

The Power to Change is in Sight!

From the Executive Director

On behalf of the staff, board, and homeless clients of North Side Housing and Supportive Services (NSHSS), I would like to welcome you to the first issue of our newsletter. Within these pages, you will find information about our programs and clients, as well as details about fundraising events and volunteer opportunities.

North Side Housing and Supportive Services is an agency which seeks to help homeless men transform their lives and attain housing, employment, and stability. We offer a wide array of services for our clients to help meet their specific needs, including permanent supportive housing with case management, a health care program, a mental health program, intensive case management, an overnight shelter, and a street employment program.

Our offices along with several of our programs are based out of our 835 W. Addison facility, in the basement of Lakeview Lutheran Church. We also have offices in the Lakeview YMCA, and scattered-site supportive housing units located throughout the north side of Chicago.

Because of partners like you, we are able to serve hundreds of homeless clients per year with the services they need to end their homelessness. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us as we would love for you to become further involved. Thank you so much for your continuing support as we strive to help the homeless of Chicago.

With thanks,

Roger Engelmann
Executive Director
North Side Housing and Supportive Services



Robert's Story

This coming August will be the four year anniversary of Robert's relationship with North Side Housing and Supportive Services (NSHSS). His glowing eyes and infectious smile communicate his enthusiasm when he proclaims this fact. Robert plans to celebrate his milestone with a trip to Six Flags Great America, a place where the American Eagle roller coaster (his favorite) provides an apt metaphor for the deep valleys and steep climbs back to stability he has experienced. Twelve years ago Robert was a nomadic traveler, hopping from city to city across the country staying only long enough in each place to realize he wanted to, or should, leave. For several years he experienced homelessness in many cities scattering the country. Then Robert returned to Chicago in hopes of staying with friends or family. When they would not allow him to stay, he ended up out on the streets here as well.

Robert described finding NSHSS: "I felt that it was a start to getting back on my feet again, but I needed a roof over my head." The Supportive Housing Program helped put a roof over his head, but as he says, "It's not all about the roof." As the supportive housing program serves homeless men who have dual diagnoses of mental health and substance abuse disorders, engaging in services to address one's underlying issues is central to the program's philosophy. Robert worked with his Case Manager to secure crucial physical and mental health services, both of which he still actively maintains. In addition to the assistance from outside service providers, Robert attends weekly life skills groups at NSHSS where he bolsters his cache of useful skills. Robert transferred some of these skills to his employment as a Street Wise vendor, using his affable personality as an entrepreneur selling newspapers. Reflecting on his time with the NSHSS, Robert exclaimed: "This is one of the best programs I've been a part of. They made sure I got what I needed along the way." Continued on page 2



Formerly Lakeview Shelter

North Side Housing and Supportive Services
835 W. Addison
Chicago, IL 60613
(773) 327-1389
www.northsidehousing.org

Programs

North Side Housing was founded in 1983 as Lakeview Shelter by three congregations and concerned citizens of the Lakeview neighborhood. The agency started as an emergency overnight shelter and has steadily grown over the years. We now offer a variety of services addressing the array of needs our clients present to assist them in breaking their cycles of homelessness and becoming self-sufficient. Our programs include:

Permanent Supportive Housing Program
44 individual apartment units for homeless men with case management services for each client enrolled in the program.

Health Care Service
A licensed nurse practitioner provides preventative and primary health care to program clients including routine physical exams and treatment of minor health concerns.

Mental Health Program
The agency employs an LCSW to provide specialized mental health services for our clients.

Intensive Case Management Program
A community-based program that helps develop and implement a plan with homeless clients to end their homelessness. Services include case management, addictions case management, and other in-house services, as well as referrals and placements to outside agencies.

Overnight Shelter Program
Provides basic daily needs like food, shelter, and a secure place to stay. The program also provides referrals to other supportive services, including those at North Side Housing, in order to address other conditions and difficult issues preventing clients from achieving stable housing and lifestyles. The shelter operates 27 beds 365 days a year.

Street Employment Program
Partners with the Central Lakeview Merchants Association to provide temporary street-cleaning employment for our clients, helping them earn income and develop transferable job experience.

With its history and current programming, NSHSS has established itself as a leader in the community in providing homeless services.

Robert's Story, Continued from pg. 1

Robert is proud to be taking care of himself and staying constantly active. He adores his South Lakeview neighborhood with its bustling retail stores, heavy pedestrian traffic and proximity to the Lake. Yet an additional element makes his location especially gratifying: "I never thought I would make it over here." Robert transformed his travel restlessness into abilities that include an encyclopedic knowledge of the CTA bus and rail system as well as a desire to explore new places. In fact, Robert manages to "save a little of my money every month so I can travel." He reported after saving for slightly less than a year he currently has a trip to Los Angeles planned. Some of his other goals include losing weight, getting more exercise, and working to get a driver's license. In terms of advice for his brothers and sisters struggling with homelessness, mental illness and addiction, Robert encourages: "Hang in there and take it one step at a time . . . keep the faith."

Robert's story exemplifies how an individual who harnesses courage and self-discipline can take advantage of opportunities presented to him and significantly improve his life.

