

# THE JOURNEY

JOSEPH & MARY'S HOME NEWS :: SPRING 2025

## Not Done Fighting

MARINE VETERAN MODELS COURAGE AND HONOR AS HE BATTLES CANCER AND HOUSING LOSS



Three years ago, a bad shoulder seemed like the worst of Dennis's problems.

But when he went in for his sixth surgery on his right shoulder, tests revealed he had multiple cancers.

The pain and limited motion in the shoulder

were old news — and not very surprising given his history. After a stint in the U.S. Marine Corps right out of high school, Dennis spent decades working as a corrections officer, security guard, welder, crane operator and machinist. The years of strenuous work and multiple surgeries on the shoulder left him disabled as of 2003.

The cancer diagnosis, on the other hand, was shocking. The discovery led to multiple rounds of chemotherapy. In June 2024, during one of those rounds, he experienced an additional hardship: the loss of his housing. Undaunted, Dennis put his belongings — including his prized model car collection — into storage and began living in his car.

"I knew I would have a roof over my head and could lock the doors to feel safe in the evenings," he said. After three weeks, a referral from MetroHealth led Dennis to Joseph & Mary's Home.

### Fueled by Positivity

While at Joseph & Mary's Home, Dennis continued receiving cancer treatment. Those treatments sometimes required a one- or two-night stay in the hospital, but he was always welcomed back to Joseph & Mary's Home with open arms to rest and recover.

"The people at Joseph & Mary's Home had my back the whole time I was down there. They gave me a way of thinking. It ain't all about me, it's about everybody. They helped make me a better person than I was," Dennis said.

Despite his challenges, Dennis looked for opportunities to benefit the Joseph & Mary's Home community as a whole. He offered to transport fellow residents to appointments and encouraged others to put positive thoughts in their mind. In Dennis's own words: "I didn't just waste a day; I made a day."

*Continued on page 3*



# Putting Hope Into Action During Challenging Times



The late Pope Francis declared 2025 as the Year of Hope. Often times we, myself included, view hope as solely a feeling. We hope that brighter days are ahead. We hope that better resources, especially those for health and human services, are made available so we can best serve our community.

That feeling of hope can be diminished at times. This year we are facing news of healthcare and housing budgets that have been eliminated, deeply cut or threatened. However, that is when we have the opportunity to view hope not just as a passive feeling, but as an action we can take to move us toward a more positive outcome in the future.

Supreme Court Justice John Marshall Harlan is one person whose actions paved the way for just outcomes long after his tenure. In “The Great Dissenter,” a book based on Justice Harlan’s time on the Supreme Court from 1877 – 1911, I learned he was the lone justice who voted no to racial segregation.

Justice Harlan’s powerful dissenting opinions made little difference in the outcomes of the cases at the time. But his dissent was published in Black newspapers and read aloud in Black churches, providing a small glimmer of hope. Almost a century later, Thurgood Marshall and others used Harlan’s dissenting opinions to desegregate our nation.

This example illustrates the importance of staying true to your values and doing what is best in the moment, even if success is not guaranteed immediately. Without realizing it, you might give hope to those suffering or offer a roadmap to future generations.

If you’re looking for inspiration on your next best step, I think you may find some in this newsletter. You’ll be moved by Dennis’s faith and positivity despite a terminal diagnosis, and you’ll be delighted by the joyful generosity of the Gwins — a couple inspired by Pope Francis. I also hope you are encouraged by our outcomes and excited



for the wonderful new space Joseph’s Home will be moving into this summer, thanks to the generosity of many.

I am finding my inspiration by taking my own advice, and putting hope into action. Together with other advocates, I am educating elected officials on the good that programs like Medicaid, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care and the Ohio Housing Trust Fund do for the older adults we serve who are experiencing both homelessness and serious illnesses. I invite you to also share your concerns with local, state and federal officials. Visit [jmhome.org/advocacyinfo](http://jmhome.org/advocacyinfo) or scan the QR code given here to learn how you too can advocate for our residents.

It remains the mission of Joseph & Mary’s Home to stand up for those who may otherwise be left behind. Like the Great Dissenter or better yet, like the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CSA), our work moves forward, guided by the CSA core values of compassion, courage, respect, justice and collaboration — and the idea that hope is not just a feeling, but an action.

