



# JOSEPH'S JOURNEY

## A Life Transformed:

### On the Right Road

Youth who “age out” of the foster care system have a rough road ahead of them. That road got a lot smoother for Terrell when it led him to Joseph's Home.

Terrell spent 11 years in foster care. When he turned 18 he was emancipated (officially released) from the foster care system. He was on his own. But he was also alone.

To make matters worse, Terrell had been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when he was 14. Without insulin injections, proper eating habits and frequent monitoring of his blood sugar, his health was in serious jeopardy. Terrell needed an income, a stable living situation and access to health care.

He tried to re-connect with his parents, but that plan failed quickly. He couch-surfed with friends and even returned to former foster homes as a short-term guest. He worked several part-time jobs. None of them provided health insurance or paid enough to cover rent. And all the time his diabetes was out of control. His blood sugar levels rose and fell to unsafe levels, causing vomiting and dangerous blackouts. He frequently ended up in the hospital for days or weeks at a time, effectively stuck in a cycle of hospitalization and transience.

The cycle finally ended when he was admitted to Joseph's Home in May.

The staff of Joseph's Home connected him with Care Alliance, where he found help enrolling in Medicaid to get much-needed insulin and medical supplies.

The staff also worked with him to establish the healthy routines that would be essential for managing his diabetes.



**Your financial and in-kind donations help men like Terrell get established in permanent housing.**

**Please send your 2014 Annual Fund gift today using the envelope inside, or learn more about how you can help on page 5.**

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**On the Right Road** *continued from page 1*

In two months at Joseph's Home, he wasn't admitted to a hospital once—a major accomplishment given his history of frequent, prolonged hospitalization.

Terrell moved in early August to his own apartment for the first time in his life. He can't afford much since his only current income is a part-time seasonal job, but it's a start. Joseph's Home paid his first month's rent and provided bedding and toiletries. Generous donors contributed a bed and dressers.

With access to the medical care that he needs to stay healthy and the ongoing support of his new Joseph's Home family, it's safe to say this is the first real chance he's had. ♦

**“This has been a wonderful experience for me. A very wonderful and helpful process.”**

— TERRELL, SPEAKING OF HIS EXPERIENCE AT JOSEPH'S HOME

**40%**

**within  
four  
years**



## Out of Foster Care. Out of a Home.

**Terrell's story is not unique. Some studies estimate that up to 40 percent of children who age out of foster care will experience homelessness within four years.**

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland recently hosted a forum in Cleveland about the connection between foster care and youth homelessness. The forum, “Assuring Stable Homes,” focused on how best to prevent homelessness for youth who age out of foster care.

Terrell was one of two former foster children interviewed by the WCPN program *The Sound of Ideas* for its coverage of this forum. To hear audio of his interview and an archived version of a WCPN on-air panel discussion about the topic, visit [ideastream.org](http://ideastream.org) and search for “Aging Out of Foster Care.”

# Staff Profile: *Sister Sandy*

STAFF NURSE SISTER SANDY LOPORTO CELEBRATES TWO ANNIVERSARIES



Staff Nurse Sister Sandy LoPorto, SSJ-TOSF, celebrated two significant milestones this summer: her jubilee (50-year anniversary of her entrance to the Sisters of St. Joseph

of the Third Order of St. Francis) and her 10-year anniversary at Joseph's Home.

As staff nurse, Sister Sandy is deeply involved in the life and recovery of each Joseph's Home resident. She administers medications, tracks vital signs, reviews the medical records of potential new residents and advocates for residents with medical providers. She also accompanies residents to major medical procedures or consultations if needed.

Sister Sandy is also responsible for educating and counseling residents about their health issues, which is not an easy job. Because many residents have conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease, Sister Sandy has to frequently lecture about diet and healthy lifestyle to men who don't always want to hear what she has to say. But, she has a knack for

getting the message across anyway.

"Sister Sandy is tougher than any of us. Guys come in here thinking they're tough and acting tough. But they go into that nurse's office with her and 10 minutes later they come out crying like a baby," said a former resident.

