

Dear Friends,

Another year has almost passed. I am so grateful to have witnessed the 25th Anniversary of Southwest Chicago Homeless Services. When I first joined the team here, we were approaching the second decade of existence.

While 25 years may not be a headlining story, it provided us an opportunity to renew and refresh our capacity, our scope of service and literally our appearance. This year like the others, has remained challenging but in spite of difficult economic times, we were fortunate to replace our lighting (no more fluorescents), our flooring (rickety, taped, and mismatched), get a brand new van (beep, beep), and display our new name on an awning (now you can find us).

Together with our new look, there was a renewed expression to support internal performance improvements and creating the best possible conditions for delivering results for our clients.

This year our dedicated staff has done an incredible job at expanding case management services. This means that although less money was spent on programs overall, we were able to increase the value of services delivered to a total of 85% of those who came through our doors.

Our Board of Directors helped us dramatically increase our donor base of individuals; at their urging we sent a special appeal letter to those individuals whom we haven't heard from in quite some time and that boosted individual giving.

Our ongoing goal is to keep our overhead low while increasing our service to homeless individuals and families, and you truly make this possible! Southwest Chicago Homeless Services is stronger than ever due to our strong volunteer community who come together to donate time, resources, and talent in support of our important mission.

Thank you for making 2018 yet another remarkable year for Southwest Chicago Homeless Services! We're excited about the coming year and adding new programs that our clients need. I invite you to join us on Face book, sign up for our newsletter, and let us know how we're doing.

Very truly yours,

Karyn Perkins