Yours in Mission,

*Beth Graham*

BETH GRAHAM, Executive Director,  
Joseph & Mary’s Home



NOT DONE FIGHTING *continued from page 1*

## Help for the Journey Home

Although Dennis was grateful to be at Joseph & Mary’s Home, he often spoke about wanting a place of his own where he could display his beloved collection of model cars and Hot Wheels. Dennis loves the nostalgia of cars — “they are something that takes you back” — and started buying them nearly 25 years ago.

The Joseph & Mary’s Home team connected Dennis with the Department of Veterans Affairs for help with housing. As a result, he secured a voucher from the Department of Housing and Urban Development-Department of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program. FrontLine Service helped with securing items like a kitchen table, couch, chairs and other furnishings.

Six months after arriving at Joseph & Mary’s Home, Dennis moved into his new house in the Broadway-Slavic Village

Neighborhood. His primary care doctor is right across the street and family is not far away. Dennis is also right by a high school and looks forward to watching track meets and football games.

“I love living in this neighborhood,” said Dennis. “It is very quiet and peaceful. It is home.”

Most importantly, Dennis’s model cars and Hot Wheels are now all proudly on display, immediately visible when you walk into his home. His face lights up when he talks about his favorites. Everything from his favorite 1941 Mercury to a remote-control Mercedes-Benz are out, featured on shelving units he repurposed and rebuilt.

## Still Fighting: Prayers Appreciated

Dennis recently learned that his cancer has not responded to treatment as hoped. He is now only receiving palliative care.

However, he remains positive. A man of strong faith, Dennis said he is “still fighting ‘til the wheels fall off” and is “not done yet; I am just getting started.” He has home projects to finish, more cars to enjoy, and plans to stay connected with those he came to know at Joseph & Mary’s Home.

“The people there were close to my heart. They still are,” he said.

Dennis welcomes prayers as he continues on his journey. ♦

“Dennis was friendly, outgoing and encouraged others to find and use resources that were available in the community. While he was at Joseph & Mary’s Home, he was always looking for ways he could give back to others.”

—Tabitha Quinn, Joseph & Mary’s Home Senior Case Manager and Licensed Social Worker



# BACK TO HEALTH → FORWARD TO HOUSING

## 2024 OUTCOMES

143

adults were served  
in residence and  
as alumni.

70%

were medically  
stable upon  
discharge.

89%

of alumni remain  
medically stable.

### Impact and Resident Demographics

Joseph & Mary's Home provides medical respite care for medically-fragile adults experiencing homelessness. All of the people served were, at time of admittance, without housing and experiencing an acute medical condition that led to repeated emergency room visits or hospitalization.

This year, Joseph & Mary's Home served 101 adults in residence and another 42 alumni in the community. The men and women were most often older adults, with a physical and/or mental health disability and at least one chronic health condition.

Typically, residents are recovering from surgery; going through cancer treatments; or are working to stabilize ongoing medical issues such as diabetes or COPD. They are referred to Joseph & Mary's Home from the area's major health systems and other community partners.

In comparison to 2023, the number of individuals served in residence in 2024 decreased (143 to 101 people) while the average length of stay increased (73 to 82 days). This is attributed to several factors, including the specific health challenges faced and the limited affordable housing resources available in the region.

Joseph & Mary's Home also saw a significant increase in individuals served who were considered chronically homeless (41% in 2024 vs. 25% in 2023). By the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) definition, this means they have experienced homelessness for 365 days consecutively or have experienced homelessness four or more times in the last three years, with the total amount of time equating to 365 days.

### 2024 By the Numbers

- 101 adults served in residence
- 42 alumni assisted in the community
- 82 days, average length of stay
- 100% were homeless, according to HUD's definition
- 41% considered chronically homeless
- 47% female, 53% male
- 58% over the age of 55
- 42% African American
- 4% Latino
- 5% veterans
- 91% had a physical disability
- 84% had a diagnosed severe mental illness
- 55% had a substance use disorder
- 97% had a chronic health condition

### Health & Well-Being Outcomes

Medical stability is measured by improvements made when a resident is at Joseph & Mary's Home.

Some markers of stability are more easily identifiable than others, such as coming in with an open wound and having the wound heal, or coming in with uncontrolled diabetes and leaving with their health stabilized and regularly taking medication as prescribed. Other markers are less obvious but can still be measured, like improved vitals or a reduction in outward symptoms.

