



JOSEPH'S JOURNEY

A Life Transformed:

The Courage to Seek Help Leads to Restored Health

Raised by a hard-working, widowed immigrant mother, "Eric" learned early in life that there is no shame in working your way up from the bottom.

Shortly after high school—eager to find a way to help his mom make ends meet—he tried restaurant work. He quickly rose to management and succeeded wherever he worked for more than 20 years.

At the same time he was experiencing vocational success, Eric was also battling profound emotional pain. In addition to the financial hardships of his youth, he was deeply traumatized by the loss of his father when he was 3 years old and the untimely death of his brother in his early 20s.

The long hours and high stress levels of his work helped distract him, but did nothing to promote inner healing. Eventually no amount of medication or therapy could keep him going. He struggled just to get out of bed each day and his memory deteriorated. When he could no longer function at work, he lost his job. His financial and emotional problems eventually led to the loss of his marriage, home and car.

Thankfully, a caseworker at the Center for Families and Children recommended Joseph's Home.

"I interviewed at Joseph's Home two months before being admitted. I was hesitant because I was hoping my situation would change," said Eric. "When my water was turned off and I knew I would be evicted, I decided it was my best option."

At Joseph's Home, he received medication supervision. His memory problems had previously made it difficult to ensure he took his medications

as prescribed. As his psychological health began to improve, so did his physical health. His blood sugar levels and blood pressure dramatically improved, and his memory also began improving.

He applied for disability benefits, created a housing plan and joined a church. Church members picked him up weekly for services while he was at Joseph's Home. He graduated from Joseph's Home in March and now lives in a two-bedroom apartment, where his daughter can come for overnight visits. He hopes to go back to school to train for a job in an industry with less stress than restaurant management.

"Joseph's Home is incredible. I was put on a path there. My perspective on health has really changed and I'm more blessed now," said Eric. ♦

Board Acts to Improve Resident Comfort and Safety

MUCH-NEEDED AIR CONDITIONING PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

By Rich Gallagher

At our March meeting, the Joseph's Home Board of Directors voted unanimously to move forward immediately with installation of an air conditioning system in the Joseph's Home facility. The project, now in the planning and design stage, will be complete sometime this summer.

For years, we recognized the urgent need to air condition the entire building. Indoor temperatures during the summer months are not only uncomfortable, but we believe they are unacceptably dangerous for residents with severe illness. The problem has been the design of our building. Window air conditioners, though inexpensive, are highly impractical for our windows, walls and electrical system. Central forced-air systems we previously investigated cost at least \$150,000. *continued on back cover*

Your support of the
2013 Annual Fund
will help men like
Eric heal their lives.

.....
*Please send your gift
today, or donate online
at josephshome.com.*

Heal
Empower
Transform

2012 Donor Honor Roll

Thank You Loyal Supporters

In 2012, a record 470 organizations and individuals supported Joseph's Home with financial contributions of more than \$575,000. This incredible outpouring of support is immensely gratifying. But, it's also vitally important to serving vulnerable homeless men suffering from serious illness. Your gifts make this ministry possible.

To celebrate this milestone and to recognize the generosity and sacrifice of our donors, we are publishing our first-ever donor honor roll. All supporters who made at least one financial contribution are listed, unless they requested to remain anonymous. Many others also contributed in-kind items, such as clothing, household items or furniture, or volunteered their time. Know that the residents, board and staff of Joseph's Home are deeply grateful for each and every gift. We treasure your partnership with us. Please continue to keep Joseph's Home in your thoughts, prayers and charitable giving plans. Thank you!

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The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation
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The Nord Family Foundation
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Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland, Inc.
Woodruff Foundation

The parable of the
"Good Samaritan"
influences my support
of Joseph's Home.
The priest crossed
to the other side of
the street to avoid an
injured man. I want
to follow the example
of the samaritan and
support the men who
are in need of help.

— Bishop Roger W. Gries, O.S.B.

