

Home

Help

Hope



Who we are:

Facing Forward empowers women and families to turn their backs to chronic homelessness and face forward in becoming confidently independent.





What we do:

- We **empower** women who have made a decision to change their lives.
- We provide permanent **housing**, giving our women the security of consistent safety.
- We give **hope** by partnering with our clients to create a personalized path from homelessness to self-sufficiency and we walk with our clients along that path until they get there.
- We **help** our clients along their path by surrounding them with the educational, employment, and healthcare (mental and physical) linkages and support they need to become confidently independent.
- We **end generational cycles of homelessness** by helping our clients transform our housing into their home, by reuniting them with their children, supporting their family as a whole and celebrating successes.

Why it matters:

We partner with homeless women in order to turn their lives around.

Shelters which provide temporary housing fail to provide the long-term security needed for stability and growth. Our clients don't just have a place to lay their heads at night, they have the security of their own homes. This enables them to make the transformations they need in order to become confidently independent.

We help break the cycle of homelessness for homeless children.

Homeless children in the shelter system experience inconsistencies in housing and support which often result in frequent school changes and low attendance rates, which prevent them from thriving in the classroom. The security and stability of permanent housing and the support provided by Facing Forward enables our children to focus on their education, grow, and construct progressive lives in order to end their own cycle of homelessness.

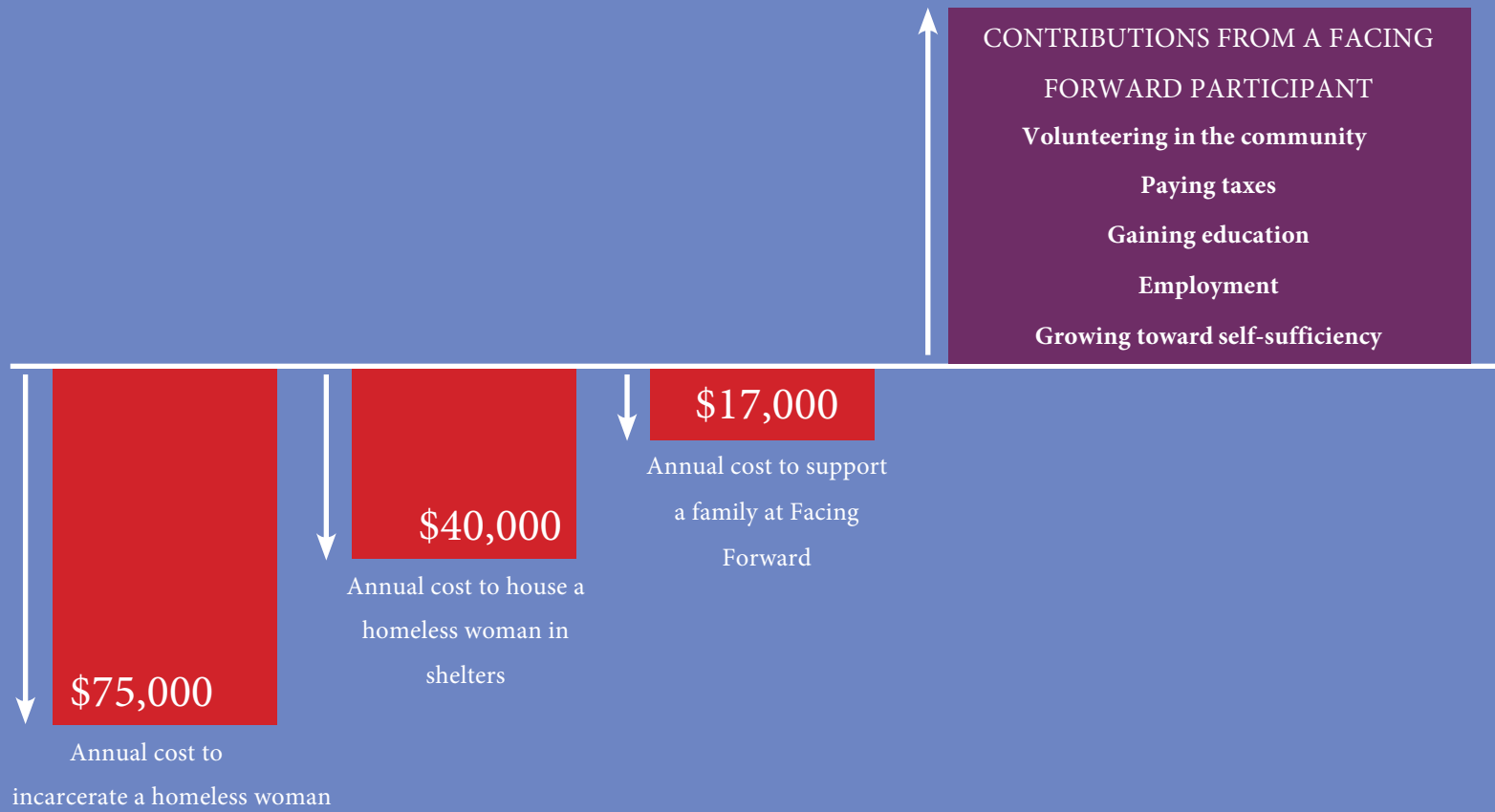
We help make a better world by making stronger communities.

