



CHI Annual Report, 2016-17

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1 Notes on the Year

2016 was a year in which CHI stayed true to our original mission, feeding those in need, while expanding and adapting the programs that help our guests transition out of their situations.

Two new and exciting programs started. One is the CHI/Redline Art program. This will be a year long effort, the impact evaluated by the Loyola School of Social Work, to measure the impact that bringing the best of art and culture that our city has to offer to some of our poorest and most marginalized. Over 12 months, a cohort of 12 to 15 of our guests will attend art, music and cultural events, followed by a good meal to build company, connections and to explore both the event itself and the effect it can have on those attending. To some this may seem fanciful – but not to us. Every day we can see the positive impact of treating people like they are normal and worthy of respect – how in our meals they repeatedly return that respect to both us and to each other. We see the impact that connecting isolated people into positive peer groups can have on their own ability and will to affect change in their lives, and we all know, from our own experiences, the power of art to change how we see things, including ourselves. And nothing is more important to change than attitude.

The second new program is a book club. Staffed by volunteers, the club is a weekly conversation, based on books but often, like any good conversation, branching off. Topics have ranged from north Korea to Trump, with a regular attendance between eight and twelve.

Because we are small and nimble, we can change our programs to go with what works – and that means a constant evaluation of what is going well and what we should change. Two programs were reworked and restarted to better serve our guests – the jobs club and Adult Literacy. Our original version of Jobs Club required extensive documentation and record keeping from volunteers – keeping the volunteers connected and active in the program was hard. The new version, which has blossomed to a group of ten to twelve guests, requires far less recording and far more conversation and interaction. It now meets in a separate room to eat together during the meal and share information about opportunities, to review options we put in front of them, to work on having the items necessary to apply for a job and to hear directly from job trainers and other resource providers. In the first six weeks, three people found temporary or permanent work – largely through networking among themselves.

Finally, we made a small change in the Adult Literacy Group which resulted in a big change in numbers. Previously, we had held the group after the meal – because that's when we could get more volunteers. Guests, however, noted that they wanted it before the meal this gives them more time to get back to shelters or wherever they are sleeping. While finding enough volunteers at the earlier time has been a challenge, shifting the time has resulted in such an increase in students that we have now had to hire a part time coordinator to manage the program.

Financially, we met our budget and broke even this year. While that's good, it's also a drop off from the last three years which saw successive record revenues and allowed us to create a reserve fund, consistent with best practices for an organization our size. Of course, one reason for the evening out of revenues to expense is the deliberate expansion of the organization to do the most we can with what we have. Since 2013 we have gotten an office, and added part time staff specific to programs and needs.

2 Our Mission

The Chicago Help Initiative (CHI) is a consortium of business, residential, religious, social service, institutional and volunteer leaders striving to promote an atmosphere of dignity and compassion toward those in need by providing access to food, health services, shelter and employment. CHI works to educate local businesses and residents as to how they can help ease the plight of the homeless, disadvantaged and out of work individuals and improve their well-being, self esteem and productivity.

Every Wednesday evening, The Chicago Help Initiative (CHI) gathers at the dining hall at 721 North La Salle Street to serve a warm meal on white-clothed tables to 130 guests in a safe and dignified setting. An additional 70+ individuals receive a bag meal to go. The nutritious and delicious food is provided by local restaurants, hotels and individuals primarily from Chicago's Magnificent Mile and River North areas.

We serve food, but we also serve information, compassion and guidance. Before dinner, a speaker from a local organization gives a brief presentation, typically on resources on finding temporary shelter, housing, medical care or job training. During the meal, guests share fellowship and, when possible, enjoy the sounds of a local piano player, singer or musical ensemble.

While at the meal with CHI, guests also have an opportunity to visit resource tables staffed with volunteers who maintain listings on a wide variety of services, including shelter, legal aid, medical care and job opportunities. CHI partners with local service agencies to provide the needed information. Furthermore, guests are given an opportunity to participate with several ongoing programs after dinner, including literacy, gardening, art classes, smoking cessation and bicycle repair.

