



# WORD ON THE STREET

Housecalls for the Homeless is a street medicine program of Upstate Medical University, providing medical, psychiatric, and addiction care services for men and women experiencing homelessness in Syracuse and Onondaga County.

SUMMER 2024

## NEW STREET MEDICINE ELECTIVE



*David Lehmann, MD, with the first cohort of students in the new Street Medicine elective at Upstate Medical University Norton College of Medicine. Students, from left, Afua Addo, Steven LaFever, John Babich, Nate Barott, Rachel Ziemba, and Isabel Sia.*

Housecalls for the Homeless is pleased to introduce the first cohort of students for (SP24) PRVM-6411-CCR STREET MEDICINE 13900, a new elective for students at SUNY Upstate Norton College of Medicine.

The course will be led by David Lehmann, MD. He reports they have been a very special and dedicated group of individuals, who put their "all" into this course, and have set the precedent high for students in the coming semester!

(See HOUSECALLS HIGHLIGHT on page 2)



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## PROGRAM STAFF

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SUNY Distinguished  
Service Professor

Mia Ruiz-Salvador,  
Administrator

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## HOUSECALLS HIGHLIGHT

### MEET HALLIE BUDDENDECK

Hallie Buddendeck has entered her final year of medical school at Upstate. She hails from Rochester, NY, and went to Binghamton University for her undergraduate studies. Housecalls for the Homeless has always been a program that she wanted to join.

She even talked about her interest in it during her Upstate medical school interview, and after arriving at Upstate it was the most important club for her to join.

She loves Housecalls for the Homeless because she is able to meet patients and care for them throughout multiple years. The most rewarding part for her has been seeing patients finally become housed.

Buddendeck loves Housecalls so much that she created a Street Medicine elective! Six students are able to join the class and volunteer for 12 uninterrupted weeks, receiving lectures from Upstate faculty and attending seminars with David Lehmann, MD.

Housecalls for the Homeless is a rewarding experience for everyone involved, and she has learned so much from being a part of it for the last three years.



*Hallie Buddendeck*

Additionally, Buddendeck will be the course TA this year, and will be followed by a new TA each year to guide the course. The only requirement for the position? A fourth-year student who has previously participated in the course.

Thank you, Hallie Buddendeck, for your big heart and supernatural efforts in building this course and getting it so successfully off the ground!

## PROGRAM EXPANSION EFFORTS FOR 2024

Olivia Tanner, our dedicated and extremely passionate Program Coordinator, has spent the last year working very hard to create opportunities to expand the Housecalls program in a way that allows for growth and longevity.

She has worked with local homeless shelters to reestablish relationships that were affected by the pandemic. She has also proposed a complementary model for street medicine to include interdisciplinary teams of practitioners to provide gaps in care to local shelters. Coordination efforts have been moving along, and we look forward to launching our first medical teams this summer!

In the meantime, Olivia has transitioned into her long-awaited MPH student position here at Upstate, and we will patiently await to re-engage with her when she enters her first year of medical school!





## LEGACY GIFTS WILL ENSURE THE FUTURE OF HOUSECALLS FOR THE HOMELESS

Upstate Medical University's Housecalls for the Homeless was born in 2018 out of two issues: the standard model of medical care delivery in Onondaga County for its unhoused population was dysfunctional and there seemed to be no solution to this complicated problem.

Working together to address these issues, David Lehmann, MD, and Mia Ruiz-Salvador co-founded the street medicine program to provide much needed attention to a population desperate for care.

Collaborating with the nonprofit In My Father's Kitchen, which was already providing transportation and other necessities for our sisters and brothers experiencing homelessness in Syracuse, their common vision was realized.

Since its inception, Lehmann and Ruiz-Salvador have worked tirelessly to grow Housecalls for the Homeless. Part of their legacies will be involving medical students in the program, teaching them to provide compassion and dignity in medical care with the hope that the students will carry on the work somewhere, somehow into the future.

The future of Housecalls for the Homeless concerns Lehmann, knowing that one day he will be unable to provide medical care and to instruct students coming behind him. He recognized the need for an endowed fund at the Upstate Foundation, and along with other donors, created an endowment to support Housecalls for the Homeless in perpetuity.

Lehmann and wife, Ann, will be leaving a gift from their estate to grow the endowment.



*Ann and David Lehmann, MD, with their dogs, Olive and Ed.*

"We need to grow this endowment so the program can continue; it's the only way it will continue, as the traditional model of medical care will not sustain a physician doing this work," Lehmann explained passionately. "I cannot stress enough the importance of supporting the work of Housecalls for the Homeless through the endowed fund. It will generate income for the program into the future. If we do not have income from this endowment down the road, the program will end."

### CONSIDER A GIFT TODAY, AND THE FUTURE

Your Housecalls donation today helps fund medical supplies, medications, vision and dental care, personal care items and emergent program needs.

A gift from your will, retirement account, life insurance or IRA are also some options to consider. Contact your professional advisor or Carolyn Hendrickson at the Upstate Foundation: [HendricC@upstate.edu](mailto:HendricC@upstate.edu) or 315 464-6490.

# HOPE AND DIGNITY FUNDRAISER

In a world often overshadowed by its challenges, a glimmer of hope emerges when communities come together, driven by compassion and determination to make a difference. On April 11, 2024, Housecalls for the Homeless and In My Father's Kitchen joined together to host our inaugural fundraiser.

The two organizations have collaborated for the past six years to provide medical care, a warm meal and other supplies to our friends living on the streets of Syracuse. At the heart of this gathering was the desire to spread awareness of the work our two organizations do and raise much-needed funds to continue and expand our efforts.

The event was held at the Palace Theatre and drew more than 300 community members raising more than \$100,000. Guests enjoyed appetizers, drinks, music, and the opportunity to win one of more than 50 amazing, donated raffle items. The community generously responded to our call for help. Each contribution played a vital role in the success of our fundraiser. Beyond the material support, there was something even more transformative at work — a sense of dignity restored, a glimmer of hope reignited, and a community united in solidarity to make a difference.



*The Palace Theater in Eastwood was the site of a joint fundraiser for In My Father's Kitchen and Housecalls for the Homeless. Seen in front of the Palace are In My Father's Kitchen co-founders John and LeighAnn Tumino with Housecalls for the Homeless co-founders, David Lehmann, MD, and Mia Ruiz-Salvador.*

As we reflect on our first joint fundraiser, its impact reverberates far beyond the funds raised. It reminds us all that, in a world often characterized by division and indifference, there is power in coming together to uplift the most vulnerable among us.

## WE WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS. WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT THE EVENING WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

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