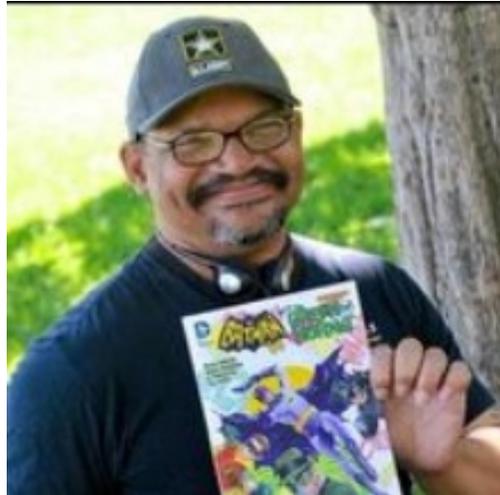


## September 2015



### Recent

### **Participant Activities include Vision to Action Scholarship Event, Summer Art Festival, and Lakefront Picnic hosted by United Way Corporate Donor - Woodward**

### **Vision to Action Scholarship**

Housing Options supporters gathered at Evanston's Peckish Pig in late spring to honor five Participants who are following their passions on the way to recovery. Each winner of this year's Vision to Action Scholarship Awards shared how the scholarship will be used.

- George H. purchased the materials he needed to finish his MBA program.
- Stephanie B. will buy art materials to continue creative self-expression through art.
- Lisa B., who has always dreamed of acting, will attend the "Actors Gymnasium."
- Donna K. will take a class needed to earn

her CRSS certificate (Certified Recovery Support Specialist), which will allow her to become a peer counselor.

- Sherman B., who loves music, will take bass guitar lessons.

Every year, Housing Options awards five Vision to Action Scholarship Awards to Participants in honor of our founders, Claire McCarthy Peterson, Marge Sondler, Dorrie Lloyd-Still, Larry Gavin, and Angela Schwartz. These awards support the creativity, commitment, resilience and spirit of our founders who fought against stigma and discrimination to further their vision that individuals with mental health challenges should be able to reside in their own community in a supportive housing environment.

Guests at the event also heard from Luis, a Participant in our I-Work program. He shared how his life improved as a direct result of returning to the workforce after many years - and thanked the program for all its support.



## **Housing Options 4th Annual Art Festival**

On July 24, Housing Options Participants, Board members, and interested community members came together at Noyes Cultural Arts Center for the annual Housing Options Art Festival. On display for viewing, and some for purchase, were pastels, jewelry, and water colors. Guests were able to leisurely peruse the art while enjoying snacks provided by Housing Options.

The show was first held four years ago at the

suggestion of Margo, one of Housing Options' Participants. This year she displayed both jewelry and paintings. She noted that she had begun her art lessons at New Horizons several years ago. Judging from her work displayed, she has made good use of those early lessons!

Two other Participants, Bill and Dorothy, also showed their work. Bill works with pastels and has taken lessons at the Evanston Art Center while Dorothy has an art degree. They, too, showed work that spoke to the time and attention that they had devoted to it.

Everyone present had an enjoyable evening and looks forward to next year's show.



**United  
Way**

## **Corporate Donor, Woodward, Hosts Second Annual Lakefront Picnic**

On July 29th, Woodward managers and summer interns once again graciously hosted a cookout on the lakefront for Housing Options Participants. It was a sunny, hot afternoon of good food, lots of water, and several fun games of kickball.

Woodward is a global company that integrates leading-edge technologies into fuel, fluid and electronic control systems for the aerospace and energy markets. We greatly appreciate United Way and the employees from Woodward's Niles location for their generosity.

*Photo Credit: With special thanks to Katie Barthelemy for volunteering to photograph our events.*

## **Executive Committee Leadership Elected at September Annual Meeting**

### **Catharine Hamrick, President**

Catharine Hamrick became involved with Housing Options almost 25 years ago, when she joined the staff as part-time administrative assistant while working on her graduate degree. Her commitment to the organization continues today because she sees it as a model for how individuals can come together to change lives and communities, by respecting the dignity of every human being. Catharine is a Communication Consultant at Aon Hewitt. She and her three children live in Evanston.

### **Randy Usen, Vice President**

Randy Usen became familiar with and involved in Housing Options approximately 15 years ago when he became the organization's officer of account at First Bank & Trust. He attended many of the organization's various functions over the years. Randy finds Housing Options to be an effective agency helping those who need housing and supportive services, who may otherwise not be able to live a safe and meaningful life. He became Chairman of the I-WORK Advisory Committee five years ago and subsequently joined the Board. Randy has been in commercial banking for 35 years, and is a Managing Director at First Bank & Trust in Evanston, where he has worked for the past 16 years.

