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UPWARD NEWS

Hello Periann!

We hope you are enjoying the summer without overheating and are able to spend some time outdoors or traveling with friends and family. Upward Transitions has had a busy July, and many of you have joined us for our events.

We appreciate you and all the ways you support our mission! We could not do what we do without your help, and we love seeing your faces at our fundraisers and at community events we attend.

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 rest of your summer!

Upward Transitions Wins BankofOklahoma Financial's Guide the Giving Grand Prize of \$10,000

Our wonderful friends at BankofOklahoma Financial surprised us with this year's \$10,000 grand prize win of their Guide the Giving program grant!

We'd like to say a special "thank you" to LaNeka Wilson, Vonnie Garner, Brooke Martin, and Greg Wheeler for coming in person to give us the news with a giant check and a big balloon bouquet!

BankofOklahoma Financial's Guide the Giving program is an annual corporate wide program held in each market. Employees get the chance to nominate their favorite nonprofit and then solicit votes from



(left to right) Alicia Terry, UT Program Director; Periann Pulliam, UT Chief Executive Officer; LaNeka Wilson, BankofOklahoma Financial and UT Board of Directors

their peers. The winning nonprofit in each market receives \$10,000! In addition, five \$5000 runners up are announced with a total of \$125,000 being distributed throughout the footprint. Employees here in OKC at Bank of Oklahoma chose Upward Transitions as the grand prize winner!

100 YEARS OF SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

A Century of Hope!

As we begin our new fiscal year, we are excited to be approaching our centennial! Upward Transitions has been serving our community since 1925, and we plan to continue our mission to prevent generational poverty for another 100 years.

In Fiscal Year 2024, we continued our upward trend and helped more people than ever before, topping 4,000 individuals. We are excited to share our numbers with you as well as our plans for our centennial year. Starting January of 2025, Upward Transitions will have an event each month of the year. We'll have a lot of exciting new things to tell you, so be sure to follow us on social media and on our website and be sure to save your newsletters so that you won't miss a single invitation.

A Letter from Our CEO

As I reflect on my 15 years with Upward Transitions, I can't help but be moved by the care and compassion our team gives to the most vulnerable in our community. Day in and day out, our frontline team members encounter people from all walks of life. Most are in crisis, seeking our help to make a better life for their families. Every one of their stories is different, and each person faces a very personal set of barriers to a stable life. The issues of homelessness and poverty are complex. Upward Transitions cannot address every barrier, but with your help, we can remove or lower obstacles to housing, employment, transportation, and critical services, and perhaps, provide a little hope along the way.

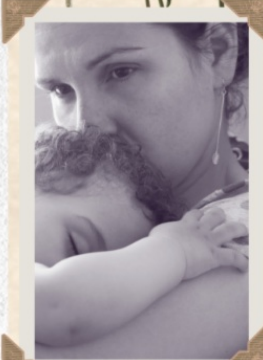
This past fiscal year, July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, our team worked with more than 50 partner agencies throughout Oklahoma County to address issues and remove barriers to self-sufficiency for more than 4,000 individuals. A common challenge people experiencing homelessness encounter is obtaining identification documents such as birth certificates and state IDs. Many of the people we serve are not able to obtain the documents they need without our assistance due to literacy, behavioral, and cognitive factors as well as cost. Last year, Upward Transitions provided nearly 2,600 documents and state IDs which opened doors to employment, housing, benefits, and other vital services.

Preventing families and seniors from becoming homeless is another critical service Upward Transitions provides to our community. Last year, through our rent and utility assistance program, we diverted evictions for 854 individuals in 300 households. These services along with case management helped keep children safe and healthy by ensuring their families remained in their homes and had access to needed support services for nutrition, medical care, education, and employment.

In 2025, Upward Transitions will celebrate 100 years of service to Central Oklahoma. In the latter part of the past 100 years, we have worked to build a sustainable future for the organization including creating a fulltime development and public relations staff position, maintaining a debt-free organization, and establishing investments and reserves equal to more than four months of operating expenses. We want to ensure Upward Transitions will be here in the next century to serve those facing homelessness and have set a goal to raise \$100,000 to commemorate our 100th year. Please help us continue to clear the path to self-sufficiency and make your one-time or recurring gift today.

With gratitude,

Periann Pulliam
Periann Pulliam, CEO





UPWARD TRANSITIONS FISCAL YEAR 2024

In FY24, Upward Transitions assisted **4,025** people in **2,802** households with just our staff of **12**!



