



NIGHTLIGHTS

SUMMER 2017

Phoenix Hall Ready to Open for North Lawndale College Prep Students



Staff of The Night Ministry, including Program Manager Jenny Merritt (right); Program Supervisor Andre Brown (center); and Youth Worker Adam Holmes (left), have been integral to the planning for Phoenix Hall.

Construction is nearing completion inside the North Lawndale home where The Night Ministry's fifth youth housing program, Phoenix Hall, will open this summer.

Phoenix Hall will provide year-round housing for up to eight homeless students enrolled at North Lawndale College Prep High School (NLCP). Phoenix Hall is Chicago's first homeless shelter designed to serve homeless students attending a particular high school.

"Along with our partners at Youth Outreach Services, we are identifying students at NLCP whose homelessness makes them eligible to live in the program and who are interested in moving in when it opens this summer," said Jenny Merritt, The Night Ministry's Program Manager.

In addition to those supportive services traditionally accessed by homeless youth, Phoenix Hall staff will connect students to summer opportunities NLCP offers. These opportunities include summer school classes, access to college-level courses, and summer internships.

In anticipation of students moving into the program, The Night Ministry has started hiring to provide students with 24/7 coverage. New to the team is Andre Brown, Phoenix Hall's Program Supervisor. Brown joins The Night Ministry with three years of experience working with homeless youth and 15 years of experience working in social services.

"I was interested in the opportunity to work at Phoenix Hall because more than 18,000 students in Chicago Public Schools experienced homelessness last year," Brown said. "Phoenix Hall is an innovative response to the issue. The Night Ministry is a great organization, and NLCP is an excellent school."

Brown also is impressed that North Lawndale community members and NLCP students have played roles in the development of Phoenix Hall.



Phoenix Hall will house up to eight homeless high school students.

"Keeping community members involved in the operations of Phoenix Hall will ensure that the program integrates the values of the community, NLCP, and The Night Ministry," Brown said.

Merritt added that community members and NLCP students will continue to raise awareness about the issue of housing instability in the school and throughout North Lawndale, working to reduce the stigma associated with homelessness.

(A housewarming registry for Phoenix Hall is available online. To purchase an item or make a cash donation, go to www.myregistry.com and search under

organization nonprofit for The Night Ministry. Then click on The Night Ministry-Phoenix Hall.) ♦

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Public Allies at The Night Ministry Learn Valuable Work-Life Lessons



Nicole Nader and Eugene Yong Lim were assigned to The Night Ministry through Public Allies, the nonprofit organization that operates the AmeriCorps leadership development program.

“People are more than their problems.” “Mission-based work is often slow, requiring patient understanding.” “We need to adapt to change, and if something doesn’t work, it needs to be fixed.”

These solid statements are just a few of the learnings gleaned from Eugene Yong Lim and Nicole Nader, employees of The Night Ministry assigned through Public Allies, the nonprofit organization that operates the AmeriCorps leadership development program.

Both came to The Night Ministry in the fall of 2016 and are nearing the end of their terms. Lim, who departs in July, is an HIV Testing Team Apprentice. Nader, whose term ends in August, works as a Residential Services Assistant. Both have been on the front lines of work at The Night Ministry.

Lim said he first encountered The Night Ministry through ONE Northside, where he serves on its Economic Justice and Workers’ Rights teams. His work at The Night Ministry includes testing and counseling high-risk individuals seeking assistance.

“We are working with people experiencing homelessness and poor health, but the people come before the problems,” he said. “The people are more than their problems.”

“My term of service has helped strengthen my confidence in myself a little,” Lim said. “This is hard work that I will be proud of having done.”

Nader, too, said the experience has helped shape her.

“I am learning every day that there are good people doing tough and oftentimes draining jobs, but they continue to come to work because they care about the people they are serving and the mission of the organization, despite whatever barriers are thrown their way,” she said. “This is the most important thing I have discovered in my time here, and this is what will keep TNM and me going.”

Nader has been assigned to The Night Ministry’s Open Door Shelter in West Town, which houses the Interim Housing Program (120-days) and the STEPS Transitional Living Program (2-years).

Additionally, “I’ve learned that on a personal level and through looking at the organization as a whole, we need to adapt to change, and if something doesn’t work, it needs to be fixed,” she said. “The Night Ministry is good at doing that.”

This experience “will absolutely make going forward in my career look different than what I first imagined my future to be.” ♦

SAVE THE DATE: Upcoming Associate Board Events

HAM-BINGO

Monday, August 21, 2017
8:00 – 10:00 pm
Hamburger Mary’s
(5233 N Clark St)

NIGHT LIGHTS

Thursday, November 9, 2017
6:00 – 9:00pm
River Roast
(315 N LaSalle St)

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Monthly donors are Beacons of Hope for The Night Ministry. Their steadfast support provides us with a stable, predictable source of funding for our programs on the streets, in our shelters, and at our Health Outreach Bus.

Consider setting up an automatic monthly contribution to The Night Ministry of any amount you choose. You will enjoy saving time and resources – fewer mailings for you and reduced postage costs for The Night Ministry! Most importantly, you will make a significant impact in our community over time.