- 70% of residents were medically stable when exiting Joseph & Mary's Home
- 75% of residents demonstrated improvement in medication management
- 75% of residents demonstrated improvement in knowledge of medical condition

- 78% of residents improved self-care ability
- 9% of residents increased their incomes or obtained new/increased benefits
- 89% of resident alumni remained medically stable after exiting Joseph & Mary's Home

### Housing Outcomes

Housing stability is measured by the percentage of people who exit to permanent housing and remain in that housing for a period of six months or longer. Some residents exit Joseph & Mary's Home to higher levels of care, such as skilled nursing or assisted living, which may be more appropriate based on their medical conditions. Ultimately, the goal is to exit residents to housing situations that end their homelessness for good.

- 67% exited to a stable setting, including 41% of residents who moved directly into permanent rental housing of their own
- 83% of alumni remain in stable housing after exiting

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exited to a  
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83%

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT ::

# Taking Care of Neighbors as Pope Francis Taught Us

## JIM AND BONNIE GWIN DONATE TO JOSEPH’S HOME RELOCATION

Jim and Bonnie Gwin are firm believers in the lessons taught by the late Pope Francis. They reflect on his call to care for neighbors in need and to treat all with humanity, dignity and respect.

Joseph & Mary’s Home is a place they know makes a difference and provides a safe, healing environment. Giving back to fellow Greater Clevelanders — a region they are proud to call home — spurred Jim and Bonnie, along with their sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren, to make a gift toward the Joseph’s Home relocation project.

“We wanted to invest in an organization that will be helping men and women long after we are gone,” said Bonnie. “The residents at Joseph & Mary’s Home — anyone experiencing homelessness — are a concern for us. This is certainly an expansion of a mission that is much needed.”

The Gwins first heard of Joseph & Mary’s Home through Project Serve at St. Dominic Church in Shaker Heights. Project Serve, which is the church’s service organization, often supports Joseph & Mary’s Home through its Advent Coat Collection.

After donating coats to the residents and learning more about Joseph & Mary’s Home’s mission, Jim and Bonnie gave to the annual appeal. They soon learned details about the Joseph’s Home relocation project.

When they saw the new space would feature modern one-floor living and be 100% handicapped accessible, they knew it was the right time to provide additional support.

“We have been blessed and very fortunate on many fronts. This was the right time to help,” said Jim.

As a child, Bonnie heard from both of her parents about the impact generosity can have on a life. Her mother grew up in an orphanage in Appalachia, while her father’s family lost a lot during the Great Depression.

“My mom and other children at the orphanage would each get an orange at Christmastime. It was a small gesture. But



“Let us care for one another and let us be loving custodians of creation.” – Pope Francis

it reminded her that someone out there cared about her. The little things really can matter,” she said.

A graduate of Georgetown University, Bonnie also carries with her the Jesuit core value of being men and women for others. Joseph & Mary’s Home, she said, meets an unmet need in restoring to health those who are often forgotten.

“Think about what Pope Francis taught us. He emphasized taking care of one another. We are called to help the most vulnerable in Cleveland who need specialized care and support,” Bonnie said.

“If you are blessed, pass it on,” added Jim. ♦

*If you’d like to help in healing lives through a donation or recurring gift, please visit [jmhome.org/donate](https://jmhome.org/donate) or call 216.987.9201 during business hours.*

## Construction Nears Completion at Joseph’s Home Relocation Project

After kicking off construction on November 11, 2024 (Veterans Day), the Joseph’s Home Relocation Project is nearing completion. Workers are putting up drywall, painting, installing windows, flooring, doors and light fixtures, completing the handicapped accessible bathrooms, and making the space a true home for 11 male residents.

