



The Song



Fall Edition 2026

A MILLION DREAMS: FROM HOPE TO HOME GALA

Thank you for an incredible evening under the big top! Home of the Sparrow's A Million Dreams: From Hope to Home Gala truly was a fundraiser to remember. On a cool rainy night, over 200 guests joined us for an evening filled with live circus performers, music, a live painter, auctions, dinner, and, most importantly, a community coming together for a shared purpose.

Thanks to the generosity of our attendees, sponsors, donors, volunteers, vendors, and supporters, more than \$125,000 was raised to support women, children, and individuals in our community as they work toward safe, stable housing and greater independence. More than 40 volunteers also gave their time and talents to help bring this special evening to life. While the night was filled with celebration and fun, the true impact extends far beyond the big top.

The funds you raised will help provide trauma-informed support, connections to vital resources, and personalized case management for families working toward stability. They help a family remain safely housed through short-term rental assistance, open doors to education and career opportunities through college courses and certification programs, or cover everyday necessities such as groceries, utilities, transportation, childcare, gas, diapers, and formula.



These are the practical, meaningful forms of support that can help a family through a difficult season and give them the foundation to take their next step forward.

Thank you all for making this beautiful evening possible and for helping turn dreams of hope into dreams of home!



OUR COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to the **Community Foundation of McHenry County** for the generous grant funding our programs!



Friends of Home of the Sparrow group members stop by for a tour. We were so glad to see you again!



A big thank you to the **Sticks & Stones Hockey League** at the Crystal Ice House for raising an amazing \$1,300 during your championship games for our programs!



In partnership with the **Crystal Lake Texas Roadhouse**, we were honored to provide a delicious hot lunch to individuals experiencing homelessness.



Thank you to **Cheshire Cakes** in Crystal Lake for their delicious donation of baked goods to our shelter families



Congratulations to our incredible intern, **Jackie** for completing MCC's Developing Tomorrow's Nonprofit Leaders grant program



At our yearly **Employment Event**, 21 individuals participated and a total of 52 interviews were held! 5 participants have secured employment, with several others moving forward with follow-up interviews, applications, and next steps with employers.



Thank you to **NICOR Inspire's Raising Funds on the Rooftop** event which raised \$30,000 for HOS programs



Home of the Sparrow welcomes the community's initiatives to help further awareness of the needs of homeless women and their children in our programs and services. Many of these initiatives include donation drives, volunteer groups, and more.

THANK YOU TO OUR GRANTORS!

The
**Community
Foundation**
for McHenry County

Aptar 



"Kristi" began working toward her associate's degree while staying at Home of the Sparrow's Transitional Shelter.

During that time, she remained steadfast in pursuing her education and, last month, proudly earned her Associate's Degree in Business Administration while participating in our Rapid Rehousing program!

Her positivity, determination, and commitment to her goals have been inspiring to see as she's grown over time. Despite the challenges she has faced, both past and present, Kristi never lost sight of her dream. Now, she's already looking ahead to earning her bachelor's degree!

A follow up...



At just 21 years old, "Nadia" is building a future for herself one determined step at a time.

Nadia first came to Home of the Sparrow as a teenager, when she stayed in our shelter with her mom and twin sister. Today, she is working hard toward independence and creating a new chapter for herself and her family.

After juggling two part-time jobs, Nadia was recently offered a full-time position with higher pay and the opportunity for overtime. Never one to shy away from hard work, she immediately signed up to work 50 hours a week. Even without a car, Nadia finds a way to get to and from work each day, relying on Uber while continuing to save for her future. Her determination is paying off: she has already saved more than \$2,000, recently earned her learner's permit, and is now working toward completing driving lessons.



YOUR DONATION...

Helps make sure every child in our care gets a birthday celebration, with a cake, a gift, and a day that's all theirs.	\$10/month	\$120/year
Helps a mother keep gas in the tank so she can get to work, job interviews, and her children's appointments.	\$20/month	\$300/year
Helps provide safe shelter for a mother and her children, with a warm bed and a door that locks.	\$50/month	\$600/year
Supports job counseling, mental health support, and one-on-one guidance that helps a mom build a stable, self-sufficient future for her family.	\$100/month	\$1200/year



DONATE HERE:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/homeofthesparrow/>



SCAN ME

GET INVOLVED WITH HOS

Join our Sparrow Volunteer Family!

