

TRANSITIONS

The Newsletter for Volunteers & Friends of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter

Winter 2012

It's an (Arti-)fact!

By George Kuhlman and Jim Straus, Metamorphosis Party 2012 Co-chairs

On April 27, LPCS supporters, their families, friends and other guests will gather in Ravenswood at Architectural Artifacts to enjoy another great Metamorphosis Party! Mark the date on your calendars, and be there to experience the excitement as new and unique items are spotlighted in the Live Auction. (How cool, for example, would a vintage pinball machine be in your den or rec room? New travel destinations, close to home and far away, will also make their debuts.)

Throughout the evening, we'll watch as Adam Reed Tucker, the artist afforded the rare honor of being given name credit on LEGO® design kits, creates a giant model of the LPCS' skyline logo before our eyes. (Models of Fallingwater and the Robie House will be yours for the bidding in the Silent Auction, too.)

Our generous and creative event committee will be pulling out all the stops to make the LPCS' major fundraising event memorable and fun. We're building a party so that LPCS guests can rebuild their lives. How great is that?

As the first-ever team of guys to co-chair a LPCS event, we're focusing on smashing some records, here. Hope you're there to help us do it!

For tickets and more information, visit: www.LPCSONline.org/events/metamorphosis



Focus on Funders

Morgan Stanley

Morgan Stanley Foundation

Many corporations contribute to non-profit organizations where employees give their time and/or money. LPCS is the grateful beneficiary of funds from several of these corporations. This year, we are happy to be the recipient of \$2,000 for our Community Engagement Program from Morgan Stanley Foundation's Volunteer Incentive Program (for more on CEP, see the article on page 2). The VIP is designed to "recognize and support employee volunteer efforts and to foster relationships with local communities." This VIP grant comes to LPCS through Board President, Gil Matar's volunteerism here. Thank you, Gil and the Morgan Stanley Foundation!



People's Gas

In July, LPCS received a grant from People's Gas, a household name in Chicagoland. Proud to provide grants within their service area, People's Gas is committed to building and sustaining "vibrant and healthy communities for the future." People's Gas provided \$2,000 toward operating costs at LPCS, fulfilling a part of their mission to fund human service organizations, including homeless services. Thank you, People's Gas!



CouponCabin

In 2010, LPCS received \$10,000 from CouponCabin and the Kluth Family Foundation. LPCS was nominated to receive a grant by Trisha Schroeder, a former volunteer and employee at CouponCabin. With the \$10,000 grant, LPCS purchased a number of needed supplies for our Interim Housing Community and On Track Program. Some of the supplies included breakfast food, much needed medical supplies and CTA passes for our guests to get to and from appointments. The biggest purchase made with the funds was two new, upgraded dishwashers to replace the two that were continually in need of repair. LPCS was also fortunate to receive a \$3,000 grant from CouponCabin in 2011. Funds from this grant were used toward bedding for guests, as well as upgrading computer equipment. Thank you, CouponCabin!

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Board Corner

By Gil Matar, President



It is truly an honor and a privilege to be on the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. Being president, however, is a daunting responsibility. How does one lead an organization that is already the best in class?

LPCS staff, under the leadership of Executive Director Erin Ryan, delivers state of the art social services to vulnerable members of our community. The Board of Directors has to provide guidance and support to Erin and her staff when needed, but perhaps our most important duty is to get out of the way. And since the members of the Board include successful business people, activists and community leaders, it's not necessarily in our nature to do so. If my presidency is deemed to be successful, it will be because I will have figured out how to best utilize the talents of the Board to help Erin and the staff do an even better job than they are already doing, and to do so in a collaborative fashion.

