



NIGHTLIGHTS

HOLIDAY 2017

Youth 4 Truth Leader Honored by Lady Gaga's Foundation at The Crib



Shay Johnson (far left), a member of The Night Ministry's Youth 4 Truth leadership program, organized a barbeque lunch at The Crib and led Cynthia Germanotta (center), mother of Lady Gaga, on a tour of the shelter.

On August 25, Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation and Peace First honored Shay Johnson, a youth leader on The Night Ministry's Youth 4 Truth leadership and advocacy group, with their Chicago Channel Kindness Award. The award was presented in conjunction with Lady Gaga's Wrigley Field concert held later that evening.

Johnson, 20, was recognized for her commitment to improve her community with small acts of kindness and for her proposal to organize a day of service to benefit young adults at The Crib, The Night Ministry's overnight emergency shelter for youth ages 18 to 24.

"On my application I said that I wanted to give back to my community and help homeless youth by providing food and backpacks with hygiene supplies," Johnson told reporters at the event.

Johnson utilized The Crib when she experienced homelessness for seven months during the past year. Today, as a youth leader who recently moved into her own apartment, she advocates that youth and young adults who experience homelessness are treated with compassion and receive quality support and services.

As part of the honor, Johnson hosted a barbeque lunch for homeless youth in the Lakeview neighborhood. Food for the event was donated by the Trader Joe's stores on Diversey and Lincoln Avenues. Staples donated backpacks and hygiene supplies.

"I get to actually do something that I really wanted to do, which is give back to my community."

*- Shay Johnson
Youth 4 Truth leader*

Lady Gaga's mother, Cynthia Germanotta, Co-Founder and President of the Born This Way Foundation, attended the lunch and toured The Crib with Johnson. Following the tour, youth came together for "gratitudes"—a nightly tradition at The Crib where guests begin the evening by saying the things for which they are thankful.

Germanotta, or "Mama Gaga" as she became known during the barbeque, brought a message from her daughter to guests at The Crib.

"My daughter and I believe that everyone should have a safe space and an opportunity in life. Being here, at The Night Ministry, I am impressed that you have that opportunity. Each of you has value in life and we need your contributions, spirit, and talent in our communities," said Germanotta. ◇

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Street Medicine: Mobile Health Care and Compassion



The Street Medicine Team will provide cold weather support for homeless individuals living in encampments across Chicago this winter.

As winter arrives in Chicago, The Night Ministry's Street Medicine Pilot Project continues to build relationships and offer health care and case management services to homeless individuals living in encampments across Chicago.

This summer, Nurse Practitioner Sandra Collins joined the Street Medicine team as its health care provider. In addition to the Nurse Practitioner, the team consists of a Street Medicine Outreach Professional and a Case Manager. Together, they travel throughout the city four days a week, regularly

visiting individuals in as many as 30 makeshift street camps. The team provides free health care, case management, hygiene and other supplies, and a friendly presence to those whom they meet.

David Wywialowski, the Director of The Night Ministry's Outreach and Health Ministry Program, says that the team continues to find new locations.

"Since the program is mobile, we can easily follow those individuals with whom we have developed a relationship, when they move from place to place. However, when people move, the team discovers new communities. Currently, there are sites that we know of but are unable to visit because the program is still in a pilot phase.

As we grow the program's financial support, our team will be able to increase the amount of time that they spend on the street and serve more communities," said Wywialowski.

"As we grow the program's financial support, our team will be able to increase the amount of time that they spend on the street and serve more communities."

*- David Wywialowski
Director of Outreach and Health Ministry*

As temperatures drop, the Street Medicine team will prepare residents of encampments and provide them with news about impending cold weather

emergencies or blizzard warnings, referrals to shelters and warming centers, blankets, coats, warm socks and gloves, and information about hypothermia. ♦

SAVE THE DATES

2018 LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT AWARDS DINNER & AUCTION!

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2018

Join supporters of The Night Ministry at Loews Chicago Hotel for this memorable and mission-driven event. We are honored that Sanjay Shah, CEO and Chief Architect of Vistex, will chair Lighting Up the Night this year.

For more information, please visit www.thenightministry.org or contact **Charlotte Whitley**, Special Events Coordinator, at (773) 506-6009 or charlotte@thenightministry.org.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

THE NIGHT MINISTRY GOLF OUTING Kemper Lakes Golf Club in Kildeer, IL

Golf Outing Committee members needed! Contact **Charlotte Whitley**, Special Events Coordinator, at (773) 506-6009 or charlotte@thenightministry.org.



#GIVINGTUESDAY

NOVEMBER 28, 2017

On Giving Tuesday, be inspired by the generosity shown by members of The Night Ministry community, including supporters, volunteers, and clients.

