



PRESS RELEASE
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DOORWAYS HIRES TRACY UNGER AS ADMINISTRATOR FOR COOPER HOUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – In December, DOORWAYS hired a new Administrator for Cooper House, its supportive housing facility in the Central West End. Tracy M. Unger, LNHA has more than fifteen years of successful experience in the administration, direction and operation of healthcare facilities like Cooper House. Because of her experience managing a 2.8 million dollar turnaround of a different healthcare facility, Unger demonstrates the necessary skill set to build on the successes of one of DOORWAYS’ most critical programs.

Cooper House opened in 1997 to serve people who were unable to live independently as a result of HIV/AIDS. 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 Aids 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. Whether moving out or achieving stability at Cooper House represents the ultimate goal, DOORWAYS strives to meet the immediate and long range goals of each resident. Cooper House reduces barriers to care so that 99% of clients were able to maintain their HIV/AIDS treatment in 2014 – up 11% since 2011.

Unger said, “I love it here. Cooper House is so important to our region because of its focus on the overall well-being of our residents. They are people first and we help them manage issues surrounding poverty, mental health, and addiction so that they can adhere to their treatment plans and become their most healthiest selves.”

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.

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“We are so glad to have Tracy join our team. She is a real asset to our community because of her empathy and positive attitude,” 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 Cooper House saves lives.”

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About DOORWAYS

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.

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