



Care For **Friends**

2017 Annual Report

An Overview

The summer of 1968 brought the Democratic National Convention to Chicago, along with thousands of protestors aligned with Martin Luther King Jr.'s Poor People's Campaign and opponents to the Vietnam War. When police took action to enforce an 11pm curfew in Lincoln Park, violence erupted, and a nearby church opened its doors to provide shelter and protection to young people fleeing the tear gas and chaos.

That act began a years-long effort by the local community to inquire about the needs of the most vulnerable among us, and to identify resources available in the neighborhood to address the most pressing concerns. A wide-ranging program of homeless services came together as the result of collaboration between local businesses, concerned neighbors, churches, and non-profit groups committed to improving the lives of the poor.

In 2013, when the work became too large for the parish church to continue to manage, a 501(c)3 organization now known as Care For Friends was formed to carry on the mission. This organization examined the root causes of homelessness and identified three areas where long-lasting, systemic change could be made.

We created a program that has over 12,500 homeless contacts a year, and makes connections to affordable housing, job skills training, and sober mental and physical health care that can permanently bring an individual out of homelessness.

As we get ready to celebrate 50 years of service in the Lincoln Park community, we are pleased to report that the most recent Point In Time Count by the City of Chicago found a 10% reduction in the number of people experiencing homelessness year over year.

As we look at the population of guests accessing our service, we've seen a corresponding decrease in the number of folks who are truly the "poorest of the poor" requiring basic services. At the same time, we have seen an uptick in the number of homeless youth and marginally-housed families in our community who require services that are notably different from what we have offered before.

2018 will be a time when we work to develop a three-year strategic plan to address these new needs. In the meantime, we are pleased to share this look back on our 2017 work with you – and invite you into conversation about how we can partner together to continue to connect Chicago's most vulnerable with the resources they need to achieve a better life.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of Care For Friends

How It Works

For individuals experiencing homelessness, a chronic distrust of others is a common feature of daily life. Studies have shown that within 3 months of homelessness, even those who were initially stable show notable declines in mental and physical health. For folks that may have had unfavorable interactions with the law or questionable immigration status, these issues are compounded.

While there are a number of programs that can get people out of homelessness, most have sign-in sheets or ID checking requirements on first contact that scare off these distrustful individuals who nevertheless qualify for the care being offered. As a result, the programs see low enrollment rates, and homeless folks whose life trajectory could be permanently altered go un-served.

At Care For Friends, we have focused our efforts on creating a trusted community gathering where these connections can be made. The centerpiece is a three-times-per week hot lunch that can accommodate up to 150 guests who are invited in with “no questions asked.” All are welcome, as often as they wish.

Learn How It Works

<http://bit.ly/CFFBelieve>



In this 4-minute “This I Believe” video, CFF’s Board Chair describes how a “no questions asked” community meal connects guests with resources that get them out of homelessness.

Served family style at tables of 8-10 guests, a typical meal is prepared by volunteers “to a quality level you would be proud to serve to guests in your own home” and include some form of canape’ appetizer, salad, protein-based main course, vegetable, starch side and dessert.

Volunteers eat alongside our guests, as do representatives of partner agencies and a member of the community. Meals are served at noon, but doors open at 10:30 so this community can gather, charge cell phones, and interact with one another – perhaps having the only real conversation with another human being that these guests will have that day.

These “no-barriers-to-entry” encounters allow great amounts of trust to build up over time. Ultimately, “Patrick, the guy with the beard who makes great potato salad” instead of “Patrick, the substance abuse counsellor who will demand that I quit drinking today” becomes a trusted friend. Our guests become more receptive to his message, and more likely to access the services of the organization he represents as a result.

Alongside the Food for Friends program, we’ve build a number of other simple services that build trust around interactions to support basic needs. Our Clothing for Friends program makes an ever-expanding seasonal clothes closet available for our guests – including clothes for summer and winter wear, and an annual coat drive delivered in partnership with Button and Zipper to outfit over 200 homeless guests with winter coats. Toiletries for Friends provides thousands of hygiene kits containing toothbrushes, combs, soap, and the like each year. Healthcare for Friends delivers clean socks, basic footcare, and confidential interactions with medical professionals (who perform upwards of 600 doctor-patient visits), and our Book for Friends lending library contains over a thousand titles for use by our guests.