Visit www.thenightministry.org, check our Facebook page, or follow us on Twitter for more details as November 28 approaches.

www.thenightministry.org

Milestones: Reflecting On 10 Years of RAPPP and STEPS



RAPPP is the only shelter in Chicago that reserves shelter beds for pregnant or parenting teens as young as 14.

In 2007, The Night Ministry opened the Response-Ability Pregnant and Parenting Program (RAPPP) and the Successful Transitions Effectively Preparing for Self-Sufficiency (STEPS) program, greatly expanding the services it offered to homeless and precariously housed youth. We spoke with long-time staff members to get their perspectives on the programs' early years and growth over the last decade.

RAPPP

Felitha Jones-Patterson recalls how RAPPP opened in May of 2007 with just one resident. "We were fully staffed, and she came in with her two kids," said Jones-Patterson, The Night Ministry's Assistant Director of Early Intervention Services. "We were all over her until we got our second client. I think she was probably happy to see another young person come in!"

Since that beginning, RAPPP has housed hundreds of young women and their children. The 120-day program serves pregnant and parenting youth ages 14 to 21 and their infants and toddlers.

Staff realized earlier on that RAPPP had to be more than just a roof over the head, said Jones-Patterson. "We wanted to be the professional aunts, moms, sisters, and cousins that they didn't have and give them enough tools to be responsible mothers."

Success stories include major events like graduations, family reunifications, and marriages as well as smaller moments that make up daily life, like dance recitals and birthday parties.

But there are other ways to gauge progress, according to Youth Worker Supervisor Yasmin Clarke-Greenlee, like building compassionate relationships. "We get the calls from the girls that aren't doing so well. But they call us because they know we aren't

going to judge them. If they come back we say, 'what can we do differently this time.'"

STEPS

The STEPS Transitional Living Program began with a vision—to extend the supportive services The Night Ministry was already offering in its short-term housing programs.

"We knew there was a need to provide two years of additional support to focus on self-sufficiency," said Allison McCann-Stevenson, The Night Ministry's Assistant Director of Long Term Residential Services.

Since opening its doors in 2007, some 80 young people have called STEPS home. Signs of the effectiveness of the STEPS program were clear early on, said McCann-Stevenson. "In one of our very first surveys, the feedback from young people was that, if they had not found our program, they would not have been able to accomplish the goals they set for themselves."

And residents setting their own goals is a cornerstone of STEPS, said Case Manager Anthony Monterroso. "A youth has to have a very strong opinion about their own future. Because it's their future; it's not ours."

Numbers can relay STEPS residents' successes, but

Monterroso can tell of individual triumphs, including one resident who graduated high school and became a U.S. citizen during his stay. "All the while he was able to work and save a significant amount of money," Monterroso said.

"About two years ago, he got his own apartment with his mother, sister, and brother. He always wanted to take on the role of the caretaker, and his dream has been fulfilled."

ON THE HORIZON

Following through on its current strategic plan, *Serving in the Next Decade*, The Night Ministry is addressing facility concerns at the building where RAPPP operates. Meanwhile, staff at STEPS are exploring longer-term housing options and increasing the age of youth served. ◇



STEPS supports the development of skills residents need for independent living.

"Sometimes people forget that young people who are experiencing homelessness are like any other teen."

- Felitha Jones-Patterson
Assistant Director
of Early Intervention Services

Meet Board of Directors Vice Chair Mark Warren



Mark Warren joined The Night Ministry's Board of Directors in 2015.

For Mark Warren, serving as Vice Chair of The Night Ministry's Board of Directors allows him to play an active, ongoing role in providing hope, compassion, and encouragement to individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty in Chicago. We asked Mark, a management consultant at Point B, to share what drives his engagement with The Night Ministry (TNM).

How did you first learn about TNM?

I first became aware of The Night Ministry by seeing the Health Outreach Bus in Wicker Park years ago. I ended up taking a deeper look into the organization and volunteered, packing hygiene kits, and then, a few years later I was introduced to TNM's Board through a working relationship that my firm had with [former Board Chair] Laurie Neu.

"Time and resources donated to The Night Ministry will have an immediate impact on the lives of those who are most in need."

How would you describe TNM's Board?

It's a very active board that is passionate about the mission of TNM. Each Board member comes with different skills and different strengths. There are a lot of strategic thinkers who understand the importance of getting the job done.

What is the one thing that has made you feel most proud about serving on TNM's Board?

It's really my association with an agency that has an amazing staff. For example, I had the opportunity to participate in our recent strategic planning efforts [for youth programs] and was extremely impressed by the ability of TNM staff to find the right balance between innovation and practicality.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about supporting TNM?

