The Night Ministry is moving key portions of its operations to Chicago's Bucktown neighborhood. A red-brick building at 1735 North Ashland, whose iconic water tower is decorated with the blue stripes and red stars of the Chicago flag, will serve as the home of The Crib, The Night Ministry’s overnight shelter for young adults, as well as the agency’s Health Outreach Bus and central administration.

“This move is about enhancing the services we provide as well as supporting efficiency and innovation in our programs, as called for in our strategic plan, Serving in the Next Decade,” said Paul W. Hamann, The Night Ministry’s President & CEO.

Renovation at the building is underway with a move-in goal of early 2020.

A New Home for The Crib
The three-year strategic plan The Night Ministry launched in 2017 calls for addressing facility challenges faced by The Crib, currently located in the basement of Lakeview Lutheran Church.

“We won’t be increasing bed capacity but creating a more dignified experience for guests,” Hamann said.

Improvements will include a dorm room with beds, a dining room, private spaces for one-on-one meetings between staff and guests, and multiple showers and bathrooms.

“The impact of torrential rains earlier this summer, when flooding in the basement of the church that currently houses The Crib prevented guests from sleeping and ruined the mats they sleep on, underscores the necessity of these improvements,” Hamann said.

Bringing the Bus Home to Staff
Getting the Health Outreach Bus ready to hit the road each night is complicated. The Bus must be retrieved from its overnight parking space, more than three miles away, before being loaded up at The Night Ministry headquarters. It must then be brought back to that space at the end of the evening, after unloading at headquarters.

Making that process more efficient is another component of the current strategic plan.

1735 North Ashland will have on-site parking for the Bus, as well as for the vehicle that serves as a back-up and the Outreach & Health Ministry Program’s vans. There will also be a loading dock and enhanced storage space for health care equipment and supplies.

A New Central Hub for The Night Ministry
The Night Ministry began searching for properties that could address the facility challenges faced by The Crib and Health CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
By Benita Natalini and Chintan Mehta, Co-Presidents, The Associate Board

At this year’s Lighting Up the Night, The Night Ministry’s Annual Awards Dinner & Auction, President & CEO, Paul W. Hamann, Associate Board member Sam Ritchey, and other speakers provided reflections on the importance of human connection to the mission of The Night Ministry. “Reflections” and “human connection” are terms that perfectly capture the current state of the Associate Board, a passionate group of young professionals who support the work of The Night Ministry. After seven years, 2019–20 is our year to rededicate the Associate Board to what attracts us most to serving with The Night Ministry and what about its mission resonates with us all.

We had a great planning meeting in March, resulting in more defined roles and responsibilities for Associate Board members as well as new strategies for how we can best give back to the Chicago community through supporting The Night Ministry. While we will continue to focus on our major fundraising event, Night Lights, which will happen on Thursday, October 17 (see page 3 for more information), this year our events will be centered on volunteering and community partnerships. We will be spending more time at The Night Ministry’s programs, including serving meals to clients, while also connecting to the local business community via special events. We are excited about our plans for the future and are on the lookout for prospective members to join us on this journey. Thus, if you, or anyone you know, is interested in becoming a member of the Associate Board, please reach out to associateboard.tnm@gmail.com or visit www.thenightministry.org/associate-board. ◊

Members of The Night Ministry’s Associate Board at last year’s Night Lights, their annual gala.

“We are excited about our plans for the future and are on the lookout for prospective members to join us on this journey.”

How will you leave your legacy?

After securing economic stability and providing for the needs of your loved ones, you may choose to make a lasting charitable impact with a bequest to The Night Ministry. If you have already included The Night Ministry in your will, please let us know — we would like to acknowledge your generosity and welcome you as a member of The Legacy Society.

Contact Christy Prassas
Vice President of Development & External Relations
christy@thenightministry.org or (773) 506-6023.

“Planned giving is a great way to invest in the future of The Night Ministry and the noble mission we seek to carry forward.”
— Ike Hong, Legacy Society Member since 2018 and former Board Member

THE NIGHT MINISTRY IS ON THE MOVE!

We are moving our central office from 4711 North Ravenswood to 1735 North Ashland early next year. The Health Outreach Bus program will be based out of the new location, which is also where we will be accepting in-kind donations. The Crib overnight shelter, currently in the Lakeview neighborhood, will relocate to 1735 North Ashland as well. See the article on the front page for more details and stay tuned for updates on the timing of the move.

