



4711 North Ravenswood Avenue
Chicago, IL 60640-4407
773-784-9000
www.thenightministry.org
Address Service Requested.

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PALATINE IL
PERMIT # 825



NIGHTLIGHTS

HOLIDAY 2015



To view a list of those who generously gave at the \$250 level or higher between September 1, 2015 and October 31, 2015, please visit www.thenightministry.org.

Breast Cancer Outreach and Education at the Health Outreach Bus

A new partnership between the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force (MCBCTF) and The Night Ministry is educating women at two of The Night Ministry's Health Outreach Bus Stops.

Donalynn Schaffer, Community Outreach Worker for the MCBCTF, has been visiting with individuals at the Health Outreach Bus in South Shore and Back of the Yards to provide education about breast health and breast cancer. In addition to education, Schaffer has been registering women for free mammograms. The mammograms are provided at a variety of community-based clinics and hospitals in partnership with organizations like A Silver Lining Foundation.

According to the National Cancer Institute, while Caucasian women have the highest incidence rate for breast cancer, African-American women are the most likely racial/ethnic group to die from breast cancer. By educating African-American individuals who visit the Bus in South Shore and Back of the Yards, The Night Ministry and the MCBCTF aim to reduce these kinds of health disparities.

Gregory Gross, The Night Ministry's Community Health Manager, says that the relationships our staff builds with Bus visitors makes it easier to provide preventive health care. "The individuals who come to the Bus have so many needs that thinking about preventive health measures is often not even on their radars. They may come to us to address their immediate concerns, but we can take the time to highlight issues that may not seem urgent to them but are still important, like breast health. When partners like the MCBCTF actually come to the Bus Stops with us, we aren't telling the individuals to call someone – Donalynn is right there. She can explain – on the street – how to perform a self-exam. She can register them for a free mammogram. Follow-through is no longer an issue. Because she visits the Bus regularly, women who are hesitant to talk to her at first have a chance to meet her and become more likely to sign up later," he said.

According to Gross, 22 women signed up for mammograms, thanks to the partnership with the Health Outreach Bus, as of October 27. Additionally, 16 women received in-depth education around breast health.



The Crib: Shelter, Sanctuary, Family

At 9 p.m., The Crib opens. And at 9 a.m., The Crib closes its doors for the day. For the 12 hours in between, the overnight emergency shelter provides up to 21 homeless youth with healthy meals, the opportunity to shower and do laundry, and a safe place to sleep. But The Crib goes beyond meeting these basic necessities.

Capitalizing on creativity and local partnerships, The Crib has pioneered innovative programming for youth in a low-threshold shelter. Young people at The Crib receive psychosocial and educational experiences that are typically only found in longer term shelters. From CPR training to legal services, yoga, massage, and dental care, The Crib provides homeless youth with experiences that build their confidence, life skills, and self-sufficiency, which in turn helps them improve their life circumstances.

The Crib even has a weekly book club. In June 2015, The Crib launched a partnership with Literature For All of Us, an award-winning literacy organization based in Evanston. The facilitator, Anthony Betori, hosts a weekly book group with youth from The Crib, during which they explore authors who write from an LGBTQ perspective. Book group meets at 10 p.m. on Wednesday nights, and is one of The Crib's most popular activities. More than half of the residents participate each week.

"Book group at The Crib," Betori said, "is one of the most radically accepting places I've ever been. It is where we process the deeper traumas, and build relationships that encourage resiliency and community



Youth enjoy a weekly book club at The Crib.
Photo courtesy of Brennan Probst

rather than self-harm and isolation. The result is a loving, creative community that closely resembles a family."

The staff is part of the family atmosphere at The Crib, according to Program Coordinator Devin Redmond.

"Together each night, we (staff and guests) share our highs and lows, laugh, cry, dance, grieve and hope, as a family. As with all families, we have our struggles from time to time, but more importantly, we have each other's back no matter what, and we strive to be present along each young person's journey as they stay with us, and after they've left us," Redmond said.

