

THE JOURNEY

JOSEPH & MARY'S HOME NEWS :: FALL/WINTER 2025

Standing Firm on Solid Ground

ABUNDANCE OF LOVE, KINDNESS AND RESPECT PUTS ANGELICA ON PATH TO STABLE HOUSING



For 18 months, Angelica lived in bus stops and parks in Cleveland's western suburbs.

This lack of stable housing was a new experience for her. Originally from Colombia, Angelica was

working in New York more than 30 years ago when she met her future husband, a Cleveland native.

They married and moved to Cleveland. He ran his own business, and Angelica worked as a housekeeper, dental assistant and seamstress.

Life took a turn for the worse in 2017 when her husband's business went bankrupt. He passed away a few years later. Angelica had to give up the house and moved into a much smaller apartment. She worked as many hours as possible at Amazon while attempting to manage a schizophrenia diagnosis on her own.

Although she liked her work, Angelica decided to open her own small business. Unfortunately, it didn't work out. She soon fell behind on her apartment rent and was eventually asked to leave. For the first time, in her mid-50s, Angelica found herself experiencing homelessness.

She tried to stay shielded from the harsh outdoor elements, but it was impossible to escape the cold and snow last winter. Her feet became frozen and were in bad shape. With the help of good Samaritans, Angelica went to the hospital for frostbite treatment. "I'm not sure how I survived; God was with me. I don't think I could have made it through another winter outside," she said.

After time in the hospital, Angelica entered a rehab facility. It was there she met Sr. Catherine Walsh, CSA, who volunteers at Joseph & Mary's Home and is a board member. Sr. Catherine was at the rehab visiting a former Joseph & Mary's Home resident.

Angelica was referred to Joseph & Mary's Home following her own rehab stay. The connection she originally made with Sr. Catherine continued to build.

"We spoke to one another in Spanish and did exercises together," said Sr. Catherine. "She would teach me a new exercise and vice versa; we laughed a lot."

During the nearly five months she lived at Joseph & Mary's Home, Angelica said she often thought of the word 'abundance.' "There is always an abundance of food, toiletries and clothing," she said. "I felt an abundance of love, kindness and respect from everyone."

The social worker, community health worker and nurse helped her navigate renewing her state identification card and obtaining a bus pass. With their guidance,

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“Faith is taking the first step even when
you can’t see the whole staircase.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

A MESSAGE FROM SISTERS OF CHARITY HEALTH SYSTEM
PRESIDENT AND CEO MICHAEL GOAR



In 2000, when the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine’s “Dream Team” opened Joseph’s Home, they took a first step toward addressing yet another unmet need in Cleveland: medical respite care for men experiencing homelessness.

Twenty-five years later, their vision for a home where people can heal and achieve independence continues to evolve. Additional steps have become clearer, while the whole staircase is still incomplete and there are more people to assist in the community.

It is also important to acknowledge that the stairs climbed since 2000 are very significant and not to be forgotten. Mary’s Home – focused on serving women – has been open since 2022. Construction on the new all-on-one-floor Joseph’s Home, now attached to Mary’s Home, has wrapped up. Bishop Woost blessed the space this summer and plans are now being finalized to complete the transition from the original Joseph’s Home.

This new home, now fully accessible and easily navigable, was the result of the “A New Home for Healing” Capital Campaign led by Tom Tyrrell. The campaign raised more than \$3 million for the renovation, as well as for operational costs and the endowment. Making it even more remarkable was how it immediately followed the \$1.5 million Mary’s Home Capital Campaign, chaired by Jeanne Collieran Weaver.

Both campaigns occurred under the leadership of then-Executive Director Beth Graham. Beth, who stepped down in August 2025 after five-and-a-half years in the role, was a determined and steadfast servant leader. On behalf of everyone, I thank Beth for her commitment to the mission and for moving Joseph & Mary’s Home forward during her time here.

As we look ahead, our focus now turns to building on this strong foundation. Strategic planning – most especially growing the endowment to ensure Joseph & Mary’s Home remains a nurturing environment for years to come – remains a priority, with a visioning process now in development. In the meantime, the staircase continues to be built, thanks to the extraordinary work of the staff members who serve as a beacon of hope for the men and women in our care.

Your help in making residents’ physical and spiritual rebirths possible also does not go unnoticed. Thank you for your dedication to the mission, and for helping move men and women back to good health and forward to stable housing.