To become a monthly donor, please contact Krista Kutz, Individual Giving Coordinator, at (773) 506-6006 or krista@thenightministry.org. Or you can enroll online by visiting www.thenightministry.org, clicking the Make A Gift button, and selecting “Make my donation recur.”

Stop, Listen, Learn, Innovate

To innovate means to make changes in something established; to introduce new methods, products or ideas. That, by its very definition, describes The Night Ministry.

From its very beginning 41 years ago, The Night Ministry was doing a new thing in the way it was trying to address homelessness and poverty. Who would have thought that putting one, lone man on the street at night to meet people and identify their needs would result in a major social service non-profit with groundbreaking health outreach and youth services that are national models?

Yet The Night Ministry is just that, and today that same innovative spirit that propelled the organization to its current position still drives its work, and its current strategic plan. Ask Paul W. Hamann, The Night Ministry's President and Chief Executive Officer, how the organization does it, and he will tell you it stops, listens, learns, and then innovates.

"We regularly stop to evaluate our work, examine data and assess community needs, listen to clients, staff, leadership, and volunteers whose wisdom is invaluable; learn from the information gleaned, and then innovate," he said. "It is a never-ending process that takes us to new and exciting places each time we embark on it."

Presently, The Night Ministry is taking a deep dive once again through its new strategic plan, "Serving in the Next Decade." The three-and-a-half-year roadmap, which was unveiled in January 2017, seeks to, among other things, expand high impact programs, maintain financial stability, utilize data to learn and improve programs, and position the organization as a thought leader in the field.

The process is already underway, building upon past innovations and forging new, creative paths for the future.

HEALTH OUTREACH

One of the flagships of The Night Ministry's work is the Health Outreach Bus, which takes services into neighborhoods throughout Chicago and builds long-lasting relationships with those we encounter. Last year alone the Bus had more than 4,400 visitors.

Central to our innovative work with the Health Outreach Bus is our ability to look at data from the various stops and adjust accordingly, a goal of the new strategic plan. New locations, adjusted hours, and expanded resources such as HIV and STI testing are among the results of stopping to assess, listen, and learn. This is innovation at its best!

Likewise, The Night Ministry's Street Medicine pilot program, which began in December 2015, is the result of this same process toward innovation. We knew, based on who we were seeing at the various Health Outreach Bus stops, that there were clients falling through the cracks and not accessing the services of the Bus.

This pilot program goes into encampments and remote places within the city, like under viaducts and in parks, with an outreach



coordinator, a case worker, and a medical professional. Together, they provide holistic services to this often-ignored population whose issues are frequently compounded by mental illness and drug abuse. Again, this is revolutionary and transformative work.

YOUTH SERVICES

Providing a comprehensive continuum of care for youth who are homeless and precariously housed is another groundbreaking area of work in which The Night Ministry has led the way.

Our efforts to help youth on their journey to permanent housing are distinctive, as witnessed by programs such as the 10-year-old Response-Ability Pregnant and Parenting Program (RAPPP) and The Crib, The Night Ministry's emergency shelter for youth ages 18-24.

Currently The Night Ministry is in the process of opening its newest youth housing space, Phoenix Hall (see story on page 1). It is a transitional residence that serves homeless students in the North Lawndale community, and dovetails with the strategic plan's goal of expanding high impact programs.

Of special note is the fact that all of our programs have low barriers to entrance and welcome youth who identify as LGBTQ. We also have developed a leadership training opportunity through our Youth 4 Truth leadership program.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Complementing the innovative work being done through The Night Ministry's programs are the efforts of our Volunteering, Congregational and Community Relations (VCCR) staff, who have developed creative ways to connect with volunteers and business leaders in order to match them with the most effective ways to serve those in need.

Everything from corporate Lunch & Learn sessions to opportunities to provide meals directly to clients alongside the Health Outreach Bus are possible because of The Night Ministry's outreach endeavors. The VCCR team is constantly developing new ways to reach and connect those with a heart to give to those who need extra care and support.

This focus on outreach dovetails with the work of our Board of Directors and companion Associate Board, both of which take an active role in service at all levels. The Night Ministry's largest fundraiser, Lighting Up the Night (see back page for top sponsors), could not take place without the deep and valued community connections our Board and Associate Board have throughout Chicago.

Innovation, as seen through the work of The Night Ministry, clearly has no bounds! ♦



Spartan Race Requires a ‘No-Quit’ Attitude Says Penserra Securities, LLC Director



A team from Penserra Securities, LLC participated in a Spartan Race in February. The Night Ministry was a beneficiary.

By Jason Valdez
Managing Director, Head of Equity Trading
Penserra Securities, LLC

Participating in a Spartan Race initially grew out of a desire to pursue something new that was both challenging and rewarding . . . not to mention fun. Personally, I have always liked to compete and push myself, and so I thought what better way to bring fellow colleagues together for team building and to achieve personal fulfillment.

