



# JOSEPH'S JOURNEY

## Celebrating 20 Years of Serving Men Experiencing Homelessness **MAKING THE DREAM A REALITY**

The roots of Joseph's Home were planted in 1851 when the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CSA) arrived in Cleveland from France to serve as the city's first public health nurses. The first CSA sisters quickly went to work serving the health, human service and educational needs of Cleveland's most impoverished and vulnerable residents, and have been doing so ever since.

### The Dream Team

In the mid-1990s, the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine established "The Dream Team"—a group of eight CSA sisters—to create proposals for projects to respond to a variety of pressing societal needs.

Sister Ruth Ann Patrick, CSA, a social worker at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center, discussed the needs of those experiencing homelessness who had been discharged from the hospital with nowhere to stay to recover from illness and/or surgery. This need quickly captured the passion of the committee and they began to develop a vision of how to respond. The Dream Team eventually selected a site and evaluated funding opportunities. A board of directors was appointed in October 1999. Sisters Joan Gallagher, CSA, Regina Fierman, CSA, Theresa Bontempo, CSA, and Evelyn Flowers, CSA, were among the founding members.



*Members of the Dream Team joined Joseph's Home staff for a virtual discussion about the establishment of Joseph's Home and their hopes for the future of the ministry.*

Sr. Joan became executive director in early 2000. Sr. Regina, a certified occupational therapy assistant and member of the original Dream Team, joined the staff as house monitor and resident educator. Participation by the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine on the Joseph's Home Board of Directors continues to this day, with Sr. Mary Dorothy Tecca, CSA, currently serving.

On August 3, 2000, the first resident arrived. Since that day, hundreds of men have passed through the doors of Joseph's Home.

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# Building on a Dream 20 Years in the Making to Bring Healing to Women

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“We can’t return to normal.” These words were spoken by my friend and colleague, Angela D’Orazio, of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland. This may sound strange in this time of deep longing for things to feel familiar, but what Angela said and what I believe is that “normal” for those experiencing homelessness is awful and unacceptable. The coronavirus pandemic has taught me that things cannot simply return to normal, or we have missed the chance of our lifetimes to make things better.

Twenty years ago, members of the “Dream Team” of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine founded Joseph’s Home. Why did they call themselves the Dream Team? They were dreaming of ways to bring healing and love to all people. From the start, the CSAs did not limit themselves to what already existed, to what was normal. Instead, they dreamed and dared to create what did not exist—a respectful, humane, temporary home for medically-fragile men experiencing homelessness to safely recuperate and rebuild their lives. A place where men could get support and encouragement to stabilize their health and begin dreaming of their own possibilities as unique and special individuals. Over the last several years, our organization has been dreaming. Not limiting ourselves to what is, but dreaming of what could be. Dreaming of ways to bring healing and support to more people, to end the suffering and trauma of homelessness for more people. This has culminated in a plan to create what does not currently exist—a respectful, humane, temporary home for medically-fragile women experiencing homelessness to safely recuperate and rebuild their lives. As you will read in more detail, we are launching Mary’s Home and, with your help, will open our healing doors to Cleveland’s most vulnerable women by the end of this year.

*We thought it fitting to celebrate the achievements of the remarkable Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, in part, by announcing this transformational project. Mary’s Home is in countless ways their project, a new iteration of their dream and part of their incredible legacy. They paved the way, and we are following in their footsteps.*

Deciding to expand and initiating a capital campaign in the middle of a pandemic is not ideal, but as Angela said, we cannot return to a normal of women being discharged from a hospital with nowhere to go. We cannot return to a normal that expects an overwhelmed shelter system to provide recuperative care. It is time to make the dream of Mary’s Home a reality.

*Yours in mission,*

BETH GRAHAM, *Executive Director*





**A Conversation with Members of the Dream Team :: In celebration of Joseph's Home's 20th Anniversary, several members of the Dream Team shared a look back at the early days of Joseph's Home and their hopes for the years to come in a virtual discussion with Executive Director Beth Graham.**

*Q: Can you tell us a bit about your involvement with the idea to start Joseph's Home more than 20 years ago?*

**A: Sr. Evelyn Flowers, CSA** – I keep thinking back to the day when I first heard of the need. I was so angry that this should be happening in our country. I like to think of that as a Holy Spirit moment because of the way it grabbed everybody, and because of the way it just developed from there and everybody stuck with it.