"Sister Sandy is truly a gem," said Executive Director Georgette Jackson. "She's a caring, compassionate woman. And she's an outstanding nurse."

When residents are preparing to transition out of the Joseph's Home program, Director of Development Nathan Munn will sometimes ask them about the staff who have helped them. "It's rare that I ask that question and don't hear Sister Sandy's name mentioned. Her work for our residents is a labor of love. They know it. And they love her for it," said Munn.

The board, staff, alumni and residents of Joseph's Home extend heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Sister Sandy LoPorto. You are an inspiration to all of us! ♦

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*"Sister Sandy is truly a gem. She's a caring, compassionate woman. And she's an outstanding nurse."* – JH Executive Director Georgette Jackson

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# ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## NEW BEGINNINGS

**Mr. Carter ::** When he ended up living in an abandoned house with no heat, electricity or running water in the middle of a cold Cleveland winter, Mr. Carter finally realized he had hit bottom. He called a friend to ask for help with his alcoholism and ended up in detox, followed by a longer-term treatment program.



He was limited in his ability to participate in treatment because he needed a hip replacement, as well as frequent specialist care

for an inflammatory lung condition. The treatment program referred him to Joseph's Home.

During his time at Joseph's Home, he underwent hip replacement surgery and his breathing improved. He also maintained his recovery by participating in Alcoholics Anonymous and counseling. He moved into permanent housing in May.



**Mr Brown ::** Mr. Brown's lung disease progressed to the point that his lungs collapsed in January.

Doctors told him that he would need to start using oxygen.

He was visiting Cleveland from rural upstate New York at the time and had been laid off the year before. He had much better access to care at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center than where he had been living, so he decided to stay in Cleveland even though he lacked permanent housing.

He went to multiple local homeless shelters for assistance, but found there was no place to store his oxygen. When it became clear the shelters couldn't accommodate his medical needs, his doctor referred him to Joseph's Home.

The staff at Joseph's Home was able to quickly connect him with resources available for veterans and help him find stable housing. He moved into an apartment in September. Now that he has permanent housing, his doctors

can consider surgical interventions, such as lung reduction or even a lung transplant.

**"I didn't know a homeless or indigent person could have it as well as it is here." — Mr. Brown**



**Mr. Tackett ::** Being hospitalized for depression isn't anyone's first choice, but it actually helped Mr. Tackett become

more grateful, even as the negatives in his life kept growing.

He and his doctors have struggled to control his type 1 diabetes for a long time, making it impossible for him to stay healthy enough to work for very long. On top of that, his marriage ended, he rarely saw his 12-year-old son and he had several devastating deaths in his family and circle of friends. "I lost everything that had been my life," he said.

Why was he grateful even when he

**THOUGHTFUL.  
GENEROUS.  
LOYAL. KIND.  
LOVING.  
SACRIFICIAL.  
BENEVOLENT.**

Supporters like YOU are what made the difference for Terrell and the other Joseph's Home alumni whose stories are shared in these pages. And hundreds of you have already given generously in 2014. **THANK YOU.**

To date, we've received just over half the philanthropic support we need to provide care for our residents in 2014.

Please consider what you can do to ensure that the men of Joseph's Home continue to experience the healing and positive life change they so desperately need.

**Annual Fund Contributions** — It costs approximately \$175 to provide one full day of care for each resident served. Your donation of any amount will help provide the food, shelter, nursing care and social services that promote healing, positive change and independence.

was homeless and struggling with his mental and physical health? His time in the psychiatric ward helped him see that there were plenty of people with mental illnesses whose problems were far worse than his.

Mr. Tackett came to Joseph's Home in January and found that he really benefitted mentally and medically from group therapy, individual counseling and the reduced stress of being in a safe, homelike environment. During his time at Joseph's Home, he participated in GED preparation classes. Not content to simply pass, he aims to get scores high enough to qualify him as "college and career ready." He moved into permanent housing in July and would like to go to school to study computers.