I support Joseph's Home because no one should leave a hospital and not have someone to help care for him in the weeks after a medical crisis. And a safe environment and warm bed are vital to that recovery

— Judge Colleen Cooney

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Listening to Sister Joan speak of how Joseph's Home provides shelter for men struggling to get back on their feet, I felt as if St. Joseph himself was reaching out to me and telling me to help continue to nurture a positive and caring environment for men to regain their independence. I will continue to urge my friends and family to help support Joseph's Home because I feel that my entire life has been blessed by St. Joseph. — *Colleen Petrello*

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ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS



NEW BEGINNINGS

Mr. Sarvas, 2013

In 2011 and 2012, Mr. Sarvas lost his job, marriage and house. He also lost his right leg from diabetes complications. When the bank took his home, he called the United Way's 2-1-1 help number and was referred to Joseph's Home. He arrived in October 2012 with a severely infected left foot. In November, his left leg had to be amputated. Now a double amputee, he learned to walk on prosthetic legs while at Joseph's Home and managed to get his diabetes under control. Mr. Sarvas graduated April 5 and now lives independently in an apartment. He remains mobile and drives himself around town in his van, which he retrofitted with hand controls.

Aleks, 2012

Aleks came to Joseph's Home in January 2012, six days after getting sober. He became hooked on pills after a series of surgeries to lengthen his right leg, which was disfigured by polio. He graduated in August 2012 and moved to Opportunity House in Garfield Heights, which provides permanent supportive housing for 18- to 24-year-old homeless men. He is working a part-time restaurant job, plans to move to an apartment in July and is enrolled in a two-year physical therapy assistant program that starts in May. He plans to eventually pursue a doctorate degree in physical therapy. He reports that his leg is 90% recovered from his surgeries.

UPDATES

Mr. Hunt, 2011

When Mr. Hunt lost the toes on his right foot due to diabetes, he was discharged to the streets. He ended up in a homeless shelter, spending days outside in the cold. Luckily, he quickly found Joseph's Home, where he recovered from surgery and graduated in 2011. He lives independently and enjoys seeing his grandchildren. He goes to the VA Medical Center regularly and now has his diabetes under control. To stay busy, he occasionally helps a friend with construction work.

"I was destitute, sitting outside in the cold after surgery. Joseph's Home worked with me and let me heal. They have good people that really care."

— MR. HUNT

"Joseph's Home saved my life. There's not enough good things to say."

—MR. COLLINS

Mr. Collins, 2010

Mr. Collins received the therapy he needed while at Joseph's Home to properly recover from nerve impingement. After graduating in 2010, he took a job cooking at Olive Garden. He moved to a new job at Outback Steakhouse in November 2012. He recently became a grandfather and hopes to go to culinary school to become a chef.

"When you have a blessing like this, you can't abuse it. Joseph's Home taught me humility and open-mindedness" — ALEKS



Sequestration Cuts Leave Future Funding Uncertain

BY KYLE MILLER

In late 2011, after lengthy bipartisan negotiations, Congress and President Obama agreed to the Budget Control Act of 2011 in order to raise the debt ceiling. If Congress could not agree on a deficit-reducing budget before the end of 2012, across-the-board cuts, commonly referred to as sequestration, would take place between 2013 and 2021. The sequestration provision was intended to act as a deterrent to inaction; however it was triggered in March.

With broad cuts of more than 8 percent to non-defense discretionary programs, it is estimated that cuts to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded Homeless Assistance grants could result in nearly 146,000 people losing access to housing. In Ohio alone, the non-partisan research and policy institute, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, reports that when compared to 2012 funding, the state will receive \$4.5 million less in homeless assistance and nearly \$13 million less in public housing assistance as a result of sequestration.

Overall, the cuts to key programs are too recent to understand the full impact, but every program that receives federal funding to provide assistance to the needy must expect federal dollars to decrease in coming years. Locally, the HUD cuts will negatively impact the ability of the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care network to provide resources to organizations that assist individuals in transitioning from homelessness into stable housing.

Commenting on the potential decrease of federal funding, Joseph's Home Executive Director Georgette Jackson said, "The board and management of Joseph's Home recognize that moving forward we need to ensure we are increasing the diversity of our funding sources as much as possible. Contributions from private individuals, businesses, churches and community organizations—historically a small portion of our income—are increasingly important to our ability to care for the homeless men we serve."

Kyle Miller is manager of Government Affairs and Public Policy, Sisters of Charity Health System. He can be reached by email at kmiller@sistersofcharityhealth.org. ♦

Healing shouldn't
depend on politics.

.....
*Help maintain access
to quality care for
homeless men. Please
send your gift today,
or donate online
at josephshome.com.*

WISH LIST

Help us continue to be a blessing to our residents. We would be grateful if you could donate special funds to help purchase these items, or donate them in coordination with Facilities & Operations Manager Edison Mosley, II at 216.685.1551.