**A: Sr. Joan Gallagher, CSA** – At the time, I was working for Famicos Foundation as the associate director and had some background in housing. I was asked to take the lead on Joseph's Home, so I left Famicos in 1998. The Sisters of Charity Health System gave me an office and many individuals there offered to help with this or that. One day, I was struggling with the development of the budget to submit for a grant. Out of the clear blue, one of the guys came in and said, 'Give me that, I'll have it done in an hour.' And sure enough, comes back with the budget completely filled out how it was going to be projected for five years. That's just one example of how helpful health system employees were.

**A: Sr. Regina Fierman, CSA** – I was an occupational therapy assistant, working in rehab at St. Vincent Charity. I went to rooms to make sure patients could take care of themselves, which included being able to get up and get dressed and do all of the daily things. I went into one gentleman's room. I introduced myself and told him I was there to work with him. He absolutely refused to do it. I kept trying and it was the same thing. Then it dawned on me. This guy was homeless. He had a bed to sleep in, three meals a day and medical care. If I documented that he could do what he needed to do, he would be out the door. So that kind of planted the seed with me as far as Joseph's Home.

**A: Sister Ruth Ann Patrick, CSA** – As a community, we were just feeling challenged to start thinking outside of the box about what the needs of the community were. We were pitching a lot of ideas that were going on flipcharts.

I was a social worker at Charity Hospital. The homeless, particularly the men, would come in but would only be able to stay for a certain amount of time. In the homeless shelters, they could stay overnight, but had to leave early the next day. I gave the example of someone who had broken their ankle, was in a cast and they needed to find shelter. Or someone who needed to have daily wound care, but not enough that it warranted a nursing care facility. This inspired the sisters to think about what they could do. We formed a committee. The earliest task I did was to send letters to social workers in the community at hospitals and in shelters asking about the need for something like Joseph's Home. I received their responses back saying that "yes, we need this," and that this would definitely fill a gap in the community.

*Q: What was it like in those first few years when you were just getting started?*

**A: Sr. Evelyn** – I remember the whole dream team group doing a lot of foot traveling, going around visiting other small endeavors. How did they do it? How did they run it? How did they get their people? How did they serve them? So we did a lot of that—to add to our knowledge. Once we got going, we had to give it up to the health system while still keeping our fingers in the pie. It was kind of like giving up a baby, but that was okay. The health system really is what enabled the whole thing to keep going.

**A: Sr. Joan** – They were years of learning, developing policies and hiring the right persons, or at least we thought we were hiring the right persons, creating a board, hiring our nurse. We had to be flexible and willing to do whatever was needed to keep the ministry going.

**A: Sr. Regina** – With staffing in the beginning, we were helping to cover shifts where needed. That could mean working a weekend or covering the night shift or doing whatever. We were really challenged to keep things up and running, but we were able to do that.

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**“CSA has always been risk takers and called to meet the needs of the times. Joseph’s Home really is a success story and an answer to God’s call to serve the most vulnerable.”** — *Sr. Regina Fierman, CSA*

*Q: How did the residents in those early days view Joseph’s Home?*

**A: Sr. Joan** – This is not Joseph’s house, this is Joseph’s Home. Everybody in our home has a responsibility to make it a home. Residents had to do dishes and clean up the dining room. Many of the guys would tell us it was the first time in their life they had a room of their own. They didn’t have to worry about where their meal was going to come from or who they might fight with. That kind of attitude certainly encouraged us to continue the work.

**A: Sr. Regina** – One of the things that I tried to instill that this was not a shelter. You’re not here to just sleep and get a meal and then be back on the streets. Know that we’re here to work with you to get you back on your feet and allow you to heal. That stuck with me from the very beginning—this is not a shelter, it’s a home. Also, part of the Ministry of Joseph’s Home is to listen to their [resident] stories. That’s when you really get to know the person. That was one of the blessings of working with residents. You’ve heard their stories and they were grateful that you listened to them.

