

Faith Community Homes



Faith Community Homes

302 N. Dunton Avenue
Arlington Heights IL 60004
www.fchomes.org
847-342-0846

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Faith Community Homes



nurturing families to a brighter future

February 2017



The Year in Review



Charles Warner
Executive Director

2016 was a year of growth and challenge for Faith Community Homes. As we have expanded our program and staff over the past 3 years, we also were in need of more office space. We were extremely fortunate in finding a location in Palatine that provides not only additional office space for staff, but also provides a comfortable location to meet with families. Now, we have two offices which gives us the space and flexibility to work more effectively and meet with families.

During 2016, we assisted 19 families, with 23 adults and 35 children. Half of them live in Arlington Heights and half in Palatine. Six of these families successfully completed the program and are now sustaining themselves with minimal assistance from governmental programs, such as food stamps.

Another expansion of our program has come through a close partnership with the First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights, which has started a new project to provide family support not only for their own congregation, but for the families we assist. This comes in the form of Wednesday evening meals with classes and activities for children and adults. Many of the families we assist attend regularly and make use of the classes and activities that are offered.

Faith Community Homes has also ventured deeper into the use of volunteers for help with administrative, office and program tasks, which is freeing up the staff for other needed activities.

We have also grown financially, having received several significant and large donations that will be used to continue our growth and serve more families.

For the latest information on FCH events, current news, and volunteer opportunities, visit the Faith Community Homes website at www.fchomes.org

Happy New Year and Welcome to 2017!!



Jim Mayer
Board Chair

I want to thank you for the outpouring of generosity you and your fellow supporters provided FCH in 2016. Your support enabled us to reach and serve more families and their children who are under-resourced. We not only provided financial support through rent assistance to each of the families, but our mentors were able to work with the families to guide them with improved budgeting techniques and financial decision making. The mentors also assisted the moms and dads to secure additional educational and jobs skills training to enhance the values they provide to their current and future employers. In 2017 FCH wants to be even more supportive to our moms and dads in securing those critically important and value-add educational and job training skills in order for our families to earn better paying jobs. These plans and actions will be made possible through your continued caring and generous support of FCH. Please know, we would be happy and honored to share the FCH message/mission with your organization

or church. Thank you again for caring and supporting FCH. Wishing you a healthy and successful 2017.

Our Mission

Our mission is to assist lower income, employed families living or working in the Arlington Heights and Palatine area in securing attainable rental housing and to provide the appropriate support services, including mentoring by trained volunteers and case management, as they move toward greater financial stability and independence.

Upcoming Event

Please join us for our **9th Annual Organ Concert** Sunday, March 12 at 4pm at the First Presbyterian Church, 302 N. Dunton Ave. in Arlington Heights.

The concert features organists and musicians from churches in Arlington Heights and Palatine as well as other Chicagoland locations. The concert is one of the area's musical highlights of the year and is truly a can't-miss event. Open to the public, the event will conclude with a reception immediately following the concert. A free-will offering will benefit the families of Faith Community Homes.

For more information, call the FCH office at 847-342-0846.

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Named Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce Not For Profit Organization of the Year - 2015

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Chuck Warner

Program Manager
Sr. Carrie Miller, SLW

Case Managers
Tom Tucker
Pam Van De Walle

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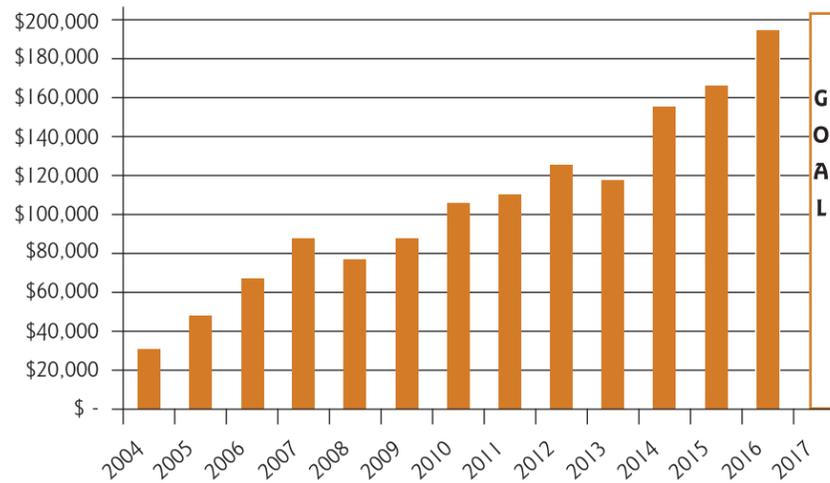
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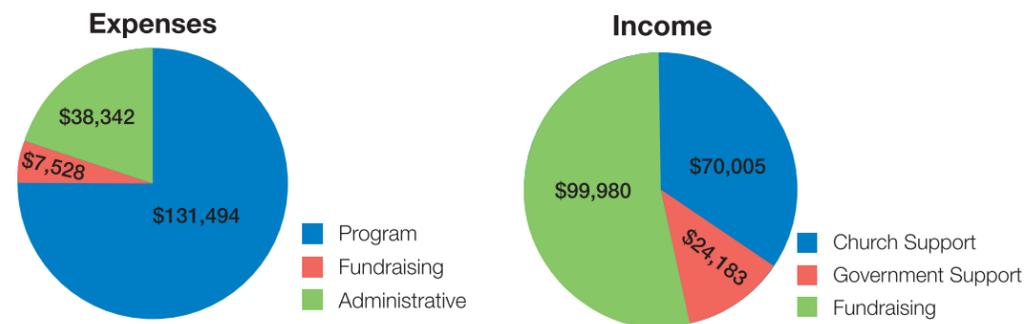
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Special thanks to Palatine Township, Wheeling Township, and the Village of Arlington Heights for providing significant financial assistance as well as help to our client families.