I would say the time and resources donated to TNM will have an immediate impact on the lives of those who are in most need. ♦

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New Community Health Manager Looks for Evidence-Based Solutions



Community Health Manager Mary Poliwka (right) and Nurse Practitioner Anne Molloy provided information about diabetes management and testing during a Health Outreach Bus stop this past summer.

As the Community Health Manager for The Night Ministry, Mary Poliwka understands that just as there are no simple explanations for health issues, there are no easy solutions. “Individual health is affected not only by personal choices, but also by socioeconomic status, environment, and community resources,” she said. “Public health encourages study of all of these complexities. With this knowledge, we can develop interventions that take into account the many factors at play.”

At The Night Ministry, Mary ensures that the Health Outreach Bus

medical team and our HIV/STI testing team are fully supported to provide health care to the homeless communities we serve.

“I also get to think creatively about new initiatives and partnerships that can address the extensive challenges our clients face,” Mary adds. She developed a diabetes awareness program, supported by the Illinois Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, which rolled out at our Bus stops during the month of August.

In the process of providing educational resources, Mary herself learns directly about the challenges faced by individuals The Night Ministry serves. “When I was running the diabetes/sugar management health campaign, I had clients tell me that discussion of nutrition is irrelevant when you have no choice but to eat what you’re given,” she said. “I also had others talk about their communities as food deserts without grocery stores. Without options in their neighborhoods, how are they supposed to make healthy lifestyle changes?”

“In those situations,” Mary said, “I see the necessity of public health interventions to address macro-level issues. We need to equip our communities to take care of one another.” ♦

Sharing the Spirit of the Holidays

The Night Ministry makes the holiday season as joyful as possible for the individuals and families we serve. Thanks to the generosity of numerous donors and volunteers, we can provide holiday gifts, meals, and festive activities for the residents of our Youth Housing Programs and visitors of our Health Outreach Bus.

This holiday season, give the gift that keeps on giving. When you make a donation to The Night Ministry in honor of a relative, friend, or colleague, we will send them a holiday card so they will know of your thoughtfulness and generosity. Your gift is tax deductible and, most importantly, provides the homeless with warm beds, hot meals, medical care, and renewed hope. Visit www.thenightministry.org and click the “Make a Gift” button, or return the enclosed envelope to The Night Ministry.



How will you leave your legacy?

After securing economic stability and providing for the needs of your loved ones, you may choose to make a lasting charitable impact with a bequest to The Night Ministry. If you have already included The Night Ministry in your will, please let us know – we would like to acknowledge your generosity and welcome you as a member of The Legacy Society.

Contact Christy Prassas

Vice President of Development & External Relations
christy@thenightministry.org or (773) 506-6023



“I have supported The Night Ministry since 1989 because it is innovative and compassionate in the outreach provided to homeless youth and adults of our city. My legacy gift will help ensure this outreach will continue and expand.”

–Melanie Ehrhart
Legacy Society Member



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We're so happy to have you on board!



Phoenix Hall Opens Doors for North Lawndale College Prep Students



Volunteers from the neighborhood helped plant the garden outside Phoenix Hall, The Night Ministry's fifth youth housing program.

The Night Ministry's Phoenix Hall welcomed its first residents in August, just before the start of a new school year at North Lawndale College Prep High School (NLCP). Supporting the students will be five newly hired Resident Assistants, the frontline staff who are available around the clock.

The students moved into an eight-bedroom, four-and-a-half bathroom greystone home that, over the past year, has been beautifully rehabbed by F&W General Contracting and Eckenhoff Saunders Architects.

Phoenix Hall is a year-round residence for NLCP students who are experiencing housing instability. It provides students with safe, stable housing in an effort to increase their educational outcomes.

Program Manager Jenny Merritt says the services that students receive from The Night Ministry will be complemented by assistance that NLCP provides to its students.

“Through NLCP’s College Connection program, students will receive support while they plan for college—including tours and application advice. Also, students who are involved in NLCP’s Peace Warriors program learn skills to keep their school conflict-free, which can be really helpful for living in a group environment,” said Merritt.

While developing Phoenix Hall, Merritt and The Night Ministry built relationships with neighbors and community organizations.

“The neighbors have definitely shown interest in the program and hope to become involved at Phoenix Hall. Recently, a community garden donated a number of cucumbers to Phoenix Hall. One of our residents is an aspiring chef, and she is using them to make homemade pickles which she plans to share with our neighbors,” said Merritt.

The program is operated as part of a partnership with NLCP, Old St. Patrick’s Church, Empower to Succeed, and Youth Outreach Services.

(You can help new residents settle in by contributing to the Phoenix Hall housewarming registry. Go to www.myregistry.com and search under organization/nonprofit for The Night Ministry. Then click on The Night Ministry-Phoenix Hall.) ◇

Thank you to those who generously gave at the \$250 level or higher between June 16, 2017 through September 30, 2017



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