

Renaissance Social Services



2017 Annual Report



RENAISSANCE
SOCIAL SERVICES
Supportive programs for affordable housing.

Letter from the Executive Director and Board Chair

Twenty years! Time sure does fly when you're making an impact!

2017 marked Renaissance Social Services' 20th anniversary. Twenty years of working to help the people of Chicago live with dignity and hope and on their terms. Over these years, Renaissance has grown from providing stabilization services to people living in affordable housing to become a leader in the fight to end homelessness here in Chicago.

These past years have seen Renaissance implement programming that has been shown to work in ending homelessness. We have implemented clinical case management and evidence-based programming to address the needs of homeless people. We have significantly expanded permanent supportive housing (PSH) for chronically homeless people, and starting in 2017, that includes PSH for families as well. We have expanded our health services to provide medical and mental/behavioral healthcare to our participants. And we have become a leader in pushing for increased prevention services in this city.

All of this program expansion has been based on meeting the need for PSH and our knowledge of what works. As a result, Renaissance and our peer agencies have significantly and positively impacted homelessness in this city, reducing veterans' homelessness, family homelessness, and chronic homelessness over the past twenty years. But, significant work remains to be done in order to end homelessness in Chicago.

In addition to highlighting the impact that we've had in 2017, this report lays out some of the ways that Renaissance is addressing homelessness through new best practices, such as linking housing to healthcare. It also lays out some of the core challenges – such as the growing lack of affordable housing – that the agency must and will confront. This fall, Renaissance will embark on a new strategic planning process that will result in a clear plan on how to address the challenges that homeless people still face in order to for us to fulfill our mission of ending homelessness in Chicago through prevention, housing, and supportive services.

As we have for the past twenty years, Renaissance will need your support to help make this possible. We will need your financial support and your engagement. We will find new ways to link you and the wider Chicago community to our agency and our work. It is only through the combined effort of many that we will continue to succeed.

Twenty years from now, we know that things will be very different than they are today. However, there is one thing we are confident of: we – as an agency and as a community - will have ended homelessness as we know it in this city.



Michael Banghart
Executive Director



Karen Thomas
Chair, Board of Directors

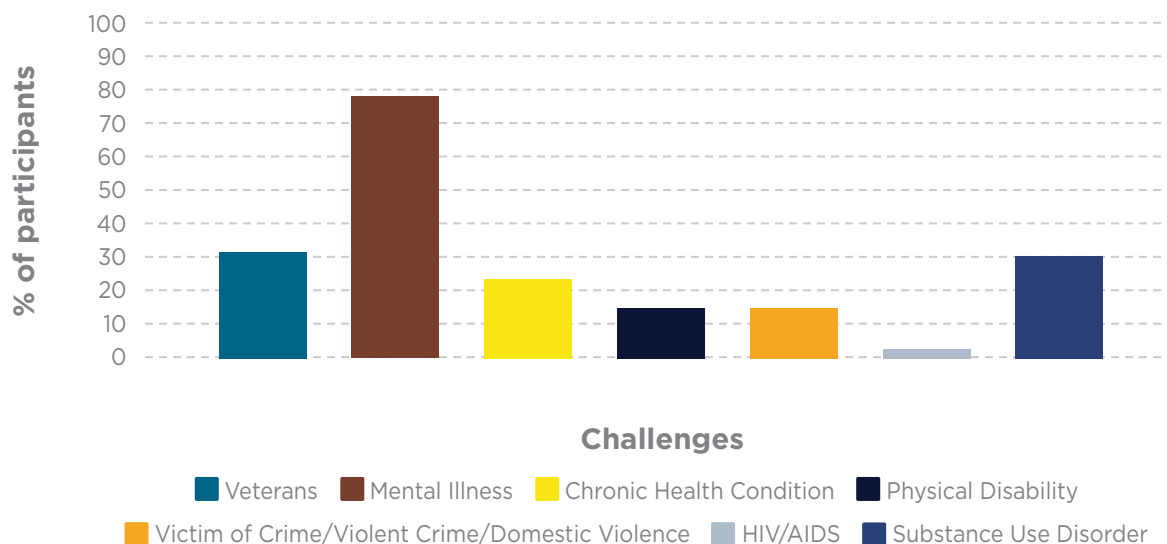
OUR APPROACH: Ending homelessness through Prevention, Housing, and Supportive Services

Renaissance Social Services (RSSI) knows that we can end homelessness through a strategy that prevents homelessness, provides supportive housing for those who are homeless, and delivers proactive health services.

