



NIGHTLIGHTS

WINTER 2017

The Night Ministry Introduces New Strategic Plan



One of the goals included in The Night Ministry's new strategic plan is to deepen and widen programming offered by its Youth Programs and Outreach and Health Ministry Program.

At its meeting in December, The Night Ministry's Board of Directors approved *Serving in the Next Decade*, The Night Ministry's new strategic plan. *Serving in the Next Decade* was formally introduced to employees at a celebration in January.

"The Night Ministry has grown significantly since our founding in 1976," said Paul W. Hamann, The Night Ministry's President and CEO. "We've been able to do that because we take time every few years to pause and to take a deep look at our community's needs and The Night Ministry's capacity to meet those needs."

Serving in the Next Decade builds upon 40 years of history. It is a three-and-a-half year roadmap for The Night Ministry as it seeks to:

- expand high impact programs
- maintain financial sustainability
- increase the governance capacity of its Board of Directors
- position itself as a thought-leader in the field
- recruit, retain, and develop high-performing employees
- utilize data as a means of learning and program improvement

The plan calls for an expansion and deepening of services, relocating some programs to new facilities, increasing the professional development of staff, expanding the role of Performance Measurement, and increasing advocacy.

The Night Ministry engaged staff, Board members, volunteers, and individuals who receive services to develop the plan. The group examined program data to better understand the impact of current services and assessed Chicago's social service landscape for opportunities.

"What won't change and what will sustain us throughout this process is our commitment to our values and dedication to providing housing, health care, and human connection."

-Paul W. Hamann, President & CEO

As The Night Ministry embarks on this journey of serving in the next decade, a detailed timeline has been developed to guide the plan's implementation process. Staff, Board members, volunteers, and clients will be recruited for working groups to drive forward the plan's goals.

"This plan is an ambitious one. It involves change in order to better meet the needs of those individuals we serve. What won't change and what will sustain us throughout this process is our commitment to our values and our dedication to providing housing, health care, and human connection," said Hamann. ◇

HOUSING • HEALTH CARE • HUMAN CONNECTION

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Students Name The Night Ministry's Fifth Housing Program and Renovations Begin



Construction is underway at Phoenix Hall in North Lawndale. Once construction is completed, Phoenix Hall will provide housing for up to eight North Lawndale College Prep students experiencing homelessness.

The Night Ministry's fifth housing program for youth experiencing homelessness will be named *Phoenix Hall* when it opens this spring.

Phoenix Hall is the housing component of the North Lawndale Youth Housing Initiative — a partnership between The Night Ministry, North Lawndale College Prep (NLCP) High School, Youth Outreach Services, Empower to Succeed, and Old St. Pat's Church.

Phoenix Hall will serve NLCP students who are struggling with homelessness. It will be Chicago's first housing program for

homeless students that is connected to a specific high school and one of just a few in the country.

NLCP staff report that 10 to 20 percent of its student body experiences housing instability throughout the year. A housing program has been a long-time dream for the school.

The Night Ministry's Program Manager, Jenny Merritt, says NLCP students named the new program.

"The students see this home as an extension of their school, so they didn't want to call it a shelter. NLCP's mascot is the Phoenix and many programs at the school include references to its mascot. The students felt that calling the program 'Phoenix Hall' would pay tribute to its origins at NLCP," said Merritt.

Phoenix Hall will be housed in a 3,500-square-foot greystone that was built in North Lawndale in 1895. The home is currently being renovated to house eight students.

"Renovations have been moving fast," said Merritt. "We've been lucky that the weather has cooperated with us and there haven't been many changes to our original plans for the building." ♦

Nurse Practitioner's Corner: Coping with Anxiety



Through her work, Jennifer Sgro (right) shines a light on the physical, mental, and emotional health needs of people who visit the Health Outreach Bus.

By Jennifer Sgro, FNP

In 2004 ABC news correspondent Dan Harris suffered a panic attack during a live broadcast of Good Morning America. According to Dan, he “freaked out” on air, and had to abruptly end his report. This incident of coming unglued in front of millions of people led him down a path of inquiry and discovery, eventually leading him to write a book about how he learned to cope with his anxiety and thoughts of self-doubt.

Recently I have encountered many people on The Night Ministry's Health Outreach Bus who, although not having the misfortune of suffering so publicly, have been dealing with exactly the same racing thoughts, apprehensions, worry, and physical symptoms that come with anxiety. As health

care providers know too well, the holidays lead many to ruminate about past mistakes, challenging family interactions, and financial strains. The recent change in our nation's leadership has caused many people a great deal of uncertainty about the future.

There is often no cure, solution, or fix to the situations and circumstances that can cause stress and anxiety in our lives. There are however, often simple techniques that can lessen the intensity of negative thoughts and feelings. Exercise, good sleep habits, and even deep breathing are simple yet proven to improve stress levels. The Anxiety and Depression Association of America has more tips and great information on resources that can help manage symptoms. These resources have been helpful to the patients and guests I serve at the Health Outreach Bus, who are prone to high levels of stress and anxiety due to the complex realities they face.

