



# ILLUMINATING RECOVERY GALA

April 15, 2021



In the past year, our worlds have been shaken from the pandemic. 2020 will go down in the history books for more than one reason. For one, I never in my wildest dreams would believe that I would not be able to extend my welcome to you in person. We have grown accustomed to our lives being virtual. Whether it is our professional life, celebrating milestones with friends or family, or having doctors' appointments through a screen - we have all made virtual communication part of our day-to-day life. With that being said, I want to thank each and every one of you for attending our first ever Virtual Illuminating Recovery Gala.

While this past year changed our lives forever, what it did not change was the need for Gateway Foundation's life-saving treatment. I am proud to share that the Gateway Team has led the field in developing innovative modifications to our treatment approach, allowing us to continue providing care with safe and effective intervention. We successfully virtualized outpatient care while expanding virtual alumni support.

To show our deepest appreciation to the essential healthcare workers that have been making sacrifices since early March and continue to do so every day, we have dedicated tonight's virtual gala to our Healthcare Heroes that work in over 70 locations throughout eight states.

On behalf of our Management Team and our Board of Directors - we thank you for your support. We can only continue saving lives through Addiction Medicine with you by our side. Please enjoy this evening of bringing light and hope to everyone on their journey towards recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Tom P. Britton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Thomas P. Britton  
President and CEO

# Thank you to our 2021 Illuminating Recovery Sponsors

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# Schedule of Events

**6:45 p.m.**

Pre Show

**7:00 p.m.**

Welcome to Illuminating Recovery

- Rob Johnson
- Andy Smith, Board Chair, Gateway Foundation
- Dr. Thomas Britton, CEO and President, Gateway Foundation

**7:10 p.m.**

Hero Award Ceremony Begins - includes panel with Tom & the O'Brien Family

- Senator Julie Morrison
- Representative LaShawn Ford
- Peter J. O'Brien and Family

**7:30 p.m.**

Impact Heroes

**7:35 p.m.**

Paddle Raises

**7:40 p.m.**

Closing Remarks from Dr. Thomas Britton

**8:30 p.m.**

Silent Auction Closes



Rob Johnson  
Master of Ceremonies

# Honoree: State Senator Julie Morrison

**State Senator Julie Morrison** has dedicated her time as a lawmaker to bettering the lives of all Illinoisans – especially members of the state’s most vulnerable communities.

As former chair of the Senate Human Services Committee, Morrison passed a measure to expand court protections for people with disabilities, worked to make it easier for victims of domestic violence to report abuse, and continues to call on the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to find ways to best serve our state’s at-risk youth.

Morrison fights for the people served by a number of human services agencies, most notably DCFS. Additionally, she has been a steadfast ally and supporter of the developmental and intellectual disabilities communities and pushes for funding to support autism services, sexual assault programs, and mental health supportive housing.

In the past, Morrison has also publicly questioned state bureaucrats after reports of abuse within group homes for adults with disabilities and fought to ensure Illinois’ extensive human services network received funding during the continued budget impasse several years ago.

Morrison continues to fight to make state government more transparent and accountable to the residents of Illinois. Ethics reform for legislators and lobbyists is a top priority. She passed a rule that placed term limits on Senate leadership positions and is working with non-partisan groups who are trying to end political gerrymandering so that Illinoisans get to choose

their representatives – not the other way around. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Senator Morrison also successfully spearheaded a comprehensive vote-by-mail reform, which sent any person who voted in the past two years an application to vote by mail.

Senator Morrison is the Majority Caucus Whip for the 102nd General Assembly and is the chair of the Health Committee. She will also serve on the environment and conservation committee, ethics committee, and financial institutions committee.

She previously served as a member of the Council of State Governments Midwestern Legislative Conference Health and Human Services Committee for 2019-2020.

Morrison was born in the downstate community of Beardstown and graduated from Knox College. After serving on the DCFS advisory council, she took the position of supervisor of West Deerfield Township, which she held for 15 years.

She lives with her husband, Joe, in Lake Forest. The couple has 3 grown children.





## Honoree: State Representative La Shawn K. Ford

Born to an unwed teenage mother in the Cabrini-Green housing projects in Chicago, never knowing his father, and adopted by his grandmother at birth, **Rep. La Shawn K. Ford** started his life with few material advantages. Ford became the first in his family to attend a four-year college when he entered Niles College Seminary and then Loyola University Chicago, where he played on the basketball team and earned a Bachelor of Science in Education with a minor in Political Science.

