



# JOSEPH'S JOURNEY

## A Life Transformed: Cancer-Free and Free to Sing



In the summer of 2014, Mr. Herbcha suspected something wasn't quite right. His doctors ran some tests and found a golf-ball sized mass on his kidney. The mass

was malignant and he needed surgery.

But, he had recently become homeless. He was living rent free in exchange for doing maintenance work on his landlord's other properties. After his landlord passed away, the new owners wanted him to pay full rent, but he couldn't afford it. So before he could have surgery, he needed stable, suitable housing. He was referred to Joseph's Home after brief stays in an emergency shelter and transitional housing.

The change in living situation meant he was clear to have surgery, which happened in the fall of 2014. When he woke up from surgery, he heard the words every cancer patient longs to hear from his or her surgeon: "We got it all."

Mr. Herbcha spent the following four months recuperating and working with the Joseph's Home staff to find housing he could afford on his fixed income. He also received care for other health issues, such as glaucoma, cataracts and an untreated hernia.

"Everybody has been so nice here," said Mr. Herbcha, reflecting on his time at Joseph's Home.

In early February Mr. Herbcha moved to his new apartment. He was excited to regain his independence, which will allow him greater freedom to play his guitar and sing in his church choir. ♦

**"I'm so proud of Mr. Herbcha for the way he has grown since he first arrived at Joseph's Home. He visibly regained his sense of self-esteem and that freed him to express himself and open up to others in really meaningful ways."**

*—Executive Director Georgette Jackson*

**Your support of the 2015 Joseph's Home Annual Fund will help men like Mr. Herbcha recover their health and return to permanent housing. Please send your gift today, or donate online at [josephshome.com](http://josephshome.com).**

# Thank You for Being a Friend Indeed

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A friend in need is a friend indeed. Put differently, “A true friend sticks around in hard times.”

The men of Joseph’s Home had some extremely hard times in 2014. Thankfully, they had *more than 700 true friends* who were willing to support them no matter what.

Their hardship is not surprising or unusual. After they begin receiving proper health care, our guys often discover their medical problems are worse than they first thought.

***What was different about 2014 was the constant prevalence of serious, life-threatening conditions in our resident population. Especially cancer.***

Since the founding of Joseph’s Home, we’ve always had a lot of residents with unstabilized diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. Serious issues for sure, but normally pretty quick to respond to the right treatment. Even men with all three of these issues could reasonably hope to be back in permanent housing within four to six months of their arrival at Joseph’s Home.

But 2014 saw a dramatic slowing in discharges and increased lengths of stay. Some of our residents required multiple types of treatments (e.g., surgery and chemotherapy). The periods of waiting for treatment to begin, end or resume seemed interminable at times.

That’s why I’m so grateful for friends like you. *Because of you*, our guys never had to worry about whether or not they’d make it to their next doctor’s appointment or get the medicine they need. They had access to counseling, group therapy and social services to help them heal emotionally and spiritually. The clothing rack always had something nice to offer. When someone was ready to move out, there was a care package to smooth the transition. And sometimes, even donations of much needed furniture, appliances and other household items.

*Thank you for standing with the men of Joseph’s Home in 2014.* Your financial and in-kind support, as well as your prayers and advocacy, made healing a reality for them when they had no one else to whom they could turn.

I’m pleased to report that nearly all of our 2014 residents are now well along the road to stable health and permanent housing. Some are already there. Some of them still have a few challenges to overcome. But to a man they are determined to succeed. And with friends like you by their side, I know they will.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Georgette".

GEORGETTE JACKSON, *Executive Director*

“The men of Joseph’s Home are heroes to me. They endure and transcend circumstances that would have buried me. It’s an honor to care for and honor them.”

— Dr. David C. Cassel

“Joseph Home provides a critical need for disadvantaged people to receive adequate care after their hospital stay. Not only does Joseph Home help them to recover, but is also a sign of our recognition of their dignity and value.”

— Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla,  
Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Cleveland

## THANK YOU GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

# 2014 Donor Honor Roll

Hundreds of caring neighbors in and beyond Northeast Ohio gave generously to make healing possible for the men of Joseph’s Home in 2014. The annual Joseph’s Home Donor Honor Roll is one of the ways we say “thank you.” All supporters who made at least one financial contribution are listed, unless they requested to remain anonymous. Know that the residents, board and staff of Joseph’s Home are deeply grateful for each and every gift. We treasure your partnership with us. Please continue to keep Joseph’s Home in your thoughts, prayers and charitable giving plans. THANK YOU!

