

# THE CEO REPORT

AN UPDATE FOR OUTREACH COMMUNITY MINISTRIES PARTNERS



MINISTRY UPDATE



## SALT Rocks College Prep

The largest-ever cohort of graduating seniors are hard at work this spring in the SALT program at Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream (OCC). SALT, which stands for Student Achievement Leadership Team, enrolls 35 high school students—nine of whom are graduating this June. All nine have at least one leadership role at school or at church, have been accepted into college and plan to enroll this fall!

### Meet Alex

Alex, a senior, attends Wheaton North High School. Alex began SALT as a sophomore and is an active participant in SALT's Bible study, which meets once a week after group. He works about 20 hours a week at TEAM, which hired him during the school year after his good evaluations as part of SALT's summer youth employment program. Alex plans to attend the College of DuPage and, after completing his general education classes, go on to enroll at Lewis University where he will major in criminal justice. Alex plans to seek a career in law enforcement with a long-term goal of working for the Drug Enforcement Administration.

### Meet Briajah

Briajah started with OCC at an early age. She began in the elementary program at Villagebrook, transitioned to the Learn 2 Earn middle school program and joined the SALT high school program her junior year. Briajah came to faith at OCC during her 8th grade year! She will graduate from Wheaton North this spring and plans to attend college at Ball State University, where she'll study social work. Briajah is the captain of Wheaton North's steppers team, a school ambassador and on the student council. Outside of school, Briajah tutors her fellow classmates in SALT, is active in SALT's Bible study and participates in dramas at Church of the Resurrection.

Briajah, Alex and the seven other SALT seniors represent an opportunity for new Partners to step forward to underwrite college scholarships. Outreach's goal is to raise up 100 new Leadership Partners and 400 new Partners over the next five years to help us expand the college preparation program across DuPage County.

## A Devotional Word

*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. – Jeremiah 29:13 NIV*

At the core of my faith is the conviction that God is with us. Yet we live in a very secular world and it is all too easy to lose sight of God. Is there a way to tell if God is really at work in our life? In our work? In our world?

In "The God Hunt" devotional, Karen and David Main lay out a four-step plan to answer these questions. First, begin with prayer. Each day, stand down for a moment, be quiet with God and invite Him in. Second, use a journal to remember your prayers; that is, stay engaged in this relationship! Third, actively look for God's response. Note in your journal any obvious answer to prayer, any unexpected evidence of God's care, any help to do God's work in the world and any unusual linkage or timing. Fourth, give thanks to God for His presence in our lives.

I invite you, as an Outreach Partner, to join me in applying these steps. Consider this update to be our journal, and wrap each story in prayer. Together, let's discover how God is at work in our midst.

*Chris*



## Susan's Story

Last fall, Susan\* was homeless, living out of her car in a local parking lot. In desperation, she called her high school counselor and was referred to Wheaton Youth Outreach. Within a few weeks, she was accepted into Hawthorne House, a housing program for young women who are homeless, ages 17 to 24. She also enrolled in the new Employment Opportunity Center. Today, Susan is thriving and has begun a full-time, paid internship at one of the Outreach's corporate partners.

Hawthorne House receives 30 percent of its funding from Homeless Youth, an innovative state program. CEO Chris Ellerman served on the founding council that designed the program in 1996, and Outreach was one of its first pilot projects—the only one in the western suburbs. This program has grown from five to 25 sites and from a \$1 million to a \$6 million budget. Rather modest when you consider that there are over 15,000 homeless youth in Illinois between the ages of 16 and 23!

It came as a shock when the state froze funding this past year, due to the budget impasse. As of April 2016, the state is behind nine months of payments to its Homeless Youth providers and most providers are on the brink of closing down.

With this in mind, Susan, Chris and Gail Hoffman, director of Wheaton Youth Outreach, recently joined a small group of homeless youth advocates and residents for a meeting with Michael Zolnierowicz, the Governor's Chief of Staff. There, Susan shared her story (see sidebar). Mike was sympathetic, and surprised when he found out that Susan graduated from Downers Grove North High School while homeless; he is a fellow alumni and they even shared some teachers.

Mike arranged a follow-up meeting with the Governor himself; unfortunately, the outcome was disappointing—his hands were tied. A week later, the team met with Senator John Cullerton, the House leader across the aisle, and shared the same message: "Find a way to release the funds, the system is about to collapse."

"I'm not very hopeful, but I know how to pray over this one—to thank God for the inspiration that He gave Carlene and myself 38 years ago to care for homeless teens," says Chris. "To thank God for the more than 400 homeless teens that we have cared for at Wheaton Youth Outreach over the years. And to trust God that He has a plan to continue to bless and expand this ministry."

Outreach's vision for transitional housing includes developing a center for young men and a center for young families. Over the next 10 years, the goal is to build a Christian housing community for people who need permanent, supportive housing. The long-range plan is to move away from any reliance on state funding for this ministry by seeking out Partners to underwrite every resident and charitable estate gifts to permanently endow our facilities. Please join Chris and the staff of Outreach in praying over this ministry and vision.