Youth call The Crib "a sanctuary, a getaway from the outside world" where they are mired in and subjected to forms of discrimination at every turn. The Crib is so much more than an overnight emergency shelter. The Crib offers a safe space where homeless youth can explore, heal, and grow.

THE CRIB FACTS

- Opened its doors in 2011
- 70-80% of guests identify as LGBTQ
- 277 youth received services in the past year

IN MEMORY OF LAURIE NEU

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you that Laurie Neu, Treasurer of The Night Ministry's Board of Directors, passed away on Saturday, September 12.

Neu joined the Board of Directors in 2007 and served three terms as Chair, from January 1, 2011 until December 31, 2013, before which she served as Secretary. She has served as Treasurer since the beginning of 2014. During Neu's first term as Board Chair, The Night Ministry opened The Crib, an overnight emergency shelter for homeless youth ages 18-24, as a 4-month pilot program. She led the Board of Directors as it expanded into a year-round program of The Night Ministry and eventually was replicated city-wide by the City of Chicago.

Neu was a tireless advocate of The Night Ministry's work. She took great delight in getting to know our staff and supporting them. She was an incredible leader and her legacy at The Night Ministry will touch the lives of many for years to come.



Megan Hoxhalli started as the Congregational and Community Relations Coordinator at The Night Ministry in June. She has a Masters of Social Work and is currently completing Masters of Divinity coursework at the Chicago Theological Seminary. Megan is passionate about connecting congregations, corporations, and other community groups with opportunities for advancing social service and is very excited to be working with The Night Ministry!



"I've found that even if a congregation has been working with us for years, there are always new aspects of The Night Ministry that people in the room discover."

I build and maintain The Night Ministry's connection with the congregations, schools, and other community groups who support us. One way I do this is by speaking at congregations — whether through a mission moment, a sermon, or a presentation to a small group or mission committee. I've found that even if a congregation has been working with us for years, there are always new aspects of The Night Ministry that people in the room discover — including me!

I also host Night Walks, which are educational experiences about youth homelessness geared towards youth groups. Participants leave with a better understanding of the challenges young people face on the streets and how they can get involved. I am continually impressed and inspired by their questions, compassion, and insight!

I am always looking for small groups who want to serve a meal at The Crib or with the Health Outreach Bus. It's a great way for groups from congregations, schools, or corporations to put their values into action. Our meal groups are a big part of the human connection that The Night Ministry offers—everyone who comes through the line not only gets what might be their only food for the day, but they also receive a warm smile, a greeting, or a conversation.

Currently, we're gearing up for the annual Holiday Celebration, where each person who visits the Bus or stays in our shelters will receive a stocking or gift. We are collecting stuffed stockings and donations like gift cards, hats, gloves, and long underwear. I am looking forward to seeing the joy on our guests' faces as they receive these gifts!

I would love to chat with anyone who is interested in connecting with The Night Ministry in any of the ways I described above. Please get in touch! You can reach me at 773-506-6004 or megan@thenightministry.org.

Reflections

Youth Outreach Team Aligns Strategies with Changing Needs of Homeless Youth

YOT FACTS

- YOT has worked in Lakeview for over 20 years
- 250 youth annually are provided with a safe space, survival supplies, and HIV/STD testing

Known for its Van that visits the corner of Belmont and Halsted in Lakeview, the Youth Outreach Team is expanding its reach to other neighborhoods of Chicago.

The Youth Outreach Team (YOT) has worked in Lakeview providing services that move at-risk youth from unstructured and dangerous street environments into safe and supportive ones during peak risk hours. The team consists of three Outreach Professionals and three interns, who are led by Youth Outreach Manager and Rabbi, Menachem Cohen.

According to Cohen, "We've seen a steady decrease in the number of young people coming to the Outreach Van the last few years. So, if the young people are not coming to us, we have to go find them."

