

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CONNECTIONS FOR THE HOMELESS LAUNCHES MULTI-PRONG COVID-19 RESPONSE

Connections establishes housing solutions for homeless residents amid coronavirus crisis

EVANSTON, III – April 6, 2020 -- Connections for the Homeless, a nonprofit agency dedicated to ending homelessness in northern cook county, today announced its response to the COVID-19 outbreak to help protect and provide essential services to homeless and unstably housed residents. In addition to maintaining its general case work, transitional shelter, and food pantry operations, Connections has responded to the coronavirus pandemic with a multi-prong approach to place individuals and families into safe temporary housing.

In just 14 days Connections has:

- Launched the only emergency shelter for 20 individual adults in the region that follows CDC recommendations and operates 24/7;
- Moved 122 adults and 43 children into 92 discounted rooms at 2 local hotels with 24-hour Connections staff support;
- Established partnerships with local restaurants to purchase 3 meals a day for each person, a total of over 500 meals daily, sheltering at a hotel; and
- Maintained daily drop-in services to provide the community with access to a food, basic supplies, showers, and case management. There were more than 400 visits to the agency's drop-in center in the month of March with food pantry visits doubling following the shelter-in-place order.

Operational costs have increased with the expanded services and additional staff hired to meet the need. In addition to financial support, the agency needs volunteers and specific in-kind donations. To learn how to support Connections please visit www.connect2home.org/coronavirussupport.html.

ABOUT CONNECTIONS FOR THE HOMELESS

Connections for the Homeless is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving more than 2,100 individuals facing homelessness and housing insecurity each year through eviction prevention, housing, and shelter programs. For more information, visit connect2home.org.

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