- **Prevention:** We prevent homelessness by providing short-term financial grants to individuals and families at risk of losing their housing along with support and linkages to services to facilitate housing stabilization.
- **Supportive Housing:** For individuals and families who are experiencing chronic homelessness we provide long-term housing and supports that move participants towards the greatest degree of housing stability and self-determination possible.
- **Health & Supportive Services:** Vital, proactive mental and primary healthcare services are delivered at participants' homes and through partnerships at community-based providers. These services are combined with case management and other supports to assure that participants have the resources they need to live as autonomously as possible.

OUR PARTICIPANTS

RSSI Participants Population





HOUSING IS HEALTH

Health – behavioral and medical – is a crucial issue for people experiencing homelessness. Poor health is both a cause of and result of homelessness, especially for people who are chronically homeless. Housing stability is a major factor in a person’s health, and moving homeless people to housing stability is a principal part of improving one’s health.

In 2017, RSSI partnered in a unique initiative to create permanent housing for chronically homeless and sick individuals; the Better Health through Housing (BHH) project. The BHH project is a collaboration between supportive housing providers and health care entities. The BHH project has agreements with the University of Illinois at Chicago Hospital and Health Sciences System, Swedish Covenant Hospital and Northwestern Memorial Hospital to target chronically homeless individuals who are utilizing these hospitals’ ER services with high frequency. The project demonstrated that supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals results in significant improvements in health and significant savings in costs. In other words, Permanent Supportive Housing is a win-win solution to homelessness.

BHH is providing housing stability for chronically homeless individuals and is improving people’s health. RSSI’s partnership with the BHH initiative is just a part of the overall housing services that we provided in 2017. RSSI provided permanent supportive housing to 224 individuals and families and provided rapid re-housing services to 54 individuals. Housing services are paired with clinical health services provided by RSSI staff and by community-based healthcare providers that partner with RSSI.

In 2017, Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-housing, and Health Services were supported by the US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development, Illinois Department of Human Services, Polk Brothers Foundation, Pierce Family Foundation, Michael Reese Health Trust, Chicago Community Trust, Crown Family Philanthropies, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, and our generous individual donors.

HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR CHRONICALLY HOMELESS FAMILIES

In the fall of 2017 RSSI launched the Family Support Program – a new program to provide supportive housing for 45 chronically homeless families. Family Support Program’s primary funding is a \$1.4 million annual grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Family Support Program expands RSSI’s services to homeless families and is going to have a significant impact on ending chronic homelessness for families in Chicago. Once at capacity, the program will reduce the number of chronically homeless families in the city by a whopping 26%!

Moving families from homelessness to housing is beneficial both immediately and in the long-term. In the present, providing stable housing and supportive services to chronically homeless families helps families to stabilize, improve their health, and reconnect to the larger community in positive ways. In the long-term, ending homelessness for families ends homelessness for their children when they grow to become adults. Studies show that children who grow up homeless are significantly more likely to be homeless as adults. RSSI is breaking that cycle.

FAMILY HOUSING: Christina’s Story

Christina and her daughter have been participants with Renaissance Social Services for 6 years. Articulate, intelligent and determined, you would never have guessed that this woman was once living on the streets.

In 2011 Christina found herself in a toxic relationship and had to move. She found her daughter a place to stay with a trusted family member but she became homeless while looking for work and an apartment. At one point she and her daughter even lived in a shelter together but found it to be unsafe, and her daughter had to move back with a family member. Unfortunately, on top of that Christina suffers from physical, emotional and mental trauma. What she had to endure and continues to endure are difficult even under the best of circumstances.

