

THE JOURNEY

JOSEPH & MARY'S HOME NEWS :: FALL 2023

Reaching People in the Shadows



PARTNERSHIP WITH NEOCH BRINGS CARE TO THOSE EXPERIENCING UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS

On any given day, there are almost 600,000 people experiencing homelessness across the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It's estimated that more than half of this population lives unsheltered. That means their primary nighttime residence is a place not suitable for human habitation (e.g., a city sidewalk, vehicle, abandoned building, train or bus station, or park).

In Northeast Ohio, there are hundreds of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Living unsheltered can greatly impact a person's health and safety, which is why the work done by organizations like the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH) is so important.

Since 1988, NEOCH has sought to break the cycle of homelessness in Northeast Ohio. NEOCH works to eliminate the root causes of

homelessness while providing love to the diverse community it serves through organizing, advocacy, education and street outreach.

Street Outreach

Joseph & Mary's Home has a close partnership with the NEOCH Street Outreach team to build relationships and trust with adults who need a safe place to heal from illness or injury.

The NEOCH Street Outreach team specializes in helping people experiencing unsheltered homelessness access the basic resources they need to survive and, eventually, find adequate housing. Beyond basic resources like food, clothing and personal hygiene items that the team provides on a daily basis, a medical team accompanies them in the field once a week to provide basic healthcare services and access to additional care. The medical team



includes Michael Seidman, M.D., who also serves as the medical director at Joseph & Mary's Home.

During a recent visit, the NEOCH Street Outreach medical team checked on a woman who was living in a tent on a vacant lot next to a home. They helped schedule a follow-up appointment with her primary care physician and discussed an upcoming virtual disability hearing to make sure she had internet access on her phone. With winter coming, they provided a tarp to better insulate her tent from the damp ground. The end goal is to help her access housing before the weather becomes dangerous.

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A True Partnership in Mission



Homelessness is always dangerous and traumatic, but when the weather turns colder, homelessness becomes more deadly, particularly for those who are staying outdoors or in places not meant for living. At Joseph & Mary's Home, we prioritize the most medically-vulnerable for our limited beds, factoring in the risks to their health if living unsheltered. We have a policy and procedure we follow, and we rely on the expertise of our medical director and behavioral health director so that we are consistent, fair and transparent.

To help people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH) has a team of staff go out to the places where people are – tent encampments, under bridges and overpasses, and more. This team, which includes persons with the lived experience of homelessness, works to build relationships with our unsheltered neighbors and help them access the housing and services they need.

To say that this team consists of everyday heroes is not an overstatement; they go out into the community no matter the weather or other risks they could encounter. What makes NEOCH our true partner in mission is that they would say that the people they serve are the real heroes – surviving and taking care of each other in spite of the tragic circumstances. NEOCH shares our values of respect, dignity and love for all people. We are proud to work with NEOCH to bring medical respite care to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and to highlight them in this issue of our newsletter.

Starting in October, Dr. Michael Seidman became our medical director. He is more than skilled and qualified, with decades of experience as a family medicine physician at MetroHealth Medical Center. More than that, though, he has a heart for the mission of helping people experiencing homelessness get the healthcare and housing they need to rebuild their lives.

When I think about those in our community who have so much strength and courage but so few material resources, I am filled with gratitude to be able to help them reach health and housing stability. I am inspired every day by our staff and residents and find it so fulfilling to be carrying out the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine mission of healing – a mission that is possible thanks to your support. I hope you find yourself filled with gratitude and surrounded by joy this fall and during the holiday season.

Yours in Mission,

BETH GRAHAM, *Executive Director, Joseph & Mary's Home*



The NEOCH Street Outreach team reviews a letter for a client who can't read and discusses the date of a court hearing to apply for disability income, while also helping the client schedule follow-up medical appointments.

“There are many reasons people are unsheltered. They might not feel safe in a shelter or a couple doesn't want to be separated. We meet people where they are and where they feel safe to first help them meet their basic needs while also offering immediate shelter. If that's not for them, we work to build relationships over time and connect them to medical and behavioral health care and other services along the way with the goal of eventually connecting them to housing.”

— Liam Haggerty, NEOCH director of street outreach

NEOCH can refer clients to Joseph & Mary's Home as part of the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care network. If they identify someone with medical needs, Dr. Seidman talks to them about Joseph & Mary's Home and how it is a safe place to heal. If someone is a good fit, the NEOCH Street Outreach team will often bring them for a visit and a meal.

