



Covenant House Michigan

2011  
Annual Report



# Principles

## **Immediacy**

Kids come to us in crisis, desperately requiring help. We provide for their basic human needs - food, clothing, a shower, and medical attention - immediately.

## **Sanctuary**

Kids trying to get off the street are often scared and mistrustful. We protect our kids from violence and degradation by providing safety.

## **Value Communication**

We show our youth, by example, that wholesome, caring relationships are based on trust, respect and honesty.

## **Structure**

Street life is unstable and unpredictable. We provide structure and a reasonable set of expectations to give our kids a chance to focus on their futures.

## **Choice**

We help youth make positive choices. We give them the encouragement they need to believe in themselves and to change.

# Vision

Covenant House will continue to fulfill its mission by providing shelter and services to children and youth who are homeless or at great risk. In the spirit of open intake, services will be offered to all youth who seek help, with priority of concern and commitment to those for whom no other service is available.

# 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 Board of Directors



Jane Abraham, Abraham Strategies, LLC

Sister Xavier Ballance, DC, Providence Hospital

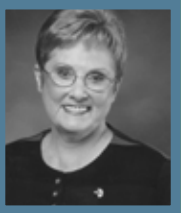


Chelsea Caraballo

Jeffrey Jorissen, Sun Communities, Inc.

Eleanor M. Josaitis †, Focus: HOPE

Amyre Makupson, Amyre's Ink



Kimberly Comer Mulqueen, Deloitte Consulting

Waltraud E. Prechter, World Heritage Foundation

Michael G. Sarafa, Bank of Michigan

William F. Senatore, Smith Barney, Inc.

Ravinder Shahani, Acro Service Corporation

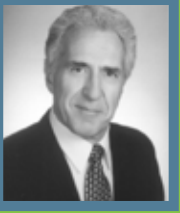


Rich Thompson, MST Steel Corp

Dan Weingartz, Weingartz Supply Co. Inc.

Catherine Palazzolo, Board Secretary

Trisha Wolfe, Board Treasurer

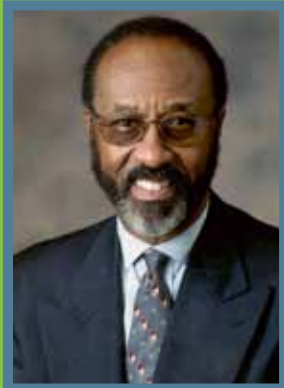


Leonard C. Wolfe, Dykema Gossett PLLC provides Pro-Bono legal services.





William Matthews  
Board Chair



Lawrence Givens  
Vice-Chair



Sam G. Joseph  
Executive Director

**Dear Friends of Covenant House Michigan,**

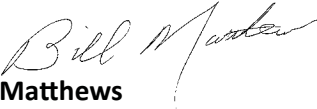
**We have completed another successful year at Covenant House Michigan (CHM) and continued to carry out our mission, helping our kids realize their value and reach their full potential.**

**Along the way, however, we lost our beloved friend and long-time board member, Eleanor Josaitis, who spent her life laboring for social justice and opportunity for disadvantaged people. Eleanor was an icon for civil rights and achieving dignity for victims of our society, including our kids. She will be missed by all.**

**At CHM we strive to create a family like atmosphere for our kids and for that matter everyone involved, including board members, staff, volunteers, and all of our friends and supporters. This atmosphere provides our kids with the support, love, trust and respect that they have sorely been unable to obtain in their early years. With this support they are encouraged to face the challenges of the world, improve their level of education, and contribute up to their full capabilities.**

**We thank you for becoming part of the family and through your generous sharing of time, spiritual support and financial contributions, providing us with the resources to carry out our mission now and for many years to come.**

**Sincerely,**

  
**Bill Matthews**  
Chairman, Board of Directors

# highlights



Covenant House Michigan is a faith-based nonprofit organization that provides hope to homeless, runaway and at-risk youth ages 13-22. We provide shelter, educational and vocational programs, as well as other support services, to help youth overcome hurdles such as homelessness, unemployment, inadequate education, violence, drugs and gangs. Our goal is to redirect them onto a path toward meaningful and successful adulthood.