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**“Community West Foundation has been proud to support Joseph’s Home for the last eight years, and looks forward to continuing to do so. Joseph’s Home is the only agency that fulfills an essential need in our community: providing extended medical care to homeless men—many of whom are veterans—to help them heal and begin their next steps to independence and self-sufficiency. For many of these men, without the great care Joseph’s Home provides, their journey would not continue.”**

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**“Joseph’s Home serves an unmet need in the community and reminds us that home and health should never be taken for granted.”**

*—Chuck and Rita Maimbourg*

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**Financial supporters weren’t the only ones who touched the lives of Joseph’s Home residents in 2014. We want to also thank and recognize these partners for their contributions of goods and services and/or hours and energy spent volunteering, collaborating or advocating on behalf of Joseph’s Home and our residents.**

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*\*Deceased in 2014*

*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this listing of donors. If your name has been misspelled, listed incorrectly or omitted, we sincerely apologize and ask you to please contact Director of Development Nathan Munn at 216.875.4634 so that we may correct our records.*

# Lives Healed, Empowered, Transformed

# ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## NEW BEGINNINGS

### Mr. Blackwell, 2014

When his doctor at Care Alliance told him he had diabetes, Mr. Blackwell was surprised. But that explained the problems he'd been having recently—especially the wounds that were not healing on their own. The shelter where he was staying at the time referred him to Joseph's Home. Staff Nurse Sister Sandy LoPorto, SSJ-TOSF, helped Mr. Blackwell learn to administer insulin and find help getting diabetic shoes. He moved to permanent housing in October.

### Mr. Pigott, 2015

Chronically homeless since 1998, Mr. Pigott slept in his vehicle and couch-surfed for 16 years. He didn't seek help from homeless service providers until Labor Day weekend 2014. By then, his diabetes was causing vision problems, he had suffered a mini-stroke and his heart was racing out of control. After nearly two weeks in an emergency shelter, he ended up in the hospital. Once out of immediate danger, he came to Joseph's Home. With proper medical care, his diabetes and vision problems stabilized. Doctors worked to find medications to treat his heart problem so that he could avoid surgery. He moved to permanent housing in February.



“The people here at Joseph's Home have helped me tremendously.”

—Mr. Blackwell (above) at the 2014 Joseph's Home Christmas party

### Mr. Fernandez, 2015

For four months, Mr. Fernandez struggled to cope with diabetes and kidney failure while living in a Cleveland homeless shelter. A referral to Joseph's Home meant a place to heal, reliable transportation to dialysis and all of his medical needs being properly addressed. After surgery and a lengthy recovery from a wound on his foot, he moved to permanent housing in March.

## UPDATES

### Mr. Patterson, 2010

Mr. Patterson came to Joseph's Home to recover from hip replacement surgery. But his hip wasn't all that needed to be rebuilt. His decades-long struggle with addiction had led to the loss of housing two years earlier. He needed a new direction and purpose in life. If the past several years are any indication, he's found it. Since 2011, Mr. Patterson has been studying social work at Cuyahoga Community College. He hopes to transfer to the bachelor's degree program at Cleveland State University this fall. His long-term goal is to earn a master's degree and land a job at the Cleveland VA Medical Center helping other veterans connect with the services that will empower them to move their lives forward.



Mr. Patterson at the 2013 Joseph's Home Christmas party



## In Loving Memory

Venetia P. Alston, who served as administrative coordinator at Joseph's Home from 2009 to 2011, passed away March 21. She was a valuable member of the Joseph's Home team and made many significant contributions to help Joseph's Home improve efficiency and expand capacity. She will be deeply missed by many.

# FRIENDS LIKE YOU *are amazing!*

**It took the involvement and support of more than 700 individuals and organizations to make medical and housing stability available to the acutely ill homeless men of Joseph's Home in 2014.**

Nearly \$700,000 in financial contributions. Countless items of clothing. Van loads of furniture and household items for the move to permanent housing. Hours upon hours of volunteer service.

That's friendship! Your friendship is deeply appreciated by the residents of Joseph's Home. And the benefits of that friendship are visible every day in their restored lives.

If you haven't yet, please consider what you can do to be a friend to the residents of Joseph's Home in 2015.

