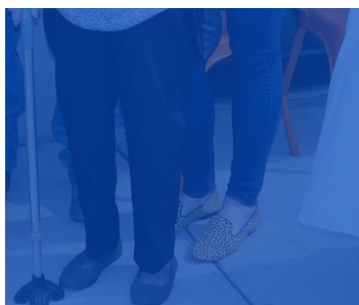
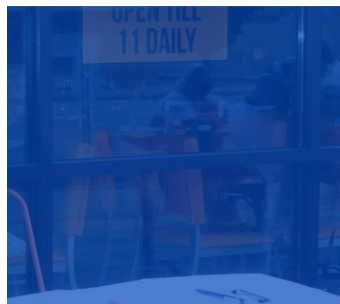
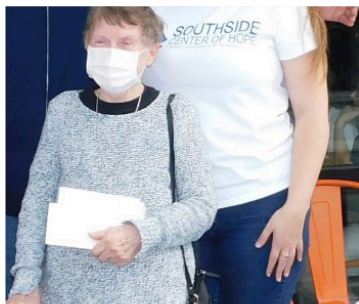
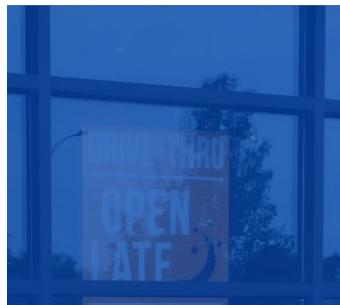
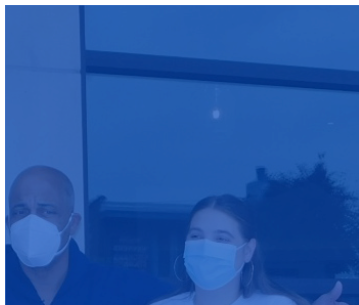
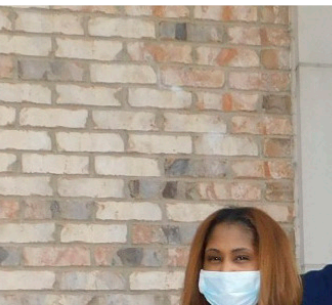




# Annual Report 2021



Building on a cherished legacy  
to secure a future of hope  
for women and children in Chicago.

**38**  
YEARS  
of Service



SOUTHSIDE  
HONOLULU  
2020  
Graduation Ceremony  
Honoring the class of 2020  
for their perseverance and  
achievement during these  
challenging times

You do  
So much.  
I'm proud

HOUSE OF HO  
LUMN

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Dear Friends,

**Their LEGACY lights our way.**

When Sisters Therese O'Sullivan and Connie Driscoll founded what is now Southside Center of Hope, they had only a glimmer of a vision for the impact they could have with their homeless shelter for women and children. Their vision soon expanded, though, as they saw the need and responded in faith, transforming their focus to substance abuse recovery. As a result of that vision, **we've seen more than 4000 women freed from addiction in our 38 years.**

The Sisters' example of wisdom, flexibility, and vision in leadership has allowed the Center to adapt to serve the most vulnerable women and children in our community. From adding medical services and a pre-school in the early years to yoga classes and art therapy more recently, we've expanded our services as often as necessary to better meet the needs of the women and children in our care.

This year, we sold our beloved building and moved into a temporary space in a new neighborhood as we plan for a new permanent site. Though it's been hard to let go of a physical space that meant so much to so many, we've done it because **we believe in the Sisters' vision of providing a safe and healing community where women can become empowered to learn how to live free of alcohol and drugs.** These changes will bring long-term financial stability and allow us to reach more women and children who need our help.

- » Our temporary site will expand our influence and connections and bring our life-changing services to a part of the city wracked by opioid overdoses during the pandemic. We'll also be able to provide private rooms and handicap accessibility, honoring the dignity of the women and children we serve
- » Our permanent site will allow us to provide permanent supportive housing to women and children helping to break the cycle of systemic poverty and homelessness.

These are big changes, but rest assured they've been done in the spirit of Sisters Therese and Connie. Their wisdom, flexibility, and vision in leadership is our model. **Their beating heart for women suffering from homelessness and addiction is our heart.** Their legacy lights the way to a future of hope for thousands more women and their children.

