



HOPE • TRANSFORMATION • RECOVERY

November 2015

We've moved to 2100 Ridge Avenue in the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center!!

There are still a few boxes to unpack but Housing Options has completed its office move. We have left our long time location on Florence and moved all of our staff to the ground floor (also known as the Garden level) of the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center at 2100 Ridge in Evanston. We are located in Suite G320.

The Civic Center location will improve staff coordination and communication as we are all now on the same level. At the same time our new offices provide for a much more professional and confidential setting to meet with our Participants and review service or program issues. Both our Participants and our staff will benefit from the Civic Center's access to public transportation and appropriate parking.

Housing Options becomes the fourth local not-for-profit to lease space from the City at 2100 Ridge. We salute the City of Evanston's commitment to public private partnerships which benefit service organizations, the people they help, and the taxpayer. It's a win for everyone.

Our move to the new space required us to change

our phone number. Effective immediately, please call **847/866-2977** to reach all Housing Options programs and staff. And if you're in the neighborhood, please stop in.



From left, Jay Terry, Mary Ellen Poole and Kristin Johanns

New Location and new Leadership

We have been assembling a new professional team here at Housing Options. Changes in the funding environment and the service needs of our participants have resulted in us looking to expand and enhance the skills that our available through our agency.

In an effort to make sure that all of our housing, clinical, and employment services are provided in a cost effective, integrated manner we established the position of Chief Operating Officer and asked Mary Ellen Poole to join our staff. Mary Ellen has significant housing experience, most recently as a Housing Planner for the City of Evanston.

Kristin Johanns has become our new Manager of Clinical Services. Kristin has worked previously in management positions for two mental local health agencies. She leads a team of clinicians that has been bolstered by the additions of Fallon

Sowers and John Walion. In addition to their clinical talents both bring additional skills to the achievement of our mission. Fallon has improved our messaging on social media, and John brings expertise in the ever changing world of policies and reimbursements related to managed care organizations and public funders.

Finally, the Board of Housing Options is currently conducting a search for a new Executive Director. We are fortunate to have an experienced leader serving us as our Interim Executive Director. Jay Terry brings over 35 years of social services experience, including Director of Health and Human Services for the City of Evanston from 1989-2008. Jay was Director of HHS when Housing Options was established and understands the values and principles which have guided our programs for over 25 years. We expect a new Executive Director will be named soon with a smooth leadership transition.

121 out of 125

Congratulations I-WORK Team!

On Wednesday, November 3rd the annual Fidelity Review of Housing Options' I-Work program concluded. The I-Work program scored a 121 out of a possible 125 points, earning the I-Work team the second highest score ever earned by an agency and placing us on the high end of "exemplary fidelity". The review is a rigorous, 2-day process guided by the IPS Fidelity Scale and measures all aspects of an agency's IPS program including its integration with clinical services.

This is an honor shared with Housing Options' clinical and housing teams and the work our clinicians and housing coordinators do to help support our Participants that choose to incorporate work as part of their recovery from mental illness.

The I-Work team would also like to recognize Leyden Family Services for their continued partnership with Housing Options. Leyden Family Services refers client to the I-Work program for assistance with their clients that want to work. They have played a key role with helping our program to grow and we look forward to a continued partnership with their awesome clinical team. Special thanks are also due Alison Twite and Chris Knoper, the Housing Options' Employment Specialists. They have consistently demonstrated the highest level of professionalism in their work and our Fidelity score represents the excellence of their work. Finally, thank-you to all the Participants who have placed their trust in the I-Work team for assistance with their career goals. Work is such a vital part of who we are as people and where many of us spend most of our time.

Work = Recovery!!



Kellogg Cares

On the morning of October 31st, ten enthusiastic and creative volunteers from the Kellogg Cares Day event held by Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management met with Housing Options staff at Ganey House. The first session of the morning involved a brainstorming session getting the millennial perspective on Housing Options' mission, current marketing materials and reasons to give. The group was incredibly helpful, providing fundraising ideas as well as content suggestions for social media.

They even tossed around new tag lines that would help people grasp more quickly what Housing Options actually does., like "Back in a home, back on your feet" and "A key to transformation."

Following the workshop, the volunteers helped set up and host a Halloween Weenie Roast for our Participants. We had hoped to enjoy the weenie roast in the backyard at Ganey but the continuing rain necessitated a Plan B. Best costume went to Julie A. as Uncle Sam with red, white and blue face paint included! Thank, thank you, thank you to our Kellogg volunteers, we look forward to making this an ongoing tradition.

Photo Credit: With special thanks to Sue Dahlkamp

Looking for a New

Holiday Tradition?

Frank Babbitt, violist with the Lyric Opera, delivers a solo performance of Charles Dicken's historic 1868 text, *A Christmas Carol*, with live musical underscore as a fundraiser for Housing Options. This is Mr. Babbitt's seventh year performing this original one-man show for various nonprofit beneficiaries.



Frank Babbitt, violist with the Lyric Opera

"...an extraordinary, intimate of live storytelling and music, the tale delivered the way it was meant to be, in Dickens' language, enhance with Babbitt's resonating voice and rich viola."

~The Chicago Sun Times



Saturday, December 5, 2015
Lake Street Church of Evanston*
607 Lake Street
3:00 PM
Performance with reception to follow

\$20 per ticket

[Buy Tickets Here](#)

*Lake Street Church of Evanston is not connected in any way to Housing Options.

In this month of

DONATE NOW

Gratitude

Please know that your donation to Housing Options will 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

\$1,000 for a new washer and dryer for one of our buildings



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

FORWARD TO A FRIEND