**Financial contributions** keep the doors open, lights on and the pantry stocked. Mail checks payable to Joseph's Home using the attached envelope, call Director of Development Nathan Munn at 216.875.4634 to donate by phone or donate online at [josephshome.com](http://josephshome.com).

**In-kind gifts** of clothing, toiletries, bedding, housewares and furniture make it possible for our residents to live with dignity during and after their time at Joseph's Home. Plus, they provide a tangible reminder that someone cares. If you have items to donate, contact Facilities and Operations Manager Edison Mosley II at 216.685.1551.

**Volunteer opportunities** are available to those who want to offer the priceless gift of time and personal contact. If you want to discuss current opportunities to directly serve the men of Joseph's Home, contact Executive Director Georgette Jackson at 216.685.1551.

**Planned gifts**, such as a bequest to Joseph's Home in your will, are a thoughtful way to provide life-transforming care for future residents of Joseph's Home and leave an inspirational philanthropic legacy. To request more information about bequests or other planned giving options, contact Nathan Munn at 216.875.4634.



**Find Us Online** Visit [josephshome.com](http://josephshome.com) to get news and updates, connect with Joseph's Home on Facebook, subscribe to our e-newsletter, make secure online donations, learn about additional volunteer opportunities and more.

## NEWS BRIEFS AND EVENTS

### Warm Hands, Warm Hearts on a Cold January Night

Nearly 50 friends of Joseph's Home gathered at Market Garden Brewery in Ohio City in Cleveland on January 27 for the first-ever Joseph's Home Warm Hands, Warm Hearts evening event.

"The weather and the post-holiday crunch can really take their toll on people during January," said Joseph's Home Board of Directors Vice Chair Nadine Ezzie, who led the effort to organize the event. "We wanted to give people an excuse to get out and do something fun to break up the work week while learning a bit about Joseph's Home."

After a brief welcome by Executive Director Georgette Jackson, guests spent the evening socializing, enjoying appetizers and sampling Market Garden's variety of beers. Joseph's Home thanks Market Garden Brewery for its generous donation of a portion of the food and beverage, and everyone who braved the cold to come out in support of our acutely ill homeless residents.



### H2O at Joseph's Home

In February and March, high school participants in H2O (Help to Others) volunteered at Joseph's Home. On their first visit, they worked on puzzles, played cards and chatted with Joseph's Home residents. For their second visit, they prepared a St. Patrick's Day snack to share: Oreo cookies dipped in white chocolate and dusted with green sugar.

"This kind of service project is such a win-win," said Executive Director Georgette Jackson. "Friendships have immense therapeutic value for our residents. And by spending time interacting with residents, the volunteers gain insights into homelessness that will inform their opinions and attitudes for the rest of their lives."

H2O (Help to Others) is a service learning program for middle and high school students offered through Lakewood's Department of Human Services/Division of Youth in partnership with Lakewood City Schools.



### Welcome Three New Board Members

**The Joseph's Home Board of Directors welcomed three new members at the end of 2014. Joining the board are:**

**Russell Hunt** is a former Joseph's Home resident and a longtime participant in the Joseph's Home Alumni Board.

**Anthony Searcy**, senior financial consultant at John Hancock Financial Network, is an example of active community leadership. Searcy also serves on the boards of trustees for Cleveland Catholic Charities, Benedictine High School and HELP Inc. He is an alumnus of Curry College in Boston and a member of the Church of the Gesu in University Heights.

**Frances Tyus** is a retired nutrition services systems manager and registered dietician. She holds a master's degree from the University of Akron and a bachelor's degree from Tennessee State University. She is a member of multiple professional dietetic associations and a trustee of St. John A.M.E. Church in Cleveland.

Congratulations to each of you and thank you for your willingness to invest yourself in the Joseph's Home mission of healing for acutely ill homeless men.

JOSEPH'S HOME

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**JOSEPH'S HOME MISSION ::**

Empowering men experiencing homelessness and acute illness to heal in a nurturing faith-based environment and achieve independence.



JOSEPH'S HOME

*A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System*

## Save the Date!

Perseverance in Hope: The 2015 Joseph's Home Benefit Luncheon is **FRIDAY, JUNE 26** at Windows on the River. More details to come very soon. Watch your mailbox and save the date!

**Will You Receive the Next Email Issue of Joseph's Journey?**

The May/June issue of *Joseph's Journey* will be published online only and delivered by email. To make sure you receive this and future email issues of Joseph's Journey, visit *josephshome.com* and click the Join Our Mailing List button in the lower right corner.

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