Ford was first elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 2006. He represents the 8th District, a diverse area that includes the West Side of Chicago and the near western suburbs. A common theme in Ford's work is social justice and he authored and passed a House Resolution with bipartisan sponsorship urging that social justice be the guiding principle in decision-making in the House of Representatives.

Currently Chair of Appropriations-Higher Education and member of the Financial Institutions, Personnel & Pensions, and Public Utilities House Committees, Ford was the first Chairs of the Restorative Justice and Small Business Empowerment & Workforce Development Committees.

Ford has successfully introduced and passed legislation into law in areas as diverse as Creation of the African American Employment Plan; Creation of the State Employment Application Act (Ban the Box); Creating Micro-Loan Small Business Program for Ex-offenders; Expanding Sealing of Records of Non-violent Ex-offenders to name a few and co-founding the West Side Heroin Task Force.

Ford serves on Boards of Fathers Who Care; the External Advisory Board for the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children; and the Board of Trustees of West Suburban Medical Center. He is the proud father of his daughter, Tia.

## Honoree: The Peter J. O'Brien Family

**Peter O'Brien's** only son died long before his time, felled at 32 by schizophrenia and health problems that resulted from medicating himself with alcohol. O'Brien found a way to use his family's experience to draw attention to the damage that secrecy and shame can do to people who suffer from mental illness.

"The stigma is so powerful that mentally ill people don't get the care that is out there," O'Brien says. "People are ashamed. They don't tell their caregivers about the symptoms they are experiencing."

O'Brien has joined forces with Patrick Kennedy, a former congressman from Rhode Island and the son of the late U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy, to establish an affiliate of the Kennedy Forum on Mental Health and Addiction in Illinois. Kennedy founded the Forum in 2013 to help change the way mental health and addictions are addressed in America.

The O'Briens are a well-known Chicago family, the owners of O'Briens restaurants and of MADO Healthcare, a group of mental health recovery treatment facilities founded by Peter's parents more than a half-century ago. Peter and his wife Mimi have three daughters; Peter Jr. was their only son.

PJ, as he was known, was diagnosed with schizophrenia at 20, after teenage years marked by slipping grades, troubling companions, and

evidence of marijuana use. When he came home after his first year of college, his behavior was so concerning that his family realized he needed psychiatric help.

What came after the diagnosis was "12 horrendous years" for PJ, including 24 hospitalizations, as well as stints in jails and on the streets. His family stood by him through it all. PJ's desire to avoid the label of "mental patient" often led him to abuse drugs and alcohol rather than seek treatment, O'Brien recalls. In 2012, PJ died of acute pancreatitis at his home in Decatur.

O'Brien says he is pleased to be helping lead the discussion of how better to treat mental illness in our state, and he is convinced that the first job in helping people like PJ is "to break the stigma."

"I know this is the time to make a difference," O'Brien says. "And I'm not going to stop until I have the feeling that we're doing that."

Source: The Chicago Community Trust



# Program Highlights

We are excited to share with you our new programs and two new beautiful facilities that have enabled us to expand our resources in treating those with substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health issues.

## **Problem Gambling Program**

Gateway Foundation was fortunate enough to receive a grant from the IL Department of Human Services to launch a new process addiction program to treat people struggling with a gambling disorder. It includes education and outreach as well as direct treatment services throughout the state; will be provided in person and in-hybrid model with telehealth.

## **Virtual Outpatient Treatment - Gateway Connect**

Gateway Foundation has been offering virtual outpatient programming since late March 2020 and has hosted over 20,000 virtual sessions/ month since the pandemic. This program allows clients to access the same individualized evidence based curriculum from the comfort of their own home, office or when traveling.



# New Treatment Centers



Downers Grove, IL



Skokie, IL

# About Gateway Foundation

Gateway Foundation is a recognized leader in evidence-based treatment proven to get results. Our experts in Addiction Medicine—including highly educated clinical and medical professionals and expert psychiatrists and nurses—deliver care that never stops.

Gateway Foundation's history is rich with more than five decades of treatment innovations and success stories. Our experts have been leaders in the field with answers and guidance about drug and alcohol use and the co-occurring mental health conditions that so frequently compound addiction. More than 1 million patients have graduated through our programs; more than 1 million individuals and their families have changed their lives with us.

On behalf of the entire Gateway Executive Management Team we want to say “thank you” to all the heroes who have sacrificed so much to help so many during these trying times.



# Not All Heroes Wear Capes





# THANK YOU

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