Each New Year brings with it the opportunity for new hopes, goals, and milestones. Often, we don't achieve those without first tip-toeing through a minefield of worry, potential setbacks and some disappointments. It may be hard to avoid, but it's my hope that when those situations arise, we can find new ways to be more forgiving and patient, not just with others, but with ourselves as well. As Dan chose to put it, they may not eliminate stress from our lives, but can serve to make us “10% happier.” ♦



You can make a gift to The Night Ministry on your smartphone! Text NIGHT to 243725.

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.

Double Your Gift!

A longtime supporter of The Night Ministry has generously offered to match all donations made in response to this newsletter, up to \$5,000. You can make twice the impact today! Please help us



rise to the challenge by sending your donation to The Night Ministry with the enclosed envelope.

Associate Board Marks Five Years of Service and Philanthropy

By *Ellen Rosenwinkel*,
Associate Board President

Upon entering our fifth year of service to The Night Ministry, it strikes me how much the Associate Board has grown since our first event – a happy hour in the upstairs of a Lincoln Park bar. We didn't yet know what 30 young volunteers, donors, and their friends could accomplish together, but we were excited to launch something new for an organization we cared about. In that first year, under the guidance of The Night Ministry's exceptional staff, we organized quickly, and have since hosted events all over the city, volunteered directly with clients, organized donation drives, held countless committee meetings, and raised over \$65,000 for The Night Ministry.

All this work has given me many treasured memories: bonding with supporters old and new at our annual Revolution Brewing event, assembling Night Lights auction packages late into the



Associate Board President Ellen Rosenwinkel welcomes guests to the annual Night Lights gala.

"We organized quickly, and have since hosted events all over the city, volunteered directly with clients, organized donation drives, held countless committee meetings, and raised over \$65,000 for The Night Ministry."

I eagerly anticipate many more years of service as our Associate Board continues supporting the work of this wonderful organization and making The Night Ministry a household name in the Chicago community. ♦

night with the Events Committee, and watching the Cubs play in the World Series with youth at the West Town Shelter.

However, it is the privilege of building a personal connection with the staff and clients, who are The Night Ministry, that is for me the most important aspect of being a member of the Associate Board. These interactions make me and my fellow members informed and motivated ambassadors for The Night Ministry. We share these first-hand experiences with friends, family, and colleagues to illustrate how we as a community can address the seemingly insurmountable issues of youth homelessness, inadequate access to health care, and the isolation felt by so many of our neighbors on the streets.

Join the Associate Board!



After raising a record-breaking \$40,000 at the annual Night Lights gala, held on November 10, 2016 at River Roast, the Associate Board was able to make its largest-ever gift to support the mission and programs of The Night Ministry.

The Associate Board (AB) supports the overall mission and activities of The Night Ministry. Acting as ambassadors of the agency, AB members engage the community through volunteering, fundraising, networking, and advocacy opportunities targeted towards young professionals. To join the AB or to receive information about membership, please email associateboard.tnm@gmail.com. ♦

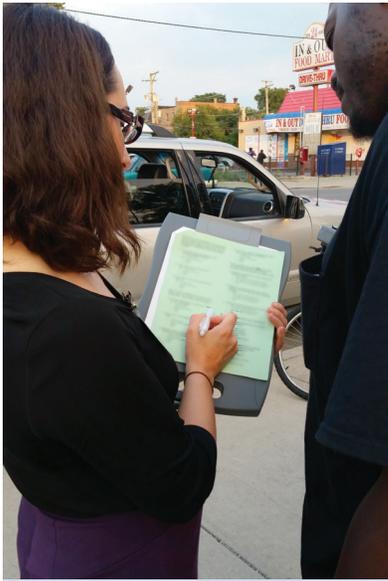
SAVE THE DATE: Upcoming AB Events

**5TH ANNUAL EMPORIUM
ARCADE FUNDRAISER**
Thursday, March 23, 2017
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Emporium Arcade Bar
(1366 N Milwaukee Ave)

BREWS & BITES
Tuesday, May 23, 2017
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Revolution Brewing
(2323 N Milwaukee Ave)

HAM-BINGO
Monday, August 21, 2017
8:00 - 10:00 pm
Hamburger Mary's
(5233 N Clark St)

NIGHT LIGHTS
Thursday, November 9, 2017
6:00 - 9:00pm
River Roast
(315 N LaSalle St)



A volunteer administers the 2016 Street Survey to a visitor at one of The Night Ministry's Health Outreach Bus Stops.

Street Survey Findings Released

The Night Ministry's Mission Fulfillment Team has released its findings from the 2016 Outreach and Health Ministry Street Survey. In July, volunteers administered the survey to visitors at each of The Night Ministry's five Health Outreach Bus Stops. This year, 319 visitors completed the survey, which was provided in both English and Spanish.

This is the fourth year that The Night Ministry has administered the Street Survey at the Bus. The Night Ministry utilizes the data to better understand the role of the Bus in the lives of Bus visitors and inform the services provided throughout the year.

This year, for the first time, visitors to the Bus were asked their veteran status. Eight percent of the Bus visitors reported that they were a veteran.

Some key findings from this year's Street Survey included:

- 17% of the visitors reported that they were homeless (as opposed to unstably housed or stably housed). Pilsen saw the highest percentage of homeless Bus visitors (52%), while Back of the Yards reported the highest percentage of unstably housed visitors (29%).
- Hunger continues to be a big issue at the Bus. On average 73% of the visitors surveyed did not eat enough food that day and, for 23% of the visitors, the food at the Bus was the only food they ate that day.
- 19% of the visitors indicated that they do not have a regular place to go for health care. For 20% of these individuals, the Bus serves as their only source of health care.
- 80% of visitors reported one or more health conditions. While high blood pressure/hypertension remains the number one reported health care condition, depression is now the second most-reported health condition.
- An estimated 70% of visitors indicated high trust for The Night Ministry's Health Outreach Staff and volunteers and 66% indicated high camaraderie among the other Bus guests at the Bus Stop where they receive services.

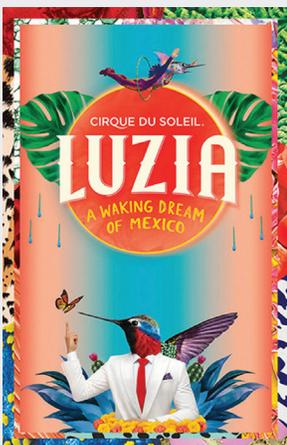
In the past, data collected during the annual Street Survey has assisted The Night Ministry as it expanded Health Outreach Services. ◇

SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE 2017 LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT AWARDS DINNER & AUCTION!

Lighting Up the Night will take place on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at Loews Chicago Hotel. We are thrilled that **Anne Pramaggiore**, President and CEO of ComEd, will chair the event and that **Bob Jordan**, veteran newsman of WGN-TV and Board Member Emeritus of The Night Ministry, will serve as the emcee. The Night Ministry is proud to present our 2017 Lamplighter Award to the **Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation**. For more information, please visit thenightministry.org or contact Charlotte Whitley, Special Events Coordinator, at (773) 506-6009 or charlotte@thenightministry.org.

5-31-2017



Cirque du Soleil® is coming to Chicago and The Night Ministry has been chosen to benefit from a performance of Luzia!

8^{pm} Wednesday, August 2, 2017

The United Center, 1901 W. Madison Street, Chicago
Premium Tickets are \$150. Limited number available!

To purchase tickets visit www.thenightministry.org

For more information, contact Charlotte Whitley, Special Events Coordinator, at (773) 506-6009 or charlotte@thenightministry.org. Cirque du Soleil® donates tickets to organizations providing assistance to youth at risk, with 100% of the proceeds from ticket sales supporting their work with young people.

Congressman Quigley Visits Street Medicine



Street Medicine Outreach Worker Jeff Ayoub, The Night Ministry's Senior Vice President Erin Ryan, Congressman Mike Quigley, and Street Medicine Case Manager Tiffany Green at the end of the Congressman's visit.



Health Outreach Nurse Practitioner Matthew Sorenson discusses the unique health care challenges faced by individuals living in encampments.

On Wednesday, January 18, Congressman Mike Quigley spent the morning with The Night Ministry's Street Medicine team.

Street Medicine is The Night Ministry's pilot initiative that brings services traditionally found on The Night Ministry's Health Outreach Bus to encampments where homeless individuals live along the Chicago River, under bridges, in fields, and other hard-to-reach locations.

Street Medicine Outreach Worker Jeff Ayoub, Case Manager Tiffany Green, Health Outreach Nurse Practitioner Matthew Sorenson, and Senior Vice President Erin Ryan took

"Hearing personal stories from some of the most vulnerable in our society, as well as testimonies from dedicated Night Ministry team members, brought to light some of the serious struggles Chicagoans face every day."

-Congressman Mike Quigley

the Congressman to two of the more than 20 encampments the team visits throughout Chicago each week.

The Congressman observed the relationships the team builds with street-based individuals, the case management they provide on the street, and the health care needs of this population.

Following the visit, Congressman Quigley posted the following statement to social media: "Hearing personal stories from some of the most vulnerable in our society, as well as testimonies from dedicated Night Ministry team members, brought to light some of the serious struggles Chicagoans face every day. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in Congress to address the causes of these challenges and find meaningful solutions." ◇

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or higher between October 16, 2016 and January 31, 2017.**



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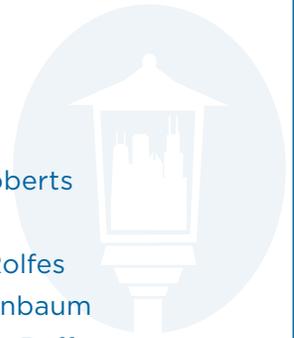
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