*\*Name has been changed*

## Susan's Story, as shared at the Governor's Office

I grew up in Downer's Grove, Illinois with my mother and younger sister. My mother has a mental health disorder. At age 16, while I was a junior in high school, my mother abandoned me. She removed \$1,000 from my savings account without my permission and moved to Ohio with my younger sister, leaving me behind. I became homeless two weeks later when our lease expired. I lived with friends for a few months, worked two jobs each week to pay for basic needs, and my school helped me find a room to stay in and a scholarship to pay for it.

After graduation, I enrolled at College of DuPage and purchased a car, which became my home until my car broke down, and I had to abandon it and drop out of college.

My high school counselor referred me to Wheaton Youth Outreach, and I was accepted into Hawthorne House, a transitional foster care home for homeless young women like myself. My foster parents and my caseworker gave me a safe and supportive home, a strong sense of community and helped me get stabilized. I needed ear surgery, and they helped me with this. I had \$4,500 in debt, and they helped me find work, and I was able to pay this off over seven months.

I did have a lot of anger about my situation and family, and I needed direction. They provided a counselor for me at Wheaton Youth Outreach. As a result, I decided to enroll in the Employment Training Program at Outreach, with the opportunity it provided to find a path to a full-time career-oriented job.

My savings have earned me the opportunity to receive a car from Outreach, and this has allowed me to accept a full-time internship through the Employment Center at KeHE Distributors.

My faith in society has been restored. When I was homeless, I was unstable and just surviving. I have been loved by those who care for me at Outreach, and I am healing. The stability of the program and support services have allowed me to thrive. By the time I graduate from my internship at KeHE, I should have enough savings to get my own apartment. I hope to earn a full-time position at KeHE, and if I do, I will be able to return to college with their help.

I am very grateful for the Homeless Youth program provided by the State. If not for it, I am sure I would still be homeless on the street. I ask that the Governor find a way to restore funding for these programs as soon as possible to prevent young people in my situation from returning to homelessness. Thank you.



# Business Updates

## Finances

Beginning the fiscal year with a \$300,000 deficit in funds (one state grant frozen and a 40 percent reduction in United Way funding) proved an immediate challenge. Hope remains that the state will honor the two remaining state contracts Outreach is fulfilling on good faith (payments are delayed until the state adopts a budget), but OCM cannot continue to do so beyond June 2016.

The Teen Reach youth development grant has been frozen since July 1, 2015, but there is little hope it will be refunded in FY2017. The United Way is not expected to restore its funding for DuPage County in the near term.

In light of the many organizations state-wide that are cutting staff and programs or shuttering their doors, Outreach, with the help of Partners, is on a growth trajectory. Staff are closely managing expenses by freezing some open positions, reducing health insurance costs and relying more on private sector funding—individuals, corporations, foundations—to fill the financial void. Plans are in motion to expand the number of Outreach Partners, doubling annual operational support to gain independence from state funding.

Through February, private giving is 94 percent on budget and social enterprises are outperforming by 25 percent.



## Upcoming Events

### Spring Partner Tours

Help Outreach broaden its sphere of faithful Partners. Consider hosting a small group tour of Outreach ministry sites. Invite a small group of friends to see where transformation happens in the lives of those served by Outreach. Guests will hear insights directly from program directors and participants at Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream and Jubilee Village. See firsthand the dramatic impact these resource centers are having in the lives of at-risk individuals and families in our community. The evening will end with vision and dialogue over dessert and coffee and ways to engage as a Partner.

To host a tour, contact Bonnie Malcolm Chrisman, VP of Resource Development, or Joe Ancell, Major Gifts Officer, at 630.682.1910 for tour date possibilities.

## Have you renewed your Partner giving in 2016?

Renew today with the enclosed response card and envelope.

Thank you to our Partners who have already committed to host: Tim and Sarah March, Dave and Jennifer Ochs, Andy and Monica Johnson, Marcus and Brooke Malcolm, Charlie and Kathryn McKenna, Bill and Margaret Giffin, Jeremy and Cara Wills, Nicole and Eric Barton, and John and Julie Feyerer.

### OCC Spring Dinner

Support Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream at the 30th annual Spring Dinner on Friday, April 29, 2016. Held at Drury Lane, this year's keynote speaker is Father Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang intervention and re-entry program in the world. Partners are invited to a private, pre-event reception at 6 p.m. and dinner begins at 7 p.m. Learn more and register at [outreachcommunityministries.org/spring-dinner](http://outreachcommunityministries.org/spring-dinner).

