

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021



## **OUR MISSION**

Facing Forward ends homelessness for families and individuals by offering hope, help, and housing.

Facing Forward provides permanent housing, education, advocacy, and social services.

#### WE BELIEVE IN DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Facing Forward is committed to empowering all individuals to envision a brighter future. We are always striving to ensure our approach is reflective of the unique paths which have led people to Facing Forward.

We are committed to fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment where each member of Facing Forward is empowered to be themselves, share ideas, and contribute to the mission and vision of the organization. We believe that we are stronger together.

We want to serve as a foundation and work in partnership with clients, staff, vendors, our board, and community partners. In unity, we can work to prevent and end homelessness for our clients; to partner with them on their journey toward stability, health, and self-sufficiency.

## **OUR APPROACH**

#### **HOUSING FIRST**

Housing First is an effective and long-term solution to chronic homelessness. It stems from the fact that individuals must have basic needs, such as food and shelter, met before they can address the root causes and intergenerational effects of chronic homelessness. When a home is paired with skilled and compassionate services, clients can face forward toward emerging dreams and possibilities.

#### HARM REDUCTION

We meet clients where they are. Rather than set up barriers to needed help, Harm Reduction pairs with Housing First to generate an environment set up for success. We help clients meet their individual goals, which are on a continuum. Change does not occur overnight. We celebrate and encourage every success, and reducing harm is our first and most essential goal.

#### TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Most individuals who have experienced homelessness have also experienced one or more types of trauma. Trauma affects how we see the world and how we interact with others. Our programs create a safe place for healing from trauma, where residents are supported in making their own choices and in regaining control of their lives.

#### STRENGTH-BASED PRACTICE

We do not ask, "what's wrong with this person?" Instead, we ask, "what has this person triumphantly survived?" We build service plans in collaboration with our clients to enhance their natural strengths, resources and preferences. All of our programs are client directed—we believe our clients are experts in their own lives.

#### **TWO-GENERATION MODEL**

We follow a whole-family approach to case management that addresses needs and creates opportunities for both children and adults. Through new parent, child, and youth focused services, we promote stability and growth for each individual we serve, in order to end generational cycles of homelessness.



## **PROGRAMS & IMPACT**

• **PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH)** - Facing Forward's longest-running program is a proven, evidence-based model for ending homelessness. We serve our neighbors with a history of chronic homelessness and disabling conditions, pairing them with comprehensive case management services and stable housing with no pre-determined end date. We partner with clients to help them build stability, establish goals, and grow in self-sufficiency and agency.

Our PSH program served 695 individuals, 295 of which were children.

• **HOUSING NAVIGATION** - Facing Forward provides short-term case management services to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness access appropriate permanent housing opportunities. We provide guidance and support through the entire housing process, including obtaining documents, attending appointments, and reviewing lease agreements.

Our Housing Navigation program served 156 individuals.

• **HOUSING LOCATION** - In partnership with local domestic violence agencies, Facing Forward quickly identifies and connects survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking with safe, stable housing to prevent or end experiences of homelessness and promote healing.

Our Housing Location program served 22 individuals.

## **PROGRAMS & IMPACT**

• **SKILLED ASSESSMENT** - In partnership with local shelters, Facing Forward meets individuals where they are and conducts one-time assessments focused on housing needs and vulnerability. We help clients enter Chicago's housing services waitlist and connect them to critical resources through referrals to service providers in the community.

Our Skilled Assessors completed 425 housing assessments in English and Spanish.

• **NEW - HOME CONNECTION -** Partnering with Chicago Public Schools, Facing Forward provides housing-focused case management to help students and their families who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Our Family Empowerment Team provides additional, targeted services to promote healthy development and academic success for children and youth in each household.

Our Home Connection program served 163 individuals.

• **NEW - FIRST FOUNDATIONS -** This rapid re-housing program serves families with expectant mothers and children under 3 who are experiencing housing instability. By providing rental assistance and supportive services, we prevent homelessness and improve health and life outcomes for the whole family.

