

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



Letter from Executive Director, Sarah Parker-Scanlon

As we celebrate Shelter Care’s 40th year, we recently gathered with nearly 150 loyal supporters to recognize our work, applaud our accomplishments, and honor our founder, Father James Cardone. In the early 1980s, Father Cardone brought together like-minded people to address homelessness in our community. What began as a small shelter has grown into more than 60

scattered-site houses and apartments, serving both families and individuals, and the Jubilee Center, which began as a Sunday afternoon program for individuals and expanded to five days a week as more people sought connection, stability, and support. Two years ago, we reached a long-held goal by adding a housing program for Jubilee Center members.

In our 40-year history, we’ve supported well over 15,000 people through the Jubilee Center and Supportive Housing programs. In FY25 alone, we provided housing or supportive services to more than 800 people. People like Ashley, a single mother who moved from homelessness to completing her GED and earning a place on the President’s List in her first semester of college. And Osie, who rediscovered joy at the Jubilee Center, completed drug treatment, and now has his own home and family back in his life.

We continue to educate ourselves on how to best meet the complex needs of the people we serve. Many are fleeing domestic violence or living with the effects of past trauma, while others struggle with long-term addiction and mental illness. We believe that housing is the foundation for success—a human right, not a reward for sobriety or stable mental health.

Unfortunately, we cannot end homelessness alone, and the need for our programs continues to grow—likely for the foreseeable future. We also face real uncertainty about federal funding that supports our housing programs. Programs that have allowed us to house hundreds of families and individuals may be drastically reduced or eliminated. But stories like Ashley’s and Osie’s remind us why this work matters and why we must persist. Together, we can ensure that Shelter Care continues its vital work as we Provide Shelter, Awaken Hope, and Honor the Dignity of all who seek our services.

Sarah



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JUBILEE CENTER

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SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Tiffany Meek, Supportive Housing Director
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Channel Hudson, Jubilee Housing Advocate
Liz Wassner, Family Housing Advocate



EPISCOPAL CHARITIES

SHELTER CARE



Year in Review **2025**

218 7TH STREET
ROCKFORD, IL 61104

815.964.5520
WWW.SHELTER-CARE.ORG

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING keeps families and couples together during a housing crisis. Shelter Care provides housing in single-family homes and apartments located in neighborhoods throughout the community, along with furniture, household items, and clothing through community donations and grant funding. Four housing programs—Emergency, Transitional, Permanent Supportive, and Rapid Rehousing—are tailored to meet a household's different needs. Housing advocates support families by helping them achieve long-term goals through referrals, advocacy, emotional support, and encouragement.

Testimonial: "A year and a half ago, my kids and I became homeless because of mistakes I made. In 2022 I received Section 8, and lost it in 2023. I was devastated and heartbroken.

Being a single mother, growing up in poverty, living beyond my means, not knowing how to budget, not knowing the right questions to ask, and thinking I could do it all on my own—all of that landed me in a place I never wanted to be, but then I learned about the Rockford Rescue Mission. While staying there, I continued working toward my GED. I heard about Shelter Care Ministries.

Five months into our stay at the shelter, I received a call from Shelter Care Ministries, saying that housing was available for us. While being in the program, I got a part-time job. I finished my GED and started college in January 2025. I even made the President's List in my first semester.

I want to thank Shelter Care Ministries for all their help and support. Without housing, I wouldn't have been able to accomplish some of my goals. Thank you all for believing in me and my children, and for giving us a second chance. **Even in the deepest, darkest moments—there is light.**" — Ashley



"Even in the deepest, darkest moments - there is light"



JUBILEE CENTER

THE JUBILEE CENTER is a one-of-a-kind day program for adults living with chronic mental illness who may be homeless or at risk of homelessness. Members receive a hot breakfast and lunch daily. Staff collaborates with community partners to provide comprehensive services including advocacy, case management, psychological and medical services, housing assistance, showers, employment support, and crisis intervention. At Jubilee, members find an environment where they are not defined by their diagnosis, but welcomed as peers, friends, and family.

Testimonial: "I have joy back in my life thanks to the Jubilee Center. When I arrived at the center over a year ago, I was on drugs and depressed. I didn't care about myself or anyone else. Special thanks to my advocate Racheal Charles, she has been a strong support system that I needed and found here.

I started out accomplishing small goals, I got my own apartment but it's not just an apartment it's my home. I completed the drug treatment program and have been drug free for over a year now. I got my driver's license back and finally was able to purchase my dream car. I work part-time and I will complete my probation on 7/16/25. I have my daughter in my life and all 4 of my sisters.

I am a proud member of the Jubilee Center. I still come here daily because it puts me in the right mood. I always leave feeling that I'm somebody and I'm someone special. I want other members to know if I can do it, so can you thanks to the Jubilee Center." — Osie

"I have joy back in my life thanks to the Jubilee Center."

WHAT YOUR DONATION MADE POSSIBLE IN 2024 -2025

FAMILY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

292 People Served

86 Households | **96** Adults | **196** Children

96% of participants who exited our program, exited to permanent housing.

JUBILEE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

28 Households | **30** Adults

72% of participants who exited our program, exited to permanent housing.

JUBILEE CENTER

493 Active Jubilee Members

Visits to the Jubilee Center
22,412

20,380 Meals Served