I learned about LPCS through my involvement in the Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Chamber who join me to provide a monthly hot breakfast at the shelter. The regulars are Jeff Lawler from Geja's, Pat Karpowicz from Graff Ballauer, Colette Rodon Hornof from Vesta, Gail Zelitzky from Silver—Robins Consulting, Deb Watkins from the Chamber of Commerce, Nancie & Ron Mertz from Artful Framers/Art De Triumph, Maria Willging, A&N Mortgage, and fellow LPCS Board Member Elizabeth Rossdeutscher from BankFinancial. We started providing the breakfasts in January 2011, and have enjoyed working together very much. The twelve meals we have prepared and shared together have been a bright spot for me in 2011.

I look forward to a successful 2012, working with Erin, the Board and my friends from the Chamber for the betterment of LPCS and our valued guests. Here's to a great 2012 for all of us!

The Lincoln Park Community Shelter brings our community together to empower homeless men and women to make life changes.

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Designed by Amanda Micek

Providing Services for Those in Need

By Betsy Carlson, MSW, Program Director

As most of our volunteers and supporters know, LPCS is a 24/7 operation, providing interim housing to our guests every day, every night, all year round. What is less well-known is that we also offer programming five days a week for community clients—individuals living on the streets, in emergency shelters, and/or who are at-risk of becoming homeless, serving over 280 individuals last year. The Community Engagement Program (CEP) offers an array of services for this vulnerable and often hard-to-reach population.

Each Saturday morning, Interim Housing Manager Linda is up bright and early, opening the doors at St. Pauls UCC for community clients to enjoy a low-demand hospitality program. Here, we provide basic services—showers, laundry, medical services, and a hot meal—for individuals who may not be interested in participating in more structured programs. Linda works with volunteers to casually engage community clients through these basic resources and services. When clients feel ready—on the first visit or even their 23rd visit—they are invited to talk with a case manager about resources and referrals toward their goals or improving their housing status.

The Community Engagement Program is, for many, the first step in making a commitment to a better life, and accepting the assistance of this community to achieve it.

A Message from the Executive Director

By Erin Ryan, MSW



Chicago's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness has transformed the way we approach the problem of homelessness in our city. Since the endorsement of the Plan by former Mayor Richard Daley eight years ago, significant resources have been shifted from emergency shelters into permanent housing, and thousands of households have averted homelessness

through accessing financial assistance to help through a crisis. Now, with a new administration at the helm and results in from a thorough evaluation of the Plan, Chicago is looking to create the next version of its approach to homelessness.

Chicago's current Plan takes a three-pronged approach to ending homelessness as we know it. The first is to close the "front door" to homelessness by investing in prevention – oftentimes, a household can avoid homelessness with one-time or short-term financial assistance to help through an illness, work layoff, or other crisis.

Second is the approach we take when a household does face the devastating circumstance of homelessness. This is where LPCS fits into the Plan. We provide interim housing – which means that beyond the basics of food and shelter, we provide comprehensive services that focus on returning people to housing as quickly as possible.

Studies have shown that it is much more effective – clients are better able to address issues such as mental illness, substance abuse, and medical needs when stably housed – to provide supportive housing with social services built in. Not only is it more effective, it's more efficient – it is less costly to provide a housing subsidy than to provide ongoing crisis services through shelters, emergency rooms, and corrections. This is known as the "housing first" approach, a core value of the Plan. The third piece of the Plan focuses on the creation of a variety of affordable permanent housing options – some with social services built in, others in the private rental market. Since the creation of the Plan, resources devoted to housing units have shifted to make up more than 50% of the monies spent on ending homelessness.

In January, homeless service providers, including LPCS, homeless and formerly homeless people, funders, and city officials came together to discuss the next iteration of Chicago's Plan. Some core concepts remain – prevention, affordable housing, and maintaining a safety net for those who fall through the cracks and become homeless. But new priorities have also emerged – the growing numbers of unaccompanied youth and veterans on the streets, focusing on measurable results across the system, and greater collaboration and sharing of resources among service providers. LPCS is proud to be involved in the process, working with organizations and individuals throughout the city toward the common goal of ending homelessness in Chicago.