Our Impact



of people who achieved permanent housing through Lincoln Park Community Shelter were first met at a Care For Friends event. 85% of them remained housed when checked on a year later.



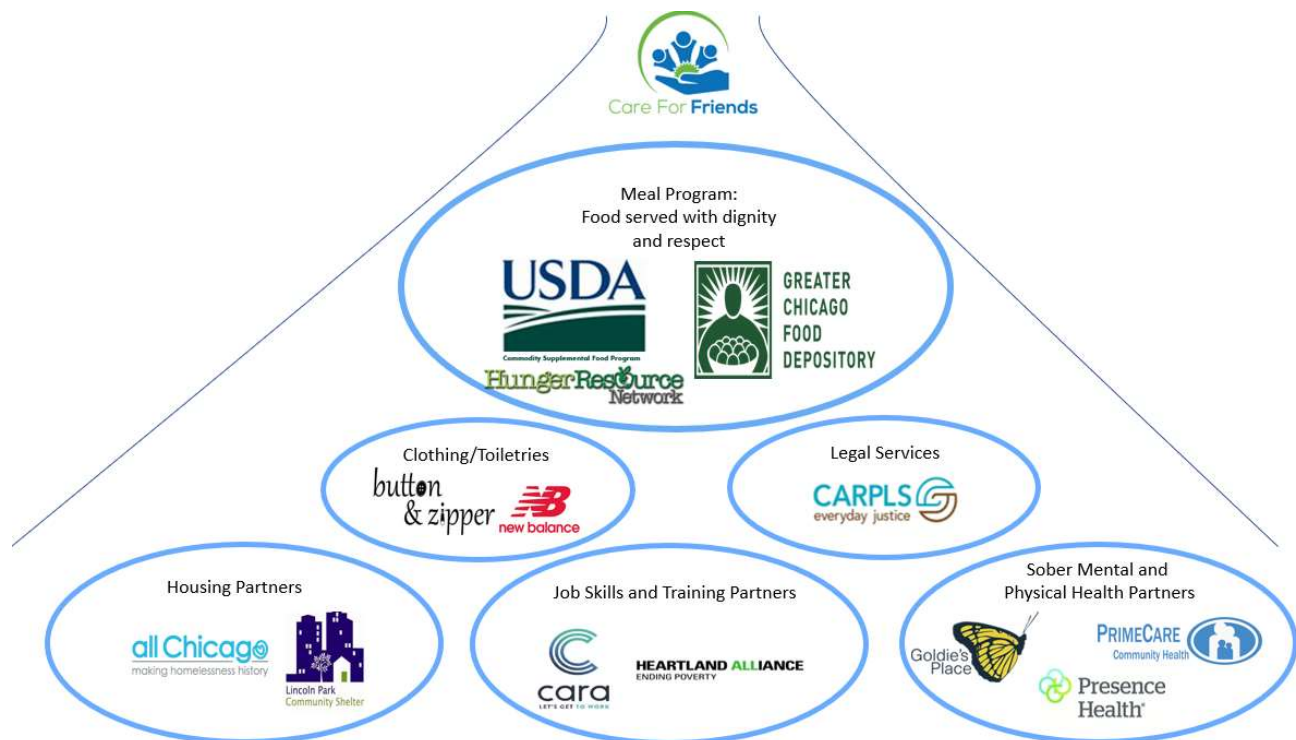
Of our guests have now found a permanent medical home. Enrollment in health insurance ends their reliance on the emergency room for primary care.



Average hourly wage earned by graduates of our job skills and training partner's programs. They work an average of 38 hours per week, and overwhelmingly remain employed when checked on a year later.

Partner Programs

We believe that the most efficient way to provide services is to partner with proven, successful organizations wherever possible – rather than trying to duplicate their programs on our own. By focusing our efforts on providing a no-barriers-to-entry community where trust can be built, Care For Friends serves as a clearinghouse and meeting place to a variety of organizations who our guests would otherwise be afraid to meet. The result – our partner organizations serve many more clients than they would without our involvement, and our guests actually access the life-changing resources that are available to them.



Volunteers

Whether it's an individual looking to give back to their community, a group of friends, or a corporation looking for a place to do a day of service, Care For Friends has a volunteer opportunity that fits the bill. In 2017, we had 247 individuals volunteer with Care For Friends' programs – some just once, some as a weekly commitment, and many in between.