Your generosity empowers community transformation by facilitating personal responsibility for self, family, and community and encouraging everyone to do what they can, when they can, where they can. We know that stronger women give our world stability and that nurtured children break the cycles of homelessness and feed humanity's need for innovation and change. With stronger moms, we have stronger homes, stronger children, and stronger communities. Everyone can help a neighbor and change the world.



Why it matters:

We contribute to a better world for every one of us.



2015 Success stories

“Why don’t you want to be my mother anymore?”

These words from Mary’s oldest son initiated the change in her life that would eventually lead her to Facing Forward. Mary had struggled for many years with her own and the burden of an abusive husband. After attempts and failures in managing her own change, Mary found herself needing partnership. She admitted herself to a treatment facility which transitioned her to a temporary shelter and eventually led her to Facing Forward.



Since partnering with Facing Forward, Mary has found much success in becoming the woman she is proud to be. She has strengthened relationships with her family and now sees her children as her strongest allies and she as theirs. After 35 years, Mary decided to return to school. She has renewed her cosmetology license and has started a program to obtain her license to teach cosmetology. Her oldest son, who once begged her to not stop being his mother, joined the navy and is now home. Her middle son manages a restaurant in Evanston, her youngest son is a chef in Northbrook, and her daughter received a basketball scholarship and is now majoring in psychology. *Together*, Mary and her family are facing forward.

Like Mother Like Daughter.

Wendy (pictured standing) came to Facing Forward in 2007 looking for an opportunity to turn her back to homelessness. She partnered with her case manager, Sarah, who helped her identify and address the root causes of her homelessness. In 2011, Wendy graduated with her high school diploma from the Michael Barlow Center, and created an atmosphere of learning for her family.



Wendy's decision to prioritize education was not lost on her daughter, Sparkle (pictured seated), who works hard to ensure her academics are in order. In the spring of 2015, Sparkle finished her sophomore year ranked 10th in her class! She, along with 38 other Facing Forward students, finished the term with all A's and B's! We are eager to see what the future will hold for Sparkle as she continues to focus on her education and her extra-curriculars.

The Crochet Queens at Facing Forward

This year, as a result of our partnership with Rush, Medical Student, Eileen Wang, organized a new group at Facing Forward designed to assist clients in coping with smoking cessation through crocheting. It wasn't long before clients began to experience the many benefits of crocheting including decreased stress levels, decreases in their smoking, and increased social skills as well as an increased sense of purpose. As the group continued to be popular amongst our clients, they began to identify themselves as The Crochet Queens at Facing Forward.



For Valerie (pictured to the right), being a Crochet Queen has provided her with a new skill and passion as well as a community of friends

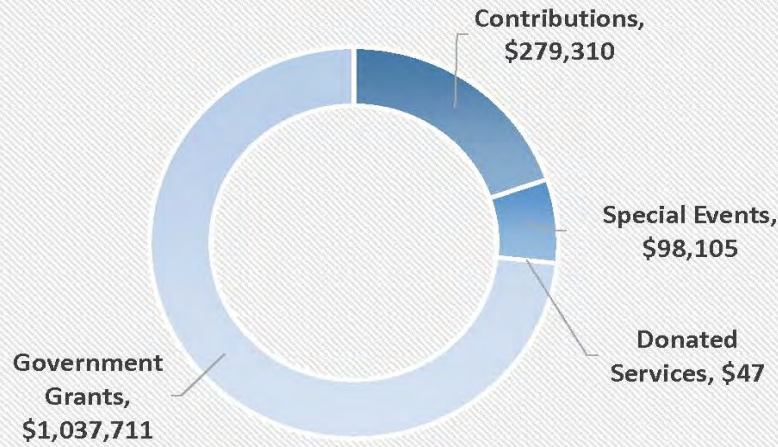


who encourage and support her. Since joining The Queens, Valerie says that she has reduced her smoking, has more patience, and is better able to cope with stress. For Valerie, crocheting has become a cornerstone for her health and sense of community.

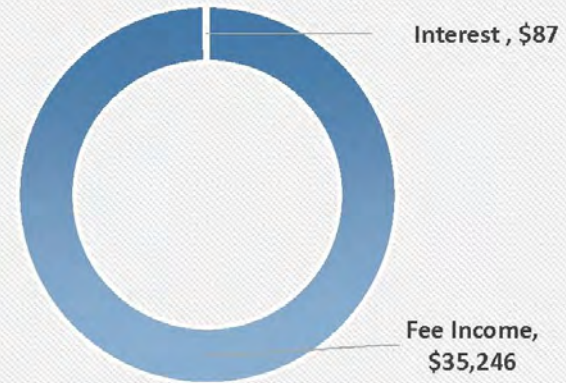
FY 2015 Financial Results:

Total Revenue- \$1,450,506

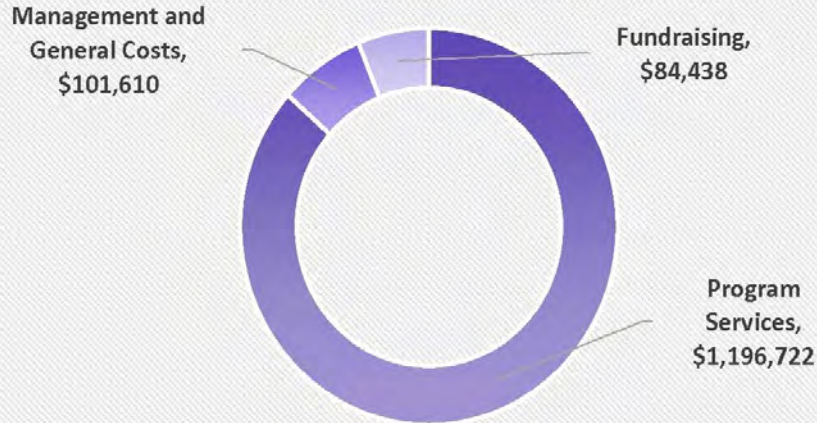
Revenue Public Support- \$1,415,173



Revenue Other- \$35,333



Expenses- \$1,382,770



Net Assets

Beginning of Fiscal Year	Total Assets
\$193,753	\$308,416
End of Fiscal Year	Total Liabilities
\$261,489	\$46,927
\$67,736	\$261,489

This information summarizes Facing Forward's financial activities for the period 7/1/14 – 6/30/15. Financial statements were audited by an independent accounting firm. Because the information does not include all the disclosures generally accepted by accounting principles, it is not intended to represent our financial condition. A copy of the audited financial statements will be provided upon request.

Looking forward to 2016

A message from the Executive Director

2015 marked a year of transition for Facing Forward and an essential element of any successful transition is an embodiment of mission and vision. As we embarked on this transition together, we embodied a forward facing lifestyle which is what empowers our clients to grow in self-sufficiency.

A forward facing lifestyle requires each one of us to do our own part, to be the hero of our own story but every hero needs a wise guide and a supporting cast. I would like to thank each one of you, heroes of your own story but also wise guides and supporting cast members, who are embodying the world we envision through your investment of time and resources. Together we have empowered chronically homeless women and families to become the heroes of their own story and grow in self-determination and self-sufficiency. I am honored to share this life and this mission with each of you, supporters, staff, board members, and clients.

Your generosity and partnership empowers our clients to be equipped with all they need to grow in self-determination and strive for self-sufficiency.

We are strongest when we walk together, as clients, supporters, and staff. Together we allow ourselves to move from survivors to achievers to contributors. Together we transform our community as we first transform ourselves and then support the transformation of more of Chicago's most vulnerable, chronically homeless women and families.

As we face forward together in 2016, we do so understanding that the work we do must engage our capacity to dream an ever bigger dream and certainly together we dream bigger and only together can we achieve those dreams.

Thank you for dreaming with us and walking with us in achieving those dreams. I look forward to continuing our journey together.

With Enduring Gratitude,



Rev. Douglas Bradshaw

Executive Director



“*Together we dream bigger.
And, only together, can we
achieve those dreams.*

”

Ways you can support us:

- Sponsor a family
- Join us at our summer board & resident picnic
- Join us at our annual 3H Social fundraiser in June
- Introduce us to the person who approves donations at your work
- Become a monthly contributor
- Participate in our Day in the Life homeless immersion experience
- Click on the icons below to follow, like & share us on social media
- Visit our website- www.ffchicago.org to learn more and support us!

Click here to support us!



Facing Forward fact sheet:

- 1985: Founded as “Interfaith Council for the Homeless”
- 1990's : Operated City-Wide Warming Centers for Chicago Department of Human Services
- 2003: Initiated Housing First with 63 single women and 6 families at Sanctuary Place

- 2014: Rev. Doug Bradshaw becomes Executive Director
- 2014: Added 3 families to our Shelter Graduates Program

- 2005: Bill Johnson becomes Executive Director
- 2008: ICH is awarded a contract to provide 29 scattered site Shelter Plus Care units and develops the Shelter Graduates program.

- 2015 Added 4 families and 1 individual to our Shelter Graduates Program
- Staff of 11 with 6 Case Managers and an Advanced Practice Nurse

- 2010: Interfaith Council for the Homeless changed its name to Facing Forward to End Homelessness
- 2013: FF is awarded a HUD grant to extend our services to 15 additional scattered site families

- Funding from Federal, State and City of Chicago grants, plus private giving.
- Now serves 64 single women and 54 families at our Sanctuary Place facility on the West Side and at scattered site locations throughout Chicago.

Donor List

\$499 and under

Allegretti, Tammy
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\$25,000+

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Facing Forward wishes to
acknowledge support from
the following government
agencies:

- City of Chicago Department of
Family & Support Services
- Illinois Department of Human
Services
- U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development

Additionally, we would like to
thank the following
organizations for in-kind
donations:

- Black Ensemble Theater
- First Eagle Bank
- Harlem Irving Plaza
- Panera Bread
- River Glen Church
- Wilmette Junior High School

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