Committed to Caring

JOSEPH’S HOME REMAINS OPEN FOR OUR COMMUNITY’S MOST VULNERABLE

Joseph’s Home remains open and committed to caring for our community’s most vulnerable citizens during this unsettling time. As a provider of recuperative care and temporary shelter for medically-fragile men experiencing homelessness, Joseph’s Home is exempt from the governor’s “stay at home” order. We continue to accept referrals, following procedures that include screening for symptoms such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing.

To safeguard our residents and staff from COVID-19, we have implemented numerous precautions to minimize and mitigate the risk of spreading the virus, informed by guidance from the CDC, HUD and the State of Ohio:

- We have temporarily suspended volunteer activities and visitors to the building.
- Residents may only exit the building for essential trips, such as critical medical or housing appointments.
- All residents and staff are screened for symptoms on a daily basis.
- We have temporarily suspended group gatherings and meetings.
- We are practicing physical distancing, cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces, and mandating frequent hand-washing and sanitizing.
- We have personal protective equipment (PPE) on hand, in case of illness.
- Staff who feel ill will be asked to stay home and contact their physician. We are offering flexible hours, PTO and work-from-home options, as feasible.

Ongoing Support

The need for medical respite is not diminished during this time; in fact, as hospitals face greater demand for beds, medical respite may be a logical choice for discharging those no longer requiring hospital care. Our alumni will also need additional support as they face increased risk and insecurity. We remain at the ready, along with many other amazing organizations

Continued on page 2
Perseverance in Times of Change

As the newest member of the Joseph’s Home team, I am perhaps more aware or sensitive as to what an incredible feat it was for the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CSA) to establish Joseph’s Home. Identifying the property, recruiting staff, educating the community, building consensus, raising the funds… the list seems never-ending. And, yet, here we are 20 years later. It is a true testament to how determined and unflappable the CSAs are.

I write this in March, as we enter our first full week under significant restrictions to our personal mobility and interaction due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We have made significant changes to our program that allow us to continue serving those in need, but present some challenges. We have made difficult decisions to safeguard our residents and staff, suspending volunteer programs and activities, limiting our residents’ ability to leave the facility, and practicing social distancing. In this newsletter, you will read about our outstanding partnership with Tri-C and our dedicated staff who continue working to provide our residents and alumni the help they need to stabilize. Simply put, in these challenging times, we keep going.

During this same month, many people around the world celebrate St. Patrick and St. Joseph, both men who endured challenges beyond their control but who chose to respond with doggedness, commitment to others, and love. It is not hard to connect the journeys of St. Patrick and St. Joseph to the journey of the CSAs and all of the ministries they created here in Cleveland and in other communities. Severe community needs responded to, without despair or frustration, but with perseverance and love. It is also not hard to be inspired by the examples of St. Patrick, St Joseph and the CSAs, and try to apply the lessons they teach to our current circumstances.

So, how do we apply these lessons if we are unable to go about our normal routine? I can tell you what means a lot to housing, health and social service workers and the people we serve—steadfast support. For example, I received a text from a friend this morning who just happened to think of me. Our residents and alumni have received cards and letters of support and encouragement. Phone calls, texts, letters—these things may seem small, but when your human contact has been reduced to a handful of people in a single building, these small acts of kindness and compassion are significant; they encourage us to keep going, to press on.

Your continued support is how we face this crisis head-on, helping those without homes stay safe, recover and move forward with their lives. It is how we continue to reduce the length of time it takes to help people move into a home of their own, so that we can serve the next person in need of healing and help. It is how we increase our capacity to serve more people through better use of health care resources, rather than allowing people to suffer and cycle between emergency rooms and the streets. In this time of deep challenge—especially for those who are the most vulnerable among us—your support, your advocacy, your acts of kindness are what allows all of us at Joseph’s Home to see past the challenges of today and push toward a tomorrow that is healthier, brighter and better for all.

Your partner in service,

Beth Graham, Executive Director

COMMITTED TO CARING

Continued from page 1

that continue to operate in the face of real challenges, to stand with those in need and serve our community.

We understand that these are uncertain and concerning times for you. Please know that we see you as part of our team— we are in this together. Now more than ever, we need your continued prayers and support to keep residents healthy and alumni stable. We humbly ask you to give what you can during this difficult time to help. Any amount you can give will ensure that Joseph’s Home continues to provide the vital services our men need to stabilize their health and attain permanent housing.

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP EXTENDED THROUGH 2025

In order to reach housing and health stability, some residents and alumni need to strengthen their physical, sensory or cognitive skills and may need to re-learn certain daily living tasks. This can be due to disabling conditions that may have continued undiagnosed or untreated for long periods of time while living on the streets.

