MAKING CONNECTIONS

Chicago Tribune

QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE   MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021   BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Surprising silver lining

In fight against homelessness, hotel settings could be a game-changing model

A NOTE FROM BETTY:
Extra! Extra!

The impact of our work is catching people's attention and we're making headlines! On Monday, Connections was on the front page of the **Chicago Tribune** with an article about our hotel operations and our reshaped vision for our future. The piece featured the journey of Qwandra Drummer, a mother of six who sheltered with Connections while studying for the bar exam (which she later passed!). On Tuesday morning, **Good Day Chicago on Fox 32** will have our Director of Development Nia Tavoularis on to discuss our operations, growth, and increased impact during the pandemic. Last week, **Evanston RoundTable** wrote about how we can and how we will end homelessness in our community. One critical component is through advocacy for more affordable housing. Check out recent articles in **Evanston Now** and **Evanston RoundTable** about Joining Forces' efforts to repeal the 3-unrelated rule.

Our approach works. People are noticing. The reality of ending homelessness is finally being given the attention it deserves. Thank you for partnering with us in this work; we couldn't do it without your support!

With gratitude,

Betty

*P.S. Read all of the recent Connections' news on our **website**.*

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for volunteers to help move donations. Get involved and **sign up for a shift** today!

Currently accepting donations of:

ADULT UNDERWEAR
ADULT T-SHIRTS
PANTS & SHORTS SIZE 30 AND ABOVE
SNEAKERS SIZE 9 & UP
TOILETRIES
INDIVIDUAL MILK
SNACK FOOD

Drop-off at:
2121 Dewey Ave.
M-F 9:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.
or 1458 Chicago Ave.
M-F 3 - 5 p.m.

When dropping items at our Chicago Ave. location, please do not leave items in the blue bin. Please ring the bell to hand them to staff.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Happy National Volunteer Week to all of our committed volunteers who show up each day for our community! Nearly 300 volunteers have given over 3,000 hours of their time to Connections so far this year. From greeting participants with a smile to preparing bag lunches or organizing clothing donations, you are making a difference! Learn about volunteer opportunities below.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

joining forces
FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

GET INVOLVED IN ADVOCACY

The vision of **Joining Forces**, Connections' advocacy program, is that every community in North Suburban Cook County will have enough housing that is affordable to its residents.

Joining Forces has been busy in the past couple months - from welcoming Community Organizer Jamal Graham to the team, to advocating for the repeal of the **Three-Unrelated rule** in Evanston, to leading educational workshops. Join JFAH for their next two-part series on **"Affordable Housing 101"** Thursday, May 13th and May 27th from 3-5pm. **Sign up here** and learn more ways to get involved by clicking below.

GET INVOLVED

Shop to Donate

Shop our **Amazon Wish List** to purchase high-need items for participants.

Fair Housing Month Event!

You're invited to join **Open Communities** for a Fair Housing Month panel on fair housing history and reparations next Thurs., April 27 at 6pm. **Register here**.

Supporting Participants

Read about how Connections is supporting participants in accessing their stimulus checks in a recent **Daily Northwestern article**.

MEET KENNY

This month we are spotlighting Kenny, a Connections participant that settled into his new home last year!

Kenny was facing homelessness when he first came to Connections. He was able to stay in temporary shelter through another agency while Connections staff worked with him to find permanent housing. Last June, he was matched with permanent supportive housing, securing a spacious apartment in Arlington Heights. Kenny was recognized for his resilience and journey to housing at our last **Milestone Celebration**!

Invest in Connections to help us serve more participants like Kenny. **Make a gift** today.

DONATE

Ending homelessness, one person at a time.

connect2home.org