Changing Lives One Home at a Time.

Renaissance Social Services’ new tag line came from months of meeting with our board of directors, staff and the people we serve to get to the core of what the services we provide mean. We took time to really understand the work we do and its impact on Chicago over the past 21 years.

Our program participants’ contributions were the most powerful with responses uniformly relaying that being a part of Renaissance was transformational in their lives. The board of directors echoed those sentiments in how they see our work and the staff believed that it reflected how they see the work they do every day.

This tag line truly, and simply, speaks to the heart and purpose of Renaissance yesterday, today and tomorrow.

The Future of Renaissance & Homelessness

These discussions led us all to recognize that in order to realize our vision of ending homelessness in Chicago, we need to have a greater, more direct presence and impact on the communities we are already serving. With the increased cost and reduction of services like public transit – thus less easy access to jobs - we now need to reach people within their communities.

Starting in 2019, Renaissance began planning for the development of Regional Service Centers. These Centers will be comprehensive, collaborative spaces for communities in need of economic investment and support in dealing with the effects of poverty and disinvestment, which impact one’s ability to get and maintain clean, safe, affordable housing.

Our goal is to create several community anchors for housing, health, wellness and community support programs. Each is a welcoming place providing services from a variety of organizations – all of us working together to meet the needs of each person and community in a more hands-on and holistic way.

We see this direct, community-focused approach as the future of our work to end homelessness. By coming together, several organizations can collaborate to address the needs of the homeless and those who face housing instability in that specific community with greater impact.

The Future of Renaissance & Homelessness

The effort is already underway. We have begun research to get a deeper understanding of the communities we currently serve and studying the economic and social challenges facing these areas, led by those who live in the community.

More Than Housing. An Expansion of Social Services.

While our focus is and always will be ending homelessness and addressing the needs of those who are homeless or housing insecure, we envision a place where individuals and families can come to also access resources for child-development and day care, support for people in crisis and in need of stability, a space for job training classes and health care services.

We know this is an ambitious plan, but what do Chicagoans say about making no small plans? To make this vision come to life over the next five years, we need many partners and supporters, and that is where you come in.

• If you believe that supporting Chicago’s neediest communities improves the quality of life for all Chicagoans, join us
• If you believe that everyone in Chicago deserves a safe place to call home, join us
• If you want to make Chicago a better place for everyone, join us

Join us in in supporting communities and ensuring that the people who live within them have quality, affordable housing, behavioral healthcare, compassionate support services, primary healthcare, employment and the income to support themselves and their families, ending the cycle of homelessness and housing instability.

We invite you to join us in changing the lives of individuals and families in Chicago, giving them hope and vision for a new life, one home at a time. We invite you to join us in Changing Lives One Home at a Time.

Michael Banghart
Executive Director

Jennifer Fortney
President, Board of Directors
Our Mission:
Renaissance Social Services is changing the lives of individuals and families in Chicago, giving them hope and vision for a new life. By supporting communities and the people who live within them with quality affordable housing, behavioral healthcare, outreach, homeless prevention, and compassionate support services, we provide the opportunity for stability and wellness.

Our Vision:
To end homelessness in Chicago through compassionate support services, clean and safe affordable housing, and community enrichment.

Our Participants, 2018:

Our Services, 2018:
In 2018, we helped more than 1,000 homeless and at-risk individuals and families:

Prevention Services: 758 households

Permanent Supportive Housing: 310 adults and children.

Of those in Permanent Supportive Housing:
- 94% of participants remained housed for at least one year
- 64% decreased problematic substance use
- 96% of participants avoided unnecessary psychiatric admissions
- 97% of participants were not incarcerated
- 100% of participants made significant progress on at least one goal of their service plan
Participant Profile:

“Against All Odds, You Can Make It, Too”

We asked Ralph P. – a participant of Renaissance’s Permanent Supportive Housing program – what title for this article – which is about him and his journey – he would choose. His reply: “Against all odds, you can make it, too!”

