



Annual Report 2025



**Cornerstone
Community
Outreach**



ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS, PROVIDING SHELTER,

ACCEPTING PEOPLE, FINDING HOME.



WHAT WE DO

Committed to serving the most vulnerable, Cornerstone Community Outreach provides essential shelter and assistance to unhoused families and individuals. CCO operates three primary shelters: Hannah, Sylvia, and Naomi, in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago. In 2026, the Haven on Lincoln will open as a fourth site.

A HISTORY OF SERVICE & PARTNERSHIP

[Cornerstone Community Outreach](#) was founded in 1989 to raise the quality of life for people experiencing homelessness. What began as a small, community-driven effort has since expanded to serve nearly 300 individuals and families each day, helping thousands move toward stable housing, employment, and long-term independence. Rooted in a commitment to dignity and access, CCO's work extends beyond housing. In partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, the organization distributes more than 150,000 pounds of food annually to residents and neighbors facing food insecurity. Today, as one of Chicago's largest shelter providers, CCO continues to stand in the gap—ensuring that every person, regardless of circumstance, has access to safe shelter, nourishment, and the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

What does Cornerstone Do?



Cornerstone's Services

- Trauma informed case management
- 24/7 temporary housing for up to 257 families and individuals
- On-site medical care
- Therapy referrals
- Move-out resources
- Three meals daily
- Clothes, shoes, hygiene and baby care items
- Rooftop garden and playground access
- After-school tutoring

All residents in our programs receive individualized case management, referrals, and advocacy from CCO staff and partner agencies, ensuring that each person's unique needs are met. All services are designed to help residents feel cared for, dignified, and empowered as they work toward self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

When someone is experiencing homelessness, they are often experiencing deficits in multiple areas of their lives. We believe in providing multifaceted, comprehensive care to our shelter guests that supports them holistically. By having so many resources on-site, and having strong communication with partner organizations, we work to ensure that our guests are getting the strongest, most efficient, and most caring support possible.

Letter From Executive Director Andrew Winter

Looking back on 2025, I am grateful for what our community accomplished together and mindful of the tremendous need that continues across Chicago.

Behind every number in this report is a person or family seeking safety, stability, and the opportunity to move forward. For Cornerstone, it means offering **compassionate** case management, healthcare connections, meals, education, basic necessities, and steady support as people move toward permanent housing.

As we look toward 2026, Cornerstone is entering an important new chapter. We are deepening the integration of healthcare into our work, including behavioral health services, advancing medical respite care, and preparing significant improvements to our shelter facilities.

These efforts reflect the future we believe in: **housing and care that sees and supports the whole person.**

None of this happens alone. Our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, and neighbors make this work possible every day. Thank you for standing with Cornerstone and with the people we serve.

If Cornerstone's work resonates with you, I would be glad to connect, hear your thoughts, and share more about where we are headed.

Together, we are building more than shelter, we are helping people move toward home.



Andrew Winter, Executive Director
awinter@ccolife.org

2025 Statistics At-a-Glance

In 2025, 87% of our shelter guests had no income upon entry. The services we provide are designed to support the most vulnerable in Chicago in rebuilding their lives and support systems.



532

individuals
received case
management



130

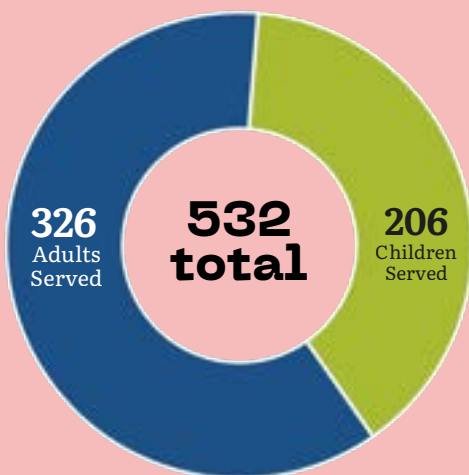
days of on-site
medical care



151,000

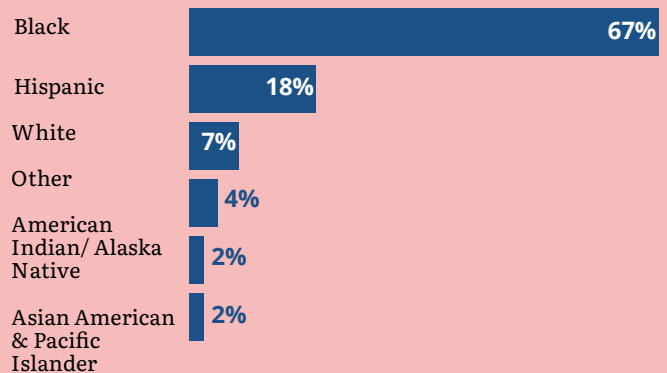
meals
served

INDIVIDUALS SERVED

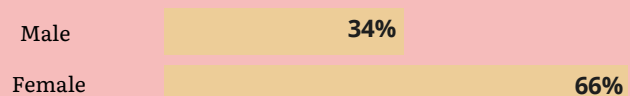


RACE & GENDER BREAKDOWNS

Racialization Breakdowns



Gender Breakdowns



Jordan's Story



- Written by Carolina Araujo. Names have been changed.

At just 22 years old, Jordan arrived at Cornerstone Community Outreach carrying the weight of a lifetime spent in survival mode.

Having entered the foster care system before the age of eight, Jordan experienced significant childhood trauma that contributed to chronic, complex post-traumatic stress; alongside ongoing emotional and behavioral health challenges. Without consistent support, stability remained out of reach for Jordan, and by early adulthood she was living on the streets.