We call our organization a nonprofit homeless ministry, and it is, but this definition falls so short of what Covenant House really means to the kids who come here. To those who pass through these walls and find love, support, encouragement, friendship, and hope...We Are Family.

## 8,968 youth served this year

6,005 served through Street Outreach

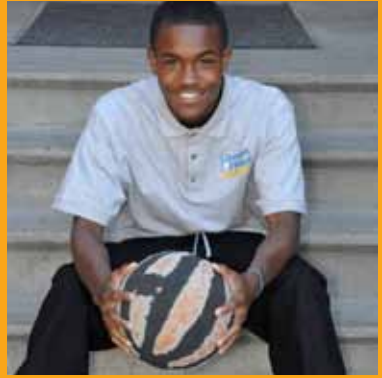
53 youth served in Crisis Center

68 youth served in ROP

2,542 youth served in Community Service Centers

113 youth graduated from the Academies

253 volunteers served our youth this year

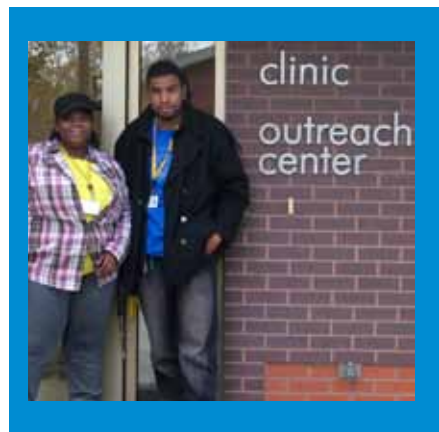


because  
of you





# Outreach referrals



Our outreach team is the hands and feet of CHM on the streets. They are there in the dark places reaching out and providing a glimmer of hope to those still too scared to reach out and ask for help. Outreach goes to them, builds relationships and waits patiently for that moment when a kid decides that maybe it is worth trusting again, maybe it is worth giving Covenant House a try. In a moment of crisis they can always give us a call and be reassured that although others may have abandoned them, we are always here.

"I always tell them, the moment you step in this van you have a chance to change your life. Once they make the decision, you can just see the burden come off them," says Danny, Outreach Worker. "It's hard, even scary for a kid to trust us and go to a new place. What helps is that they know they are going somewhere where they don't have to move around, where they can stay in one place and get something to eat every day." Even when a kid isn't ready for our help, even when they've gotten kicked out of numerous shelters and things seem helpless, outreach doesn't give up.

As Stephanie, Outreach Manager says, “If we don’t keep trying, if we aren’t willing to try one more thing to get these kids the help they need, who will? These kids don’t have parents that are present to them, they don’t have anyone advocating for them. We need to be their parents. We have to fight for them and get them the help they need, the help they deserve.”

Danny describes his work as a relationship with siblings. “When I started working here I was the same age as a lot of these kids. I always try to treat them as equals; if they do something to lose my respect it’s time to play big brother. At the same time they teach me so much about gratitude and humility. We meet so many people in our work, about 5,000 a year. They are all so different and it teaches me so much. It is such a blessing to me to be here.”

# Our Crisis Hotline 1-800-999-9999

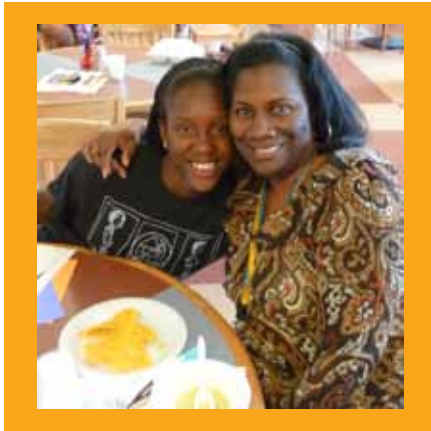




In so many small ways being a family means so much. Staff members constantly go beyond the call of duty to help our kids. It might be a pair of shoes for their high school prom, an extra moment to chat in the ROP office about a personal struggle that one of the kids has, or a smile and hug when crossing paths on campus. CHM is not an institution, it is a place to call home. And although our residents can't stay here forever, they know we will always be here for them.

