



SCH December Newsletter 2023

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Reader,

As we bring this year to a close, we would like to thank you for the generosity and attention you've given Spanish Coalition for Housing (SCH) this year. We were ecstatic to continue our mission of building generational wealth through housing counseling, financial education, and advocacy by connecting low-to-moderate-income households to resources that create housing stability, homeownership, and economic mobility.

In 2023 alone, we helped create over 160 new homeowners, helped over 275 homeowners prevent foreclosure and preserve homeownership, and helped over 400 households avoid eviction through our rental counseling. We hosted over 50 educational workshops in both English and Spanish, and our HUD-certified housing counselors continue to prepare prospective homebuyers.

But with a new year on the horizon, we're asking you to continue supporting our efforts. We've launched our End of Year Appeal, and people like you are helping to Keep Our Communities Thriving. Please click the button below to learn more about how you can create opportunities for your fellow Chicagoans.

Even if you aren't able to donate, just sharing more about this campaign with your friends and family can make a difference in a family's lives. For just a few dollars, donors are helping families create their futures.

We hope you have a happy holiday season and a fantastic new year. Here's to another year of fighting for families across Chicago!

Sincerely,
Joseph Lopez

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Associate
Housing
Counselor

Jeanette
Rodriguez

AUGUST

Program
Clerk

Adriana
Morales

SEPTEMBER

Program
Support

Jessica
Tristan

OCTOBER

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS WITH ALL CHICAGO RENTAL ASSISTANCE



Last newsletter, we mentioned our rental assistance program and how it's helped over 3500 residents since 2006. That work would be impossible without our connection with All Chicago.

All Chicago is a citywide organization with four approaches to ending homelessness: emergency financial assistance, community partnerships, data analytics, and training and research. Since 2020, they've provided key monetary help to SCH's clients.

All Chicago helps qualified SCH clients in several ways. For example, they help people pay their first month's rent and security deposit when they're trying to secure a new apartment. Providing up to six months of rent to people facing financial difficulties is another way they help.

According to Elena Hermosillo, our Associate Manager of Programs, it generally takes anywhere from two weeks to two months for a qualified client to get rental assistance through All Chicago. If a client gathers their documents quickly, then their cases move faster.

Elena loves All Chicago because it doesn't require a Social Security number for its clients. If a client can provide a current pay stub or proof of bank deposits, has a lease, has gotten a five-day notice, and resides in Chicago, they're eligible for the program

As many people with Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) get paid in cash, as long as they can show regular deposits to a bank account, then they will meet the requirements.

SCH is one of All Chicago's top partners, as we receive around 20 rental assistance referrals a week from 311. Since September, the city has provided 257 referrals to SCH via 311. Right now, SCH is only working with 311 referrals due to the high demand for the program, so anyone that would like this assistance must make that call first.

TAKING THE NEXT STEP WITH OUR PRE-PURCHASE TEAM

Our pre-purchase team is always busy! Every year, our HUD-certified housing counselors help hundreds of people navigate the homebuying process.

The team is also proactive about creating new homeowners. They host 48 workshops each year, with two in Spanish and two in English each month. These workshops inform potential homebuyers of their options, and at the end, they receive a certificate that allows them to access more options for financing and assistance with closing costs.

The pre-purchase team also hosts a Homebuyer Orientation each month, which introduces attendees to the basics of buying a home. By attending these one-hour events, potential buyers can decide if they're prepared for the process before committing to two two-hour workshops.

When clients start their homebuying journey, the pre-purchase team is there to get them ready in any way they need. Whether it's helping them repair their credit, explaining their financing options, or more!

If you, or someone you know, is looking to buy a home, sign up for our next Homebuyer Orientation on January 18!

WINTER ALL-STAFF OUTING RECAP



On December 15, our SCH Staff took to Lake Michigan for our Winter All-Staff Outing!

We set sail on the Odyssey from Navy Pier for a fabulous lunch cruise. The staff enjoyed food, fun, and conversation while taking in the Chicago skyline. Some of our staff and board members even took to the dance floor, skillfully conquering the Cha Cha Slide!

The SCH team also participated in a raffle for prizes including jewelry, puzzles, and more. The event was a rousing success, and we always look forward to these gatherings where we can deepen our relationships as a team. We're excited to bring new energy to help our clients in the new year!

PRESERVE OUR BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITIES BY GIVING TO SCH'S END OF YEAR FUNDRAISER



Our vital work takes time and effort, which wouldn't be possible without support from people like you. To keep our efforts going, we're asking for your help. **We're hoping that you'll help keep our communities thriving by donating to our important work this holiday season.**

Donating to SCH is more than just a tax write-off. You'll be directly funding a family's future by helping us educate potential homebuyers. These homebuyers are great for the economy, but you'll also be helping people develop generational wealth through homeownership.

Your gift of \$25 or more could give another family the chance to achieve their dream of homeownership within our communities. Become an SCH donor!

\$25 donation – Become our **Supporter**

\$50 donation – Become our **Friend**

\$100 donation – Become our **Partner**

\$500 donation – Become our **Champion**

\$1,000 donation – Become a **Community Leader**

If you don't think you'll be able to donate, we implore you to please keep us in mind - refer your friends, family, and colleagues to our counselors! In addition, share our donation links with any friends or family members that you think may be interested in supporting our work!

Thank you for your consideration. We here at SCH hope that you have a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!