To address these growing needs, Joseph’s Home established a partnership with Cuyahoga Community College’s (Tri-C) Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology Program in 2015. Through this partnership, Tri-C provides two Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology students each semester to work with residents in group settings, addressing specific needs of some individuals. For residents and alumni, occupational therapy provides a holistic approach to learn strategies, techniques and resources that empower them to perform meaningful daily activities and build toward their long-term life goals. Specific services include: assessing residents’ strengths and needs; assisting with art therapy and music therapy; and teaching basic skills such as housekeeping, conversation, games and activities.

Developing Social and Life Skills

Joseph’s Home alumnus, Walter, was very appreciative of these services. The occupational therapy students helped him during his time at Joseph’s Home with things like programming a device, playing a game of cards and helping him with details when he was working on his art therapy project. These types of services are important because residents often come to Joseph’s Home feeling very guarded and hesitant to open up to others. The students coming to spend time with them helps each resident feel included and important. Being able to open up to the students about their strengths and weaknesses gives residents the chance to learn how to reconnect and reintegrate into the community. Through this program, several residents are better able to communicate with each other and have developed social and life skills to help them continue to grow and be successful outside of Joseph’s Home.

Not all therapy comes in the form of a prescription. Many of our residents, some of whom did not feel like they needed ‘therapy,’ actively engaged in conversation and activities with the students. It truly had a therapeutic effect.”

— Carrie Hetbler, Health Care Navigator

Tri-C Occupational Therapy students work directly with Joseph’s Home alumnus Willie by playing a game of Scrabble.
HUNDREDS OF Caring Neighbors in and beyond northeast Ohio gave generously to make healing possible for the men of Joseph's Home in 2019. The annual Joseph's Home Donor Honor Roll is one way we say “thank you” to all supporters who made at least one financial contribution are listed, unless they requested to remain anonymous. know that the residents, alumni, board and staff of Joseph’s Home are deeply grateful for each and every gift and for 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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**Thank You Generous Supporters**

2019 Donor Honor Roll

Thank you generous supporters! All supporters who made at least one financial contribution are listed, unless they requested to remain anonymous. Know that the residents, alumni, board and staff of Joseph's Home are deeply grateful for each and every gift and for 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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Please continue to keep Joseph's Home in your thoughts, prayers and charitable giving plans. Thank you!
In All Things Charity. Since her days as a student nurse and practicing nurse at St. John Hospital, Margaret Ann Jablonski has been inspired by this founding principle of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CDA) and their everlasting kindness to addressing the needs of the community. Their many works and ministries have instilled in her a commitment to nursing, her Catholic faith and the needs of others. Margaret Ann’s generous gift designation to Joseph’s Home and the Sister Joan Gallagher Endowment Fund through her annuity was a work of charity long in the making. Having known the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine for more than 50 years, Margaret Ann became a CDA Associate in 2005 and has been enriched by living out “In All Things Charity” in her daily life. That led her to being moved to designate a gift to the Sister Joan Gallagher Endowment Fund because it will assist in continuing to fill a critical need in the community and honors the work of the CSDA.

“I realized that the endowment fund was not only honoring St. Joan, but also honors all the CSA sisters and those who have worked in their ministries over the years. I felt by the Holy Spirit to support this Endowment.”

— MARGARET ANN

LEAVING A MEANINGFUL LEGACY TO SUPPORT THE LASTING WORK OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

By designating Joseph’s Home as a beneficiary of your estate, trust, individual retirement accounts, life insurance or other financial accounts, you will leave a legacy of care that will have a profound impact for years to come and will honor the everlasting kindness of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. Some charitable giving options might also offer a number of tax benefits, as well. We encourage you to consult with an estate planning professional or financial advisor to evaluate tax and financial planning strategies. The proper beneficiary designation is:

Joseph’s Home
2412 Community College Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115

Tax ID Number: 34-190676

It is important that you inform us if you have already included Joseph’s Home in your charitable giving plans so we can work with you to designate your gift where it is most meaningful, express our eternal gratitude and plan for the future of Joseph’s Home. If you have any questions or have already included Joseph’s Home in your charitable giving plans, please contact Development Director Madeline Wallace at 216.987.9201 for more information.

THANK YOU!
Derek and his son, Preston, prepare a home-cooked meal for Joseph’s Home residents.

Richard M. Weaver and Jeanne Colleran, PhD with readers for this partnership of goods and services, and/or hours and energy spent volunteering, collaborating or advocating on behalf of Joseph’s Home and our residents.