For more information on the Plan visit www.thechicagoalliance.org.

Success Through Self-Discovery

By Betsy Carlson, MSW, Program Director



Marlo moved into LPCS' Interim Housing Community in February of 2011. He had been living with a friend in NW Indiana with few work opportunities when the relationship became strained and he realized that being in Chicago would give him greater opportunity for finding work. After staying at an emergency shelter downtown, he heard about LPCS and moved in after nearly three months on the waiting list. When asked about his

experience staying at LPCS, Marlo grins and states: "If you have to be in this situation, it's where you want to be."

Over the past year, Marlo has worked with his case manager to get linked to job readiness resources, including resume review and mock interviews with LPCS volunteers, as well as enrolling in The Cara Program's intensive 3-month employment program. Through The Cara Program, Marlo began an internship at a local bank. During his internship, Marlo learned that he is a "people person," and began seeking out opportunities with more interaction. Through continued work with career specialists at The Cara Program, as well as additional mock interview and cover letter practice with LPCS staff and volunteers, Marlo was able to find "not just any job, but one that could lead to a career." At the beginning of December, he began working as a steward at Rivers Casino, a large employer in Chicago's suburbs with opportunities for advancement in several directions.

In addition to looking for work, Marlo has been an active participant in the LPCS community. Many volunteers have seen his photographs displayed on our "Guests Speak Out" board, a skill that he picked up over the years and has been able to continue developing through LPCS' partnership with Chicago Photography Center. Community clients and volunteers with our Saturday Community Engagement Program have likely met him as he assists people with washing a load or two of laundry each week.

Looking ahead, Marlo hopes to move out of LPCS within a couple of months, after saving a nest egg for the future. He plans to continue growing in his work at Rivers Casino and hopes to expand his freelance photography work as well. When he moves out, he plans to continue his involvement at LPCS as a graduate volunteer, helping others to learn the patience and perseverance that he has gained over his journey.

WISH LIST

- Men's and women's thermal underwear (tops and bottoms, size M to 5XL)
- Men's and women's underwear (sizes M to 5XL)
- Men's and women's socks
- Pocket packs of Kleenex/facial tissue
- Personal planners/calendars
- Men's work boots and dress shoes, sizes from 10 medium to 12 wide
- Women's dress shoes sizes 8medium to 11medium
- Men's and women's deodorant
- Coffee
- Powdered creamer
- Sugar
- Cereal
- New or gently used pots, pans and kitchen utensils

Please call ahead to arrange drop off of donations, 773-549-6111. Thank you!

Volunteer Spotlight: Dan & Sarah Tarabori

By Heather Pressman, Community Relations Manager



When people think about volunteering at LPCS, they most often picture helping out in the kitchen making a meal, teaching a class to guests, or even answering phones at the front desk. Beyond these hands-on opportunities, LPCS has several committees made up of volunteers who do everything from help with marketing to planning fundraising events such as A Taste of Fall and the Metamorphosis Party. Dan and Sarah Tarabori are two such volunteers.

Sarah, until very recently known as Sarah Goalstone, began volunteering at LPCS in 2006 teaching financial literacy, time management, and conflict resolution classes to guests. She found LPCS online while looking for volunteer opportunities and “really connected with the mission and idea of getting people back on their feet and into their community again.” In 2008, Sarah joined the planning committee for the first Metamorphosis Party and has continued to be an integral part of planning this event every year since then.

One of her most memorable experiences while volunteering at LPCS occurred after teaching a class one night. “After a class discussion a couple of gentlemen came up and told me this was very meaningful for them. It meant so much to have been a part of an evening that changed peoples’ thinking.”

One of the things that she likes best about volunteering with LPCS is “knowing that the guests are part of my community and that we are in it together to get them back to a place where they feel confident and accomplished.”