### Golf, Food & Wine Experience

Save the date for our 5th annual Golf, Food & Wine Experience on Monday, June 20, 2016. We are moving to a new location: Butterfield Country Club in Oak Brook. There is already a waiting list for golf foursomes, but there is ample room to join us for an exceptional evening reception and dinner, which will include indulgences from favorite local eateries, wine and craft beer pairings, a silent auction with mobile bidding, a live auction featuring exclusive vacation and experience packages, dinner prepared by one of the county's top chefs, and more. Consider who you may invite to join us! Learn more and register at [golffoodwine.org](http://golffoodwine.org).

### Know the Facts: Mission Strategies at Outreach

Outreach's five mission strategies—based on biblical principles—help guide our work.

- 1. Community-Based:** We engage the unique needs, resources and churches in communities across DuPage County where human care needs are most intense.
- 2. Relationships:** We represent the care and compassion of Jesus through service built on meaningful, trustworthy relationships.
- 3. Commitment:** It takes time and substantial resources to establish a ministry foothold in a new community. Our presence is a long-term commitment, both to those we are in relationship with and to the community at large.
- 4. Holistic:** We embrace the whole person, seeking to provide practical assistance, healing for those with a broken spirit or broken relationships, and witness—sharing the Good News.
- 5. The Local Church:** The local Church is God's presence in our world. Outreach is a bridge, positioning the church to engage in love and good deeds.



# JOURNEY OF HOPE

## Initiatives

The JOURNEY OF HOPE campaign represents an investment in four strategic, organizational imperatives, totaling a \$7,500,000 goal:

1. **Neighborhood Transformation (\$2,230,000):** Strengthen infrastructure across ministry sites to equip Outreach for capacity expansion of services.
2. **Safe Haven for Homeless Youth (\$1,620,000):** A capital investment to allow for the expansion of our Transitional Housing services to serve young men and families.
3. **Train a New Generation (\$3,150,000):** Development of a new, innovative employment training center for young adults.
4. **Provide for the Future (\$500,000):** Develop new Leadership Partners—major private, corporate and church donors to help expand and sustain new services and secure the future of Outreach through planned giving to endowment funds.

Learn more at [outreachcommunityministries.org/hope](http://outreachcommunityministries.org/hope).

## Giving Update

At the time of publication, \$5,251,150 has been received in gifts and pledges, with \$2,248,850 left to raise.

## Investments Made

To date, the following projects have been completed or are in process, thanks to funds secured through the JOURNEY OF HOPE campaign:

1. **Warrenville Youth & Family Services:** Completed the purchase and rehab of a new building for youth services. Purchased a lightly-used 15-passenger van for youth services. Replaced outdated office equipment.
2. **Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream:** Completed outdoor rehab projects: drainage system, railings, ACA ramp. Will replace roof in June 2016 (\$90,000).

3. **Wheaton Youth Outreach:** 90% completion of internal (boiler) and external rehabilitation (new roof, new siding, ACA ramp, remodeled porch). Replaced outdated office equipment. Will replace the parking lot in May 2016 (\$15,000).
4. **Jubilee Village:** Reduced mortgage debt from \$725,000 to \$335,750 (by \$389,250). Completed \$67,250 of rehab projects, primarily floor replacement, exterior tuckpointing. Will replace windows in July 2016 (\$150,000).
5. **Jubilee Furniture/Employment Opportunity Center:** Immediate rehabilitation of building to prepare and equip it for opening day (\$103,000). Replaced the roof (\$185,000). Facade constructed to meet code (\$250,000). Enclosed and finished 4,200 square feet of new warehouse and showroom space (\$344,000). Reduced mortgage by \$204,000 from \$925,000 to \$721,000. Operations support for staff and student scholarships over 18 months: \$155,000 spent to date on a \$420,000 JOH project budget for three years. 25 students served to date.

## Join the Conversation

As we engage in conversations with OCM Partners to learn about JOURNEY OF HOPE priority initiatives, please prayerfully consider how you can engage in this unprecedented effort for Outreach.

As our team contacts you in the coming months, please answer the call. Our goal is to hear your passion for ministry at Outreach, to extend a hand of gratitude for your investment and share new avenues for support with the launch of strategic programs. Partners provide hope and support that make transformation possible.

Partner with us in the JOURNEY OF HOPE.

## Outreach Community Ministries Partners

· OCC · WYFS · WYO · Hearts of Grace · OCM ·

### OUTREACH PARTNERS...

- Give \$1,000 or more annually
- Pray for Outreach
- Encourage others to participate
- Receive CEO Report and invitations to events
- Attend Christmas Breakfast at Chicago Golf Club

### OUTREACH LEADERSHIP PARTNERS...

- Give \$5,000 or more annually
- Pray for Outreach
- Encourage others to participate
- Receive CEO Report and invitations to events
- Attend appreciation dinner at Glen Oak Country Club

For Partner resources, visit our private webpage at [outreachcommmin.org/partnerlibrary](http://outreachcommmin.org/partnerlibrary)

**Outreach**  
Community Ministries

To restore hope and provide opportunities for people to become all that God intends them to be; partner with the local church to put Christian faith into action through service to the community.