THIS IS WHAT MAKES OUR HOUSE THEIR HOME

COVENANT HOUSE MICHIGAN | ANNUAL REPORT 2018
Dear Friends,

Every time I have a chance to stop by Covenant House Michigan, I’m always struck by the hustle and bustle of the campus. It’s a joy to drop in and see residents reviewing their resumes or fine-tuning their interview skills or shooting hoops on the basketball court. It feels just like a home, a really big home, full of love and guidance, packed lunches and scheduled appointments. I am so grateful for all the people who make Covenant House Michigan a home for all our young people. From our cooks and RA’s to volunteers and donors, we are our young people’s families and make sure they are welcomed home.

Beyond the energy you feel when on campus, I am very proud of Covenant House Michigan’s commitment to being a first-rate nonprofit. We have been rated as a 4-star charity by Charity Navigator for the fourth year in a row. Just 16% of nonprofits qualify for this distinction. We were awarded GuideStar’s Platinum Seal of Transparency, outlining our dedication to being a transparent, ethical organization. Among our peers, Covenant House Michigan is also rated as a top shelter statewide. We score high in the category of “positive destination rate” which reflects the belief of our residents that they have a safe and stable place to live once they leave Covenant House. We are also above the state average with respect to length of stay, meaning our residents are choosing to spend longer periods of time at our shelter getting the necessary help and support needed for them to be self-sufficient. Covenant House also distinguishes itself by maintaining a lower recidivism rate. Fewer residents return to the shelter because of our success in guiding them to become productive and contributing members of our communities.

This is all because of you. Thank you for making this house their home.

Jeffrey P. Rumley
Board Chair
Retired | Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

OUR MISSION

We who recognize God’s providence and fidelity to His people are dedicated to living out His covenant among ourselves and those children we serve, with absolute respect and unconditional love. That commitment calls us to serve suffering children of the street, and to protect and safeguard all children. Just as Christ in His humanity is the visible sign of God’s presence among His people, so our efforts together in the covenant community are a visible sign that effects the presence of God, working through the Holy Spirit among ourselves and our kids.
OUR RESIDENTS & STAFF

LAURENCE | 22

“Here I found a spark of hope...There are opportunities here I would never have.”

JEFF BOULEY
Education & Employment Specialist

KERSHY | 18

“I love it here...there is good structure, which is what I need.”

STEPHANIE TAYLOR
Outreach Manager

“I tell our residents, I’m the guy who gets you back in school or gets money in your pocket.”

“This is my ministry. This is God’s work using my hands. He put me here for that.”
2018 HIGHLIGHTS

A volunteer works with a resident on his resume and interviewing skills.

Our residents enjoyed touring the Detroit Lions training facility in late Spring.

In the spring our residents went to Lansing to meet with representatives and talk about homelessness.

Residents dazzle on stage at A Night of Broadway Stars.

Throughout the year, the Detroit Pistons donate tickets to our residents.

After hearing about CHM on the news, Detroit Fire Chief Bradley visits campus and talks to residents.

Covenant House International President Kevin Ryan speaks at the Grand Rapids campus opening.

Our Young Professional Society participate in another successful Sleep Out: Young Professional Edition in March.

Two of our Sleep Out: Executive Edition Sleepers bow their head in prayer during our 2018 Vigil.

Our Sleep Out: Executive Edition Sleepers line up their boxes.
We've been busy planning and fundraising for House of Hope and are excited to open it in 2019. House of Hope is a residential facility specifically to treat young people with co-occurring disorders, mental illness plus substance abuse in addition to being homeless.

These same young people are shut out from all other shelters because they act out or are difficult to control. They have nowhere else to go. So we welcome them.

Once they come to Covenant House Michigan, they will be put into a smaller cohort of their peers, in a separate building on our Detroit campus. Residents will utilize the Clubhouse Model of Psychosocial Rehabilitation which empowers people with mental illness by focusing on their strengths and abilities, not their illness. At HoH, residents will have access to art therapy, pet therapy, group, and individual therapy, medication management, sobriety and recovery programs.

Covenant House Michigan, Grand Rapids campus was a promise years in the making. Ever since we opened our fourth charter school in Grand Rapids, we pledged to open an accompanying shelter. This November we opened a beautiful new 28-bed emergency shelter right next to our school.

In a booming city full of awards, it’s sometime hard to believe that homelessness, especially youth homelessness, is a big issue. As we had a waiting list for the shelter prior to opening, we knew this was the right call.

This is truly a house that Grand Rapids built. Thanks to an incredible support from local residents, community leaders, fellow non-profits, businesses, and so many more, we were open in time for the Holidays.
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Executive Director Gerald J. Piro, Covenant House International President Kevin Ryan, Board Members Anne Lehker, Peter Rosenfeld, and Jeff Connolly at the Grand Rapids campus ribbon cutting.

Covenant House International President Kevin Ryan, Board Member Jeff Connolly, Executive Director Gerald J. Piro, Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss and lead donor Elsa Fierens cutting the ribbon on the new Grand Rapids campus.