After much hard work and determination, today Christina is happy and stable. She is looking for work and her daughter will be going away to college in the fall. As Christina states, “This is a great program that gives support and helps me with achieving my goals.” “The road may be a bit rough and rocky but I have learned that you can reach smooth parts,” she stated. “I hope that programs like this keep on going and expand!”

*“To say my life
turned around with
the support from
Renaissance is an
understatement.”*

SPECIAL REPORT: Housing Cost-Burdened Households: Preventing Homelessness in a time of Disappearing Affordable Housing

Last spring, an eye-opening report from the National Low Income Housing Network and Housing Action Illinois was released detailing the growing gap between household incomes and the cost of housing. Specifically, the report found that there is a shortage of over 320,000 affordable and available rental homes in Illinois for extremely low-income households. These are households with incomes below 30% of their area median income.

The Institute for Housing Studies at DePaul University also released a report this past fall echoing these findings. Their work shows that in Cook County, the number of affordable rental units has continued to decline, leaving 53% of renters paying more for rent than their incomes can support.

What we are seeing here in Illinois, and especially in Cook County and Chicago, is the growing problem of housing cost-burdened households. Housing cost-burden – defined as paying more than 30% of a household’s monthly income on rent – places people at extreme risk for becoming homeless. When a household is housing cost-burdened, any unexpected financial blow – a loss of employment, a medical emergency, a legal issue, etc. – can force people from housed to homeless overnight.

The long-term solution to this problem lies in the creation of more affordable housing. However, this is not happening. HUD’s 2017 report to Congress, “Worst Case Housing Needs”, details the growing crisis of disappearing affordable housing. In 2015 8.3 million U.S. households had worst case needs – defined as very-low income renters utilizing more than half of their income for rent – up from 7.7 million in 2013. The Great Recession shrunk home ownership and swelled rental usage resulting in ever-increasing rental costs due to demand. New units, and particularly affordable units, are simply not being brought to market in anything close to the amount needed. And while the fight for more affordable housing continues, housing cost-burdened households need relief now in order to prevent them from becoming homeless.

RSSI is at the forefront of preventing housing cost-burdened individuals and families from becoming homeless. Through our Homeless Prevention program, we help people who are struggling with their housing costs remain housed through short-term payments for rent, utilities, car repairs, medical costs, etc., in order to prevent them from diverting their rental payments to cover these emergency expenses and thus ending up homeless. In 2017, we helped over 460 Chicago households avert homelessness and stay housed. As we move further into 2018, Daisy Franco, Renaissance’s Intake & Emergency Fund Coordinator explains, “Most of the people I work with need short-term financial supports for rent. And I’m seeing the same high level of demand for these services that I’ve seen for a while.”

With the number of housing cost-burden households on the rise, we can expect that the demand for prevention services will actually grow – until such time as there is real and sustained growth in affordable housing.



OUR IMPACT

In 2017 RSSI helped more than 700 homeless individuals, families, and veterans

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS. As the frequency of housing cost-burdened households in Chicago continues to increase, the risk of individuals and families becoming homeless continues to rise. The best way to solve homelessness is to prevent it from occurring. **In 2017, RSSI provided funding, referrals, and services to prevent over 460 households from becoming homeless.**

IMPROVING PARTICIPANTS' HEALTH. Homelessness can be both the result of and cause of significant mental and physical health issues. RSSI serves a large number of people with significant mental and physical health disabilities. Housing itself – the provision of stable, safe housing – is a major factor in improving the mental and physical health of people. So, too, are the clinical services – mental and physical healthcare – that RSSI provides its participants. **In 2017, RSSI housed 252 homeless individuals and families and provided clinical services that resulted in 81% remaining out of inpatient psychiatric facilities, 92% avoiding unnecessary hospitalizations, and 82% achieving mental health stability.**

ENDING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS FOR VETERANS. Ending chronic homelessness for veterans has been a priority for RSSI over the past 3 years and we have asked for your support to help us do so. And that's what we've been doing: 2017 saw the number of chronically homeless veterans in Chicago drop to an all-time low. **In 2017, RSSI provided 78 veterans with housing and assistance.**

