

HOW Up To Date

Spring 2018

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IN THIS EDITION:

New Evanston Building

To House 16 Families

Celebrating 35 Years of HOW

You've Made a Difference

Serving Children and Families

DCFS Program Growing to Keep Families Together

And More!

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS HOW ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT



Save the Date | Saturday, September 8, 2018
Millennium Park Rooftop Terrace | www.how-inc.org/benefit35

HOW Up To Date

Spring 2018

Empowering women, children and families to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness since 1983.

New Evanston Building to House 16 Families

Thanks to your support and generosity, HOW will be adding a fourth building to its portfolio in 2019!

The building, located at Dempster Street and Pitner Avenue in Evanston, will be HOW's first suburban location. The three-story brick and glass building will include eight one- and eight two-bedroom units, housing sixteen families, as well as laundry facilities, a common room, and 16 parking spaces.



A rendering of the new HOW building.

The location is ideal, with important resources including public transportation, a grocery store, neighborhood schools, and a health clinic within easy walking distance. HOW case management, employment, and youth services will be available to all tenants upon request.

In recent years, real estate development has placed upward pressure on the residential market in Evanston, creating a growing need for affordable housing. Families whose incomes are below 50% of the area median income (AMI) will be able to occupy the new HOW apartment units, and four units will be reserved for families whose incomes are below 30% of AMI. Families will be referred to the new HOW building from the Regional Housing Initiative waitlist.

This new housing opportunity will allow retirees, people with disabilities, and workers such as preschool teachers, food service workers, retail salespeople, and childcare workers to live in Evanston with their families without spending an unsustainable amount of their income on housing.

Affordable housing not only fulfills a basic human need for shelter, but it also contributes to the wellbeing of both parents and children. Studies show that children in stable housing do better in school, are less likely to experience disruption in their education, and benefit from better nutrition. And for adults, living in decent, affordable housing also means reduced stress, fewer physical and mental health problems, and improved job retention.

Construction began in April, and the new HOW building is expected to open in 2019. Your support for families in need continues to make a world of difference to the women, men, and children we serve. **We look forward to serving sixteen more HOW families in the new Evanston building!**



HOW staff and volunteers at a fall clean-up day at the new property in Evanston.

Celebrating 35 Years of HOW

You've made a difference!

In 1983, a group of Rogers Park neighbors joined together to help the homeless women they had begun to see outside on the neighborhood streets.

In its first year, HOW housed eight women in the very first transitional housing program for women in Chicago. The HOW founders saw an urgent need and banded together to help people who were struggling.

Since then, HOW has grown, acquiring three buildings and expanding to house more people in need through partnerships with landlords across the city. **In 2017 we served more than 1100 women, men, and children.**

Over the years, we have adapted to fit the needs of the community

we serve. Today we provide temporary and permanent supportive housing solutions, one-on-one case management, supportive services, youth programs, and employment services to help families rebuild their lives.

With growing inequality and rising housing costs in our country, our work is as urgent and necessary as ever. Your generous gifts of money, essential items, time, talent, and energy make a world of difference for people who are struggling.

As I look back at HOW's 35 year history, I see a long line of HOW Heroes who have banded together to help their neighbors when they needed it the most.



Thank you for standing beside me in that line of supporters, donors, friends, and neighbors.

Your compassion, kindness, and strength have made every single day of HOW's 35 years possible. Thank you.

Britt Shawver, CEO

LIVES YOU HAVE CHANGED

in 2018 (so far)



992 Women, men, and children currently receiving HOW housing and support

83 People moved into HOW housing

40 HOW program graduates



150 Hours of educational tutoring provided for each child and teen in the Academic Coaching Program

356 Hours of one-on-one case management dedicated to healthcare and wellness.

THANK YOU for your support!

Serving Children and Families

Your support helps keep families together

HOW is proud to announce that its partnership with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has grown! DCFS has doubled the size of our program - we now have two case managers working full time to assist children and families involved with the DCFS system.

Our Housing Advocacy Case Managers provide two important services for youth and families in need:

1. If a family is involved with the DCFS system because of poverty - lack of shelter, food, clothing, or essential items - one of HOW's case managers can be assigned to help the family with housing, applying

for emergency assistance programs, and accessing community resources to keep the family together.

2. Youth who are transitioning out of the DCFS foster care system and are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless can work with HOW's case managers to find housing, receive budget counseling, and connect with community resources.

This program works to prevent homelessness, a key focus of HOW's efforts. **Last year, our Housing Advocacy Case Manager served 166 people in need.** Because of your support, we will be able to serve many more youth and families in 2018!

HOW YOU CAN HELP THIS SPRING



GIVE

Your generous donation makes what we do possible. Your gift provides housing and hope, allowing families to rebuild their lives!

Make a gift today at www.how-inc.org

VOLUNTEER

HOW volunteers play a key role in supporting our clients as they regain stability.

www.how-inc.org/volunteer

DONATE

Contribute cleaning, personal care, or household items to help clients make their HOW apartment into a home!

www.how-inc.org/wish-list

"I am HOW because I believe women deserve support to make it through difficult life transitions. It all starts with having safe and secure housing.

Strangers took me in as a young adult when I had no place to go. **Most of us need a hand up at some point in our life.**

HOW is there for women and their children whose support systems and family can't be."

Cathy St. Clair, HOW Hero
Executive Director of HOW, 1984-1991

#IamHOW

