In Appreciation

Harbor Light wishes to thank our many funders who support our programs and make it possible for us to exist! Every donor at our Christmas kettles to our contract providers are appreciated!

Our funding contracts include: The City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, Illinois Substance Use Prevention and Rehabilitation (SUPR), and Northwestern Memorial Healthcare. We are grateful for their ongoing support and guidance.

We are also grateful to God for His loving care of each client, staff, supporter and reader of our Annual Report.

Contact Us

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The Salvation Army, Harbor Light Center

The Harbor Light Center is a landmark treatment facility that provides a variety of clinical and spiritual programs to those suffering from substance use disorder. The Harbor Light is a part of the Freedom Center, a 200,000 square foot, state of the art facility comprised of programs for substance use recovery, homeless outreach, mobile meals, correctional services, emergency food assistance and long term case management. The Freedom Center is located at 825 N. Christiana Avenue in Chicago's West Humboldt Park neighborhood.

A Staff Member’s Perspective

“I love the kids, I love the challenge, I love the Salvation Army!”

“To see the changes in people is a gift from God! When people come in for the first time, often they are depressed, hardly moving, and without hope. Over time, we have the opportunity to see them transform into joyful, successful, people with hope and a future! God is at work and we see it in those we serve.”

- Paula Sullivan, Director of the Corps Community Center
Our Story

The Salvation Army Harbor Light Corps (church) and Center has been providing services to individuals with substance use issues since 1946. Initially a social opportunity and sober living facility for men, the programs eventually adopted a clinical model to better serve the needs of our treatment community. The original Harbor Light was located in Chicago’s near west side, but relocated to the West Loop Gate community in 1976. In 2015, the center was relocated to a state of the art facility in West Humboldt Park.

The current facility offers a variety of treatment programs to meet client’s need. Each program is evidence based and offers a voluntary Spiritual component.

With the move in 2015, Harbor Light opened the Community Center as part of the new facility. The Center offers activities for neighborhood families and youth. It is a place to have fun, find friends, learn and grow, and be yourself. The Center also offers a computer lab, food pantry, and case management with emergency assistance.

Harbor Light operates mobile Homeless Services 7 days a week. A hot meal and social services are taken to the homeless on the streets. Those willing to accept services are assisted in finding programs and services to meet their needs and permanent housing.

Employment Services offers job readiness classes, case management, job referrals, and transitional employment. As a partner with the CTA, we place clients in their Second Chance program. This program can help people overcome the obstacles they face with employment.

The Harbor Light Center is a location of The Salvation Army, a worldwide Christian church and service organization. Founded in London, England in 1865, The Salvation Army is currently active as a church and service organization in over 130 countries.

Our Substance Use Treatment Programs

Intensive Rehabilitation

We provide a residential program for men that includes 25 hours/week of treatment activities, including: counseling, group therapy, education, goal setting, life skills training, recreation, and self-help groups. In 2019 there were 396 individuals treated for a total of 5660 days of treatment.

Intensive Outpatient Treatment

In this IOP, clients receive 9 hours of intensive treatment each week and assistance in finding employment. The program can accommodate 10 clients in a residential setting. In 2020 the plan is to increase to 20 clients.

Outpatient Counseling

Men and women can receive 3 hours of outpatient treatment a week. Men have the option of living in our halfway house. In 2019, 749 clients were served for a total of 2262 hours of treatment provided. The Halfway House provided 55,923 days of housing.
2019 Statistical Highlights

- 25,000 individuals utilized Harbor Light services
- 219 unique clients received treatment services
- 85% of clients successfully completed residential treatment services
- 65% of clients successfully completed Outpatient Treatment Services
- 80% of our clients have reported meaningful employment
- 90% have continued in sober living arrangements

Corps Community Center

In 2019, the Center provided 5,125 meals for youth, including school day evening meals and two meals a day during the summer. We provided 4,658 food pantry orders to 3,594 distant families.

Our Summer Camp enjoyed 51 registered children and we were able to include all children at the Shield of Hope Shelter during their time at the shelter. Our After School program had 54 registered children attending.

The Center's social services saw 12,625 clients in 2019. We provided 42,558 services, such as emergency assistance, education, case management, and referrals.

It is our pleasure to network with other agencies, politicians, and community members to serve our neighborhood.

Patrick shares his Story

Although Patrick grew up in a loving family, he had many issues. He was very timid, not popular, and often bullied. He came out as gay in high school and many fights ensued, leaving him feeling lonely and lost.

College introduced Patrick to a more social life which included alcohol. Yet, the more he drank, the more he felt alone and the more he felt alone, the more he drank. He tried changing schools and only drank more until he was expelled.

Patrick had a DUI and as part of his sentence, after jail, he had to attend classes. Homeless, Patrick went into a program and then another. He worked various jobs, but he couldn't stay sober, and eventually was fired. He was lost, hopeless, and in despair.