1,871 clients gained access to financial and housing stability when they obtained birth certificates and state IDs.

854 people in **300** households maintained stable housing when they received rent or utility assistance. 70% maintained stable housing with utilities connected for up to 1 year.

1,084 children benefitted from our services.



60 clients increased their safety 100% by traveling to a place of safety and support.

78% of clients surveyed stated they felt more **hopeful** after receiving our services.

How does your donation impact our mission?



In FY2024, **84 cents** of every dollar donated went directly to our client programs.

\$2,500 can prevent 2 families from being evicted.

\$1,000 can restore utilities for 3 families.

\$500 can pay public housing deposits for 6 families.



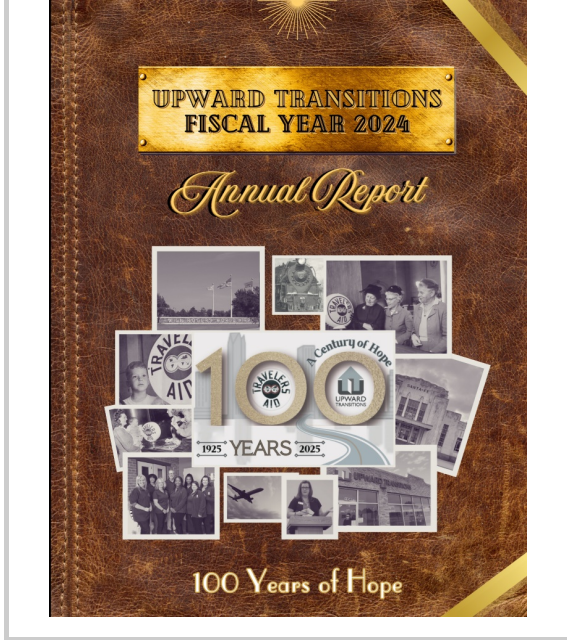
\$250 can help a victim of domestic violence or human trafficking travel to a safe location.

\$100 can help 4 people obtain identification documents to re-establish their identity to secure employment or housing.

\$50 can provide work clothes for 1 person to start a new job.

Watch your mail for a copy of our Annual Report this month and an opportunity to make your annual donation to support Upward Transitions mission to prevent generational poverty.

- Help a family stay in their home.
- Help unhoused people get their IDs and Birth Certificates to gain access to employment and housing.



- Help a stranded traveler in distress get to a place of safety and security.

YOUR SUPPORT CHANGES LIVES!

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](#)

Meet Sue, A Client Success Story

Sue (48) was referred to Upward Transitions by a case manager from City Rescue Mission. She was unhoused and needed her birth certificate and job search assistance to get back on her feet.

Her Upward Transitions case manager assisted her in getting her birth certificate and state ID and helped her with beginning her search for employment. Upward Transitions also provided her with bus passes so she could get to job interviews and doctors' appointments.



Sue quickly completed training and secured employment as a home health aide. When she needed scrubs for her new job, her Upward Transitions' case manager reached out to Suited for Success and provided bus passes to help her to travel to get the clothes she needed.

Just a few months later, Sue called to thank her case manager and to report she had obtained housing with a Section 8 voucher, was doing well at her new job, and had started classes to become a certified nurse aide.

Way to go, Sue!

CELEBRITY WAIT NIGHT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!



(left to right) J.C. Watts, OU Football & US Congressman; Sandy Ellis of Ellis Properties; Terry Peters, OU football; and Steve Rhodes, OU football



(left to right) Periann Pulliam, Upward Transitions' CEO and Greg Sellmyer, OU Football

Many thanks to everyone who joined us at Hideaway Pizza on Thursday, July 18 for our annual night to eat pizza and meet star athletes for charity! We surpassed our fundraising goal to assist our neighbors at risk of homelessness and experiencing homelessness, and we had a lot of fun doing it.

Some surprise guest celebrity waiters joined us and thrilled not just Upward Transitions' staff but many of our supporters who were fans as well.

Thank you to all of our wonderful celebrity waiters:

Upward Transitions would like to give a special thanks to the staff and management at Hideaway Pizza in Automobile Alley who were happy to partner with us again for this exciting tradition. Thank you to all who donated and supported the event, and congratulations to our raffle winners!

For a look at some of the fun, please click on the link below to go to our Celebrity Wait Night 2024 Highlight Video. We hope you'll join us again next year!

[Celebrity Wait Night Highlights - 2024](#)

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](#)



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.

Follow Upward Transitions on social media:



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