

JOURNEYS

THE ROAD HOMESM

August 2019

Providing shelter and services to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in suburban Cook County.

Committed to Serving the Most At-Risk

A message from Beth Nabors, Executive Director

JOURNEYS | The Road Home has been in operation for 30 years! The agency has been going and growing since 1989, when mass homelessness presented itself to the nation and faith-based communities responded by creating Northwest Suburban PADS—a system of volunteer-run emergency shelters. Poverty has been around since the beginning of time, but mass homelessness came to the forefront when there was a governmental switch—placing the burden on families that were not prepared for the fallout.

We serve the north/northwest suburbs of Cook County. It is critical we continue to come together to assist those we care about and who need us now more than ever. When there is no room at the local domestic violence agency—those exposed and vulnerable people come to JOURNEYS. When there are no beds available for the uninsured mentally-ill at the local supportive housing agencies—those symptomatic and scared people come to JOURNEYS. When there is a fight in the home and the young adult is kicked out—those terrified and angry young individuals come to JOURNEYS. When the local hospital discharges a terminally-ill cancer patient and they have no home—those physically and emotionally-pained people come to JOURNEYS.

JOURNEYS takes on the challenge of serving those no one else has the room or expertise to serve and we take that challenge on with dedication and pride—knowing we have the heart and capability to assist them in gaining back what they have lost—safety, self-esteem, courage, stability, pride, resiliency and most of all, hope.



Beth Nabors
Executive Director

As we enter into the new fiscal year, 30 years of dedication and support from our local community encourages and empowers JOURNEYS to continue forward stronger than ever before. With at-risk clients climbing and shelter numbers overflowing, JOURNEYS is excited and prepared to bulldoze into the new fiscal year and strongly continue its mission to end and prevent homelessness, refusing to leave any community member behind.

Inside this edition of the JOURNEYS Newsletter:

- Housing Families
- PADS Site Addition
- Board Spotlight
- Domestic Violence Rising
- Annual Meeting
- Bike Drive
- Connect with JOURNEYS
- Superhero 5k
- Get Involved

Off the Streets, Out of the Shelters, Into a Home of Their Own

At the height of JOURNEYS' winter shelter season, as temperatures dropped and utility bills soared, there were 11 families consistently dependant on our shelters. **Currently, there is only one.** Through augmented case management, mental health and a multitude of other supportive services, the agency was able to house the remaining 10 families which included 21 children. In addition to these families, the agency housed 96 individuals!

Family of 7

Family of 6

Family of 5

Family of 4

5 Families of 3

Family of 2



Did you know?

JOURNEYS is the expert regional agency in transforming lives by transitioning at-risk people to self-sufficiency and housing stability. Over the past three years, **we have successfully housed 414** people who were previously homeless and saved hundreds more households from eviction or foreclosure. *How do we do it?* Our case managers strategically employ award-winning and evidence-based practices to help people progressively address their personal barriers to sustaining employment, income and housing. As a member of the **Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County**, the agency navigates the state's Coordinated Entry system which was established to expedite the process by which homeless and near-homeless individuals and families access shelter, housing and supportive

services. Acting as fierce advocates for those who come through our doors, our case managers work extensively to coach and counsel clients to become housing-prepared and eligible to secure housing through Coordinated Entry when space becomes available. But that's not the only trick up our sleeves! JOURNEYS partners with an outstanding gamut of social service providers that specialize in housing placement to stretch our impact across the suburbs. We thank our partners for their commitment to helping provide permanent supportive and rapid rehousing for our clients with unique needs and abilities, including **Catholic Charities, Center of Concern, Connections for the Homeless, Edward J. Hines Jr. VA Hospital, Impact Behavioral Health, South Suburban PADS, Thresholds and Together We Cope!**

Running for a Reason



The weather sided with JOURNEYS the morning of June 15 as the rain held off to propel the agency into its annual Superhero 5k run/walk for the homeless. More than 300 individuals rose early on

Saturday morning in their superhero gear, ready to race for the finish line to assist JOURNEYS' clients. Former American Ninja Warrior contestant Tavares Chambliss came back a second year, bringing energy and passion to excite the crowd about running and reaching out to those experiencing housing instability.



