



# JOSEPH'S JOURNEY

## A Life Transformed: Health Restored on the Road to Recovery



Mr. Benz was almost back. Homeless since New Year's Day 2014, he had spent more than a year in a substance abuse recovery program for homeless men. He learned to live sober. He trained in culinary arts to make himself more employable. He was looking forward to getting a job and moving on with his life.

And then he got sick.

A medical exam revealed a potential problem with his bile ducts.

He had surgery to help fix the issue, but he had complications and needed another surgery to undo the first surgery. Then other pulmonary and gastrointestinal issues flared up. It seemed like his body was falling apart right when he most needed his health.

His caseworker referred him to Joseph's Home and he was admitted in July. At the time, he still needed an operation to repair a hernia, but he was too fragile for surgery.

At Joseph's Home, he stabilized his health enough to have the hernia operation.

He regained the strength needed to live independently and even start thinking about looking for work to supplement his fixed income. Joseph's Home program staff helped him find an affordable apartment nearby so he could easily visit for ongoing assistance. They referred him to the Cleveland Furniture Bank to get furniture for his new apartment. And, Joseph's Home donors provided used kitchen items and—to his great delight—a brand new toaster to furnish his kitchen.

"This place has been great. Everybody took care of me really well," said Mr. Benz.

The kindness and generosity of Joseph's Home supporters has given Mr. Benz the chance he needed to get back on his feet. But, he's probably most thankful that he won't be on his own as he strives to achieve the goals he has set for himself in areas like education, maintenance of housing, employment and income.

"I'm really glad that Joseph's Home will assist me in the future," said Mr. Benz. "God bless Joseph's Home and everyone here." ♦

### Supporters and Friends Like You Provide Certainty and Peace

The residents of Joseph's Home come to us at what is normally the most difficult point in their lives. What the future holds for them is uncertain at best and terrifying at worst.

That's why you—the friends and supporters of Joseph's Home—are such a vital part of their journey. Your contributions of money and material provide certainty. Certainty that their basic needs will be met. Certainty that their health won't be compromised by the dangers of life on the street. Certainty that someone will be there to help navigate the challenges that lie ahead. Your contributions of time, expertise, prayer, warm wishes and kind words encourage the soul and fuel hope. Thank you for all that you do!

# Navigating the Changing Landscape of Homeless Services

## A MESSAGE FROM THE JOSEPH'S HOME BOARD CHAIR



Is homelessness in our country increasing or decreasing? It depends on who you ask and how they classify homelessness, whether it means sleeping on the streets, living “doubled up” for reasons of economic hardship, or staying in emergency or transitional housing. Regardless of the answer, Joseph’s Home still has a steady stream of men without resources who need help to heal and achieve independence.

While the need for Joseph’s Home hasn’t changed since being founded in 2000, the homeless services landscape has changed dramatically. With the enactment of the federal Homelessness Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act in 2009, our sources of government funding have placed more emphasis on outcomes such as reduced length of stay and successful exits to permanent housing. As a result, all homeless service providers are being held more accountable for the outcomes their programs produce.

Additionally, local and national government emphasis on funding rapid re-housing programs has started to reduce available funding for transitional housing programs like Joseph’s Home. And, changes brought about by the Affordable Care Act have radically impacted access to health care for the homeless men we serve.

**Because of these changing circumstances, expectations and funding priorities, the board has begun analyzing the Joseph’s Home program model to ensure we are optimally configured to meet the needs of the homeless in our community while maintaining our funding.**

Toward this end, Joseph’s Home hired a consultant to work with the board and staff to create a program outcomes dashboard, showing areas where we can improve and also providing data on the benefits residents receive and the benefits we bring to the greater Cleveland area.

These issues are also a major consideration in our search for a new executive director. He/she will have to be knowledgeable about trends in local and national homeless service funding, as well as the medical, social, financial, legal and other challenges facing our individual residents.

We are already moving in the right direction by measuring outcomes (pre- and post-discharge), but we need to evaluate the services we provide to maintain those outcomes. Our new executive director will do this in part by identifying opportunities for strategic partnerships. He/she will continue to lead the effort in moving residents into permanent housing while ensuring they have both physical and mental health. It will also be increasingly important that Joseph’s Home remains in contact with our alumni after their discharge to help make sure they do not fall back into homelessness.

