WRAPPING AROUND THE FAMILY

PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Peace Family,

In the Broadway musical *Rent*, the cast sings, “Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes – How do you measure a year?” How do we all measure a year? How many different minutes of our work here at Peace add up to the end result? That is what I thought of as we started to assemble this annual report. I sat in stillness to review 2019 and thought about all of the countless minutes of this past year – minutes filled with individual moments of growth, hurt, adversity, grace and triumph experienced by members of our Peace Family.

Moments like having the largest graduating class of high school seniors in our College and Career Prep Program since its beginning. In 2019, 18 seniors graduated with 16 now enrolled in college or university studying Business Marketing, Auto Mechanics, Nursing, Communications, and other areas.

Other moments occurred to me, as well. Our Case Managers connecting with over 600 households and providing them with counseling, financial support, problem solving, planning and access to area resources. Volunteers in our Youth programs providing over 11,000 hours of tutoring support. Seeing the beauty of our
Peace Family step up when tragedies of death and house fires affected people we serve. The moment that Elizabeth and her daughter realized they were able to move into an apartment after being homeless and living in a hotel for two years. The moment that Nayan walked across the stage to receive her undergrad degree from CMU along with similar moments for William at OWU, Olivia at EMU with her double masters and Terri with her Master’s Degree in Nursing.

And that doesn’t even scratch the surface! How about the moment when 145 youth and staff disembark at the Toledo Zoo for a day of exploration? Or the minute when you turn over a check that will allow Roger and his family of six to remain in their house and stop an eviction as tears well up in his eyes? Or just the moments when you walk around the center during youth programs and hear conversations about history or math or which is larger – an elephant or a whale? It is those moments when you are thankful that you live in a community such as this and work at an organization that changes lives.

You see, I measure a year by the youth and families for which we have been the safety net – thanks to all of you! We are so very grateful for your part in all these moments I’ve mentioned and all of those countless moments I haven’t because space does not allow. With your continued support, I am ready for the next five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes and all of those beyond!

Thank you, Partners!

Sincerely,

Bonnie Billups, Jr.
Executive Director
2019 was a year that saw a big push toward services that benefit the family as a whole. At Peace Neighborhood Center, we call this approach Wrap-around Services. It is true that our Youth Programs are central to our mission to create self-sufficient community leaders. However, what we do for the family unit itself is just as important when trying to break cycles of behavior that lead to unsuccessful outcomes. With this in mind, Peace renewed its commitment to Case Management for families by increasing hours for case managers and extending the geographic location where we provide on-site case management to residents in Baker Commons. In addition, thanks to donations made at our Thanks for Giving Benefit Dinner, case managers now have access to a minivan to help families with transportation to important appointments when needed.

2019 also saw Peace adding a Saturday Reading Champions program that provided families with a delicious breakfast along with the tools necessary to read with a purpose in the home toward better literacy skills. Altogether, 2019 saw Peace staff find new ways to reach out and wrap around our families in meaningful ways.
THE PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER STAFF

Bonnie Billups, Jr., Executive Director (30+ yrs.)
MaryAnn Johnson, Youth Programs Director (6 yrs.)
Kevin Lill, Director of Development (10+ yrs.)
Ella Olive, Office Manager (20+ yrs.)
Cornelius Olive, Building Maintenance Supervisor (20+ yrs.)
Lauryn Comer, Youth Specialist
Anabel Cruz, Satellite Centers Coordinator (2 yrs.)
Elanda Curry, Case Manager (5 yrs.)
Mira Friedman-Lindquist, College & Career Prep Coordinator (2 yrs.)
Bernice Hardman, Family Enrichment Coordinator/Field Placement (10+ years)
Taylor Gamble, Alternatives For Youth Coordinator
Latricia Juide, Kitchen Manager (3 years)
Kelly Martin, Case Manager
Raven Vawters, Child Services Coordinator (2 yrs.)
Program Assistants
Jonathan Faulkner
Aaleja Hesterly
Natiyah Hugan
Transportation
Larry Mitchell

Dwight Johnson
Blake Stephens
Madeline Zandhuis

John Ulmer
CASE MANAGEMENT IN ACTION

By the time Elizabeth first contacted Peace Neighborhood Center, she and her disabled adult daughter had just about exhausted every option available. Facing dire circumstances, Elizabeth picked up the phone and dialed Peace, looking for the type of help that she never expected she’d need, help to keep her and her daughter off the street.