In the meantime, we will continue to accept in-kind donations at 4711 North Ravenswood, and we look forward to seeing our Health Outreach Bus volunteers at the Ravenswood office and The Crib’s volunteers and meal servers at the program’s current location at 835 West Addison until we make the move.
Outreach Bus Program two years ago. The initial search for The Crib centered in Lakeview, but when a suitable and affordable spot could not be found in the neighborhood, the search was widened to other areas of the city.

In the meantime, in the spring of 2018, The Night Ministry learned that the Ravenswood building where its administrative and back-office functions have been located since 2002 had been sold. With its lease ending on December 31, 2019, The Night Ministry started to consider moving its central office.

Barbara Bolsen, The Night Ministry’s Vice President of Strategic Partnerships & Community Engagement, was leading the property searches when she located the building on North Ashland.

“I realized that we could possibly move all three—The Crib, Outreach & Health Ministry, and central administration—to this location,” she said.

The new facility will have 15,000 square feet available for Outreach & Health Ministry and central office staff, up from less than 9,000 square feet in the Ravenswood location. The increase in office space will accommodate expanded operational needs that have come along with growth in The Night Ministry’s programs, completing a third goal of the strategic plan that had originally called for modifying the Ravenswood building.

How to Support the Move

The Night Ministry estimates the cost of the move and renovation of 1735 North Ashland, for which it has signed a multi-year lease, will be $5.6 million. It also projects an additional need of $1.7 million for capacity building and sustainability for the first three years of operation at the new building, as rent, utility, and occupancy costs will be greater than its current locations for The Crib and administrative offices.

Funding the move is part of a capital campaign The Night Ministry launched earlier this year. For information about supporting the move, contact Christy Prassas, Vice President of Development & External Relations, at 773-506-6023 or christy@thenightministry.org.

Support The Night Ministry’s mission by participating in the AIDS Run & Walk! Join our team or make a donation toward our team goal, which will support our HIV Outreach Program. Contact Kaitlin Donnelly, Coordinator for Foundation & Corporate Relations, at (773) 506-6005 or kaitlin@thenightministry.org.

High schoolers from Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin joined The Night Ministry’s Health Outreach Bus to serve dinner in New City and several other Chicago neighborhoods earlier this summer. Rev. Charles Strietelmeier of Augustana Lutheran Church in Hobart, Indiana, said it was a great opportunity for the students to challenge their preconceptions about people experiencing homelessness and poverty. “When you are actually standing out in the street talking to people, you find out how much they are like you.”

Congregations, businesses, professional associations, families, and friends are welcome to join the Bus and serve a meal in New City, South Shore, and any of the other five neighborhoods it visits. Contact Brittany Caine-Conley, Community & Congregational Relations Coordinator, at (773)-506-6004 or BrittanyC@thenightministry.org to sign up.

An upgraded kitchen will be one of the improvements to The Crib when the shelter program moves into its new space.
Homelessness is not a crime, but in municipalities across the country, more and more individuals experiencing homelessness face jail time or fines for sleeping on the sidewalk or in a car, camping in a public place, panhandling, or engaging in other activities they must do to simply survive on the streets.

“It’s a vicious cycle,” said Sylvia Hibbard, Case Manager with The Night Ministry’s Street Medicine Team. “Being homeless can be criminalized to the point where you are kept homeless.”

“Having a criminal record makes you ineligible for many housing programs,” said Taylor de Laveaga of The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. “Even a history of police interaction, which is common for people experiencing homelessness, can support a housing provider’s decision to deny admission.”

And while some ordinances call for a ticket rather than arrest, a citation may lead to time behind bars.

“If you're unable to make a court date or pay those fines and fees, which many are not, an arrest warrant could be issued,” said de Laveaga.

According to the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, every year more than a million young Americans will have some type of involvement with law enforcement or the justice system. That involvement increases the likelihood of a youth or young adult experiencing homelessness.

“There is a huge gap in legal services for runaway and homeless youth in America,” said Darla Bardine, Executive Director of the National Network for Youth. “There is a pretty serious need for legal services for this population so situations don’t spiral. It’s very difficult for young people to resolve these legal matters on their own.”

Meanwhile, having a prior contact with the police or courts may deter some young people from seeking supportive services.

“They know or they think there may be a bench warrant out for them, so they don’t want to become involved in a system that will report them,” Bardine said.

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- Erin Ryan
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**WALK TO END HUNGER**

Join The Night Ministry at the Greater Chicago Food Depository’s 34th Annual Hunger Walk on Saturday, September 7, at Jackson Park. Walk with us to earn food credits for our Youth Housing Programs.

Please contact Bethany Collins, Coordinator for Individual Stewardship, at (773) 506-6006 or BethanyC@thenightministry.org for more information or to sign up.

