He has made everything beautiful in its time.  

Ecclesiastes 3:11

OUR MISSION
Responding to the human hurts and hopes of persons in Lake County who are homeless by providing emergency shelter, care and guidance, in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ.

OUR STAFF

Executive Director: Judy Burr
donor@projecthopeonline.org

Social Services Director: Denise Jones
support@projecthopeonline.org

Aftercare and Project Hope Coordinator: Tonya Abney
aftercare@projecthopeonline.org

Families Moving Forward Program Coordinator: Sarah Powell
families@lakefmf.org

Volunteer Services Director: Missy Knight
volunteer@projecthopeonline.org

Finance Director: Marian Ruckert
finance@projecthopeonline.org

Development Director: Michael K. Lawrence II
development@projecthopeonline.org

Grants and Public Relations Coordinator: Stephanie Devers
grants@projecthopeonline.org

Property Manager: Bryan Bossert
property@projecthopeonline.org

Administrative Assistant: Kelly Tanner
office@projecthopeonline.org

Clinical Consultant: Jennifer Dugan

CONSOLIDATED, UNAUDITED INCOME/EXPENSE STATEMENT
Ecumenical Shelter Network of Lake County, Inc. | July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016
(Project Hope for the Homeless, Aftercare, Families Moving Forward)

TOTAL INCOME: $767,381.68

Donations: $275,633.62
Grants: $457,715.73
Special Events: $49,279.24
Interest: 147.47

TOTAL EXPENSES: $785,909.48

Program: $588,649.05
Administrative: $151,344.73
Development: $61,310.08

Adjusted income/expenses ($18,527.80)
Audit completed by Laura MacDonald, CPA

HOW ARE FUNDS SPENT

- **Direct Service to Guests: 78%**
  This includes shelter, social services and volunteer directors, and Families Moving Forward and aftercare salaries, shelter utilities, laundry, transportation, supplies, food and beverages when needed, and security deposits

- **Administration: 16%**
  This includes salaries for the financial director, administrative assistant, partial salary for the executive director, and office supplies

- **Development: 6%**
  This includes the development director and grants coordinator salaries, and fundraising and publicity expenses. You will notice an increase in fundraising this year due to restructuring our development efforts. Due to our size, we have 50 grants to administer and wish to make an investment into the lives of our donors who help us restore hope and renew lives. The fruit of this focus should be reflected next fiscal year.

Cover and publication art:
Volunteer Kay Bull, a talented artist, works with guests to take discarded rocks and turn them into the stunning, beautiful pieces you see displayed in this report. This provides guests with a creative outlet that allows them to channel their emotions into a piece they are proud of having created.
Dear friends,

Keeping up with God is not easy but it has been marvelous! It has been a year of tremendous change and growth for the organization!

Our trustees, administration, site staff, volunteers and supporters are to be commended for their flexibility and hard work establishing funds and practices to best respond to the vital needs of those we serve. 2015 began with us adjusting from the big move of Families Moving Forward from our leased space at First Baptist Church of Painesville to their new dedicated, child-friendly space on Freedom Road. Our volunteer base nearly doubled with opportunities to serve in either the family or adult shelter.

In 2015, 2-1-1 reported turning away more calls for shelter than ever before in our history – 1,800. This led us to work diligently to increase our bed capacity from 35 to 50 beds by the end of 2015.

In the midst of all this activity, we continued our day-to-day efforts combating the overall issue of homelessness in our community. We serve in a variety of county and regional programs as participants in the strategic planning of larger systems that educate others and bridge gaps for those without homes.

We wish to make special mention of three individuals: Fr. Jerry Bednar, Ph.D., J.D., our chairperson, who received the Medical Mutual Pillar Award in 2015 for his exemplary non-profit leadership; Tom Loomis, a long-time volunteer, who received the ESN Blessings Award for his dedicated and meritorious service to the shelter; and Brian Roth, who retired in April 2016 after 22 years of service (12 as a volunteer and 10 as a residential assistant). Congratulations!

We chose to begin a new focus on our financial friends this past year. The Lake Geauga Fund of the Cleveland Foundation awarded us a significant grant to bolster our development efforts. We reorganized our development department and our team is ready and positioned to invest in the lives that invest in our guests’ lives. We also published our first book, *Hope Lives*, which includes stories of transformation.

Thank you for helping us to restore hope and renew lives.

Yours in Service,

(Rev) Gerald J. Bednar, Ph.D., J.D.
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Judy Burr
Executive Director
In addition to our participation in the Citizen’s Circle, providing assistance with re-entry of former inmates into the community, we also serve on the Coalition for Housing & Support Services, educating others and working on affordable housing issues.

As members of the Lake Ohio Continuum of Care, we worked on “Code Blue,” an emergency response to homelessness when temperatures were below 10 degrees wind chill and Project Hope was full. We helped train volunteers from Life Brand Cowboy Church, Life Spring Church and St. Mary’s Painesville host sites with standard guidelines. Kudos goes to these churches and community volunteers for opening their doors so that no person lost a life in the inclement weather!

On site, Denise Jones, social services director, the on-call supervisors and her team of 25 staff, work effortlessly and passionately to ensure that every individual has every opportunity to be successful. Professional trainings are offered each month by our administrative team, professional facilitators, or Jennifer Dugan, our clinical consultant. In 2015-16, these topics included: Boundaries and Confidentiality, Communications, CPR/First Aid, De-escalation Techniques, Mental Health Symptomology, Motivational Interviewing, Narcan, Non-violent Crisis Intervention, Operation Street Smart, Safety and Security Protocols, Self-Care, and Trauma-Informed Care.