Carolyn Watts
2020: Aging and Homelessness

**POSITIONING JH TO BETTER SERVE THE GROWING MEDICAL NEEDS OF RESIDENTS AND ALUMNI**

Across the country, researchers are learning that the population of people experiencing homelessness is aging, much like the population as a whole. However, there are some key distinctions. Issues of aging present much earlier in people experiencing homelessness, and the stress of homelessness and poverty takes a heavy toll on health outcomes. Therefore, we are seeing men enter Joseph’s Home at older ages, often with co-morbidities and even frailty. We understand that as we venture into the next 20 years of our ministry, we must respond to evolving community needs, such as aging. With this in mind, we have made some changes to our program that will position us to meet the needs of residents and alumni to come.

**A Renovated Health Care Clinic**

In 2019, we were fortunate to receive funding from a number of generous donors to enable the renovation of the Joseph’s Home Health Care Clinic. The clinic is open five times each day for medication dispensing, three times per week for nursing care and vital checks by Care Alliance nursing staff, and on an as-needed basis (i.e., if a resident needs bandages, to weigh themselves, etc.). With the expansion, the clinic serves as a hub for referral sources and community partners to deliver services to the residents, such as VA screenings, in a more comfortable and private setting. The clinic is a place where residents are free to ask questions, knowing that they’re going to get the answers they need at a pace they understand.

In addition, we have focused on training and hiring staff to better equip us to address the growing needs of residents and alumni as they learn about their medical conditions, build connections with caretakers, and prepare to perform self-care once they have secured permanent housing.

**Teaching Self-Managed Care**

In January, Respite Care Manager Raven Kauffman began a course to become a Community Health Worker, which is designed to increase her knowledge and skills as they relate to health care, communication skills, advocacy, health education, and social services to the populations Joseph’s Home serves. This co-curricular 16-week program, taught by health care professionals, teaches students to become a trusted liaison between health and social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. Through the program, Raven became certified to teach Chronic Disease Self-Management to members of the community who struggle with caring for themselves and their own chronic illnesses. Raven will be implementing this practice at Joseph’s Home to better serve our men by disrupting the cycle of homelessness through outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

**Joseph’s Home also welcomed a new health care navigator, Carrie Hetsler, to the staff.** Carrie has a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Mt. Vernon Nazarene University and has worked in the field of corrections since 1997. “I am thrilled to be part of this ministry and hope to be a giant asset in the role of the health care navigator,” said Carrie. In her role, Carrie is responsible for:  

- Helping the residents link with and engage in medical treatment, including maintaining medication compliance;
- Developing education curricula related to medical processes, the whys and hows of illnesses and, most importantly, of improving and gaining their health; and
- Networking with outside partners to ensure residents stay engaged with their service providers long after they leave Joseph’s Home.

**Impact and Resident Demographics**

The men we served were most often older adults, with a physical and/or mental health disability and at least one chronic health condition.  

- 61 men served in residence and in the community  
- 3.8 months, average length of stay  
- 63% are over the age of 55  
- 88% are African-American  
- 20% are veterans  
- 73% have a physical or mental health disability  
- 82% have a chronic health condition

**Housing, Health & Well-being Outcomes**

Housing stability is measured by the percentage of people that exit to permanent housing and remain housed for at least six months. Medical stability is measured by improvements in managing medicines, reducing ER visits and understanding their conditions.  

- 60% of residents achieved housing stability by entering permanent rental housing, supportive housing, assisted living, or living with friends/family  
- 81% of residents were medically stable when exiting Joseph’s Home  
- 89% of residents demonstrated improvement in medication management  
- 89% of residents demonstrated improvement in knowledge of medical condition  
- 43% of residents increased their incomes or obtained new/increased benefits

**Perseverance in Hope: The 2020 Joseph’s Home Benefit Luncheon**

Perseverance in Hope: The Annual Joseph’s Home Benefit Luncheon is typically held in June. However, due to concerns related to the coronavirus, Perseverance in Hope will be postponed to October 2020. Be on the lookout for updates coming soon. The luncheon will celebrate the remarkable medically-fragile homeless individuals in Northeast Ohio regaining their health and housing stability at Joseph’s Home.

With the help of many supporters last year, we raised more than $52,000 to benefit Joseph’s Home! Please join us as we aim to raise $60,000 in 2020.

Every dollar raised will help end the cycle of streets, hospitalization and shelter for medically-fragile adults without housing. This happens by treating their acute conditions, connecting them to appropriate ongoing health care and working with housing partners to obtain a stable, permanent home with ongoing support to maintain medical and housing stability.

Sponsorships and tickets are now available.

Visit josephshome.com/events/luncheon for more information or to reserve your place today. Contact Development Director Madeline Wallace at 216.987.9201 or mwallace@josephshome.com if you or your company would like to receive sponsorship information.
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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