



REFLECTING, REBUILDING & REVITALIZING





Homan Square strives to sustain an environment that helps students and families live their best lives through quality education, recreation, healthcare and family support services, while instilling the desire to dream big and the skills to maximize success. The Homan Square campus includes:

- Chicago Park District
- DRW College Prep
- Family Focus Lawndale
- Free Spirit Media
- Gardeneers - Homan Rails Farm
- Green Garden Café
- Holy Family School
- Lawndale Business Renaissance Association
- Lawndale Christian Health Center
- The Lunch Box Café
- Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago
- North Lawndale Employment Network
- North Lawndale YMCA
- Options for Youth
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Turning the Page
- YWCA Julian Grace Innovation and Technology Institute

REFLECTING, REBUILDING & REVITALIZING

Dear Friends,

From the beginning, Homan Square and our supporters have been committed to working with North Lawndale residents on a holistic community development partnership. The vision kicked off by Charlie Shaw includes education, healthcare, recreation, social services, and the arts. Together we have created an anchor of success for the still struggling West Side. Once people move into Homan Square, they rarely leave.



Kevin Sutton

Homan Square is part of a long Chicago tradition of community-minded philanthropy and social justice, reaching back to the Settlement House movement founded by Jane Addams. Well before the current calls for better health care in minority communities, Lawndale Christian Health Center served thousands of patients a year on the Homan Square Campus. Our education providers at DRW College Prep and Holy Family School have been offering quality educational opportunities for neighborhood students. Campus providers like North Lawndale Employment Network, Free Spirit Media, and the School of the Art Institute have tackled job training and supported the cultural life of North Lawndale. From the beginning, Homan Square has addressed the very issues in the headlines today.

As we measure that success against the backdrop of the pandemic and the pleas for more investment in schools, jobs, and health services, we know we have accomplished a great deal, with still more to do. Everyone wants to live in a safe neighborhood where they are respected and valued, where they can walk to good schools and have a place to exercise, socialize, and earn a good living.

Our far-sighted donors, partners, and providers are pioneers who understand that by addressing the root causes of inequality we can lift our neighbors and support their success.

Thank you for generously supporting The Foundation for Homan Square. Together, we are making a positive impact that will last for generations.

Kevin Sutton

Executive Director

Foundation for Homan Square



COVID 19 RELIEF FUND

We are deeply grateful for the many donors who joined together to support dozens of families that reside in Homan Square. The ambitious campaign was led by the FHS COVID-19 Relief Committee: Bev Hayford, Cathy Shaw and retired FHS President, Kristin Dean. Their caring efforts proved successful on two key and vital fronts — first, helping hard working families negatively impacted by the pandemic remain in their homes and, second, reconnecting old friends and supporters to the Homan Square mission.



From the onset of stay-at-home orders to combat the spread of COVID-19, concern grew for how renters at Homan Square who were unable to work were going to be able to pay their rent. Putting people out of their homes during a pandemic was not an option.

“We knew that assistance was critical because everyone needs a safe place to live, especially when Chicago is battling a highly contagious virus,” said Bev Hayford. “We put out a call to our incredible and generous Homan Square supporters and quickly raised more than \$125,000 to keep people in their homes.”

The Homan Square vision has always included quality, affordable housing as a bedrock of community development.

“I want to thank everyone who supported the COVID Relief Fund,” said Hayford. “In times like these, we all need to do what we can to support one another and keep each other healthy and safe.”

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

Now is a great time to invite your friends to support the Foundation for Homan Square. The mission of providing housing, healthcare, recreational facilities, quality education, and a revitalized community has never been more relevant. Homan Square supporters know they are directly impacting solutions for overcoming the inequalities that leave many vulnerable and hurting. Together we can and do make a difference. Visit www.homansquare.org/support to find out how.



Grand Opening of the Homan Square Community Center Campus in December of 2001

GOOD SOLID USE: REFRESHING HOMAN SQUARE

Like many of us during the pandemic, Homan Square took advantage of the downtime to address both cosmetic and capital projects. “After 20 years of good solid use, the Homan Square campus was ready for some repairs and touch-ups,” says John Kuhnen, Vice President of Asset Management, IFF.

The most major campus renovations were the installation of a new HVAC system serving several tenants and public areas of the Community Center, and a new roof. Both had reached the end of their useful lives. The iconic primary-colored molded chairs in the Community Center lobby got a fresh coat of paint, and the lobby received both lighting upgrades and its own paint job. The Community Center is looking as bright as the day it opened.

Housing at Homan Square is also undergoing a refresh in the first stage of a multi-pronged project. “After more than 25 years, all housing needs some cosmetic and structural attention,” said Eden Hurd-Smith, Lead Developer – Comprehensive Place Based Initiatives at IFF. “We are replacing some windows and working on external repairs on the Phase One homes built in 1993. The next stage will include Phase Two homes and go beyond cosmetic repairs.”

