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UPWARD NEWS

Happy July 4th Periann!

We could not do what we do without your help, and we appreciate you and all the ways you support our mission! Please enjoy this month's "Upward News" newsletter to keep up to date on some of the ways we serve our community thanks to you and the upcoming events and activities you're invited to join!

We wish you and your family a safe and fun [Independence Day!](#)

Upward Transitions' office will be closed on July 4th to celebrate **America's Independence Day!**



Prevent **mosquito** and other insect bites with safe, effective insect repellent this time of year.



Bug bites can cause infections, rashes, allergic reactions, and dangerous diseases.

Summer Needs for Our Clients and Neighbors

Upward Transitions' clients are in need of safe, effective insect repellent and high SPF sun screen this summer. Please consider adding those items to any others you are donating to us.

As the days become hotter, many without shelter are in grave danger of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. In the linked article below, we tell you how to look for the signs of heat illness and how to help when someone is suffering from the heat.

[Heat Exhaustion/Heat Stroke](#)

Welcome Brittany!



Please join us in welcoming the newest member of Upward Transitions' team, **Brittany Dugger!** Brittany brings a strong background in customer service and a deep commitment to helping others to our position of Intake Coordinator. Her vast experience and comprehensive training in addiction and mental health support will be vital in her role here as the first point of contact many of our clients will encounter.

CELEBRITY WAIT NIGHT RETURNS THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024!



Please mark your calendar for our 2024 Celebrity Wait Night event at Hideaway Pizza in Automobile Alley (901 N. Broadway in OKC)!

From 5:30 - 8:30 PM on Thursday, July 18th, Celebrity Waiters will "work for tips" to benefit Upward Transitions' Community Outreach Program. Your waiters will be great former OSU and OU star athletes!

Be sure to mention "Upward Transitions" when you order, and Hideaway Pizza will donate 15% of your tab and 100% of your tip to assist those experiencing homelessness and families facing eviction in Oklahoma County.

[Celebrity Wait Night - Upward Transitions](#)

Diversion Hub Block Party

Upward Transitions staff attended the Diversion Hub Block Party on Friday afternoon, June 14th and had a wonderful time! Clients, partners, and friends enjoyed the Thunder Drummers, grilled hot dogs, fresh drinks, and great music. We met some of the Thunder Cheerleaders and a few friendly Oklahoma City Firefighters who showed us around one of the fire trucks.

Diversion Hub staff were there to hear people's stories, paint faces, offer help, and just welcome everyone to the party.



(L-R) Sumer Dismuke, Diversion Hub Community Partner Coordinator; Alicia Terry, Upward Transitions Program Director; Jennifer Polingyumptewa, Upward Transitions Case Manager; Charla Essman, Upward Transitions Case Manager; Conna Dewart, Upward Transitions Development & Public Relations Manager



(L-R) Alicia Terry, Upward Transitions Program Director; John Standfill, Successful Former Client of **both** Upward Transitions and Diversion Hub; Conna Dewart, Upward Transitions Development & Public Relations Manager

Alicia Terry and Conna Dewart were excited to run into John Standfill at the block party. John's story as a successful former Upward Transitions' client is incredible. It was uplifting to see him there to help guide and mentor others who were going through hardships he, himself, once experienced.

Like many in his situation, John was assisted by a collaboration of multiple nonprofit partners. Oklahoma City is unique in the way that we work together to help those in need and to find those resources that will empower them to become future helpers.

If you would like to hear more about John's story, click the link below to a short video about his life and his amazing success after a very hard beginning.

[John's Story](#)

A NEW FISCAL YEAR BEGINS THIS MONTH!
In our upcoming August newsletter we'll tell you all we accomplished together in FY2024!

In the last fiscal year, thanks to



your support, Upward Transitions assisted **3,956** people in **2,615** households:

- **1,808** clients gained access to financial and housing stability when they obtained birth certificates and State IDs.
- **792** people in **285** households maintained stable housing when they received rent or utility assistance, and **74%** maintained stable housing with utilities connected for up to a year.
- **68** clients increased their safety by traveling to a safe place with a support system.
- **1,182** children benefited from our services.
- **3,164** clients stated that they felt more hopeful after receiving our services.

Also, in FY2023, **89 cents of every dollar** donated to our mission went directly to our client programs!

Your support is so crucial to what we do. Without supporters like you, none of this would be possible. Our mission to prevent generational poverty through community collaboration, emergency relief and empowerment, therefore inspiring hope with our neighbors experiencing housing instability depends on our partners and supporters, our fellow agents of hope.

DONATE

Join Our Circle of Hope!

The members of the “Circle of Hope” are those supporters of Upward Transitions who have chosen to support the mission of preventing generational poverty by giving a monetary donation at a level of \$1,000 or more in a calendar year.

The “Circle of Hope” will be recognized at our annual American Tourist fundraiser and invited to a special Partner celebration in the fall of each year. This year's Circle of Hope appreciation event was held at the exclusive El Sueno mansion and sponsored by the Fudge family and [Claims Management Resources \(CMR\)](#).

\$1,000 dollars is a meaningful investment in the work of Upward Transitions. Research reveals that a “one-time assistance of \$1,000 with rent or utility payments can prevent a family from becoming homeless for up to 2 years and 76% less likely to become homeless after 6 months.”

The “Circle of Hope” members are making a significant investment in the work of Upward Transitions. We are grateful for their partnership and for the hope they inspire every day through the work of community collaboration, emergency relief, and empowerment.

[Learn more about Upward Transitions' Circle of Hope](#)



CIRCLE *of* HOPE

Thank you for your support!

At Upward Transitions, our mission is to prevent generational poverty through community collaboration, emergency relief and empowerment, therefore inspiring hope with our neighbors experiencing housing instability.



UPWARD TRANSITIONS®

Ending Generational Poverty



United Way
of Central Oklahoma
Community Partner

For more information, please email Conna Dewart at cdewart@upwardtransitions.org, visit us online at upwardtransitions.org, or call our office at 405-232-5507.

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