With gratitude,

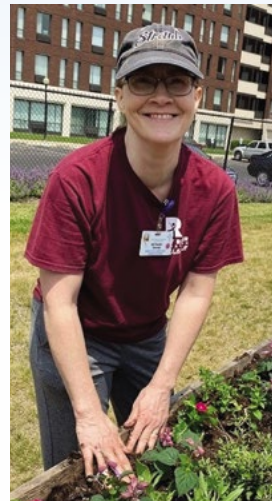
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Goar".

MICHAEL GOAR

President and CEO, Sisters of Charity Health System



Former Executive Director Beth Graham





Residents put together this puzzle during Angelica's stay. She used the completed work to explain the abundance of support she felt while at Joseph & Mary's Home.

Angelica applied for and was granted Social Security survivor benefits. They also made sure she went to doctor's appointments and took her medication regularly.

Joseph & Mary's Home allowed Angelica to heal. "I had my physical, emotional and spiritual needs met at Joseph & Mary's Home," she said. "I had a place to rest; a bed to sleep in; a shower with hot water. I was able to contribute by cleaning and watering the garden as part of my recovery. I was able to take responsibility for my own healing because I had the support to do it."

In early September, Angelica moved into her own apartment in Cleveland's MidTown neighborhood. She looks forward to furnishing the apartment and making it a place she calls home. "This gives me a lot of peace. I am standing firm on the floor; it is not shaking or moving — it is stable," she said.

As much as she looks forward to this next chapter and is proud of the healing she has worked to achieve, Angelica appreciates that she will continue to have assistance from the Joseph & Mary's Home staff as a resident alumnae. She knows she will not be on her own.

"Residents find the love of God in the people at Joseph & Mary's Home — the staff, the donors. I believe the support is an investment in me. They receive everyone with an open heart. I am thankful for that," she said.

Angelica hopes to share the kindness she experienced at Joseph & Mary's Home with others in her new community as payment in return for the abundance of care she received this year. ♦

"Angelica had no place to stay and almost no income when she arrived at Joseph & Mary's Home. While she was here, she felt welcomed and supported. This gave her the opportunity to address her health concerns and do the work needed to get her own place. The time she spent at Joseph & Mary's Home — the time all men and women spend here — is so crucial so she could heal, rest and move forward."

— Sr. Catherine Walsh, CSA, Joseph & Mary's Home
Volunteer and Board Member



#weGIVECATHOLIC Update: \$61,256 Raised; Contributions Still Accepted

Thanks to the generosity of 126 donors, a total of \$61,256 was raised for Joseph & Mary's Home during #weGIVECATHOLIC.

Additionally, the Gallagher Family's \$10,000 matching gift, as well as a \$5,000 matching gift from an anonymous donor, was met.

Thank you to all who donated during #weGIVECATHOLIC. You help make possible the hot meals, the secure individual bedrooms, the access to proven medical resources, and most importantly, the opportunity for men and women to feel cared for and heal in a safe environment.

If you did not give during #weGIVECATHOLIC, but would still like to make a gift, please:

- Visit www.jmhome.org/donate
- Call 216.694.4685 during business hours
- Mail a check payable to Joseph & Mary's Home, 2302 Community College Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Along with making a one-time or recurring contribution, now is a good time of year to explore four tax-smart, strategic giving options that advance Joseph & Mary's Home's mission. They also help you receive potential tax benefits and support your personal financial goals. Those tax-smart gifts include:

- Appreciated Stock
- Donor-Advised Fund Grant
- IRA Gift (if age 70.5 or older)
- Cryptocurrency Donation

Tax-smart gifts help reduce your taxable income; avoid capital gains taxes; satisfy required minimum distributions (if you're 73+); and make your generosity go even further.

Through Joseph & Mary's Home's partnership with FreeWill, giving tax-smart gifts is simple and secure. Their online platform allows you to complete your donation in just minutes, ensuring your generosity reaches the communities we serve together.

To learn more, scan the QR Code shown here or go to FreeWill.com/SmartGiving/SCHS. When you make a gift, you will find Joseph & Mary's Home listed under our sponsoring organization, Sisters of Charity Health System.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Restoring Dignity by Providing Essential Care: Dr. Srinivas Merugu Believes in Medical Respite

Medical respite is an essential part of the continuum of care for those experiencing homelessness. No less essential, said Dr. Srinivas Merugu, than infrastructure. “Just like electricity or internet, we need medical respite services. The dignity that is restored to residents’ lives that may have been lacking, it is so important.”