Ralph is a thoughtful and articulate man who has been around the block throughout his 55 years. He has seen more and experienced more than most of us can imagine. Ralph’s mother was a drug addict and a criminal. She doctored Ralph’s birth certificate so Ralph could go to school earlier, so she could continue her life without being bothered by him. He was often pushed out of his house with his mom to live with family members. It was an abusive environment.

At the age of 14, Ralph left his family and went to live in a group home. At 15, he was granted independent living. That’s when the streets took over. First he was involved with gangs by association then he became an active member. This led to drug usage and burglaries. Ralph was in a gang for 20 years and in prison eight times in three states.

In 2002, Ralph went through recovery for his drug addiction issues and has been clean since that time. In 2006, Ralph found himself back in Chicago and living on the streets in the north side; he did not want to go back to the south side, where the abuse, drug use, and gangs he was associated with were. It’s at this time that Ralph was introduced to Renaissance Social Services. “I could not believe that they had an apartment for me. This would be the first apartment I had that had my name on the lease. At the time I thought there is no way that I am going to mess this up.”

Today he is on the Board of Directors at Renaissance, as he wants to be a voice for the clients in Renaissance’s programs. He is also currently in training as a Recovery Specialist/Case Manager. Ultimately, Ralph would like to be a living testimony to people who come out of prison. We feel the title that Ralph gave for this article is fitting: Ralph has definitely made it against all odds. Can’t wait to see what he continues to do in the future and the impact he makes.

Ralph P. with his daughter.
The “Working Homeless”:

Two Words that Should Never Go Together, Now Do

The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless’ most recent Annual Estimate of Homeless People in Chicago finds that 13,929 homeless individuals – over 21% of all homeless people in the Chicago – had jobs. The report also noted that 28% of the city’s homeless had some college education. What this shows is that having a job and a college education does not prevent homelessness in our city.

These findings line up with a piece from the New York Times back in September of 2018. That article (“Americans Want to Believe that Jobs are the Solution to Poverty. They’re Not”) looked at the realities of whether or not jobs for people without much education pay enough for people to live on, with the answer being “No” more often than not. Too often, people without much education are confined to low paying jobs, and even working full time cannot earn enough to pay for food, clothing, and housing. Add children to the mix and it’s impossible. Like the report from the Coalition, the article shows that there is a large and growing number of working homeless.

For myriad reasons, this country is no longer a country of economic mobility for under educated adults who work full time, low wage jobs. There is no ladder upon which to climb from home health aide to nurse or doctor in today’s low pay service economy.

This is not to say that employment isn’t part of a solution for many people who are homeless. Maximizing income is key to ending homelessness. For that reason, Renaissance works with an employment program that is geared to the needs of people with behavioral health issues, which is a significant percent of our participants. But even landing a job isn’t likely to move our participants’ income levels enough to allow them to pay all their own rent, food, clothing, utilities, healthcare costs, etc. They will still need income supports: mainstream benefits like Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, TANF, and supports from Renaissance.

This is where we are at. For a growing number of people, employment no longer equals financial autonomy. One of two things needs to happen to change this. Either we meaningfully adopt a holistic approach to job training and wage growth, or we meaningfully expand income supports. The third option – what we are seeing now, with growing numbers of working people becoming homeless in a low wage, under-skilled, and shrinking income supportive society – is not a sustainable or ethical option.

How Renaissance is Addressing these Issues:

• Employment programming designed to address the placement and support needs of people with behavioral health issues
• Application assistance and advocacy for participants to gain mainstream benefits for which they are entitled: Medicaid, Social Security, SNAP (“food stamps”), TANF (cash assistance), WIC for mothers with infants
• Supporting the retention of affordable housing in Chicago
• Creating partnerships to expand new affordable housing in Chicago
Recently, we lost someone very close to my heart and important in the history of Renaissance Social Services. Todd Lillethun passed away from brain cancer in November of 2018.

