

# OUTREACH



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

# “CHANGE IS INEVITABLE. GROWTH IS OPTIONAL.”

- JOHN MAXWELL

**For Outreach**, 2019 was a year of monumental change and growth. Our staff and leadership changed, our direction clarified daily, we added several new community and individual partners, and we worked diligently to strengthen and grow our existing relationships. While the year was challenging financially, we ended it with hope and a clear plan for moving forward.

As you look through our 2019 Annual Report, I encourage you to examine the facts and figures. These numbers matter because each one points directly back to the life of a young person with whom we have been able to partner this year. The overall story of 2019 has been positive when it comes to the opportunities and successes our youth have seen. For these young men and women, whose lives are filled with such unstable and difficult circumstances, change is truly inevitable. Without a loving community surrounding them, their changes might have harmful consequences. But with

the loving intervention of our Outreach community, we hope those day-to-day changes lead them on a trajectory of growth.

John Maxwell has said, “Change is inevitable...growth is optional.” I believe any of us who have been around very long know these words to be true. As we enter our 24th year at Outreach, we have come to believe that God has a beautiful plan for the growth of every single person who crosses our path — clients, staff, volunteers, and donors alike. He does not see things the way we do, nor does He worry about the challenges, to which we are often prone. Every day, we see that this growth requires change in a multitude of directions.

Change is inevitable. It is the optional growth we are focused on with all our strength.

Toward that end, we are diligently working on three major growth strategies for Outreach, starting in 2020:

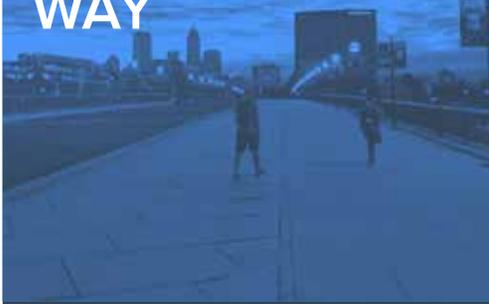
1. **Help Them Make Their Way**
2. **Go Where They Go**
3. **Invite Others In**

These strategies are complicated and will change the way Outreach currently operates as they are phased in over the next few years. We feel these valuable strategies can leverage change to yield growth in

## ON THE COVER

Outreach youth, volunteers, and staff dance and celebrate at our annual Holiday Party. 2019's gathering took place in December at The Athenaeum in downtown Indianapolis.

## HELP THEM MAKE THEIR WAY



As we help youth move towards community, education, employment, and housing, we will enable them to clearly design a plan to follow. We will also partner with individuals and organizations to adapt their programs and resources while helping them understand the unique challenges homeless youth face.

## GO WHERE THEY GO



We will reach more youth in Indianapolis by moving into new schools and by opening additional neighborhood program centers. Every day youth throughout the county are living in unstable conditions. We need to create a physical presence where we can meet them.

## INVITE OTHERS IN



We will create a culture of well-trained and engaged adults who will volunteer to support our youth. Homeless youth need and deserve to have the best adults available to invest in their lives, and we will build a place for those adults to engage and thrive.

the best ways for Outreach as an organization, and ultimately provide the best chance for the growth of the youth we serve. We continue to invite you to bring your best to the table and invest with us. As C.S. Lewis encourages us regarding change, may we recognize that “There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind.”

Jason Chenoweth  
Outreach CEO



## 2019

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## I FEEL HEARD AND SEEN... LIKE I'M WITH FAMILY.

• **Kendra Hathaway** was among the young mothers served at Outreach in 2019. She says she became aware that she was homeless when she was 20. “I had been living a pattern of homelessness my entire life from about the age of 12.”

Kendra says her biggest struggle has been her attempts at correcting her homelessness while raising her son, Kaden, through his infancy without assistance or childcare. Another struggle has been having to share her older daughter, Emma, with Emma’s dad and missing out on half of her life.

In October 2018, Kendra walked into Outreach’s Program Center feeling shy and out of place. “At that point, I wasn’t quite ready to admit to myself that I was homeless.” Now, after regularly meeting with her case managers, she says she feels productive. “I feel heard and seen...like I’m with family.”

One thing Kendra wants people to know about homelessness is that it is very circumstantial. She says most of the time, it’s a pattern that begins in childhood. “Children shouldn’t have to be responsible for providing themselves with a place to feel safe.”

Kendra’s experience through youth homelessness and her journey as a mother has taught her a lot. She says there are many more resources that can be found than are seen on the surface. “There are so many people who want to help you be with your child as opposed to take your child from you.”

Today, Kendra lives in a three-bedroom apartment in downtown Indianapolis. She’s currently studying human services at Ivy Tech and expects to earn her Associate’s Degree by 2022. She wants to become a case manager.

# YOUTH CELEBRATED

YOUTH CELEBRATED

Throughout the year, Outreach sought new and excited ways to celebrate the youth we serve. Thank you to the organizations and groups who helped make the following celebrations possible!

## 2ND ANNUAL SHOE DRIVE



The Globl Culture donated over 250 pairs of shoes and hosted a fun night filled with music, food, dancing, and art in the Program Center.

## GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Elements Financial awarded two scholarships as we celebrated youth's academic achievements at the top of the Salesforce Tower in the heart of downtown Indianapolis.



## BABY SHOWER



Mosaic Church welcomed young mothers and fathers to celebrate new life and gifted some helpful items in their journeys as new parents.

## SUMMER FUN

Throughout the summer, youth and case managers enjoyed the warm season on the water and during their annual camping trips.



## PAMPER ME DAY



As part of a group volunteer activity, Project Give Back and Paul Mitchell helped us transform our Program Center into a lavish spa for the youth to enjoy.

## THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

enVista hosted a coat drive to keep youth warm while St. Luke's UMC donated gifts as part of Outreach's annual Holiday Party. Music for both events provided by DJ Longgreen!



# ACADEMIC ADVOCACY

In September of 2019, Outreach changed the name of their high school program from GOAL to ARCH to best represent the full spectrum of interactions case managers have with youth.

**ARCH** is an acronym for Advocacy, Relationship, Case Management in High Schools.

The program helps high school students considered homeless according to the McKinney-Vento Act by providing them basic needs, assistance in overcoming barriers to educational attainment, the skills needed for building healthy relationships, and self-advocacy.



Youth sought academic advocacy to overcome obstacles in high school **105 times** and in college **45 times**.

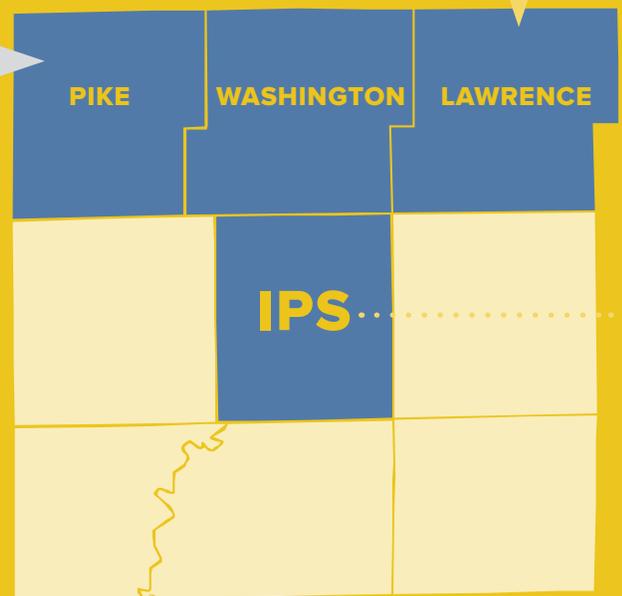
“Research shows that **not completing high school is one of the leading causes of adult homelessness**. That’s why it’s so critical for Outreach to truly support our youth by assisting in any way possible to help **break the cycle of homelessness**.”

- DANIELLE PIERSON, ARCH PROGRAM DIRECTOR

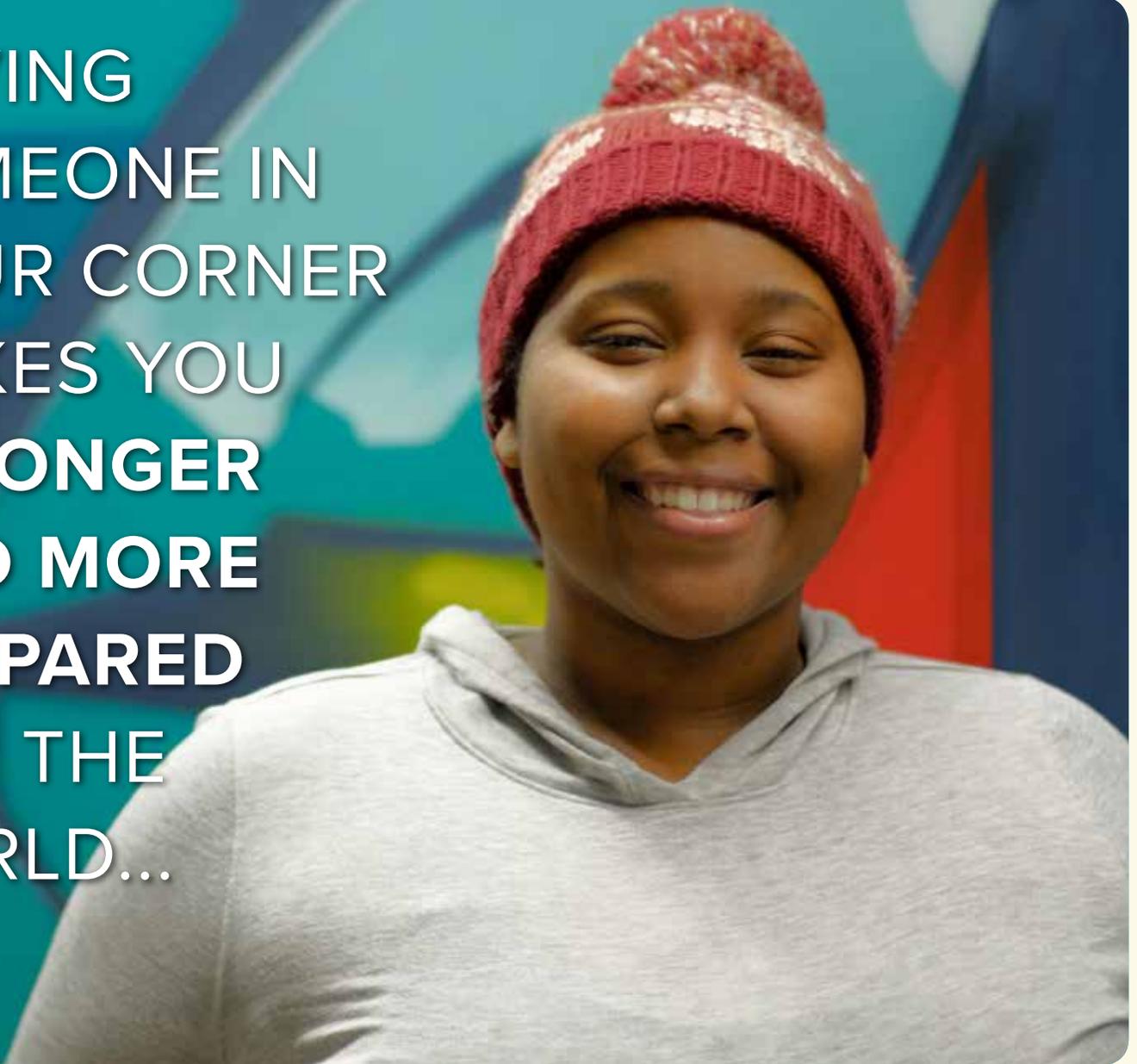
Outreach celebrated the academic achievements of 48 young people in 2019, including **44 high school graduates**.

According to McKinney-Vento data in 2018, nearly **5,000 high school students in Marion County were homeless**.

In 2019, Outreach case managers worked with **over 121 students** in four Marion County school districts.



# HAVING SOMEONE IN YOUR CORNER MAKES YOU STRONGER AND MORE PREPARED FOR THE WORLD...



• • **Unique Bobbitt** first met with her ARCH case manager in May of 2019 while attending Arsenal Technical High School on Indy's near east side. Since she was 17, she's couch-surfed from house to house and occasionally slept in her car. "The environment was never rough for me — my friends are really clean and my car was pretty roomy."

While in high school, Unique faces special challenges. Layered on top of the common social hurdles all teenagers experience in high school, Unique says it can feel overwhelming to not have basic needs like extra clothes or shoes that her classmates have.

Unique says it's difficult to be homeless as a young person and wants people to know that support from

others is what helps her persevere. "Asking for help doesn't make you weak. Having someone in your corner makes you stronger and more prepared for the world than you ever thought you were."

When with her case manager, Unique finds comfort in sharing and expressing herself. "She's always there when I need something or when I need someone to talk to. Her spirit matches my spirit, and we just get along great."

Going forward, Unique is eager to tackle college and eventually start her own fashion design business. She plans to pursue a degree in fashion merchandising and apparel after she graduates.



THEY LOOK AT ME LIKE I'M A NORMAL PERSON. MY CASE MANAGER TREATS ME LIKE A FRIEND. HE SHOWS ME RESPECT, SO I GIVE IT BACK.

**Damonte Green** was placed in foster care at 13 and was kicked out of his home four years later. He tried adjusting to transitional housing but was ultimately removed. “Currently I sleep outside. I’ve tried staying in a shelter, but not everyone can go to a shelter because everyone’s different. Everyone has different past experiences.”

Damonte admits that foster care is set up to help and that there are probably some good families within the system, but he hasn’t experienced that. “They didn’t care about me. It felt like they were in it for the money.”

Reflecting on his time staying outside, Damonte recalls going a week without food. However, he says the most challenging thing about being homeless isn’t the lack of food available — it’s the lack of stability. “Not having a stable place is the hardest part. Somewhere you can just stay and be.”

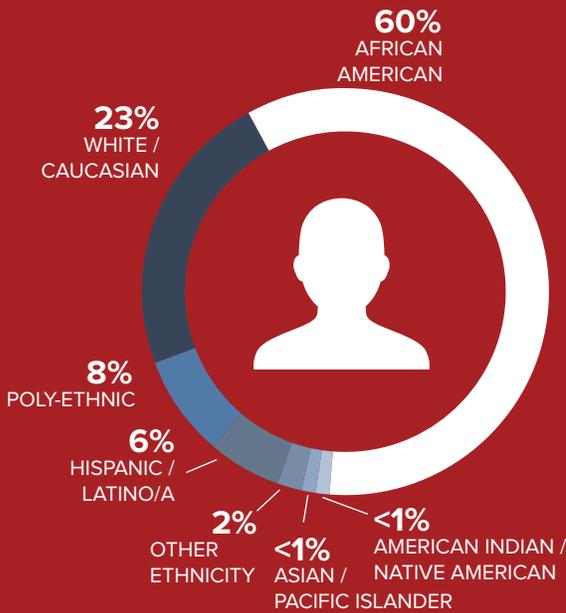
Since moving to Indianapolis, Damonte has sought to overcome a pattern of living that tended to result in crime as a means to survive. That’s when he connected with Outreach — having met his case manager while in school. “I feel like we clicked right then and there. He understood my past and my story. He didn’t judge me at all.” Damonte says his case manager not only treated him with respect, but he also helped him get his driver’s license and birth certificate.

At Outreach, Damonte says he feels like a normal person. “They look at me like I’m a normal person. My case manager treats me like a friend. He shows me a lot of respect, so I give it back.”

To express himself, Damonte raps and would love to turn his passion into a career. “I just want to be in my own home, have my own car, and start saving money for my mom when she’s out of jail.”

## 486

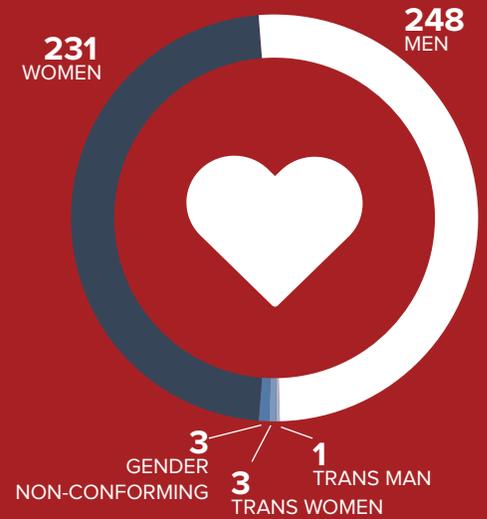
### youth served



**67%** OF YOUTH WERE IN OR AGED OUT OF FOSTER CARE

**25%** OF YOUTH SERVED WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL

**31** YOUTH HAD CHILDREN OR WERE EXPECTING



## 20,915

### hours of interaction

MEETING BASIC NEEDS

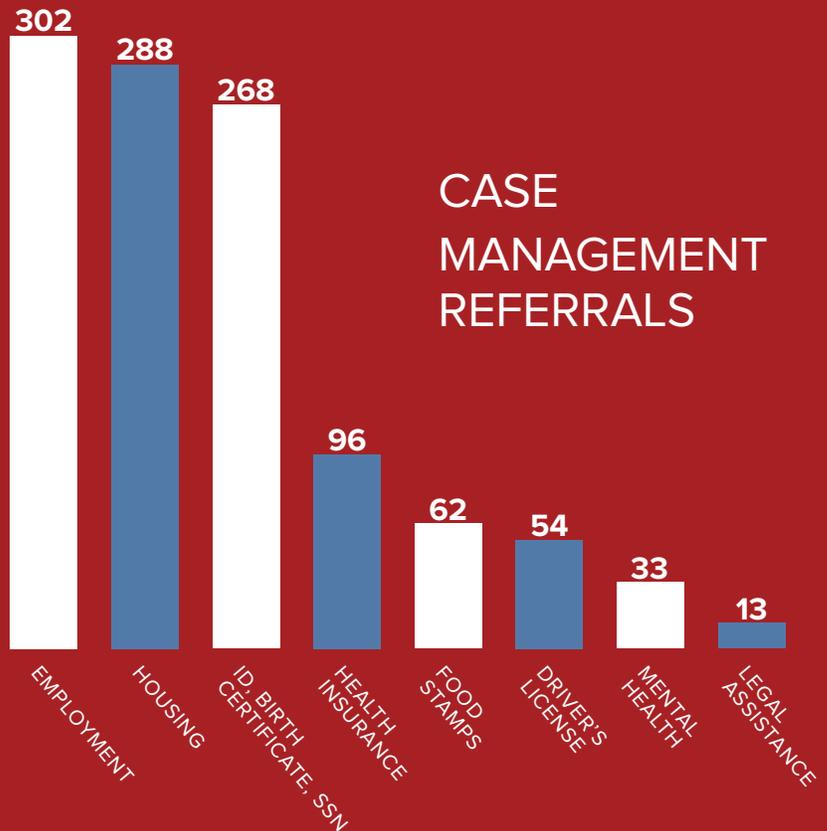
**7,503** MEALS WERE SERVED DURING DROP-IN HOURS

**713** BUS PASSES WERE PROVIDED TO YOUTH

YOUTH ACCESSED THE CLOTHING PANTRY **1,453** TIMES

**673** SHOWERS WERE TAKEN

YOUTH TOOK ADVANTAGE OF LAUNDRY SERVICES **973** TIMES



CASE MANAGEMENT REFERRALS

In June of 2019, a new face joined the Outreach team to take on the task of building and managing the volunteer program. The following month, Outreach witnessed an upsurge of group volunteer activity.



In 2019, 65 individuals committed to volunteering regularly at Outreach's Program Center — many worked in the kitchen to prepare and serve meals, sorted clothes and organized the clothing pantry, cleaned and maintained the drop-in center. Some volunteers offered their unique skillsets, teaching youth new ways to express themselves with art and encouraging youth to dance and enjoy music. Most importantly, each of these individuals continued to listen, be present, and engage with the youth served at Outreach.

At Outreach, it takes a village of caring individuals to come together and show up for youth — to make them feel seen, heard, and loved. This isn't news to longtime supporters and volunteers of Outreach. It's why some of our volunteer staff have been showing up for nearly 20 years. What is new, however, is the number of groups Outreach had the pleasure of hosting in 2019.

In the last six months of 2019 alone, 27 volunteer groups

— that's 253 individuals — volunteered at Outreach. This is a surge in group volunteers for Outreach.

“The volunteer program is blowing up — like really blowing up in a great way,” says Megan Rhea, Outreach Volunteer Manager. Megan started working at Outreach at the end of June in 2019, but she first got involved as a volunteer herself the year before. “I started serving the second and fourth Thursdays of the month for Community Night. I helped cook and serve dinner, and then I'd have a blast playing games with youth before we started cleaning up.”

Like many people, Megan says she was surprised to learn that youth homelessness was even an issue. “It blew me away that youth homelessness was real. How do we as human beings allow this to be? It still blows my mind that a lot of youth we serve are unaccompanied and are not homeless with family, but they're homeless and alone.”

Megan comes to Outreach having worked as a financial analyst for the state of Indiana, so she admits it was quite a career change. She gives credit to God for sending her here and introducing her to Outreach. “My first night serving here, I knew that God was also with me. So to follow what God was asking me to do was one of the easier decisions I've had to make.”

In the last six months of 2019,  
**27** groups — or **253** individuals  
— volunteered at Outreach.



While Megan says the decision to move into her role as volunteer manager was an easy decision to make, she also says that it has come with its challenges. “Creating new opportunities has not been a strength of mine. But God has been leading me and teaching me new ways of serving and helping me create a space for others to do the same. It can hurt to grow, but it’s so rad to see His plans come together!”

Currently, Megan is looking forward most to recruiting new volunteers to align with Outreach’s vision of building the bridge that connects youth with resources and resources with youth. She’s confident that with recruitment will come new, engaging opportunities for both volunteers and youth alike.

Megan admits that although Outreach has experienced a

surge in group volunteering, there is still work to be done. “We’re still in a construction phase. We need to finish the foundation — the framework. As Outreach grows, we need a strong foundation of people who want to support the program as a whole and help lead the volunteer experience for future volunteers.”

Going forward, Megan says she’s most excited to see how much more the program can grow. Outreach provides many basic needs, and volunteers are one of them. “My goal is to continue building a program that not only supports the Outreach team but also handles the weight as we grow as an organization and reach more youth throughout Indianapolis. There are plenty of people and organizations we’ve not connected with yet — many who haven’t heard of Outreach. Making those connections will help us grow and continue serving those who need a support base now more than ever.”

To help Outreach grow and create a strong framework for the volunteer program, Megan encourages people to come and serve as an individual, with a group of friends, as a family, or with coworkers. She also says dropping off in-kind donations in-person can be helpful to experience what happens at the Program Center. “Talk about your experience, and share it with others.”

LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED AT  
[WWW.OUTREACHINDIANA.ORG/VOLUNTEER](http://WWW.OUTREACHINDIANA.ORG/VOLUNTEER)

AS OUTREACH GROWS,  
WE NEED A STRONG  
FOUNDATION OF PEOPLE  
WHO WANT TO SUPPORT  
THE PROGRAM AS A WHOLE  
AND HELP LEAD THE  
VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE  
FOR FUTURE VOLUNTEERS.





OUTREACH BOWL



COOPER'S FUN RUN



COCKTAILS & CREPES

# THANK YOU FOR STAYING ENGAGED. STAYING ENGAGED.



TRIVIA NIGHT



STRENGTH IN OUR STREETS



GRADUATION CELEBRATION

In addition to more than  
**500**  
**individual**  
**donors**  
who gave generously  
throughout the year,  
we thank the following  
for their instrumental  
support in 2019:

## FOUNDATIONS

- Arthur Jordan Foundation
- Bowen Engineering Foundation
- Bowen Family Foundation
- The Brave Heart Foundation
- Central Indiana Community Foundation
- Inlow Foundation
- MCR Charitable Foundation
- Michael L. Smith and Susan L. Smith Family Fund
- Nicholas H. Noyes Jr. Memorial Foundation
- Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
- Pacers Foundation, Inc.
- Rita's Hope Foundation, Inc.
- The Ackerman Foundation
- The Brave Heart Foundation
- The Glick Fund, A CENTRAL INDIANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUND
- The Kaleo Fund

## CHURCHES

- Carmel United Methodist Women
- Castleton Christian Church
- Common Ground Christian Church - Northeast
- Crossroads Bible Church
- Downey Avenue Christian Church
- Faith Presbyterian Church
- Grace Church
- ITOWN Church
- Mosaic Church
- Northview Church
- Northview Church of the Brethren
- Old Bethel UMW
- Post Road Christian Church
- Protestant Chapel at Marquette Manor, Inc.
- Roberts Park United Methodist
- Servants of Christ Lutheran Church
- Shelbyville Community Church
- Sherwood Oaks Christian Church
- St. Luke's United Methodist Church
- St. Mark's United Methodist Church
- The Creek
- Zionsville Presbyterian Church



RAGNAR RELAY



WALK X FAITH



REACH OUT WITH HOPE

Thank you to the small businesses, the nonprofit partners, the competitors, the runners, the walkers, and the supporters for your grassroots activism and fundraising efforts in 2019.



THANKSGIVING



BABY SHOWER

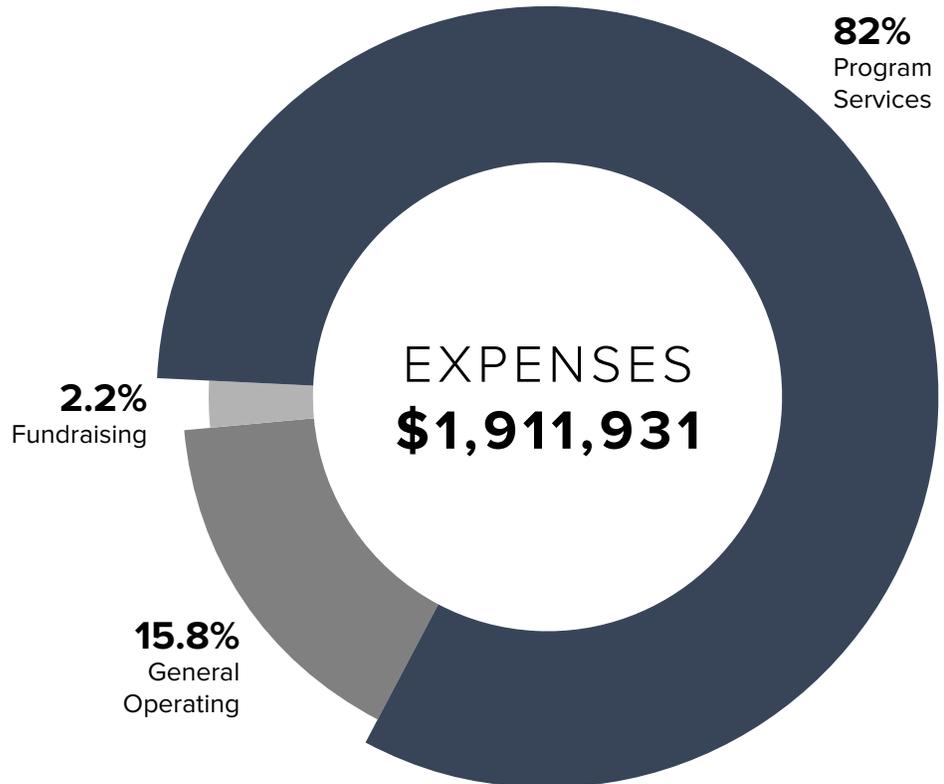
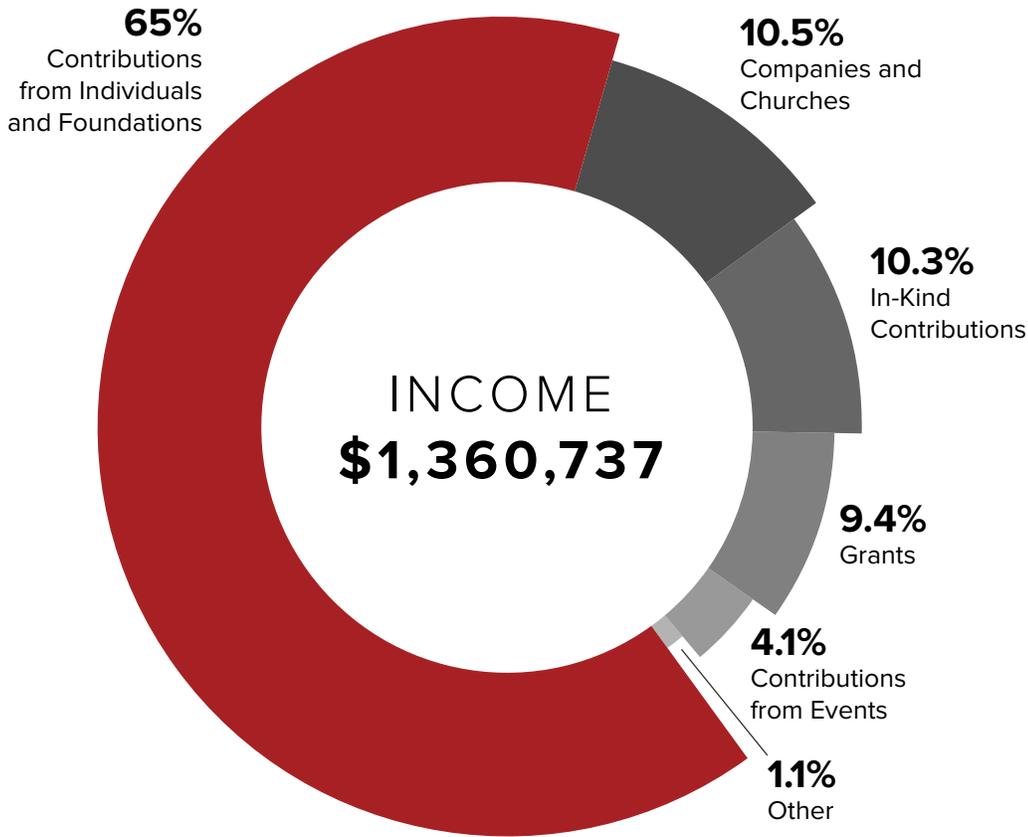


HOLIDAY PARTY

**BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS**

- 3 Days in Paris
- Accent Coatings, LLC
- Advisa
- Barnes and Thornburg
- Belle Tire
- Better Business Bureau, Inc.
- BOMA International Indianapolis
- British European Auto
- Central Supply Company
- Classic Car Carrier, Inc.
- Cooper's Fun Run
- CTI Construction, LLC
- Davant
- Elements Financial
- enVista
- First Person, Inc.
- Freije-RSC
- Gavaghan Property Management & Lawncare LLC
- Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman, P.C.
- Herff Jones
- Indianapolis Indians
- Irani Tea, Inc.
- JackRabbit - Broad Ripple
- JMN Enterprises LLC
- Joe Curto, Inc.

- Johnson Controls
- Kingmakers
- MDwise, Inc.
- Mechanical Contractors Progress Council
- Merchandise Warehouse
- NAPTOWN Fitness
- The National Bank of Indianapolis
- Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic
- NextGear Capital
- Nichols
- Nicky Blaine's Cocktail Lounge
- OneAmerica Financial Partners, Inc.
- Onyx + East
- Pittman Legal & Tax Advisors
- PJI Indianapolis DMA
- Ronald Blue Trust
- Rusty Moose Garage
- Second Helpings
- Studio 57
- Sun King Brewing Co.
- The British Motor Trade Association
- Theoris Group
- Wheeler Mission
- Williams Comfort Air
- Worrell Corporation



## DONATE



### ONCE

Each donation, whether by mail or online, is an investment in the care and hope we provide, ultimately setting young people up for success and preventing adult homelessness.

### MONTHLY

Show your commitment to our youth by donating monthly. Your ongoing contributions will fund programs that provide healing and support to youth served at Outreach.

[WWW.OUTREACHINDIANA.ORG/DONATE](http://WWW.OUTREACHINDIANA.ORG/DONATE)

## VOLUNTEER



### AS A GROUP

Get involved by volunteering with friends, family, coworkers, or other group. From decorating the Program Center to hosting a drive, we have plenty of fun activities for your group to enjoy.

### AS AN INDIVIDUAL

Show up for the youth served at Outreach by supporting staff and engaging with youth.

[WWW.OUTREACHINDIANA.ORG/VOLUNTEER](http://WWW.OUTREACHINDIANA.ORG/VOLUNTEER)

## ADVOCATE



### SHARE YOUR STORY

The most important way you can show your support of Outreach is by sharing your experience with Outreach and the youth we serve and by sharing our mission with others.

### FOLLOW US

Connect with us on social media!



# OUTREACH

Hope for homeless youth

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