



NIGHTLIGHTS

SUMMER 2018

Serving at the Intersectionality of Homelessness

More than 82,000 people experience homelessness in Chicago each year. For these individuals, homelessness does not just happen. It is the result of an intersection of circumstances, social policies, and difficult choices.

“Ever since its founding in 1976, The Night Ministry has been committed to responding to what can be called the intersectionality of homelessness,” said Paul W. Hamann, The Night Ministry’s President & CEO.

Here are a few of the factors that intersect with homelessness and the ways The Night Ministry helps people navigate the intersections.

Health and Homelessness

An acute health crisis or chronic health condition can bring higher medical expenses or the loss of work that, coupled with other factors, can push an individual or a family out onto the streets. Once homeless, they may struggle to access health care. Through its Health Outreach Bus and Street Medicine Team, The Night Ministry supports people at the intersection of health and homelessness, bringing free basic medical care to those who cannot access it elsewhere.

Housing Affordability and Homelessness

A shortage of affordable housing in Chicago means that many of our neighbors spend at least half of their income keeping a roof over their heads, scaling back on other needs such as food and medicine, while hoping that an unforeseen hardship like the loss of a job doesn’t put their housing in jeopardy. The Night Ministry steps in when many hit this intersection, meeting their needs for food, hygiene supplies, clothing, and other essentials when money is tight, and linking them with housing and employment resources while providing ongoing support.



The Street Medicine Program brings health care directly to individuals who are unable to access traditional services. Photo by Lloyd Degrane.

Race, Discrimination, and Homelessness

Much of Chicago’s lower cost housing stock is located in the South and West Sides of the city, in largely African American neighborhoods lacking economic development and with limited access to resources. The link between discrimination and homelessness is underscored by this fact: the proportion of African Americans experiencing homelessness far exceeds their representation among Americans living in poverty.

The Night Ministry is helping young people get across this intersection in Chicago’s North Lawndale neighborhood with

its newest housing program. Phoenix Hall provides homeless students from North Lawndale College Prep High School a stable living environment that supports their pursuit of a high school diploma, which significantly reduces their risk of experiencing homelessness in the future.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

“Ever since its founding in 1976, The Night Ministry has been committed to responding to what can be called the intersectionality of homelessness.”

– Paul W. Hamann, President & CEO

HOUSING • HEALTH CARE • HUMAN CONNECTION

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Volunteering with The Night Ministry Pays Off with Huge Dividends

By George Martin

Four years ago I heard about The Crib, one of the Youth Housing Programs run by The Night Ministry. At the time, the organization I had been volunteering with was shutting down. With my decades of experience as a volunteer coach with young people from different neighborhoods throughout Chicago and my involvement in feeding homeless individuals, I thought The Night Ministry might be a good fit for me. And it has been.

I've done everything from serve meals alongside the Health Outreach Bus and volunteer at The Crib to paint the Open Door Shelter in West Town and outreach with the Street Medicine Team. I've brought resources like a fridge and television to The Crib and water, tents, and socks to clients of the Street Medicine Program. I stay engaged with The Night Ministry because I see firsthand the impact its services have on the clients whom we serve.

In my professional life I have been able to generate support for the mission of The Night Ministry from my colleagues. While it is rare that I can truly capture in words exactly what the organization's services mean for our clients, I do assure my colleagues of the extraordinary work The Night Ministry is doing on the streets of Chicago every day.

"I stay engaged with The Night Ministry because I see firsthand the impact its services have on the clients whom we serve."



Volunteer and supporter George Martin connects with clients at the Street Medicine Van.

Some of those efforts pay off by changing the trajectory of someone's life. Other times we may just be able to give someone a moment of peace. One evening, I was providing meals with the Health Outreach Bus in the Back of the Yards neighborhood. A young woman, perhaps 15 or 16 years old, with a thousand-mile stare, approached us. When I asked her if she would like something to eat, I got no reply. I did my best to assure her she could take her meal and walk away, with no strings attached. It took a little while, but she finally took some food. She didn't smile, but her eyes had a less heavy look as she walked away.

George Martin is Senior Vice President at Penserra Securities LLC. To learn about volunteer opportunities, visit www.thenightministry.org or email volunteering@thenightministry.org ♦

The Night Ministry's Associate Board presents

NIGHT LIGHTS

AN EVENING OF PHILANTHROPY AND FUN
BENEFITING THE NIGHT MINISTRY

+

River Roast
315 N. LaSalle Dr., Chicago, IL
Thursday, November 8, 2018
6-9pm
\$85 in advance | \$90 at the door

To purchase tickets or donate, visit www.thenightministry.org

TEE UP

For Housing, Health Care, And Human Connection

The Night Ministry 2018 Golf Outing
Monday, September 24, 2018

Kemper Lakes Golf Club Registration at 7 AM
2400 N Old McHenry Rd Shotgun Start at 8 AM
Kildeer, IL 60047

Purchase individual tickets, foursomes, and sponsorships at www.thenightministry.org. For more information, contact Sarah Sheek, Special Events Coordinator, at (773) 506-6009 or sarahs@thenightministry.org.

Serving at the Intersections

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



A supportive living environment like RAPP can help stabilize homeless young mothers and their children now and in the future.

Youth Pregnancy and Homelessness

A third of homeless young women in Cook County are expecting or parenting. Many of them were forced out of the home when news of their pregnancy arrived or when other household members tired of the newborn's needs. The Night Ministry is in action at the intersection of youth pregnancy and homelessness. One of our Youth Housing Programs, the Response-Ability Pregnant and Parenting Program (RAPP), focuses specifically on improving outcomes for homeless young moms and their infants and toddlers.

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Youth Homelessness

Adolescents and young adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) are more than twice as likely to experience homelessness. Relationships with parents, caretakers, or other adults in a household may deteriorate when a young person comes out of the closet, which can lead to a young person being forced to leave their home and to be on the streets alone. The Night Ministry meets young people at this intersection, with Housing Programs like our overnight emergency shelter, The Crib, that operate as safe spaces and are LGBTQ-affirmative.

The Night Ministry at the Intersections

The Night Ministry helps more than 5,300 Chicagoans with ways to safely cross these and other intersections every year.

“We do this by first understanding the complexity of the challenges faced by the individuals whom we serve, so that we may provide solutions that address the unique circumstances of their lives while we support them on their journeys to greater stability,” said Hamann.

To learn more, visit www.youtube.com/nightministry to watch a video exploring the challenges faced by three remarkable Chicagoans experiencing homelessness. ♦



2018 Lighting Up the Night

More than 470 friends and supporters joined The Night Ministry on June 12 at Lighting Up the Night, our Annual Awards Dinner & Auction, and helped raise \$500,000 in support of our mission. Sanjay Shah, Founder & CEO of Vistex, chaired the event, during which Rush University Medical Center was honored for providing mental health services to residents of The Night Ministry's Youth Housing Programs.

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RUN & WALK
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Support The Night Ministry's mission by participating in the AIDS Run & Walk! Join our team or make a donation towards our team goal, which will support our HIV Outreach Program. Contact **Krista Kutz**, Individual Giving Coordinator, at (773) 506-6006 or krista@thenightministry.org

Meet Board Member Ike Hong

Ike Hong, a member of The Night Ministry's Board of Directors, is helping drive our 2018 Golf Outing. We talked with Hong, an engineer who runs his own construction management and real estate development business, about his engagement with The Night Ministry, which began nearly a decade ago.

What attracted you to The Night Ministry?

The mission. Once I got to know the organization better, I realized that the organization itself is very efficient. A majority of the funds go to the programs. That really is what galvanized my interest in joining the Board of The Night Ministry.

What have you learned during your involvement with The Night Ministry?