This strong belief in medical respite is why Dr. Merugu is a long-time Joseph & Mary’s Home annual fund donor, as well as a sponsor of a resident room in the new Joseph’s Home. “I filled the role I could,” said Dr. Merugu.

As both a medical professional and systems-level thinker, Dr. Merugu believes what Joseph & Mary’s Home provides is critical and indispensable. “This type of care is never going to go away and is grossly underfunded,” he said.

“Yes, you need to address homelessness, hospital care and affordable housing, but we need to ensure the presence of community-based medical respite too.”

Dr. Merugu is well-versed in caring for those with acute medical needs. A former primary care physician at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center, Dr. Merugu was among the first class to complete their internal medicine residency at St. Vincent Charity. He learned about compassionate, patient-first care from his mentor, Dr. Richard Christie, as well as from social worker Sr. Ruth Ann Patrick, CSA.

During his time as a resident, chief medical resident, physician and preceptor, Dr. Merugu witnessed patients having to return to hospitals and ERs time and time again due to unstable living environments and other unmet social needs. Often, they became stuck in a vicious cycle that could not be broken, due to circumstances beyond the hospital’s four walls.



“Caring for people at St. Vincent Charity put into perspective society at large; it made me more aware. I developed a holistic systems-based view of life and health care,” said Dr. Merugu. “Patients can’t achieve good health outcomes without addressing system level issues. Unless you work on all of it simultaneously, you won’t be able to achieve health.”

In 2014, Dr. Merugu left St. Vincent Charity to focus on population health work with an emphasis on the social drivers of health. However, Joseph & Mary’s Home remains close to his heart. He served on the board for two years and was on the “A New Home for Healing” campaign committee. The conversation of medical respite’s essential nature is one he has shared with many professionals.

Dr. Merugu said, “The men and women who are served at Joseph & Mary’s Home are often the most invisible members of our community. They have such complex medical and social issues; it is a blind spot for those in the health care system and otherwise. The expansion of Joseph & Mary’s Home helps meet the community’s need and requires both public and private investments to sustain it.” ♦



We Moved — Next Door!

With Joseph's Home now attached to Mary's Home, the mailing address has changed.

Joseph & Mary's Home's address is:
2302 Community College Avenue, Cleveland,
OH 44115. Volunteers and visitors can park
in the same lot as previously used.



“A New Home for Healing” Becomes a Reality

JOSEPH'S HOME BLESSING RECAP

Nearly 75 supporters were on hand to celebrate the Joseph's Home Blessing in July. Diocese of Cleveland Auxiliary Bishop Michael G. Woost blessed the fully accessible, one-floor space that is attached to the existing Mary's Home. Just like the former Joseph's Home, the new location has room to house 11 men.

Bishop Woost said, “Whenever we look to the interests of our neighbor or the community and serve them, we are, in a sense, God's own co-workers. Let us pray for his help through this celebration...that God will bless Joseph's Home, its future residents and all of us who have worked towards its completion.”

The new Joseph's Home became a reality after the successful “A New Home for Healing” Capital Campaign raised more than \$3 million.

Thank you to all who supported the project and provided residents with a sense of hope for a brighter tomorrow. With your support, Joseph & Mary's Home continues to be a home for healing and new beginnings. ♦



Joseph's Home Capital Campaign Committee

Thomas Tyrrell, Chair

Sr. Joan Gallagher, CSA

Timothy R. Barnett, MD, FACS

John A. Bastulli, MD, FASA

Lorraine Dodero

Richard C. Gallagher

Audley M. Mackel, MD

Srinivas Merugu, MD, FACP, MMM, CPE

Sylvia Moore

Anthony J. Searcy

(Top photo) CSA Sisters with Auxiliary Bishop Michael Woost (l to r) Sr. Catherine Walsh, Sr. Judith Ann Karam, Sr. Joan Gallagher, Sr. Regina Fierman, Sr. Kathy Andrews; (middle photos) Benefactor Lorraine Dodero with Bishop Woost greeting Sr. Joan; Bishop Woost blesses the new Joseph's Home; (bottom photo) The Joseph & Mary's Home Board of Directors and members of the “A New Home for Healing” campaign committee

Keynote Speaker:
Bobby Watts, MPH, CPH, MS
CEO, National Health Care for
the Homeless Council



More than 300 guests attended the luncheon, including past and present residents, as well as staff members of Joseph & Mary's Home (pictured below)



PERSEVERANCE IN HOPE

Joseph & Mary's Home 2025 Benefit Luncheon



Annual Luncheon Raises Over \$102,000, including \$18,187 for the Endowment Fund

**“We are in the right place. With the right program.
With the right purpose. At the right time.”**

Keynote Bobby Watts delivered those words to the more than 300 attendees at the annual Perseverance in Hope 2025 Benefit Luncheon on Thursday, October 30. This year's luncheon raised more than \$102,000 for Joseph & Mary's Home, including \$18,187 that will go directly toward the Sr. Joan Gallagher, CSA, Endowment Fund (see page 11 for more details).