Her daughter received an SSDI check for disability, and Elizabeth supplemented their income with thrift store work, but this still totaled less than $1,000/mo combined. Due to unforeseen circumstances, they were forced to move out of their apartment and had no immediate solution. Elizabeth had some savings, but her credit wasn’t in good enough shape to qualify for a lease anywhere. For two whole years, Elizabeth and her daughter lived in hotel rooms. 8 months in Belleville, and over a year in Ann Arbor. The hotels were running between $300-$500 per week. The savings soon ran out entirely and Elizabeth found herself scrambling for alternatives.

Over the course of several months, she called just about every church and social service agency in Washtenaw County looking for assistance. She found some places that would help with temporary funding assistance, but she would find herself quickly in the same predicament the next month when it was time to pay the bills once again. This constant monthly need exhausted the goodwill of many of the places she was contacting. Eventually, that led her to calling up Peace.

After assessing Elizabeth’s story, Peace staff members decided that the only way we would help her is if she committed to finding a way to end this vicious cycle with us. Previously, Elizabeth says her pride hadn’t allowed her to admit she couldn’t figure this out on her own, but she agreed to put the situation in our hands. For her part, Elizabeth began to meet regularly with one of our Case Managers to figure out the root causes of her issues and determine an action plan to start addressing them. “Peace has been there every step of the way,” says Elizabeth. “My Case Manager always says they’ve got my back. I’ve never seen an organization treat a client like family like Peace does.”

Part of Elizabeth’s action plan involved some necessary funds to get her car repaired and put gas in the tank in order for her to get back to her small business work at flea markets throughout the state. Meanwhile, Peace staff assembled a coalition of area churches willing to help including Zion Lutheran Church and Bethlehem United Church of Christ. As time wore on, we advocated on her behalf with the landlord of a housing unit and Elizabeth was approved for an apartment in January where she and her daughter have resided since. We look forward to a brighter 2020 for them both.
2019 Above & Beyond Initiatives

2019 marked the final year of Peace Neighborhood Center’s 5-year Strategic Plan that launched the Above & Beyond Fund. This fund has changed Peace dramatically for the better. It continues to provide for the agency’s expanded capacity and constant improvement in the services it offers to our community. In 2019, Above & Beyond funds allowed Peace to add a Case Manager, expand our summer youth employment and off-set the cost of necessary building repairs and upkeep.

Expansion of Capacity

In 2019, Peace Neighborhood Center saw increased capacity in nearly all of its programs:

- Providing services to 1,700 individuals in our community
- Providing food to over 375 food insecure families
- Offering after school and summer day camp programs to 180 youth K-12th grade
- Helping over 100 families with the financial assistance necessary to stay housed
- Providing 175 adults with crises intervention and case management
- Serving 15,000 meals
- Helping 320 families with a brighter holiday season thanks to toys, clothes and gift cards

THE WRAP-AROUND APPROACH PAYS OFF

Back in 2010, Kinaya and her mother Keenyia first came to Peace programs. As a then 9-year-old, Kinaya joined the REACH After School program for elementary youth and began to receive academic and social support from Peace staff members. As a parent with a child enrolled in our Youth Services, Keenyia was required to join our Family Enrichment Program and began to attend workshops designed to assist her in running an effective household. With a GED and a felony on her record, Keenyia faced tremendous difficulty in finding employment that could provide for her two daughters and one son. She immediately recognized the benefit of the Family Enrichment Program and became one of its most active and engaged participants. Through hard work and with Peace’s support, Keenyia went on to earn her certification as a dental hygienist assistant.

Throughout middle school, Kinaya was supported by the Alternatives for Youth after school program during the school year and the Leadership Development Camp in the summer. She was assisted with the difficult transition between middle school and high school with the Ninth Grade Academy. Once in high school, she explored possible career paths and received assistance in getting prepared for her next steps in the College & Career Prep Club. All along, her mother received case management and Family Enrichment services.

In August of 2019, Kinaya became the first member of her family to attend college as she began her freshman year at Ferris State University. Her mother is beyond proud of her achievement and we all look forward to her continued success. Not only that, but Kinaya’s younger sister is currently carrying a 3.8 GPA in high school and is looking ahead at her own college education with a much wider array of choices than she might otherwise have. While this is but one of the stories from our programs, to some extent, it is indicative of so many. Peace Family, you are helping to change lives!
Peace Neighborhood Center’s Youth Services are designed to promote positive youth development while addressing issues that lead to a higher incidence of school drop-outs, teen pregnancy, and juvenile detention facing the youth enrolled in the programs. Peace’s strength lies in its unique family-oriented atmosphere.