So many of our kid's stories involve abuse and neglect. They come in need of a place to live, but moreover a place to regain their sense of self, to regroup and find hope. They need unconditional love to break down the walls of mistrust and fear that have built up in their hearts. When they come here they may not know what to expect, but they want to be welcomed, loved and respected.

Recently, one of our residents mentioned that she used to live right down the street and never realized what Covenant House Michigan was. When she found herself in need of shelter, she looked online and called various places looking for a place to stay. When she called CHM something clicked. "I talked to Mr. Evans on the phone. He was so warm. Then when I got here the person who checked me in also made me feel welcome. I knew I wanted to be here."



shelter  
clothing  
food





life skills  
counseling



When you talk to the staff, they feel the kids are part of their family too. One staff person was looking for a job and found CHM, thinking it was a good organization with a good cause. When she started here she didn't think she would have much chance to interact with the residents since her position was in the main office. That impression quickly changed, now the kids often stop by just to say hi, or chat about the latest goal they've achieved. She loves it!

Here we all work together. The kids are our most important priority. The paperwork has to get done, and it does, but we know that the reason we exist, the purpose in our every effort, is to make sure that our kids leave here as every proud parent wants, prepared for their future. We want them to be successful, to know that there is a warm loving family behind them who cares about their future and is supporting them with love, encouragement, and prayers.

As Ms. Alexander, one of the campus social workers, always says, “Family is whoever is there for you. It is not just blood relations, but those people who get you through the hard times, the ones who are there for you no matter what.” Here at CHM, we see this happen all the time. The homeless find support, the lonely find purpose, and our kids find a family.

Our kids become family to each other. They work through problems together, share advice, and build long lasting relationships. They encourage each other to move forward and share in the success.

This past summer one of our former residents passed away. Although it was very sad that this young man lost his life, it was beautiful to see that his Covenant House family was there. Former and current residents, staff and volunteers filled the church for his funeral and shared memories of this young man and the connections they made through Covenant House.





Covenant House Academies are an extension of the Covenant House family. So many kids drop out of school because they don't have anyone cheering for them to succeed. Where others have failed to educate, we are graduating hundreds of kids because they know we genuinely care and want the very best for them. This year our schools finished their first year under the new management company Youth Vision Solutions. The changed curriculum and wraparound services proved to be a significant improvement for the kids and the schools.



As part of the 'Total Me' program, Covenant House Michigan's internship program offers our young people the skills they need to get and maintain a job. Our kids work with staff in several departments on the CHM campus and in our three schools. They not only learn skills associated with their specific department; they are learning to communicate effectively, becoming responsible and punctual, and gaining self confidence.

To date 581 students have graduated from Covenant House Academies with the help of their Covenant House Family.

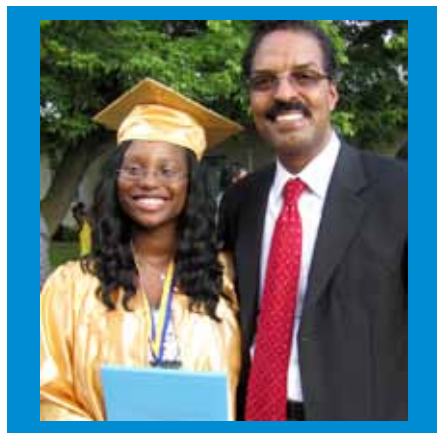


education  
job skills





shining  
moments





Through the good times and bad we make sure our kids know we support them. When they're feeling down they come to us to talk through a problem or seek advice. They run excitedly to tell us they got their first job, passed a test or learned a new skill. Even after they leave, they send announcements that they have graduated college or are getting married. They come back to visit because we have been their family when they needed someone most. And they tell other kids to come to us for help, because we WILL help and care for them.

Our Covenant House family works together to serve a mission of love and respect and because of this, God always provides for us.

