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connections  
FOR THE HOMELESS

## MAKING CONNECTIONS



### A NOTE FROM BETTY: OUR INVESTMENT

We knew a swift response to the pandemic was needed to provide immediate solutions for our most vulnerable neighbors. What we didn't know was that **our COVID-response would ultimately lead to a \$2.5 million - and growing - investment into the local economy.** We are proud to have made this massive investment, achieved through purchasing over **91,000** meals from more than **30** local restaurant partners, investing in local hotels (including municipal hotel taxes), paying wages to staff living in Evanston, and rent to both commercial and residential area landlords.

In addition to the services we provide to community members without homes, we are proud and grateful to be an economic force for good in the community as a whole.

This difficult yet invigorating period has highlighted the role each of us serves in our community; the current moment demonstrates how much we can accomplish when we work together in partnership.

When Connections invests in the community, we are not only serving neighbors in crisis, but supporting local businesses, hiring and employing residents, and investing in the economy, which amplifies the work we do in ways that continue to surprise us. You are a critical partner in the "whole of community" approach, and we need your **support** to continue. We hope that you'll join us.



### *We Need Volunteers!*

We have opportunities at different locations and times of day - but we especially need volunteers to help during drop-in hours and prepare bagged lunches for Dewey drop-in. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please email [info@connect2home.org](mailto:info@connect2home.org).

**DONATE NOW**



### *Currently accepting donations of:*

CAN OPENERS  
SOUP IN A CUP  
CANNED BEVERAGES  
MICROWAVEABLE MEALS  
INDIVIDUAL SNACKS  
FROZEN MEAT

Betty A. Bogg  
Executive Director

[DONATE NOW](#)

3,520 VISITS BY  
747 INDIVIDUALS  
AT DROP-IN

PROVIDED ACCESS TO SHOWERS, MAIL,  
AND BAGGED LUNCHES, AND  
1,450 VISITS TO THE FOOD PANTRY

## MEETING BASIC NEEDS

Every weekday we welcome between **35-50** participants at our drop-in center. Participants come to Connections for the basics - showers, toiletries, non-perishable foods, bagged lunches, a bathroom, and their mail. Case managers and staff are also on site to meet with participants, connect them to resources and housing. There's never a dull moment!

We've especially seen a giant increase in visits to the food pantry with **300-450** visits each month since the beginning of the pandemic. Want to help out? Sign up to volunteer or donate items for the pantry. Email [info@connect2home.org](mailto:info@connect2home.org) for more information about how to get involved.

HOT DOGS & DELI MEAT

Drop-off at 2121 Dewey  
M-F between 9:30-4.



SHOP OUR  
[FEELS LIKE HOME WISH LIST](#)

## \$15,000 EMERGENCY MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE (EMA)

Assisting households impacted by COVID-19

HOW TO APPLY Applications Accepted 8/24 - 9/4/2020



### CHECK IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE

- Visit the website [ema.ihda.org](http://ema.ihda.org)
- Enter your name, email, ZIP code, and 2019 annual income.



### SUBMIT YOUR ONLINE APPLICATION

- Complete the application by providing information about your income, family, property, and mortgage.
- You must click the FINISH button to submit your application.
- If you need help applying, please visit [ema.ihda.org](http://ema.ihda.org) and click on Resources for a list of Community Agencies that can help.



### UPLOAD YOUR DOCUMENTS

- Government issued Photo ID
- If your ID does not match the address on your application, you will need to upload proof of your current address.
- A copy of your mortgage statement.
- 2019 Tax Returns for all borrowers on the mortgage.



### ACT NOW

- There is no fee to apply.
- Funds are limited, so apply today.
- An application is not a guarantee of assistance.
- If approved, IHDA will pay up to \$15,000 directly to your mortgage servicer.

[ema.ihda.org](http://ema.ihda.org)

(312) 883-2720 -or- (888) 252-1119

## Emergency Mortgage Assistance Available Through IHDA

The Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (EMA) is available to support Illinois homeowners unable to pay their mortgages due to a COVID-19-related loss of income. Applications for EMA are accepted through September 4th.

Apply at  
<http://ema.ihda.org>.

[DONATE](#)



## FURNISH A HOME

We are working hard to locate and secure housing for participants sheltering in hotels. Since March, we have helped move more than 50 households into independent housing and more participants are moving each week. Often participants move into empty spaces and we need your help to furnish their apartments! The "[Feels Like Home](#)" [Amazon Wish List](#) includes home essentials to outfit an individual's home.

SHOP NOW



## We're Hiring!

Connections is hiring for multiple positions. Visit [connect2home.org/careers](https://connect2home.org/careers) to learn more.

NEED HELP?



## SPOTLIGHT ON JULISSA

Julissa Flores joined Connections in the middle of May as the Housing Program Manager when we launched the COVID-Response Team. She is responsible for managing the team of Housing Specialists who are working hard to locate permanent housing solutions for hotel residents. Julissa shared that she's "very grateful for the team effort" she sees from every member of the organization.

Julissa was born and raised in Chicago, she's 1st generation, 1 of 8 siblings, fluent in Spanish, and she's worked in social services for over a decade. We're so glad

to have Julissa on the team! Support Julissa and the Housing Specialists by purchasing items off the [Feels Like Home Amazon Wish List](#) to furnish participants' new homes!

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Ending homelessness, one person at a time.

[connect2home.org](https://connect2home.org)