I think most people, including myself, when you see someone who is homeless you have a certain preconception about who they are and why they are there. Once I got involved, I realized it's much more complicated. People don't choose to be homeless. I also realized that we — me and a lot of my family members and friends — have a support system. Many of the people on the streets don't. And I was shocked at how many youth are homeless, not because they choose to be but what happens in their families. That breaks my heart more than anything.

You are on the committee responsible for The Night Ministry 2018 Golf Outing. What can players expect?

Kemper Lakes Golf Club hosted the 1989 PGA Championship where Payne Stewart won his first major and this year hosted the KPMG Women's PGA Championship. In preparation for the tournament, Kemper Lakes made major renovations to

the course. So players will get the benefit of all those improvements.

We're not out there showing off the golf course. We're trying to bring awareness and fundraise for The Night Ministry, but we just happen to be doing it at a course that many people want to play and otherwise wouldn't get the opportunity to do because it is a private club.



Ike Hong was elected to the Board of Directors in 2011.

"When you see someone who is homeless you have a certain preconception about who they are ... Once I got involved, I realized it's much more complicated."

The Night Ministry 2018 Golf Outing is Monday, September 24, at Kemper Lakes Golf Club in Kildeer, Illinois. Visit www.thenightministry.org to purchase foursomes, individual tickets, and sponsorships. Don't play golf but want to support the Outing?

You can purchase a hole sponsorship to promote your company, honor a loved one, or celebrate a personal milestone. ♦

SAVE THE DATE: HUNGER WALK

Saturday, September 8
Jackson Park in Chicago

Step out with The Night Ministry at the Greater Chicago Food Depository's 33rd Annual Hunger Walk to end hunger and earn food credits for our Youth Housing Programs. Contact **Sarah Sheek**, Special Events Coordinator, at **(773) 506-6009** or sarahs@thenightministry.org.

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Clients Face Barriers to Hepatitis C Treatment

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, new cases of hepatitis C (hep C), a deadly viral infection that affects the liver, have nearly tripled in the United States over the course of the decade. Risk factors for contracting the virus include having HIV, using intravenous drugs, and being part of the baby boomer generation, characteristics that are common among clients of The Night Ministry.

Last year, Outreach and Health Ministry staff administered more than 180 rapid tests for the hep C antibody. John Werning, HIV Testing Coordinator, has had to deliver the unfortunate news of a positive test result to a number of clients. And while an effective treatment is available, Werning said Illinois state policies mean it is out of reach for many.

“Most of our clients who have health insurance have coverage through Medicaid. But if they aren’t in late stages of liver damage, or if they are using drugs, the Illinois Medicaid system won’t pay for treatment.”

The Night Ministry refers clients who test positive to service partners like The Hepatitis C Community Alliance to Test and Treat (HepCCATT). Maggie Kaufmann, HepCCATT Case Management Program Director at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said there are reasons for clients to seek medical attention even if Medicaid won’t pay for their medication.

“If they aren’t in late stages of liver damage, or if they are using drugs, the Illinois Medicaid system won’t pay for treatment.”

*- John Werning
HIV Testing Coordinator*



HIV Testing Coordinator John Werning offers free, confidential hepatitis C tests that deliver results in 20 minutes.

“We try to work every angle we can to access treatment for them, such as patient assistance programs,” she said. “We also emphasize that continued engagement with their health care provider is important as they should be evaluated yearly for progression of liver disease.”

Werning said many clients express frustration about receiving a positive test result with no clear path toward treatment. But, he added, “Knowledge is power. You can protect your loved ones from exposure to hep C. And you still have the option to make lifestyle choices—changes in diet and not using drugs or alcohol, for example—that can mitigate damage to your liver.” ◊

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 was drawn to The Night Ministry because it helps me live what I believe – that a city is strongest when its members take care of each

other. I can’t think of a better way to extend my commitment to caring and community than by sharing my estate with The Night Ministry.”