Robert will be the first to tell you, "I've worked hard for it and I've come a long way." □

In Our Own Words

This section features work by clients of NSHSS

Cornucopia

Correlation of coordinates.

The synthesization of synchronization.

Confluent with the configurazation of philosophy's wonder;
At the awe of God.

The step-by-step process of parallel thoughts
Coinciding in . . . infinity.

In the process of conscious unfoldment,
Realizing the apex of the journey
Conscientiousness of consciousness.

The mental bars of our own limitations
Can suffice to last no longer.

Indigenous to our procrastination of reflective thought.
The sequentiality of sequences.
What is nothing composed of?

By Victor M., Supportive Housing Program Resident

Events Page

Looking for a night out on the town?
 Come to North Side Housing's

Annual Dinner

Date: September 18th, 2008

Time: 7pm

Location: Reza's Restaurant
 432 W. Ontario

What: An opportunity to support and/or learn more about the agency with a multiple course banquet of Mediterranean fare prepared by the chefs at Reza's. Cash bar available.

Have a lot of friends? Host a table for up to 10 people (including yourself) for an especially good time.

Cost: No ticket fee, but attendees are encouraged to bring their checkbooks as there will be opportunities to support the agency.

RSVP: We ask that all interested parties RSVP by September 4th, 2008. Please register in advance as we cannot accommodate diners the night of the event.

Contact: Roger Engemann
rengemann@northsidehousing.org or
 Karen Long klong@northsidehousing.org
 Phone: 773-327-1389

LAC Convention Draws a Crowd

North Side Housing and Supportive Services is a member of Lakeview Action Coalition (LAC), a non-profit, multi-issue community association made up of 40 members— including religious congregations, non-profit agencies, and businesses — that organizes people around issues affecting their members. On June 16, 2008 LAC held their Community Convention at Anshe Emet Synagogue and filled the seats. A number of NSHSS clients and staff attended the event to celebrate a year of hard work and reinvigorate themselves for another year of struggling for social justice. During the convention LAC received live pledges from aldermen, police commanders, state representatives and senators, a county commissioner as well as other officials to continue working together on LAC's primary issues: 1) preserving affordable housing, 2) increasing access to healthcare and 3) protecting the rights of homeless youth and building better relationships with the police. Overall the convention was a major success with participants seeing concrete commitments made and feeling connected with other concerned citizens.

Boat Party a Rousing Success

The agency held its first ever boat party fundraiser on June 19th. Over one hundred people came out to party and support North Side Housing and Supportive Services on a beautiful summer night. The voyage embarked with the boat motoring south along the scenic Chicago River putting the city's stunning architecture on full display as DJs Jeff Craven, Lego, and Phatman set the tone for the evening with soulful house music. A dinner buffet featuring selections from over a dozen city restaurants made the crowd even more ready to enjoy themselves.

By the time the boat doubled back along the river toward Navy Pier's locks on its way to Lake Michigan, the party was well under way



Dancing and merriment along the river at the Boat Party

with the entire top deck dancing the night away. With a brilliant setting sun splashing a canvas of color over a breathtaking skyline view only available from out on the lake, all aboard took in the night and amplified the already electric energy. Between ticket sales and the silent auction, the agency made thousands of dollars to continue the necessary programming for our homeless clients. Keep an eye out for next year's Boat Party!

We would like to thank the following donors for making the Boat Party possible: Chicago Line Cruises for use of their vessel, Avenue Tavern, Blue Bayou, Buca di Beppo, Chili's, Chipotle, D'Agostino's, Domino's, Fiorentino's Cucina, Marcello's, Matilda's, Mia Francesca, Panera, Penny's Noodles, P.J. Clarke's, Pompei, Sopranos, Stella's, Tuscany, Wilde Restaurant, and Wishbone for food contributions and gift packages, DJs Jeff Craven, Lego, and Phatman for donating their time and musical talent, and Ben Bitner for donating the sound equipment.

We also want to acknowledge the Park Hyatt Hotel for their ongoing generosity of providing pillows, bedding, towels and toiletries for our emergency overnight shelter and SHP residents.



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How You Can Get Involved:

North Side Housing and Supportive Services needs your help. We are dependent upon donors and volunteers to help us fulfill our mission of serving our clients.

Donate:

We need your financial help to provide services to our clients and expand the services we offer in order to help in new ways. Please consider a generous gift. We also accept in-kind gifts. Please see the adjacent wish list. If you are donating as a business, please note we have a business partner recognition program. NSHSS is a registered not-for-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Volunteer:

Volunteers are critical to our mission of helping the homeless. Currently volunteers donate their professional skills for the clients, cook meals and help with special events for the agency. If interested, please use one of the methods below to contact us:

Contact:

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www.northsidehousing.org
Email: support@northsidehousing.org

Wish List:

Socks
Underwear
Razors
Shaving Cream
Shampoo
Soap
Deodorant
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Laundry Detergent
Dish Washing Liquid
Dishwasher Powder
Bleach
Non-Powdered Gloves
Face Towels
Body Towels
Spices
Coffee
Sugar
Creamer
Condiments
Laser Printer



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