*Q: What are you most proud of when looking back?*

**A: Sr. Joan** – We have served over 650 guys. If I’m correct on this, more than 80 percent of them are succeeding in their present situation as alumni—medically stable, have housing and are financially able to meet their needs. That is remarkable. It’s not only the mission, but it’s because the Joseph Home staff have prepared the guys for the future. That is something that’s very difficult to do because you have to change a whole way of living.

**A: Sr. Regina** – CSA has always been risk takers and called to meet the needs of the times. Joseph’s Home really is a success story and an answer to God’s call to serve the most vulnerable.

**A: Sr. Ruth Ann** – I am most proud that our vision was just a spring board. Now look at what Joseph’s Home is today. I really am proud of men being able to turn their lives around. I am truly amazed seeing how the Holy Spirit continues to lead that ministry and directs all of the people who have answered the call to be a part of the ministry, carrying on the call of the CSA’s ministry. What we see every day is really miraculous.

*Q: What do you hope for the future of the ministry?*

**A: Sr. Evelyn** – This is a service to those who are on the fringes, as they say. And when we talk about where does the church go from here, we keep hearing to pay attention to the people who are on the fringes, that’s where you’re really needed. Any of us can happen to be on the fringes at some time, so that’s the kind of people who really need a lot of help.

**A: Sr. Marian Durkin, CSA** – I’m very excited about the possibility of expanding services to women with Mary’s Home. How wonderful that Joseph’s Home is successful so that we’ve got that base and we know how to do it.

**A: Sr. Joan** – When we first started, I believed and prayed that we would be able to go through one year at a time. When I think about the future, it really is as long as the need is there. My hope is that at some point we won’t need a Joseph’s Home, but I don’t see that happening. As long as shelter is needed and 2100 is there for short-term shelter [men’s shelter at 2100 Lakeside Ave.], there will be a need for a medical respite shelter like Joseph’s Home and Mary’s Home for women.

**A: Sr. Ruth Ann** – I hope that it can keep on growing and that it continues to spark life into our homeless population. I hope the life it sparks into Joseph’s Home will bring about new life in Mary’s Home. I hope that dream becomes more of a reality. I think that would be wonderful.

# THANK YOU GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

## 2020 DONOR HONOR ROLL

Heal  
Empower  
*Transform*

Hundreds of caring neighbors in and beyond Northeast Ohio gave generously to make healing possible for the men of Joseph's Home in 2020.

The annual Joseph's Home Donor Honor Roll is one way we say "thank you." All supporters who made at least one financial contribution are listed, unless they requested to remain anonymous. Know that the residents, alumni, board and staff of Joseph's Home are deeply grateful for each and every gift and for your partnership with us. Please continue to keep Joseph's Home in your thoughts, prayers and charitable giving plans. Thank you!

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# Mary's Home

Serving Women Experiencing Homelessness



## WOMEN EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS AND ILLNESS—IN STAGGERING NUMBERS

Joseph's Home receives countless calls from hospital social workers asking for help for women with serious medical issues. Cleveland's traditional shelters are not equipped to help women recover from surgery or other acute health conditions. Instead, when women experience a medical issue, they are rushed to emergency departments. Once they are treated and discharged back to a traditional shelter or the streets, the cycle starts all over again. Sadly, due to a lack of space, Joseph's Home is forced to turn away these referrals just when medically-vulnerable women need us the most. The time is now to end this tragic cycle for women.

*Continued on page 8*

*From 2014–2019 the Cleveland Clinic served women without housing in its emergency departments:*

Over six years,  
**2,784**  
homeless women  
were seen in the ER.



Some returned  
**10 or more**  
**times**  
per year.

*Norma Herr Women's Center, the primary shelter provider for women experiencing homelessness in Cleveland, conducted a two-year analysis of women in shelter that revealed:*

**300** women  
were admitted  
**937** times to St. Vincent  
Charity Medical Center's  
ER from Norma Herr.

**17%** of those  
women were  
admitted **5+** times



**Women experiencing homelessness in Cuyahoga County have no place to go to recover from significant health problems. They desperately need a nurturing, caring place to recuperate—not only from physical illness, but also the additional trauma they face from homelessness.**

#### **Introducing Mary's Home: Serving Women Experiencing Homelessness**

Joseph's Home is embarking on a transformative project with a goal to open the doors to women experiencing homelessness by December 31, 2021. Mary's Home—a 10-bed facility that was a former school and daycare center adjacent to Joseph's Home—will serve greater Cleveland's population of single, adult women who are experiencing homelessness and have acute medical conditions.