Dan decided to get involved in LPCS after he and Sarah attended a fundraiser in 2007, where he learned about the organization and its mission. At that point, he decided to get involved with planning similar events, so along with Sarah, joined the inaugural A Taste of Fall planning committee in 2008.

When asked what he likes best about volunteering at LPCS, Dan responded: “I strongly believe in the mission of the shelter. Knowing that my efforts support that mission makes volunteering easy. It doesn’t hurt that there is plenty of good food, drink, and socializing to be had at the spring and fall events.” And Dan sure does love his events! His favorite LPCS memory—winning his first ever silent auction item at the Metamorphosis Party in 2009.

Both Dan and Sarah have spent countless hours each year since 2008 helping to make sure that both A Taste of Fall and the Metamorphosis Party are huge successes. In 2010, Sarah received the Vision Award at our annual appreciation event, in recognition of all of the work she has done “behind the scenes” on these events. Despite being in the middle of planning their October wedding, both were eager to help on this past fall’s event which raised over \$16,000 thanks to their help! Congrats to Dan and Sarah on their marriage, and thanks for all that they do!

Getting to the Roots of Poverty and Homelessness

By Erin Ryan, MSW, Executive Director

At LPCS, guests are working to better their lives by making positive changes and healthy choices, removing personal barriers and creating new opportunities for themselves. But we also work to overcome systemic barriers that may be holding our guests back – lack of affordable housing and good jobs, access to quality healthcare, and other broad issues that require collective advocacy at the government and policy levels.

As a member of the Lakeview Action Coalition (LAC), the LPCS staff, guests, board, and graduates work within the community to address the root causes of poverty and homelessness. LPCS’ involvement with LAC has been a great way to apply what we do in our everyday jobs and volunteer work, fighting poverty and injustice, on a larger scale (both locally and nationally). It is a really fun and incredibly dedicated group of people. Staff, guests, and graduates have been able to get involved at various levels, and the process is very empowering especially for our guests, who in some cases are finding their voices for the first time.

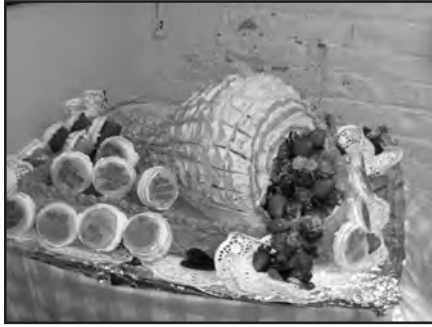
Some recent work at LAC includes:

- Fighting to protect the rights of people displaced from the illegal closings of several single-room occupancy hotels in Lakeview
- Working with area hospitals and clinics to create an integrated health services network for the uninsured and under-insured
- Working to ensure that affordable housing is included in the redevelopment plan for the Children’s Memorial Hospital site - this will create the first new affordable units in Lincoln Park in over 30 years.
- Working to ensure that non-profit hospitals deliver their fair share of charity care in exchange for tax exempt status

If you are interested in getting involved in this social justice work, please email Erin Ryan, Executive Director at eryan@lpcsonline.org. There are many opportunities for involvement!

To Our Volunteers...

By Elli Krandel, Volunteer Coordinator



Every single day, the Lincoln Park Community Shelter welcomes a myriad of volunteers. Volunteers who come make breakfast at 6:30 in the morning. Volunteers who answer the door and field hundreds of phone calls at the front desk. Volunteers who make dinner every evening. And volunteers who teach classes to all of our guests. That, in itself, is an incredible amount of volunteering, but it does not even include our daily overnight volunteers, our computer tutors, mock interviewers, committee members, and the list goes on. Clearly LPCS could not function without its wide, supportive base of volunteers.

At least once a year, we try to show as much gratitude as we can to our volunteers (although we are never sure it is truly enough!). In November of 2011, the Lincoln Park Community Shelter hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation event. By all standards, the event was a major success. Hosted by the Graduate Council, and featuring a wonderful Mediterranean meal, the event was a perfect blend of great food and great people.

