Annual Report 2021

Building equitable communities that alleviate poverty.
A Message from our President & Board Chair

Dedicated Lighthouse supporters,

The past few years have been a time of significant growth and change at Lighthouse. In 2019, South Oakland Shelter (SOS) and Lighthouse of Oakland County (LOC) merged to form one organization, Lighthouse Mi, aligning our resources to provide a stronger and more comprehensive response to poverty in our community. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically altered our community’s social landscape, forcing Lighthouse to rapidly evolve our operating models and grow to meet a variety of emerging unmet needs. We are both astonished and inspired by the work our Lighthouse community has been able to accomplish together, particularly during such a challenging time for all of us.

Lighthouse endeavors to build equitable communities that alleviate poverty in partnership with and in service to individuals, families, and organizations. We have worked to bring the talents and assets of LOC and SOS together, maximizing our resources to serve as a beacon of hope for any neighbor in need. It has been an honor to work alongside our dedicated staff, volunteers, and community partners to help achieve our mission these past few years.

Lighthouse is assisting more people than ever before through our emergency food, shelter, housing, and financial stability programs, as we concurrently aim to address the systemic barriers to permanently ending poverty for so many struggling families. We were proud to celebrate the completion of Coolidge Place during the pandemic, a 64-unit affordable and supportive housing development in Oak Park, and to break ground on Carriage Circle, redeveloping 234 public housing units in partnership with the Pontiac Housing Commission; but with more than 40% of our community’s renters and 70,000 owner-occupied households being cost-burdened, we will continue working to address affordability gaps for both groups.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our world, and more people have sought Lighthouse’s assistance than ever before. In response, we have quadrupled the capacity of our emergency shelter, opened a family shelter, and exponentially expanded our food programs to serve thousands of households each week. We are moved by the generous support our community has provided during this uniquely difficult period, enabling Lighthouse to respond the way we did, and we commend the kindness and selflessness of the many volunteers, donors, and congregational and community partners that stepped in to help Lighthouse along the way. We surely could not have done it without each one of you.

Although the future appears uncertain, we are confident that Lighthouse will be here to light the way and continue our life-changing work for those in need.

Thank you for all you do to make our work possible. You are making a real difference in the lives of so many.

“I appreciate that people are going beyond their time with their family to help you. The food, the clothes, the opportunity to have a place to sleep…it’s priceless. That gives you the motivation to do better.”

- Stephan

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Board of Directors

Thank you to our Board of Directors for your leadership, guidance, and commitment to our mission.

**Board of Directors**

**NAME** | **POSITION**
---|---
Richard Lewnau | Chair
Jackie Buchanan | Vice Chair
Jonathan Burleigh | Treasurer
Dennis Blender | Secretary
Racheal Allen | 
Jim Ciroli | 
Manisha Dostert | 
Chanel Hampton | 
Lamontre Harris | 
John Harvey | 
James Lambrecht | 
Sonja Lengnick | 
Paddy Lynch | 
Harry Maisel | 
William Mott | 
Colleen Ochoa-Peters | 
Paul Plante | 
Jacqui Spicer | 
John Townsend | 
Susan Wellman | 
Susan Cooper | Emeritus

**Executive Leadership**

**NAME** | **POSITION**
---|---
Ryan Hertz, MSW | President & CEO
Kris Bishop | Chief Financial Officer
Todd Burk | Chief Real Estate & Community Development Officer
Dr. Rita Fields | Chief Talent & Strategy Officer
Jenny Poma, MSW | Chief Operating Officer
Russ Russell | Chief Development Officer
South Oakland Shelter and Lighthouse of Oakland County merged on July 1, 2019. With over 85 years of combined experience, the new Lighthouse has grown and become a beacon of hope for more individuals than ever before.

Strategic Approach

MISSION
We endeavor to build equitable communities that alleviate poverty in partnership with and in service to individuals, families, and organizations.