#### **An Integrated Care Model**

At Mary's Home, women will benefit from medical supervision, nursing care, education about their conditions and treatments, medication management, nutritious meals, and coordination with health care, supportive service and housing providers. The integrated care model developed through our experience serving men will be used in Mary's Home, with added expertise in issues impacting women's health and well-being.

#### **The Time is Now**

We have secured commitments from Cuyahoga County, the ADAMHS Board and other funders for the staff and programming costs. With support from you, our partners and champions, we will open the doors to women at Mary's Home by the end of 2021 and double the number of people we serve annually.

#### **How Your Help Will Transform Lives**

Because of your generous support, Joseph's Home has helped hundreds of medically-fragile men experiencing

**“The experience of homelessness can cause rapid clinical decline and accelerated aging in the women we serve. While we have safety protocols and services in place, a low barrier shelter cannot fully support women who require additional care to heal but are not sick enough to be hospitalized. We cannot wait — the time is now.”**

**Teresa Sanders**

*Chief Program Officer, YWCA of Greater Cleveland*

homelessness stabilize their health and secure permanent housing. It has long been the vision of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine to also serve women in this same way. Now with your generosity, Joseph's Home can make this vision a reality at Mary's Home.

We invite you to join fellow community leaders in contributing to this important ministry. Your philanthropy and compassion are needed to help Joseph's Home expand to provide respite care for any medically-fragile person experiencing homelessness, regardless of gender. Your support will establish a place for medically-fragile women experiencing homelessness get the support they need to recover from serious health conditions, obtain housing and rejoin the community with the tools and support they need to remain healthy. For good. ♦

**To be a part of this historic moment for Joseph's Home and our community, please contact Development Director Madeline Wallace at [mwallace@josephshome.com](mailto:mwallace@josephshome.com) or visit [www.josephshome.com/maryshomecampaign](http://www.josephshome.com/maryshomecampaign) for more information.**

**Let's Open the Doors to Women. Together.**



**KITCHEN** Staff provide three nutritious meals a day focused on meeting residents' dietary needs and health and wellness goals.

**CLINIC** Residents will benefit from medical supervision, nursing care, education about their conditions and treatments, medication management, and coordination of health care.



**OFFICE**  
Residents are connected to support services and develop housing plans with the help of specialized staff trained to help residents stabilize and become housed appropriately and quickly.

**MEETING SPACE**  
Space for group activities such as expression therapies and group sessions will be included to address the social needs of residents.

**ISOLATION SUITE**  
Given the risk of COVID and other infectious diseases to individuals with underlying health conditions, the facility will have two rooms that can be used for isolating individuals that present symptoms of COVID.

**CLIENT SUITE**  
Residents benefit from single, individual rooms which provide a safe, comfortable place to recuperate and heal.



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## Make a Contribution **THAT HONORS THE LEGACY AND VISION OF THE CSAs**

The Dream Team of Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine who founded Joseph's Home were visionaries who dedicated their lives to responding to our community's greatest needs—to not accepting an unacceptable normal. Twenty years later, their spirit of responsive ministry lives on and, with your help, it is being expanded to include a place for women experiencing homelessness to heal with the addition of Mary's Home.

You can ensure their legacy of compassionate, faith-based care at Joseph's Home continues for generations by including Joseph's Home in your estate plans, which may also offer a number of tax benefits. By designating Joseph's Home as a beneficiary of your estate, trust, individual retirement accounts, life insurance or other financial accounts, you will be leaving a legacy of care that will have a profound and meaningful impact for years and will honor the everlasting kindness of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine.