Alan and Cindy Stoeckel will chair this year's Bid for HOPE benefit gala.

Attend & Sponsor Bid for HOPE

~You're Invited~

to attend our annual Bid for HOPE Gala!

Friday | November 8

The Cotillion

Table of 10 | \$1,600

Table of 8 | \$1,280

Individual Tickets \$175



Contact Suzanne Ploger at s.ploger@journeystheroadhome.org or 847-963-9162 x 120 for sponsorship opportunities.

Connect with JOURNEYS

Stay up-to-date with the latest JOURNEYS news!



Like us on **Facebook** for updates and all of the local drives and collections

Visit the **News** tab on our website to stay on top of the latest articles about JOURNEYS!

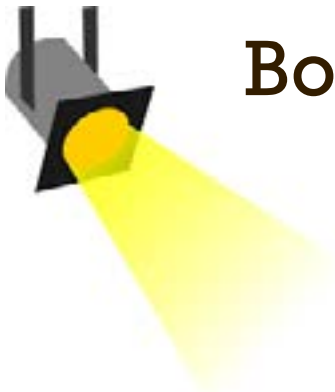
Sign up on our website to receive our monthly e-newsletter: **JOURNEYS Journal**

MAKING A DONATION TO JOURNEYS IS SIMPLE.

Make a secure donation **ONLINE** at www.journeystheroadhome.org

MAIL OR IN-PERSON
JOURNEYS | The Road Home
1140 E. Northwest Highway
Palatine, Illinois 60074

PHONE
Call 847-963-9163 x 120



Board of Directors Spotlight

John Kenney, Board Vice President

John has been on JOURNEYS' Board since 2016 and served as the Board Vice President since 2017. When he's not advocating for homeless and at-risk suburban residents, he serves as Vice President of Design and Construction for The Pizzuti Companies.

The Pizzuti Companies are a real estate developer, overseeing projects in Michigan, Indiana and Nashville. Pizzuti develops large multifamily, industrial/commercial and hospitality spaces.



"It truly is in giving that we receive - and helping those who can't help you"

What about JOURNEYS caught your interest and why did you decide to get involved?

My work experience parlays well with the proposed new development for JOURNEYS. I have been a Board member for roughly 3 ½ years and have been excited to help JOURNEYS with their mission of service to the homeless and those in need of help maintaining their homes.

What do you enjoy most about working with JOURNEYS?

My wife and I have long been volunteers and try to help those in need when we can. I believe it is important to show our children, by actions and deeds, how getting involved cannot only help others, but the act of giving of one's time helps oneself.

Wishes on Wheels

A lack of transportation in the suburbs is a leading cause of homelessness, making it extremely difficult for an individual or family to gain housing or job security. JOURNEYS' supporter Colin McElmeel, an Eagle Scout, recognized this and got to work.

Colin secured, fixed and donated 20 bikes to JOURNEYS. One client praised his hard work and generosity, saying, "What he does is a good thing and it's extremely appreciated. He is currently and continuously helping a lot of people become healthier. He's a good person for doing this."

This client reflected on the special additions Colin made for the bikes, including a basket attached to the back and a safety light for when biking at night. Colin also obtained a grant from the Rotary Club of Arlington Heights to purchase other essentials such as bike locks and helmets.

In addition to simply being able to get around more efficiently, the client also recognized how critical a bike is when getting around in the suburbs. "People in cars are more wary of people on bikes than people who are walking. They're more alert and they show more respect."

Colin is just one of many thoughtful community members who have extended their generosity to JOURNEYS. Visit our website to learn more about volunteer opportunities and how to hold a drive of your own.



JOURNEYS' clinical intern Tiffany showcases donated bikes



Volunteer Orientation Schedule Fall 2019

All orientations are held at
JOURNEYS | The Road Home

No registration required

DATE	TIME
Thursday August 8	6:30pm
Saturday August 17	10:00am
Wednesday August 28	6:30pm
Thursday September 5	6:30pm
Wednesday September 11	6:30pm
Saturday September 21	10:00am
Thursday September 25	6:30pm
Tuesday October 1	6:30pm
Wednesday October 10	6:30pm
Saturday October 19	10:00am
Monday October 23	6:30pm

Survive. Thrive. Inspire.