*- Barbara Bolsen
Vice President of Strategic Partnerships
& Community Engagement
and Legacy Society Member*

Peer Outreach Professional Receives National Honor



Congratulations to Peer Outreach Professional **Sharday Hamilton**, who has been honored with a Youth in Action Award by National Safe Place Network. Hamilton, an advocate for homeless youth and former client of The Night Ministry, was nominated by the National Network for Youth (NN4Y). She serves on NN4Y’s National Youth Advisory Council.



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Youth Outreach Evolves with the Times

You'll find The Night Ministry's Youth Outreach Team at the corner of Belmont and Halsted every Thursday night, connecting with young people living on the streets and linking them with safe housing, education, employment, and other resources. But their work continues across the city, throughout the week.

Many young people experiencing homelessness are drawn to the Lakeview neighborhood for services such as safe space drop-in centers. But, said Youth Outreach Professional Brooke Thomas, "Most of them don't actually stay here. That's why it is so important to branch out and go other places."

Thomas and the other members of the Youth Outreach Team visit places across the city such as libraries, court houses, and open-air performance spaces where they can establish connections with homeless youth. Once they do, they stay in touch with clients via cell phone and social media and meet in person.

LaShaunda Battie, Manager of Youth Engagement Services, said outreach has evolved to stay current. "Back in the day, outreach was getting a book bag and walking the streets. Now we have to do more in terms of where we look, how we look, and the tools that we use to engage. Young people want to call and sit down with you. They want to chat with you on Facebook or Instagram."

One recent development is the hiring of a Peer Outreach Professional, Sharday Hamilton, who is also a former client of



A partnership with Chicago Adventure Therapy provides empowering activities like rock climbing to young people served by The Night Ministry.

The Night Ministry. "Because I am still in the youth age range, it's easier for me to hang out with them and let them know about the services we provide," Hamilton said.

Adventure Club, another engagement effort, is a twice monthly event that Michelle Thomas, also a Youth Outreach Professional, said exposes young people to activities that build confidence and trust such as rock climbing and kayaking.

"A lot of people automatically think they can't do something because they haven't done it before. And then, once they have, it's not so scary," she said.

No matter how outreach is done, for Brooke Thomas it still comes down to the relationship. "The last four letters spell ship. It brings you from one place to another, and that is my goal," she said. ♦

**Thank you to those who generously gave at the \$250 level
or higher between February 1, 2018 and July 15, 2018.**



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James P. McCaffrey
Medtronic
Tracy Meredith
Suzanne Mizgata
Diana & David Moore

Gabriel Moreno
Maria Moret
Gregg & Betty Morton
Murray & Virginia Vale
Foundation
Kathleen & Dominic Nakis
Janet A. Nelson
Julie M. O'Hern
Patina Solutions
Joy L. Peters
Richard Peterson
& Rev. Wayne Bradley
Jessica Petty & Ethan Smith
Bernadine & Edward Pillar
Ginger Powell
Praxair
Presbyterian Women,
First Presbyterian Church
of Deerfield
Victor E. Ramos
Mary E. Reynolds
David Rittof & Tim Bruhn
Linda & John Rossi
Erin Ryan & Ryan Spangler
James Ryan
Saint Isaac Jogues Parish, Niles
Christina Salesberry
Karen T. Santelli
Matt Schenek
Travis Schmitz & Jason Givan
Patricia Shaw
Kevin Sido
Arlie Sims
Sinsinawa Dominicans
Fred B. Smith
St. Andrew United Methodist
Church, Homewood
Ginger Stevenson
Lara Suvada
Patricia K. Swanson
James F. Thaxton

Steve Thayer
The Standard Insurance
Company
The Walt Disney Company
Foundation
David Tichy
Kathryn Tierno
Thomas Tyndorf
John & Virginia Ulaszek
Nneka Umeh & Griffin Moshier
USG Foundation, Inc.
Wellington Avenue United
Church of Christ, Chicago
Valerie B. Wiley
Jean & Coleman Woodhouse, Jr.
Julie, Emily & Bob Zaideman
Guy Zakrzewski