The landscape around us will continue to change. But, thanks to the generous support of caring friends like you and the tireless work of our board and staff, I’m confident one thing will not change any time soon: The role of Joseph’s Home as a leader in the provision of homeless services, serving as a beacon of hope in our community.

KATHY A. HEIGLE

*Chair, Board of Directors, Joseph’s Home*



## Donor Spotlight: *Kevin Gallagher*

### PHILANTHROPIC LEADER SHAPED BY CLEVELAND AND FAMILY ROOTS

Kevin Gallagher lives and practices law in the Tampa, Florida, area as a partner at the Gallagher & Hagopian law firm. But, his Cleveland origins and family ties are clearly reflected in his philanthropic impact.

Gallagher's philanthropic involvement at Joseph's Home started when his mother, Frances Gallagher, passed away in 2004.

Moved by the many generous gifts to Joseph's Home in her memory, he committed himself to annual personal contributions for as long as he is financially able.

He gives in memory of his mother and in honor of his aunt, Sister Joan Gallagher, CSA, founding executive director of Joseph's Home. His contributions have totaled more than \$100,000.

"It's important to give—and to give back," said Gallagher, recalling his original decision to support Joseph's Home.

Awareness of the needs in communities and the importance of philanthropy also affect his approach to parenting, and led him to

bring his then 10-year-old son on a visit to Joseph's Home a number of years ago. The impact was immediate. On the way home from that visit, they passed a man sleeping under a bridge. His son, freshly aware of the reality of homelessness, noticed the man and said, "Hey dad, maybe we should tell him to go to Joseph's Home."

"Kevin's example of generosity is an inspiration to all of us," said Joseph's Home Board Chair Kathy Heigle. "Because of how long he has been giving and how consistent he's been—even in years when the economy was poor and philanthropic activity declined nationwide—he has made a meaningful impact on the lives of hundreds of formerly homeless men."

The board of directors, staff, residents and alumni of Joseph's Home extend our sincere gratitude to Kevin Gallagher for his faithful generosity toward the neediest members of the Cleveland community. ♦

**"HE HAS MADE  
A MEANINGFUL  
IMPACT ON  
THE LIVES OF  
HUNDREDS  
OF FORMERLY  
HOMELESS MEN."**

— Kathy Heigle

# ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## NEW BEGINNINGS



### Mr. Hill (2015)

After four years of unemployment, Mr. Hill felt like he was finally headed in the right direction. He got a job

and even received a raise within his first three weeks, until a stroke derailed everything.

Mr. Hill was homeless at the time of the stroke, so he came to Joseph's Home from a nursing home. His mobility and speech improved to the point that he no longer needed a cane to get around and could speak with minimal slurring. A diabetic, he got his blood sugar under control and eliminated his dependence on insulin. He also reconnected with his children, who he had been estranged from while homeless.

In June, nearly a year after his stroke, Mr. Hill moved into his own apartment.

*A longer version of Mr. Hill's story was published in the August email version of "Joseph's Journey." A link to an archived version of the August e-Newsletter is posted on josephshome.com under "News and Events." To subscribe to future email versions of "Joseph's Journey," click "Join Our Mailing List" in the lower right corner.*

## UPDATES



### Mr. Henderson (2010)

"It was abrupt," said Mr. Henderson as he reflected on the rapid sequence of events that

led him to homelessness. The married father of eight lost his home in the

financial crisis of 2008. His marriage, business and health all crumbled at the same time. The road back to a stable, healthy life started when a nurse at Care Alliance referred him to Joseph's Home. "I learned who I am at Joseph's Home and what I can be," he said. First and foremost, he committed himself to being a father and grandfather. He served for a time as the president of the tenant's council in his apartment building. He resumed volunteering in an anti-drug/mentoring program founded by his church. He currently serves on the program committee at Joseph's Home, where his experience adds valuable insight to discussions about program offerings and design. Most recently, he decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology and is beginning his second semester of studies at Cuyahoga Community College.



*Joseph's Home staff and residents with the new Joseph's Home van, purchased with funding from The Higley Fund, a supporting organization of The Cleveland Foundation, and The Thatcher Family Fund, a supporting organization of The Cleveland Foundation.*

## GENEROUS FUNDERS KEEP RESIDENTS ROLLING ON THE ROAD TO HEALING

Transportation is integral to the mission of Joseph's Home because residents have frequent medical, housing and other appointments. When a resident prepares to move, the generosity of Joseph's Home donors often means they have more household items for their new apartment than they can carry.

