

# Home Help Hope



ANNUAL REPORT FY 2016

## Who we are:

Facing Forward empowers individuals and families to turn their backs to chronic homelessness and face forward in becoming confidently independent.





## What we do:

- We **empower** individuals and families who have made a decision to change their lives.
- We provide permanent **housing**, giving our women the security of consistent safety.
- We give **hope** by partnering with our clients to create a personalized path from homelessness to self-sufficiency and we walk with our clients along that path until they get there.
- We **help** our clients along their path by surrounding them with the educational, employment, and healthcare (mental and physical) linkages and support they need to become confidently independent.
- We **end generational cycles of homelessness** by helping our clients transform our housing into their home, by reuniting them with their children, supporting their family as a whole and celebrating successes.

## Why it matters:

### We partner with Chicago's homeless in order to turn their lives around.

Shelters which provide temporary housing fail to provide the empowerment needed for stability and growth. Our clients don't just have a place to lay their heads at night, they have the security of their own homes. This enables them to make the transformations they want in order to become confidently independent.

### We help break the cycle of homelessness for homeless children.

Homeless children in the shelter system experience inconsistencies in housing and support which often result in frequent school changes and low attendance rates, which prevent them from thriving in the classroom. The security and stability of permanent housing and the support provided by Facing Forward enables our children to focus on their education, flourish, and construct progressive lives in order to end their own cycle of homelessness.

### Your world is better if the greater community is better.

Facing Forward transforms your community. Through the generosity of our supporters, we're able to partner with our program participants, creating stronger women and men, giving them the stability and strength that allow them to nurture their children, which breaks the cycles of homelessness and feeds humanity's need for innovation and change. With stronger homes we have a stronger community.



## Why it matters:

We contribute to a better world for every one of us.

**\$PRICELESS**

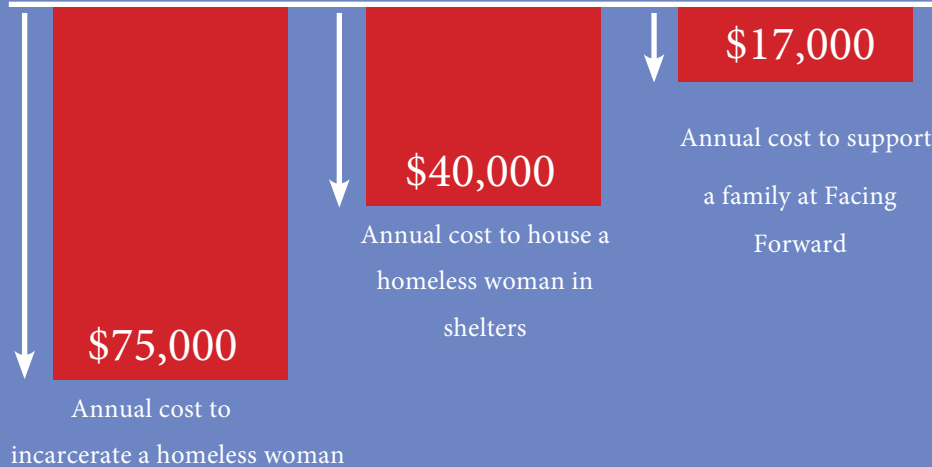
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FACING  
FORWARD PARTICIPANTS

Volunteering in the community  
Paying taxes

Gaining education

Employment

Growing toward self-sufficiency



## 2016 Success stories

### “I thought there was no hope for my children. I thought we would always be homeless.”

Denise came to Facing Forward with a history of abuse, addiction, incarceration, and homelessness. She lost custody of children and entered our program alone. With much hard work and determination, she faced forward and began focusing on becoming the woman she knew she could be.



As she reflects on these difficult years she states, “I thought there was no hope for my children. I thought we would always be homeless.” Yet, we know that her story does not end there. She eventually re-established custody of her children and prioritized being an excellent mother. Her hard work and love have not been lost on her children. The stability she achieved gave her son, Levelle, the support he needed to face forward.