On July 11, 2015, we held our first Freedom Road Run; we held our second on June 25, 2016. Between the two events, we raised more than $5,000, that helps us provide emergency shelter, care and guidance for our guests.

In our first event, we had 69 walkers and 68 runners; in our second, we had 36 walkers and 93 runners.

Thank you to Windsor-Laurelwood Center for Behavioral Medicine, our title sponsor both years, and Greater Cleveland XC and Second Sole Mentor for the chip timing and promotion. Bubbles-n-Swirls has made a beautiful finish line arch each year, and Dyson has kindly let us use their parking lot for participants. Good Greens and Bruegger’s Bagels provided snacks for this year’s event, and Junie Baloonie donated beautiful engraved finishers’ plaques.

On May 9, 2016, we held our annual dinner and auction. This innovative event had the incredible support of Ladies & Gentlemen Salon & Spa, who provided makeup, outfits, music, and more in a fashion show that featured former guests and current community partners. More than 150 people attended the event, which raised more than $18,000 toward shelter operations.

Other event sponsors included:
- Gold: E. Dake Plumbing, Lubrizol Corporation
- Silver: Fredon Corporation, JLP & Associates
- Bronze: Mercedes-Benz of Bedford, Ron & Karen Schafer
We wrapped up the *ESN Strong Foundation* campaign for the 5,200 square foot addition and began *Operation 50 Beds* to increase bed space.

Special thanks need to go out to all of our *Operation 50 Beds* campaign grantors:
- Anonymous Gift of $25,000
- Cleveland Foundation
- First Merit Bank
- Miracle on Erie Street
- Mort & Iris November Fund
- Painesville Community Improvement Corporation
- Lubrizol Corporation

We held our first ever donor reception, just prior to Valentine’s Day 2015, which gave us the opportunity to share progress and get to know our friends better.

Our development director position transitioned to a full-time role and we welcomed Michael Lawrence II. Our new grants and public relations coordinator is our own Stephanie Devers.

We are preparing to launch the *From Seed to Sustainability* campaign – based on “A well-cared for seed produces abundant fruit.” We are focusing on becoming sustainable at this new level of operations prior to any future program expansion.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**In 2015…**
- 234 individual adults found shelter, care and guidance in the single adult shelter side of Project Hope — another 97 stayed in Families Moving Forward.
- 75% of adults at both Project Hope and Families Moving Forward arrived with a substance addiction, mental illness, or both.
- Project Hope provided 11,950 shelter units, or the total number of nights provided from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. every day of the year.
- 69% of Project Hope guests transitioned to a better quality of life in 2015!

**From January-June 2016…**
- 172 single adults received shelter, care and guidance at Project Hope (in addition to 64 parents and children at Families Moving Forward).
- 78% of adults at both Project Hope and Families Moving Forward arrived with a substance addiction, mental illness, or both.
- Project Hope provided 7,081 shelter units.
- 86% of single adult guests transitioned to a better quality of life in 2016!

**KEY PARTNERSHIPS**

* Action for Recovery
* Beacon Health
* Crossroads
* Extended Housing
* Family Planning Association
* Forbes House
* Lake County Free Clinic
* Lake County General Health District
* Lake County Sheriff’s Dept.
* Lake-Geauga Recovery Center
* Lakeland Community College nursing program
* Laketrans
* Lifeline (2-1-1)
* Morley Library
* Children’s Programming
* New Directions for Living
* Ohio Saves
* OSU Extension Office
* Painesville Township Fire
* Salvation Army
* Signature Health
* Various church groups sharing testimonies, Bible studies and worship
FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD

The children and parents could not be any more pleased with the family space. Parents are within line of sight from their children and are able to relax thanks to their secure surroundings and get a brief respite when children nap or go to sleep for the evening. The children’s needs are being made a top priority and with the help of our partners we are taking efforts to ensure parents have resources to help them succeed.

Sarah Powell was welcomed as our Families Moving Forward Program Coordinator. Sarah is the perfect “fit” as she had nearly a decade of expertise with our population prior to FMF’s existence and was on the task force that was instrumental in creating the family shelter. She expanded staffing, brought additional partnerships to the program and increased our positive transitions to 100%!

The children not only experience less trauma in the new family facility, you can hear their giggles as they play in their newly dedicated Debra Ann November play area, made possible by Mort and Iris November. The larger equipment includes a life-sized playhouse, picnic table, and bench, granted to us by Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeastern Ohio.

“It is not like your typical shelter. There is love there. It is Christian based. I felt welcomed, like I belonged there. I didn’t feel judged. If you just stay, and work with the program you’ll get the help that you need, especially for your children.” — R.W.

“The two boys waved at me as I passed the ramp at Project Hope for the Homeless. I had first met them when I was volunteering on the family side of the shelter. I was immediately impressed with their mom, who takes parenting quite seriously. I was equally impressed with the friendliness and the behavior of her children. The social worker was helping her sort through papers and listings that could assist her. If I have learned anything in this last year and a half, it is that the those who are blessed to be at this place are by and large men, women and children of good character who for one reason or another have become homeless.” — B.L.

OPERATIONS

restoring hope. renewing lives.

PROJECT DAYS

A very special thank you to the following groups that assisted our property manager, Bryan Bossert, with anything from cleaning, organizing, painting, building shelves, pouring foundation, packing lunches, installing equipment or other small projects and beautification of the property.

* Boy Scouts of America
* Central Congregational Church
* Cornerstone Friends Church
* