



NIGHTLIGHTS

HOLIDAY 2018

Stocking Stuffing Is a Seasonal Tradition for Supporters

Every year, The Night Ministry's generous supporters help make the holiday season a little brighter for the children, youth, and adults we serve by contributing to the celebrations we hold across all of our programs in December.

One of the biggest ways our friends help is through the donation of stockings that are filled with essentials like socks, gloves, tissues, and deodorant for our clients, along with a few fun items like candy and decks of cards. The stockings are donated by individuals, congregations, organizations, and businesses from across the Chicago area.

Catherine Schulte organizes stocking donations from Glencoe Union Church, where she said stocking stuffing has become a holiday tradition.

"Everybody thinks it is super fun. All of the kids look forward to that Sunday in December when we get together to stuff stockings," she said.

Schulte said the process is also an opportunity for congregants to learn about the day-to-day realities of the individuals who will receive the stockings.

"It creates conversations about why things like lip balm and socks are needed and why the stockings aren't filled with tons of candy."

JR Clark had been a supporter and volunteer with The Night Ministry before he suggested to his colleagues at the American Bar Association, where he is Director of Accreditation Administration, that they come together to stuff stockings a few years ago.



A client of The Night Ministry holds up a gift stocking. The generosity of our supporters allows us to give stockings during the holidays.

Everyone in his office who wants to participate is welcome, he said, even if they haven't been able to purchase items or donate money.

"My colleagues who cannot give are sometimes the ones that definitely make sure they are there to help stuff the stockings," Clark said.

Clark also said his coworkers appreciate the opportunity to give back during the season.

"Being reminded of those that don't have as much and to be able to, even in a small way, do something that hopefully brings some joy into others' lives, I think that's very important."

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- JR Clark, Supporter

Interested in contributing stockings or other gifts to The Night Ministry's holiday celebrations? Contact Sarah Hairston, Community and Congregational Relations Coordinator, at (773) 506-6004 or sarahh@thenightministry.org or visit www.thenightministry.org/other-ways-to-support. You can also make a financial gift on our website or return the enclosed envelope. ◇

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Meet Board Member Suzanne Hoyes

Suzanne Hoyes was looking for a way to meaningfully participate in the Chicago community when she moved here in 2014. She found a way to do that by joining The Night Ministry's Board of Directors. We asked Hoyes, who is Vice President, Compliance for Capri Capital Partners, LLC, a real estate investment management firm, about her experience as a Board Member.

How does your professional experience lend itself to serving on the Board?

With both public service and private sector experience, I have come to understand the complex range of needs that are necessary in the effective operation of an organization, from supporting staff in the direct service of clients, so that they have what they need to do their best work, to the very real constraints of limited resources and maximizing these resources.

What interests and principles have guided your professional career?

I have always approached my work with the intention of doing my very best and to actually help others. I'm guided by the core principles of integrity, honesty, and a sense of fairness and justice, whether it was when I served clients as a social worker in child welfare or now by reinforcing a strong culture of ethical conduct and compliance in financial services.

In your opinion, what are the characteristics of a successful nonprofit board of directors and how does The Night Ministry's Board demonstrate those traits?

A successful nonprofit board of directors requires each director to fundamentally believe



Suzanne Hoyes joined the Board of Directors in 2016.

"A successful nonprofit board of directors requires each director to fundamentally believe and be dedicated to the mission of the organization."

and be dedicated to the mission of the organization. This proves to be critical because this dedication is palpable in the director's advocacy on behalf of the organization. The diversity that each director brings to the board is equally important as her dedication. The Night Ministry's

Board of Directors is a deeply dedicated group of individuals, and the Board continuously works to cultivate a body of directors that represents varying experiences and perspectives.

What would you say to someone who is considering supporting The Night Ministry?

The Night Ministry is an extraordinarily impactful organization. It is a principled organization that protects the most vulnerable segments of the population in a time when people who need the most help seem to be under attack. And it is an organization that is not afraid to evolve based on the actual needs of clients. ♦

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.



"What inspires me is that the homeless are dear to my heart, and from what I've seen, The Night Ministry works directly with them."

- Jim Lacy
Legacy Society member

SAVE THE DATE: 2019 LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Join supporters of The Night Ministry at the Sheraton Grand Chicago for this memorable event. This year's honoree will be Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. For more information, visit www.thenightministry.org or contact **Sarah Sheek**, Special Events Coordinator at sarahs@thenightministry.org or (773) 506-6009.

Mission Fulfillment Takes Survey Results Back to the Source

Serving in the Next Decade, The Night Ministry's current strategic plan, calls for growing and sustaining a data-driven culture of learning. Surveying clients across the organization is an important avenue for achieving that goal.

Over the last few years, The Night Ministry began sharing survey results with its clients. Gregory Gross, Director of Mission Fulfillment, said that has led to a more detailed picture of the individuals we serve.

"For example, we had been asking clients at the Health Outreach Bus about housing stability. When we took the results back, we heard in several places that housing was stable but not adequate," he said. "So we made changes to the survey this year so we could ask not just about stability but also ask more questions about adequacy."

The results from surveys of Youth Housing residents are brought to members of Youth 4 Truth, The Night Ministry's leadership and advocacy program for young adults. Gross said the process is similar to focus group research.

"We look at the survey results and ask what would be helpful to know more about," he said. "For instance, on the youth survey we asked about feelings of safety. We then took the results to Youth 4 Truth and asked, 'Can you tell us more about what makes you feel safe? Can you give us examples of when you feel safe and when you don't?'"

Gross said the conversations with Youth

*"I really believe that
The Night Ministry
values our opinions."*

*- Amber Westbrooks
Youth 4 Truth member*



Bringing survey results back to clients ensures that guests of The Crib and The Night Ministry's other Youth Housing Programs are given a forum to express their opinions.

4 Truth members are a forum for young people to identify challenges in The Night Ministry's Youth Programs that they feel should be addressed.

"These discussions are not just happening in a vacuum," he said. "We do share feedback with the program staff, and we can make alterations if needed."

Amber Westbrooks, a Youth 4 Truth member who has participated in the process, said the conversations were empowering.

"I've never done something like this where my voice actually mattered. About two to three weeks after we talked, we started to see changes," she said. "I really believe that The Night Ministry values our opinions." ♦



The Night Ministry Participates in National Youth Homelessness Conversations

Executives and staff from The Night Ministry have been addressing youth homelessness with their colleagues from across the country at conferences this fall. Senior Vice President, Erin Ryan, and Residential Services and Training Coordinator, Devin Redmond (pictured on the left), attended the True Colors Impact Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. Ryan was also on hand to present about The Night Ministry's work at the National Runaway and Homeless Youth Grantees Training in Austin, Texas. Also presenting were President & CEO, Paul W. Hamann; Director of Mission Fulfillment, Gregory Gross; Assistant Director of Early Intervention Services, Felitha Jones-Patterson; and Youth Outreach Professional, Brooke Thomas.

2018 Street Survey Results Released

Earlier this spring, volunteers and staff from The Night Ministry's Department of Mission Fulfillment visited six of the Health Outreach Bus stops and conducted surveys with 371 clients, the highest number in the six-year history of the annual Outreach and Health Ministry Program Street Survey.

Here are some key findings:

- Nearly a third of clients reported living outside, in an empty building, or in a shelter.
- Housing is generally considered affordable if it consumes no more than 30% of household income. Of clients surveyed who have housing, 61% spend more than that percentage on rent.
- High blood pressure, asthma, depression, and arthritis were the most common health conditions reported.
- A third of clients said they had not eaten anything that day, before receiving food at the Bus. Almost 50% said they had eaten, but had not eaten enough food before arriving at the Bus.
- Pilsen continues to be an area with high needs. Over half of survey respondents in the neighborhood were unhoused. 44% of Pilsen clients reported having made 5 or more visits to the Bus a month for at least a year.
- This was the first time that surveys were administered at the 10 South Kedzie stop in Garfield Park, which was added in 2017. 40% of respondents at this stop said a hospital emergency room would be their primary source of health care, a finding that underscores the need for The Night Ministry's cost-saving services in the neighborhood.

"Nearly a third of clients report living outside, in an empty building, or in a shelter."



Clients at the Health Outreach Bus's stop at 10 South Kedzie were more likely than clients at other stops to be living outside or in a shelter.