BOARD & ASSOCIATE BOARD

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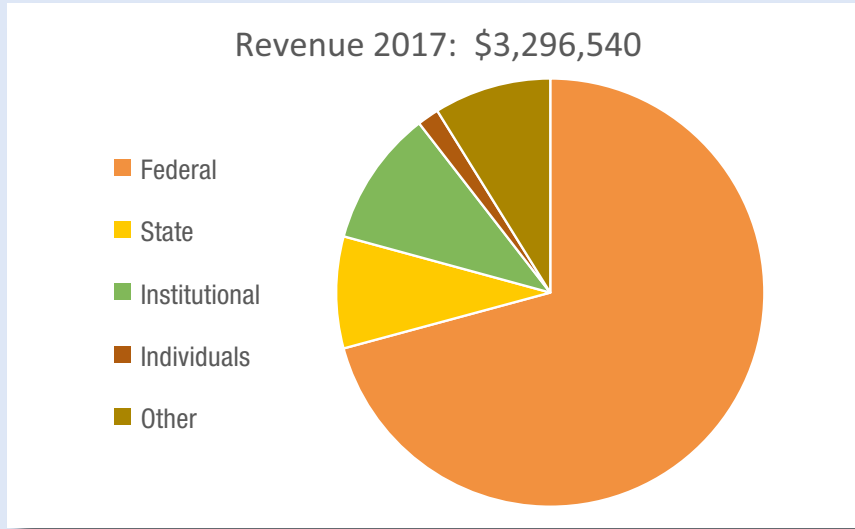
Dominique Williams

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2017*

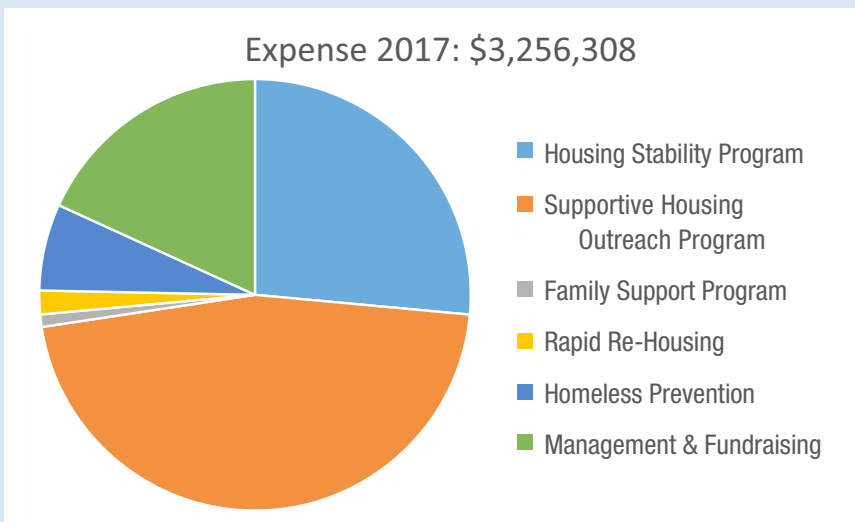
REVENUE

Federal.....	\$2,333,927
State.....	\$278,028
Institutional.....	\$338,790
Individuals.....	\$54,108
Other.....	\$291,687
TOTAL.....	\$3,296,540



EXPENSE

Housing Stability Program.....	\$861,764
Supportive Housing Outreach Program.....	\$1,502,663
Family Support Program.....	\$30,506
Rapid Re-Housing.....	\$57,813
Homeless Prevention.....	\$211,689
Management & Fundraising.....	\$591,873
TOTAL.....	\$3,256,308



2017 DONORS

\$40,000+

Polk Bros. Foundation
The Chicago Community Trust
The Crown Family

\$10,000 to \$39,999

Anonymous
Anonymous
BMO Harris Bank
Bridge Development Partners, LLC
Chicago Association of REALTORS
Foundation
Michael Reese Health Trust
NJK Venture LLC
Pierce Family Foundation
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

\$2,500 to \$9,999

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Deutsche Bank Americas
Shepard Gould
Heritage - Crystal Clean
MB Financial Bank, N.A.
National Equity Fund, Inc.
The Chicago Community Trust
The Northern Trust Company