**"I'm not perfect. I'm still working on myself. But Joseph's Home gave me a start." – Mr. Carter**



**Mr. Fry ::** "The only way I can make this work is to have a positive attitude,"

said Mr. Fry as he reflected back on his path to Joseph's Home. A multitude of health problems, such as cancer, congestive heart failure, diabetes and a bad back, have made it impossible for him to work since 2009. When his wife left him and moved away, his house was foreclosed. He ended up couch surfing and sleeping in his car until he arrived at Joseph's Home in late 2013.

Initially overwhelmed by despair, he received a much-needed emotional and spiritual boost from his church after he opened up and shared his struggles. Lifted by their prayers and encouragement, he has poured himself into church life and is active in both music and youth ministry. He's also taking ministry preparation classes in the evenings and plans to study religion and psychology at Cuyahoga Community College.

Mr. Fry completed his radiation therapy in April and moved into permanent housing in May.

**Mr. Cambell ::** After more than a decade of severe depression and abuse of cocaine and alcohol, Mr. Campbell's kidneys failed.



Hospitalized and knowing that he would need dialysis for the rest of his life, he finally got serious about sobriety. He

went through treatment, started getting regular psychiatric care from the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center and entered a transitional housing program.

However, a lung infection and arthritis forced him to change his plans. After time in medical rehab, he came to Joseph's Home to complete his recovery from the infection, get his arthritis under control, and maintain his sobriety and psychiatric health.

In August, he moved to Columbus to be near his daughters, the youngest of whom is a freshman at The Ohio State University.

**"This is a stepping stone in your life." – Mr. Fry**

Mail checks payable to Joseph's Home using the attached envelope, call *Director of Development Nathan Munn* at 216.875.4634 to donate by phone or donate online at [josephshome.com](http://josephshome.com).

**In-Kind Gifts** – The men of Joseph's Home also benefit greatly from donations of clothing, toiletries, bedding, housewares, furniture and art supplies. If you have items to donate, contact *Facilities and Operations Manager Edison Mosley II* at 216.685.1551.

**Volunteer** – The gift of time and personal

contact can have a tremendous healing impact. If you want to discuss current opportunities to personally serve the men of Joseph's Home, contact *Executive Director Georgette Jackson* at 216.685.1551.

**Planned Gifts** – Making Joseph's Home a beneficiary of your will or life insurance policy is a thoughtful way to provide life-transforming care for future residents of Joseph's Home and leave an inspirational philanthropic legacy. To let us know that you have made a planned gift to Joseph's

Home or to request more information about bequests or other planned giving options, contact *Director of Development Nathan Munn* at 216.875.4634.



**FIND US ONLINE** Visit

[josephshome.com](http://josephshome.com) to get news and updates, connect with Joseph's Home on Facebook, subscribe to our quarterly e-newsletter, make secure online donations, register for upcoming events, learn about additional volunteer opportunities and more.

# NEWS BRIEFS

## VOTE FOR JOSEPH'S HOME IN THE GOOD NEWS GIVING CONTEST

Joseph's Home needs your vote to win valuable publicity and funding from Northeast Ohio Media Group's 2014 Good News Giving Contest.

**Voting begins September 21 and ends October 10.** Full subscribers to *The Plain Dealer* may vote online at [www.mediainsiderewards.com](http://www.mediainsiderewards.com). The general public may vote using the paper ballot that will be printed in the Sunday, September 21 edition of *The Plain Dealer*. Paper ballots may also be requested by emailing [marketing@plaind.com](mailto:marketing@plaind.com) with "Good News Giving Contest Ballot" in the subject line. Paper ballots must be postmarked by October 10 and received by October 15. One vote per subscriber and one vote per email address. Please visit [cleveland.com/goodnewsgiving](http://cleveland.com/goodnewsgiving) for full contest information and rules.

Because of votes from friends like you, Joseph's Home placed in the top 20 of Northeast Ohio charities in the 2013 Good News Giving Contest. As a result, we received free advertising, editorial exposure in a story about two of our successful graduates and a cash award of \$10,000.



Mr. L and the garden that he has created at Joseph's Home.

### Resident Uses Green Thumb to Give Back

Current Joseph's Home resident Mr. L. is fighting cancer while also planting seeds—literally—for better health for himself and others.