It is CHI's mission to assist our guests in bettering their lives and becoming contributing members of the community once again. CHI is very much a local organization, drawing our support from the residents and businesses that surround us. We are an organization that succeeds by leveraging existing partnerships and resources.

3 Program Descriptions

CHI Dinners: Our meals are either donated outright (or purchased at a substantial discount if an individual donor is involved) from area restaurants and hotels. Examples of donors include Gene & Georgetti, Goddess and Grocer, Benny's Steakhouse, The Hotel Intercontinental and Eli's Cheesecake. We serve these meals in a safe, respectful and dignified setting where guests can be at ease and avail themselves of the resources offered.

Resource Table: CHI interns and dedicated volunteers provide information about the different services our partners, speakers and others offer to our guests. These resources include locations and waiting list information for shelters, the location of food pantries, how to access permanent housing, how to find medical care and legal aid and other services.

Speakers Program: A speaker is scheduled for every meal who gives a brief presentation on a topic potentially relevant to our guests. The speaker then remains for the duration of the meal to interface with those guests who have a specific interest or need in the topic.

Bag Meals: Every night we have an overflow crowd for the meal. To accommodate the overflow or those guests who, for their own reason, choose not to dine with others, we provide 70+ bag meals to take away. The bag meals are donated and prepared by volunteers and offer a full healthy meal.

Jobs Club: Guests who participate in the jobs club dine together in the upstairs dining room, accompanied by two to four volunteers who facilitate and assist. Guests review a list of job leads, get instruction on completing essential tasks to getting a job like getting a state ID and email address and participate in small group presentations and discussions with local, not-for-profit job training and placement agencies.

Literacy Program: CHI arranges to train volunteers to provide personalized tutoring to guests. The classes meet after each meal. The goals are as varied as the people. Some want to study for the GED. Some want to learn to read at a higher level. Some want to accurately complete a job or housing application. We meet people where they are and work to move them forward.

Bike Fair/Working Bikes Cooperative: Every spring, in cooperation with Working Bikes, CHI sponsors a bike repair class and gives away 55 refurbished bikes (and locks and helmets) to our guests willing to use bikes as transportation.

Birthday Acknowledgments: Each meal has a few moments dedicated to wishing and singing happy birthday to those celebrating their birthdays. Each celebrant is given a birthday card along with a gift card. It is sometimes the only acknowledgment individuals have of this life milestone.

Holiday Gifts: Funds are solicited for gift cards and some gift items that distributed each Wednesday starting the week of Thanksgiving and extending through New Years. The gifts typically include items useful for daily living, such as, hats, gloves, scarves, sweatshirts, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, plus gift cards to use at drug stores or grocery stores.

Bingo: In addition to speakers at each of the meals, we schedule bingo at least 4 times a year for a fun way for our guests to enjoy themselves. Bingo prizes range from Nike running shoes to passes to 360 Chicago at The Hancock.

Library: Our guests are avid readers and so CHI distributes free books and magazines at every meal.

Holiday Cards: During the year, students from the Francis Xavier Ward School create greeting cards or place mats for each holiday for the guests.

Outreach Walks: CHI staff and volunteers walk areas of the downtown approaching and connecting with panhandlers, providing them with information on available resources and opportunities and inviting them to join us for dinner.

Nurse Practitioner: Every Wednesday, a nurse trouble shoots issues that our guests present with.

Resource Guide: CHI produces a widely disseminated and used resource guide that connects homeless and panhandlers to the resources they need to move ahead.