Levelle focused his energy on becoming an exemplary student, but did not neglect his talents in extracurricular activities. He participated in a spoken word group, was point guard on his basketball team, student council president, member of the National Honors Society, and was accepted into the prestigious Schuler Scholar Program. In June, he graduated high school and became the first male in the City of Chicago to complete the Schuler Scholar Program. He received a full scholarship to Muhlenberg College and plans to become a neurologist! Denise finds inspiration and hope in Levelle, empowering her to return to school with hopes of opening her own daycare center.

### Achieving Dreams

On September 1, 2015, Lorraine decided it was her time to graduate and move on from Facing Forward. In 2008 at 34 years old, Lorraine showed up at Facing Forward homeless, helpless, and hopeless. Lorraine didn't see purpose in her life. She had lost custody of her daughter and knew that she needed to make a change. Upon her arrival at Facing Forward, Lorraine was immediately provided with a secure permanent home for her and her 4 year old son. Lorraine also was assigned a case manager who helped empower her to find purpose in her life. Once Lorraine and her son were secure in a home, they then were surrounded with the support they needed. In relation to health, Lorraine attended chemical dependency meetings three times a week and was connected with a health care professional who assessed her needs and connected her with primary care physicians and specialists. Her case manager partnered with her in this process and became her “life coach” training her in the ins and outs of employment, education, and general life skills. Shortly after joining our program, Lorraine regained custody of her 6 year old daughter. With now having both her son and daughter in her home, Lorraine was inspired to continue to build a life that would make both her and her children proud. The next 6 years were filled with a continuous progression towards trusting herself, identifying dreams and making them the reality that we are proud to see today. Today Lorraine is a graduate of Rush University with a Bachelor Degree in Science and is enrolled in Rush's Graduate Program in Nursing. She is fully employed as a CNA and is now fully providing for herself and her children, and, perhaps most exciting for her, she is engaged for the first time in her life to a man whom she trusts to be a loving husband and father to her children.



# FY 2016 Financial Results:

## TOTAL REVENUE—\$1,524,585

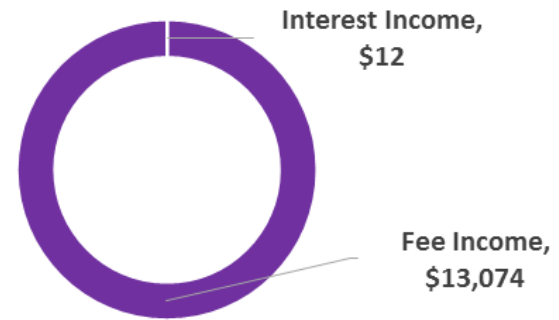
### REVENUE-PUBLIC SUPPORT

**\$1,511,499**



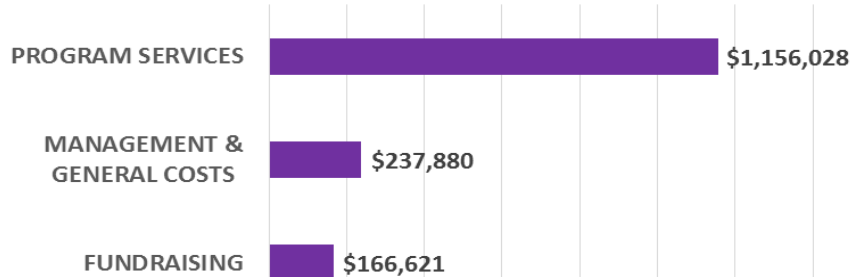
### TOTAL REVENUE-OTHER

**\$13,086**



## TOTAL EXPENSES—\$1,560,529

### EXPENSES



### NET ASSETS

|                            |                   |                     |                  |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| → BEGINNING OF FISCAL YEAR | \$261,489         | → TOTAL ASSETS      | \$279,332        |
| → END OF FISCAL YEAR       | \$225,545         | → TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$53,787         |
|                            | <b>(\$35,944)</b> |                     | <b>\$225,545</b> |

This information summarizes Facing Forward's financial activities for the period of July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016. It was extracted from the organization on June 30, 2016. Financial statements were audited by an independent accounting firm. Because the information does not include all of the disclosures generally accepted by accounting principles, it is not intended to present our financial condition or our operational results. A copy of the audited financial statements will be provided upon request.

