

A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a white shirt, smiling as she interacts with two young children. The children, a boy and a girl, are sitting at a white table and playing with a tray of colorful geometric toys. The woman is leaning over the table, looking down at the toys. The boy is on the left, and the girl is on the right. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting.

# Facing Forward

to end homelessness

## **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

**JULY 1, 2022 –  
JUNE 30, 2023**

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## Dear Friends,

This past year, our journey has been a testament to the remarkable potential of collective action. Through the collaborative initiatives outlined in the following pages, we have touched the lives of nearly 3,000 individuals affected by homelessness, showing what is possible when we come together with purpose.

Ending the cycle of homelessness for future generations demands a commitment to community-driven innovation. In this spirit, over the past year, Facing Forward came together with fellow service providers from across the city to explore sustainable paths for higher wages for direct service workers. In partnership with All Chicago, we expanded upon our collaboration with Chicago Public Schools, offering an entire year of rental support for nearly 100 families through the Home Connection program. Working alongside local shelters, we also supported new arrivals in our city on their paths toward stable housing through bilingual Skilled Assessment services.

## We know that our community is greater than the sum of its parts.

As a vibrant ecosystem of shared talents, resources, dreams, and aspirations, it is our duty to continue working together to end homelessness and foster robust support systems in our neighborhoods. So, to our friends,

volunteers, board members, donors, partner agencies, foundations, community groups, faith communities, small businesses, corporations, and public partners—thank you for your unwavering dedication and support on this journey of ensuring a safe and stable home for everyone.

As we forge ahead in our mission to end homelessness, let us celebrate the collective efforts that strengthen our community and uplift our neighbors to reach their fullest potential. Together, we are building the future we all know is possible—one where everyone has a place to call home and a chance to thrive.

With enduring gratitude,



*Douglas W. Bradshaw*

**Rev. Douglas W. Bradshaw**  
Executive Director



*Bryce Bach*

**Bryce Bach**  
Board Chair

## 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 a research-proven solution for ending homelessness. It stems from the fact that individuals must have basic needs, such as food and shelter, met before they can build stability in other areas of their lives. By prioritizing housing as the first step in our client journey, we establish a solid foundation for individuals to overcome challenges and take full advantage of the wraparound supports we offer.



### HARM REDUCTION

Harm Reduction is a compassionate approach to minimizing the negative impact of high-risk behaviors such as substance use. We “meet clients where they are” by building trust and creating an environment free from judgment or preconditions for support. We know that change takes time, so we celebrate and encourage every success, big and small. Reducing harm is our first and most essential goal.



### TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Traumatic experiences are frequently both a cause and consequence of homelessness. These experiences can profoundly influence our perception of the world and our interactions with others. Facing Forward provides a safe environment for healing from trauma, where clients can feel supported in making their own choices and regaining control of their lives.



### STRENGTH-BASED PRACTICE

Facing Forward helps clients identify their inner strengths, external resources, and personal goals. Together, we explore practical ways for clients to leverage assets such as existing skills, supportive relationships, and community ties. This assists them in building stability and making informed choices that align with their preferences and goals.



### TWO-GENERATION MODEL

Facing Forward embraces a family-wide approach. Using specialized services tailored for infants, school-age children, young adults, parents, and elders, we address the impacts of homelessness and prevent its recurrence across generations. Our programs and services promote stability, personal growth, and empowerment for all members of the families we serve.



OUR PROGRAMS

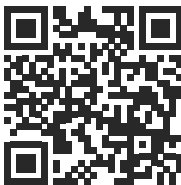
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH)

Facing Forward’s longest-running program.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is a research-backed solution for ending homelessness. Grounded in Housing First principles, Facing Forward provides families and individuals with a history of chronic homelessness and disabling conditions with a permanent home, holistic case management, and individualized support services.

PSH prioritizes client autonomy by actively involving clients in the housing selection process and creating an environment in which clients can set goals and engage in services that align with their needs at their own pace.