LIGHTHOUSE CORE VALUES

Compassion
Understanding that every person is unique and doing their best

Equity
Striving for fairness and actively seeking out varying perspectives

Advocacy
Amplifying the voices of those we serve and championing their interests

Collaboration
Willingness to diminish self-interest for the sake of community needs, and to share our lessons learned

Innovation
Eagerness to try new things and adapt to changing circumstances

Stewardship
Honoring the trust placed in us by deliberately and transparently managing resources

EMERGENCY SERVICES
Respond to the immediate needs of community members experiencing economic crises, such as lack of food or shelter.

STABILITY SERVICES
Support and empower our clients in achieving long-term economic stability.

SYSTEMS CHANGE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Implement solutions for systemic barriers to ending poverty, such as development of affordable housing, homeownership education and loan programs, and neighborhood revitalization activities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY
Engage and enable our community as change agents for achieving our mission, while amplifying the voices of those we serve and championing their interests.
Across all of our eviction prevention programs, Lighthouse assisted 1,232 households in preventing their eviction and maintaining their housing.

Emergency Food Distribution
Lighthouse continues to distribute emergency food in ways that protect clients, volunteers, and staff from contracting and spreading COVID-19. From our newly established food warehouse we store, package, and distribute produce and shelf stable food boxes. Lighthouse makes every effort to provide well-balanced food boxes packed with fresh produce, milk, bread and pantry stables such as pasta, cereal, canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, soups and beans. We distribute through home delivery, curbside pick-up at our Pontiac and Clarkston pantries, and at offsite partner locations in Royal Oak, Ferndale, Clarkston, and Southfield. Home deliveries are happening through a network of volunteers and a partnership with Amazon delivery drivers.

Emergency Shelter
Lighthouse provides emergency shelter to men, women, and children experiencing homelessness. Since the onset of the pandemic, Lighthouse has been sheltering households within a hotel setting to prevent the risk of exposure to clients, volunteers, and staff. We also established a new, permanent family shelter in 2021. While we are in the process of rehabbing the shelter facility, including adding a communal kitchen, this program addition provides the community with 18 units and 54 beds of emergency shelter dedicated to families. Of those who exited our shelter programs, 60% transitioned from shelter to housing in 2021.

In 2021, Lighthouse served 428 individuals (including 237 children) with 38,833 nights of emergency shelter, daily meals, and essential services to connect them to housing.

“THANK YOU to everyone at Lighthouse. If it wasn’t for this program, I don’t know where I would be. I would be on the streets with my children.”
- Shakira

Last fiscal year we served 27,314 individuals with food throughout the entire county.

“When I’m having a bad day, they comfort me.”
- Teri
Stability Services

Rehousing Programs

Lighthouse implements a variety of housing programs that move households from homelessness to housing. Some programs offer long-term financial assistance for those experiencing domestic violence or those who have experienced chronic homelessness, and others assist households who are experiencing homelessness for the first time and need just a few months of assistance to regain stability. All programs are client-centered and provide each household with flexible and tailored housing and supportive services.

Supportive Services

We believe that access to ongoing supportive services greatly assists households in quickly resolving, and in some cases totally preventing, crises. We strive to build trusting, transparent, and ongoing relationships with those we serve - relationships that allow households to reach out without hesitation should they have a question or problem with which they need help. Our supportive services center around helping households retain their housing and increase their overall stability. If enrolled in one of our housing programs, including those who have exited our shelter into housing, households are provided with consistent case management and landlord engagement to help households with lease compliance, access to basic needs such as transportation and personal care items, and referrals to other service providers.

95% of clients that exited from Stability Service programs retained their housing and increased their self-sufficiency in 2021.

Systems Change & Community Development

Affordable Housing Development

While it is critical that we meet the emergency needs of those experiencing poverty, to truly address multigenerational systemic poverty we must go beyond resolving household level crises. We must also provide long-term affordable housing options that provide families with the foundation needed to focus on long-term goals, achieve stability, and end intergenerational poverty. Tens of thousands of Oakland County households are rent burdened – paying more than 30% of their pretax income on rent. Oakland County needs more affordable options throughout the entire county. Lighthouse addresses this need through a multifaceted strategy that currently includes building and developing new affordable housing and acquiring and renovating existing affordable housing.