Towards the end of the night, we handed out awards, voted on by our guests, to several of our volunteers who went above and beyond in 2011, and years prior.



*The **Mission Award**, given in recognition of a "hands on" volunteer who has demonstrated a commitment to furthering the mission of LPCS by his/her direct volunteer service with guests, was given to Brad Snook & Karin Ruschke, a couple who have been serving meals here for over 10 years—most of that time just the two of them! They truly know how to run a kitchen.*

*The **Vision Award**, given in recognition of a "behind the scenes" volunteer who, through his/her continued active support of LPCS, has furthered the broader vision of LPCS, was awarded to Joel Cote, the leader of our Tech Team, an active Track Activity volunteer, and good friend to guests and staff. Joel has spent countless hours helping maintain our wonderful computer lab, as well as staff computers. We very literally would not be functioning without him and his hard work!*



*The final award of the evening was the **Community Partnership Award**. Given in recognition of an organization or institution that fosters community and support for LPCS and its mission through collaboration with LPCS, this year's award went to the Chicago Photography Center. The CPC has been helping many of our guests and grads develop their photography skills, the importance of which can hardly be put into words. This creative outlet has given many people a new passion. This past January, they helped host the third*

photography exhibition of guest and Graduate work.

Thank you so much to all of our volunteers who help make the Lincoln Park Community Shelter the amazing community-driven organization that it is. The love and support we receive every day is awe-inspiring, and we could not do what we do without each and every one of our volunteers. Thank you!

Getting Social with LPCS

By Heather Pressman,
Community Relations Manager

Have you ever wondered what percentage of our guests find housing every year? Or where you can find more information about the current state of homelessness (both locally and nationally)? Or even how often individuals are moving out of LPCS and into their own apartments? You can find all of this information—and more!—on LPCS' Social Media outlets. We'd love to have you join our online community!

And since no one likes to get the same message multiple times, just know that you will generally find different content on the different sites. We want to make the information we share interesting to you, so let us know what you like, or if there are other things you would like to see. So come on and get social with us!



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Follow @LincolnParkCS on



At LPCS? Check in on



Connect with us on



And don't forget to check out our (mostly) weekly blog: www.LincolnParkCS.blogspot.com



Lincoln Park Community Shelter

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GOING GREEN

In an effort to reduce our footprint, LPCS would like to send *Transitions* out electronically to those who are interested. If you would like to receive our newsletter via email, please send an email to Heather Pressman at hpressman@lpcsonline.org along with your current mailing address.

Have a Heart on Clark

By Heather Pressman, Community Relations Manager



On some mornings when you walk into LPCS, you are greeted by the smell of pancakes and cooking bacon. Several times a month, guests are treated to breakfast provided by volunteers. Sometimes it is as simple as bagels and fruit, and sometimes as fancy as bacon, danishes, and egg scrambles. On days when there is no volunteer group, LPCS provides breakfast for our guests, typically cereal and coffee. As you can imagine, it takes quite a bit of each of those things to feed 35 people each morning and that is why last February, LPCS teamed up with the Clark Street SSA and several businesses on Clark Street to hold a breakfast food drive to collect cereal, coffee, sugar, non-dairy creamer, and other non-perishable breakfast items. This year, we are thrilled to be teaming up with even more businesses for our month-long breakfast food drive. Some businesses are even offering a discount with a donation!

Participating businesses include:

Abeille Beauty	New Balance Chicago
AKIRA Chicago	Panache
BankFinancial	See Eyewear
Cycle Smithy	Siena by Maria
Floyd's Barber Shop	Spex
Frankie's On the Park	The Cellular Connection
Holtzmann's	
Nest Furniture	

Be sure to stop by participating businesses throughout the month of February to shop, drop off a donation, or simply thank them for their support! For more information, including additional participating businesses, visit: www.LPCSONline.org/events/heart.



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