



**SOUTHSIDE**  
**CENTER OF HOPE**  
A Supportive Community for Women

**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF HOPE**  
**1983-2023**



**40TH ANNIVERSARY**  
**IMPACT REPORT**

**June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023**

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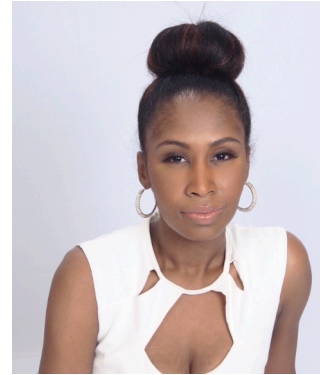
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# DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

## THANK YOU.

Southside Center of Hope is celebrating 40 years of offering hope and healing to women and their children on the Southside of Chicago. We're proud of our legacy - and excited for what's ahead. **And none of it is possible without you.**

Because of your faithful generosity, we've given over 4,000 women a fresh start, free from addiction and with the resources to build emotional wholeness and financial security. We will never know the full impact of our work on their children, grandchildren, and the generations to come after these women - [it is truly immeasurable.](#)



**Even as we celebrate, though, we know how much work is left to do.** The last few years have only increased the need for and urgency of our services. Addiction is at crisis levels as cheaper and more dangerous drugs have become available, and low wages and a lack of affordable housing make women and children more vulnerable than ever.

So, as we continue to press forward on behalf of those we serve, we will follow in the footsteps of our founders, Sisters Therese and Connie, being relentless in our mission, flexible in our follow-through, and compassionate to our core.

As you read this report, I hope you'll feel proud of what we've accomplished together - and inspired to invest in the next chapter of our story as an organization. ***Because we have so much more hope to give.***

**Thank you,**

*Yaisa Hagood*

Yaisa Hagood  
Executive Director

# FOUNDING STORY

Starting with 15 dollars and 19 beds, Sister Connie Driscoll and Sister Therese O'Sullivan, IBVM, rehabbed an old drug store building to start a homeless shelter for women and their children in 1983.

They named their shelter St. Martin de Porres House of Hope, after a saint known for his tireless hospitality and care for the poor and sick.

After seeing so many women struggle with drug and alcohol addiction, the shelter transitioned into a recovery home in the early 90s. A new facility was purchased from the Archdiocese of Chicago for \$10.

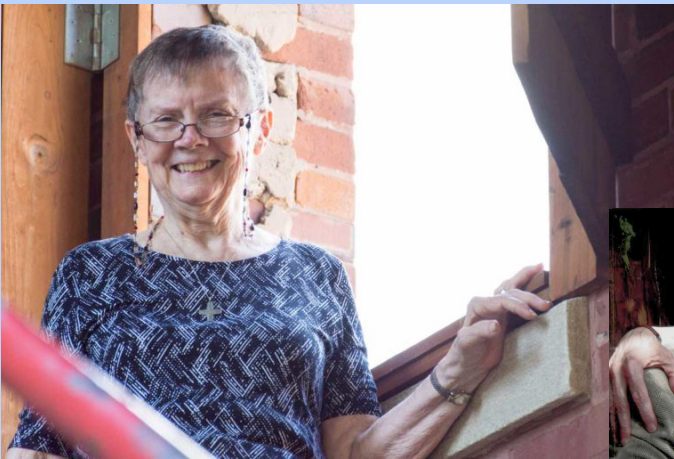
"Sister Connie and I wanted a place where women could bring their children while they recover in a structured, safe environment that motivates them to achieve sobriety,

become gainfully employed, and live independently," Sister Therese said.

The Sisters worked tirelessly for decades, helping thousands of women and children break free from addiction and its effects. Though devout Catholic nuns, they chose not to accept money from the Church in order to have flexibility and independence in their work for women and children.

Sister Connie passed away in 2005 at the age of 72. In 2016, Sister Therese retired and named Yaisa Hagood her successor. Sister Therese remains a beloved member of our community.

In 2019, St. Martin de Porres House of Hope became Southside Center of Hope. Thanks to our founders for their ministry and vision.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 40 YEARS OF HOPE

- 1983 St. Martin de Porres founded as a homeless shelter for women and children in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood.
- 1985 Weekly medical clinic established.
- 1986 St. Clara School building purchased for the shelter's operations.
- 1988 On-site preschool opens.
- 1989 First mental health counselor hired.
- 1991 A recovery program created, and the first substance abuse counselor hired.
- 1992 Partnership with CARA for job training and placement launched.
- 1994 GED program begins.
- 2000 Partnership with Harmony, Hope, and Healing is formed to provide music therapy to residents.
- 2005 Co-founder Sister Connie dies.
- 2008 Anonymous donation funds our endowment.
- 2016 Co-founder Sister Therese retires. Yaisa Hagood becomes Executive Director.
- 2017 Harmony, Hope and Healing Ensemble and residents of St. Martin de Porres House of Hope sang National Anthem at White Sox Game.
- 2018 Onsite computer lab opens.
- 2019 Partnered with ITA to offer Art Therapy.
- 2020 Partnered with the Kindness Campaign for community outreach programming.
- 2021 Sold school building on Woodlawn.
- 2022 Partnered with Interfaith Housing Development Corporation to become service provider at Independence House.
- 2023 Partnered with HHPLift to offer Workforce Development Program.

