

Dear Friends,

We all recognize **homelessness is a chronic and growing problem in our city—and an issue we deeply care about and want to fix.** Many of us, however, actually see only a small portion of people who are experiencing homelessness as we go about our daily lives. We might pass a place where people are sleeping in tents, or someone with a sign and a cup. We might reach out, or we might be in too much of a rush to stop.

In these encounters, none of us can **see the scale and scope of homelessness** in our cities, and the thousands of people with nowhere to live, and no one to help them.

In 1934, Elizabeth Wood led an effort to replace the scourge of slums in which the city's poorest residents dwelled with low-cost, well-built and racially integrated housing. Through her leadership as Executive Director of the Metropolitan Housing Council and then the Illinois State Housing Board, she **changed the standards and planning of public housing, and the perception of what was acceptable, by making the unacceptable visible.** Her essential tool was simple: a camera. She took pictures that showed the scope, scale and sadness of the issue.

Now is a good time to learn from her. Below are just a few snapshots of how our fellow Chicagoans who lack housing options are living. Who **sleep and live day-to-day in unacceptable conditions.** These individuals number into the thousands, and they are sleeping in open areas with inadequate or no shelter, every day and night across our city.

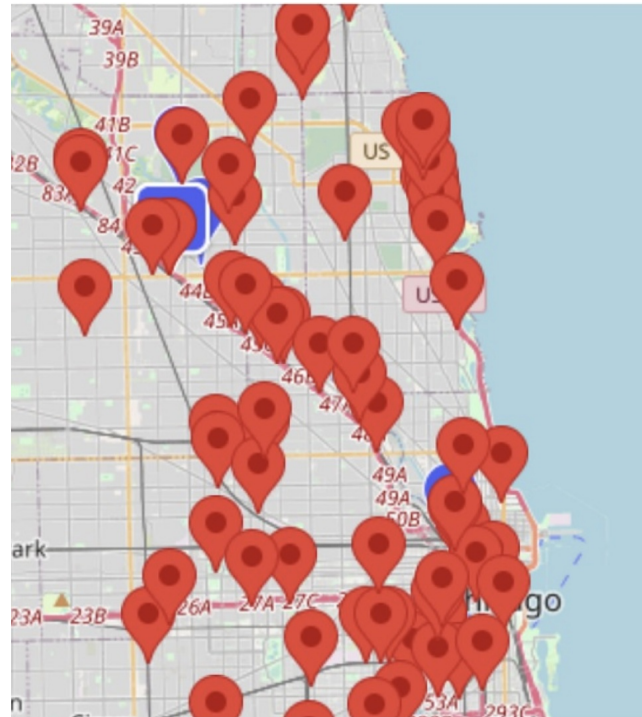
**We can do better.** But first, we need to truly SEE the scope of the problem. To do so, we at CHI are documenting what we are seeing and **creating a map (above) that shows the extent of homelessness across our city.** And we need your input.

We're **seeking volunteers to help us build out our map.** If you're interested in joining this project, **[please drop us an email.](#)**

Thank you for all your support. I hope you'll take a few minutes to read on about our other new initiatives, volunteering opportunities and news. And then let us hear from you!

*Doug F*

Doug Fraser  
Executive Director





THE CHICAGO  
**HELP**  
INITIATIVE



Share the Warmth



## Share the Warmth!

The Chicago Help Initiative has launched our **Annual Warm Clothing Drive**.

Now through January 31, 2024 we are **soliciting donations of warm clothing** to provide people in need in Chicago with **coats, hats, gloves and other winter gear** that will help them stay warm during the cold winter months ahead.

**The need has never been greater! The number of people experiencing homelessness is exploding** in our city. In addition to Chicagoans in need, CHI is also **assisting hundreds of migrant families and asylum seekers and their children** at our weekly Wednesday meals.

**For our Warm Clothing Drive, we are collecting winter coats and other warm-clothing essentials in all sizes, ranging from children to adults.**

We are also **seeking volunteers who can host a coat drive**. Condo associations, congregations, families, scout troops, school clubs, students looking for service hours, and anyone else who wants to "share the warmth" are welcome to host a warm-clothing drive for CHI.

If you would like to host a warm clothing drive, here are some ideas:

- **Collect coats and other winter garments** in a collection box in the lobby **at your apartment building or in your neighborhood**
- **Host a Thanksgiving coat drive with your family**
- **Hold a workplace coat drive**
- **Connect with school groups like the scouts or service clubs to collect coats/winter garments**



**Please contact us to plan your warm-clothing drive!**



## Volunteering Opportunities with Our New Foundations Partners

- **Assist at food pantry:** Mission of Our Lady of the Angels, first Saturday of the month & every Tuesday, from 7:30-11:30 am. Located at 3808 W Iowa St., Chicago 60651. [Sign up.](#)
- **Drop off donated bagged lunches:** First Saint Paul, Wednesdays from 9-11 am. Located at 1301 N. La Salle (drop off on Goethe), Chicago 60610.
  - **Sort & organize donated clothing and other items:** The Free Store, Wednesdays from 8:30 am - 2 pm. Located at 1133 N. La Salle, Chicago 60610. Contact [Liz.](#)
- **Drop off donated bagged lunches :** Saturdays, from 9:30-10:30 am. Located at Catholic Charities. 721 N. La Salle. Contact [Jacqueline.](#)
- **Are you a medical professional?** Fourth Presbyterian Church is seeking M.D.s, P.A.s, nurse practitioners, and medical students to help on Sundays with their medical program. Located at 126 E. Chestnut St., Chicago 60611. Contact [Mike.](#)

## REMINDER! WE NEED YOUR VOTE!

CHI has been selected as one of the **Top 100 Finalists** in the **22nd Annual Chicago Innovation Awards**, which celebrate the most innovative new products and services in the Chicago region across all organization sizes, sectors, and industries.

Please help us become one of the final 20 winning organizations by casting your vote for CHI on the [Chicago Innovation Awards website](#) by **October 17, 2023.**



## Glam, Glitz & Sweat! CHI's End-of-Summer Fundraisers a Big Success

On September 14th, more than 150 friends of CHI gathered at The Forum on N. Wacker Dr. for **our annual "Feeding Hope" Gala**. With the breathtaking backdrop of our city's glistening skyline and river walk, Our guests enjoyed sumptuous fare provided by Gibson's, along with silent and live auctions that helped raise a record \$130,000 for our meals and services in 2024. Thanks to all who turned out! See [more photos from the evening](#) on our blog.



The previous Saturday, we found ourselves at the break of dawn setting up for the annual **Run Mag Mile 5K/10K** event on Sept. 9 in downtown Chicago. CHI was once again **Mag Mile's Charity of Choice**, and we were grateful to all our supporters who ran to raise funds for our meals and services. And a big thank you to our volunteers, who staffed our booth and provided water and snacks to our runners!