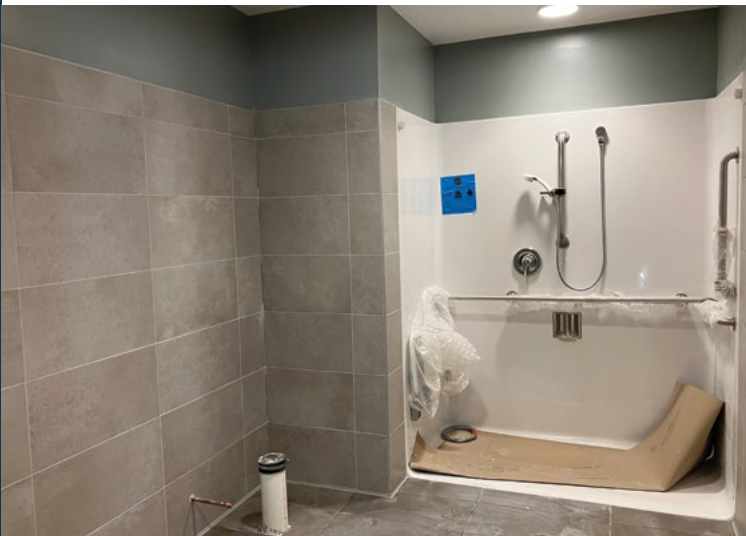
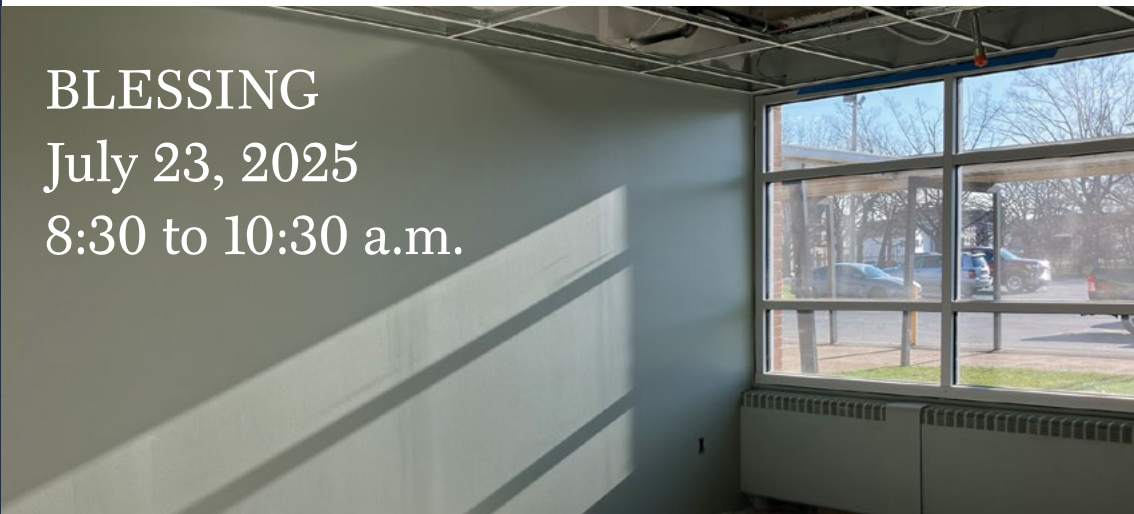
Construction is expected to be completed by the end of June. A blessing of the new Joseph’s Home will take place on Wednesday, July 23. More details will be shared early this summer. The initial campaign goal was \$2.5 million. We are proud to share that this goal was not only hit, but exceeded! A total of \$2.9 million was raised.

We especially thank Regency Construction and Hiti, DiFrancesco and Siebold, Inc. — including Project Superintendent Fletcher Gilbert, Architect Brian Grambort, Project Manager Krista Misley, Project Engineer Intern Joanna Rodrigues and Architectural Intern Anna Soryal — for their efforts to make this relocation and renovation a reality.

Once the doors to this new facility open, Joseph & Mary’s Home will be a stronger organization with modern men’s and women’s medical respite facilities located side-by-side in one building with 24/7/365 staff.



BLESSING  
July 23, 2025  
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.





JOSEPH & MARY’S HOME  
FINANCIALS FOR 2024

The operating budget for Joseph & Mary’s Home from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, was \$1,440,421, whereas the total expenditures came to \$1,435,853.

Revenue

Public Sector Grants & Contracts	\$597,862	42%
Foundation & Corporate Grants	\$328,797	23%
Contributions & Events	\$442,507	31%
Investment Income	\$50,829	4%
Earned Revenue	\$20,426	1%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,440,421</b>	<b>100%</b>

Expenses

Clinical & Support Services	\$880,101	61%
Management & Administrative	\$66,690	5%
Residential Operations	\$174,342	12%
Office Expenses	\$17,600	1%
Fundraising & Communications	\$192,451	13%
Depreciation	\$104,669	7%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,435,853</b>	<b>100%</b>

*\*The financial information included in this report is preliminary, unaudited and subject to revision upon completion of the organization’s final 2024 audit numbers.*

THANK YOU GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

2024 DONOR HONOR ROLL

Hundreds of caring neighbors in and beyond Northeast Ohio gave generously to make healing possible for the people served by Joseph & Mary’s Home in 2024. The annual Joseph & Mary’s Home Donor Honor Roll is one way we say, “thank you.” All supporters who made at least one financial contribution are listed, unless they requested to remain anonymous. Know that the residents, alumni, board and staff of Joseph & Mary’s Home are deeply grateful for each and every gift and for your partnership with us. Please continue to keep Joseph & Mary’s Home in your thoughts, prayers and charitable giving plans. Thank you!