The Board and I believe our best days as an organization are ahead of us, and we **thank you for partnering with us in giving hope and healing to women in need!**

With gratitude and hope,

*Yaisa Hagood*

**Yaisa Hagood**

Executive Director



# THE NEED

**The twin crises of homelessness and addiction are more urgent than ever. The Pandemic has magnified the need.**

More than 2,100 of Chicago's homeless are women, and they suffer unique trauma affecting both physical and mental health. Homelessness, addiction, and mental illness are interrelated phenomena, and, for women, they are exacerbated by gender inequality and oppression.

Homeless women are acutely vulnerable to victimization and are at elevated risk for physical and sexual violence. Domestic abuse is a common path into homelessness, as lack of affordable housing and limited financial and social resources often force women to choose between staying with an abusive partner and falling into homelessness.

Adverse childhood experiences have been associated with concurrent mental health and substance use disorders, and, not surprisingly, childhood abuse is prevalent among homeless women. They disproportionately require hospital care, particularly for violence-related injuries, substance use and mental health, and report high rates of gender-specific health issues, including gynecological problems, pregnancy, and Sexually transmitted infections.

Facing significant barriers to access (non-insurance, lack of transportation, and long wait times at public clinics), homeless women are distinctly medically underserved and face severely compromised physical and mental health outcomes as a result.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only increased the mental, emotional, and financial stressors on these women - and on the social services agencies that support them.

# OUR MISSION

## OUR BELIEF

We believe every woman deserves a safe place to live and recover from addiction.



## OUR PURPOSE

Our mission is to provide a healing community for homeless women and children recovering from substance use addiction, trauma, and mental illness.



## OUR DREAM

We envision women and children in the neediest neighborhoods in Chicago living free from the devastating effects of homelessness and addiction.



# WHAT WE DO

Because of your generous support, in the past year women and children received a safe place to live while recovering from the effects of addiction. You're breaking cycles of poverty and despair and giving these women and children hope for a brighter future.

**Our unique, holistic, evidenced-based program creates lifelong change:**



## **12-step program.**

This respected recovery process emphasizes dependence on a Higher Power and has helped millions learn to live without addictive substances.



## **Residential.**

A safe, structured, healthy environment allows our residents to focus on healing from the physical, mental and emotional effects of homelessness and addiction.



## **For women.**

We treat the special needs of women suffering from addiction by addressing gender-specific recovery issues.



## **For their children.**

For single mothers, the need to care for their children is often a barrier to recovery. We remove that barrier by making our home welcome to children as well.



## **Holistic.**

We know that addiction and homelessness are both causes and effects of physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional wounds. That's why we offer services that treat the whole person.



## **No cost.**

We are the only recovery home in Illinois that provides long-term care with no program fees.



## BARBARA'S STORY



Still Clean after 14 years.

When I came to what is now Southside Center of Hope in 2007, I was broken - spiritually, emotionally, and financially.

I was a normal young woman until my parents divorced. Then, I started to use things to make me not feel that pain. I started smoking weed and playing drinking games with my friends. I also struggled with an eating disorder.

When I was 17, I met my kids' father, and his world became my world. I believe that's when I lost myself. I made this man my world.

I was introduced to crack cocaine at 23 when my oldest child was four. I didn't even know it was crack cocaine. I had seen all the news around the crack epidemic, but I didn't see what I was doing as part of that. I was having fun and enjoying life, but, really, life was passing me by.

I followed my kids' father to live in what I would now call a "crack house." Everyone who lived there drank, smoked, and got high. My mother eventually got fed up with me. One day she said, "Look. I'm tired of you. You and your kids can get out of my life." That broke my heart and was a wakeup call. I wanted to make some changes.

By the grace of God, my godfather took me in and allowed my kids and me to live in an empty apartment in the building he owned. I stopped drinking for six months and stopped smoking crack for four years. I worked hard to be a good mother and provider, and my life was looking very good.

But like they say in the program, "Nothing changes if nothing changes."





## Nothing changes if nothing changes.

When I found out that the father of my children had a three-year-old child by another woman, I started smoking crack again.

For four more years, my life was upside down. I had a steady job, but most of my money went to drugs and alcohol. By the end, I was sneaking out of the apartment in my godfather's building so I could go to hotels and smoke by myself.

