



PRESS RELEASE

May 16, 2017

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DOORWAYS CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF COOPER HOUSE

Cooper House opened in the Central West End in 1997 as a supportive housing facility for low-income people living with HIV under the direction Lynne Cooper. Renamed Cooper House in 2012 in her honor, the residential care facility has helped more than 444 people navigate their health in a safe home and, most importantly, provided hope to people in need.

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To celebrate, The Private Client Reserve of US Bank is sponsoring an afternoon celebration tomorrow at Cooper House (see attached). More than 150 people will attend the event, including people who started DOORWAYS nearly 30 years ago.

Brenda Armour, Cooper House Dietary Manager, helped open the facility and began work in December 1996: “I started at Christmastime, organizing the kitchen. Lynne (Cooper) told me I could wait, but I just couldn’t. I wanted to make sure everything was perfect for the new residents. I worked hard to give them a taste of home.” Armour is DOORWAYS’s longest tenured employee. “Giving the residents hope is what drives me.”

The fully accessible three-story building offers 36 private rooms with baths, 24-hour protective oversight and nursing care, a dining room, commercial kitchen, recreational areas, and administrative offices. Cooper House staffing includes Registered Nurses, Certified Nurses Aides and Licensed Practical Nurses who work with physicians to establish treatment plans and oversee complicated medical protocols. Social services for residents are provided by in-house Social Workers, while an Activities Coordinator organizes programs for clients, field trips, and emotional support. Cooper House also provides transportation to physicians and healthy meals prepared and served daily. Cooper House is the only program of its kind in the region and was one of the first in the United States to provide intensive residential services to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Through Cooper House, DOORWAYS offers people living with this disease a pathway to recovery and healing that respects the demands of their advancing illness, and still offers hope for the reclaiming of a higher quality of life. *—more—*

4385 Maryland Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-535-1919
Fax: 314-535-0909



Whether moving out to complete independence or achieving stability at Cooper House represents the ultimate goal, DOORWAYS strives to meet the immediate and long range goals of each resident.

“We try to make our apartment buildings feel like home,” Opal M. Jones, President and CEO said. “We want our buildings to be a place someone would choose to live, not just because they *have* to because of their circumstances.”

DOORWAYS is an interfaith non-profit organization that provides housing and related supportive services to improve quality of life and health outcomes for people affected by HIV/AIDS. Through direct service delivery and the efforts of identified program partners, DOORWAYS’ programs and services annually benefit 1,700 households living with HIV/AIDS in the 15-county St. Louis metropolitan area, 62 underserved counties in outstate Missouri, and another 55 under-served counties in outstate Illinois. Cooper House is one such program.

Cooper House’s sole focus is not physical health— it is the overall well-being of our clients. Social workers on staff provide clients with a variety of resources to help them battle mental illness and addiction and increase their financial stability while the nursing and clinical staff provide clients with access to medical support including treatment for HIV/AIDS and other afflictions such as dementia, mental health issues, physical disabilities or developmental disabilities. Cooper House reduces barriers to care so clients are more likely to adhere to their treatment plan despite often painful or embarrassing side-effects with medication. Clients establish other health goals such as gaining weight, managing blood sugar levels or decreasing risk of infections.

For more information on Cooper House please contact Tracy Unger, Cooper House Administrator at 314-328-2722 or tunger@doorwayshousing.org.

In Saint Louis, to volunteer or to donate, please visit www.doorwayshousing.org.

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www.doorwayshousing.org



Cooper House 20th Anniversary

Please join us to commemorate
Cooper House and its 20 years of supportive
housing and care for those living with HIV/AIDS.



Wednesday, May 17, 2017

**Cake & punch reception at 1:00 p.m.
Program begins at 1:30 p.m.
Facility tours until 3:00 p.m.**

**DOORWAYS
4385 Maryland Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63108**

**Business casual
Complimentary Valet Parking**

**RSVP is kindly requested by May 10th
mmullins@doorwayshousing.org or 314-328-2706**

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