

South Side Office of Concern

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South Side Office of Concern

202 NE Madison Ave.
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ssocpeoria.org

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Sara Runyon

Vice President/Chief Financial Officer

Robert Cobler

Mission

Turning Lives Around

How to Help

Whether you give your time, donate goods and services, or make a financial contribution—your support will make an impact! Give online at ssocpeoria.org or contact Kristen Berchtold at (309) 222-2751 or kberchtold@southsideofficeofconcern.org.

Volunteer

- Complete a one-time maintenance or improvement project like landscaping or painting.
- Share your knowledge and expertise as a member of the Board of Trustees.
- Assist with special fundraising events.
- Share your special hobby or skill with housing residents.

Give

- Make a financial gift to support all SSOC services or to benefit a specific program.
- Donate new household items for "Happy Homes" kits for new residents.
- Provide a nutritious meal for the veterans at Veterans Haven.
- Collect personal care and household items for SSOC residents or supplies to support our homeless outreach efforts.
- Buy a ticket, be a sponsor, or donate needed goods and services to one of SSOC's special events.



Our mission of "Turning Lives Around" reflects our long history of serving individuals who have limited resources and support systems, including those with mental health challenges, intellectual disabilities and other special needs. SSOC is committed to ending homelessness in our community by providing comprehensive, supportive services to our community's most vulnerable citizens. Our primary goal is to provide the individuals, families and veterans we serve with a warm, safe place to live independently—and away from the dangers of the streets. We work with them to set and achieve goals, make healthy life choices, find employment, build skills, and become stable, self-sufficient members of society.

Supportive Housing Services seek to end homelessness in our community by providing safe, affordable housing and on-site services that empower residents to increase their independence, improve their quality of life, and maintain their housing on a permanent basis. With 148 units, SSOC is the largest provider of supportive housing for homeless veterans, individuals and families in the area. SSOC works to ensure each family or individual is able to maintain their home with services and support dedicated to helping each build the self-sufficiency and the skills they need to change their lives. Supportive housing is the most cost-effective way to end homelessness and reduce its related costs, including healthcare, unemployment, institutionalization and emergency services.

The Homeless Outreach Program reaches out to the homeless population both on the street and at other points of access, such as shelters, meal programs and faith-based support programs. The goal is to help them find safe housing, meet daily living needs, and access the services that can improve their lives. SSOC's Homeless Outreach team utilizes the best practice of *progressive engagement*, which starts by offering a small amount of assistance initially, and adding more if needed to help households reach stability. Services are designed to help people quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing.

Community Support Services assist individuals with disabilities and special needs who reside independently in the community. Services provided enable individuals to maintain their independent living situation and achieve the highest level of self-sufficiency and independence. SSOC offers a full range of behavioral health services, including assessment, treatment planning, life skills development, individualized supportive interventions and representative payee services.

Upcoming Events

Gimme Shelter – A Night to End Homelessness

January 2018

Peoria Civic Center

A Murder Mystery Event to DIE For

April 2018

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