



# JOSEPH'S JOURNEY

## New Collaborative Pharmacy Program Just the Right Rx

Helping residents manage their medications has long been a challenge, from making many attempts to get prescriptions filled at multiple pharmacies to staff members making trips to pick up medications at those multiple pharmacies to tracking medication compliance. But, thanks to a new partnership with The Centers for Families and Children (The Centers), those challenges have been greatly reduced. Joseph's Home and The Centers recently partnered to streamline resident and alumni prescriptions to a single community provider.

Executive Director Christine Horne and T.J. Grimm, director of pharmacy operations at The Centers, met to discuss a possible collaboration. T.J. said he was impressed by the quality of care Joseph's Home provides. "I knew it was a great cultural fit for our organizations to work together."

**"Joseph's Home is a perfect opportunity for us to help out a community partner. Pharmacists in the state of Ohio can now prescribe under a consult agreement and I'm excited to think about what our pharmacy team can do to get more involved in advancing the wellness of the clients of Joseph's Home."** — *T.J. Grimm, director of pharmacy operations at The Centers*



*Joseph's Home and The Centers for Families and Children have partnered to streamline how prescriptions are filled for residents and alumni. Pictured is a pharmacist at The Centers.*

Under the new collaboration, The Centers delivers medications weekly or monthly with urgent medications filled right away. The Centers is also streamlining the payment process for medications, creating a monthly billing account for Joseph's Home and directly billing residents' insurance. Anything not covered is billed to Joseph's Home, with charges over \$25 first needing pre-approval. If medications aren't covered by insurance, the pharmacist works to find a generic equivalent to save money.

T.J. has been working directly with Joseph's Home Health Care Navigator John Mytrysak to implement the program. John was recently promoted from resident support associate to this new role, with his background

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Your support of Joseph's Home will help men without resources recover their health and return to permanent housing. Please send your gift today or donate online at [josephshome.com](http://josephshome.com).

## The Next Level of Integrated Care

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**In this newsletter, we have written a good deal about the shift at Joseph's Home to the next-generation program model, moving from a transitional housing model to being a temporary shelter providing medical respite services. This is an important distinction and an important way for us to continue to enhance the way we serve homeless men in our area so they can heal and achieve independence. That's why we continue to provide information about our new medical respite model.**

We recently took a big step forward in building our medical respite capacity with a generous gift from the Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Foundation to hire a medical director and a behavioral health director, which are both part-time positions. Funding and filling those two positions were the largest two remaining objectives we had identified to fully transition into a medical respite program.

Our new medical director, Harikrishna C. Ponnam, M.D., from St. Vincent Charity Medical Center, began October 1. Dr. Ponnam is providing clinical oversight and expertise as it pertains to the admission, care and discharge of our residents, and helping create significant program efficiencies. The behavioral health director will help identify and address mental health and substance abuse issues, and help connect residents with ongoing intensive care, plus help train and oversee staff around trauma-informed care. Having both has the potential to revolutionize the way our program operates and propel our services into the next level of integrated care.

This grant award will also serve as incentive for other foundations to bridge the remaining funds needed for this worthwhile project. We are truly humbled by the Prentiss Foundation's generosity and recognize this gift as an expression of its faith in our mission.

As we move further into our medical respite model, we continue to align our policies with the National Health Care for the Homeless Council's seven recommended minimum standards, all of which Joseph's Home meets or is working to meet. The standards state a program must:

- Provide safe and quality accommodations.
- Provide quality environmental services.
- Manage timely and safe care transitions to medical respite from acute care, specialty care and/or community setting.
- Administer high-quality, post-acute clinical care.
- Assist in care coordination and provides wrap-around support services.
- Facilitate safe and appropriate care transitions from medical respite to the community.
- Have care driven by quality improvement.

Medical respite care as a concept started to evolve in the late 1980s and is now rapidly surfacing as the ideal solution for acute and post-acute homeless individuals who are too ill to recover from illness on the streets, but not ill enough to remain in a hospital. With the support of funders, friends and staff, we are positioning Joseph's Home for long-term financial sustainability through new funding relationships and delivery of targeted services.

Your partner in service,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Christine Horne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CHRISTINE HORNE, *Executive Director*

## JUST THE RIGHT RX *Continued from page 1*

as a former pharmacist and Joseph's Home alum and former resident proving valuable.

"John supports care coordination among medical providers for residents, working to increase their compliance in going to medical appointments and taking prescribed medications, which helps us measure the impact of our programming and ultimately leads to medical and housing stability," said Christine Horne, Joseph's Home executive director.

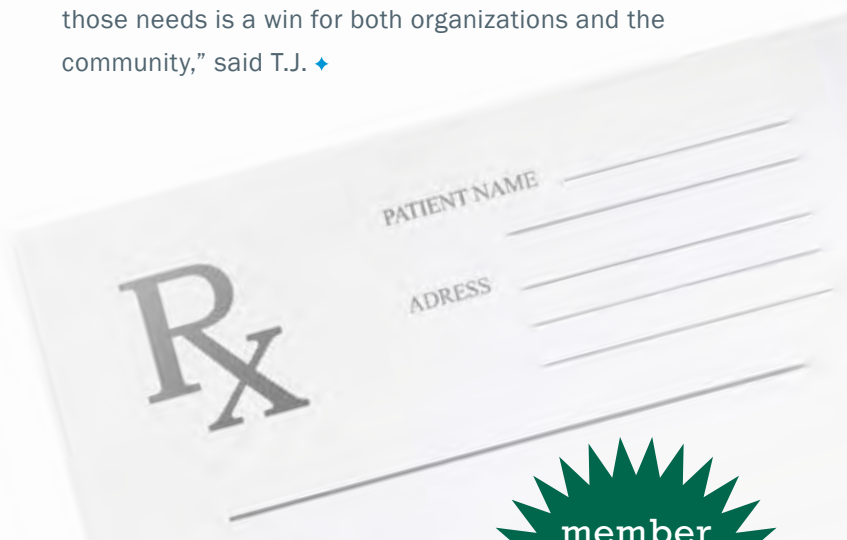
The new medication collaboration with The Centers saves John significant time in filling prescriptions and worrying about co-pays, allowing him to devote more time to helping residents successfully navigate the health care system and their treatment plans.