- Clients who visited the Humboldt Park stop traveled longer to reach the Bus than visitors to other Bus stops. This finding and similar results from last year's survey has prompted The Night Ministry to move the stop to a location in the neighborhood that is closer to where a majority of clients said they were coming from. ◊

SAVE THE DATE:

#GivingTuesday is November 27, 2018

Visit www.thenightministry.org, follow us on Facebook, or check your email inbox to find out how you can make an impact with us on this day of global giving.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

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Nurse's Corner: Caring for Patients Is a Privilege for Bethany Hess

Nurse Practitioner Bethany Hess's philosophy of patient care is rooted in respect for others and acceptance of each person's unique experience of life.

"I believe in client-centered care. This requires understanding the needs of the people whom we serve, their circumstances, and the challenges they may be facing," said Hess, who provides free basic medical care on The Night Ministry's Health Outreach Bus.

Hess said much of her job is listening to clients and answering their questions about their health challenges, which are often exacerbated by poverty.

"Many people have multiple and complex health problems, including trauma, mental illness, and substance use. There are always a lot of questions and uncertainty about their medications and diagnoses, especially within the context of the daily struggles that make it difficult for them to store and take meds, or adhere to treatment plans."

"Ever present is trauma and its impact on all aspects of clients' lives," she added. "Trauma plays a big role in why people become and stay homeless. And the stress of being homeless creates more trauma."

Hess has worked in the emergency department, inpatient settings and community clinics. She draws on all of these experiences to support her clients.

"One of my goals is to help clients navigate the health care system so it can meet their needs most effectively," she said.



Nurse Practitioner Bethany Hess gets ready to check a patient's blood pressure on the Health Outreach Bus.

"One of my goals is to help clients navigate the health care system so it can meet their needs most effectively."

"This is difficult to attain. Often clients benefit from talking about what they should say and what questions they should ask when seeking medical treatment. So when someone returns to report they were able to get to an appointment, or housing, or get the care they need, I feel like we've succeeded."

Hess also enjoys the connections she makes with the volunteers on the Bus.

"They come from every walk of life, have had a broad range of life experiences, including homelessness and illness, and have now come out on the other side. They inspire me." ◊



Teeing Up for Housing, Health Care, and Human Connection

More than 60 players enjoyed the beautiful (and challenging!) course at Kemper Lakes Golf Club on Monday, September 24, 2018. The fun event included lunch, awards, and tours of the Health Outreach Bus, with proceeds supporting The Night Ministry's mission. A special thanks to the members of the Golf Outing Committee for driving the event forward and to our Outing Sponsors.



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Volunteering with The Night Ministry Is Personal

Every year, hundreds of volunteers contribute their time, energy, and passion to The Night Ministry’s mission. Many are inspired to give back by personal experiences.

Miriam Thompson, who greets clients on the Health Outreach Bus while serving meals and coffee, was drawn to The Night Ministry because she had experienced a period of homelessness.

“I look at the clients, and I know that at one time that was me and could be me again,” she said. “I want to acknowledge them and let them know I care about them, and that there is hope for them.”

Janine Landow-Esser was motivated to volunteer by her encounters with homeless youth on Chicago’s North Side. For more than a dozen years, she and fellow congregation members from Anshe Emet Synagogue have prepared and served meals alongside the Youth Outreach Van on Thursday nights in the Lakeview neighborhood.

Landow-Esser said she resonates with The Night Ministry’s emphasis on acceptance. “I love working with an organization that does so much without judging or pushing an agenda as a condition for receiving help.”



Miriam Thompson says she was drawn to volunteering with The Night Ministry because she could relate to some of the challenges our clients face.

A longtime donor, Henrietta Dombrovskaya started volunteering at The Night Ministry’s Open Door Shelter – West Town after taking a tour of the facility. “Having been through some rough patches in my life, and having three grown children, I thought I could share some wisdom and lots of love with the young people there” she said.

Last spring, Dombrovskaya underwent surgery that kept her away from West Town for a few weeks. But she was touched by a get-well card she received from the residents.

“They took the time to write very precious words wishing me good health and a speedy recovery,” she said. “It was just amazing.”

There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer with The Night Ministry. Call (773) 784-9000 ext. 7012 or visit www.thenightministry.org/get-involved for more information. ◇

“I look at the clients, and I know that at one time that was me and could be me again.”
- Miriam Thompson, Volunteer

Thank you to those who generously gave at the \$250 level or higher between July 16, 2018, and October 15, 2018.



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