“A visit usually leads to that person agreeing to come here to get the ongoing care they need,” said Raven Lugo, respite care manager at Joseph & Mary's Home. “NEOCH works with some of the most vulnerable people who could die in the streets. They are great at engaging and drawing people out to provide the help they need, people who would otherwise stay in the shadows. We really value our partnership.”

James, a current resident who is in his late 50s and has been unhoused for more than a year and a half, came to Joseph & Mary's Home after being hospitalized from an assault. “I am grateful to Joseph's Home where I feel safe,” he said. “I got a bad heart condition and am recovering from a stroke. Feeling

safe makes a big difference for my condition.” James is on the list for permanent supportive housing and hopes to have an apartment by Christmas.

A Growing Need

Liam said the medical need continues to grow as the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness also grows — and the reality is that there are barriers to receiving care. He said that because some highly vulnerable people aren't going to shelters or accessing traditional resources, they are disconnected from the safety net system that would refer them to a nursing home, a hospital or medical respite.

“Being outside is terrible for someone with an acute medical condition or a chronic condition who needs stabilization. Knowing that there's an option if we identify someone who might be a fit and we can make a warm handoff and know that they are going to be safe until a permanent housing solution becomes available is really important,” said Liam. “Joseph & Mary's Home is a perfect resource.” ♦

Partnerships Offer Win-Win Situations

The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH) is one of many important partners for Joseph & Mary's Home. Partnerships offer a source of referrals to ensure those who need help the most can be connected to it. On the flip side, Joseph & Mary's Home serves as a valuable resource for the organizations making the referrals as the only homeless services provider in Northeast Ohio focused on medical respite.

When a referral is the right fit, Joseph & Mary's Home then offers case management to identify each individual's unique needs. We collaborate with 50+ partners to meet them, working closely together to ensure no one falls through the cracks and we are able to maximize each of our resources.

Other examples of key partnerships include:

- **May Dugan Center** — behavioral health assessments
- **Better Health Partnership Pathways HUB** — Care Coordination Agency
- **Legal Aid Society of Cleveland Medical Legal Partnership** — helping people with civil legal matters
- **ID Collaborative** — assistance with obtaining identification
- **EDEN** — assistance with housing vouchers and permanent supportive housing
- **The Gathering Place** — support groups for people living with cancer
- **AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland** — access to resources and support for persons living with HIV/AIDS
- **Veterans Affairs** — housing and health services for veterans



Jeff Snowden (far right) with 2018 Catholic Community Connection Summer Fellows cohort volunteering at Joseph's Home.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Veteran Jeff Snowden Gives Back

In 2018, U.S. Navy veteran Jeff Snowden interned at Joseph & Mary's Home through the Catholic Community Connection Summer Fellows Program while completing his bachelor's degree in human resources development at Notre Dame College.

"I told myself that when I graduated and got a steady job, I was going to give back," said Jeff.

Jeff is giving back in his career and philanthropically. As chief, employee and leadership development for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, he is continuing to support the men and

women who serve our country. He also is making a monthly contribution to Joseph & Mary's Home.

Jeff moved to Cleveland from Maryland, where he was an active volunteer with his church and helped support a homeless shelter.

"While interning at Joseph's Home, it hit me that there is need everywhere. I want to make a difference in my local community," he said.

As part of his internship, Jeff helped with the Perseverance in Hope luncheon and was part of the planning discussions about fundraising goals. He said having that behind-the-scenes perspective inspired him to want to give back philanthropically as well as through volunteer service. By making a monthly gift, he is able to support the men and women at Joseph & Mary's Home and have a big impact. ♦

Join the Innkeeper Society by becoming a monthly donor

By making a monthly gift, your support adds up to a large impact at Joseph & Mary's Home.

Sustaining support helps us know there is steady revenue throughout the year, so that we can provide vital services and continue to grow. Monthly gifts also allow donors to make a meaningful impact through smaller, spaced-out contributions.

Sign-up today at jmhome.org or call Director of Development Erin Miyoshi at 216.987.9201 to schedule a monthly gift by credit card or direct debit.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Dr. Michael Seidman

Medical Director

Being on the front lines of the homelessness crisis for many years is nothing new for Michael Seidman, M.D., who became the medical director at Joseph & Mary’s Home in October. Dr. Seidman has worked with the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH) and its street outreach efforts for several years, bringing weekly medical care to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness — people living on sidewalks, in parks or cars or anywhere not meant for human habitation.