Patrick came to Harbor Light with little expectation. He found caring people that didn't judge him. Patrick quickly made friends and felt he was free to be himself. For the first time, Patrick worked through his issues, looked at his faulty thinking, and coping mechanisms. He began to learn new techniques and skills.

Today, Patrick is employed, has many friends, feels positive toward his future, and plans to continue at Harbor Light for after care. Patrick states he feels good in his own skin and he is happy.
Volunteers Make the Difference

Our volunteers come from all walks of life and bring their skills and talents in many ways. Their work allows us to do far more than possible and their attitudes make the journey fun!

In 2019
770 Volunteers gave 18,285 hours in service.

We greatly appreciate each and every volunteer!

Harbor Light Programs

Homeless Services

Two mobile units are on the streets of Chicago providing food and social services to the homeless 7 days a week. Last year we provided: 106,601 meals, 15,579 snacks, case management to 342 people, gave 486 pieces of winter clothing, 1,469 personal hygiene items, and gave over $11,409 in vouchers for clothing and furniture. After providing education on use, we gave out 75 Naloxone kits.

Employment Services

Employment Services prepares those looking for work with the tools they need to seek, apply, and be successful at a job. Last year we were contracted to enroll 74 clients and we actually served 124. We were contracted to place 44 clients and we placed 54. Twenty-five (25) clients received employment with the CTA Second Chance Program.
Mission Statement of the Harbor Light Center

Motivated by the love of God and our commitment to sharing that love with others, the Chicago Harbor Light Center provides a holistic approach for those who want to improve their lives by overcoming the barriers of chemical dependency, homelessness, and unemployment. We achieve this through innovative and comprehensive programming, spiritual guidance, and ongoing support.

The Salvation Army Mission Statement

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in His name without discrimination.
Our Person Centered Philosophy

From its inception, The Salvation Army has been concerned with the spiritual and social needs of all people. Its service in all parts of the world have been developed in recognition of the Biblical principle that all persons are equal in intrinsic value and that all persons bear the divine image. (Gen. 1:27). Because of this belief, The Salvation Army is focused on God’s unique creations, people. This focus includes our clients, employees, and community members.

We understand that our service must become an embodiment of the compassion and sacrifice of God on behalf of humanity.

We meet people always where they are, to address the issue(s) of concern to them. Any agenda of our own is secondary. We take this approach not only to keep faith with the implicit promises of service we have made to the community, but because this is the only truly sound strategic approach to meeting human need.

The Salvation Army understands the very heart and soul of the Christian Gospel-founded on the love of God. Because of our Christian faith we affirm the intrinsic value of human life and seek to live out that affirmation in the manner in which we treat all people, (client, employee, or community member) regardless of their age, sex, nationality, sexual orientation or religion. In this, we understand ourselves to be following in the footsteps of Jesus.

Strategic Plan

In 2018, the Harbor Light Center team completed a detailed process to create a strategic plan which reflected our services and new facility in the West Humboldt Park neighborhood of Chicago. Over the course of several months, key staff and the local Advisory Council considered the vision and mission of the organization, stakeholder feedback, service demographics, results of a detailed SWOT analysis, and key elements of recent performance analysis reports. This information was used to develop a plan to guide the Harbor Light Centers future for a period of 4 years. In developing this plan numerous goals were identified. These goals, and their corresponding objectives, will be ongoing through 2021.

Goal # 1 – Develop a plan for financial support that takes into consideration that donors may have limited knowledge of services provided by The Salvation Army and the Harbor Light Center.

Goal # 2 – Improve the contracting and billing of insurance companies and explore any offensive strategy towards Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs).

Goal # 3 – Build a total diversified funding base.

Goal # 4 – Determine if there are economies of scale or technologies that could decrease the costs of operations.

Goal # 5 – Develop a plan to address staff development and retention.

Goal # 6 – Obtain accreditation through the Committee on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).
Harbor Light Advisory Council

Terry Brazier (Council President)
Total Staffing
Sales Manager/ Owner

Lisa Azu-Popow
Northwestern Memorial Healthcare
Community Health Services, Program Director

Carl Ellis
NAACP
Board President

Sharon D. Gates
Rush University
Senior Director Multicultural Student Affairs and Community Engagement

Ray Gillette
Retired,
Marketing and Communications Specialist

Nita Hailey-Gamble
Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago, Inc.
Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator

Timothy R. Nelson
Aronberg Goldgehn Davis & Garmisa
Attorney

Harbor Light Administration

Majors Merrill and Nancy Powers
Directors

Milanka Hristova
Director of Business Operations

Delores Larkin
Director of Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning

Paula Sullivan
Director of the Community Center

Michelle Turnbough
Director of Clinical Programs

Richard Vargas
Director of Community Social Services

Mandel Williams
Director of Facilities