For 12 years, the Joseph's Home staff used a 2003 Honda Odyssey van to help transport residents and their belongings. But time and the harsh Cleveland winters took their toll. Irreparable corrosion on the underbody and structural components was starting to impact the

“I learned who I am at Joseph’s Home and what I can be.”

— Mr. Henderson

# IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we report the untimely passing of three recent Joseph’s Home residents. May they rest in peace.

**Terrell Howard** became homeless shortly after he aged out of foster care. He came to Joseph’s Home last summer and transitioned to permanent housing in August 2014. He was profiled on page 1 of the fall 2014 issue of *Joseph’s Journey* and WCPN 90.3 Ideastream also featured him in a 2014 “Sound of Ideas” piece about youth who age out of foster care. He passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in May due to complications from diabetes. We remember him for his



willingness to advocate for others even as he endured very difficult circumstances in his own life.

**Lanny Leatherman** came to Joseph’s Home last summer and immediately made an impact. He volunteered to tend a small garden behind Joseph’s Home and did a fantastic job producing fresh, homegrown vegetables for use in Joseph’s Home meals. He was profiled on page 6 of the fall 2014 issue of *Joseph’s Journey*. Sadly, his cancer did not respond to treatment as hoped. He passed away in February after a brief stay in a nursing home. We remember him



for his determination to make the most of every day.



Former U.S. Marine **Jerry Clayton** knew he had a tough road ahead of him when he came to Joseph’s Home in April 2014. Sober for less than a year when he arrived, decades of substance abuse had taken their toll on his body and he was in treatment for liver cancer. He was hopeful that he’d be able to qualify for the transplant recipient waiting list, but tests ultimately revealed that his cancer was too advanced. He was discharged to hospice and passed away in June 2015. We remember him for his pleasant smile and his courage as demonstrated in these words which he said in a November 2014 interview: “I was terrified. I’m not terrified now.”

vehicle’s serviceability. The Joseph’s Home Board of Directors and program staff agreed that the vehicle needed to be replaced.

The old van was officially retired on September 18. Through the generosity of the Cleveland Foundation’s Higley Fund and Thatcher Family Fund, it was replaced with a new 2015 Honda Odyssey.

“This new vehicle will ensure that we have safe, reliable transportation for our residents and staff for years to come,” said Interim Executive Director Nathan Munn.

The Joseph’s Home Board of Directors and staff would like to offer their sincere thanks to the Cleveland Foundation for fully funding the purchase of the vehicle. Thanks also to Sisters of Charity Health System Vice President & Chief Procurement Officer Andy Motz, who researched the market and negotiated the purchase. ♦

## SUPPORT JOSEPH’S HOME

Please continue to support the men of Joseph’s Home with financial contributions to the **2015 ANNUAL FUND.**

A gift of \$175 provides approximately one full day of care for one of our residents. Any amount you can give will bring peace of mind to someone in need.

Please send your tax-deductible gift in the envelope provided or donate anytime at [josephshome.com](http://josephshome.com)

# NEWS BRIEFS

## GOOD NEWS GIVING

Readers of *The Plain Dealer* and *cleveland.com* have selected Joseph's Home as a top-tier social service agency in the 2015 Good News Giving contest. As a result, a Joseph's Home client will be the subject of a story in the Good News Giving series, which runs in *The Plain Dealer* and on *cleveland.com* from Thanksgiving

to New Years Day. Joseph's Home will also receive valuable free advertising in 2016 and a cash award to help provide care for acutely ill homeless men.

**Many thanks to all those who voted, and to the Northeast Ohio Media Group for its continuing support and coverage of Northeast Ohio social service organizations!**



*The 2015 Joseph's Home Christmas card*

## Joseph's Home Christmas Cards Available for Purchase

The 2015 Joseph's Home Christmas Card—based on an original painting by a former Joseph's Home resident—is available for purchase by pre-order. Packs of 10 are only \$15 each. Cards will be available for pickup the week of November 23. To have cards shipped, there is an additional shipping & handling charge. Place your order by November 6 by contacting Interim Executive Director Nathan Munn at 216.685.1551 or [nmunn@sistersofcharityhealth.org](mailto:nmunns@ SistersOfCharityHealth.org).