PSH is not only proven to increase housing stability and well-being for members of our community, but also contributes to significant cost savings community-wide by reducing reliance on crisis services like shelters, hospitals, and jails.



Read more about Janelle and other clients in Facing Forward programs on our website!

PSH IN ACTION: MEET JANELLE

Through our PSH program, families like Janelle’s are forging paths toward stability and brighter futures.

Janelle is a strong, motivated woman from Chicago’s South Side. Faced with the struggles of being a teen mom experiencing homelessness, Janelle juggled school, work, and parenting, all while staying in shelters with her son, Trey. With support from our PSH program, Janelle has been able to provide a stable home for Trey and secure employment with Chicago’s Transit Authority. Janelle plans to move on from the program soon and into an apartment of her own.

“Now I feel ready to go do anything that I set my mind to. I’m no longer in a dark place feeling stuck; I know where I’m headed to in life.”

– JANELLE, FACING FORWARD CLIENT



PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IMPACT

Building upon the foundation of stable housing, we work with clients in our Permanent Supportive Housing program to help them make strides in areas such as health, education, and self-sufficiency. We are thrilled to share the following highlights from this past year:

INDIVIDUALS HOUSED

638

271 of which were children



of clients who exited PSH moved on to other permanent housing, such as their own apartment

HEALTH IMPROVEMENT



enrolled in health insurance



received preventative care

INCREASED SELF-SUFFICIENCY



maintained or increased their income



demonstrated increased life skills and self-sufficiency

ADVANCEMENTS IN EDUCATION



of 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in preschool



of high school seniors graduated

SYSTEM NAVIGATION

Facing Forward provides guidance and support throughout all stages of the housing process while helping clients access resources to meet immediate health concerns and basic needs.

SKILLED ASSESSMENT

In partnership with local shelters, Facing Forward 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 housing assessments for

**1,609**

individuals in both English and Spanish in FY23.

HOUSING LOCATION

In partnership with local agencies committed to supporting survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, Facing Forward quickly identifies and connects survivors to safe, stable housing. This proactive approach not only helps prevent and resolve experiences of homelessness but also fosters a safe and supportive foundation for healing.

Our Housing Location program served

**30**

individuals in FY23.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Last year, Facing Forward continued to play an integral role in Chicago’s COVID-19 Expedited Housing Initiative. In partnership with All Chicago and other homelessness services agencies from Chicago’s Continuum of Care, we supported Accelerated Moving Events to quickly relocate high-risk households from congregate shelters into stable housing. During one-stop moving events, clients virtually uploaded documentation for housing applications, viewed apartments, and selected gently used furniture for their new homes.

Our Expedited Housing Initiative efforts served

**45**

households in FY23.





OUR PROGRAMS

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

Our innovative Two-Generation pilot programs take a whole-family approach to building stability while addressing gaps in federally funded housing supports. By prioritizing placing families in housing and offering specialized support services for parents, infants, school-age children, and young adults, we address the impacts of homelessness and prevent its recurrence across generations.

FIRST FOUNDATIONS

First Foundations is a rapid-rehousing program for families with expectant parents or children ages three and under who are facing or at risk of homelessness. Our program quickly secures stable, affordable housing for families and provides two years of rental assistance and comprehensive case management.

Through tailored services like employment assistance, age-specific support for children, parenting supports, and connections to childcare and family healthcare, we help families build stability and develop the skills necessary to move on from the program and into permanent housing.

Our First Foundations program served

19

Families (61 individuals) in FY23.

FIRST FOUNDATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

All participants have access to health insurance and primary healthcare.

95% of households are engaged in supportive services, such as employment assistance, early childhood visiting, and more.

All households received assistance to secure placement on wait lists for stable housing after their 2 years in First Foundations.