\$1,000 to \$2,499

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Kosha Carstens
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Upchurch & Associates
Stefanie White

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\$250 to \$499

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Ahu and Adam Faust
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Russell Stellman
Alexis Stumpf
Biresh Thakkar
Robert and Kerry Vyverberg

\$100 to \$249

8 Doors Property Management LLC
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John and Ester Benjamin
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Ted and Stacy Bilharz
Emily Bleeker
Jim Brandt
Sue Campbell
Krista and Sean Carty
Ricardo Cifuentes
Joan David
Robert Dickinson
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Justin Foley
Forefront
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Ronald Frain
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Kermit Krueger
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Tiffany Newbern
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Leslie Richards
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Eyad Salem
Rati Sansguiri Trust
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Bria Scudder
Cynthia Sims
Bruce & Debbie Sterling
Greg Taylor
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
Spruha & Eric Thompson
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Soham Vaishnav
Tina Wallace
Bob Wilcox

Up to \$99

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Rachel Battista
Matthew Bauer
Harold Bell
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Fredri Bendsdorf
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Renee Scudder
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Ankur Singal
Martha Strong
Brian Toombs
Winston Tracy
Susan and AJ Tyson
Frank Ungari
Patrick Unks
Nicolaas Van Dijk
James and Denise Vitale
Dominique Williams

Other Funding

All Chicago
The Emergency Fund
Mercy Housing Lakefront
The Renaissance Companies

2017 In-Kind Donations

Amber Gold Spa
Au Cheval
Bad Hunter
Benny's Chop House
blowout junkie
CBOE
Centennial Wheel
Chicago Elevated
City Winery
CityWide SuperSlow
Cooper's Hawk
Cruz Blanca Brewery & Taqueria
Andrew David
Robin David
DuPage Medical Group
FEW Spirits
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse
& Wine Bar
foodlife
Formento's
Jennifer Fortney
Gibsons Restaurant Group
Girl & the Goat
Shepard Gould
Haymarket Pub & Brewery
Joe's on Weed Street
Kingston Mines
Lagunitas
Lidia Varesco Design
Liri Guzi Salon
Andy and Tracey Lowenthal
Materials Marketing
My Sister's Circus
Bruce Nesbitt and Diane Jacobson
Northlight Theatre
Panera Bread
Porkchop
Mike and Anne Ranallo
Revolution Brewing
RJ Grunts
Sandra Robinson
Room to Breathe
Select Cut Steakhouse
Eileen Smith
Southwest Airlines
Spa Emilia
Sprinkles Cupcakes
Steppenwolf
Steve Quick Jeweler
Sullivan's Steakhouse
The Cosmopolitan, Las Vegas
The Field Museum
The Joffrey Ballet
Nicci Toma
Amy Trager
Trunk Club
Typenex Medical
Unitarian Church of Evanston
Nicole Vitale
Zanies

As hard as we try to be accurate in our record keeping, we may have misspelled or omitted a name. Please pardon this oversight and inform us so we may make the correction.

For more information about RSSI and ways to support us please visit www.rssichicago.org or call 773-645-8900 x107.

Government Funding

US Department of Housing
and Urban Development
Illinois Department of
Human Services
Illinois Department on Aging

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Leadership Circle, 2017

The Leadership Circle is comprised of individual donors who have given at least \$500 over the course of the year. The Leadership Circle is helping RSSI meet the needs of the people we serve by providing the agency with significant financial support.

Michael and Leslie Banghart

Purvi Baxi

Nishendu Baxi

Thomas Boyle

Kosha Carstens

D’Javan Conway

Janet Cory

Robin David

Steven and Constance Fapka

Eiran Feldman

Celeste Feren

Foley Family Foundation

Kevin Gigax

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Jeff and Marianne Johnson

Nancy Kapp

Brooke and Ed Kenevan

Polly Kosyla

Todd Krumwiede and

Nicole Vitale

John Locallo

Andrew and Tracey Lowenthal

Bob Markey

Gina Medalle and Barb Kemmis

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