



connections  
FOR THE HOMELESS

# MAKING CONNECTIONS



## A NOTE FROM BETTY: One Year Later

This time last year, in the face of the pandemic, we began the transformation of every one of our services. In the months that followed, our staff worked tirelessly to reconfigure our programs, plans, and approach nearly every single day. We knew what we were called to do and we did it.

Through each challenge, resilient staff, dedicated volunteers, generous supporters, and community partners worked together. We created solutions by launching new programs, growing our staff, and serving over 3,500 people - more individuals than in any previous year - through our eviction prevention, shelter, and housing services. We invested over \$5,000,000 into the local economy through hotel operations, staff wages, rent to area landlords, and restaurant partnerships.

Remarkably, we had fewer than 10 known cases of COVID among participants, staff, and volunteers. It's always been true, but now more than ever, we know that our work is truly lifesaving.

Today, we look forward with hope and a new understanding of what's possible when every member of the community comes together as a force for good. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to end homelessness, one person at a time.

Betty A. Bogg  
*Executive Director*



### Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for volunteers to help in the clothing room at Chicago Ave. Get involved and sign up [here](#) today!



### Currently accepting donations of:

TRAVEL-SIZED  
TOILETRIES  
LOTION  
SNACK FOOD  
MEN'S BOOTS &  
SNEAKERS SIZE 9 & UP

### Drop-off at:

2121 Dewey Ave.  
M-F 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
or 1458 Chicago Ave.  
M-F 3 - 5 p.m.



# 2020 IMPACT

Ending homelessness, one person at a time.



## > EVICTION PREVENTION

**1,207 PARTICIPANTS**  
PREVENTED FROM LOSING  
THEIR HOMES

INCREASE  
FROM  
**409**  
IN 2019 ↑



## > SHELTER

**328 PARTICIPANTS**  
SHELTERED AT HILDA'S PLACE,  
EMERGENCY SHELTER, AND HOTELS

INCREASE  
FROM  
**44**  
IN 2019 ↑

**1,395 PARTICIPANTS**  
RECEIVED 35,405 SERVICES INCLUDING  
FOOD PANTRY, SHOWERS, LAUNDRY,  
AND CLOTHING AT DROP-IN



## > HOUSING

**473 PARTICIPANTS**  
HELPED TO MAINTAIN OR  
OBTAIN HOUSING

INCREASE  
FROM  
**327**  
IN 2019 ↑

## OUR IMPACT

Connections experienced significant growth in 2020 across all programs! We had an increase in every program with 1,207 individuals served through eviction prevention, 328 sheltered at Hilda's Place, the emergency shelter, and at hotels, and 473 individuals helped to maintain or secure housing. We are proud to work toward meeting the needs of the community together with your support. Learn more about our 2020 impact and growth by visiting [connect2home.org/impact](https://connect2home.org/impact).



## Shop to Donate

Shop our [Feels Like Home Amazon Wish List](#) to help furnish participants' new homes!

**DONATE**

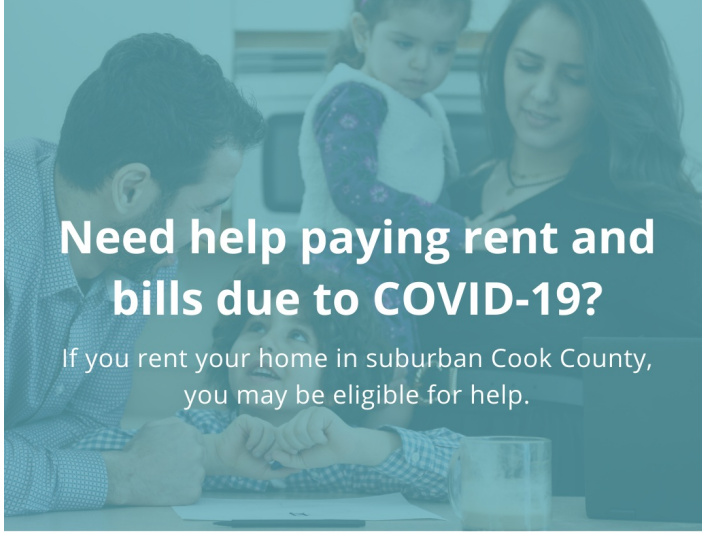


## Watch Our COVID-Response Video

Watch the newest [COVID-response video](#) we debuted at THRIVE last month! Hear from participants, staff, volunteers, local business leaders, and community partners about how we all came together to serve vulnerable neighbors amid the pandemic.



**JOIN US next**



## Need help paying rent and bills due to COVID-19?

If you rent your home in suburban Cook County, you may be eligible for help.



Toni Preckwinkle  
Cook County Board President

### EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

In partnership with Cook County's Emergency Rental Assistance program, we are able to expand our eviction prevention work to serve more neighbors in need of support.

Suburban Cook County renters impacted by COVID-19 may qualify for rental assistance. If you or someone you know needs help paying rent and bills, you can learn about eligibility and **apply** by clicking the button below. Connections is providing application assistance at 2121 Dewey Ave. between 9:30am – 2:30pm Monday-Friday. To learn about alternative rental assistance resources and services available, you can contact the Suburban Cook County Call Center at 877-426-6515.

**APPLY NOW**



**Wednesday!**

Connections is excited to co-sponsor a discussion next Wednesday at 7pm between Sherry Turkle, Ph.D. and Rabbi Wendi Geffen on empathy and connection.

[Register here](#)



**We're Hiring!**

Connections is currently hiring! Visit our website at [connect2home.org/careers](https://connect2home.org/careers) to learn more.

**NEED HELP?**

**Join Us**

Join us in serving more participants like Carlos and **make a gift** today.

**DONATE**

## MEET ABIGAIL

This month we are spotlighting Abigail Ayala Soberanis, a Housing Case Manager! Abigail joined the Connections team in August 2020.

In her role, she conducts home visits with participants, links families to resources, and assists with benefits. She believes, *"Everyone should have the right to their own space, comfort and privacy."* She enjoys that every day is different and the work keeps her on her toes! A recent highlight was celebrating the successes of two families she helped move into their own single family units.

We're so happy Abigail is part of the team!

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Ending homelessness, one person at a time.

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