HOME CONNECTION

Partnering with Chicago Public Schools and University of Chicago Urban Labs, Facing Forward provides housing-focused case management, short-term financial assistance, and recently added rental assistance for families with students experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Facing Forward’s Family Empowerment Team offers additional, age-specific services to promote healthy development and academic success for children and youth in each household.

Our Home Connection program served

139

Families (389 individuals) in FY23.

“It feels great to be in our own apartment. My kids are happier now...Sometimes I just sit back and smile at them. They motivate me to push forward.”

— SHENANY, FACING FORWARD CLIENT

HOME CONNECTION HIGHLIGHTS

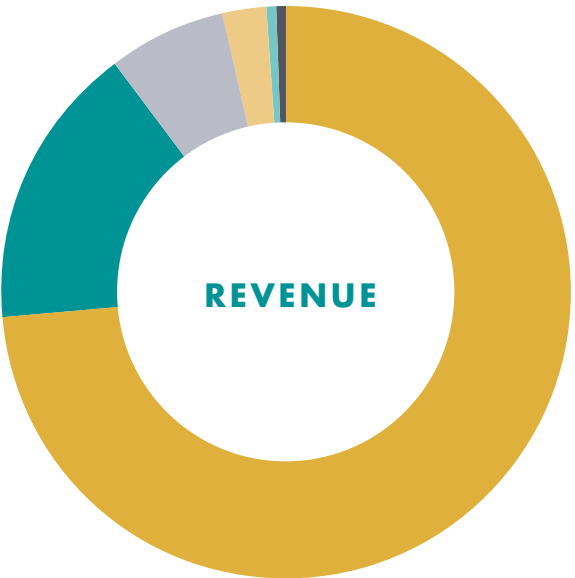
95 families received short-term housing-focused case management services.

44 families received 1 year of rental assistance and family-wide case management services.





FY 2023 FINANCIALS



REVENUE:  
**\$6,436,789**

- Government: \$4,746,460
- Contributions\*: \$432,356
- Tenant Rent: \$162,254
- Foundations: \$1,034,016
- Other: \$40,509
- In-kind: \$21,194

*\*Individual, Corporate, Faith-based*



EXPENSES:  
**\$6,733,696**

- Programs & Services: \$5,445,306
- General & Administrative: \$1,288,390

TOTAL ASSETS:  
**\$4,016,298**

TOTAL LIABILITIES:  
**\$500,190**

TOTAL NET ASSETS:  
**\$3,516,108**

*This information summarizes Facing Forward’s financial activities for the period between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. The data was extracted from the organization’s financial statements as of the period ending June 30, 2023, 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.*



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- Corporate Partnership
- Landlord Partnership
- Tax-deductible Gift
- In-Kind Donations of School Supplies, Toys, Hygiene Items and Housewarming Baskets
- Host a Lunch & Learn
- Serve on One of Our Boards
- Volunteer
- Sign Up for Our Newsletter
- Follow Us on Social Media

CONNECT WITH US:

- [www.ffchicago.org](http://www.ffchicago.org)
- [Facing Forward to End Homelessness](#)
- [@facingforwardchicago](#)
- [Facing Forward to End Homelessness](#)



Stay up to date with all things Facing Forward. Scan or click on the QR code to follow us on social media and sign up for our newsletter!

To learn more about supporting Facing Forward, please contact Melissa Anson at [melissa@ffchicago.org](mailto:melissa@ffchicago.org) or (773) 265-1207

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Presbyterian Church of  
Western Springs  
River Glen Presbyterian Church

Wesley United Methodist Church  
Yorkfield Presbyterian Church

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We truly appreciate the generosity of  
our corporate, faith-based, foundation,  
government, individual and in-kind  
partners. As partners in our mission, you’ve  
helped end the cycle of homelessness for  
nearly 3,000 children and adults in FY 2023  
(July 1, 2022 — June 30, 2023)

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The Reva & David Logan Foundation  
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United Way of Metro Chicago  
VNA Foundation  
Wheaton Franciscan Sisters Ministry

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U.S. Dept. of Housing  
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