Todd started as a case manager at Renaissance in 2003, not long after I became Executive Director, and moved up to become the agency’s second Director of Programs after just a few years. He was able to advance into this leadership position because he had the compassion and ability to work with the people we serve, and the intelligence to lead other people in our work. He helped shape the compassionate, evidence-based, clinical care that we provide today.

During our time working together, I developed a great respect for Todd and his ability to make good clinical and humanitarian decisions. I also had the pleasure of getting to know him personally and calling him a friend. Not only was he a great social worker and coworker, but he was a really great person as well. When Todd left Renaissance in 2008 to work fulltime in filmmaking, his second passion, I knew it wasn’t because he had lost his passion for social services, but because he wanted to challenge himself to see what he was capable of doing as filmmaker. For the next ten years he made award winning independent films and still continued to donate his services to Renaissance, The Night Ministry, and other non-profits. If you ever have chance to see his short films “Safe Word”, “Night Bus” or “The Quit” I highly recommend it.

I stayed in touch with Todd after he left Renaissance and yet I missed him. I can’t believe that he is gone, but I know that he left his impression on me and all of the people at Renaissance who he helped have a better life. Godspeed, Todd.

— Michael Banghart
Executive Director
Leadership Circle, 2018

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 Renaissance meet the needs of the people we serve by providing the agency with significant financial support.

Hall Adams
Michael & Leslie Banghart
Russell & Barbara Crum
Leonard Cudzilo
Jason Eidenberg
Ahu & Adam Faust
Eiran Feldman
Foley Family Foundation
Jennifer Fortney
Tarang Ghandi
Shepard Gould
Scott & Susan Jewell

Jeff & Marianne Johnson
Nancy Kapp
Brooke & Ed Kenevan
Robert Kleisch
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Todd Krumwiede & Nicole Vitale
John Locallo
Andrew & Tracey Lowenthal
Bob Markey
Gina Medalle & Barb Kemmis
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Jim & Laurie Richter
Shailush Ritchie
Steve & Hana Rivkin
Sandra Robinson
Michelle Sablack
Bria Scudder
Robert Stafford
Andrew Tescon & Nancy Hagen
Biresh Thakkar
Karen & Mike Thomas
Mindy Wade
2018 Annual Donors

$40,000+
The Chicago Community Trust
The Crown Family
Polk Bros. Foundation

$10,000 - $39,999
Anonymous
BMO Harris
Carl R. Hendrickson Family Foundation
Pierce Family Foundation
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

$2,500 - $9,999
Anonymous
Cboe Global Markets
Chicago Association of Realtors Foundation
George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities
Andrew & Alice Fischer Charitable Trust
Andrew & Tracey Lowenthal Lutheran Life Communities
MB Financial, N.A.
National Equity Fund
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Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas Community Fund
The Renaissance Companies
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$1,000 - $2,499
Allstate Giving Campaign
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Steve Nyers
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Hall Adams
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The Benevity Community Impact Fund
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Schiff Hardin Foundation
Bria Scudder
Robert Stafford
Andrew Tescon & Nancy Hagen
Biresh Thakkar
Mindy Wade
Wintrust Bank

$250 - $499
Allstate Giving Campaign
Rebecca and Frank Pride
Anonymous
Ann Avery
Krista Carty
Ben Castronovo
Stephen Chodash
Robin David
Debby Gibbons
Anne Hegney
Douglas Hoffman
Bob & Karen Lewis
Todd Lillethun
Cassidy Morris
Thomas Ochs
Pella Windows
Johnny Penti
Mary Ann Phillips
Cynthia Sims
Eileen Smith
Brian Stumpf
Mark Vanscharrel

