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UPWARD NEWS

Hello, Periann!! As we begin to enjoy the warmer Spring weather, we feel so blessed to have partners like you supporting our mission to brighten our days and the lives of our clients. That's why we try to keep you updated on everything we do with your gifts and all that we accomplish because of your support.

April has already been a very exciting month for Upward Transitions. On Monday, April 7, Mayor David Holt met with us to personally present a copy of his proclamation that March 13th was Upward Transitions Day in Oklahoma City. *Look for pictures of that meeting in the news soon.*

Sponsorships, reserved tables, and tickets are now on sale for the centennial gala: American Tourist: 1925 - a Centennial Celebration. Additional information on the centennial gala is in this newsletter.

Also, we're continuing to celebrate our centennial, and we are now just \$10,000 away from our \$100,000 2025 Annual Campaign goal to show our optimism and determination to assist those in need in our community for another 100 years! Have you made your gift?

[DONATE TODAY](#)

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

Tommy: An Upward Transitions

Client Victory Story



Today, **Tommy** is living in an apartment that he loves provided by the Oklahoma Housing Authority. He's making friends, and he finally feels safe.

Last year, he was nearing the end of his rope. He felt hopeless, and he was frightened that if he didn't get off the street, something very bad was going to happen to him. At 64, he had been trapped in homelessness for two long years. His truck was stolen. His backpacks kept being taken, and even his glasses were stolen from him. He had been beaten up twice.

Tommy had never been one to ask for help. He had always taken care of himself, but he was a long way from where he had started, and his health had declined. It was time to ask for help.

"All I wanted was a roof over my head," he said.

A specialty welder by trade, he built airplanes at Wiley Post, and he worked for development companies all around Central Oklahoma restoring buildings in historic areas. He had to semi-retire when he started having trouble with his joints and losing his hearing.

He was working on his metal weld art and living in the home he owned on his family's property when the death of a family member and an unresolved estate threw his life into turmoil. He was suddenly evicted from the 40 acres of land he had thought he owned for 10 years and given 15 minutes to pack and leave his home and his shop.

Tommy had nowhere to go and no one he felt he could turn to. He was no longer able to work, and he couldn't take his welding equipment with him. All he had was his truck and the few things he was able to pack up and fit into it.

Avoiding other people as much as he could, Tommy only went to shelters during the harshest days of winter. Ashamed of his circumstances, he wouldn't reach out to friends for help. Instead, he kept trying to get by. After his truck was stolen, he moved from hiding place to hiding place on his own for the 24 months he lived outside.

Then on one afternoon in the Fall, he came upon a free food truck party given by Upward Transitions for United Way's Day of Caring.

"Homeless people are treated terrible by a lot of people," said Tommy, "but I got nothing but respect here."

As soon as he was connected with an Upward Transitions case manager, Tommy said he knew things were going to be different.

"You guys did your job. You have done so much more than you had to in helping me," he smiled.

Upward Transitions assisted Tommy in getting his birth certificate, his ID, and his social security card, all of which were stolen from him. He was then able to be approved for an Oklahoma Housing Authority apartment.

"Debbi, my case manager, was looking, and I was looking," Tommy stated, "and we finally found the safe place that I'm living now. It's just right."

He is under the care of a good doctor, and he has plans to purchase a used welder and get a spot in a shop to start creating his art again someday.

“I had almost given up,” said Tommy, “but now it all looks different. Now, I have hope.”

Interested in more Client Victory Stories?

**VICTORY
STORIES**

GOVERNOR BILL ANOATUBBY NAMED 2025 "INSPIRING HOPE" AWARD RECIPIENT



Chickasaw Nation **Governor Bill Anoatubby** has been named Upward Transitions' 2025 centennial "Inspiring Hope" award recipient. The award presentation will take place during our big centennial gala, American Tourist: A Centennial Celebration on May 9, 2025, from 6:30 pm to 11:00 pm at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel in Oklahoma City.

Bill Anoatubby's leadership as Governor of the Chickasaw Nation has been a beacon of compassion, particularly in his commitment to serving the less fortunate. Under his tenure, the Chickasaw Nation has focused on providing essential services to those in need, including expanding healthcare, offering educational scholarships, and creating economic opportunities for marginalized communities. His administration has placed a strong emphasis on uplifting individuals and families facing hardships, fostering an environment where hope and support are readily accessible.