# MISSION

To provide housing and a continuum of supportive services to women and children in underserved communities to empower them to transform their lives.



# OUR MODEL

*We believe recovery is a lifelong process requiring personal determination and support from family, friends, and the community. Our program creates lifelong change through these components:*



**12-step program.** This process has helped millions live without addictive substances.



**Residential.** A safe and structured living space allows residents to focus on healing.



**For women.** We treat the special needs of women addressing gender-specific recovery issues.



**For their children.** The need to care for children is often a barrier to recovery for women, so we welcome children to live at the Center.



**Holistic.** We treat the whole person. Addiction and homelessness are causes and effects of physical, mental, spiritual, & emotional wounds.



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



Residents attended the 2023 Mid-City Area Convention.

# INDEPENDENCE HOUSE

On July 1, 2023, Southside Center of Hope became the service provider at Independence House, a permanent supportive housing facility owned by Interfaith Development Housing Corporation (IDHC). IDHC is a non-profit organization that develops, owns, and operates buildings in the Chicagoland area. The organization's mission is to provide physical locations to social services and other non-profit organizations to help them better serve the community.

Independence House offers 25 apartments for women with children experiencing homelessness. Southside Center of Hope provides case management and supportive services to the tenants.



Thanksgiving Food Giveaway for Independence house Tenants.



**100% of chronically unhoused families remained housed**



**25 families received holiday meals**



**30 children received backpacks**



Back to School Backpack giveaway for kids at Independence House.



# OUR IMPACT

Over the past 40 years, we've helped more than 4,000 women break free from the effects of addiction and poverty. **And we're just getting started.**

**Here's a snapshot of the recovery program's impact in our 40th year:**

  
**18**  
Women in Residential Treatment

  
**2,555**  
Shelter Nights Provided

  
**7,765**  
Meals Served

  
**168**  
Offsite Healthcare Visits

  
**528**  
Addiction Counseling & Case Management Sessions

  
**399**  
Group Therapy Sessions

  
**105**  
Aftercare Service Hours

  
**2**  
Community Outreach Events In Partnership With Kindness Campaign

  
**150**  
Care Packages Distributed

HHPLift created a new LiftWorks™ program, called Get Set™, designed specifically for women served at Southside Center of Hope. This program lasts 13 weeks and pays the women the Chicago minimum wage of \$14.50 an hour while providing a set curriculum including lessons on email etiquette, logistics/fulfillment, inventory management, business development, and market research.

**Four residents participated in the workforce development program that ended in June 2023.**



SSCO residents working at HHPLift with staff.



## YOLANDA'S STORY

Yolanda has faced the pain of growing up without a father, self-harm, unhealthy domestic relationships,

homelessness, joblessness, and the death of a child. **All of it both led to and fed her addiction.** "At the end, I had just had enough. I wanted help," she says. "I was so tired."

Yolanda first came to Southside Center of Hope in late 2019. Right from the start, she appreciated the structure at SSCOH that helped her stay on track. She said, "I needed that because I didn't have a balance in my life."

She also loved all of the resources and opportunities, including recovery meetings, therapists, and case managers. "*I've had wonderful case managers who led me to experience who I am because I didn't know much about myself.* I went to therapy, started making meetings, and got into the communities they connected me with."

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and some personal challenges meant that Yolanda didn't finish the program and left SSCOH early in 2020. Shortly after, her daughter died, dealing Yolanda a horrific blow.

She struggled to maintain her recovery and financial stability and suffered from homelessness and joblessness for a year before reaching back out to the Center.

Yolanda was grateful to Executive Director Yaisa Hagood and the Center's team for welcoming her back. "They didn't turn me down or say, 'Hey, you've already been here.' Miss Yaisa opened her door to me right away."

While at SSCOH, she was able to work on becoming a certified peer recovery support specialist. She now has a job offer in this area, as well as one in health care customer service. Having options for building financial stability gives her hope.

Besides securing her financial future, Yolanda is focused on staying healthy and positive. She attends recovery meetings, works out with friends, and reaches out to Yaisa and SSCOH when she needs encouragement.

