



FY 19

ANNUAL

IMPACT REPORT



connections
FOR THE HOMELESS

Ending homelessness, one person at a time.

Connections operates through the following Core Values to guide our interaction amongst participants, colleagues, and our community:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| EQUITY + INCLUSION | COMMUNITY | TRANSPARENCY |
| GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT | RESILIENCE | |

To learn more about our Core Values visit connect2home.org/values.



It's time for Connections to scale up.

Last year, we served more than 1,500 people through our Eviction Prevention, Shelter, and Housing programs. More people are coming through our doors than ever before – 33% more than last year. We're scaling up so we can be there for each person in our community experiencing homelessness, creating a community that's better for all of us.

With your support, we invest more in our programs to ensure everyone has a safe place to call home.

Last year:

- 89% of the people we partnered with to prevent their eviction have maintained housing 3 months later;
- With partners across Illinois, we successfully advocated for a \$4M increase in statewide homelessness prevention funds;
- 64% of the men exiting our shelter went to permanent housing; and,
- 92% of the people in our housing programs have maintained stable housing for more than one year.

Our work is making a difference, but we know there is much more to be done.

We are ready to collaborate in new and innovative ways to make more progress toward ending homelessness in northern Cook County. With your steadfast support and partnership, we're thinking boldly and preparing to take big steps in the coming year to achieve our vision.

With Connections leading the way, we can make homelessness in northern Cook County brief, rare, and non-recurring - a temporary setback with a clear path out and through.

As always, I remain grateful for your support and commitment to help us end homelessness, one person at a time.



Betty A. Bogg
Executive Director

Our Growth

Our programming continues to expand to support those we serve.



425%
GROWTH
IN SERVICES
PROVIDED AT
DROP-IN

15%
MORE PEOPLE
PROVIDED WITH
HEALTHCARE
SERVICES



13%
MORE FAMILIES
OBTAINING OR
MAINTAINING
STABLE HOUSING



WE SERVED
33%
MORE PEOPLE
COMPARED TO
THE PRIOR YEAR



WE GREW OUR ANNUAL
OPERATING BUDGET BY
15%
YEAR OVER YEAR

Our Impact

With your committed support, we can take steps to ensure everyone in our community has a place to call home.



144 FAMILIES
PREVENTED FROM LOSING THEIR HOMES



276 INDIVIDUALS
HELPED TO OBTAIN OR MAINTAIN
STABLE HOUSING



6,256 NIGHTS
OF SHELTER PROVIDED AT HILDA'S PLACE

35,766



BASIC HUMAN SERVICES
PROVIDED AT DROP-IN

- Showers
- Laundry
- Clothing
- Food Pantry

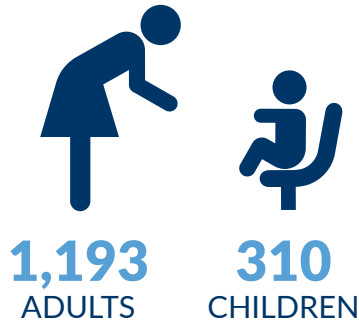
318



PEOPLE RECEIVED 2,580
HEALTHCARE & WELLNESS SERVICES

- Preventative Care
- Urgent Care & Referrals
- Mental Health Counseling
- Psychiatric Care

