



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025

HOS LEADERSHIP TEAM



Matt Kostecki
Executive Director



Judy Degutis
Director of Retail



Holly Dorn
Director of Development



Liz Heneks
VP of Programs



Lindsay Kellner
Director of Programs



Kerrie Trebonsky
Financial Controller



Tim Seyler
Director of Operations

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Bill Koenig
HOS Board President



Jim Thorpe
HOS Board Vice President



Chris Christensen
HOS Board Secretary



Dean Karamagianis
HOS Board Treasurer



Barbara Webb
HOS Board Director



Peggy DeVorse
HOS Board Director



John Eiermann
HOS Board Director



Johnathan Fox
HOS Board Director



Sarah Crittenden
HOS Board Director

OUR PROGRAMS

SHORT-TERM TRANSITIONAL SHELTER

Home of the Sparrow's Transitional Shelter provides **safe, short-term living accommodations** with **intensive wraparound services** to guide women and their children experiencing homelessness toward self-sufficiency and permanent housing. The Transitional Shelter is a cornerstone program in McHenry County.

Transitional Shelter, paired with wraparound services and trauma-informed case management, gives clients the opportunity to overcome barriers and build the skills, resources, and care networks necessary to succeed in permanent housing and independent living.

SUBSIDIZED APARTMENTS

The Subsidized Apartment Program (SAP) **bridges the gap between shelter and independent living**. In August 2022, Home of the Sparrow expanded the program by purchasing a new property, doubling its housing capacity and allowing it to better serve larger and multi-generational families. Clients receive case management and the time needed to build employment stability, life skills, and financial savings.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Home of the Sparrow owns and operates **28 affordable housing units** across McHenry County for individuals and families earning between 30% and 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Each household is assigned a case manager who delivers **trauma-informed support services** designed to foster long-term housing stability, enhance financial self-sufficiency, and ensure a **safe, supportive living environment**.

RAPID REHOUSING

Home of the Sparrow operates multiple Rapid Rehousing programs providing short- to medium-term rental assistance for individuals and families meeting HUD's definition of homelessness and referred through McHenry County's Coordinated Entry. Assistance includes payment of the first month's rent, security deposit, and time-restricted payment of rent. Clients receive trauma-informed case management and referral services to promote housing stability and self-sufficiency.

HOMELESS PREVENTION

Designed to stop homelessness before it occurs, this program provides **short-term emergency rental assistance to individuals and families experiencing temporary financial hardship**. With up to six months of support and case management, it helps community members stay safely housed during difficult times.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

The Supported Employment Program assists clients in setting and achieving employment goals that work toward **improving financial security**, increasing self-esteem and self-worth, and building self-sufficiency.

LANDLORD ENGAGEMENT

The Landlord Engagement Program aims to provide a community wide program that will benefit all of McHenry County Homeless providers by focusing on landlord recruitment, engagement, education and retention, to increase access to affordable housing in McHenry County. Home of the Sparrow is lucky to have great partners in the community that are working hard to build up this program for years to come.

SOFIA'S STORY OF HOPE



When Sofia arrived at Home of the Sparrow's **Transitional Shelter** with her two young children, she was scared, exhausted, and unsure where to turn. She had just left a domestic violence situation and was starting over with almost nothing.

Life wasn't easy. Sofia faced the daily challenges of single parenting, limited childcare, and ongoing struggles with her mental health and PTSD. Still, she refused to give up. Her warmth, determination, and hope for her children's future kept her going, even on the hardest days.

With the help of the HOS **Employment Specialist**, Sofia found a job with a cleaning agency that allowed her the flexibility she needed to care for her family. She worked hard, built her confidence, and eventually took a leap of faith to start her own business.

Today, Sofia owns a thriving home cleaning service and gives back by hiring other women who face the same challenges she once did. Her journey is a powerful reminder that with support and perseverance, healing and success are possible.

OUR MISSION

To reduce the prevalence of homelessness among women, children, families, and individuals through creative strategies and community partnerships that result in lasting self-sufficiency.

OUR VISION

To provide **Hope**, **Opportunity**, and **Support** that empowers women, children, families, and individuals who are experiencing homelessness as they journey to self-sufficiency.

FY2025 CLIENT IMPACT

65,000
nights of shelter
provided

2,300+
community
resource referrals

 **51%**
of clients were
children (under 18)

 **60%**
experienced
domestic violence

 **58%**
of households
served were female
single parents

 **75+**
units of housing
supported by HOS



Community Threads

A Home of the Sparrow, Inc. Resale Store

HOME OF THE SPARROW'S 7 THRIFT STORES

The purpose of the Sparrow's Nest Thrift Stores and Donation Centers and Community Threads is to support the mission of Home of the Sparrow.

Net proceeds from the thrift stores are used to support all of the programs and services for the women and children in Home of the Sparrow's various housing programs.

With the exception of mattresses and box springs, everything sold in the stores is donated, and donations are accepted at all stores. Not only do the stores provide unrestricted income and daily cash flow to Home of the Sparrow, but they are also a zero-cost provider of clothing, furniture, and housewares to Home of the Sparrow clients.

HOS' thrift stores are thankful for the many volunteers who give their time each week to help organize, price, and display donations, assist with sales, and provide friendly customer service.