Volunteers are the heart of our agency and dedicate their time and talents volunteering at Home of the Sparrow's fundraiser events, Headquarters Office, housing unit and shelter maintenance, yard work at the housing units, and at the Sparrow's Nest Thrift Stores and Community Threads across Northern Illinois.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY!](#)



Questions about Volunteering? Contact Volunteer@hosparrow.org or call 815-271-5444 x260



Donate to Home of the Sparrow!

Home of the Sparrow is thankful for all of the support we receive from the community through in-kind and monetary donations. These donations go toward sustaining our programs and services which help those we serve thrive.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

[CLICK FOR OUR SHELTER WISH LIST](#)

Host a Community Fundraising Event!

Community Fundraising Events are sponsored or hosted by individuals, businesses, organizations or groups in support of Home of the Sparrow.

These may include donation drives, social media/virtual fundraising campaigns, runs/walks, auctions and raffles, luncheons or dinners, car shows, fashion shows, self-improvement classes, and restaurant nights where a portion of proceeds or the profits from the night are donated to Home of the Sparrow.

[APPLY HERE!](#)



Questions about Fundraising or Donations? Contact Events@hosparrow.org or call 815-271-5444 x262



Community Threads

A Home of the Sparrow, Inc. Resale Store

WHAT'S NEW AT THE HOS THRIFT STORES?



CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

Our stores will be closed on the following dates to prepare for our Winter Wonderland!

Oct. 5th - Mundelein

Oct. 12th - Cary, McHenry

Oct. 19th - Arlington Heights, Palatine, Third Lake, Woodstock



HUGE UPCOMING SALES!

Come in for 25% OFF all items at all stores during multiple days throughout the next few months!

Black Friday - November 27th

Small Business Saturday - November 28th

Christmas Clearance Sales Begin - December 15th



DONATING FURNITURE? WE DO PICK UPS!

We offer pick-up services to Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin! For more info, visit <https://hosparrow.org/furniture-donations/>, or contact logistics@hosparrow.org



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We're looking for volunteers throughout our stores! If you're interested in joining our team, reach out to Volunteer@hosparrow.org!



Community Threads

A Home of the Sparrow, Inc. Resale Store

EVERY PURCHASE HELPS US PROVIDE SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY. LEARN MORE AT [HOSPARROW.ORG](https://hosparrow.org)



Community Threads

A Home of the Sparrow, Inc. Resale Store

HOS THRIFT STORES

Home of the Sparrow operates seven total thrift stores across Northern Illinois; six under the banner of Sparrow's Nest Thrift Store and Donation Centers, and one under Community Threads Upscale Resale Store. The purpose of our thrift stores is to support the mission of Home of the Sparrow and proceeds fund our programs and services.

Home of the Sparrow's Thrift Stores are also a zero cost provider of clothing, furniture and housewares to Home of the Sparrow clients and clients of other partnering agencies in Northern Illinois. With an exception to mattresses and box springs, everything sold in the thrift stores are new and/or gently used donations from members of the community.



STORE HOURS:

MONDAY-FRIDAY: Open 10am-6pm

SATURDAYS: Open 10am-5pm

SUNDAYS & HOLIDAYS: CLOSED



STORE LOCATIONS

CARY

380 Northwest Hwy.
Cary, IL 60013
(847)639-4082

MCHENRY

3714 W Elm Street
McHenry, IL 60050
(815)363-6008

MUNDELEIN

357 Townline Road
Mundelein, IL 60060
(847)970-5584

PALATINE

275 E Northwest Highway
Palatine, IL 60067
(847) 705-6852

THIRD LAKE

34500 N. US Highway 45
Third Lake, IL 60030
(847)752-8397

WOODSTOCK

120 E Calhoun St
Woodstock, IL 60098
(815)206-5070

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

250 W. Rand Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
(847) 818-1630



THANK YOU TO THE HOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Koenig

John Eiermann

Jim Thorpe

Sarah Crittenden

Chris Christensen

Jonathan Fox

Dean Karamagianis

Tom Hanna

Barbara Webb

Donna Jackowiak

BECOME A COMMUNITY PARTNER

We are excited to offer a variety of Community Partnership levels designed to engage and highlight local businesses.