### **Peter Michaels, Treasurer**

Peter Michaels first became aware of the work of Housing Options over two decades ago from a work colleague. He became involved by becoming one of the many volunteers who work on the Committees that support the organization.

He later joined the Board and at various times has served as Treasurer and President. All together he has supported Housing Options for 15 years. He finds its mission as vital today as when he first volunteered. Peter works as an investment advisor to pension and 401K plans, and he is a resident of Evanston.

### **Renee Lanam, Secretary**

Renee Lanam was introduced to Housing Options by Claire McCarthy Peterson and joined the Board early 2015. She comes from a career in law and finance where she worked with start-ups and mid-size companies in Silicon Valley. She has served on the Board of Mission Hospice in San Mateo, California and started the Friday soup kitchen in Evanston for Interfaith Action.



### **Stalemate at State Government**

While the job of maintaining effective consistent service delivery at a not for profit agency is an ongoing challenge under normal circumstances, the recent State of Illinois budget stalemate has put all of our management skills to the test.

First and foremost, our Participants count on us to provide them with safe, clean and secure housing. Our Participants need a consistent source of clinical services and supports such as medication or money management. These are not services which can be turned on and off like a light switch. Some social service agencies can quickly reduce services or freeze intake but for our

Participants there can be dire consequences of such a decision.

So what are we doing at Housing Options to keep our head above water? On the expenditure side, we are watching the checkbook very closely. Any discretionary spending has been postponed. Unless it is directly related to a Participant's well-being we are holding off on purchases. As we have slowed down spending, we have moved faster to submit insurance billings, and seek reimbursements from our other funding sources. We have been extremely fortunate to receive two private grants from local foundations during this time. While it is not nearly enough to cover the State shortfall it is a vote of confidence that means so much to us. We are very grateful to those who have supported Housing Options during this difficult period.

The people who receive services from Housing Options face many challenges as they try to live healthy productive lives. The drumbeat of televised news reports of service shut downs is unsettling to all of us, whether provider or recipient. But the professionals at Housing Options will do all that we can to ensure that the Participants who have put their trust in us will continue to receive the life sustaining services they need.

## **Woody Bowman**

1942 - July 10, 2015

Many of you know Woody Bowman as an Illinois state Representative, as the Cook County Chief financial officer, or as an emeritus professor at the DePaul University



School of Public Service. You may not know that Woody was also a committed member of the Housing Options family.

Woody was a founding member of our Advisory Board and a member of our Planning Committee from its first meeting until his death. He helped develop our Statement of Core Principles, which remain unchanged to this day. He participated in the development of every retreat and every strategic plan that helped move us forward. He was particularly proud of our insistence on ensuring the financial sustainability of our supportive housing. In fact, he even used Housing Options as an example of a well-run and financially astute agency in his classes on the management of not-for-profit organizations.

We will miss the breadth of his knowledge, the clarity of his comments, and the pleasure of his company. We were lucky to have him among us.



Support  
Housing Options for the  
Mentally Ill in Evanston, Inc..

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

**amazonsmile**

## How You Can Help

Are you an  
Amazon  
Shopping

Afficionado?

You can help support Housing Options when you shop through Amazon Smile.

### **What is AmazonSmile?**

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that

when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

**How does AmazonSmile work?**

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization.

**Is there any cost to charitable organizations or to customers?**

No. There is no cost to charitable organizations or to AmazonSmile customers. The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate to Housing Options!!!

CLICK ON THE GO TO SMILE.AMAZON.COM orange link above to get started.

Please spread the word with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers,  
Thank You!

Your donation is extremely important to



Housing Options because it provides resources that make an immediate impact for our Participants. We ask you to consider making an online donation and click the Donate Now button.

**A contribution of:**

**\$50 provides a set of dishes**

**\$75 for a warm comforter and blanket**

**\$150 for the purchase of new clothes and shoes for job interviews for I-WORK**

**Participants**

**\$500 provides a new mattress and box**

springs

## Wish List

- New twin sheet sets (for adults)
- Lamps
- Gently used night stands, end tables
- Gift cards to Jewel or Target

If you are interested in donating an item for our Participants from our Wish List, please contact Diane Bordwell 847/866-6144 ext. 14

[dbordwell@housingopt.org](mailto:dbordwell@housingopt.org)

**December  
5th  
2015**

**Save  
The Date**

**"A Christmas  
Carol"**

*Dramatic Reading  
by Frank Babbitt  
of the Lyric Opera  
of Chicago.*

**3 PM Lake St.  
Church,  
Evanston  
\$20 per ticket**

Email Lisa Tommelein

[Ltommelein@housingopt.org](mailto:Ltommelein@housingopt.org) to  
reserve your tickets.



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

FORWARD TO A FRIEND