Over the next year, YOT will be developing new outreach strategies to engage homeless youth. This includes extending services to the Loop and to the West Side, and doing outreach in Chicago Public Schools (CPS), where there were 20,205 homeless students enrolled in the 2014-2015 school year. 2,622 CPS students were unaccompanied teens who were homeless and living without a parent or guardian, according to the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless.

YOT staff members are surveying the young people served at the Van in order to obtain feedback on their experiences, and learn what their critical needs are.

"Our main priority is meeting young people where they're at (literally and figuratively) and connecting them to services on their own terms," said Stacy Fox, Youth Outreach Professional for The Night Ministry. "This is exciting for YOT because we're really expanding our presence in many communities where youth homelessness is a large and persistent issue. From partnering with liaisons in Chicago Public Schools, to increasing our online presence to be a resource for young people on social media, we're excited to connect with youth on and off the streets."

YOT has already started bringing services to downtown Chicago, including University Center and Harold Washington Library, where it is observed that homeless youth are gathering in high numbers. YOT is also increasing its partnership with Chicago Adventure Therapy, which provides outdoor experiences, such as camping and kayaking, for homeless youth.

"We are excited to have so many options on the table for new outreach programming and cannot wait to see where our new outreach initiatives take us in seeking out young people in need of our services," Fox said.



The Youth Outreach Team partnered with Chicago Adventure Therapy to host a weekend campout for six homeless and at-risk youth at Mississippi Palisades State Park.

Remember The Night Ministry in your will

Whatever the amount, we're extremely grateful for any gift that is left to The Night Ministry, as it will help us to continue to provide housing, health care, and human connection to adults and youth who are struggling with poverty and homelessness in our community. Contact Christy Prassas, Vice President of Development & External Relations, at 773-506-6023 or christy@thenightministry.org if you have any questions.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert A. Carson, *Chair*
Brian D. Fergemann, *Vice Chair*
Arielle Deane, *Secretary*
Jim King, *Treasurer*

Gordon Addington	Alicia Pond
Barbara Baran	Elen Romberg
Dave Berger	Allan J. Ruter
Kiantae A. Bowles	Nick Semaca
Rev. Shawna Bowman	Sharbel Shamon
William A. Goldstein	Sean T. Taylor
Torrence Hinton	Dennis W. Thorn
Ike Hong	Mark Warren
Leo Kim	Carl W. Warschawski
Max Nutkowitz	Raymond J. White, Jr.
Keisha Parker	

Directors Emeriti
Rev. Thomas Behrens,
Founding President & Former CEO
Chester A. Gougis
Robert Jordan, Jr.
Richard Pigott
Lora Sanberg

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Paul W. Hamann
President & CEO
Barbara Bolsen
Vice President of Strategic Partnerships & Community Engagement
Melissa Maguire
Vice President of Mission Fulfillment
Christy Prassas
Vice President of Development & External Relations
Erin Ryan
Vice President of Operations

THE NIGHT MINISTRY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

2016 will mark another milestone in The Night Ministry's history – our 40th Anniversary! In honor of this significant achievement, The Night Ministry's Board of Directors has planned a year-long celebration of The Night Ministry's mission and supporters. Special events will take place almost every month during 2016 and will include receptions, open houses and lectures. The highlight of the year will be the Lighting Up the Night 40th Anniversary Gala on Wednesday, June 1 at Loews Chicago Hotel. We hope you will be able to join us as we embark on what promises to be an exciting year for The Night Ministry at a **40th Anniversary Kick-Off Reception on Tuesday, February 9th at the Union League Club**. Keep an eye on The Night Ministry's website – more details about the Kick-Off Reception and a full list of 40th Anniversary activities will be released soon.



Thank you to those who generously gave at the \$250 level or higher between September 1, 2015 and October 31, 2015.

