Ending homelessness, one person at a time.
Connections operates through the following Core Values to guide our interaction amongst participants, colleagues, and our community:

EQUITY + INCLUSION  COMMUNITY  TRANSPARENCY

GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT  RESILIENCE

To learn more about our Core Values visit connect2home.org/values.
It’s time for Connections to scale up.

Last year, we served more than 1,500 people through our Eviction Prevention, Shelter, and Housing programs. More people are coming through our doors than ever before – 33% more than last year. We’re scaling up so we can be there for each person in our community experiencing homelessness, creating a community that’s better for all of us.

With your support, we invest more in our programs to ensure everyone has a safe place to call home.

**Last year:**

- 89% of the people we partnered with to prevent their eviction have maintained housing 3 months later;
- With partners across Illinois, we successfully advocated for a $4M increase in statewide homelessness prevention funds;
- 64% of the men exiting our shelter went to permanent housing; and,
- 92% of the people in our housing programs have maintained stable housing for more than one year.

Our work is making a difference, but we know there is much more to be done.

We are ready to collaborate in new and innovative ways to make more progress toward ending homelessness in northern Cook County. With your steadfast support and partnership, we’re thinking boldly and preparing to take big steps in the coming year to achieve our vision.

With Connections leading the way, we can make homelessness in northern Cook County brief, rare, and non-recurring - a temporary setback with a clear path out and through.

As always, I remain grateful for your support and commitment to help us end homelessness, one person at a time.

Betty A. Bogg
Executive Director
Our Growth

Our programming continues to expand to support those we serve.

- **425%** growth in services provided at Drop-In
- **15%** more people provided with healthcare services
- **13%** more families obtaining or maintaining stable housing

We served **33%** more people compared to the prior year.

We grew our annual operating budget by **15%** year over year.

Our Impact

With your committed support, we can take steps to ensure everyone in our community has a place to call home.

- **144 families** prevented from losing their homes
- **276 individuals** helped to obtain or maintain stable housing
- **6,256 nights** of shelter provided at Hilda’s Place

- **35,766 basic human services** provided at Drop-In
  - Showers
  - Laundry
  - Food Pantry

- **318 people** received 2,580 healthcare & wellness services
  - Preventative Care
  - Urgent Care & Referrals
  - Mental Health Counseling
  - Psychiatric Care
1,503 Individuals Helped

1,193 ADULTS
310 CHILDREN

47% FEMALE
53% MALE

37% HAVE A MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY*

317 CHRONICALLY HOMELESS* INDIVIDUALS

* 1 in 5 (43.8 million) adults have a mental illness in a given year according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

* Chronic homelessness is used to describe people who have experienced homelessness for at least a year—or 4 different occasions totaling 12 months—while experiencing a disabling condition according to HUD.

49 CHICAGOLAND COMMUNITIES SERVED

Connections serves and catalyzes our community to end homelessness, one person at a time.
The most efficient way we end homelessness is to prevent it from happening in the first place. We provide financial support to cover rent, mortgage, and utility bills to support people at risk of homelessness.

“I lost my job. I had some savings, was paying my mortgage, taking care of my disabled brother... but then I didn’t have any more money. I kept running into brick walls – doors were just closing.

Someone gave me Connections’ number. I called and, to my surprise, Donielle said, ‘We can help you with prevention funding.’

I’m just so grateful for Connections. I really can’t imagine what would have happened if we’d become homeless...my brother has no one but me.”

— Henrietta, a former participant in our eviction prevention program
Shelter + Drop-In

Our overnight shelter and drop-in center meet people where they are physically and emotionally and support them in moving forward.

By consistently providing resources and services, we take steps toward establishing relationships and trust with drop-in participants as they work toward housing solutions.

“They never turned their backs on me even though my pride wouldn’t allow me to ask for help. I just want to thank you all for helping me. Pride deprives and you never know what you can accomplish just by asking {for help}.”

— Mike, former Drop In/Outreach participant; now housed!
Advocacy

Addressing the root causes of homelessness is a critical part of our work to fulfill our mission and achieve our vision.

We’re amplifying the conversation about the need for affordable housing and solutions to address the crisis through our leadership of the Joining Forces for Affordable Housing coalition. We are also actively engaged in catalyzing systemic change to create more equitable communities.

In February, with partners across the state, we successfully advocated for a $4 million increase in statewide homelessness prevention funds. We are actively engaged in the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County with staff leading several committees in fiscal year 2020 including Advocacy, Coordinated Entry, and Prevention.
Ending homelessness requires a safe, stable home.

We do this by operating a range of housing programs that are designed to meet the diverse needs of the people we serve. We provide temporary and permanent housing subsidies and robust case management services to individuals, families, and young adults ages 18 to 24.