What happens when you don't feel safe at home, and then have no home to return to? Survivors of **domestic violence** have reported that if shelters did not exist, the consequences for them would be dire.

At JOURNEYS, 35% of all clients know exactly what it means to flee, and the number of clients coming to the agency in the wake of domestic violence has consistently risen for the past three years.

For these clients, case managers combine compassion with emergency shelter, supportive services, and proven crisis interventions to help clients carry on to a safer and more self-sufficient future.

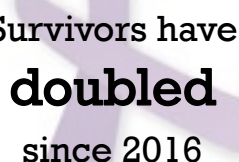
To our staff, these individuals embody an unwavering amount of hope and courage, inspiring all that we do to help people heal, harness their full potential, and address their barriers to housing.



1 in 4
clients are survivors
of Domestic Violence



Survivors of
any gender served



Survivors have
doubled
since 2016



ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

JOIN US!

What: Annual Meeting
Where: JOURNEYS | The Road Home
When: August 20th at 6:30 p.m.

We will report on last year's fiscal and client numbers as well as upcoming news and goals!

Please **RSVP** at
[www.journeystheroadhome.org/
annual-meeting.html](http://www.journeystheroadhome.org/annual-meeting.html)

Welcome Back & Welcome Home!

The agency is ecstatic to announce that Lutheran Church of the Atonement in Barrington is confirmed as a winter PADS site for the upcoming 2019-20 winter shelter season which runs from October 1 through April 30. This faith partner was **one of the first sites in northwest suburban Cook County to open its doors for the homeless in 1990 and went on to provide shelter for 17 years before retiring in 2007.**

The church will once again rejoin the PADS community as a site location on Thursday nights and will specialize in providing refuge and hospitality to the families of our shared communities.

With this new partner addition, **the agency's lottery system, which was implemented due to capacity constraints at the shelter sites, will be eliminated Thursday evenings!** By accommodating families at one shelter site, it will allow additional shelter partners to commit their space to other clientele in need.





1140 East Northwest Highway | Palatine | Illinois 60074



NEWS

JOURNEYS | The Road Home

1140 East Northwest Highway | Palatine | Illinois 60074

Phone 847 963 9163 | Fax 847 963 9120

Hours 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. | Monday-Friday

Connect with us!  |  | 

Board of Directors

Fernando Egea | President
John Kenney | Vice President
Norene Rolenitus | Secretary
Paul Adamczyk | Treasurer

Chris Barnes
Brian Bending
Margaret Brueck
Lorenzo De Leon
Mark Kilgore
Beth Nabors
Caroline Starr
Christine Svenson
Melissa Swartz

Advisory Board

Fr. Corey Brost
Anton Duvall
Katie Ford
Steve Griffin
Paul Heinze
Burt Jensen
Kurt Knuth
Alan Stoeckel

Staff

Beth Nabors | *Executive Director*
Todd Stull | *Director of Clinical Services*
Suzanne Ploger | *Director of Development*
Jon Rapp | *HOPE Center Manager*
Carol Marie O'Marrah | *Shelter Manager*
Erica Whelan | *Grants Manager*
Nicole Cecala | *Grants Associate*
Shaina Makani | *Database Specialist*
Heidi Meier | *Volunteer Coordinator*
Michelle Dubil | *Housing Case Manager*
Kelly Kucharski | *Case Manager*
Mandy Smith | *Vocational Case Manager*
Marie Bulfer | *Case Manager*
Vel Jackson | *Transportation & Facilities Manager*
Sandy Davern | *Accountant*
Pete Florio | *Driver*
Sue Nelson | *Driver*
Mike Booth | *Custodian*



Upcoming Events!



Annual Meeting
Tuesday, August 20, 2019



Bid for HOPE
Friday, November 8, 2019
The Cotillion