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**Laws criminalizing homelessness, including ordinances banning camping in public places, have increased by more than 40% in major American cities over the last decade, according to The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty.**

**“Being homeless can be criminalized to the point where you are kept homeless.”**

- Sylvia Hibbard,
  - Street Medicine Program Case Manager
Having made house calls while working for a safety net clinic in suburban Aurora, The Night Ministry’s Senior Nurse Practitioner, Stephan Koruba, has experience bringing health care directly to people where they live. He’s still doing that today as a member of the Street Medicine Team, but most of the patients he sees these days don’t have a permanent place to call home.

Along with a Case Manager and Outreach Professional, Koruba travels the city in the Street Medicine Van, addressing the immediate needs of individuals living in encampments, under viaducts, and along roadways. It’s a job, he said, that suits him.

“I like to be outside and in the elements. I like to work with people who have fallen through the cracks. It’s important to me to be in a profession where I am trying to serve people.”

Providing help, Koruba said, is complicated by his patients’ precarious living situations.

“A lack of stable housing is such a big deal because without housing, people are harder to find, and checking up with them is difficult. It’s hard to bring resources to bear and give them the best chance of getting better if they’re out on the streets.”

Koruba said there are also challenges for the Street Medicine patients who do end up receiving care in a hospital or physician’s office. That’s why, he said, the Street Medicine Team is opening up lines of communication with traditional health care providers.

“Our patient population has different needs. They don’t have the follow-up resources that you or I might have, and many of them have substance use issues. So the emergency room and the inpatient providers have to treat them differently.”

STREET MEDICINE LUNCHEON
Friday, September 13, 11:30 am
The Standard Club, 320 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, IL 60604

Join Paul W. Hamann, President & CEO of The Night Ministry, and our special guest, Dr. Jim O’Connell, President of Boston Health Care for the Homeless, as they share local and national perspectives on the opportunities and challenges facing street medicine programs.

Please contact Christy Prassas, Vice President of Development & External Relations, at (773) 506-6023 or christy@thenightministry.org to register. We kindly request a $100 donation for attendance.

Celebrating Human Connection
More than 400 friends and supporters of The Night Ministry gathered to celebrate human connection at Lighting Up the Night, our Annual Awards Dinner & Auction, on June 11. During the event, members of The Night Ministry community spoke about the importance of human connection in their lives and in the work of The Night Ministry. Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management was honored for supporting The Night Ministry’s mission through the Kellogg Board Fellows Program, the professional development and education of the organization’s staff, and fundraising and volunteer activities. The event, emceed by WTTW host and producer, Geoffrey Baer, raised nearly $500,000 in support of The Night Ministry’s mission.
It’s been a year of milestones at Phoenix Hall, capped off by six of the program’s residents graduating from high school.

Located in Chicago’s West Lawndale neighborhood, Phoenix Hall is The Night Ministry’s residence for high school students experiencing homelessness or housing instability. It’s named after the mascot of North Lawndale College Prep High School, which, along with Old St. Pat’s Church, helped launch the program in August of 2017.

When it first opened, Phoenix Hall was one of the first housing programs in the country for students from a specific high school. But the program has now expanded its mission to serve students from other Chicago high schools.

“We were finding that the need for supportive housing for homeless students was as prevalent in the wider community as it was inside North Lawndale College Prep,” said Allison McCann-Stevenson, Assistant Director of Long Term Residential Services at The Night Ministry.

Phoenix Hall staff work closely with both residents and their parents or guardians, with an end goal of resolving challenges that families may be facing and reunification, if possible.

As the graduates begin a new chapter in their lives, McCann-Stevenson said The Night Ministry is committed to making sure they make a successful transition.

“We want to make sure that the family views us as partners,” said McCann-Stevenson, “because parental engagement is a cornerstone of the work that we do with young people at Phoenix Hall.”

Devontay, who came to Phoenix Hall in February as a high school junior, says Phoenix Hall feels like home to him. “It’s a nice safe haven,” he said.

The program, he said, has helped him concentrate on his school work. “When I was staying with a friend, it was hard to study because it was so noisy,” he said.

Thank You
for your generosity and compassion!
Your support allows The Night Ministry to provide housing, health care, and human connection to the most vulnerable of our community members.

Phoenix Hall Expands Its Mission to Serve a Wider Base of Students

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Thank you to those who generously gave at the $250 level or higher between March 1, and June 30, 2019.