In this part-time role at Joseph & Mary’s Home, Dr. Seidman provides clinical oversight and expertise as it pertains to the admission, care and discharge of residents to better help men and women experiencing homelessness heal after being discharged from the hospital and begin the next steps in their journey.

“Our model of care is integrated and person-centered, meaning that we want to connect people to the supports they need and want. A skilled physician like Dr. Seidman understands the complex needs of those we serve, appreciates the importance of safe, stable housing in health and wellness, and can oversee the care we provide to our residents. Dr. Seidman embodies all of that and brings care and compassion, patience and kindness, and a great sense of humor to our

work,” said Beth Graham, Joseph & Mary’s Home executive director.

Dr. Seidman is also a family physician at MetroHealth Community Health Centers, associate family medicine residency director in the MetroHealth Family Medicine Residency program and an assistant professor at the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Medicine.

He has been a member of the MetroHealth Family Medicine Residency leadership committee since 2009. In 2020, he received

the Tom Mettee, MD Foundations of Clinical Medicine Award for exceptional contributions in teaching and mentoring from CWRU. He received his medical degree from the CWRU School of Medicine and continued with his residency in family medicine at the University of Arizona.

“This is where I see my career now — helping people experiencing homelessness,” said Dr. Seidman. “It’s an honor to join the Joseph & Mary’s Home team and dedicate myself to this vocation of healing.” ♦



Jack Breisch and Dr. Michael Seidman volunteer with the NEOCH Street Outreach team.

NEWS BRIEFS & NOTES

Perseverance in Hope 2023

Annual Benefit Luncheon Raises a Record \$113,500 to Support Healing and Assistance with Permanent Housing

“Things now are excellent. God has gifted me the entire way. I’m now a Tri-C graduate and I got the keys to my own apartment a week ago today. Everything has come together.”

— Joseph & Mary’s Home alum Stuart Survance

Stuart spoke those words to 400 people at the Perseverance in Hope 2023 Benefit Luncheon at Windows on the River in Cleveland on October 12. The luncheon set a new record by raising \$113,500 to support healing and assistance with permanent housing.

Secretary Marcia L. Fudge, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, called everyone to action in her keynote speech. She said, “Faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains.”

Secretary Fudge talked about the crisis in the country, where evictions and rents are both on the rise and there is a lack of affordable housing. “We need to find ways to keep roofs over heads. It is time for us to live up to the ideals that we are the greatest nation,” she said. “We have the tools to end homelessness. We need more organizations like Joseph & Mary’s Home, whose work ensures people can go from hurt to heal with hope for a better tomorrow.”

Dan Moulthrop, CEO of The City Club of Cleveland, emceed the event for the 11th consecutive year. As part of the luncheon program, he interviewed alumni Christiane Drellishak and Stuart Survance, who have both secured housing after stabilizing their health at Joseph & Mary’s Home.

Recognized at the luncheon were Richard C. Gallagher, recipient of the 2023 David Henderson Memorial Award and the United Way of Greater Cleveland, recipient of the 2023 Dream Team Partnership in Service Award. Kenneth Surratt, chief development and investment officer for the United Way, accepted the award from Jan Murphy, president and CEO of the Sisters of Charity Health System.

Rich’s brother Kevin presented him with the David Henderson Memorial Award. In presenting the award, Kevin said, “Selfless service and giving back is what this award is about. I’m honored to

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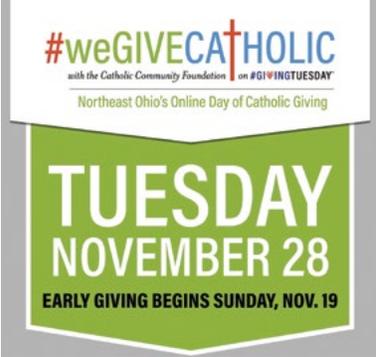
(Top left to right) Richard C. Gallagher and Kevin Gallagher; Secretary Marcia L. Fudge, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne, Sr. Judith Ann Karam, County Council President Pernel Jones Jr.; Kenneth Surratt, chief development and investment officer for the United Way of Greater Cleveland; Joseph & Mary’s Home Executive Director Beth Graham, Secretary Fudge and Board Chair Anthony J. Searcy; alum Stuart Survance, alum Christiane Drellishak and emcee Dan Moulthrop.