# Our Covenant



## Our Donors

We couldn't provide for our kids without the help of the community. Our donors become part of this family. For them CHM represents more than a tax write-off at the end of the year. Many start by sending a donation and eventually stop by for a visit. When they see the campus and meet the kids they realize what an impact their gift has. This changes them as much as their gift changes the lives of our kids. One donor who had no children of her own joined the Parent Club and told us, "Now I'm a parent!" Another donor, also childless, is putting CHM in her will. "It's for the kids," she says, "I'm kind of partial to the kids." So it's not just the kids who find family here, it's all of us who become involved in Covenant House. Together we form a family.

# House Family



# Our Volunteers

Our volunteers become part of our family too. Many come to help out with one particular area and end up wanting to do more. A recent college intern joined us hoping to learn more of the business side of a non-profit and ended up volunteering to teach swing dancing lessons to our kids. Needless to say, she almost cried when it was time to head back to the University. "I promised the kids I'd find a free day in the fall and stop in for lunch with them. I'm really going to miss them all."





Covenant House Michigan has a volunteer house where people can serve in staff positions for six months to a year. Volunteers commit themselves to our mission and our kids by living in community and sharing their love and gifts. This past year eight live-in volunteers have been a part of the Covenant House Family.

# Our Impact

## We love to brag about our kids!

Once homeless, Danielle and Christian are on the road to success. Danielle came to Covenant House in 2007. She was forced to choose between bettering her life or finding a second dead end job and continuing to live with her cousin. Danielle chose school and homelessness. She knew the only way she could better herself was to get out of her environment and become educated. Danielle had nowhere to go and no one to turn to. She was told about Covenant House. "This is going to sound weird, but I was actually excited to come to Covenant House. I had never lived in a shelter or group home, but Covenant House was my opportunity. People genuinely cared about me, wanted me to go to school and get my life on track." The staff helped her enroll in Community College and get her first job. Today she is a junior at Wayne State studying special education. She also works at Target and has her own apartment. "Covenant House was my window of opportunity," she says. "Covenant House is something special; it's actually too good to be true."



Christian came to CHM in 2009 and lived with us for over a year. His family had struggled with homelessness; in fact both his sister and brother lived at Covenant



House too. Christian believes Covenant House is so important because young people have a safe place to stay. "They help you find a job and they feed you really good," says Christian smiling. Covenant House helped him learn to express his feelings and control his anger. It also helped him find a job at McDonalds where he has continued to work and was recently promoted to Manager in Training. He also has his own apartment and is saving money to get his car fixed. Christian is motivated to succeed. "I want to prove that I can make it and that I won't be homeless again."

**Visit our website for more stories about our kids.**

# Covenant House Michigan Statement of Activities

*For the year ended June 30, 2011*

## CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER REVENUES

### Contributions

Contributions from Individuals, Foundations and Corps	\$ 1,071,106
Branding Dollars	1,422,000
Government Grants	659,387
Net Revenues from Special Events*	59,425
Contributed Services and Merchandise	130,518

**Total Contributions** 3,342,436

### Revenue

Investment Income	
Interest Income	17,120
Net Realized and Unrealized Loss in Value of Investment	6,516
Management Fee Income	6,684,085
Other Revenue	1,427

**Total Revenue** 6,709,148

**Total Contributions and Revenue** 10,051,584

## EXPENSES

### Program Services

Schools/Community Service Centers	6,155,009
Outreach	289,569
Public Education	282,300
Shelter and Crisis Center	1,406,549
Rights of Passage	1,142,643

**Total Program Services** 9,276,070

### Supportive Services

Management and General	325,996
Fundraising	160,283

**Total Supportive Services** 486,279

**Total Expenses** 9,762,349

**(Decrease)/Increase in Net Assets** 289,235

Net Assets, Beginning of Year 6,688,800

Net Assets, End of Year 6,978,035

\* The net revenues from special events consists of \$80,308 less the \$20,883 cost of direct benefits to donors.



8,968 youth  
served this year



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313.463.2000