**LUMINARIES**

$25,000+

Anonymous (3)
Chicago Dept. of Family and Support Services
Chicago Dept. of Public Health
Mary & Paul Finnegan
The Grainger Foundation
Illinois Dept. of Human Services
Julius Frankel Foundation
LGBT Fund at The Chicago Community Trust
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation
Alicia & Peter Pond
The Crown Family
The Fama Family Charitable Fund
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
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U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services
U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development

**CONSTELLATIONS**

$10,000-$24,999

Anonymous (2)
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BMO Harris Bank
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Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills
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Thank You

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Tina M. Erickson & Mike Krutsch
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Bronna Wasserman
Carrie & Kenneth Jay Weaver
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Joann & David Winston
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Libby Angst
Jen & Ben Applegate
Erin Archer
Geoffrey Baer
Michael Baran
Lorraine & Randy Barba
Joan I. Berger
Ed Bergstrom & Anaelse Teng
Suzanne Bessette-Smith & David K. Smith
Dana & Evan Birnbaum
Arleen & Robert Blatt
John P. Blosser
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Illinois
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Harry Bryant
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Church of the Transfiguration, Palos Park
John Cole
Robbie Collins
Eileen Conagan
Congregational United Church of Christ of Arlington Heights
Merle R. Cooper
Costco Wholesale
Mini Datta
Sarah Demet
Marisa & Robert Doherty
Marion Evans
Rebecca Feaster
First Congregational Church of La Grange
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Naperville
First United Methodist Church of Park Ridge
Sarah Gajek
Sarah E. Generes
Vinith George
Linsley S. Gray
Thomas A. Grell
Alexander Gutfraind
Eric Hassel
Yvonne Herlihey
Dorrit E. Herreid
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago
Beth & Darren Hunter
JBT Corporation
Patricia & Dan Jorndt
Julia P. Karagianis
Kendra Scott
Mark Kiehhaber
Leah M. Laurie
Bill & Blair Lawlor
Meg & Tom Macfadden
Carol & Ben Mackoff
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Mimi McKay
Jane C. McLagan
JoAnn Metternich
Georgiana Micholas
Suzanne Mizgata
Ed & Marcia Moore
Rosalyn & Barry Morgen
Gregg & Betty Morton
Nancy Needles
Emmanuel Nony
Frances M. O’Hern
June Maguire Ozmon
Arthur Palmer & Pamela Gellen
Gail E. Parry & Norman Bell
Jessica Petty & Ethan Smith
Presbyterian Women of Park Ridge
Presbyterian Church
Katherine Prizy
Saints Faith, Hope & Charity Catholic Church, Winnetka
Samuel Weinstein Family Foundation
John Schneider
Margaret Shaklee & Hillis Howie, Jr.
Patricia Shaw
Kevin Sido
Linda Sienkiewicz
Janet Carl Smith & Mel Smith
Mary Ann Smith
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Lee Strouse
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The Collins Family Foundation
Toyota Financial Savings Bank
Trinity United Methodist Church, Mount Prospect
Nneka Umeh & Griffin Moshier

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AmazonSmile Foundation
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Kenneth S. Balaskovits
Mary A. Perry Bates
Susan & William Bennett
Lieselotte N. Betterman
Haley Birnbaum
Dianne M. Bischoff
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Kiantea A. Bowles
Shawna Bowman
Betty & William Boyd
Mellanie K. Brennan
Thank You

Benjamin Burford
Donna L. Callahan & Martin J. Fitzgerald
Virginia Campbell
Betsy Carlson
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Stacey Cleveland
Combined Federal Campaign
Community Baptist Church of Warrenville
Kathleen & Michael Conway
Natalie Crampton & Joseph Hoffman
Amy & Samuel Crider
Discover Financial Services
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Fermata Psychotherapy, P.C.
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Pamela K. Hull
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Illinois Association of Free & Charitable Clinics
Aby Jacob
Rick & Mary Jobski
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Martha & Jeffrey Pattee
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Peoples Gas Light and Coke Co.
Jane Sisco Perkins & Jim Perkins
Richard Peterson & Rev. Wayne Bradley
Lisa Pildes
Kimberly Poston
Jeffrey Pratt
Sam & Barbara Psimoulis
Daneen Purnell-Offard
Rotary Club of Des Plaines
Christina & Brandon Salesberry
Sauganash Woman’s Club Foundation
Gil Shannon, Jr.
Jason Singleton
Dyhan Slaughter
St. Gregory the Great Church, Chicago
St. Isaac Jogues Parish, Niles
St. Luke Presbyterian Church, Downers Grove
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The Redeemer of Calvary UMC, Chicago
The Standard Insurance Company
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