The proper beneficiary designation is:

*Joseph's Home*  
*2412 Community College Avenue,*  
*Cleveland, OH 44115*

*Tax ID Number:*  
*34-1901676*

It is important that you inform us if you have already included Joseph's Home in your charitable giving plans so we can work with you to designate your gift where it is most meaningful, express our eternal gratitude and plan for the future of Joseph's Home. If you have any questions or have already included Joseph's Home in your charitable giving plans, please contact Development Director Madeline Wallace at 216.987.9201 for more information. ♦ **THANK YOU!**



To learn more about the impact of your generosity, we encourage you to visit [www.josephshome.com](http://www.josephshome.com) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram — @JosephsHomeOH.

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*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If your name has been misspelled, listed incorrectly or omitted, we sincerely apologize and ask you to please contact Development Director Madeline Wallace at 216.987.9201 so that we may correct our records.*

# 2020 Joseph's Home Angels

Financial supporters weren't the only ones who touched the lives of Joseph's Home residents and alumni in 2020. We want to also thank and recognize these partners for their contributions of goods and services, and/or hours and energy spent volunteering, collaborating or advocating on behalf of Joseph's Home and our residents.

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Kingdom Keepers Church\*  
St. Albert the Great Parish  
St. Ambrose Parish\*  
St. Augustine Catholic Church  
and Hunger Center\*  
St. Basil the Great,  
St. Vincent de Paul Group\*  
St. Dominic ADVENT GIFT Program\*  
St. John Neumann Church\*  
St. John Vianney Parish  
Tour of Good Cheer\*

## OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Cleveland Clinic  
Greater Cleveland Food Bank



*A representative from B'laster Corp. gives Executive Director Beth Graham a critically needed donation of hand sanitizer in the early days of the pandemic when supplies were short.*

# MANY THANKS

\*\* Gave to Joseph's Home during the 2020 Holiday Season



# A LOOK AT THE MEN SERVED IN 2020 AND THEIR OUTCOMES

100%

of the men served  
were literally homeless.

## Impact and Resident Demographics

Joseph's Home provides medical respite care for medically-fragile men experiencing homelessness. All of the men served are literally homeless and experiencing an acute medical condition that has led to repeated emergency room visits or hospitalization.

In 2020, the men we served were most often older adults, with a physical and/or mental health disability and at least one chronic health condition.

- 76 men served in residence and in the community
- 78 days, average length of stay
- 100% were literally homeless, according to HUD's definition
- 42% were considered chronically homeless
- 58% are over the age of 55
- 58% are African-American
- 7% are veterans
- 53% have a physical disability
- 84% have mental health condition or substance use disorder
- 82% have a chronic health condition

69%

of residents  
improved self-care  
ability and were  
medically stable  
upon leaving  
Joseph's Home.

## Housing, Health & Well-Being Outcomes

Medical stability is measured by improvements made when a resident is at Joseph's Home. Some markers of stability are more easily identifiable than others, such as coming in with an open wound and having the wound heal, or coming in with cancer and leaving cancer free. Other markers are less obvious but can still be measured, like a reduction in outward symptoms.

- 69% of residents were medically stable when exiting Joseph's Home
- 75% of residents demonstrated improvement in medication management
- Residents are expected to take at least 90% of their medications each week. Some residents have bad weeks and struggle with compliance. This leads to coaching and efforts from staff to increase medication compliance with the hope of increasing overall health and wellness.
- 76% of residents demonstrated improvement in knowledge of medical condition
- 69% of residents improved self-care ability

57%

of residents exited  
to a stable setting,  
most of which was  
permanent housing.

## Housing Outcomes

Housing stability is measured by the percentage of people who exit to permanent housing and remain in that housing for a period of six months or longer. Some residents exit Joseph's Home to higher levels of care, such as assisted living, which may be more appropriate based on their medical conditions. Ultimately, the goal is to exit residents to housing situations that end their homelessness for good and are most appropriate for the individual and for remaining healthy.