Bobby, who is the CEO of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, expressed that Joseph & Mary's Home is a national leader in medical respite care.

“Joseph & Mary's Home is one of just two medical respites that I am aware of in the United States that is accredited as a rehabilitation facility. This means that there is a focus on acute medical conditions, while also going the extra mile to work toward long-term rehabilitation,” he said.

Bobby also explained how in Cleveland, medical respite is a part of the homeless response system, or the continuum of care. He said this is not common in other cities, where those who enter medical respite lose their spot in line to secure permanent housing. In Cleveland, that doesn't happen. “Cleveland is a special place,” he said. “You have a robust service network, donor community and business network, but are a small enough city where you can collaborate and connect easily.”

Bobby further highlighted how he is impressed with the Joseph & Mary's Home alumni program that lends support to former residents, whether they need a place to do their laundry or need a ride to a medical appointment.

“Joseph & Mary's Home helps residents reach their full potential, and makes sure people can be whole again. Look at the resident stories shared today. This place has helped restore their health, hope and future. Medical

Continued on page 8

respite is morally right and fiscally responsible, and reasonable,” he said.

With The City Club CEO Dan Moulthrop as emcee, Perseverance in Hope also honored two award winners.

Tom Tyrrell received the David Henderson Memorial Award. Tyrrell chaired the most recent “A New Home for Healing” Capital Campaign to relocate and renovate Joseph’s Home. The campaign — which publicly launched in June 2024 — raised over \$3 million. This surpassed the original \$2.5 million goal. Thanks to Tyrrell’s efforts, the money raised will go toward Joseph’s Home capital improvements, as well as operational costs and the endowment.

The City of Cleveland’s “A Home for Every Neighbor” initiative was this year’s Dream Team Partnership in Service Award recipient. Cleveland Department of Public Health Housing & Outreach Project Manager Liam Haggerty accepted the award. The initiative began in February 2024. The city’s original goal was to have 150 unsheltered residents placed in safe, stable housing within 18 months of the initiative’s launch. As of the end of October, they have successfully housed nearly 200 residents, exceeding their goal in a shorter amount of time than anticipated. ♦

Thank You Sponsors

Gold Level:

Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland
& East Central Ohio, Inc.

Silver Level

Michael L. and Maria L. Spangler;
BakerHostetler; Liberty Development Company;
and Mansour Gavin LPA



Scan the QR Code to watch a video highlighting Joseph & Mary’s Home’s dedicated staff members, and two inspiring residents who have felt cared for and supported during their time here.



Keynote speaker Bobby Watts, Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine Congregational Leader Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA, Sisters of Charity Health System President and CEO Michael Goar



Tom Tyrrell receiving the David Henderson Memorial Award from then Board Chair Michael Spangler



Cleveland’s Housing & Outreach Project Manager Liam Haggerty (middle) accepted the Dream Team Partnership in Service Award on behalf of the city; also pictured are Dr. David Margolius and Michael Goar



Sr. Denise Stiles, CSA, then Board Chair Michael Spangler, Sr. Regina Fierman, CSA

STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Gina Titus

Case Manager

Gina Titus, MSN, RN, is one of the newest members of the Joseph & Mary's Home team, starting her role as case manager in September 2025. Previously, she worked on a behavioral health unit and has extensive experience with substance use disorder, in particular the detox and recovery process.

Gina is also an adjunct behavioral health clinical instructor for nursing students at John Carroll University. The best skill she adds to the staff? "Empathy."

Q: What is your role at Joseph & Mary's Home?
How do you view it?

A: As a case manager, my role is to work toward positive health outcomes for our residents and to help them gain access to stable housing. I am passionate about serving those experiencing homelessness. It is my responsibility to advocate for those who I serve and to be a voice for the unheard. That is something I firmly believe in: listening, being present and truly seeing the whole person. There is hope for all we serve.

Q: What words do you live by?

A: The Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of your job/profession?