“Homan Square is a community of safe, stable, affordable housing,” said Hurd-Smith. “The campus is unique and offers all of the components of what people think a healthy community means to them, which is why our owners never leave and there are always 300 families on our rental waiting list.”

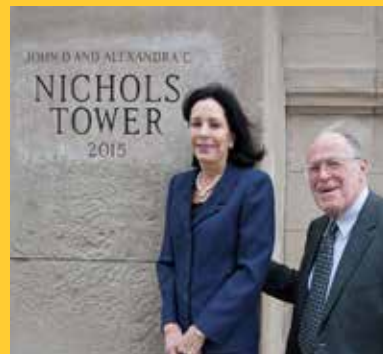
“Not only is it important to preserve what we have at Homan Square, but we need to continue working with the surrounding community to radiate it outward. Everyone wants and needs a place to live and feel safe,” added Hurd-Smith.





NICHOLS TOWER

The Nichols Tower also received an upgrade thanks to the continuing generosity of John and Alexandra Nichols. The front steps were poured with fresh concrete to remedy some dangerous conditions developing due to cracking and chipping. The new concrete offers a safe and solid entryway that will last for years and welcome hundreds of daily guests to the Tower. We are grateful for the Nichols family's ongoing support.



NLEN: BRIDGING GAPS WITH GOOD JOBS

While currently advancing plans for a \$10 million stand-alone facility a block away, North Lawndale Employment Network (NLEN) has been and will remain a Homan Square Campus anchor. NLEN's commitment to equipping people with the skills they need to find employment and build their own communities is a perfect fit with our mission.



"NLEN began working with formerly incarcerated job seekers long before people realized the problems created by the criminal justice system over-incarcerating people of color," said Brenda Palms-Barber, NLEN Executive Director. "Homan Square has also been way ahead of the game, working diligently to bridge racial and wealth divides through employment, healthcare, recreation, and social services. The social cost of these divides is being vividly illustrated by our current circumstances."

NLEN has big aspirations. The organization currently helps about 2,500 jobseekers each year. When completed, their new campus will increase NLEN's capacity to serve by 50%. Their long-term goal is reducing unemployment in North Lawndale by 10% by 2023.

"It is good that society is catching up with what NLEN and Homan Square have been doing for 20 years," said Palms-Barber. "If we give people resources to grow and build their own lives, their communities will flourish. We want North Lawndale to be known for all of its good rather than the ills of poverty."

LCHC: OPPORTUNITIES IN CRISIS

In keeping with their unparalleled commitment to their patients, Lawndale Christian Health Center (LCHC) not only provided uninterrupted care during the pandemic, but found ways to increase access to some vital services. While the number of in-person visits to the Homan Square clinic naturally declined, telehealth visits have become a critical new tool. The LCHC Dental Clinic has also taken advantage of telehealth to help parents get school-aged kids checked and the paperwork on its way for school enrollment.

“Telehealth has been a big success,” said LCHC Client Director Dr. Daisy Dowell. “Our patients can do their visit from anywhere and as a result, our no-show rate has gone down. It’s a whole new way of receiving care, but it’s turned out to have advantages for patients.”

Another amazing development has been the ability to increase often difficult to obtain mental health services. LCHC has used a “hand-off” model to immediately connect in-person patients in need with behavioral health services. Telehealth visits now allow several LCHC clinics to pool mental health resources to serve even more patients.

“It has been a joy to offer patients a way to alleviate some of their anxiety as we all navigate the challenges of COVID-19,” says Dowell. “Telehealth also helps to eliminate the stigma some patients feel in seeking behavioral health services.”

The LCHC Mobile Health Department was asked by the City of Chicago to provide care for 175 high-risk homeless patients staying at Hotel 166. “Not only did we accomplish a 100% COVID-negative status, but the experience of providing care to this uniquely vulnerable population affected all of our staff in unique and profound ways,” said Dowell.

“It is clear that disparities do exist and that we can do better when we prioritize resources for those the most in need,” said Dowell. “We have witnessed amazing creativity and we still have a lot to do, but Homan Square and LCHC supporters should feel confident that they have planted a seed in good ground.”



WE HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER INCLUDING THE FOUNDATION FOR HOMAN SQUARE IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING. YOUR GIFT WILL ENSURE THE VIBRANCY OF THE HOMAN SQUARE CAMPUS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

2019/2020 ANNUAL FUND

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHOSE GREAT GENEROSITY ALLOWS US TO TOUCH THE LIVES OF MANY.

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COVID 19 RELIEF FUND

CHAMPIONS

(\$10,000 +)

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Cathy M. Shaw
Steans Foundation

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