This spring, Mr. L. volunteered to take responsibility for the vegetable garden behind Joseph's Home. The garden is flourishing under his care, which means Joseph's Home Cook Alphonso Gibson has plenty of fresh, homegrown produce to incorporate into the meals he prepares.

"Mr. L's work in the garden has been a wonderful way for him to give back to Joseph's Home. Plus the abundance of fresh, delicious vegetables has also given us another tool to promote healthy eating habits to our residents," said Executive Director Georgette Jackson.

### In the Next Email Issue of *Joseph's Journey*...

To help ensure that each client receives the maximum benefit from interaction with homeless service providers, the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care is providing conflict resolution training for all staff and interested clients of member agencies. The November issue of *Joseph's Journey* will cover the joint staff/resident conflict resolution training session for Joseph's Home. We'll also take a sneak

peek inside a financial literacy training session provided for Joseph's Home residents by employees of PNC Bank.

The November issue will be published online **only** and delivered by email. To make sure you will receive this and future email issues of *Joseph's Journey*, visit [josephshome.com](http://josephshome.com) and click the Join Our Mailing List button in the lower right corner.



## Honor Project Trust Awards \$25,000 to Joseph's Home

The Honor Project Trust recently awarded \$25,000 to Joseph's Home, which will be used to provide food, shelter, nursing care and the social services acutely ill homeless men need to find and succeed in permanent housing.

Joseph's Home was one of 223 Ohio nonprofits to benefit from the 2014 distribution of Honor Project Trust funds. The Honor Project Trust was established in 2012 by Judge John J. Russo of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas to distribute unclaimed funds left over after settlement of all claims resulting from a class action lawsuit (*Ohio, et al. v. American International Group, Inc., et al.*).

## NOHIMSS Selects Joseph's Home as Summer Conference Charity

The Northern Ohio chapter of Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (NOHIMSS) members gathered in June at the Global Center for Health Innovation in Cleveland for a day of presentations and workshops on the latest trends and innovations in health information management.

After lunch, they heard from Executive Director Georgette Jackson about the healing that takes place at Joseph's Home. Donations from attendees, along with a matching contribution from the chapter, totaled nearly \$1,000.

Thank you NOHIMSS members and leadership for choosing Joseph's Home to be the charity beneficiary of your summer conference and for your outpouring of generosity.

# PERSEVERANCE IN HOPE

## 2014 Events Highlights

Nearly 300 supporters gathered in June at *Windows on the River in Cleveland for the Joseph's Home annual benefit luncheon, Perseverance in Hope.*

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT INCLUDED:

- A moving firsthand account of healing from former Joseph's Home resident Michael Allen
- Presentation of the 2014 Making a Difference Award to Rosary Hall
- A memorable and informative keynote address on the transformative power of respect from Paul Meshanko of Legacy Business Cultures
- A personal account of recovery from life-altering medical challenges by Emcee Dawn Kendrick of 19 Action News
- A raffle for an iPad mini and a 26-item silent auction

The event raised more than \$39,000 to help acutely ill homeless men recover their health and rebuild their lives at Joseph's Home.

For more pictures and information about *Perseverance in Hope 2014*, visit [josephshome.com/events.html](http://josephshome.com/events.html). Stay tuned for more information about *Perseverance in Hope 2015!*

*Joseph's Home residents*



*Sisters of Charity Health System staff volunteers (left to right) Laura Cappelto, Nitsa Filippidis & Susan Rudin*



*Joseph's Home Executive Director Georgette Jackson and Keynote Speaker Paul Meshanko*



*Orlando Howard of Rosary Hall*



*Emcee Dawn Kendrick and former Joseph's Home resident Michael Allen*



*Guests from St. John Medical Center*

JOSEPH'S HOME

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*josephshome.com*

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**IT IS OUR MISSION ::**

Joseph's Home, a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System, provides a nurturing, caring environment for men without resources who have acute medical needs, helping them heal and achieve independence.



JOSEPH'S HOME

*A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System*

*Joseph's Home has chosen to print responsibly on recycled paper.*