in isolation in substandard housing or disinvested neighborhoods. H.O.M.E. is there to provide that platform for independence through its housing and services.

Think of H.O.M.E.'s intergenerational housing as interlocking hands of people of all ages that are upholding seniors' ability to live in community and to continue to participate in the life of society.

"All life is interrelated." We could not agree more with Dr. King: "We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

We write this in the midst of a global pandemic. In Chicago, we mourn the disproportionate suffering of Black, Brown, and poor seniors. We rejoice that what Lilo and Michel Salmon created in 1982 with H.O.M.E. is a beacon of hope, health, and happiness for these very seniors. We have a time-tested solution to isolation that works.

We thank you, our donors and partners, for building the structure of interdependence for seniors that is H.O.M.E. We are ever grateful to you.

Sincerely,

Celeste M. King

Celeste King
President

Gail Schechter

Gail Schechter
Executive Director

"We recommend H.O.M.E. to other senior citizens. They make you feel appreciated, and it is reciprocal."

– THE ROWES

Over the years the Rows have turned to H.O.M.E. for home repairs, weatherization, painting and, last fall, a new hot water heater.

They say opposites attract and Karleen Rowe, 75 and her husband William, 78, are a case in point.

The two tell the story of how they first saw each other at a skating rink on the South Side:

"I was with my best girlfriend," Karleen recalls. When he saw me he said..."

"... Lawdy lawdy, look what's coming in," William chimes in.

"... And that was it!" they laugh together.

The two were married in 1964. William worked in the stockyards manufacturing district for the same company for 43 years, retiring in 2003.

Karleen got her degree at Chicago State University in 1971 and joined a wave of teachers who integrated Chicago Public Schools, becoming the first African American to teach in her Northwest Side building the following year. She worked there nine years before moving on to another school. "I had to work harder to earn my reputation and prove myself to be a good teacher," she says.

After Karleen's mother passed away in 1987, they bought the home where they now live with their dog, Lucky, in the Rosemoor neighborhood on the South Side.

The Rows learned about H.O.M.E. around 2009 through a neighborhood association. When Mike Laz, the Community Programs Director came to visit, "we clicked right away," Karleen Rowe says. "He established immediate rapport and it's been that way ever since."

"One thing we have noticed is, Mike sends the best out," Karleen and William say. "We recommend H.O.M.E. to other senior citizens. They make you feel appreciated, and it is reciprocal."



H.O.M.E. fills a significant need for the couple: their equity and savings have been severely depleted since the economic crisis of 2008. Financially, they say, life is getting harder, not easier: "After we pay our bills, there's not a lot left over, so H.O.M.E. really comes in handy."

Your support for that work means the inside of the Rows' house in the Rosemoor community on the South Side, where they live with their dog, Lucky, is just as warm as their marriage of 55 years.

INTERGENERATIONAL HOUSING

H.O.M.E. is the only organization in the country that houses seniors family-style together with young adults and families with children.

H.O.M.E. owns, manages, and maintains 78 units in three affordable buildings dedicated to intergenerational living. We incorporate intentional shared communities at Pat Crowley House and the top floor of Nathalie Salmon House which we call "Good Life Senior Residences." Here, a dozen seniors and younger Resident Assistants, living and working with the seniors, share meals and activities.

We are also thrilled to partner with Loyola and UIC's nursing programs, Howard Brown Center, and other neighborhood partners.

We believe that people of all ages benefit from connecting with one another.

H.O.M.E. recognizes that living in community is as important a human need as food and shelter.



Thanks to you, we provided affordable housing to **77** seniors, **11** children, **28** younger adults



"I can't say enough good things about H.O.M.E., coming to Pat Crowley House has been a real blessing for me... It's warm and it's comfortable and friendly and it just feels like having a really nice family around you."

– CHRISTINE, RESIDENT

Coming to the South Side!

We are one step closer to realizing our dream of expanding our intergenerational housing.

H.O.M.E.'s core value is human connection. The "Beloved Community," as Coretta Scott King defined it, is where "racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood." For H.O.M.E., this includes age. When a leader in one south side senior group commented that they would like to "get family back into our housing" by enabling "the connectivity we used to have as a community," we knew we found a kindred spirit.

We look forward to sharing more news about our progress with you next year.



UPKEEP AND REPAIR

H.O.M.E.'s three full-time Home Repair Specialists do everything from fix a cracked ceiling to stopping leaks to adding grab bars for low-income senior homeowners on the south and west sides of Chicago. And we lend a sympathetic ear – we consider each senior a friend. Success means each senior lives in comfort and safety.



Thanks to you, we performed **727** repairs for **100** low-income senior households.

Introducing U & R Plus!

