



NOVEMBER 2023

SHARING CONNECTIONS

 *we furnish hope*



Todd was drafted for the Vietnam War when he was 19 years old. He was assigned to the First Battalion, Eighth Cavalry, First Air Cavalry Division. During the time that he served Todd came in contact with a mine which resulted in shrapnel wounds on his chest and leg. Since the wounds were not life threatening, he was treated by a field medic instead of being medevacked to the hospital. Initially, the field medic removed the pieces of shrapnel that were visible and applied some ointment to help the wounds to heal and to prevent infection. After a few weeks, a Sergeant noticed his leg wound and advised he see a doctor. The doctor did a preliminary exam and decided that he could not treat the wound there. Todd was then medevacked to the hospital where he found out that an infection from the wound had spread into his muscle. Multiple surgeries later, he was left with muscle removed from the infection, and was unable to serve in the military or combat any longer. Todd was given a medical discharge and awarded The Bronze Star Medal for his meritorious achievement in ground operations against hostile forces.

“Todd was given a medical discharge and awarded The Bronze Star Medal...”

Todd was able to work as a custodian at a school for many years, despite his injury from the war. Eventually he had to use a cane while he worked, and then retired early due to the pain at the end of each work day. Because of his early retirement, Todd had trouble making ends meet, and had to discontinue his renter's insurance, amongst other things.

Todd had settled into retirement, and was able to manage his mobility with his cane. One day while Todd was out running errands, he came home to fire trucks and flames, only to find out that an electrical issue in his apartment had caused a fire that left his house uninhabitable. Thankfully, his son lived nearby, so he was able to stay with him until he found another apartment. He had lost everything and needed to refurnish everything in his home. Through the Veterans Administration, he was able to find another apartment and he was referred to Sharing Connections. Once Todd arrived at Sharing Connections, we were able to provide him with a brand-new bed, a sofa, recliner along with all of the other essentials he needed for his home such as dishes, towels, personal care items and cleaning supplies. At Sharing Connections, we are proud to work with veterans, and partner with multiple agencies that are focused on veterans. Thank you, Todd, for your service, and to all of those who have served our country!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our Monthly Giving Program, “Providing Hope”! This program allows you to provide ongoing support to our cause by setting up a monthly donation. By becoming a monthly donor, you will help us to continue our important work and make a lasting impact in our community. Your donation will go towards our general program of providing brand new beds, cribs and other household furnishings to our low-income local community. Your \$150 monthly donation can provide a new bed or crib for children and babies who are otherwise sleeping in unsafe places.

Signing up is easy! Simply scan the QR code or contact Mia Churma @ mchurma@sharingconnections.org. Join us in making a difference every month by providing hope and getting our children and babies in safe places to sleep.





A Note from our Founder, Lianne McGnath

Thirty-seven years ago I was almost paralyzed emotionally by the sad news my husband and I heard on the 10:00 news each evening. I turned to prayer and asked God to show me how to help

our sad world. This led to the start of SHARING CONNECTIONS using our home and garage. It started with one crib.

Fast forward to Fall of 2023 - - who can understand what is happening in our world today? We feel helpless. But we shouldn't. We can reach neighbors in need here in our own widening circle. At Sharing Connections we are connecting every day with people who are determined to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Our donors give hope and material support (comfort and dignity). Your financial support keeps our doors open, our truck running, and our lights on!

Thank you for being a part our dream to share a good world!

A Note from our CEO, Ryan Varju

Life is full of challenges and we come across people each step of the way that make an impact on each of us. From a favorite teacher or co-worker to the mechanic you trust or doctor that provided the proper treatment when it was needed most, these are people whose names and faces you always remember. What about those you never really meet?



Each day that Sharing Connections' serves an individual or family, we are having a major impact on the lives of strangers. Even more, the transformations we help contribute to are fueled by donations made through caring people in the community. Our guests may never know the name or face of the person that made it possible for them to eat at a table with their family or lay their head down on a new bed each night, but for them, we come together to provide that helping hand individual after individual, family after family. It is the selflessness of our donors that makes this possible.

Tonight a child was moved off the floor for the first time and will have a safe and comfortable place to sleep for many years to come. They will never personally get to know the exact person that made it happen, but the true gift that was given will change their life. Thank you for making this all possible as you are that person who we remember through the challenges. Together, **we furnish hope.**



Donate new toys, hats, gloves, gift cards and more for this year's toy program where we will serve over 1,200 children in just three days! Check our website!



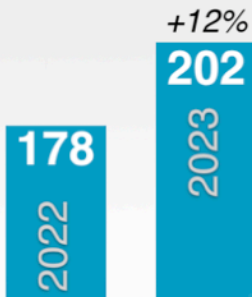
Join us as we transform our warehouse at 5111 Chase Ave. into a night out for a good cause! More info. to come!

Live Music, Local Brew & Wine!

All ticket proceeds benefit Sharing Connections

COMING EVENTS COMING EVENTS COMING EVENTS COMING EVENTS

New Cribs Provided
for Babies*



New Twin Sets
Provided for Children*



More than
5,600
babies
have been
placed in
a crib
since 1986.



*Services provided through on-site pickups January-September 2022 vs. January-September 2023



Simply use the QR code or the envelope provided to donate and help us reach our goal of \$25,000 to furnish hope to families here in DuPage County and surrounding areas where the need grows each day. Thank you for making what we do possible - **We Furnish Hope!**

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart, you cannot imagine how grateful we are for such an agency like yours."
-DuPage County Community Services

"The family is very grateful for SC to have donated the furniture and items for the home. By providing them with these items, it gives them a sense of dignity as individual providers and supporters in the family. They can now focus on other areas of life."

-Sinai Community Institute

"The family has a lot less stress and really appreciates all that Sharing Connections has done. As always such an important organization that helps people with a lot of needs and moves the family to a better situation."
-Metropolitan Family Services

"Bill had been living in his apartment for a short while without any furnishings. Since he had been sleeping on the floor, he was more than excited to sleep in a bed. He also was very excited to be able to sit on a sofa. Sharing Connections provided a life changing experience for him."

-Connections of Illinois

"Thank you so much for everything you did for Michelle. She was not expecting to receive so much and is so appreciative. She can focus now on making her home a safe and comfortable place for her family."
-Fellowship Housing



Be a part of something special - VOLUNTEER WITH US!

- Truck crew and drivers for furniture pick-up
- Warehouse assistants
- Sort donations or work with our guests
- Helping with events
- Host a personal care, cleaning supply or household item collection
- Schedule a team dresser build

Apply at www.sharingconnections.org/volunteer

VOLUNTEER

SHARINGCONNECTIONS



5111 Chase Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
Phone: 630-971-0565
www.sharingconnections.org

*Sharing Connections is proud to
receive grant funding through*



Sharing Connections has provided more than 28,530 children and adults with a safe place to sleep since 1986.



SHARINGCONNECTIONS



From veterans and those
transitioning out of
homelessness, abuse and
domestic violence relocation,
young mothers and so much
more, your financial support
changes lives. You make it
possible for us to provide
items that include furniture,
beds, cribs, household items,
clothing and HOPE.

