



CREATE OPPORTUNITIES.
REBUILD LIVES.

1607 W. Howard Street
Third Floor
Chicago, IL 60626

773.465.5770
www.how-inc.org

HOW empowers women, children
and families to break the cycle of
poverty and homelessness.



Winter 2017

In This Edition:

**Because of you,
Sarah got the chance to rebuild her life**

A Reason to Hope

Thank you for making the season bright

Families in Transition

An innovative new program to serve
Chicago's most vulnerable

LIVES YOU HAVE CHANGED in 2017

825 Men, Women, and Children currently
receiving HOW housing and support

272 People moved into HOW housing

5,792 Hours of one-on-one case management
dedicated to achieving health goals

378 Hours of intensive educational tutoring
and activities provided for each child and
teen in the Academic Coaching Program

182 HOW program graduates

THANK YOU for your support!



Winter 2017

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

Because of you, Sarah got the chance to rebuild her life

We have an exciting update about a HOW alumni!
You may remember Sarah from past HOW letters. She
rebuilt her life and career with HOW's help a few years
ago, and this year she bought a house!

**When Sarah became a HOW client, a series of
tragedies had sent her life spinning out of control.**

Within the span of one year, her mother passed away,
she went through a divorce, and her beloved son was
murdered.

After these terrible experiences, on her own and
caring for four grandchildren, she began to struggle
with depression.

Sarah had never completed her high-school diploma,
but she'd been securely employed for ten years at
the same company. After this succession of tragedies,
however, her work slipped and she lost her job.

Without a high school diploma, her job search was
unsuccessful and she eventually lost her home. Her
grandchildren, dealing with the loss of their father,
began to struggle in school.

**Because of donors like you, Sarah and her
grandchildren moved into a HOW apartment and
received support when they needed it the most.**

Despite everything that she had gone through, Sarah
persevered and rebuilt her life.

She joined support groups and enrolled her
grandchildren in HOW's Academic Coaching Program
to get them back on track in school.



Sarah in 2015, after receiving her GED.
(Sarah's name has been changed here, to protect her privacy.)

She earned her GED, received a scholarship, and
completed a paralegal training program.

**Today Sarah is a HOW graduate, remarried,
employed as a consultant, and enjoying every
moment in her new home!**

Investing in one woman's potential isn't only about
her. It's about her children, her grandchildren, her
community, the people she serves, and everyone
whose life she touches.

It's about all of us.

**Because of your compassionate support for HOW,
Sarah created a better future for herself and her
grandchildren. Thank you!**

A Reason to Hope

Thank you for making the season bright

The first snow of the season. Holiday lights. Evergreen wreaths on doors around the city.

Even when it looks a lot like the holiday season, it doesn't feel that way for everyone. This is especially true for families struggling with homelessness as winter begins.

Regardless of what brings families to HOW, we welcome them with open arms.

Our housing team finds them a safe, secure apartment. Their case manager helps them to stabilize and set goals for improved health and income. Kids join our Academic Coaching Program to have a safe and educational place to go after school.

Generous donors like you give families warm coats to weather the winter, food for a holiday meal, and necessities to turn their apartment into a home. Volunteers prepare special holiday parties so HOW families can celebrate together.

Everyone deserves a warm coat, a safe home, and to feel loved and cared for during the holidays, even when they're facing some pretty big challenges.

I'm so thankful that you stand ready to help!

You give families facing some of the most difficult of circumstances a reason to smile, dream, and believe in a better future.



Your support for HOW transforms the holiday season - and the rest of the year - into a season of hope.

Thank you!

Britt Shawver, CEO

Join the #IamHOW Campaign!

Each one of us cares about ending homelessness and poverty for a different reason.

Maybe you or someone you know experienced homelessness. Maybe you know someone who has dealt with those challenges. Maybe it's important to you to be part of the solution.

Whatever your reason, there's power in telling your story.

For HOW's 35th Anniversary year, let's come together and share our stories to increase awareness about homelessness and housing inequality and bring our HOW community together. Why are you HOW?

Please take a moment to share your story with us!

www.how-inc.org/iamhow



"I am HOW because everybody deserves the chance to learn and grow in a compassionate environment."

- Robert, HOW Academic Coaching Program volunteer tutor

Spreading Good Will Together

Through the **Baird & Warner Good Will Network**, the Baird & Warner real estate team makes a positive difference in the Chicago community. Their focus is providing shelter and ending homelessness for women and children. HOW is lucky to partner with Baird & Warner for fundraising events, volunteer opportunities, and grants.

This year, thanks to your support and votes, HOW won a \$24,000 grant in the Good Will Network's 24K of Solid Good Competition!

This grant helps families dealing with homelessness to get the support they need to recover, rebuild, and grow in their lives.

Thank you, Baird & Warner, and thank you for voting for us!



Baird & Warner Managing Broker and HOW Board Member David Bailey, surprising the HOW staff with a giant check!

Families in Transition You're helping Chicago's most vulnerable

Your support for HOW is an investment in innovative, exciting new programs targeting homelessness in Chicago!

Starting this fall, HOW became a key part of the new Families in Transition (FIT) program, in partnership with the Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund, Chicago Public Schools, the Department of Family Support Services, and the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless.

Through FIT, Chicago Public Schools will identify 100 families who are experiencing homelessness. Housing agencies including HOW will provide housing location, case management, and employment services to help those families achieve stability.

HOW will serve 25 families whose elementary school-age children attend school in Englewood. We have already started to move FIT families into housing, and expect to have all 25 units filled by early 2018.

3 THREE WAYS To Help This Winter

1 GIVE

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

Give today at
www.how-inc.org

2 VOLUNTEER

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

One-time and ongoing volunteer opportunities are available for individuals and groups.

www.how-inc.org/volunteer

3 DONATE

Four walls and a roof are essential, but more is required to make a house into a home.

Visit our website for a list of items urgently needed by our clients, like soap, towels, and toilet paper.

www.how-inc.org/wishlist