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# Contribute to Support Joseph & Mary’s Home

Gifts from friends like you are essential to the mission of caring for unhoused, medically fragile men and women. Thank you for all that you do! Without your thoughtful generosity, this place of refuge and healing would not be an option for those who need our help.

Please consider a one-time or recurring contribution to help sustain this compassionate care. Easy ways to give include:

- Go to [jmhome.org/donate](http://jmhome.org/donate)
- Call 216.694.4685 during business hours
- Mail a check payable to Joseph & Mary’s Home to 2412 Community College Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115

## Introducing FOUR tax-smart ways to support Joseph & Mary’s Home


Did you know that giving from assets other than cash can make it possible to give with increased impact while also reducing your tax bill? Options include giving **appreciated stock**, giving from an **IRA**, making grants from your **Donor-Advised Fund** and even giving **cryptocurrency**.

FreeWill’s secure online tool makes it easy to learn more about your potential savings — and helps you initiate your gift to Joseph & Mary’s Home in as little as 10 minutes.

A gift of any method or size will provide adults experiencing homelessness a chance to heal and find housing stability.

Visit **FreeWill.com/SmartGiving/SCHS** or scan the QR code to learn more about smart giving. When you make a gift, you will find us listed under our sponsoring organization, Sisters of Charity Health System.



 To learn more about the impact of your generosity, we encourage you to visit [www.jmhome.org](http://www.jmhome.org) or follow us on Facebook.



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The Innkeeper Society recognizes donors who make a recurring monthly or quarterly gift to Joseph & Mary’s Home, providing sustaining support for our mission of caring for adults experiencing homelessness year-round. Please contact Colleen Corrigan Day, senior director of major gifts, at 216.987.9201 if you are interested in learning more or go to [jmhome.org/donate](https://jmhome.org/donate) to make your gift today.

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*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If your name has been misspelled, listed incorrectly or omitted, we sincerely apologize and ask you to please contact Colleen Corrigan Day at 216.987.9201 or [cday@sistersofcharityhealth.org](mailto:cday@sistersofcharityhealth.org) so that we may correct our records.*

Secure Your Future with FreeWill

Caring for others begins with caring for ourselves and our families — and that includes planning for the future.

We are pleased to announce that Joseph & Mary’s Home has partnered with FreeWill to provide our supporters with free, easy-to-use tools that simplify the process of estate planning. With this resource, you can ensure your wishes are documented and up-to-date while protecting the people and causes closest to your heart. You will also gain peace of mind knowing your estate plan is securely in place.

We’re honored to share this new partnership with you, and we hope this resource brings you comfort and confidence in planning for the future. If you have any questions about FreeWill or giving through your will or trust, please contact Colleen Corrigan Day at 216.987.9201 or [cday@sistersofcharityhealth.org](mailto:cday@sistersofcharityhealth.org).

To get started on your plans, visit [FreeWill.com/JMH](https://FreeWill.com/JMH) or scan the QR code.





## STAFF SPOTLIGHT ::

# Jewel Greene

## Resident Support Associate

Jewel Greene joined the Joseph & Mary's Home community in September 2022 as a resident support associate. She continues serving in that capacity today, working the overnight shifts on Monday and Tuesday nights. Her primary role? "To be there and to listen," said Jewel.

**Q:** Why did you choose to work at Joseph & Mary's Home? What led you here?

**A:** For many years I worked as a service representative at an insurance company. But life happens. I had to leave in 2013 due to my disability. After a few years of not working, I felt like I was losing my sense of purpose. I am a wife, mother and grandmother, but I wanted to do more, and to help people. A friend told me Joseph & Mary's Home was hiring, and so I decided to give it a try.

**Q:** How do you support the residents?

**A:** I am able to relate — many of the residents have a disability and so do I. My goal is to make their time here a little better. You have to be sympathetic, empathetic, a good listener. Understanding things happen and they didn't ask for it... that's huge.

