



# Summer Recap Newsletter

## 2023

### LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings,

If you're reading this, your support has helped us bring hundreds of people closer to housing stability, generational wealth, and more through affordable and sustainable homeownership. This Summer, we hosted over 100 workshops for prospective homeowners and renters looking to make and keep their homes in Chicago.



We also attended several events throughout the community to spread the word about our services. Later this month, on October 12, we'll host our own event: Making Dreams Come True. Our annual fall fundraiser will be a night of fun and festivities at Bottom Lounge to benefit our Chicagoland community.

So, thank you for reading this season's newsletter. We look forward to continuing our mission, and we thank you for your help in making dreams come true.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Lopez.

### COMING SOON — MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE!



We're taking over Bottom Lounge in Pilsen for our annual fall fundraiser on October 12. Join us at this elegant cocktail soiree from 5:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. for an evening of drinks, fun, food, and wonderful music!

We're also treating attendees to a silent auction with amazing prizes from local wineries, restaurants, and destinations. Learn more about the event and this auction on [our new blog](#).

Tickets are going fast, but there are still a few available! If you want to join us, you can [purchase your tickets here](#).

### JUNE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH — MIREYA HERNANDEZ

Mireya works in Program Support at Spanish Coalition for Housing.

She works with the Preventing Homelessness program, which runs from November to June each year. This program helps people experiencing hardship make their rental and mortgage payments, including the first and last month's rent for securing new housing.

Mireya was studying for the HUD Exam to become a licensed counselor in June, all while attending a training and completing her assignments. She continued to follow up on calls with renters, and gather documents received via email, fax, and mail to complete people's rental applications before the Preventing Homelessness program's June 30 deadline.

During this time, Mireya submitted 20 rental assistance applications through the All-Chicago program in June alone.

Many people are intimidated by the application process, according to Mireya. Many of the clients aren't aware that they can access the service, even if they happen to be undocumented.

Thank you Mireya!



# PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

The Preventing Homelessness initiative, led by Elena Hermosillo, has been working with our community members since 2018. During that time, the program has helped over 600 people stay inside their residences.

This program provides critical help to residents who are going through a hard time. With cooperation from their landlords, if residents are more than 30 days behind, they can get up to six months in rent and utility assistance.

These 600+ residents enjoy the benefits of over \$2 million in grants that our team has secured. Most applicants find out about the program via 311, though many also learn about the program via walk-ins and referrals from other agencies, including Rush University.

Prospective candidates take anywhere from 10 to 15 assessments before they can claim benefits, and they must satisfy three criteria. They must live in Chicago, have enough money to cover rent, and be experiencing some sort of hardship.

This program has become one of the cornerstones of SCH's services, and we're proud to continue the mission to keep people housed.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: EVENT RECAPS

From the Chicago River to neighborhoods near you, we've had a busy summer!

From May through September, we hosted several community workshops and events with our peers and many of you.

We've put together a brief series of recaps for these events, so if you weren't able to join us, check out our recaps below!

## BOAT CRUISE WITH UNIDOS



On July 23, we co-hosted an architectural boat cruise with Unidos as part of their annual conference. Wells Fargo sponsored this event, where attendees rode along the Chicago River, taking in the history of the Second City through its unique skyline.



## CAMINO A SU CASA HOMEBUYER EXPO

On June 10, we hosted this year's installment of Camino A Su Casa, our annual homebuyer expo. Attendees met with our HUD-certified housing counselors to start their journey towards homeownership. Along with SCH, 32 organizations participated, sending over 100 lenders, realtors, attorneys, government employees, and nonprofit leaders.

The event was a rousing success, as we registered 437 attendees, and served 305 prospective homebuyers. We scheduled 47 one-on-one counseling appointments, providing crucial help to people who need it most, as nearly 70 percent of attendees had an annual income of \$45,000 or less.

One of the attendees, Jenny Jara, is a lifelong Humboldt Park resident who attended the event with her husband. The family wanted to learn how to build a successful homebuying team so they could set down roots in Jenny's childhood neighborhood. They've scheduled sessions with SCH counselors to make their hopes a reality.



## RACIAL AND ECONOMIC HOUSING EQUITY SUMMIT

On May 23, we partnered with Old National Bank to host leaders across all sectors to discuss collaboration around racial and economic housing equity. Attendees included nonprofits, government entities, and higher education institutions, who talked about combining forces to strengthen the financial capacity of families and individuals while improving community health outcomes.

We covered topics including transportation workforce development, education, health and wellness, and more, and how those topics all come back to homeownership as a vehicle for economic mobility and community investment.

We landed on many concrete action items as next steps. For example, we'll work to engage elected officials and policymakers on key priorities like expanding CTA's redline service and making funding more accessible for community organizations.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



Along with our own events, we worked throughout the community to inform people about our services.

We attended events like Hope Fest and several back-to-school events to prepare families for the coming year. We also tabled at events thrown by the City of Chicago, like Senior Housing Fairs and Library Resource events.

This was a busy summer, with around 40 events enjoying a SCH presence.

To the left, you'll see Teresa Guillen at Onward House's Third Community Health Fair in August.

SCH was able to spread the word on affordable homeownership and options to help renters with challenges alongside a comprehensive community health effort.

Other organizations at the event provided haircuts, school supplies, health screenings, fresh produce and more to create a truly healthy environment for our underserved neighbors in Chicago.

# SUMMER ALL STAFF OUTING

On September 15, our staff and members of the board ventured to Scene75 in Romeoville for our annual Summer outing.

This 135,000 square foot venue included 14 fun attractions, including go-karts (pictured left), a roller coaster, and a drop tower, along with 150 arcade games.



The staff enjoyed an afternoon of fun, food, and games. One staff member, Audrey Carberry, even won a stuffed octopus from a claw game.

During the outing, we recognized July employee of the month Molly McNamee for her key efforts in SCH's success.

We also said goodbye to staff member Miguel Carmona, who will be sorely missed as he pursues new opportunities.

Our SCH family enjoyed spending time together, and we enjoyed strengthening our bonds in a warm and relaxed atmosphere.

## JULY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH — MOLLY MCNAMEE



Molly is the Senior Grants and Development Coordinator here at SCH.

She's been instrumental in our success for years, securing generous grants from sponsors and going above and beyond in communications and event planning. This organization could not function without Molly's efforts, and we recognize her hard work by making her July's employee of the month.

Thank you Molly!

## THANKS FOR READING!



If you'd like to help us continue our vital work, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to Spanish Coalition for Housing.

Sign up for a workshop if you or someone you know is interested in purchasing a home, or building generational wealth by becoming a landlord.

Attend one of our Chicago Housing Authority workshops if you're looking for information on CHA services, or access to rental units.

We'd like to thank our generous sponsors for Making Dreams Come True