Will serve an estimated 90 individuals over 4 years.

Facing Forward is proud to have **served an additional 316 individuals** through All Chicago's Expedited Housing Initiative, a collaborative effort to reduce barriers and quickly house people who have been affected by COVID-19.

## STORIES OF HOPE

Shanika experienced homelessness for nearly three years before connecting with Facing Forward in 2016. Since moving into a place of her own, Shanika has learned how to set boundaries, develop healthy coping strategies for grief and depression, and—most importantly—love herself.

Shanika recently secured a new, full-time employment opportunity, enrolled in G.E.D. classes, and is setting her sights on life beyond Facing Forward by applying for independent housing.

One day, Shanika hopes to become an advocate and inspire others to find their motivation by sharing her story and her new outlook on life.

"Even though I didn't have any belongings of my own at first, I felt so thankful to have a roof over my head. It gave me the opportunity to push forward with things, a second chance."



Shanika

**Timishio** was 7 months pregnant and experiencing homelessness when she first connected with Facing Forward. Since becoming stably housed, she has dedicated herself to forging a better life for her family.

Timishio has made strides in continuing her education, proudly earning her G.E.D., as well as multiple certifications in the medical field.

During her time at Facing Forward, Timishio was also able to navigate the courts and gain guardianship of her mother who has a physical disability.

Timishio is grateful that her mother's health has shown improvement under her care.

"Facing Forward has helped me and encouraged me to do better. As soon as I felt like I had somebody on my side, everything started to fall into place. I was able to make sure my children could grow up without ever being homeless."



Timishio



# ENDING HOMELESSNESS IS SMART POLICY

In addition to ending cycles of homelessness, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) saves taxpayers millions of dollars each year by reducing frequency of use and costs associated with emergency rooms, hospitalizations, jails, and shelters.

Facing Forward's PSH program saved taxpayers over \$8 million last year by connecting nearly 700 people to long-term housing and reducing the use of these publicly funded services. <sup>1</sup>

1. Cost savings calculated using United States Interagency Council on Homelessness' estimate of \$36,000 total annual costs per person for someone who is experiencing chronic homelessness, compared w/estimated \$12,000+ in savings for someone in our PSH program. \$12,000 x 695 clients = \$8,340,000 saved annually.

## **2021 OUTCOME HIGHLIGHTS**



#### 1,773 LIVES CHANGED

**1,461** clients served across Facing Forward's programs and **312** served through All Chicago's Expedited Housing Initiative in response to COVID-19.



#### **INDIVIDUALS HOUSED**

**400 adults + 295 children** served through Permanent Supportive Housing **80%** of clients who exited PSH moved on to other permanent housing



#### **HEALTH IMPROVEMENT**

90% of PSH households were connected to a primary healthcare provider 81% of PSH households received preventative care



#### **INCREASED SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

79% of PSH households maintained or increased their household income 87% of PSH households demonstrated increased life skills/self-sufficiency



#### **YOUTH SUPPORT**

50% of 3- and 4-year-olds in PSH were enrolled in preschool 88% of high school seniors in PSH graduated



#### **COVID-19 EFFORTS**

We provided increased rental and utility assistance, PPE, food, e-learning, and sanitation supplies to meet the growing need in our community.



## A HISTORY OF FACING FORWARD

Interfaith Council for the Homeless (ICH) is founded to work collaboratively within faith-based communities to create an emergency shelter and warming center network

ICH becomes a **Housing**First provider, serving 69
households at **Sanctuary**Place and 29 in scattered sites
across Chicago

Facing Forward

doubles in size, growing

to 245 Permanent Supportive

Housing households and

22 full-time staff to serve

over 500 individuals

Facing Forward adopts a **Two Generation** case management model, assembling a specialized **Family Empowerment Team** to provide targeted services for parents, children, and youth