QUICK FACTS

- 7 Total Thrift Stores – 6 under the banner of Sparrow's Nest Thrift Store and Donation Centers, 1 under the banner of Community Threads Upscale Resale Store
- 100,000 sq. ft. of total space devoted to resale operations
- 18,220 register transactions per month on average across all stores
- 2 box trucks averaged 188 furniture pickups per month
- 119 total thrift store vouchers issued to HOS Clients and neighboring agencies
- HOS' 7 Thrift Stores recycled 1,251,612 pounds of textile donations that amounted to \$67,000 in revenue

In FY 2025, the seven Home of the Sparrow Thrift Stores produced \$4,300,000+ in revenue for our programs and services

VOLUNTEERING AT HOME OF THE SPARROW



49,500+

TOTAL NUMBER OF
HOURS VOLUNTEERED
IN FY 25

677

TOTAL NUMBER OF
INDIVIDUAL
VOLUNTEERS IN FY 25

167

TOTAL NUMBER OF
GROUP
VOLUNTEERS IN FY 25

FY25 SPONSORS

Our fundraising events could not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors. We are beyond grateful for the support of these organizations:



COMMUNITY/THIRD PARTY EVENTS AND SUPPORTERS

Aeropostale Cherry Valley Mall
Allstate Co.
Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Athleta
Biggby Coffee Store #1054
BrightNest
Christine Betz
Community Protestant Church of Mundelein
Crystal Lake Physical Therapy
Evereve
Fidelity Investments
Girl Scout Troop #22 Northern IL
Girls on the Run
Grace Luthern Church Endowment Fund
Jennifer Graham
Just in Time Events & Rentals
Kelleher & Holland LLC
Kendra Scott Store
Little Green Apple Hallmark

Marengo United Methodist Church
Mary Kay Cosmetics
Office of Representative Mary Beth Cantry II Dist 54
Physical & Occupational Therapy of McHenry
Prairie Community Bank
Rise Dispensary
Rolling Meadows High School
Schwab Charitable
Simplistic Holistics
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Sun City Club Crawl
Superior Felt & Filtration LLC
The Shores of Turtle Creek
Thrivent
Twisted Limits Axe Throwing
Twisted Limits Escape Room
United We Art
Watterson
Woodstock Moose Lodge #1329
Zebra Technologies

THANK YOU TO HOME OF THE SPARROW'S GRANT FUNDERS

Advia Credit Union	FNBO	McGraw Foundation
Alfred Bersted Foundation	Foglia Family Foundation	Nicor
Andrew and Alice Fisher Foundation	Frankenmuth Insurance Foundation	Northwestern Medicine
Aptar	Fred J. Brunner	Palatine Jaycees
Barrington Junior Women's Club	George M. Einsenberg Foundation	Rotary Club of Palatine
Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation	Gerry and Bill Cowlin Foundation	Walmart: Crystal Lake
Community Foundation of McHenry Co.	Kohl's Cares	Walmart: Johnsburg
Ecolab	Lake in the Hills Rotary	Willow Springs Charitable Foundation
	Mental Health Resource League	

FY2025 FINANCIALS



*“Our diverse revenue streams allow Home of the Sparrow to remain **resilient, responsive, and deeply rooted in the communities we serve.** This balanced funding model supports long-term stability, strengthens our programs, and ensures we can continue providing housing and supportive services to women, children, and individuals when they need it most.”*

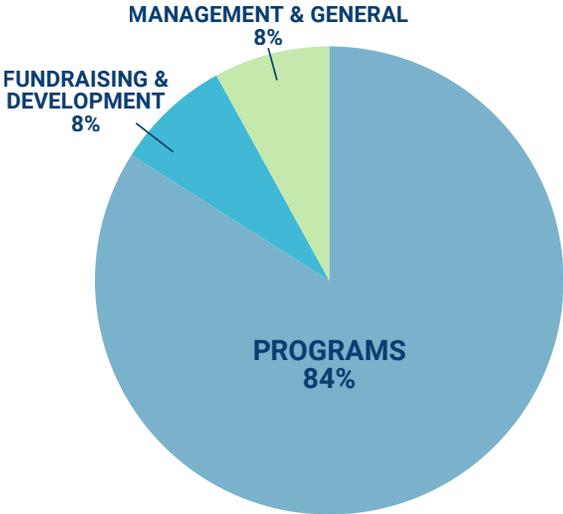
Matthew Kostecki, Executive Director

REVENUE

Donations	\$1,330,014
Grants	\$2,206,406
Retail Sales	\$4,314,053
Program Service Fees	\$267,349
Fundraising	\$159,429
Other	\$175,197
Total	\$8,452,448

EXPENSES

Programs	
Transitional Shelter	\$1,208,048
SAP & Rapid Re-Housing	\$1,241,458
Affordable Housing	\$507,211
Sparrow’s Nests	\$4,067,339
Management & General	\$666,829
Fundraising & Development	\$669,600
Total	\$8,360,485



**The full audited financial statements for Home of the Sparrow are available upon request*

DID YOU KNOW...

In FY25, Home of the Sparrow had a total of 70 part-time and 47 full-time employees from our programs and services, administrative, development, and thrift store locations. Home of the Sparrow is proud of its talented and dedicated employees, who work tirelessly day in and day out to serve the clients in our programs.



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Home of the Sparrow, Inc.

HOPE

OPPORTUNITY

SUPPORT