Luminaries

\$25,000+

Chicago Dept. of Family and
Support Services
The Grainger Foundation
U.S. Dept. of Health &
Human Services

Constellations

\$10,000-\$24,999

AIDS Foundation of Chicago
A.G. Cox Charity Trust
Altria Companies Employee
Community Fund
Boehrer Family
Edmond & Alice Opler Foundation
Sage Foundation
St. John's Lutheran Church,
Lincolnwood

City Lights

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous
Alfredo & Ada Capitanini Foundation
Chicago Dept. of Public Health
Fred J. Brunner Foundation
Hoellen Family Foundation

William & Cathleen Osborn
The North Shore Exchange

Guiding Lights

\$1,000-\$4,999

American Society of Travel Agents
Mr. & Mrs. Harrington Bischof
Brewer Family Foundation
Maureen & Robert Carson
Combined Federal Campaign
Community Presbyterian Church,
Clarendon Hills
DePaul University - School for
New Learning
Melanie D. Ehrhart
Evans Beneditz Missionary
Trust Fund
First Congregational Church,
Naperville
Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago
Herman & Katherine Peters
Foundation, Corp.
Melanee J. Jech
Monty Kehl & Craig Wilbanks
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Ted & Almeda Maynard
Morton Grove Community Church
Netrix, LLC
Northern Trust Matching Gift and
Volunteer Grant Program
Philip M. Friedmann Family
Charitable Trust
John & Sheila Pigott

Pilgrim Congregational Church,
Oak Park
Quarles & Brady LLP
Rachel B. Williams Foundation
Michael Rosenbaum
Jenny & Nick Semaca
Danny Shamoon
Leonard G. Strauch
The Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
The Chicago Community Trust
Helen & Dick Thomas
Union Church of Hinsdale
United Automobile Workers of
America - Local No. 551
Sandra Vitantonio & Tilden
Cummings, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick H. Waddell

Streetlights

\$500-\$999

Anonymous (4)
Lorraine & Randy Barba
Bridgeway Sunday Worship Service,
Bensenville
John Cole
Nancy Dehmlow
Tony Eshaya
First Presbyterian Church of
La Grange
Drs. Christine M. & Peter R. Fletcher
James & Karin Flynn
Agatha Forest
Paul Gorney

Mr. & Mrs. Merrill Greenberger
Paul W. Hamann
Margaret S. Hart
Ike P. Hong
Judelson Family Foundation
James McFarlane
William & Patricia Minihan
John & Naomi Morris
Janice E. Rodgers
Dr. Ralph Ryan
Sagar Shah
Margaret Shaklee & Hillis Howie, Jr.
The Redeemer of Calvary UMC,
Chicago
Peggy J. Vierk
Loretta & Monroe Walton
Yorkfield Presbyterian Church,
Elmhurst

Lanterns

\$250-\$499

Anonymous (8)
Rakesh M. Amin
Aileen Blake
Jane M. Bohlin
Nancy Bradney & Sam Peltzman
Mellanie K. Brennan
Keith Burson
Robert Chaskin
ComEd, An Exelon Company
Community Protestant Congregational
Church UCC, Mundelein
Louis C. Dore

First Congregational Church UCC,
Des Plaines

Emily White
Windy City Cafe

Christopher A. Fowler

Suzanne F. Fox

Jody Harvey

Jameson Sotheby's International
Realty

Robert Jewell

Rick & Mary Jobski

Donald Hyun Kiolbassa

Josh Lerner

Robert Leyshon

David Litvinov

Henry Lopez

Ruth Lynch

John May

Motorola Solutions Foundation

Annie & Scott Mygind

John & Marie Myszka

Martha & Jeffrey Pattee

Proud to Run

Joseph Radcliffe

Mark Raffaelli

Raiders Social Athletic Club

Karen Raulli

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hinsdale

Mary Hutchings Reed &

Dr. William R. Reed

Maryellen & Tom Scott

Sharbel Shamoon

Jean Sheridan

Fred B. Smith

Southminster Presbyterian Church,

Arlington Heights

Hal Temple

Vinay & Sanjay Tolia

Peter M. Tortorello

UAW-Ford

Lehman Waller