



CREATE OPPORTUNITIES.
REBUILD LIVES.

1607 W. Howard Street
Third Floor
Chicago, IL 60626

773.465.5770
www.how-inc.org

*HOW empowers women, children
and families to break the cycle of
poverty and homelessness.*



Summer 2017

In This Edition:

You made HOW's Summer Camp Happen!

Partners in Housing and Hope

Chicago Landlords are Part of the HOW Family

Innovating Together

To Serve Chicago's Most Vulnerable

And More!

LIVES YOU HAVE CHANGED in 2017 (so far)

745 Men, Women, and Children currently receiving HOW housing and support

39 Families moved into HOW housing

392 Hours of one-on-one case management dedicated to achieving employment goals

189 Hours of intensive educational tutoring and activities provided for each child and teen in the Academic Coaching Program

89 HOW program graduates

THANK YOU for your support!

HOW Up To Date

Summer 2017

Empowering women, children and families to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness since 1983.

You Made HOW's Summer Camp Happen!

Last year, HOW's programs were dealt a significant blow because of the Illinois state budget crisis.

Our youth program had to be put on hold over the summer, and our hearts were broken when we were unable to offer our annual summer camp.

But because of generous donors like you, HOW summer camp is in session again in 2017! Thanks to your support, the HOW Youth Team has eight weeks of exciting activities planned for our students. "I can't wait to continue to watch the kids grow over the summer and into next year," said Youth Specialist Emily Studenmund.



A 2015 camper enjoying some time on the playground.



2015 HOW summer campers at a vegetable garden.

A 2011 Wallace Foundation study found that students - especially low-income students - lose math and reading skills over the summer. This can lead to an achievement gap that holds low-income kids back from their full potential. **Children who have experienced homelessness are at an even greater disadvantage, with as many as 70% performing below their grade level in reading and spelling.**

Summer camp is a crucial part of the Youth Team's mission to eliminate this achievement gap and help end the intergenerational cycle of homelessness.

Highlights of this year's summer camp program:

- A focus on **STEM activities** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), with laboratory experiments like DIY lava lamps and making invisible ink
- **Health and Wellness** activities including learning about the food pyramid, kids yoga, and play
- **Arts and Crafts**, including coloring, drawing, origami, and enriching arts workshops
- **Amazing field trips** to Maggie Daley Park, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Lincoln Park Zoo, and Peggy Notebart Nature Museum

We're so grateful that we can provide summer camp for HOW children again this year! Your support makes a difference and changes lives. Together we will help kids reach their potential.

Summer at HOW

Your gifts change lives

Summer might mean a vacation for some, but at HOW there's still a steady stream of women, men, and families in need of housing and support.

Our housing team is busy finding apartments all over the city and helping our clients move into permanent, stable homes. Thanks to partnerships with property managers, clients can live in their preferred neighborhood, to stay close to work or family.

Case managers are meeting one-on-one with their clients, making sure they have the support services they need while following a plan for increased income and self-sufficiency.

Clients stop by the HOW offices every other week to pick up fresh

fruit and vegetables, clothing, books, and other necessities donated by generous supporters like you.

Our Youth Team is preparing for summer camp, a crucial part of their mission to eliminate the achievement gap for our youth. Thanks to you, we can offer summer camp again in 2017 and take another step towards ensuring a better future for our young clients.

There is no quick fix for homelessness.

Getting a roof over a family's heads is the first step, but we are committed to the long, holistic process of supporting a family as they regain income and stability after a setback.



Nearly 1,000 Chicagoans find help at HOW each year. **With your generous support, HOW is here to offer hope to each of them - all summer long and throughout the year.**

Britt Shawver, CEO

Partners in Housing and Hope

HOW partners with more than 50 property managers across the city in order to provide affordable housing options for our clients. These partnerships allow us to work with every client to find an apartment that will allow them to stay close to work, family, healthcare, transportation, and other community resources necessary for stability. **When a client graduates from our program, they can take over the lease to their apartment and stay in their home.**

Donors like you allow us to place homeless individuals and families in supportive housing and support them as they rebuild their lives. Chicago landlords are essential partners as well, making apartments available and offering HOW clients a new start and a new home. **Thank you, landlords!**



HOW staff and our property management partners at an appreciation lunch at the HOW offices in March.

Innovating Together

To Serve Chicago's Most Vulnerable

Did you know that your support of HOW is also helping other supportive housing agencies throughout the Chicago area? Thanks to a new partnership between HOW and two other agencies, together we're able to make an even greater impact on homelessness in Chicago.

HOW serves as the leader of this new collaborative which improves property management, accounting, and technology operations while reducing costs for nonprofit organizations that provide housing for the homeless. The key to this innovative project is a best in class cloud-based technology platform that allows supportive housing providers like HOW to share resources with other agencies, reduce back office costs, and provide better service to our clients. We started operating the new system in January and are in the process of adding more housing agency partners in the coming months.

Caring for Chicago's most vulnerable population, over the long-term, calls for innovative and collaborative approaches and ideas. Your support for HOW has a far-reaching impact on people struggling with housing instability and homelessness in the City of Chicago.

4 FOUR WAYS

You Can Get Involved

1 GIVE

Your financial support makes what we do possible. Your gift provides housing and hope, allowing people to rebuild their lives.

www.how-inc.org

2 JOIN US

Events supporting HOW bring together the Chicago community to make a difference for others.

HOW Summer Social - 8/17
ProHOWbition - 9/27

how.simplenetix.com

3 PARTNER

Monthly Giving provides reliable revenue that helps sustain our housing and support programs. Become a HOW Partner.

www.how-inc.org

4 DONATE

Four walls and a roof are essential, but more is required to make a house into a home. Visit our website for a list of items urgently needed by our clients, like soap, towels, and toilet paper.

www.how-inc.org/wishlist

BAIRD & WARNER GOODWILL NETWORK PRESENTS

PROHOWBITION

CASINO NIGHT TO SUPPORT HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Wednesday, September 27th
Starting at 6pm

Untitled Supper Club
111 W. Kinzie St.

Please join Baird & Warner Lincoln Park for a special night at the speakeasy benefiting HOW.

Visit www.proHOWbition.com to reserve your tickets!