The Spartan Race is like no other event I could have picked, especially when considering the combination of running and unique obstacles. Each of us who took part in the Arizona race in February had to prepare for the event individually, but ultimately work as a team to support one another to reach the finish line. No one person on the team could dominate the course.

Combined with physical fitness, members of the team had to possess determination, tenacity and a “no-quit” attitude to complete the race. When I shared my thoughts about participating with others, I was surprised to find that people loved the idea and jumped at the opportunity to be a part of the team. Coincidentally, the merger between Penserra and Cheevers had just been announced, so we invited the Cheevers office in Chicago to join and to help build bridges.

As the idea grew and spread, it became clear that the physical challenge alone was not enough for us to compete. We decided to make our efforts useful to others too. So, with the help of our Cheevers colleagues, we selected The Night Ministry as a beneficiary.

“We decided to make our efforts useful to others too. So, with the help of our Cheevers colleagues, we selected The Night Ministry as a beneficiary.”

The Night Ministry is a well-known organization at Cheevers, mainly through the ongoing efforts of long time Cheevers employee George Martin. George’s commitment to the organization, not to mention his work with The Night Ministry, inspired us all. Knowing how many individuals and families The Night Ministry helps through its various programs made it an easy choice.

And, the added benefit of matching contributions from both Penserra and Cheevers via an anonymous grant, made our collective efforts of raising nearly \$40,000 enormously worthwhile. No doubt, the inaugural members of the Penserra Spartan Race team plan to do it again next year. ◇

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Nurse Practitioner's Corner: Clinic Time a Mix of Health Care, Human Connection



Nurse Practitioner Anne Molloy engages with a patient at the Health Outreach Bus.

For Nurse Practitioner Anne Molloy, treating patients via The Night Ministry is a seamless blend of medical care many wouldn't otherwise receive and human connection essential to validating clients' existence in the world.

"The Night Ministry is incredible in that we are able to reach those who may have been failed by the larger healthcare system in the past," said Molloy. And at the same time, "Every soul has something to add to the world. If you can make that apparent during your interactions, your patients will open up to you right away. We aren't trying to change them; we are trying to just help them be the best version of themselves."

And so, with a multi-layered approach to care embraced by all medical practitioners at The Night Ministry, Molloy goes about her challenging work.

"My schedule with The Night Ministry is a little nuts, but I love it and wouldn't have it any other way," she said. Molloy works in a hospital during the day and with The Night Ministry in the evening.

Her schedule includes seeing patients on the Health Outreach Bus, caring for pregnant and parenting young women and their children in the Response-Ability Pregnant and Parenting Program (RAPPP), and engaging with youth at two of The Night Ministry's youth shelters – The Crib and Open Door Shelter West Town.

"Many patients at The Night Ministry sites have nothing, so we start from scratch and work with them to provide them the care they need," Molloy said. "Uniquely, The Night Ministry staff are able to deal with the most difficult situations on a near daily basis. Things that could set another health system awry are easily dealt with by the highly trained and compassionate staff at The Night Ministry."

When she works with youth of The Night Ministry, "The energy and vibrancy ... is amazing. I love working with these patients and helping them improve their lives." Providing care includes everything from teaching safe sex habits and exploring mental health issues to performing well visits for new mothers and troubleshooting women's health complaints.

The human connection naturally comes in "when people feel valued and seen without judgment," Molloy said. "I think accepting people as they are and appreciating them is the cornerstone of making a connection."

She said another way to build trust is with consistency. "Many of our patients have very little consistency in their lives. Having someone who shows up every time for them is sending a message in and of itself," Molloy added.

"I have formed bonds with many patients because I get to hear about their lives in a unique setting. I admire their resilience and motivation to be themselves, no matter what," she said. "I look forward to my time with The Night Ministry every week." ♦

SAVE THE DATE: 7/12/2017



When:
Lunchtime,
Wednesday,
July 12

Where:
Daley Plaza
(between
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Washington, &
Clark streets)

www.thenightministry.org

Join the Health Outreach Bus in Daley Plaza

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Contact Christy Prassas

Vice President of Development & External Relations
christy@thenightministry.org or (773) 506-6023



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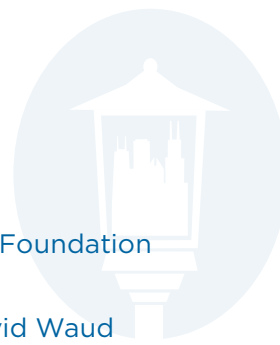
For more information, contact Charlotte Whitley, Special Events Coordinator, at (773) 506-6009 or charlotte@thenightministry.org. Cirque du Soleil® donates tickets to organizations providing assistance to youth at risk, with 100% of the proceeds from ticket sales supporting their work with young people.



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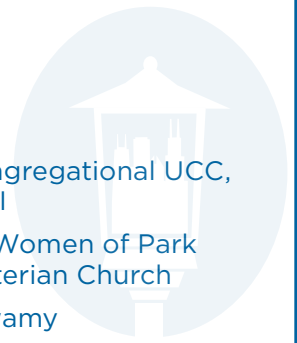
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