



Dear all,

We are excited to announce that Downtown Evanston and Connections for the Homeless are partnering together to support a vibrant, welcoming, and safe downtown area for every Evanston resident.

Connections for the Homeless is a 35-year-old organization and the lead agency in Northern Cook County delivering essential services to individuals and families facing homelessness. Connections [responded to COVID-19](#) by quickly launching new operations to provide housing solutions for neighbors with no where to safely shelter. Over the last 6 months, Connections has:

- Served nearly 1,800 people through a daily drop-in shelter, overnight shelter, hotel operations, eviction prevention support, and additional housing programs.
- Supported 2,200 visits to the food pantry.
- Housed 355 adults and children in hotel rooms and an overnight shelter.
- Purchased 103,000 meals from 30+ local restaurants – a \$447,000 investment into the local economy.
- Located permanent housing for 80 households with more moving each week.
- Invested a total \$3 million into the local economy through the meal program, hotel costs, rent to area landlords, and staff wages to Evanston-based employees.

Together, we will:

- Address challenges, identify collaborative solutions, and advocate for the resources needed to alleviate homelessness and poverty in our community.
- Organize opportunities for additional community stakeholders including elected officials, City leadership, EPD, nonprofit partners, business owners, and neighbors to get involved in the effort.
- Share educational resources to better equip business owners to confront safety concerns and engage with individuals facing homelessness.

We know that everyone plays a role in creating an equitable, safe, and healthy community for all its members. If you are interested in working with us on these issues, please email [acoakley@downtownevanston.org](mailto:acoakley@downtownevanston.org). To learn more about Connections for the Homeless and to get involved, please contact [info@connect2home.org](mailto:info@connect2home.org).

Best regards,

Annie Coakley  
*Executive Director*  
Downtown Evanston

Betty Bogg  
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Connections for the Homeless