



HOW

CREATE OPPORTUNITIES. REBUILD LIVES.

2017 CALENDAR AND FY16 ANNUAL REPORT

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends:

Each year, HOW creates opportunities for nearly 1,000 Chicagoans to rebuild their lives. By supporting HOW, you make a world of difference to the women, children and families we serve. Many of our clients turn to us in times of desperation, when they face difficulties they cannot navigate safely on their own. Our holistic approach empowers clients to break the cycle of poverty and achieve permanent housing, long-term economic stability, and lifelong self-sufficiency.

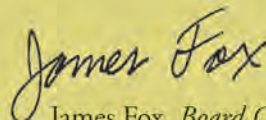
Last year, HOW's housing program served 528 adults and 351 children. Clients resided in 464 households; 294 (63%) were individuals and 170 (37%) were families. The average number of children in a HOW family unit is two, and the largest number of children in a single household is six. Many of those served by HOW have employment barriers, as well as struggles with chronic health issues, which can be both a cause and a result of an episode of homelessness. At HOW we address the need for housing and then focus on other factors that can help clients on the path to independence.

The effects of the state budget crisis tested our resilience and determination this past year. We adapted and made tough choices and look to 2017 with a renewed commitment to expanded, affordable, supportive housing; using our "Housing First" model, our core prevention strategies and individualized support services to help our clients take back their lives. We also recognize the need to diversify our support and not become over-reliant on any single source of funding. In the coming year, we plan to build a broader base of individuals donors like you who will sustain our work.

Warmest regards,



Britt Shawver, *CEO*



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The New Year provides an opportunity to set goals for the coming year. HOW case managers help clients create unique, individualized plans to transition to independence. A core component of HOW's services for both individuals and families, is offering the support and assistance needed to identify and accomplish short and long term goals. A client's first goal is to secure housing for herself and her family. Only then is she able to focus on addressing her health and employment issues and ensure her kids are getting the extra support they need so that the whole family can regain stability and thrive.

JANUARY 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Helping someone stay in housing prevents homelessness before it begins. Prevention and housing stabilization are critical components of HOW's work. By providing credit and budget counseling, short-term financial assistance, affordable housing relocation and stipends for rent, utilities, moving expenses and storage, HOW provides the essential tools to hold on to housing and hope. HOW also works directly with landlords to identify those at risk and intervene before the eviction process begins.



HOW

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FEBRUARY 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 HOW Personal Care Drive Begins	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 President's Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

For many of our clients, employment is the key to independence. HOW offers those who already have skills and work experience the support they need to gain employment. Whether it is help with a resume, searching for a job, filling out an on-line application or preparing for an interview, HOW is there to lend a hand. For clients with jobs, we provide career coaching and support to keep their jobs and when the time is right move on to better opportunities. Other clients are connected to job readiness or training programs in order to build their skills and begin their journey toward greater self-sufficiency.



MARCH 2017

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While on the path to independence, HOW helps clients not only build skills but also form relationships with each other. HOW offers workshops on a full range of life skills, including money management, goal setting, parenting support, problem solving, nutrition and healthy cooking classes, legal system navigation, domestic violence prevention, and discussions on boundaries and healthy relationships. The Peer Chef program is a great example of clients working together, as former clients lead these sessions to help new clients learn to create healthier meals for themselves and their families.

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APRIL 2017

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30						

We work with many community partners to help provide a wide range of resources and services to our clients, but we also partner with peers in order to improve our efficacy. This past year HOW became the lead partner and fiscal agent for the Back Office Housing Collaborative. BOHC is a cooperative venture of four supportive housing agencies (Renaissance Social Services, La Casa Norte, Good News Partners and HOW) all of whom serve homeless families and individuals. It is designed to strengthen business practices for property management, accounting and financial reporting, federal regulatory compliance, and IT infrastructure while reducing operating costs for all four organizations.



CREATE OPPORTUNITIES.
REBUILD LIVES.

MAY 2017

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			



HOW celebrates the diversity of our clients and is committed to creating open and welcoming spaces for everyone. June is Pride month and here at HOW we welcome LGBTQ clients into our housing and all of our programs. We strive to provide respectful and affirming services that foster inclusion and build a community that embraces everyone.

