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March 2025



405.232.5507



upwardtransitions.org



1134 W. Main Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73106



UPWARD NEWS

Here comes the Spring, Perian!! We at Upward Transitions are grateful for the warmer weather and hoping that the wind and rain days are few. This is, after all, the month of luck and rainbows!

We really don't need luck with supporters like you. Thank you for coming on this journey with us!

March 13th is Upward Transitions' Proclamation Day in Oklahoma City and we're continuing to celebrate our centennial year! As we work to prepare for our gala in May, sponsorships, reserved tables, and tickets are already available, so keep scrolling for information on everything happening this month.

In observance of our 100 years of service to the community, we are asking our supporters to help us to raise \$100,000 for another 100 years. Your support has meant so much to us. **Will you donate to our FY2025 Annual Campaign today?**

[DONATE TODAY](#)

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

[Frances: An Upward Transitions Client Victory Story](#)



After a long, hard journey, **Frances** sent, not just a note of gratitude, but she included a **donation check** to Upward Transitions with her “thank you” for the critical part the organization played in her life.

Five years ago, Frances was walking home when she stopped to rest on a bench near a shopping center. With an expired license, she was unable to drive. An unemployed chemist, Frances was over 50, losing her apartment, and staying with a friend. She was also on the verge of bankruptcy.

Suddenly, a man walked up, grabbed her purse, and tossed it to another man. She watched helplessly as they tossed it back and forth like a football and then ran away. Frances called for help, but no one came. Frances’s photo ID and Social Security card were both in her purse.

Without any form of photo ID, she could not obtain a copy of her birth certificate from Kansas, and without a birth certificate, she could not get a new photo ID.

A short time later, the friend she was staying with asked her to leave, so she found herself at City Rescue Mission.

Frances explained, “I had donated and volunteered at other nonprofits in the past, but that’s a lot different than going through one.”

With no form of identification, Frances had no means of getting employment, housing, financial services, or benefits. It seemed impossible to get back on her feet.

“I didn’t know where to start to prove who I was.” said Frances

Frances' case manager at City Rescue Mission referred her to Upward Transitions for help getting a new ID.

“So few nonprofits help with out of state IDs,” said Frances. “I was scared and kind of discouraged, but Upward Transitions said they’d find a way.”

In the meantime, Frances started the Employment Readiness Program at City Rescue Mission where she learned the basics of Microsoft Word and keyboarding. She wrote that she felt like a baby starting over in life again.

“The whole experience helped build me back up,” said Frances. “It also gave me a crash course in homelessness, public transportation, and how nonprofits work.”

Upward Transitions solved Frances’ ID problem, so when an opportunity at another nonprofit became available, she was hired there full-time.

“My contacts and the experience of what I’d lived through helped me be able to work with nonprofits,” said Frances. “It’s exciting to see lives change.”

Today, Frances is showing her appreciation by donating to the nonprofits that helped her when she needed it.

“It wasn’t an easy road back,” said Frances. “But with Upward Transitions’ help, I’m now out of debt, my credit is restored, and I’m working full-time. I refer people frequently to Upward Transitions for help.”

Frances is an excellent example of those who are in need of help becoming the helpers, themselves. It's so encouraging to see this outcome.

You inspire us, Frances!

Interested in more Client Victory Stories?

VICTORY
STORIES

DON'T MISS THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME
HISTORIC EVENT!



As we celebrate our centennial year, we would like to invite you to step back in time to 1925, the year of *The Great Gatsby*, the streetcar, speakeasy jazz, and the bee's knees!

The evening will feature live music from the Justin Echols Trio and dancing; dining and beverages; live and silent auctions; jewelry and wine pulls; and an elegant 1920s atmosphere.

American Tourist is Upward Transitions' annual fundraising event supporting our programs serving Central Oklahoma. (Must be 21 to attend)

Tickets, reserved tables, and sponsorships are available to purchase now!

\$100,000 TOWARD 100 MORE YEARS!

We're so glad you are with us on this journey.

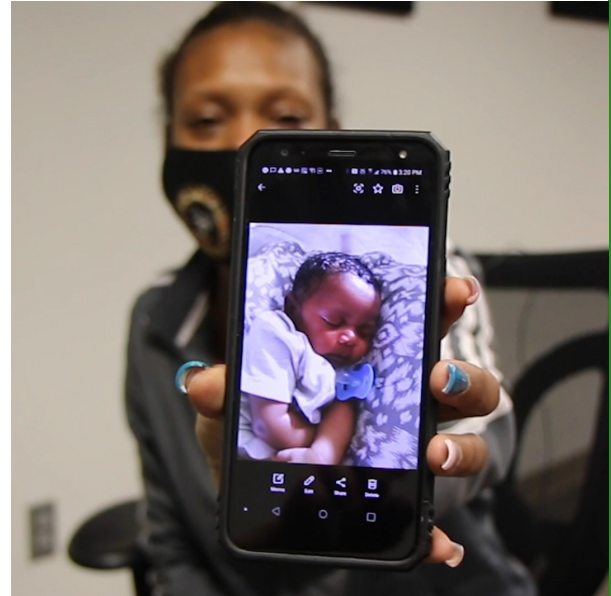
We simply could not do what we do without supporters like you.

Our Annual Campaign for FY 2025 has set a goal to raise \$100,000 for our client programs to charge forward into another 100 years of serving the most vulnerable in our community.

If you have not yet made your donation to our Annual Campaign, please consider making your gift today.

Your gift is crucial!

Become an agent of hope: [DONATE TODAY](#)




BE A PERMANENT PART OF HISTORY

Join Your Legacy with Ours for Another 100 Years

Upward Transitions is celebrating 100 years of serving our community in 2025, and we are inviting you to Centennial celebrations all year long! One of our big projects in honor of 100 years of hope is our 100-year endowment campaign: ***Endowing a Second Century of Hope***.

Since 1925, Upward Transitions has served those in need in Central Oklahoma, making us one of the oldest social services agencies in the community. Regardless of age, race, income, lifestyle, religion, or culture, people in need can always turn to Upward Transitions for help.


To ensure our longevity for another 100 years to serve those facing the threat of poverty and homelessness, we have set a goal to raise \$1,000,000 for our endowment fund to sustain our services in perpetuity. We invite you to join in this mission and to link your legacy with ours for the next century.

\$53 available
for annual grant 



YEAR 1


Donor contributes
\$1,000

\$72 available
for annual grant 



YEAR 15


Cumulative grants
from fund: \$941
Fund grows to
\$1,453

\$90 available
for annual grant 



YEAR 25

Cumulative grants
from fund: \$1,760
Fund grows to
\$1,801

\$154 available
for annual grant 



YEAR 50

Cumulative grants
from fund: \$4,774
Fund grows to
\$3,083

A gift to our endowment will give back its full value to us within 15 years and then continue to give more. In this way, your gift today is your legacy and will keep giving back again and again forever.

To learn more about our endowment, go to: [Endowment Giving - Upward Transitions](https://www.upwardtransitions.org/Endowment-Giving) and/or contact Conna Dewart at cdewart@upwardtransitions.org or 405.232.5507 x 113.



Did you know?



Upward Transitions is **100% debt free** and owns its own building.

86% of all donations in FY2024 went toward Client Programs.

www.upwardtransitions.org

JOIN UPWARD TRANSITIONS' 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.

\$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



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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Upward Transitions | 1134 W. Main Street | Oklahoma City, OK 73106 US

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