



# Bishop Anderson House

Willing Spirits Fund



## Willing**Spirits**Fund

Dear Friends,

### **Are you a Willing Spirit?**

What do you value most about the work of Bishop Anderson House? Is it our Spiritual Care Visitor Training or chaplaincy at Stroger Hospital? Maybe you have donated or been comforted by a prayer shawl or Teddy Bear. Or perhaps you have been inspired by our renewed commitment to racial justice, following Bishop Charles Anderson's vision that we all be transformers of society and agents of change and healing?

We are pleased to introduce the Willing Spirits Fund, our newest initiative, created to ensure that our ministry of compassion and care can live on for future generations. Our goal is to encourage you and others who believe in and support our mission, to consider including Bishop Anderson House in your estate planning.

During the next several months we will be sharing print and online resources and invitations to become a part of the Willing Spirits Fund. We look forward to learning if your spirit is willing to join us!

Faithfully,

*The Rev. Tommy Rogers, Executive Director*

# Our work is continuous, far-reaching, and meaningful to many, often in ripple-effect fashion.

## For the first half of 2021 alone, Bishop Anderson House has:

- Made 1,553 visits to patients, families, and healthcare staff at Stroger Hospital of Cook County;
- Comforted patient populations at Stroger Hospital that are 70% African American and 20% Hispanic, those most impacted by health care inequities;
- Provided Teddy Bears to University of Illinois Hospital pediatric units, Stroger Hospital, Rush University Medical Center and the CORE Center--by the end of 2021, we will have distributed more than 400;
- Launched our post-pandemic Spiritual Care Visitor Training program, soon adding to its more than 300 active graduates who practice spiritual care, including a new course for the Latinx community;
- Touched the lives of thousands through our chaplaincy ministries and programs.

Steve and I will include Bishop Anderson House in our estate plan because we truly believe in the mission and work of this organization, and we want to help ensure that it can continue for many years to come. A person's well-being encompasses much more than their physical health. A person's spirit has tremendous influence over their emotional and their physical wellbeing. And that's why the work that the House does is so critical. It gives people hope, it helps people find peace, it's food for the soul.

*Linda and Steve McMillan  
(Linda serves as Past-President of our Board of Trustees and Steve is the great grandson of Bishop Anderson)*

My favorite quote is from Hida Bejar who said, "The fragrance always remains in the hand that gives the rose." As a chaplain, when we care for a person, there is a profound sense of grace that permeates the moment for both a patient and the chaplain. The good people who support our work should also sense that the "fragrance of their gift" not only makes caring for others possible but that the grace of that gift is still in their hands.

*The Rev. Canon George Monroe (former chaplain who has also remembered Bishop Anderson House in his will)*

Terri and I named Bishop Anderson House in our estate because, as a parish priest, I have seen how BAH Spiritual Care Visitor Training increases the sense of calling and develops the skills of our pastoral-care teams. And Terri knows how much I personally profited from my Clinical Pastoral Education in my seminary days. BAH provides both kinds of formation in abundance.

*The Rev. Robert Wyatt, former trustee*

Rick and I are blessed to be able to make a bequest to Bishop Anderson House. Everyone - patient, caregiver, healthcare provider - deserves the benefits of spiritual care and the right to be treated in a dignified, compassionate manner. Bishop Anderson House trains chaplains and lay persons to provide this necessary, healing ministry. We have observed firsthand the good works of this organization for many years, and we want those good works to continue for years to come, branching into wider and more diverse communities. Bequests help ensure this will happen.

*Martha Proctor Gano, Trustee*