1,503 Individuals Helped



47%
FEMALE

53%
MALE



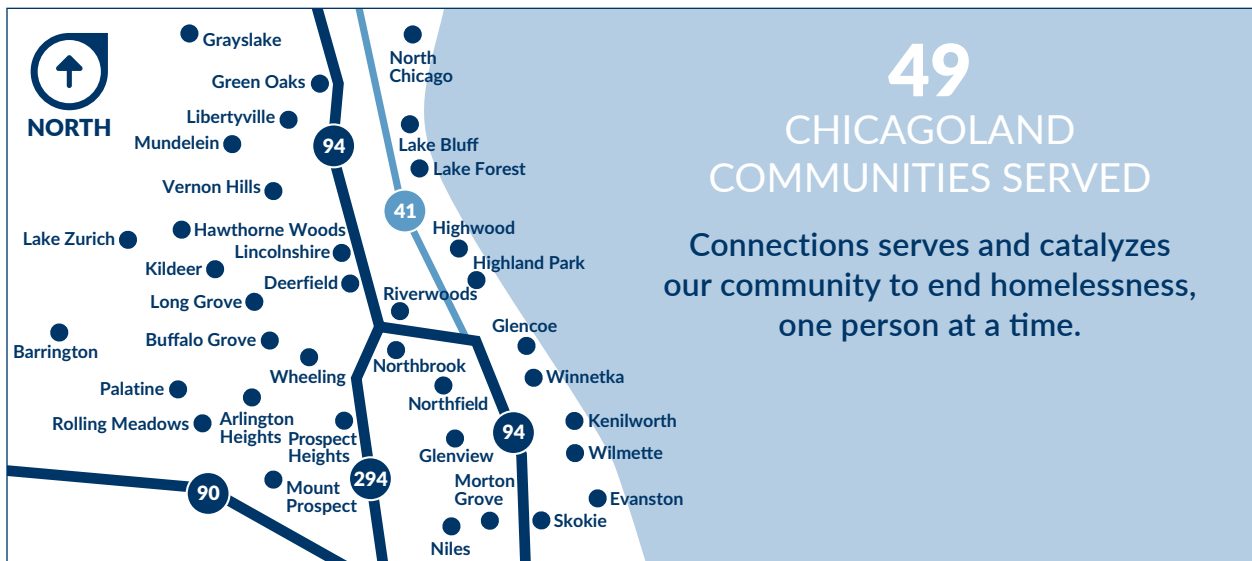
37%
HAVE A MENTAL OR
PHYSICAL DISABILITY*



317
CHRONICALLY
HOMELESS* INDIVIDUALS

* 1 in 5 (43.8 million) adults have a mental illness in a given year according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

* Chronic homelessness is used to describe people who have experienced homelessness for at least a year—or 4 different occasions totaling 12 months—while experiencing a disabling condition according to HUD.



Eviction Prevention

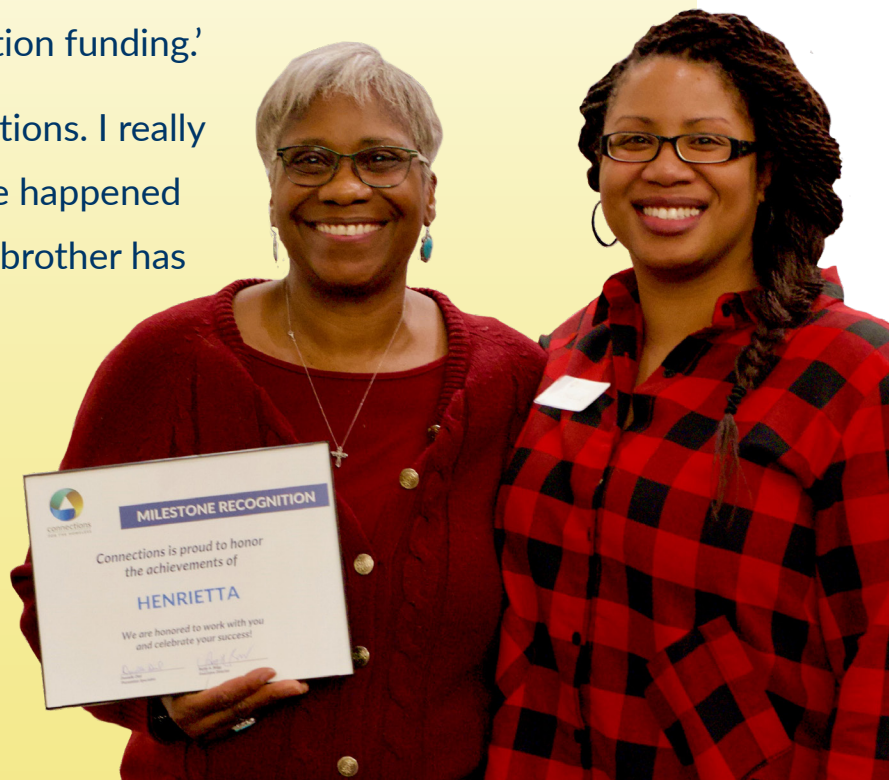
The most efficient way we end homelessness is to prevent it from happening in the first place. We provide financial support to cover rent, mortgage, and utility bills to support people at risk of homelessness.

“I lost my job. I had some savings, was paying my mortgage, taking care of my disabled brother... but then I didn’t have any more money. I kept running into brick walls – doors were just closing.

Someone gave me Connections’ number. I called and, to my surprise, Donielle said, ‘We can help you with prevention funding.’

I’m just so grateful for Connections. I really can’t imagine what would have happened if we’d become homeless...my brother has no one but me.”

– **Henrietta, a former participant in our eviction prevention program**



Shelter + Drop-In

Our overnight shelter and drop-in center meet people where they are physically and emotionally and support them in moving forward.

By consistently providing resources and services, we take steps toward establishing relationships and trust with drop-in participants as they work toward housing solutions.

