# FY21 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT





**Connections** operates through the following **CORE VALUES** to guide our interaction amongst participants, colleagues, and our community:



To learn more about our **Core Values** visit connect2home.org/values.

# LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In the last year, the agency has undergone a profound transformation, from both a size-of-budget and impact basis. At the end of FY2019, both revenue and expenses hovered near \$4.8M and we adopted a budget of \$5.4M for FY2020, in accordance with our planned growth strategy of 10-25% per year. In FY2021 our revenue and expenses rose to \$13M. over 200% increase from the year before.

#### Last year we:

- Served 4,055 people, including 923 children
- Prevented homelessness for 1,713 people, three times as many in 2020
- Served 1,337 people at our drop-in shelter
- Provided shelter for 323 people, including 69 children
- Connected 444 people to permanent housing with more moving every week

Moving into FY2022 we will continue to pursue record-breaking revenue numbers and continue to provide innovative programming to support our participants, including our hotel sheltering program and an aftercare program. With your support and partnership, we will continue to make bold moves in our mission to end homelessness one person at a time.

Thank you for standing with us in our vision.

In gratitude,

Betty A. Bogg Executive Director

# Our Impact + Growth

July 2020-June 2021

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

**4,055 PEOPLE** 



3,132 Adults

923 Children

50% Male-Identifying

46% Female-Identifying

342 Chronically Homeless

22% Have Disabling Condition

Chronic homelessness is used to describe a person with a disabling condition who has experienced homelessness for at least 12 months or 4 different occasions totaling 12 months in 3 years.

542

#### **FAMILIES**



Prevented homelessness for 120% more households

84

#### **EMPLOYEES**



Our team grew by 22%

29,643

# NIGHTS OF SHELTER



Provided 354% more nights of shelter

444

#### **INDIVIDUALS**



Helped to obtain or maintain stable housing

**\$13.8** MILLION

2,374

#### **HEALTH SERVICES**



Annual operating budget grew by 96%



Given to 297 people



**Connections** serves and catalyzes our community to end homelessness, one person at a time.



"Having your own place is amazing. There's no place like home."

- DONNA

# **Eviction Prevention**

Requests for this kind of support have sky-rocketed. We have tripled our eviction prevention team and hired a community organizer. Together, they are working with local, regional, and statewide partners to secure more resources for our eviction and foreclosure prevention work. Stop-ping homelessness before it starts is our most cost efficient and effective method to end homelessness.

# Shelter & Drop-in

Without a stable home, simple daily tasks like tending to personal hygiene, getting to appointments and work, and safely storing personal belongings are impossible. Experiencing homelessness means simultane-ously experiencing daily trauma. Our drop-in centers help people living on the street access the most basic resources to meet their needs, heal, and rebuild their lives. Monday through Friday we operate two daily drop-in centers that serve 1,300 people each year. People can access showers, laundry, food pantries, clothing, lunches, storage, computers and phones, case management support, physical and behavioral medical care, and connections to housing and financial benefits. Our drop-in centers are supported by a team of staff and volunteers who build trust and healing relationships with the people we serve to support them on their journey out of homelessness.

Our new shelter operations via partnerships with local hotels have trans-formed how we shelter people experiencing homelessness with dignity, safety, and increased effectiveness. We are looking to sustain this model and are developing plans to acquire a fixed-site property to serve as a permanent shelter. We know that this is a desperately needed resource in our region.

# Housing

In the past year, we doubled the number of households we support and now have 180 housing units rented from private landlords. We provide housing subsidies and wrap around case management to people as they transition and stabilize. Housing is how homelessness is ended, and we are developing plans and partnerships to continue to grow our housing programs.

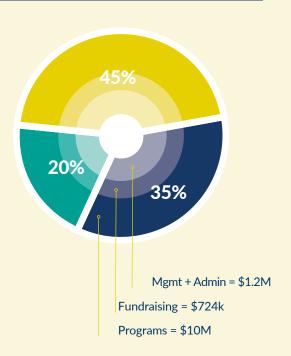
# **FY21 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

# FY 2021 Expenses

¢12 757 500

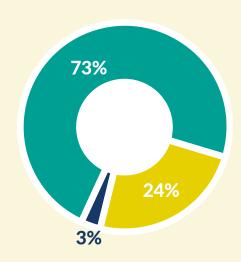
iotai	\$12,/5/,598
Mgmt & Admin	\$1,233,683
Fundraising	\$723,915
Total Programs	\$10,000,000
<ul><li>Prevention + Rapid Rehousing Programs</li></ul>	\$2,160,000
Shelter, Drop In, + Outreach Programs	\$3,780,000
Housing Programs	\$4,860,000

Total



### FY 2021 Revenue

Total	\$13,787,312
<ul><li>Public</li></ul>	\$10,117,560
<ul><li>Private</li></ul>	\$3,216,492
<ul> <li>Fundraising Events</li> </ul>	\$453,260





"I'm proud of myself.

I don't know where I'd be if it wasn't for Connections.

They'll help you."

- ANTHONY, RECENTLY HOUSED PARTICIPANT, FORMER HILDA'S PLACE RESIDENT



#### **Sheltered 309 individuals**

• 245 Adults, 64 Children



# Moved 89 individuals to stable housing and 192 individuals to maintain housing

• Over 150 individuals moved from hotels to housing



#### Served 937 individuals at drop-in

• 2,546 food pantry visits

"This place has helped me find a lot," he said. "How to recover, how to be restored." - Paul



"Connections gives me hope that everything will get right again." - Carl



"I don't know what I would do without the support of Connections." - Leslie



# **BOARD & EVENT COMMITTEES**

Our Board

As of Fiscal Year 2021

**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 Keystone Capital, Inc Betty A. Bogg

**Executive Director** 

Monté L. G. Dillard, Sr.

First Church of God Evanston

**Betsy Gutstein** 

**Evanston Township High School** 

Eric Haab

Foley & Lardner LLP

Vickie Horn

Magellan Corporation

**Kevin Kane** 

Paradigm Advisors

**Louise Keely** 

EY

John Parker

Northwestern University

**Elizabeth Phillips** 

Community Volunteer

Sarah Schmidt

Sarah Schmidt Consulting

Abigail Aziza Stone

Self-Employed

Mark Tendam

Self-Employed

Jeffery Whittemore Ulta Beauty, Inc.

 $\label{thm:connect2} \textit{Visit connect2home.org to view the current Board of Directors roster.}$ 



2121 Dewey Avenue Evanston, IL 60201 847.475.7070

connect2home.org