**Q:** What lessons have you learned from residents?

**A:** You can be in the worst place or scenario, but still be a happy person. The majority of the residents I have met, despite their situation, are grateful and thankful. They still find the joy.



**Q:** What words do you live by?

**A:** Treat people the way you want to be treated. I always keep that in mind. I can only do so much here, but whatever the much is, is the much I am going to do.

**Q:** Why do you think it is important for the community to support Joseph & Mary's Home?

**A:** Everyone is one paycheck away from experiencing homelessness. This could be anyone. You are told to save, save, save. Then something comes up and you have to take that savings and do something with it. You are back to square one. Before you can save again, something else bad happens and you no longer have that safety net. No one knows what is going to happen tomorrow.

# NEWS BRIEFS & NOTES

## Celebrating the Feast of St. Joseph

Holy Family Chapel at Mt. Augustine, home to Regina Health Center, hosted the annual Feast of St. Joseph Mass on March 19.

During her closing remarks, Executive Director Beth Graham said, "I cannot help but think that St. Joseph serves as a model for many of our staff who also are quiet workers but contribute so much to our mission of serving medically-fragile adults experiencing homelessness at a time when they desperately need our care and compassion."



## Perseverance in Hope Luncheon Returns October 30

Please join us for the 2025 Perseverance in Hope Luncheon on Thursday, October 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Windows on the River in Cleveland! The keynote speaker is Bobby Watts, chief executive officer of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. We also look forward to honoring this year's David Henderson Memorial Award and Dream Team Partnership in Service Award recipients. Visit [www.jmhome.org/events](http://www.jmhome.org/events) later this summer for ticket and sponsorship information.

## Welcome New Board Members: Introducing Darlene Morocco and Marquita Rockamore



**Darlene Morocco**, MHA, BSN, RN, NE-BC, FACHE, serves as the vice president, chief nursing officer of Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital. Darlene has been a nurse and healthcare leader for 25 years, and is passionate about nursing, healthcare leadership and the patient experience. She is committed to quality, patient safety and creating a healthy work environment.

At Lutheran Hospital, Darlene's focus is primarily on building highly reliable teams, as well as program development and clinical nursing practice. Darlene earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Youngstown State University and her master's degree in healthcare administration from Walden University. She is a board-certified nurse executive and a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

"It was on my heart to find a meaningful board to serve on where I could use my healthcare knowledge, plus my love for nursing and serving those in need," said Darlene. "I believe deeply in rectifying the problems of poverty, homelessness and disparity, and in improving the health of our community. Joseph & Mary's Home is a place where residents recover from medical illnesses with dignity. After I spent time there, I was immediately inspired by the programs and work, and knew I had finally found where I want to serve."



**Marquita Rockamore**, MA, GCDF, CCHW, is the director of health industry solutions, in the Workforce, Community and Economic Development Division (WCED) at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C). She manages the Community Health Worker, Comprehensive Professional Medical Coding, Comprehensive Patient Access Specialist, State Tested Nurse Aides (STNA) and the STNA Train-the-Trainer programs, as well as a Human Patient Simulation Lab.

As an advocate for more prosperous and sustainable communities, Marquita works to increase access to resources around basic needs, healthcare, educational attainment, career development, in-demand job skills and employment for all. She established a Community Pathways HUB at Tri-C, bringing Cuyahoga County's Department of Jobs and Family Services to the HUB. Marquita is a 2023 Better Health Partnership Collaborative Champion. Her bachelor's degree is in sociology from the University of Akron and her master's degree is in management and leadership from Liberty University.

Marquita said, "The mission of Joseph & Mary's Home aligns with my personal mission to create a highly defined experience, grounded in a spiritual purpose for me to leave the legacy of a life well lived, and not just out loud, but in a manner that improves the quality of life for others."



## JOSEPH & MARY'S HOME

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### 2024 JOSEPH & MARY'S HOME ANGELS

Financial supporters weren't the only ones who touched the lives of Joseph & Mary's Home residents and alumni in 2024. We want to also thank and recognize these partners for their contributions of goods and services, and/or hours and energy spent volunteering, collaborating or advocating on behalf of Joseph & Mary's Home and our residents. Read more at [jmhome.org/2024-angels](http://jmhome.org/2024-angels).



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### 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

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