Many of the needs households have are unique or not covered by existing grant and funding streams. Lighthouse helps households meet these needs through our flexible online fundraising platform, HandUp. Since inception, we have raised over $7.3 million on HandUp to support projects and clients from 198 organizations in the United States. These funds have helped 10,209 clients meet their goals by providing funds for housing, transportation, education, medical expenses, and other basic needs.

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Across all our housing programs in 2021, Lighthouse served 569 individuals from 238 households.

“Lighthouse helped us A LOT. I couldn’t find anywhere to live, and Lighthouse helped me find a house to rent.”
- Kim

Through these efforts, in 2021 Lighthouse partnered with the Pontiac Housing Commission to secure $40.3M to rehab 234 affordable housing units at Carriage Circle. Scheduled to be complete during 2022, this project will greatly improve the quality of life for the over 300 residents.

In 2021, Lighthouse also operated affordable housing units in Oak Park at our Coolidge Place Development. Coolidge Place is a 64-unit affordable housing complex, made up of townhouses and ranch-style apartments, green space, and a community center.
Events

Thank you to all of the sponsors, attendees, donors, and volunteers who helped make our events in 2021 such a success. We were excited to return to in-person events after such a long break!

A Night of Inspiration was held on September 30th at the Royal Oak Farmers Market. We were excited to welcome guests to this amazing one-time event, which featured music and dancing by Your Generation in Concert and gave us the opportunity to share our hard work throughout the pandemic with our partners and supporters. We raised more than $61,000 and were thrilled to bring back our annual awards at the event.

2021 LIGHTHOUSE AWARDEES

Mission Possible Award: Oakland County Executive Team
Congregation Partner: Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church
Outstanding Service Award: Dennis Blender
Corporate Partner: PNC Bank
Foundation Partner: Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation
Municipality Partner: City of Royal Oak
Community Partner: COVID-19 Emergency Response Team - Oakland University & Pontiac Community Foundation

The 13th Annual Flagstar’s Dancing with the Stars event was a hybrid event featuring virtual performances and an in-person watch party. Thanks to the help of Arthur Murray Dance Studio in Royal Oak and our celebrity dancers, the event was a huge success. Guests were able to join us in-person at The Townsend Hotel and online via Zoom and social media. Together, we raised more than $276,000 to support Lighthouse’s mission, making it the most successful Dancing with the Stars event to date.

We are excited to be bringing back The Rent Party in 2022! Historically, rent parties offered a DIY solution for families facing eviction in the 1920’s, playing a major role in the development of jazz and blues music. The event features historic home tours, a strolling dinner, and a night full of amazing music by some of the best local jazz performers. Learn more at www.therentparty.org.

A Night of Inspiration
Shine Your Light for the Holidays

Lighthouse aims to provide holiday cheer to local families in need throughout the holiday season. Our Thanksgiving Food Basket and Adopt-a-Family programs bring a little help and hope to thousands of individuals each year. These programs are made possible because of thousands of supporters who make donations, host food drives, and adopt families in need.

THANKSGIVING:
In 2021, more than 75 groups stepped up to host food drives and they donated tens of thousands of pounds of food for our Thanksgiving program. With their help, Lighthouse was able to provide a full Thanksgiving Meal to more than 2,200 local families.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY:
Last year, nearly 600 local families in need were adopted for the holidays thanks to the generosity of local individuals, families, and organizations. We are so thankful to help bring joy to so many men, women, and children during this special season.

Volunteerism & Community Partnerships

Lighthouse could not provide assistance to so many families in need without your help! Be a part of our community’s response to poverty. To volunteer, advocate, or donate please contact us at beacon@lighthousemi.org or 248.920.6000.