Up to $249
Advocate Health Care
Amazon Smile Foundation
Angela Anast
Mary Ann Andersen
Scott Angove
Dean Arhos
Bruce Banghart
Teisha Barnfield
Purnendu Baxi
Alexandra Beiriger
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Susan Berger
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Eugenie Cheng
Alexis Chernak
Sam Cibula
Ricardo Cifuentes
Ted & Eileen Collins
Toni Conrad
D'Javan Conway
Jules Conway
Julia Cottle
Brian & Tammy Crum
Catherine Cunniss
Laura Dickman
Stephanie Dittmer
Marianne & Keith Dresden
Scott Dresden
Adam Duncan
Temma Ecker
Michelle Falkoff
John & Elizabeth Fallon
Colleen Finnerman
Claire & Rich Fischer
John & Katie Fitch
Deanne Fortney
Adam Goldberg
Mavrick Goodrich
Simon Grant
Carol Grzelak
Evan Grzelak
Maggie Grzelak
Fusun Guder
Christine Haley
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Katilin Hanekamp
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Brittany Huff
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Nancy & Jeff Lowenthal
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Linda Lyons
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Benjamin Magnuson
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Matt Perkins
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Lizzie Pimentel
Debra Richards
Leslie Richards
Linda & Dick Rieske
Lynn Robinson
Judith & Larry Ross
Vance Ross
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Ozge Samanci
Mary Sandersen
Doug Schenkellberg
Heike Schotten
Laura Schulz
Michael Scudder
Renee Scudder
Abby Simon
Ankur Singal
Dan Sobolewski
Erika Steele
Jennifer Streator
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Hiroti Takamura
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Audrey Thomas
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Susan & Al Tyson
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Soham Vaishnav
Eric & Dawn Vandam
Karla Vazquez
James & Denise Vitale
David Wagner
Betsy Wassilak
Drew Webb
Renee Wesenberg
Bob Wilcox
Erie Williams
Jason Wojack
Sharon Wright
Zoe Zhou

In-Kind
Bentley’s Pet Basket
Cboe Global Markets
Chicago White Sox
Chicago Wolves
Marc Clayton
ComEd
The Cosmopolitan Las Vegas
Andrew David
Robin Daniel
Debby Gibbons
Gibson Bar and Steakhouse
Shepard Gould
Andy & Tracey Lowenthal
Momotaro
Museum of Contemporary Art
Music Box Theatre
Northlight Theatre
Panera Bread
Peter Polansky
Revolution Brewing
Room to Breathe Yoga
Billy Salinas
Sanders Fine Portraits
The Second City
Second City Prime Steak and Seafood
Spa Emilia
Sterling Renaissance, Inc.
Steve Quick Jeweler
Trader Joe’s
Ncole Vitale
Writers Theatre
Zanies

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

Other Funding
The Emergency Fund
Mercy Lakefront Housing
The Renaissance Companies

As hard as we try to be accurate in our record keeping, we may have misspelled or eliminated a name. Please pardon this oversight and inform us at 773-645-8900 x107 so we may make any corrections.
# Financial Statement

**Statement of Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2018**

## REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
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<td>State</td>
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<td>Program Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions (Institutional &amp; Individual Donors)</td>
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<td>Special Events</td>
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<td>In-Kind</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$11,046.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Revenue:** $3,913,714.00

![2018 Revenue: $3,913,714](image)

## EXPENSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing Stability Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supportive Housing Outreach Team</td>
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<td>Family Support Program</td>
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<td>Prevention</td>
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<td>Flexible Housing Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; Fundraising</td>
<td>$619,123.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expense:** $3,819,653.00

![2018 Expense: $3,819,653](image)
Board of Directors & Associate Board

**Board of Directors, 2018**
- Jennifer Fortney – President
- Ahu Faust – Vice President
- Todd Krumwiede – Treasurer
- Jennifer Jordan – Secretary
- Robin L. David
- Gloria Evans
- Alex Kosyla
- Andrew Lowenthal
- Todd D. McCrainey, Jr.
- Karen Thomas

**Associate Board, 2018**
- Michelle Sablack, Co-Chair
- Bria Scudder, Co-Chair
- Jason Eidenberg
- Maggie Grzelak
- Jamie Lee
- Johnny Pesenti
- Laura Schuler
- Mindy Wade
- Dominique Williams

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Toll Free: 866.910.8447

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