Homelessness became what Jordan knew – the unpredictability of the streets felt more familiar than the structure of housing. In fact, she shared that part of her liked being homeless because it gave her a sense of freedom, simultaneously recognizing that housing offered something she had rarely experienced: safety. This tension reflects the profound adaptations people develop when survival becomes their daily reality.

Cornerstone saw beyond the limitations that shaped her self-doubt: we saw possibility. Rather than focusing solely on rapid outcomes, we prioritized what comes first for every person healing from prolonged instability: safety, trust, and dignity. Staff met Jordan exactly where she was through trauma-informed care, steady encouragement, and compassionate accountability. The Naomi team worked tirelessly to foster an uplifting and empowering environment in which Jordan could begin to imagine a life beyond survival.

Jordan was initially matched with housing through the Chicago Housing Authority, which revived a sense of hope. But when required documentation could not be obtained in time, the opportunity was lost, a devastating setback for someone already questioning whether stability is meant for them.

Jordan's Story Continued

Cornerstone refused to let one closed door define her future. We worked harder. Advocacy intensified. Most importantly, we remained unwavering in our belief that Jordan would secure another opportunity. That persistence led to a housing match, restoring a pathway to permanence.

Today, Jordan is housed, safe, and able to focus on her health, independence, and future goals rather than daily survival. This transformation did not emerge out of thin air, rather, it was intentionally built through trust and sustained by the belief that she was worthy of stability.

With the constant stress of homelessness lifted, her personality shines in ways that remind us why this work matters. She loves reading thrillers, dancing, listening to music, and joking with staff, powerful indicators of identity reclaiming its space once basic needs are secured.

Jordan's journey is more than a success story – it is a reflection of what becomes possible when expertise is paired with compassion, and when advocacy is matched with action. Too often, housing systems prioritize speed and compliance over stability and healing. When we slow down, center people, and allow the work to be guided by genuine care rather than deadlines, possibilities flourish. At Cornerstone, success is not simply about securing an apartment. It is about restoring dignity, rebuilding trust, and helping individuals lay the foundation for self-sufficiency.

Housing is a fundamental human right, and Jordan's story demonstrates that even after profound trauma and prolonged homelessness, stability is achievable when someone has the right support behind them.

We are so proud of Jordan for her resilience, courage, and her growth. At Cornerstone, we do the work that ensures stories like hers are not the exception, but the expectation. When a person moves from merely surviving to truly living, the impact extends far beyond the individual themselves. Rather, it strengthens communities and the future we all share.

2025 Happenings



Local artists
who painted
our block!

Cornerstone's Annual Block Party!

Cornerstone hosted a summer kick-off for the neighborhood with bubble shows, free coffee, henna tattoos, frogs, painters, and more!



Chicago's Best Baker Contest

In July, Cornerstone partnered with Chicago's Best Baker to raise funds for Cornerstone's education program while bringing together Chicago's baking community



Back to School at Cornerstone

Every year, each kid gets new clothes and school supplies - and we throw a big party to make the return to classes special!



AFTER-SCHOOL SUPPORT

Our partner, Chicago Hopes for Kids, comes on-site weekly during the school year to tutor kids



CORNERSTONE SUPPLIES FOR KIDDOS



1 high-quality backpack



all CPS required supplies



1 new pair of shoes



5 pairs socks + underwear



Haunt the Halls at Cornerstone



Each kid picks out a Halloween costume donated by long-time supporter Sharon Sims!



Cornerstone Christmas

Cornerstone pulls out all the stops for Christmas - every single resident gets showered with gifts, and every program celebrates with a Christmas party!



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Financial Overview

In the previous pages, you've seen the impact of Cornerstone's work this past year; families housed, nutritious meals served, education expanded, and hope renewed. Below is what it took to provide such meaningful services.

Total Revenue \$4,673,058

Sources of Revenue

Government Grants - \$3,468,942 - **74%**

Individual Donations - \$267,001 - **6%**

Foundation & Corporate Support - \$550,184 - **12%**

In-kind Support - \$359,760 - **7%**

Other Income (Sale, events)- \$27,170 - **1%**

Total Expense \$5,170,148

How Funds Were Used

Shelter & Housing Programs - \$4,123,515 - **80%**

Food & Nutrition - \$634,701 - **12%**

Medical & Behavioral Health Support - \$80,489 - **2%**

Administrative Costs - \$200,863 - **3%**

Fundraising- \$130,579 - **3%**

94% of all expenses went directly to programs and services.

Note to Financials:

CCO practices responsible stewardship of all gifts and grants, is working to maintain a balanced budget, and is grateful for your meaningful support.

Cornerstone recognizes the financial deficit reflected in this report and is actively working toward greater long-term financial sustainability. Our strategy includes developing Medicaid-reimbursable behavioral health services, broadening and strengthening our base of individual, foundation, corporate, and philanthropic support, and consistently evaluating expenses to ensure resources are focused where they have the greatest impact.

Annual financial statements and single audit will be available at ccolife.org

Funded in Part By...



Help Someone Move Toward Home

Your support helps Cornerstone provide safe shelter, compassionate care, healthcare connections, and the support people need to move toward permanent housing. A monthly gift provides dependable support all year long, helping ensure we can be there every day for people experiencing homelessness.

Give. Connect. Be part of what comes next.

Donate: ccolife.org/donate

Connect with us: info@ccolife.org

Scan the QR code to support Cornerstone today.



Platinum
Transparency
2026
Candid.