Facing Forward launches

Home Connection in
partnership with Chicago
Public Schools, and First

Foundations for families with
new and expectant parents

1984

2003

2016

2019

2021

1998

ICH establishes a new program to provide case management and mental health services to clients in emergency shelters

2010

Interfaith Council for the
Homeless changes its name to
Facing Forward to
End Homelessness

2017

Facing Forward begins
providing Housing Navigation
services for Chicago families
experiencing homelessness

2020

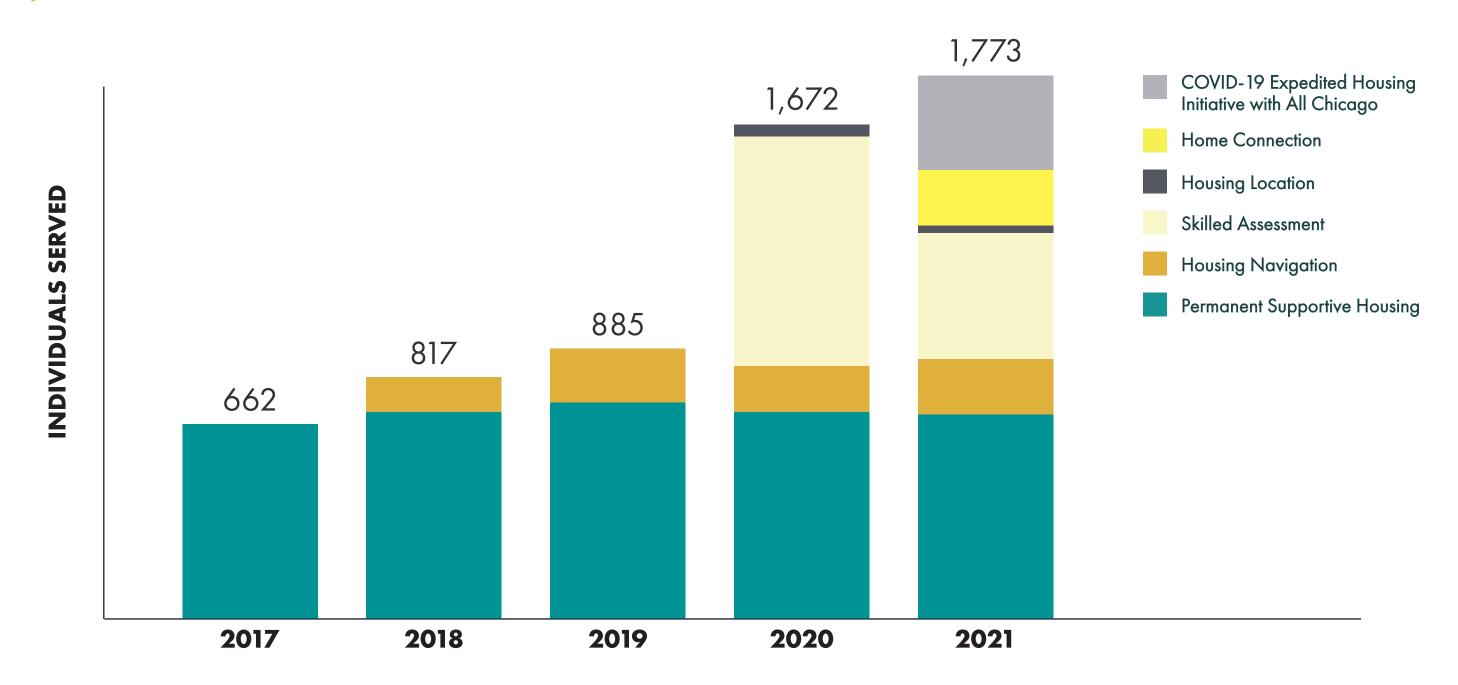
Facing Forward launches

Housing Location support for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, and

Skilled Assessment services in partnership with local shelters

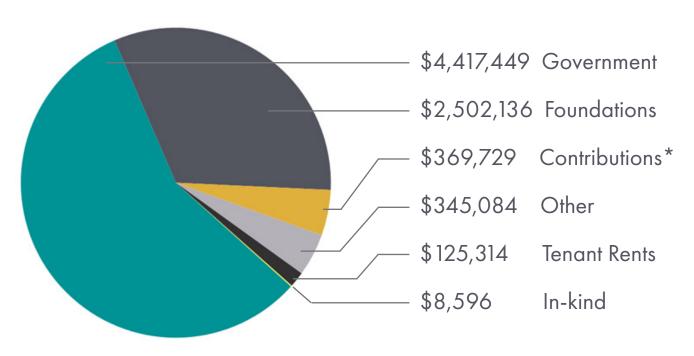
## **OUR GROWTH**

1,773 individuals served in 2021



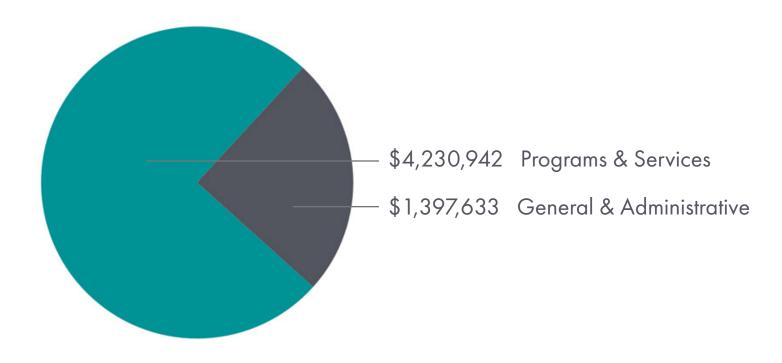
## **2021 FINANCIALS**

**REVENUE: \$7,768,308** 



<sup>\*</sup>Individual, Corporate, Faith-based

**EXPENSES:** \$5,268,575



#### **NET ASSETS**

Total Assets: \$ 3,177,733

Total Liabilities: \$ 129,801

Total Net Assets: \$ 3,047,932

This information summarizes Facing Forward's financial activities for the period between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. The data was extracted from the organization's financial statements as of the period ending June 30, 2021, which were audited by an independent accounting firm. Because the information does not include all of the disclosures as required by generally accepted accounting principles, it is not intended to represent our financial condition or our operational results. A copy of the audited financial statements will be provided upon request.

## **LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022**





Dear Friends,

Perseverance – among the many things that this powerful word brings to mind is the strength and encouragement we find from others when our situation calls for it. This past year saw our hopes for the end of the pandemic shift to a deeper commitment to persevere through its continued disruption and weariness. Amidst new challenges such as reduced in-person client interaction, remote learning for families without adequate technology, and higher risks of illness for our team and community, it was your encouragement that helped us continue to face forward.

Your support not only enabled us to maintain our programs, but with your help, we served more neighbors than ever before and launched two new programs building upon our Two Generation approach to ending homelessness:

In our new Home Connection program, we partner with Chicago Public Schools to provide families with housing services, connections to healthcare, and other resources to meet basic needs. We also provide targeted support for children to promote healthy development and academic success.

Our **First Foundations** rapid re-housing pilot program serves families experiencing homelessness with a pregnant family member or children under three. We know that homelessness is trauma-inducing, with particularly negative and lasting effects on young children. By addressing the specific needs of both adults and children together,

we can help families overcome homelessness for long-term and generational success.

Thank you to all our partners: friends, volunteers, board members, donors, partner agencies, foundations, community groups, faith communities, small businesses, corporations, and public partners. We hope that as you reviewed the highlights of the past year in this report, you recognized your crucial part in these advancements and took heart in the role you have had in empowering families and individuals to end their experiences of homelessness forever.

As we look to the future, we are uplifted by the perseverance of our community and clients despite the adversity we see each day. We remain committed to supporting our neighbors in transforming their lives and helping them on their paths to self-sufficiency and recovered agency. On behalf of Facing Forward's board, staff, and clients, please accept our deepest gratitude for your support of this vital mission.

With our sincere appreciation,

Rev. Doug W. Bradshaw Executive Director Julie Hamilton Board Chair

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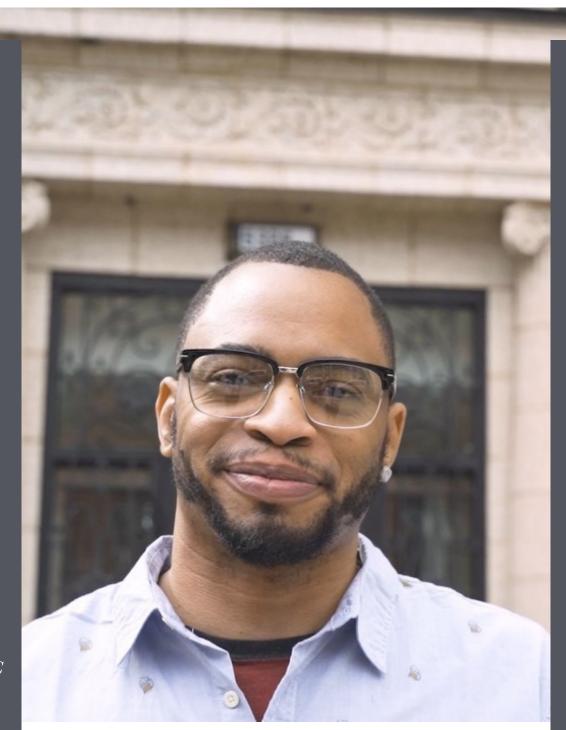
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In-Kind Donations of School Supplies, Toys, Hygiene Items and Housewarming Baskets

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- @facingforwardchicago
- Facing Forward to End Homelessness

### THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We truly appreciate the generosity of our corporate, faith-based, foundation, government, individual and in-kind partners. You've helped end the cycle of homelessness for nearly 1,800 children and adults in FY 2021 (July 1, 2020 — June 30, 2021).

#### Corporate

Anonymous (4)

+Intention, LLC

Acura Inc.

**ADP** 

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#### Faith-based

First Presbyterian Church of Evanston

Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago

Galena United Methodist Church

Glencoe Union Church

Our Savior's United Methodist Church

Presbyterian Church of Western Springs

River Glen Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park

Wheaton Franciscan Sisters

Yorkfield Presbyterian Church, Elmhurst

#### **Foundation**

Anonymous (3)

The AMD Family Fund

Beds for Kids Fund

The Chicago Community Trust

Children First Fund

Conant Family Foundation

The Crown Family

Cuore e Mani Foundation

Day 1 Families Fund

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

Helen & Curtis Pinnell Foundation

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Impact Grants Chicago

Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation

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MacArthur Foundation Matching Gift Program

Michael Reese Health Trust

Northern Trust Foundation

The Owens Foundation

The Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund

Pierce Family Foundation

Polk Bros. Foundation

The Reva & David Logan Foundation

United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

Utopia Connect Foundation

#### **Government**

Illinois Department of Human Services Illinois Department of Public Health

U.S. Dept of Housing & Urban Development

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Ancona School's Girls on the Run Program

Sandretta Barber Stephanie Barger

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Nishant Jain Cassandra Jones