Volunteers cook meals, help in our medical clinic, sort clothes, distribute toiletries, make conversation, and generally make CFF a comfortable community that welcomes our guests into new lives.

At our Fall Gala, we recognized three specific volunteers with our Community Awards.

Corporate Friend Award: Flexera At the heart of the company's culture is a dedication to helping employees thrive and succeed. Consequently, they highlight six core values, including Giving Back. In order to help them with that, Flexera gives every employee one day off each year for volunteer work. Many used that day at Care For Friends, where they served meals and collected backpacks full of winter weather necessities for our guests.

Good Neighbor Award: Ira Coleman Through a career with TransNational Payments, Ira had the opportunity to go on a serving trip to Nicaragua. It was during this visit that he was challenged to find ways to serve not only this organization but also to find ways to support those in need in his local community - and he founded Button and Zipper in 2013. This initiative collects coats and delivers them to at risk youth and the homeless in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs, and Care for Friends was thrilled to receive hundreds of winter coats to distribute to our guests this winter as one of their partners.

Hear From Volunteers

<http://bit.ly/CFFVols>



Our volunteers love to share their enthusiasm for Care For Friends. Check out what they have to say about the details of their day with our guests.

Volunteer of The Year: Mark Bean For over thirty years, Mark has been involved in Care For Friends as both as a leader and chef. A stalwart of our Thursday hot lunch, Mark is often the first person a volunteer meets when they come to serve – and his infectious enthusiasm sets a great tone for the day. Mark says of the program “not only do we serve great food, we also provide a warm and caring social environment for people who normally do not have the simple opportunity for true companionship. We provide a place for our guests to come and socialize – making life a little better for each and everyone who participates.”

Success Stories

While the statistics about our services provide one view of Care For Friends, sometimes it's more interesting to hear first-hand stories about how lives have been changed through contact with us. Click through for three great stories on how Care For Friends has made a difference to individuals.

Connecting With Housing

<http://bit.ly/CFFHsng>



Dan Hula tells about a guest who had no housing, no personal documents – didn't even know his own legal name – and how an introduction via Care For Friends changed all of that

Connecting with Jobs

<http://bit.ly/CFFJob>



Joe explains that when you don't have a job, people don't often respect you as a human being. And sometimes it's hard to feel like a human being in your own eyes.

Connecting With Health

<http://bit.ly/CFFHealth>



Brian describes a guest who got insurance, and then scheduled for his first medical checkup through Care For Friends – and who learned you don't have to have an urgent health crisis to visit the doctor.

Financial Statement

Consolidated Statements of Income			
	Fiscal Year End December 31,		
	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 - YTD 12/31
<u>Revenues:</u>			
<i>Total Grants</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>\$30,050</i>	<i>\$86,325</i>
<i>Donations</i>			
General Donations & Gala	\$10,761	\$28,082	\$55,160 ⁽
Sleepout	3,527	14,464	25,232
<i>Total General Donations</i>	<i>\$14,288</i>	<i>\$42,545</i>	<i>\$80,391</i>
<i>Total In-Kind Donations</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$5,697</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>
Total Cash Revenue	\$24,288	\$72,595	\$166,716
Total Revenue	\$24,288	\$78,292	\$168,716
<u>Operating Expenses:</u>			
Employee Compensation	\$0	(\$36,511)	(\$77,027)
Direct Programming Costs	(11,600)	(10,000)	(40,481)
Rent to COS	0	(3,600)	0
Travel, Entertainment & Recruiting	0	(199)	(3,112)
Office Equipment / Supplies	0	(1,144)	0
Marketing & Fundraising Costs	0	(1,645)	(2,418) ⁽
Dues & Subscriptions	0	(498)	(285)
Healthcare for Friends	0	(2,137)	(2,648)
Winter Gloves	0	(898)	0
Insurance	0	(2,145)	(1,355)
Other Operating Expenses	0	(410)	(2,118) ⁽
Reimbursements	(117)	(41)	0
Total Operating Expenses	(\$11,717)	(\$59,227)	(\$129,444)
Bank Interest	\$19	\$45	\$81
Net Revenue	\$12,590	\$19,110	\$39,354
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Net Revenue	\$12,590	\$19,110	\$39,354

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