In 2019, H.O.M.E. launched a partnership with Rush University Medical Center to expand our Upkeep and Repair Program! We are using a new proven model developed by the Johns Hopkins School to Nursing called CAPABLE, Community Aging in Place-Advancing Better Living for Elders, for seniors who may be at risk of suffering accidents such as falls in their own homes. It's a natural for H.O.M.E., which already centers its work around each senior, to add an Occupational Therapist and Registered Nurse to our repair team. In our inaugural year, we enrolled 16 seniors!

SHOPPING BUS

H.O.M.E.'s wheelchair-accessible 12-passenger Shopping Bus serves seniors living in senior buildings throughout Chicago. We provide them safe transport to grocery and drug stores. This is both a fun social expedition and for some, the only way for them to access healthful food. Ernest Dixon, our driver, goes the extra mile to help them carry their groceries as they get on and off the bus.



Thanks to you, the Shopping Bus Program provided **3,304** shopping trips to low-income seniors in **28** buildings. This year, we added **9** Chicago Housing Authority senior buildings!



MOVING PROGRAM

H.O.M.E.'s Moving Program is a beacon of help for seniors. Whether they choose to move to more accommodating housing within their neighborhood (about half the moves), or elsewhere within the City of Chicago, H.O.M.E. helps to stabilize the lives of low-income seniors. Moving Coordinator Judy Taylor meets with the senior and helps ease the stress of the move – providing some boxes and connecting with the professional movers on contract with H.O.M.E. – while H.O.M.E. subsidizes the cost of the move.



Thanks to you, the Moving Program provided holistic moving assistance for **64** low-income seniors, allowing them to live more affordably and safely.

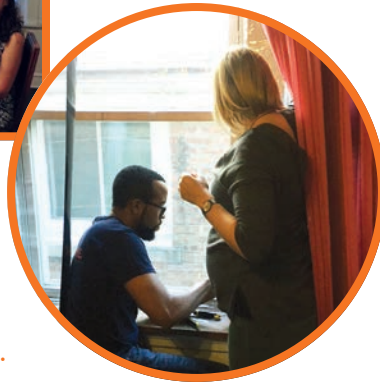


VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

H.O.M.E. welcomes volunteers both in H.O.M.E.'s buildings and the community at large to provide weatherization, painting, cooking, seasonal work, and more for seniors.



Thanks to you, **267** volunteers weatherized **191** windows in **15** homes, painted **5** homes, and for residents of our buildings, provided spring cleaning, yard work, sponsored holiday parties, and served as Guest Chefs for the Good Life Senior Residences.



♥ OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY ♥

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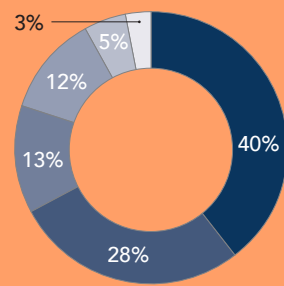
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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

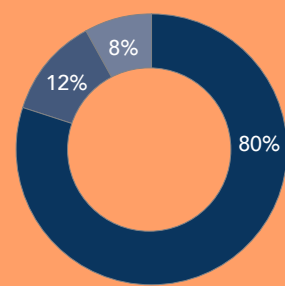
REVENUE | Total: \$2,278,540



40% Earned Income: \$909,636
28% Grants: \$648,210
13% Contributions: \$286,467
12% Bequests: \$270,720
5% Special Event: \$108,437
3% Government Contracts: \$62,843
0% Other: \$7,832

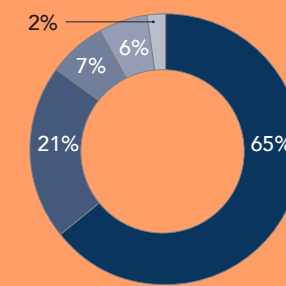
Note: Investments represent -1% of revenues at a loss of \$15,605

EXPENSES | Total: \$2,162,313



80% Program: \$1,732,175
12% Fundraising: \$249,527
8% Management: \$180,611

PROGRAM | Total Expenses: \$1,732,175



65% Intergenerational Housing: \$1,122,894
21% Upkeep and Repair: \$360,574
7% Shopping Bus: \$114,539
6% Moving: \$97,511
2% Volunteer: \$36,657

Thank you for being a friend to H.O.M.E.

Please find our complete list of individual donors online at homeseniors.org/annualreport.

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Since 1982, H.O.M.E. has acted as a social safety net, helping Chicago's low-income seniors thrive in their community by bringing together a unique combination of services in a supportive, senior-centered environment that recognizes their gifts as well as their needs. H.O.M.E.'s vision is of a Chicago in which people of all ages live together in a way that supports older adults' connection to the larger community. The human element is essential to H.O.M.E.'s model. Serving seniors with warmth, connection, and joy is H.O.M.E.'s particular expertise.