When I got to Southside Center of Hope, I was a mess. I took my eight-year-old son and my 13-year-old daughter with me, and we were all broken.

Surrendering and accepting that I had a problem was the best decision of my life.

The second day I was at the Center, I had a group session, and the freedom I felt to finally talk about my feelings with other women who had experienced the same things was amazing.

I stayed at Southside Center of Hope for 10 months. Besides recovery skills, I learned parenting skills, how to budget and the discipline of keeping my home clean. Mostly, I learned to love myself. I've been free from alcohol and drugs for 13 years.

I'm grateful for Sister Therese, Miss Ollie, Miss Valerie, Miss Sylvia, Miss Tracy. They taught me things so I wouldn't have to go back to the way I was living. Active addiction is a disease of the mind, and they helped to heal me.

I keep in touch with several other alumnae today. I have a whole new group of people I can call friends. This program taught me to be my best, most authentic self. Thank you!

# WHO WE SERVED

Average age of resident	38
Had obtained a high school diploma or GED	80%
Reported being a victim of domestic violence	64%
Had been previously incarcerated	64%
Had a diagnosed behavioral health issue	72%
Had a diagnosed chronic health issue	64%
Identified as African American	55%
Identified as Caucasian	45%

## FY 2021 Highlights



**11**

Women &  
2 Children served



**1560**

Shelter Nights



**4680**

Meals Served



**100**

personal care  
packages  
distributed to the  
community



**13**

families in the  
community  
provided Holiday  
Meal and  
Christmas Gifts



**10**

moms in the  
community  
provided with  
Mother's Day  
Baskets



**200**

Community  
Referrals Made



**181**

Volunteer Hours

*\*Southside Center of Hope sold its building and temporarily closed its residential program in FY21.*

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021

**JULY '20** Our online Alumnae & Friends meetings continue to provide ongoing support, encouragement and hope to past residents.

**AUGUST '20** Our Hope Talks on the topic of self-care had over 300 views! These monthly Facebook live talks cover a variety of issues affecting the women we serve and introduce our work to a larger audience.

**SEPTEMBER '20** Our 4th annual graduation ceremony celebrated 20 amazing women completing our program!

Sister Therese's 82nd birthday dinner and fundraiser raised \$4000. Thank you!

**OCTOBER '20** Our Hope Ambassadors program attracts wonderful virtual volunteers who share our mission and stories with their online networks. Thanks for your efforts!

**NOVEMBER '20** Our Giving Tuesday campaign, held the week after Thanksgiving surpassed its goal of \$5000. Thank you!

**DECEMBER '20** Our donors' generosity allowed us to deliver Christmas gifts to our alumni and their children. Thank you!

**JANUARY '21** We officially launched our Young Professionals Board with 13 founding members. This dynamic group will support our fundraising efforts and increase our visibility within their networks.

**FEBRUARY '21** We secured a temporary location on the West Side of Chicago.

**MARCH '21** We moved out of St. Clara's School in Woodlawn after 21 years. It was an emotional day for all, but we're excited for the next chapter.

**APRIL '21** Johnny Sukurs joined our Board of Directors. Sukurs has over 10 years in business development and holds a master's degree from the U of C's Booth School of Business. His expertise will be a tremendous asset!

**MAY '21** We celebrated 38 years of freeing women from the effects of addiction and homelessness with a virtual event!

Your gifts made it possible for us to deliver Mother's Day gift bags to our alumni. Thank you.

**JUNE '21** We held our first Hope in Action community service event distributing free feminine hygiene products. We're excited to be able to share our resources with our neighbors.

# FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021

INCOME	
Corporations	\$36,767
Foundations	\$113,850
Government	\$68,043
Individuals	\$129,655
In-kind	\$135,532
Net Investment Return	\$74,063
Miscellaneous	\$7,444
<b>Total Revenue Support and Gains</b>	<b>\$565,354</b>

EXPENSES & LOSSES	
Program Services	\$233,609
Management and General	\$272,139
Fundraising	\$64,016
Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets	\$76,774
<b>Total Expenses and Losses</b>	<b>\$646,538</b>
<b>Deficiency of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>(\$81,184)</b>

NET ASSETS	
Beginning of Year	\$692,921
End of Year	\$541,737

More detailed financials can be found on our website:  
[www.southsidecenterofhope.org](http://www.southsidecenterofhope.org).



