



PRESS RELEASE  
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For further information, please contact:  
Justine Craig-Meyer, 314-535-1919 x3033  
jcraig-meyer@doorwayshousing.org

**THE ELIZABETH TAYLOR AIDS FOUNDATION SUPPORTS DOORWAYS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – In December, DOORWAYS was awarded \$20,000 by The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation based in Beverly Hills. This is the first grant from the foundation in the Saint Louis region, making DOORWAYS the only local organization to receive recognition from this world-renowned foundation. Support for the request came from DOORWAYS’ partners in the prevention of the spread of HIV: Food Outreach, St. Louis Efforts for AIDS, St. Clair Department of Health, and the City of Saint Louis Department of Health. The funds will be used for DOORWAYS’ Own Home Program which is the primary provider of housing services to people living with HIV infection throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan region. Own Home helps clients locate and secure safe, affordable housing, and assists clients who face eviction from their homes or loss of utility services because of financial crises related to their illness.

The program helped more than 1,500 men, women, and children in 2013 secure a place to call home through rent, mortgage, utility, and move-in subsidies. Everyone helped was homeless, or would otherwise have become homeless. The Own Home program serves clients throughout a broad geographic range that includes seven counties in Missouri and eight counties in Illinois. Own Home staff provide housing counseling, referral to community resources and a clearinghouse list of landlords with safe and affordable units available to people living with HIV/AIDS. Through the clearinghouse, DOORWAYS’ Own Home program inspects units to determine cleanliness and safety, assesses compliance with housing quality standards, maintains a list of approved units for clients in need, and advocates for clients with landlords and utility companies. Landlords wanting to work with DOORWAYS should send contact information to info@doorwayshousing.com.

Mortgage assistance and long or short-term rental subsidy help low-income families maintain stability and independence. In a study by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, researchers found that a person who relies on Supplemental Security Income (a maximum of \$721 per month for 2014) cannot afford even a studio apartment in any county of the United States. Further, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 91% of SSI recipients have incomes of under \$1,000 per month nationally which is considered “very low” income. Own Home clients are able to remain in stable housing utilizing their resources.

Joel Goldman, Managing Director for the foundation, said, “Ms. Taylor cared deeply for others and she would be thrilled to know that DOORWAYS is continuing her efforts to assist those living with the virus with direct services that provide the support needed to live full and happy lives.”

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DOORWAYS Interfaith Housing works to end homelessness for more than 2,000 men, women, and children affected by HIV/AIDS. Its focus is driven by the research that shows that housing is healthcare in both assisting those already infected with HIV and in prevention of the transmission of this life-threatening virus.

“DOORWAYS is so thankful to The Elizabeth Taylor Foundation for their support. It means a great deal to know that people on the coast care about what happens here in our community,” Opal M. Jones, DOORWAYS President and CEO said. “A lack of stable housing for those living with HIV is linked to poor health indicators, more hospitalizations, greater emergency room visits, and even early death, *immediate housing placement overwhelmingly increases health and reduces AIDS mortality*. It is not too bold a statement to say Own Home is helping save lives.”

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 1,000 households living with HIV/AIDS in the 15-county St. Louis metropolitan area, 62 under-served counties in outstate Missouri, and another 55 under-served counties in outstate Illinois. In Saint Louis, to volunteer or to donate, please visit [www.doorwayshousing.org](http://www.doorwayshousing.org).

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#### About ETAF

Elizabeth Taylor established The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation (ETAF) in 1991 to raise funds and awareness to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS, and to provide assistance for those living with the virus. With its focus on direct care and prevention education, ETAF funds AIDS organizations throughout the world, providing support services to populations most in need.

The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation (1) supports organizations delivering direct care and services to people living with HIV/AIDS, and (2) supports organizations that provide education to the public regarding the AIDS virus and the prevention of AIDS. ETAF supports existing organizations and entities that have exhibited integrity in managing their operations along with the knowledge and ability to expediently provide services or achieve other designated goals.

<http://elizabethtayloraidsfoundation.org/>

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