**"I can spend more time going with residents to appointments, acting as their advocate, and gaining a better understanding of their conditions and needs. This is especially important with new residents. I bring the results to our team meetings, which helps us develop a more appropriate treatment plan."**

*— John Mytrysak, Joseph's Home health care navigator*

The mission of The Centers is to improve the lives of those it serves through integrated behavioral health, primary care, early learning and workforce services. The Centers launched pharmacy operations to provide better access to care in underserved communities, and now has a pharmacy in all four of its behavioral health centers, plus a fifth pharmacy in a community partner.

"Access to care is still a very real problem in underserved communities, especially the folks with some of the pre-existing conditions that Joseph's Home clients struggle with. Anything we can do to help fill those needs is a win for both organizations and the community," said T.J. ♦



## JOSEPH'S HOME BECOMES A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR HOMELESS COUNCIL

Joseph's Home recently became a member of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, joining more than 70 agencies nationwide who provide medical respite care for the homeless. Being a member offers the opportunity to bring the perspective and challenges of Joseph's Home to this national forum on health care and housing for people experiencing homelessness. Membership is restricted to nonprofit entities whose missions align with the council's mission, which is to eliminate homelessness by ensuring comprehensive health care and secure housing for everyone. Membership benefits include industry-leading group purchasing discounts, training and technical assistance, product donations and free journal access.

"Being a member of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council affirms our commitment to the medical respite model and will be a valuable resource as we move forward," said Christine Horne, Joseph's Home executive director. "The council has developed quality standards that have helped guide us as we implement national best practices in medical respite care."

## Volunteer Spotlight: Kurtz Bros.

# Making the Good Earth Better.

Since 1948, Kurtz Bros. has been “Making the Good Earth Better” (company tagline) by recycling yard waste and other byproducts into landscape products. Ten employees visited Joseph’s Home on October 11 to put the company’s tagline into action as part of a community volunteer project, making the grounds around Joseph’s Home better. Kurtz Bros. donated a truckload of mulch and a number of new plants, which the 10 volunteers used to spruce up the landscaping around the building.

The volunteers also had the opportunity to learn about the mission of Joseph’s Home and hear firsthand from a program alum about how Joseph’s Home helped him. One volunteer said that the experience was great for him, adding that he was thankful and truly inspired by the work Joseph’s Home does in Northeast Ohio. Thank you Kurtz Bros. for making our piece of the good earth better.



# NEWS BRIEFS

## Alumni Gather at Edgewater Park for Annual Picnic

Joseph's Home alumni gathered at Edgewater Park September 13 for the annual alumni picnic. Joseph's Home resident support associate and alum John Seawright prepared an assortment of chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs. Joseph's Home board members donated a number of side dishes and desserts, plus they brought yard games. The alumni enjoyed being able to gather and catch up with each other, and share a meal and games together.



## Break the Cycle of Homelessness

More than 30 cycling enthusiasts turned their workout into a good deed at CycleBar Beachwood for the September 15 Break the Cycle of Homelessness event in support of Joseph's Home. The event included a seat at the ride and exclusive amenities, including cycling shoes, towels, water bottles, fresh fruit and complimentary cocktails after the ride. Break the Cycle of Homelessness raised more than \$600 in just one hour! A big thank you to CycleBar owner Joe Purton for opening his studio as he continues to support local nonprofits to help them raise money.



## Music Therapy Heals and Soothes

Music therapy is an established, evidence-based health science profession in which music is used as a therapeutic tool to treat individuals with cognitive, behavioral, communicative, social/emotional, physical or spiritual needs. Joseph's Home residents and alumni now have

access to a music therapy program every Wednesday thanks to a collaboration with Cleveland State University. A student



intern and their supervisor come to Joseph's Home to lead the group for an hour each week. Residents and alumni who have participated have really enjoyed the sessions.

## Nov. 28 — Donate During We Give Catholic Day of Giving



Support Joseph's Home on November 28! We Give Catholic is a one-day giving event that provides Catholic schools, parishes, Catholic Charities sites/programs, special ministries, and nonprofits affiliated with the Diocese of Cleveland, the opportunity to connect with their current donors and establish relationships with new donors. The goal of the day is to raise awareness and funds for Catholic organizations throughout Northeast Ohio. Last year, Joseph's Home raised more than \$3,000 on this day of giving. Let's set the bar higher for this year! Visit the [WeGiveCatholic.org](http://WeGiveCatholic.org) website on November 28, click on Search Organizations and type in Josephs Home. And, please help spread the word to your friends and colleagues to help support the men of Joseph's Home. Stay tuned for more information of this giving day on the Joseph's Home Facebook page and e-newsletter...we need YOU!

## Please Join Us in 2018...Save the Date!

**January 25, 2018** — Warm Hands, Warm Hearts Happy Hour

**June 21, 2018** — Perseverance in Hope: The 2018 Joseph's Home Benefit Luncheon

**JOSEPH'S HOME**

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**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.

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**JOSEPH'S HOME**