Faith Community Home Financials



Faith Community Homes is growing and has done so quite consistently since its inception in 2003. This is accomplished without major funding from our State and Federal Governments; small grants are awarded from Wheeling and Palatine Townships as well as the Village of Arlington Heights Community Development Block Grant program. As the need continues to grow, FCH has established an income goal of \$202,975 in Fiscal Year 2017 and sincerely welcomes your financial support to reach our objective.



Annual "Giving Hope" Event Delivers

Once again, Faith Community Homes fall fundraising event was a huge success! With more than 200 supporters attending the reception in Metropolis Ballroom and the program in the Metropolis Theatre, the October 23 event raised record funds for FCH families.

In the Ballroom, guests enjoyed a wonderful array of appetizers and cocktails, participated in silent auctions and raffles, and exchanged stories and conversation with old friends and new. All then proceeded to the Theatre for recognitions of honorees, a standup comedy performance by Jim Flannigan, and the live auction. 2016 honorees included:

- First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights – suppliers of school supplies and annual funding for a family
- Mike Thompson – the individual who opened doors for FCH opportunities in Palatine
- St. Viator Students – emergency assistance collections and work study programs with FCH

Our great thanks to each of our dedicated supporters who continue to give regularly and generously to the mission, to our wonderful cash sponsors who fund the event, and to the many companies and individuals who contributed items to the silent auction. A big shout-out to Event Chair Jane Drezen and the volunteers who made this event a reality.



A Family Story - A personal journey shared by the mother of one of our FCH families

I am a single mother of two young daughters and have been in the Faith Community Homes program for a year and a half. When I first came to Faith Community Homes seeking help, I was in a very dark time in my life and was afraid of what my future would be. I was staying in a motel with my two children. We had recently left a very unsteady situation at home and were on a search for a place to live. Within one week of meeting FCH Staff, I had signed a lease for an apartment and was moving into our new home that was complete with donated furniture. For the first time in a long time I felt at peace!

One of the most life-changing parts of Faith Community Homes was my relationship with my mentors. I remember when I first met them and we were talking about budgeting. They mentioned that we would be planning our budgets a month ahead, looking into the future a few months for things like back to school or Christmas or Halloween. I remember thinking to myself, "Oh my gosh, this guy is crazy! Nobody plans a month ahead for what they're going to do with their money - at least I had never done that."

After a few months of working with my mentors I was able to budget more responsibly, and pay off a car title loan that had dominated my finances for years. Slowly I started to feel like less of a victim of my circumstances financially and more like I could take my financial circumstance in my hand and be in control of what happened to my family. It's not just the budgeting and talks that we have that's helpful and special - it really is their relationship with my family. I've come to look to them for advice on everything from job searching to filling out resumes and any other life decisions I need to make. I can always count on them - something I've never had before.

One of the more important things that Faith Community Homes has provided is the sense of community that we've been able to build - from the family dinners at First Presbyterian Church to the wonderful little surprises. This summer during Frontier Days, we were gifted with bracelets to be able to attend. We were given sandals so that the kids would have summer shoes to wear and volunteers from Saint Viator have stepped in to help babysit on nights that I need to attend evening classes or study. While these might seem like small acts of kindness, they actually are huge for my family - \$20 saved here on sandals and \$40 saved there on a babysitter is money that I am able to use to clean up my credit report and pay off past debts in order to make sure that in the future I'm able to be financially stable for my children.

I can now confidently say that I know when I leave this program I will be able to not just survive financially, but that I have what I need to be successful and to thrive. I have hope for a brighter future.