Community Partnerships

We rely on local businesses, organizations, and groups to help us meet the basic needs of our clients. Whether you’re interested in hosting a fundraiser, collecting food or toiletries, or making a donation, your support will go a long way! Last year, we had hundreds of groups and businesses get involved by hosting food/supply drives, creating online fundraisers, or creating a special fundraising project at their business.

For more information, and to get involved, please reach out to Emily Wood at emily@lighthousemi.org.

Volunteering

Lighthouse volunteers help with a number of important projects, including packing and delivering food boxes, working at special events, assisting with distribution efforts, and more! You can join by yourself or register a large group. Last year, there were 6,953 volunteer shifts filled, with individuals donating 25,855 hours of service to help Lighthouse and our clients! Additionally, our volunteer drivers completed 38,913 deliveries of emergency food boxes to local families in need in 2021.

Reach out Marci Fitch at marci@lighthousemi.org or visit www.lighthousemi.org/volunteer for more information and to get involved.

“I learned there are wonderful people out there who will help. It restored my faith in people.”
- Mazi
It is an honor to work alongside our congregation partners towards our mission of building equitable communities that alleviate poverty.

Our congregation partners have stepped in to provide meals and activities at our emergency shelter, host food and personal care item drives, donate to support our efforts, and more! We appreciate each and every member of these congregations for their dedication and passion in helping Lighthouse clients.
2020/2021 Fiscal Year Audited Financials

**Revenue**
- Government: $4,953,228
- Contributions: $1,839,776
- Foundations: $1,616,685
- Donated goods & services: $3,586,306
- Rental Income: $264,900
- Special Events: $500,638
- Investment, program & other income: $2,034,318
- **Total Revenue**: $14,795,851

**Expenses**
- Emergency Services: $9,422,866
- Stability Services: $1,690,517
- Housing and Community Development: $276,726
- Management & General: $950,068
- Fundraising: $1,178,373
- **Total Expense**: $13,518,550

**End-of-Year Balances**
- **Total Assets**: $16,007,873
- **Total Liabilities**: $4,560,662
- **Total Net Assets**: $11,447,211

**Giving Level $100,000+**
- Alliance for Housing Oakland County
- Baldwin Society Supporting Older Adults
- Michigan Renaissance Festival
- NeighborWorks America
- Salvation Army, Eastern Michigan Division
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- United Way for SE Michigan

**Giving Level $10,000+**
- Amazon Detroit Office
- Ascension Michigan
- Bank of America
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- Borg Warner
- City of Royal Oak
- Community Foundation for Southeast MI
- Great Heights Charitable Fund
- McGregor Fund
- Michigan State Housing Development Authority
- NeighborWorks America
- Oakland County
- NeighborWorks America
- Salvation Army, Eastern Michigan Division
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- United Way for SE Michigan

**Giving Level $5,000+**
- Arts, Beats & Eats Foundation
- Bank of America Private Bank
- Bank of America Private Bank
- Birmingham Unitarian Church
- Blue Cross Complete
- Birmingham Unitarian Church
- Blue Cross Complete
- Roger and Joann Bonahoom
- Jacqueline Buchanan
- City of Farmington Hills
- City of Ferndale

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**Our Supporters**

Thank you to each of the 6,039 supporters who contributed to our mission in 2021. Your contributions have given help and hope to thousands of families and individuals in our community. We could not continue our life-changing work without you.

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“I don’t think they know how much they give a person. You go from such a dark, dark place. And then there is Lighthouse and they give you hope.” - Ajayla

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“Lighthouse is great – it helps you to get back on your feet.” - Tatisha
Lighthouse cannot provide assistance to so many families in need without your help! Be a part of our community’s response to poverty. To volunteer, advocate, or donate please contact us at beacon@lighthousemi.org or 248.920.6000.

CONTACT
248-920-6000
www.lighthousemi.org

@LighthouseMichigan  @Lighthouse_MI  @LighthouseMI

Lighthouse  HandUP  SOS  Spercahousing group