4 CHI Meal Providers

We are proud to have our meals this past year sponsored and provided by the following:

AbelsonTaylor
Adam Cody
AIRE
Alison Jannotta & Associates
Allstate
Anonymous
Assumption Church
AT&T
The Balber Family
Bar Lupo
Benny's Chop House
Bernice Jones-Kemble
Bj's Market
Caffe Baci
Dan Porter
Deacon Mike McCloskey
Eli's Cheesecake
Ellen Rontal
First Slice
Fran Manley
Guaranteed Rate
Gene & Georgetti
Goddess & Grocer
GRK Greek Kitchen
Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile
Hotel Intercontinental
The Lord Companies
Lorraine Fitzgerald
Margaret Scanlan Brown
Mark Cassata
Matt Pistorio
Meeghan Nemeroff
Metropolitan Capital Bank
Northwestern Hospital
Stone Psychiatric
Panda Express
Paul Bryant
SITE
Solomon Cordwell Buenz
Texas De Brazil
The Wood Family
Tom and Fran Snyder
Tom Morrisey

5 Partnerships

The Stone Institute for Psychiatry: On the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, professional counselors from Stone provide access to mental health services.

Northwestern University Medical School: Medical students from the University provide blood pressure screening every Wednesday.

The Night Ministry: Every Wednesday, we are aided in our work by The Night Ministry, who provide a nurse practitioner, a social worker who sits at the Resource Table and a staff member who does Hep C and HIV testing and counseling on site.

Working Bikes Cooperative provides the mechanics and workshop for our bike repair classes, as well as the rehabilitated bicycles for our annual bike fair.

Northwestern Medical School does blood pressure readings at every meal.

Northside Housing staffs a table to connect guests to housing once a month

mRelief provides a monthly staffer who reviews guests needs compared to the criteria of various organizations and recommends follow up steps.

Metropolitan Capital Bank sends bankers to consult once a month with our guests about financial matters, such as credit repair opening bank accounts and money management

Financials

Prepared on: July 4, 2017

The Chicago Help Initiative
Statement of Activity - Cash only
 July 2016 - June 2017

	<u>Total</u>
Revenue	
Contributions	
Corporate Contributions	36,539.53
Foundation Contributions	21,200.00
Individual Contributions	66,896.73
Total Contributions	\$ 124,636.26
Helping Hands Benefit	48,901.61
Resource Guide	2,000.00
Total Revenue	\$ 175,537.87
Gross Profit	\$ 175,537.87
Expenditures	
Fundraising Expense	
Helping Hands Benefit	
HH Function Expense	734.76
Venue Expense	6,000.00
Total Helping Hands Benefit	\$ 6,734.76
Other Fundraising Expense	2,708.00
Total Fundraising Expense	\$ 9,442.76
Miscellaneous Expense	568.16
Operational Expense	
Accounting fees	5,476.23
Computer Equipment	2,427.57
Credit Card Processing Fees	2,898.68
Dues & Subscriptions	554.00
Electric Service	520.97
Insurance	3,029.00
Licenses & Statutory Fees	214.00
Meetings & Conferences	67.62
Office Supplies	2,715.00
PR/Marketing	569.67
Printing & Stationary	42.76
Rent Expense	14,215.50
Technology/Software	838.95
Telephone Expense	2,074.01
Travel Expense	136.00
Total Operational Expense	\$ 35,779.96
Payroll Expenses	
Executive Director Wages	49,999.92

Other Wages		18,907.50
SS/Medicare Expense		5,271.42
Total Payroll Expenses	\$	74,178.84
Program Dinner Expense		
Bag Meals		2,180.61
Birthday Gifts		1,000.00
Catering		22,767.21
Guest Gifts		2,555.19
Related Expenses		732.64
Supplies & Security		9,750.00
Total Program Dinner Expense	\$	38,985.65
Program Other		
Adult Learning Program		1,949.91
Art Program (Red Line Project)		308.41
Bike Fair		1,100.00
Holiday Gifts		5,000.00
Jobs Program		74.39
Total Program Other	\$	8,432.71
Total Expenditures	\$	167,388.08
Net Operating Revenue	\$	8,149.79
Other Revenue		
Interest Income		61.38
Total Other Revenue	\$	61.38
Net Other Revenue	\$	61.38
Net Revenue	\$	8,211.17

THE CHICAGO HELP INITIATIVE
Board of Directors
2016-17

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Mid America Real Estate

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