

# OTR UPDATE

Improving Lives Through Accessible, Affordable Housing

From Executive Director Eric Huffman

## August 2018

Dear Friends,

With all of our recent news about our exciting new building developments, this month I wanted to focus on a very special person, Nancy Gustafson. 29 years ago, Nancy saw her parents passion for affordable and accessible housing and wanted to help. In 1990, she invited a few friends, who happened to be world-renowned opera stars, to sing at the first annual CELEBRATION concert in 1990 at Northwestern University.

29 years later, CELEBRATION has become the face of OTR to our community, and the success of the concert has been vital to helping us become a leader in the affordable housing community. Each year, the concert continues to get better and better.

Over the years, OTR has been able to achieve transformative fundraising goals due to the efforts of some of our past event Chairs. Past chairmen of the CELEBRATION concert include Ardis Krainik, former Executive Director of the Lyric Opera House, Senator Alan Dixon, Ed Brennan, former CEO of Sears, Charles Shaw, well-known Chicago and New York Real Estate Developer, and our forever-treasured friends, Dr. Andrew Thomson and Mrs. Peg Thomson.

Thank you to all who have been to and support our annual CELEBRATION concert!

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## Nancy Gustafson: The Start of our CELEBRATION



*Nancy and her brother, Bob, on the CELEBRATION stage after performing 'Wind Beneath My Wings'*

Nancy Gustafson, a world-acclaimed opera star, organized the first CELEBRATION benefit concert in 1990 at Pick-Staiger to raise funds to complete the renovation of Hill Arboretum Apartments in Evanston. Out of that initial concert an annual tradition was born.

Over the 29 years, Nancy has brought over 50 world-renowned artists, such as, **Patti LuPone, Mandy Patinkin, Denise Graves, Sam Rainey, Sylvia McNair, and Brian D'Arcy James** to the CELEBRATION stage.

OTR send three decades of thank you's



*Nancy and her Northwestern students after their performance on the CELEBRATION stage*

and hugs to Nancy for her tireless dedication to our annual CELEBRATION concert, and helping us to grow and thrive!

## Celebrating through the Years



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OTR is looking forward to our 29th Anniversary CELEBRATION concert on October 7 at the Mary B. Galvin Recital Hall featuring Heather Headley! Thank you for all your support of our mission to help our residents **LIVE WITHOUT LIMITS** through accessible, affordable housing!



Eric Huffman  
OTR Executive Director

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**BUY TICKETS!**

**Take a listen to our 2018 artist, Heather Headley!**