Former residents Mr. Versaikis and Mr. Cordero



Current resident Mr. Lucas and CSU Social Work Intern Michael Martin

## 2015 Alumni Cookout

On August 28, nearly 20 former Joseph's Home residents returned to Joseph's Home for the annual alumni cookout. Joseph's Home Cook Alphonso Gibson prepared an assortment of ribs, chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs. Volunteers Mattie Cloud and Tovia Cloud (mother and sister, respectively, of Joseph's Home Continuity of Care Coordinator Terrancia Cloud) helped serve the food, and Tovia also created several homemade desserts. Volunteer Barbara VonBenken and Cleveland State University Social Work Intern Michael Martin also helped by administering the new alumni survey to attendees.

*“Relationship has always been central to the healing mission of Joseph's Home. This kind of event helps us to maintain relationships with our former residents and promotes the growth of peer relationships. Both have tremendous potential to positively impact the lives of our guys moving forward.”*

— Interim Executive Director Nathan Munn

*(Top photo) Former residents Mr. Frye, Mr. Henderson and Mr. Elliot, winners of the alumni door prize*

*Former residents Mr. Brown, Mr. Weekly and Mr. Scott*





## PERSEVERANCE IN HOPE

### Perseverance in Hope 2015

Hundreds of friends and supporters of Joseph's Home gathered in June at Windows on the River in Cleveland for Perseverance in Hope 2015, the annual Joseph's Home benefit luncheon. Kevin J. Kelley, Cleveland City Council president, served as emcee. Former Cleveland Browns Head Coach Sam Rutigliano was the keynote speaker.

#### Memorable moments included:

- Emcee Kelley's appeal to the audience to make homelessness a priority issue in our civic life.
- Rutigliano's entertaining and inspirational keynote address.
- The unveiling of a plaque honoring the nine Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine known as "The Dream Team" for their work to spearhead the founding of Joseph's Home 15 years ago. The plaque will be on permanent display at Joseph's Home.
- The tribute offered by Sister Joan Gallagher, CSA, the founding executive director of Joseph's Home, to Georgette Jackson, outgoing executive director. Nathan Munn, Joseph's Home director of development, was introduced as the interim executive director.

Many thanks to the sponsors and guests whose participation and support made the event possible, raising more than \$42,000 to provide shelter, food, nursing care and vital support services for the acutely ill homeless residents of Joseph's Home.

For more responses from attendees of Perseverance in Hope and for a full list of sponsors and silent auction item donors, visit: [josephshome.com/PerseveranceInHope2015.html](http://josephshome.com/PerseveranceInHope2015.html).

**PerseveranceInHope2015.html.**

I know that my peers and colleagues were just as moved as I at this luncheon and it definitely changed my perspective of serving others."

— Benita Smith, PNC Bank



1 (left to right) Joseph's Home Board Chair Kathy Heigle, emcee Kevin J. Kelley, keynote speaker Sam Rutigliano and Executive Director Georgette Jackson 2 Some of the current and former Joseph's Home residents who attended 3 Volunteers (left to right): Nancy Ilg, Katie Warner, Laura Cappetto and Shelly Munn 4 Sr. Joan Gallagher, CSA, and Executive Director Georgette Jackson 5 Presentation of the plaque to honor the CSA dream team. (left to right) Sr. Elizabeth Schur, CSA, Sr. Ruth Ann Patrick, CSA, Sr. Joan Gallagher, CSA, Sr. Marietta Rohr, CSA, Sr. Theresa Bontempo, CSA, Sr. Marian Durkin, CSA, Sr. Evelyn Flowers, CSA, Georgette Jackson and Kathy Heigle

**JOSEPH'S HOME**

2412 COMMUNITY COLLEGE AVE.  
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115

*josephshome.com*

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CLEVELAND, OH  
PERMIT NO. 4546

**IT IS OUR MISSION ::**

Joseph's Home, a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System, provides a nurturing, caring environment for men without resources who have acute medical needs, helping them heal and achieve independence.

**Joseph's Home  
Board of Directors**

*Kathy Heigle (Chair)*

*Nadine Ezzie (Vice Chair)*

*Richard Gallagher (Treasurer)*

*Carrie Benedict (Secretary)*

*Michael J. Biscaro, Psy.D.*

*Russell Hunt*

*Keith Moody*

*Matthew O'Connor*

*Curtis Scruggs*

*Anthony Searcy*

*Heather Stoll*

*Sr. Mary Dorothy Tecca, CSA*

*Frances Tyus, MS, RD, LD*



**JOSEPH'S HOME**