- 57% exited to a stable setting, including 45% of residents who moved directly into permanent rental housing of their own
- 36% of residents increased their incomes or obtained new/increased benefits

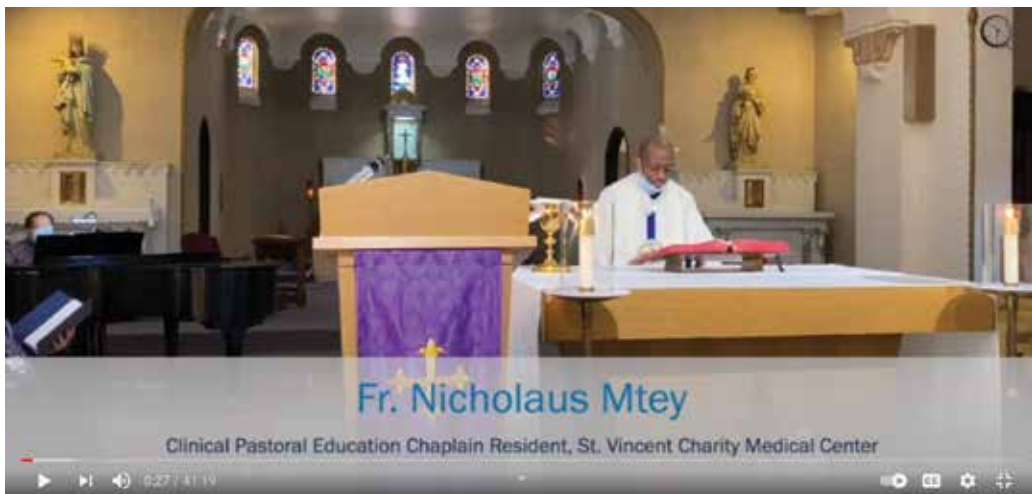
# NEWS BRIEFS & EVENTS



## Welcome Newest Board Member Jeanne Colleran Weaver, PhD

It is with great pleasure that we introduce our newest member of the Joseph's Home Board of Directors and the campaign chair for the Mary's Home Capital Campaign, Jeanne Colleran Weaver, PhD. Dr. Colleran is the associate director of the Rule of Law Institute at Loyola University Chicago. The institute, a research center in the Loyola School of Law, addresses issues of equity, accessibility, human rights and conflict resolution.

Prior to joining Loyola, Dr. Colleran was a faculty member at John Carroll University where she also served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, provost and academic vice president, and interim president. She received her doctorate at Ohio State University. Jeanne and her husband, Richard Weaver, have been long-time volunteers with the Famicos Foundation where they met Sister Joan Gallagher, CSA. Welcome and thank you for your service to Joseph's Home, Jeanne!



## Celebrating the Feast of St. Joseph

Joseph's Home hosted its annual celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph March 19. Joseph's Home board members, friends and staff came together virtually to celebrate the Feast of Saint Joseph with a Mass in honor of our patron saint. Many thanks to Fr. Nicholas Mtey for officiating Mass, Ann Marie Moore and Carmen Massaro for lending their musical talents, and those in attendance.

Although virtual, this year's celebration took on a new meaning in the Year of Saint Joseph, which was proclaimed by Pope Francis on December 8, 2020. The Year of Saint Joseph celebrates the 150th anniversary of the saint's declaration as Patron of the Universal Church and comes at a time when the extraordinary patience and hope of "ordinary" people, like Saint Joseph, "are surely shaping the decisive events of our history."

## PERSEVERANCE IN HOPE



## Perseverance in Hope: The 2021 Joseph's Home Benefit Luncheon

The Annual Joseph's Home Benefit Luncheon will be held virtually **September 28, 2021**. Be on the lookout for updates coming soon at [www.josephshome.com/events/luncheon/](http://www.josephshome.com/events/luncheon/). The luncheon will celebrate the remarkable medically-fragile homeless individuals in Northeast Ohio regaining their health and housing stability at Joseph's Home.

With the help of many supporters last year, we raised more than \$60,000 to benefit Joseph's Home! Please join us as we aim to raise \$60,000 again in 2021. Every dollar raised will help end the cycle of streets, hospitalization and shelter for medically-fragile adults without housing.

**Sponsorships and tickets are now available. Visit [josephshome.com/events/luncheon](http://josephshome.com/events/luncheon) for more information or to reserve your place today. Contact Development Director Madeline Wallace at 216.987.9201 or [mwallace@josephshome.com](mailto:mwallace@josephshome.com) if you or your company would like to receive sponsorship information.**

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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 is a proud partner of:

