ANNUAL REPORT

2019
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
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.

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.

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.

HELP THEM MAKE THEIR WAY

GO WHERE THEY GO

INVITE OTHERS IN

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

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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.
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!
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.

“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.

Youth sought academic advocacy to overcome obstacles in high school **105 times** and in college **45 times**.
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.
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.”
2019 YEAR-END SUMMARY

486 youth served

60% AFRICAN AMERICAN
23% WHITE / CAUCASIAN
8% POLY-ETHNIC
6% HISPANIC / LATINO/A
<1% AMERICAN INDIAN / NATIVE AMERICAN
<1% ASIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER

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

7,503 MEALS WERE SERVED DURING DROP-IN HOURS
302 MEETING BASIC NEEDS

288 HOUSING
268 ID, BIRTH CERTIFICATE, SSN
96 HEALTH INSURANCE
62 FORD STAMPS
54 DRIVERS LICENSE
33 MENTAL HEALTH
13 LEGAL ASSISTANCE

713 BUS PASSES WERE PROVIDED TO YOUTH
YOUTH ACCESSED THE CLOTHING PANTRY 1,453 TIMES
YOUTH TOOK ADVANTAGE OF LAUNDRY SERVICES 973 TIMES

231 WOMEN
248 MEN
3 GENDER NON-CONFORMING
3 TRANS WOMEN
1 TRANS MAN
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

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THANK YOU FOR STAYING ENGAGED.

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
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- MCR Charitable Foundation
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**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
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.
INCOME
$1,360,737

65%
Contributions from Individuals and Foundations

10.5%
Companies and Churches

10.3%
In-Kind Contributions

9.4%
Grants

4.1%
Contributions from Events

1.1%
Other

EXPENSES
$1,911,931

82%
Program Services

15.8%
General Operating

2.2%
Fundraising
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

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

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!