A: There are so many rewarding parts, but it comes down to being there for the good moments that



are a result of the hard work put in by both the staff and the residents to obtain better outcomes. I get to be a part of the healing process for those who need medical respite and help them achieve their health goals. I am there when someone who has experienced homelessness signs a lease and receives the keys to a new home. I witness every day how empowering people provides them with a brighter tomorrow.

Q: What led you to working at Joseph & Mary's Home?

A: The mission of providing a nurturing, caring environment and helping residents heal and achieve independence. I wasn't looking for a career change. My mother came across the position, forwarded it to me and said, this is the perfect job for you — and it was.

Q: What do you wish other people knew about JMH?

A: There is a need in the community for medical respite. Joseph & Mary's Home provides both incredible care and advocacy for residents. ♦

NEWS BRIEFS & NOTES



Resident Update: Remembering Dennis White

In the Spring 2025 edition of *The Journey*, resident alumnus Dennis White was profiled. Known for his positive demeanor and “I didn’t waste a day; I made a day” mindset, Dennis was a well-loved member of the Joseph & Mary’s Home community. He courageously battled cancer but was told last winter that he was not responding to treatment as hoped.

Sadly, Dennis passed away on July 6 at 66 years old. He was a proud U.S. Marine veteran, and will be remembered as someone who loved to share his joy for cars and carpentry with others.

Rest in peace, Dennis.



County Executive Ronayne Visits Joseph & Mary’s Home

On September 26, Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne visited Joseph & Mary’s Home. He heard from several key team members about the impact Joseph & Mary’s Home is making, and how appropriate funding allows medical respite in Northeast Ohio to continue to serve those who are experiencing homelessness and have acute medical needs.



Joseph & Mary’s Home Featured on “Sound of Ideas”

National Health Care for the Homeless Council CEO Bobby Watts and former Joseph & Mary’s Home Board Chair Michael Spangler appeared on Ideastream’s “Sound of Ideas” program on October 30. This kicked off a busy day, which was followed by Bobby’s keynote address at the Perseverance in Hope luncheon (see page 7 for more details).

To listen to the discussion with host Stephanie Haney, visit jmhome.org/2025soundofideas or scan the QR code shown here.





Holiday Blessings Arrive for Residents at Joseph & Mary's Home

Area churches have made the first half of the holiday season merrier for Joseph & Mary's Home residents. St. Ambrose Parish in Brunswick delivered delicious Thanksgiving meals, while parishioners from the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Cleveland prepared and served a hot breakfast in mid-December. They do this monthly.

Additionally, the Charity in Action Committee from the Church of St. Clarence in North Olmsted made a special drop-off. Volunteers (pictured here) brought residents new comforters, blankets and sheets for their beds, as well as a variety of soaps and personal items.

Church groups and other volunteer organizations interested in supporting Joseph & Mary's Home are encouraged to call 216.987.9201 to learn how they can best help.



Sr. Joan Gallagher, CSA, Jeanne Colleran Weaver and Richard Weaver

Sr. Joan Gallagher, CSA, Endowment Fund Grows to Nearly \$1.5 Million

In 2018, Richard Weaver and Jeanne Colleran Weaver saw the need for an endowment fund to be established at Joseph & Mary's Home. A former college administrator, Jeanne recognized that the interest drawn from the principal of an endowment can annually fund needed resources to improve the mission.

"This [Joseph & Mary's Home] must last forever," said Jeanne. At that time, they gave a gift to begin the Sr. Joan Gallagher, CSA, Endowment Fund, named after Joseph & Mary's Home's first executive director.

Now, in 2025, the Weavers have given another transformational gift commitment. Because of their generosity, the endowment now exceeds \$1 million and will grow to nearly \$1.5 million. "The building has been built; now, we must ensure that the love and concern continues," she said. "The endowment fund keeps this care for our neighbor going, and we are all connected through this radical vision of all things charity."

Their gift, announced at the Perseverance in Hope Luncheon in honor of Sr. Joan's 75th Jubilee and 95th birthday this year, inspired attendees to give \$18,187 to the endowment themselves. "It is the work of prayer and vigilance; it is giving what we can," Jeanne said.

Joseph & Mary's Home is committed to growing the Sr. Joan Gallagher, CSA, Endowment Fund to more than \$2 million in the coming years.

One ideal way you can make a meaningful endowment contribution is through a bequest in your estate plans. Joseph & Mary's Home has partnered with FreeWill to make estate planning simple.



To learn more, go to the Joseph & Mary's Home website and visit the Give Back tab. You can also scan the QR code shown here.

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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

A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System



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