LAUNDRY

MEALS

SHOWERS

HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICES

CLOTHING CLOSET

SHELTER FOR 18 MALE-IDENTIFYING HOMELESS ADULTS - WITH NO MAXIMUM STAY

“They never turned their backs on me even though my pride wouldn’t allow me to ask for help. I just want to thank you all for helping me. Pride deprives and you never know what you can accomplish just by asking {for help}.”

– Mike, former Drop In/Outreach participant; now housed!



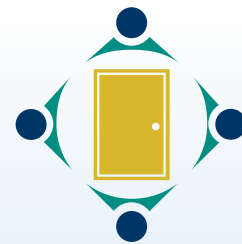
Advocacy

Addressing the root causes of homelessness is a critical part of our work to fulfill our mission and achieve our vision.

We're amplifying the conversation about the need for affordable housing and solutions to address the crisis through our leadership of the Joining Forces for Affordable Housing coalition. We are also actively engaged in catalyzing systemic change to create more equitable communities.

In February, with partners across the state, we successfully advocated for a \$4 million increase in statewide homelessness prevention funds.

We are actively engaged in the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County with staff leading several committees in fiscal year 2020 including Advocacy, Coordinated Entry, and Prevention.



joining forces
FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Housing

Ending homelessness requires a safe, stable home.

We do this by operating a range of housing programs that are designed to meet the diverse needs of the people we serve. We provide temporary and permanent housing subsidies and robust case management services to individuals, families, and young adults ages 18 to 24.

“While living in a temporary women’s shelter with her children, Patricia sought help to leave the stressful situation. With Connections’ assistance, Patricia moved into her own permanent home and gained access to other supports for herself and her kids, including tutoring and daycare programs.

Today, the family lives in a two-story flat, and Patricia works as a certified nursing assistant. She also helps build the community that raised her up and rallies support for affordable housing in Evanston.

“I love [the Connections team], it’s always felt like a family. At first, I wasn’t so sure, but now I know I can go to them with anything.”

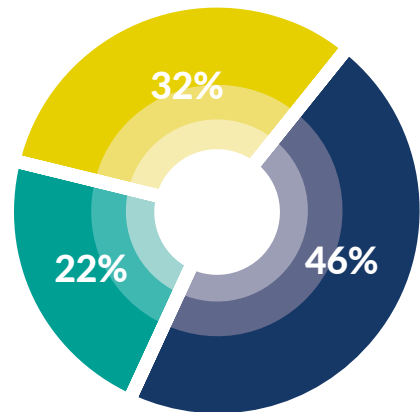
— Patricia, a participant in our housing programs along with her children.



Financial Summary

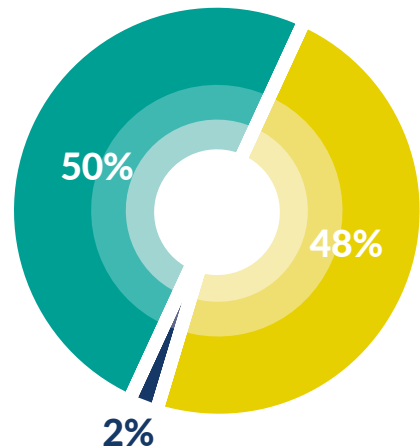
FY 2019 Expenses

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Total | \$ 4,788,367 |
| Mgmt & Admin | 519,133 |
| Fundraising | 690,610 |
| Total Programs | 3,578,624 |
| <hr/> | |
| ● Prevention + Rapid Rehousing Programs | 794,399 |
| ● Shelter, Drop In, + Outreach Programs | 1,132,975 |
| ● Housing Programs | 1,651,250 |



FY 2019 Revenue

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Total | \$ 4,793,520 |
| ● Public | 2,392,768 |
| ● Private | 2,312,965 |
| ● Other Income | 87,787 |



Our Board

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as of Fiscal Year 2019

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Thank You to Our Donors

With the generous support of our community, we partner with the people we serve to become and remain stable. We are deeply grateful for the many ways the community invests in our mission. The following list recognizes donors who made a total contribution of \$1,000 or greater in Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019).

Every effort is made to list donors accurately. We apologize for errors or omissions.

\$10,000 and above

Phillips Society

Members of the Phillips Society are individual donors who provide annual support of \$10,000 or greater that take us beyond sustaining our work and enable us to extend our impact.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
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| | | |
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Thank You to Our Volunteers

We are thankful for the commitment of our more than 2,000 volunteers who help advance our mission every day. The following list recognizes volunteers who served 50+ hours in Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019).

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FOR THE HOMELESS

2121 Dewey Avenue
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