- Tools—household and gardening
- Towels and wash cloths
- Summer clothes
- Housewares for men being discharged
- Men's underwear (L & XL)
- Men's personal hygiene items (razors, shaving cream, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant)
- Art supplies—canvases and acrylic paints
- Twin bed sheet sets
- Computers (in good shape)

2013 Annual Fund Needs Your Support

It costs approximately \$175 a day to serve each of our residents. Your tax-deductible donations provide year-round care and programming for homeless men who are too sick to find permanent housing. Please send your gift today in the attached envelope or donate at josephshome.com. Thank you and blessings on you and your loved ones.

Find Us Online Visit www.josephshome.com to get news and updates, connect with Joseph's Home on Facebook, make secure online donations, learn about volunteer opportunities and more.



NEWS BRIEFS AND EVENTS

Celebrating the Feast of St. Joseph

On March 19, more than 50 supporters and friends of Joseph's Home gathered at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph and to recognize the 470 organizations, foundations and individuals who supported Joseph's Home financially in 2012. Father Neil Kookoothe of The Church of St. Clarence in North Olmsted officiated a Mass in honor of St. Joseph. Father Isidore Munishi of St. Vincent Charity Medical Center and Father Michael Franz of St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church served as concelebrants. Danny O'Brien of The Church of St. Clarence served as musician. After Mass, guests enjoyed a breakfast reception.



(l to r) Frank Loiacono, Father Michael Franz, Father Isidore Munishi of Cleveland; Marie and Andrew Hirsch at the Feast of St. Joseph



Staff Completes Mental Health First Aid Training

According to Recovery Resources, one in four adults in the United States will suffer from a mental health illness this year. Because of its prevalence, all Joseph's Home staff members, interns, four residents and several volunteers completed a Mental Health First Aid training course offered by Recovery Resources. Between February 13 and March 15, participants completed 12 hours of training to receive a Mental Health First Aid certificate. The training was developed to help participants

identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders.

Joseph's Home Benefits from B'laster Chili Open

The Strongsville Rotary's B'laster Chili Open Golf Classic at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds is a major fundraising event. Thanks to the Strongsville Rotary for selecting Joseph's Home as a beneficiary for its 22nd annual event, which was held February 23. The event helped raise much-needed funds for several Northeast Ohio nonprofit organizations.



Residents Participate in Medicaid Expansion Rally

Residents Robert Alexander and John Whaley and a group of concerned advocates with the Sisters of Charity Health System joined more than 2,500 people April 11 for a rally at the Statehouse in Columbus to support Medicaid expansion. The rally was held to encourage the Ohio House of Representatives to bring back Governor John Kasich's plan to extend Medicaid health care access to roughly 275,000 Ohioans.



June 27,
2013:

Perseverance in Hope: The 2013 Joseph's Home Benefit Anniversary Luncheon

Help us celebrate 13 years of changing lives at our annual benefit luncheon June 27 at 11:30 a.m. at the Doubletree Hotel, 1111 Lakeside Avenue in Cleveland. The cost is \$50 per person. All funds raised go directly to providing services that heal, empower and transform the lives of homeless men in Northeast Ohio. The keynote speaker is Dick Russ, former television news anchor at WKYC and now vice president of resource development for North Coast Community Homes.

Sponsorships are available. For more information, contact Development Manager Nathan Munn at 216.875.4634. To purchase tickets, visit joshphshome.com.

JOSEPH'S HOME

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CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115

josephshome.com

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IT IS OUR MISSION ::

Joseph's Home, a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System, provides a nurturing, caring environment for men without resources who have acute medical needs, helping them heal and achieve independence.



JOSEPH'S HOME

A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System

continued from page 1

In mid-2012, our dream became much more viable when we discovered a system costing around \$75,000. It uses individual cooling units installed in the walls of each room. We resolved to make this project happen before another summer came and went. Part of the project has been underwritten by a generous grant from the Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Foundation. However, there is still time and a need for more funders to help us make this dramatic step forward in the quality of the care we provide for severely ill homeless men.

For more information about this project and how you or your organization can help, contact Executive Director Georgette Jackson at 216.685.1551.

Rich Gallagher is the Joseph's Home treasurer and chair of the finance committee. He is a senior examiner credit specialist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. ♦

CORRECTION: *In the Joseph's Journey February 2013 e-newsletter, the Generosity from Parishes Overwhelms Residents and Families article in the "News Briefs and Events" section inadvertently omitted listing St. Richard Parish as one of several parishes that collected Christmas presents.*

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