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Molly Montanaro

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Bryan Payson

Presbytery of Chicago

Public Consulting Group

Scraps on a Mission

Tinisha Stalling

Stickney-Forest View Lions Club

Merly Thomas Maria Uhler

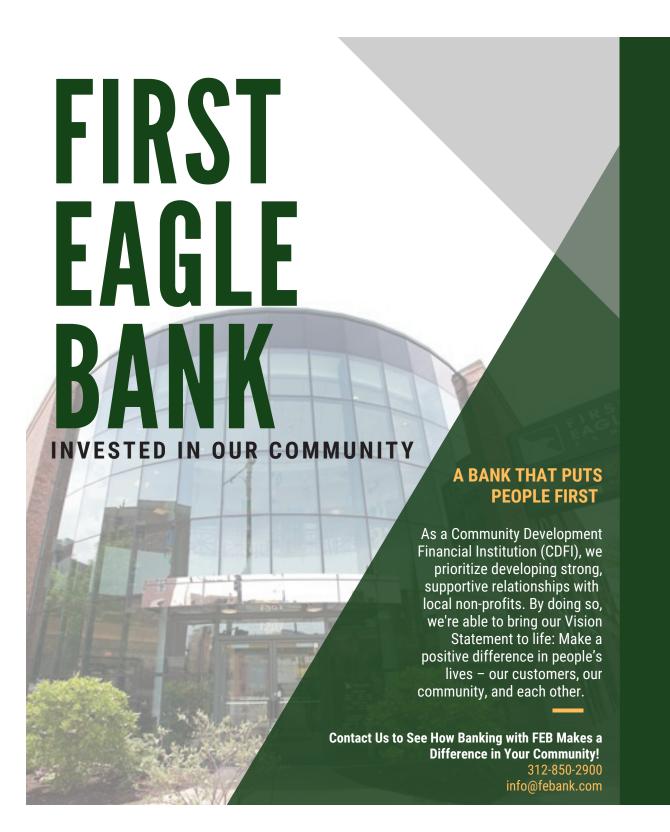
Ulmer & Berne LLP

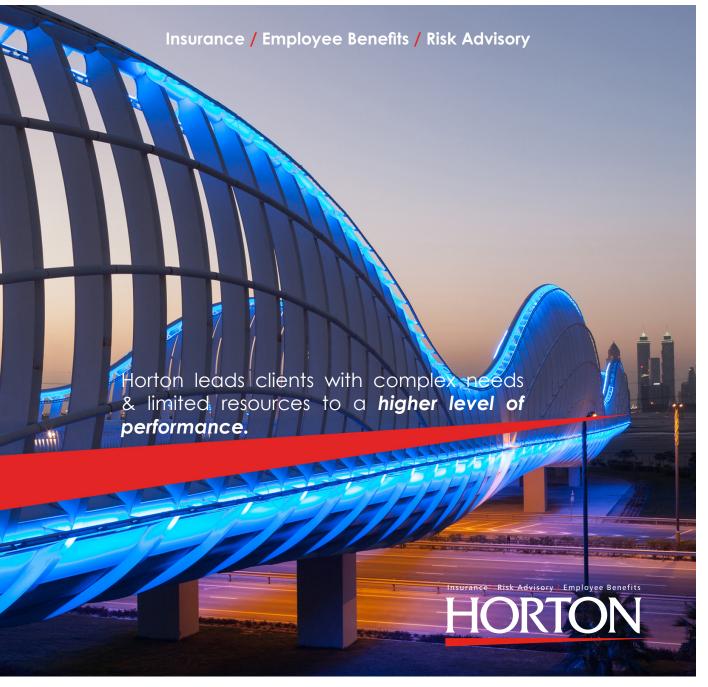
Teagan Wolter

Maryann Wou

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## ENVISIONING BETTER

WITH FACING FORWARD TO END HOMELESSNESS



HMB understands the drive to be better. A better experience is what we work to deliver in every matter, every relationship and all that we do.

We're proud to support Facing Forward's vision for a better future and their commitment to empowering individuals through housing and social services.

www.HMBLAW.com





#### 130 years of enriching communities.

Northern Trust is proud to support Facing Forward to End Homelessness. For more than 130 years, we've been meeting our clients' financial needs while nurturing a culture of caring and a commitment to invest in the communities we serve. It's all part of being a good neighbor.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

#### Lindsay Durr

Senior Vice President & National CRA Practice Lead 50 South LaSalle, Chicago, IL 60603 Id58@ntrs.com: 312-444-2325



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