“While living in a temporary women’s shelter with her children, Patricia sought help to leave the stressful situation. With Connections’ assistance, Patricia moved into her own permanent home and gained access to other supports for herself and her kids, including tutoring and daycare programs.

Today, the family lives in a two-story flat, and Patricia works as a certified nursing assistant. She also helps build the community that raised her up and rallies support for affordable housing in Evanston.

“I love [the Connections team], it’s always felt like a family. At first, I wasn’t so sure, but now I know I can go to them with anything.”

— Patricia, a participant in our housing programs along with her children.
**Financial Summary**

**FY 2019 Expenses**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mgmt &amp; Admin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Total Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Prevention + Rapid Rehousing Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Shelter, Drop In, + Outreach Programs</td>
<td>1,132,975</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Housing Programs</td>
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**FY 2019 Revenue**

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$4,793,520</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Public</td>
<td>2,392,768</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Private</td>
<td>2,312,965</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Other Income</td>
<td>87,787</td>
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Our Board

Board of Directors
as of Fiscal Year 2019

James Pepa
President
Office Heads Inc.

Paul Kalil
Vice President
American Heart Association

Karen Hunt
Treasurer
First Bank & Trust

Sheryl Bartol
Secretary
Community Volunteer

David Greer
Member at Large
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*Visit connect2home.org to view the current Board of Directors roster.

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Connections for the Homeless :: Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Impact Report
Thank You to Our Donors

With the generous support of our community, we partner with the people we serve to become and remain stable. We are deeply grateful for the many ways the community invests in our mission. The following list recognizes donors who made a total contribution of $1,000 or greater in Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019).

*Every effort is made to list donors accurately. We apologize for errors or omissions.*

$10,000 and above

*Phillips Society*

Members of the Phillips Society are individual donors who provide annual support of $10,000 or greater that take us beyond sustaining our work and enable us to extend our impact.

Anonymous (4)  
Lisa Altenbernd and Steve Hagerty  
Susan Anderson and Bob Arthur  
Ann and Brian Balusek  
Sheryl and Stopher Bartol  
Suzanne and Bobby Calder  
Kristin and Martin Cless  
Elizabeth and Kent Dauten  
Elizabeth and Arthur Duquette  
Gaillee and Neil Fitzpatrick  
Jill and David Greer  
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Kim Yee and Eric Haab

*Foundations & Corporate Donors at $10,000 and above*

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BMO Harris Bank  
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Conant Family Foundation  
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Ulta Inc.
Rebecca Wheeler and Craig Lewandowski
Frances and John Wiechart

$1,000 - $4,999

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AMS Mechanical Systems, Inc.
Anning-Johnson
Anonymous (2)
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Suzanne and John Armstrong
Arnett Law Group, LLC
Ascher Brothers
Brenda and John Avioli
Annette Batista and Michael Chip
Beacon Academy
Peter Belytschko
Suzanne and James Blomberg
Blue Sky Investment Partners, Inc.
Betty Bogg and Robert Lee
Maureen Bolon and Lincoln Lauhon
Mae Breaker
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Jaimie Brunet and James Pepa
Birch and Galen Burghardt
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Kelly and David Cater
Charitable Adult Rides & Services, Inc
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Chicago Platform Tennis Tournament
Theresa and Bill Chip
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Clothes for Charity Inc.
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Ann and Jon Cohn
Jen and Ron Cortina
Ana and Brad Couri
Bridget Cowlin
Jim Cruger
Nancy Cunniff and Alan Zunamon
Cushman & Wakefield
Lucinda Daniels
Thank You to Our Volunteers

We are thankful for the commitment of our more than 2,000 volunteers who help advance our mission every day. The following list recognizes volunteers who served 50+ hours in Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019).

Janet Alexander
Kathryn Bauer
Joshua Becker
Tiffany Bell
Mary Kay Bottorff Margie Boyd
Richard "Dickie" Byrne
Suzanne Calder
David Cater
Kelly Cater
Sheil Catholic Center and Tim Higgins
Jon Cohn
Kathie Cunningham
Gail Doeff
Maren Dougherty
Mikala Dunn
Heike Eghardt
Judy and Todd Steele
Lawrence Suffredin, Jr.
Colleen and Bob Szarek
Caroline Szczepanski and Seth Jacobson
LaDonna Taylor
Elizabeth Tisdael
Titan Electric, LLC
Lauren and Juan Torres
Trinity Lutheran Church
Abbey and Paul Turilli
Jill and Jay Twery
Ventana
Dilnaz and Qaiser Waraich
Sharon and John Watrous
Trinda Weaver
Valerie and Robert Weiss
Catherine Whitcomb and Jack Hinz
Kathryn and Jeffery Whittemore
Whole Foods
Amanda Williamson
Margaret and Dennis Wilson
The Woman’s Club of Evanston
Sarah and Scott Zematis
Holly and Lee Zimmerman

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