# THANK YOU

To each of our donors and volunteers,

**Thank you for giving your time and resources.** You are freeing women from the effects of addiction and homelessness.

You're the reason Southside Center of Hope has a legacy, and you're why we're confident of our future.

**We couldn't do it without you.**

In addition to the generosity of our individual donors and volunteers, we'd like to thank the following corporations, organizations, and foundations for their generous support:

Bank Financial	Northern Trust Charitable Giving Program
B&D Foundation	Pepsico Foundation
Bank of America	Rothschild Investment Corporation
Chicago Community Foundation	Rust-Oleum Corporation
Chicago Foundation for Women	Salesforce.com Inc.
Exelon Foundation	St. Barnabas Church
George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities	State Board of Education
Helen Brach Foundation	Benevity Community Impact Fund
Honey Butter Fried Chicken LLC	Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
Hospital Sisters of St. Francis	Buona Companies LLC
Howland Helping Hands Fund	Knight Family Foundation
Indian River Community Foundation	University of Chicago
JP Morgan Chase Foundation	Top Box Foods
Kirkland & Ellis LLP	University of Chicago Service League
Lannan Foundation	US Bank Foundation
MacArthur Foundation	White & Case LLP
Mount Carmel High School	W. P. & H.B. White Foundation



# JOIN US

## for the Next Chapter of Hope and Healing

You can be part of restoring hope to women trapped in addiction and homelessness on Chicago's Southside. By partnering with Southside Center of Hope, you bring holistic healing and recovery to women whose needs often go unmet. You can help their children gain stability and hope for a better future with their mom.

**The need is urgent** in the wake of Covid19, and the next few years will be critical to our future.

We've moved into our temporary building on the West Side of Chicago and will begin accepting new residents in September. At the same time, the plans for our new site in the West Pullman neighborhood are moving forward.

Your support at this time will make the difference for the thousands of women we hope to serve in the decades to come.

- » Follow us online to learn how we're making an impact.
- » Become a Hope Ambassador to receive social media posts to share, emails to send, and actions to take on behalf of the Center.
- » Volunteer to serve with us at the Center.
- » Give hope and healing to a woman in recovery.

Thank you for supporting our mission of providing a healing community for women and children recovering from homelessness and addiction!

We are working on increasing our reach, increasing our awareness, and increasing the number of women that we can serve. If I can help Southside Center of Hope grow in all three of those areas, I will feel that I have succeeded in my time on board.

**Johnny Sukurs**  
**Board Member**

My wife and I believed in the work of Sister Therese and Sister Connie back in 1989 and we continue to believe in the mission of Southside Center of Hope today.

**Terry Stadler**  
**Donor**

I am impressed by the women, the struggles and the things they've faced. I stay involved because they provide a wonderful example of courage and determination.

**Kiley**  
**Hope Ambassador**

I support House of Hope because I believe in its mission and the long-term continuum of care they provide without charge for women struggling with addiction.

**China**  
**Alumna**  
**15 years clean**

Since completing the program, I resumed my career as a teacher, I have an apartment and I've been able to rebuild my relationship with my family.

**Joann**  
**Alumna**  
**Sober 4 years**

Recovery has given me the ability to reach places I never would have reached in my wildest dreams.

**Lynn**  
**Alumna**  
**Sober 25 years**

The tools that I learned at Southside Center of Hope I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I've learned how to stand up for myself, how to put my recovery first, how to make good decisions and how to set healthy boundaries.

**Shiquita,**  
**2020 Alumna**

When I first arrived, I had dreams for my life but no hope. I never thought my dreams could come true but at Southside Center of Hope they did.

**Anna,**  
**2020 Alumna**

Thanks to Miss Yaisa, who pushed me into my destiny. She wants to see us all make it, and I'm a product of her. I love you! The vision of Southside Center of Hope continues!



**SOUTHSIDE CENTER OF HOPE**

**2425 West Jackson Blvd**

**Chicago, IL 60612**

**(773) 643-5843**

**[www.southsidecenterofhope.org](http://www.southsidecenterofhope.org)**