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JUNE 2017

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Father's Day						
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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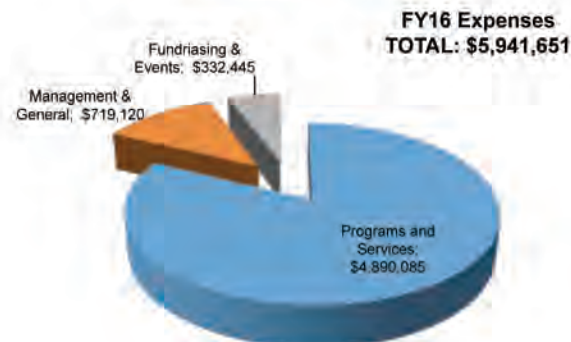
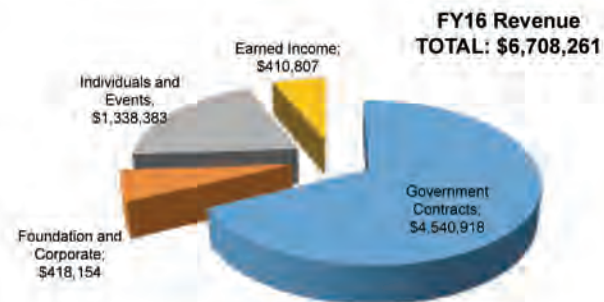
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every effort to ensure
the accuracy of this
listing and regret any
errors or omissions.
Please contact us at
773.465.5770 x269
with any corrections.*

FY16 ANNUAL REPORT





The HOW Youth Summer Program is a fun, safe alternative for our students who may otherwise not have an opportunity to attend a summer camp. Recreational and educational activities, including field trips to Cubs games, Chicago parks, and museums throughout the city, offer structured activities and new experiences.



**CREATE OPPORTUNITIES.
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JULY 2017

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						1
2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



When the new school year begins, HOW's Academic Coaching Program kicks into gear for the children and youth in our housing to help them reach their potential. Staff help youth build new academic skills and strengthen existing ones, with activities designed to address behavioral challenges, and promote positive socio-emotional development. HOW staff also advocate for parents and serve as a liaison with the school. Students love coming to our after school program for support and one-on-one tutoring.

HOW
CREATE OPPORTUNITIES.
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AUGUST 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 HOW Backpack Drive Begins	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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The path to independence for HOW clients is also often a road to recovery. People become homeless for a variety of reasons including trauma and loss, domestic violence, illness and substance abuse. We are dedicated to helping clients access the resources they need to find their way back. Support groups give women the opportunity to share their experiences and support each other around issues ranging from relapse prevention and domestic violence, to apartment maintenance and money management.



CREATE OPPORTUNITIES.
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SEPTEMBER 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

HOW works with clients to address any physical or mental health issues which may have contributed to or been exacerbated by their housing instability. We know that safe housing is a determining factor in clients leading healthier lives. Whether it is offering assistance in signing up for healthcare, leading classes and workshops on stress reduction, or quitting smoking, we encourage clients to better manage their own health.

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OCTOBER 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween				



November marks hunger and homeless awareness week and brings the national spotlight to build greater awareness about the issues facing our clients. You can be an advocate for those experiencing homelessness by taking a moment to spread the word about HOW's work to end homelessness. By following the "Housing First" model, we safely house nearly 1000 Chicagoans each year so they can then begin to map out a plan to for future stability and success.

HOW

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NOVEMBER 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Veteran's Day	11
12	13	14	15 HOW Holiday Gift Drive Begins	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



At HOW we are grateful for our supporters throughout the year, but during this month we are especially thankful for your generosity and good will. Your donations help HOW ensure that we continue to empower thousands of clients to break the cycle of poverty and achieve permanent housing, long-term economic stability, and move toward lifelong self-sufficiency. 89% of clients agreed that HOW is helping them make progress towards their goals saying, “I just love this program. It has helped me accomplish a great deal. I am working on getting a good paying job so I can pay my own rent.” Clients say they don’t know where they would be if it weren’t for HOW and extend their thanks to you for caring and showing love.



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DECEMBER 2017

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31						

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN (HOW) IS CHANGING THE STATISTICS.

HOW is at the forefront of a national movement to end homelessness in Chicago and across the nation through a holistic approach to combating homelessness. We are significantly expanding affordable, supportive housing to help the growing number of homeless families while providing them with the support services needed to empower them toward lifelong self-sufficiency. Housing is a right, not a privilege. Support services are a necessary component to end the homeless cycle and promote self-sufficiency. Together we can make a difference. Join us in our fight against poverty and homelessness.

www.how-inc.org



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Photo Credit: Mike Kelly