## Looking forward to 2017...

### A message from the Executive Director

*"When we do for those in need what they have the capacity to do for themselves, we disempower them" (R. Lupton, Toxic Charity, pg. 50).*

At Facing Forward we never set pre-determined limits on what residents can dream and achieve, nor do we set arbitrary limits on what the organization can achieve. Last year I began this letter with "Together we dream bigger. And, only together, can we achieve those dreams."

Entering into fiscal year 2016, we began to dream around the idea of doubling the number of homeless persons we can empower with Permanent Supportive Housing. Through foundation partnership we received funding to engage with a consultant to put shape to that dream and identify strategic opportunities. Shortly after beginning, we were given the opportunity to take on what would be an exact doubling of our current capacity. From dream to reality! While we had imagined this process taking 3-5 years, we were able to shift our consulting project to focus on operationalizing the growth opportunity and began to focus on what internal developments would be needed to effectively serve so many more people.

A more than generous thank you is due to all of you who are our partners in the strategy and execution of our mission of ending homelessness for each person and each family we have the privilege and responsibility of serving. Thank you to our Board of Directors who ensure effective governance, strategic vision, and sustainable funding. Thank you to all who volunteer and enhance the work we have been able to do. Thank you to our funders of all types for caring about our city and investing in Home, Help, and Hope for every resident. We must keep dreaming and keep striving together toward those dreams together.

As we face forward together in 2017, we do so understanding that the work we do must ensure, that in all we do, we empower rather than disempower those who need us the most.

With Enduring Gratitude,

**Rev. Douglas W. Bradshaw**  
Executive Director



“

*We must keep  
dreaming and  
striving  
together.*

”



## Ways you can support us:

- Sponsor a family
- Join us at our summer board & resident picnic
- Join us at our annual 3H Social fundraiser in May
- Introduce us to the person who approves donations at your work
- Become a monthly contributor
- Participate in our Day in the Life homeless immersion experience
- Click on the icons below to follow, like & share us on social media
- Visit our website- [www.ffchicago.org](http://www.ffchicago.org) to learn more and support us!

Click here to support us!



## Facing Forward fact sheet:

- **Founded in 1985 as “Interfaith Council for the Homeless”**
- **2003: Initiated Housing First with 63 single women and 6 families at Sanctuary Place**
- **2005: Bill Johnson becomes Executive Director**

- **2015: Added a family and 1 individual to our Shelter Graduates Program, bringing our total capacity for scattered site programming to 49 households.**
- **2015: Initiated "Vital Vets" program, extending our services to Chicago's homeless veterans.**

- **2008: ICH is awarded a contract to provide 29 scattered site Shelter Plus Care units and develops the Shelter Graduates program.**
- **2010: Interfaith Council for the Homeless changed its name to Facing Forward to End Homelessness**

- **Staff of 11 with 6 Case Managers and an Advanced Practice Nurse**
- **Funding from Federal, State and City of Chicago grants, plus private giving**
- **Now serves 66 single individuals and 57 families at our Sanctuary Place facility on the West Side and at scattered site locations throughout Chicago.**

- **2013: FF is awarded a HUD grant to extend our services to 15 additional scattered site families**
- **2014: Rev. Doug Bradshaw becomes Executive Director**
- **2014: Added 3 families to our Shelter Graduates Program, bringing our total capacity for scattered site programming to 47 households.**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Sean Auton, *President*

Faruk Daudbasic, *Vice President*

James Novak, *Secretary*

Kenyetta Jackson, *Treasurer*

Harish Venkitaramanan, *Booth Fellow*

Ashwin Avasarala, *Booth Fellow*

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Mae Gilliams Fizer

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Don Drews

Jennifer Neilsson

Ebony Hardin

Kelsey Kapolnek