"So many good things are happening," she said, "and so many people are rooting for me. It's amazing! I'm keeping myself connected and not turning back."

**Yolanda shared why she thinks it's important to support the work of Southside Center of Hope.**

"Sometimes people don't have anyone to support them in a new journey due to bad breaks or bridges broken. And now they want a new life and to recover from all that they've been through. **It's wonderful to help someone who doesn't know where their help will come from or who never had help or doesn't even know what help looks like.**"

# FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

## (JUNE 1, 2022 – MAY 31, 2023)

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the wisdom of our board, and earned income from our partnership with Independence House, **our financial stability and sustainability is growing.**



INCOME	
Corporations	\$30,060
Foundations	\$177,800
Individuals	\$152,796
In-Kind Donations	\$15,838
Miscellaneous	\$2,812
Program Fees	\$117,333
Net Investment Revenue	(4,311)
<b>Total Revenue Support and Gains</b>	<b>\$492,328</b>



EXPENSES	
Program Services	\$479,544
Management & General	\$35,780
Fundraising	\$54,806
Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets	\$2,301
<b>Total Expenses and Losses</b>	<b>\$572,431</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>(80,103)</b>

NET ASSETS	
<b>Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$395,956</b>
<b>End of Year</b>	<b>\$315,853</b>

# INVEST IN THE FUTURE

The challenges women in underserved communities face are broad and complex – but we’re rising to the challenge. **We’ve got so much more hope to give and invite you to join us for the next chapter of our story.**

**It’s only because of the ongoing generosity of supporters like you that Southside Center of Hope is celebrating its 40th year.** If you believe in the work we’re doing and in our vision for expanding our services to meet the needs of more women and children than ever, please consider making an investment in our future.

## GIVE

Your donations make a real difference for women fighting addiction while struggling with homelessness, poverty, and caring for their children.

Give a one-time or monthly donation at <https://southsidecenterofhope.kindful.com>

Consider leaving a bequest to Southside Center of Hope to multiply your impact.






Katherine Newman, a member of our Young Professionals Board, handing out food and personal care items at a Kindness Campaign Event

## VOLUNTEER

Assist Southside Center of Hope staff as they support homeless women in recovery. To learn more about the opportunities available, please call 773-643-5843 or email [info@sscoh.org](mailto:info@sscoh.org).

## STAY CONNECTED

-  <https://twitter.com/SouthsideHope>
-  <https://www.linkedin.com/company/southsidecenterofhope/>
-  <https://www.facebook.com/sscoh.org>

# LEADERSHIP

*Our team brings a wealth of experience, wisdom, and perspectives to this work. We're grateful for their gifts, skills, and passion for our mission.*

## Board Of Directors

**Kevin Waklatsi**, Chair, Lathan & Watkins, LLP  
**Charles E. Beavers, Sr.**, Secretary, US Bank  
**Peter Brown, Treasurer**, The Avery Coonley School  
**Sister Therese O'Sullivan**, Executive Director Emerita  
**Nihal Afifi**, Benchmark Health Systems  
**Brother Tom Collins**, CFC, Brother Rice High School  
**Shante Harrison**, Huron Consulting Group  
**Sheryl Morris**, UNITE HERE Chicago Hospitality Institute  
**Johnny Suckers**, Transworld Systems, Inc.  
**Ollie Thomas**, PAC's Daycare

## Staff

### Executive Director:

Yaisa Hagood

### Recovery Coaches:

Alisha Agbonghae

Megan McGuffage

Rashidat Owe

### Night Monitors:

Annette McDade

Delphine Oldham

### Development and Communications Manager:

Taylor Phillips

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

*We would like to thank the following corporations, organizations, and foundations for their generous support in our 40th year. **You make it possible for us to give hope to the women and children we serve.***

The A Montgomery Ward Foundation

JP Morgan Chase Foundation

Augustine Stewardship Fund

JRM & Associates Inc.

B&D Foundation

Judy Family Foundation

The Benevity Community Impact Fund

Knight Family Foundation

Chicago Community Trust

Lannan Foundation

Chicago Foundation for Women

Northern Trust Charitable Giving

City of Chicago

Reva and David Logan Foundation

Community Foundation for Greater Des Moines

Rust-Oleum Corporation

Exelon Foundation

St. Barnabas Church

Helen Brach Foundation

University of Chicago Service League

Hospital Sisters of St. Francis

US Bank

Huron Consulting Group Inc.

W.P. & H.B. White Foundation

Illinois State Treasurer



Save the Date



*40th Anniversary Gala*  
October 28, 2023

Join us to celebrate 40 years of **hope** for women and children in Chicagoland!

**SOUTHSIDE CENTER OF HOPE**

**(773) 643-5843**

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



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