As a Community Partner, your company will receive valuable exposure through HOS's promotional efforts while helping support meaningful programs in our community.

We welcome businesses of all sizes and are happy to work together to create partnerships that are flexible, budget-friendly, and impactful!

Interested in Learning More?

Please reach out to
Events@HOSparrow.org

DETAILS HERE



WE'RE HIRING!

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE
EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT
MEANINGFUL MISSION
& MORE!

CLICK HERE FOR JOB DESCRIPTIONS & APPLICATIONS

INCREDIBLE PEOPLE, INSPIRING IMPACT

Thank you to some of the AMAZING Home of the Sparrow's volunteers!



RETAIL VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

HOS's thrift stores are in need of some volunteers! Our **Palatine, Third Lake, Community Threads and Mundelein Sparrow's Nests** need more helping hands. Whether you can give a few hours or a full shift, volunteering makes a huge difference, and we would love to welcome you to the flock!

We accept any volunteers of all ages and walks of life including court-mandated community service individuals.

INTERESTED?

Email Volunteer@hosparrow.org
or call 815-271-5444 x260





Landlord Engagement
Program (LEP)

LANDLORD SPOTLIGHT

KAREN KAPLAN

River Walk Apartments, Algonquin, IL

"I would give other property managers the advice to partner with Home of the Sparrow! They are a very professional and wonderful non-profit with rental assistance, housing, and events in our community."



More Information:
hosparrow.org



Email Us:
landlords@hosparrow.org



Contact Us:
815.271.5444



WHY BE A HOME OF THE SPARROW LANDLORD

Home of the Sparrow (HOS) is looking to partner with local landlords in order to facilitate housing for the clients we serve. HOS provides hope, opportunity and support that empowers women and children as they journey from homelessness to self-sufficiency. *Why partner with Home of the Sparrow?*



SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

Being a landlord with Home of the Sparrow allows you to support your community by offering affordable housing at Fair Market Rent to homeless women and children on their journey back to self-sufficiency.



GUIDANCE

Each tenant is assigned a Case Manager who provides assistance to the client and can work directly with our Landlord Partners to ensure a successful housing partnership.



PAYMENT SECURITY

Landlords receive timely and consistent rent payments with facilitation from Home of the Sparrow.



MARKETING

Save money on marketing costs to advertise vacancies in your unit! Home of the Sparrow will reduce vacancies by providing clients to occupy your unit consistently.

GET MORE INFORMATION TODAY!

Contact LKellner@hosparrow.org
or Call 815-271-5444 x258



HOPE

OPPORTUNITY

SUPPORT



DONATE
\$1,000

*Can provide Case
Management services*



DONATE
\$500

*Can provide one month's
rent for a family*



DONATE
\$250

*Can provide a week of
childcare for a working mother*



DONATE
\$100

*Can help pay for a week of
groceries or a month of utilities*



DONATE
\$50

*Can help supply a week's worth
of gas to get to and from work*



DONATE
\$25

*Can provide a new pair of
shoes for a child*

CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY

**MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION BY CLICKING HERE: WWW.HOSPARRROW.ORG/DONATE
OR MAIL A CHECK TO HOME OF THE SPARROW
1991 DUNCAN PLACE, WOODSTOCK, IL 60098**

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS!





THANK YOU, 2026 COMMUNITY PARTNERS!



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

Each year, Home of the Sparrow helps hundreds of women, children, and individuals experiencing homelessness. One way we fund our programs and services is through our annual fundraising events. We hope you will help support our efforts by becoming our Community Partner. As a participating partner, your company will benefit from extended exposure through promotional efforts, including logo recognition on our website, social media platforms, e-blasts, newsletters, and more, while supporting an important cause. For additional information about our different partnership levels for each event, please contact Events@HOSparrow.org or Call 815-271-5444 x262