The Chickasaw Nation's generosity has been especially transformative for organizations like Upward Transitions, which works to preserve housing for families and seniors and provides support services to people experiencing homelessness. The Chickasaw Nation's financial contributions and collaborative efforts have allowed Upward Transitions to expand its reach and better serve those in crisis, providing them with the resources to rebuild their lives.

"Governor Anoatubby's vision for the Chickasaw Nation as a force for good has helped create lasting change for vulnerable communities. His dedication to lifting others up through acts of kindness and sustained support continues to inspire hope and transformation across the region," stated Periann Pulliam, CEO of Upward Transitions. "For these reasons, Upward Transitions' board of directors and staff are excited to honor Governor Bill Anoatubby as our 2025 Inspiring Hope Award recipient."

The "Inspiring Hope" award recipient embodies a phrase from the Upward Transitions' mission statement - "inspiring hope with our neighbors", especially those experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

Tickets, Sponsorships, and Reserved Tables for "American Tourist: A Centennial Celebration," are currently being sold. Guests will enjoy live jazz by the Justin Echols Trio, dancing, dinner, and a cash bar. Wine and jewelry pulls, live and silent auctions, and a raffle will be held as well. For more information about the "American Tourist" centennial celebration, visit

THANK YOU TO OUR OG&E VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers from OG&E Spent the Day with Us!



Upward Transitions would like to thank OG&E volunteers Juanita Garcia, Johnny Lawson II, Alvett Taylor, Freda Henderson, and John Schenberg for their hard work spending the day with us on March 14th. They organized our client pantry making it much easier for us to retrieve necessities for people in need in Central Oklahoma.

Thank you, OG&E team, for the wonderful job you did for us and for your ongoing support of our mission. You are truly agents of hope!

AMERICAN TOURIST 2025 EARLY BIRD SPONSORS

Special Thanks to Our Early Bird Sponsors for
American Tourist: 1925 - a Centennial Celebration

THE JAZZ AGE



**BANK OF
OKLAHOMA**

PORTER | HEDGES

THE SPEAKEASY

**WADE & REBECCA
BRAWLEY**

**TIM & PAM
DOWD**



*the
Chickasaw
Nation*

**Ogletree
Deakins**

THE FITZGERALD

BancFirst
Loyal

To Oklahoma & You.SM

**BARBOUR ENERGY
CORPORATION**

McAfee & Taft

okc *FRIDAY*
The Newspaper for Oklahoma's Trendsetters

AMERICAN TOURIST: 1925 -

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Upward Transitions

presents



A Centennial Celebration

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!

Join us May 9, 2025, from 6:30 PM - 11:00 PM at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel in Downtown Oklahoma City. *Valet Parking is available.*

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!

American Tourist 1925 Tickets!

\$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.

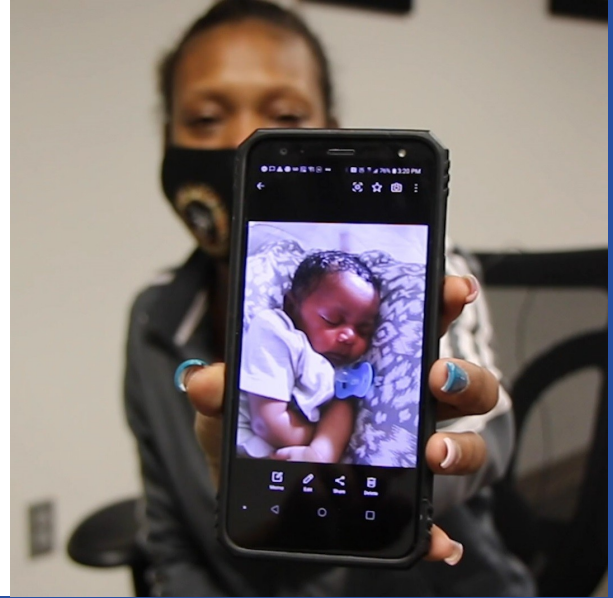
We are just \$10,000 away from our FY 2025 Annual

Campaign 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 OUR 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 are just \$121,500 away from reaching our Phase 1 goal of \$500,000.

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](#) and/or contact Conna Dewart at cdewart@upwardtransitions.org or 405.232.5507 x 113.



Did you know?



The Homeless Hub found that **70% of people experiencing homelessness have no form of identification**, such as ID or birth certificate, barring them from access to employment, housing, and social services.

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.

Follow Upward Transitions on social media:



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