REACH After School Program
Peace has had a focus on elementary youth since we have opened our doors. The REACH after school program is the anchor of all the Youth Services the organization provides. REACH offered an educational and supplemental after school environment to 90 children in 2019. REACH continues to evolve to meet the needs of the community each day.

Alternatives for Youth
The Alternatives for Youth (AFY) after school program mentors our middle school students in grades 6th-8th while offering them support through academic tutoring. AFY cultivates the development of leadership skills while helping to build self-esteem and self-sufficiency in participants. Peace served 41 middle schoolers through this program in 2019.

Ninth Grade Academy
The Ninth Grade Academy is designed to aid with the difficult transition between middle school and high school in order to make sure the young people we work with don’t get sidetracked on their way to success. The program offers special tutoring assistance provided by a partnership with the University of Michigan’s Telluride Association.
YOUTH SERVICES

As children grow and age out of one program, they progress into another program specifically designed for their age group. This allows Peace to provide a stable environment in a child’s life for a period of up to fifteen years. For some of the youth that we serve, that steadying presence over their formative years is the most stable thing in their lives.

College & Career Prep Club
The College & Career Prep Club (CCPC) offers the support necessary for high school students to prepare for college and/or career training. This includes the guidance needed to take the proper courses in high school, maintain a good grade point average, and complete the proper paperwork for admission to a college or university. Peace served 40 CCPC youth in 2019.

Summer Day Camp
Summer Day Camp is the elementary-age component of Peace’s Summer Youth Services (SYS) that provides a six-week program of quality activities for over 140 young people throughout Washtenaw County each summer. Campers participate in structured recreational activities and enrichment groups focused on topics such as science, drama and music.

Leadership Development Camp
Leadership Development Camp (LDC) is the middle school component of Peace’s Summer Youth Services. In 2019, LDC provided 48 youth with a well-rounded, structured experience including organized educational and recreational activities designed to teach them the tools necessary to be positive role models to their younger peers and siblings.
FAMILY SERVICES

Peace Neighborhood Center’s Family Services are comprised of a number of programs that work together in conjunction with Peace's mission of helping individuals discover options, enhance skills, and make choices that lead to self-sufficiency and positive community involvement. The support structures these services provide are capable of breaking cycles of poverty and leading individuals toward stronger, healthier and more productive lives.

Family Enrichment Program

The Family Enrichment Program (FEP) includes family events and outings as well as adult-only workshops. FEP is mandatory for parents who have children attending youth programs. In 2019, 78 families participated in workshops that address a variety of topics chosen to help strengthen and expand a parent’s knowledge and skills. 2019 also saw the launch of the Saturday Reading Champions program to help families improve literacy in the home.

Case Management

Case Management Services work one-on-one with families and individuals throughout the community who find themselves in situations requiring help. This program offers everything from financial to emotional support. Whether it was preventing a family’s heat from being shut off, advocating on their behalf with another agency or offering help with toys and food during the holidays, the Peace staff provided assistance to over 600 households in 2019.

Peace House Transitional Housing

The Peace House Transitional Housing Center provides temporary housing for families as they work to get back on their feet. While staying at Peace House, families meet regularly with Peace staff members to come up with an action plan to address their issues and attain self-sufficiency. In 2019, Peace House provided 647 nights of shelter to families in need.
### 2019 FINANCIALS

#### REVENUE

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<td>Satellite Centers (Ann Arbor Housing Commission)</td>
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#### EXPENSES

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*This amount reflects Above & Beyond Funds used toward expenses in 2019. Total amount raised in 2019 was $16,562.50.*
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The Mosaic Foundation of Rita & Peter Heydon
Network for Good
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Northstar Bank
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Zingerman’s Mail Order

$1,000-$4,999
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Absolute Title, Inc.
Amcor Rigid Plastics
American Baptist Women's Ministries
Ann Arbor Host Lions Club
Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
Ann Arbor Chapter of Links
Ann Arbor Housing Commission
Ann Arbor Respite Care
Ann Arbor Thrift Shop
Anna’s Kindness
Banfield’s Bar and Grill
Bank of Ann Arbor, Inc.
Barb Young State Farm
Bethlehem United Church of Christ
Bodman PLC
Buhr Foundation
Charles Reinhart Company, Realtors
Coordinated Funders of Washtenaw County

Daisy Chain Temple
Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Rho Chapter
Dempsey Incorporated
Detter Family Foundation
Dicken School PTO
Dunning Toyota
Eastern Michigan University School of Social Work
Elmo’s Liberty Street T-Shirts
First Presbyterian Church
First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor
Forsythe Middle School
GBU Financial Life, District #630
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MAKING OUR COMMUNITY BETTER...ONE PERSON AT A TIME

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