

From our family to yours, creating a community of inclusion, safety, and love.



Fall 2016 Newsletter

Housing Options in Evanston is a nonprofit organization that provides affordable supportive housing and mental health services to adults recovering from chronic mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression.

We encourage independent living and offer a safe and dignified alternative to homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization.

From the desk of our Chief Executive Officer, Mary Ellen Poole

Welcome to our first eNewsletter in far too long. We are delighted to be back in front of you, sharing what we do each day here at Housing Options. This first time back will be a chance for us to describe our programs and the impact these initiatives have on the larger community. In following quarterly issues, we will share more detailed news of our successes and triumphs.

Housing Options has weathered uncertain times created by the state budget crisis with amazing grace and stamina. Our board and staff have done a tremendous job staying focused on our mission, telling our story and helping house, counsel, and employ those who need it the most. Due to unparalleled success with our Spring Appeal (see below), we were able to exceed the funding we were expecting from the state this year. This sustainability has allowed us to hire a new Chief Development Officer, Beth Ida Stern, who will help us raise even more awareness and resources for our mission. Click [here](#) to learn more about Beth.



This Fall, we also welcomed two new board members, Carol Henes and Geoff Harlow. Thank you, Carol and Geoff, for your service to our amazing organization! For a complete directory of our board of directors, click [here](#).

Stay tuned for more good news and thank you so much for your partnership and support.

Mary Ellen Poole

You broke our record!



With your support, Housing Options raised more than \$300,000 with our recent Spring Appeal, ensuring that we will continue to provide housing, counseling, and job placement services to mentally ill adults in our community. We cannot thank you enough.

For a complete list of donors to our Spring Appeal, click [here](#).

Want to get involved? There are so many ways to engage with us. In addition to making a donation, you can volunteer, attend an event, learn more about mental illness. Click [here](#) for a full menu of ways to mobilize in our movement!



We put people to work!

The Housing Options Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Program has been extremely successful in its mission to assist Housing Options Participants in navigating their individual challenges in order to obtain employment of their choosing. Participants maintain that employment using the support of their Housing Options Employment Specialist.

During the months of July, August, and September, the Housing Options IPS Program recorded 15 job starts for our Participants. The IPS Program staff places a strong emphasis on learning from Participants what types of employment they are interested in. Our staff then works with Participants in order to develop a plan for how to utilize the Participant's current skill set to find a position reflects his or her interests. This process has been the key to high placement and retention rates.

For more information on our job placement services, contact Christopher Knoper at cknoper@housingopt.org.



We provide homes for people!

Lack of stable housing is often cited as the primary barrier to recovery that people with mental illness face. When a person has stable, high-quality housing in an economic-opportunity area like Evanston, it allows him or her to focus his or her attention on pursuing a great many more opportunities for recovery and growth, rather than expending that energy in a constant struggle to find a safe place to sleep each night.



We support people!

The clinical services that we provide at Housing Options include individualized, wrap-around mental health services to participants living in our housing units, along with individuals living in the community, to support and assist with growth and development towards recovery goals. The clinical team is composed of four licensed, mental health clinicians, a registered nurse, a licensed clinical benefits specialist and the clinical services manager.

Housing Options provides clinical services to 81 individuals, and the majority of these individuals meet with their clinician on a weekly basis. Of the 81 individuals served, 70% of them live in our permanent supportive housing. The remaining 30% live independently in the community.

For more information on our clinical services, contact Kristin Johanns at kjohanns@housingopt.org.



We bring people together!

Please join us at the following upcoming gatherings:

- **October 17th: Exploring the Continuum of Services for the Homeless** at 7 pm at Fisher Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, 944 Elmwood Avenue, Evanston (see [attached flier](#))
- **December 13th: Home for the Holidays reception** from 6-8 pm at Terra & Vine, 1701 Maple Avenue, Evanston
- **June 10, 2017: Housing Options Annual Gala** at 7:30 pm at Fields BMW, 700 Frontage Rd, Northfield

HousingOptions provides Permanent Supportive Housing to 64 low-income people who have been diagnosed with chronic mental illness, many of whom have experienced extended homelessness in the past. More than 40% of our participants are formerly homeless individuals, many of whom have been chronically homeless for as long as a decade. We purchased our first building called Home First in 1992. We currently house 10 individuals in this building, some of whom have lived in our housing for as many as 20 years.

For more information about our housing services, contact Vince Heneghan at mvheneghan@housingopt.org.

DONATE NOW

Don't forget us in your year-end charitable giving! We are a 501(c)(3) charity and we'll use every dollar you invest in Housing Options to provide world-class care to an adult living with chronic mental illness.

We literally could not do this critical work without the support of people just like you. We've spent the past three decades serving our wonderful community and look forward to a future of even deeper impact. We cannot thank you enough.

Every donation is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

thank
you!

For more information about these gatherings, please contact Beth Ida Stern at bistern@housingopt.org.



We celebrate the holidays in style!

Join us for our Home for the Holidays reception on December 13th from 6-8 pm at **Alpana Singh's new restaurant Terra & Vine** in Evanston!

Tickets are \$40 each or \$75 for two and include two glasses of wine and appetizers by Executive Chef Andrew Graves. Space is limited and tickets will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis.

In 2003, Alpana Singh passed the final level of the Master Sommelier exam at age 26. For ten seasons, Alpana served as the host of the Emmy Award-winning restaurant review television show, Check, Please!, which airs weekly in Chicago on the PBS station WTTW Channel 11. Nationally, Alpana has appeared on The Today Show and Food Network's Iron Chef America as well as in numerous publications including Newsweek, Food & Wine, Wine Spectator, Bon Appetit, and The New York Times. Most recently she received the 2013 Sommelier of the Year Wine Star award from Wine Enthusiast and was also named one of Food & Wine's Sommeliers of the Year in 2013.

Click [here](#) to register or contact Beth Ida Stern at bistern@housingopt.org.

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