CARF International Awards Highest Level of Accreditation for Behavioral Health Services



The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) has awarded Joseph & Mary's Home the highest level of accreditation for a period of three years for its behavioral health services program. CARF is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services. To receive CARF accreditation, Joseph & Mary's Home underwent a rigorous peer review process and demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit its commitment to offering behavioral health programs and services that are measurable, accountable and of the highest quality.

"With 75% of our residents diagnosed with serious mental illness and more than half diagnosed with substance use disorder, funding and continuously improving our behavioral services are key components to our ministry of healing, and CARF accreditation is an important part of that," said Michael J. Biscaro, Psy.D., ABPP (Forensic), behavioral health director of Joseph & Mary's Home. "This is the dedication to providing a standard of integrated care that we, and other medical respite providers, want to be known for. Because those who we serve deserve no less than our best."



Save the Date! November 28

#weGiveCatholic is Giving Tuesday
Make your gift early! Checks received before November 28 can qualify for #weGIVECATHOLIC challenge match.

#weGIVECATHOLIC is a one-day giving event hosted by the Catholic Community Foundation that takes place on Giving Tuesday each year, which is November 28. It is a day dedicated to giving thanks and giving back. New this year, donors can give online early starting on Sunday, November 19, to have their gift matched. Or you can mail your check early to Joseph & Mary's Home.

Your generosity and participation, no matter the amount, will go a long way to helping us offer hope and healing to medically fragile men and women experiencing homelessness. Last year, we raised \$46,395 during #weGIVECATHOLIC through more than 120 donors. Help us top that on November 28.

Visit jmhome.org/wegivecatholic to make a gift between November 19-28.

Interested in making an offline donation or spreading the word? Contact Development Director Erin Gay Miyoshi at erin.miyoshi@jmhome.org or 216.987.9201 to make an offline donation or to become a peer-to-peer fundraiser. Stay tuned for more information on the Joseph & Mary's Home Facebook and LinkedIn pages and e-newsletter.

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Welcome New Board Member Miguel Chavez

We are pleased to introduce the newest member of the Joseph & Mary's Home Board of Directors, Miguel Chavez. He is senior vice president of mission & ministry at the Sisters of Charity Health System, which is the parent organization of Joseph & Mary's Home. In this role, he oversees continuing integration of the philosophy and values of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine into the daily operations of the Sisters of Charity Health System and all of its operating units in Ohio and South Carolina.

Prior to joining the Sisters of Charity Health System, he served as the director for the office of missionary discipleship with the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland and the vice president for mission implementation at Walsh University in North Canton, Ohio. He holds graduate degrees in theology (pastoral and ecclesial ministry) and business and is currently in the Doctor of Ministry program at St. Mary Graduate School of Theology in Wickliffe, Ohio.

"The commitment of Joseph & Mary's Home to compassionately heal, joyfully accompany and dream with boundless hope greatly inspires me," said Miguel. "Serving on the board for Joseph and Mary's home is an incredible honor, and I am eager to work hard and do what I can to better the organization into the future."

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PERSEVERANCE IN HOPE *continued from page 6*

present this award to my brother Rich Gallagher.”

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped raise record-breaking funds, and to everyone who supports the mission of Joseph & Mary's Home and was unable to be there for this special day.

Thank You Sponsors

Thank you to the Gallagher Family for being the Presenting Sponsor of 2023 Perseverance in Hope. Gold sponsors were: Corinne L. Dodero Foundation for the Arts & Sciences, Parker, Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Richard M. Weaver and Jeanne Collieran Weaver.



To see more photos from the luncheon, please visit facebook.com/jmhome.org (Thank you to volunteers from Cleveland Photographic Society for providing photography) ♦

**Journey Home Fund:
Help Residents on the Next
Stage of Their Journey**

The luncheon included a call to support the Journey Home Fund, which helps residents with the next stage in their journey – getting them started as they move into permanent housing. Generous supporters donated more than \$6,450 at the luncheon to grow the fund.

You can make a donation today to continue growing the fund at jmhome.org/journey-home

IT IS OUR MISSION ::

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



JOSEPH & MARY'S HOME

A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System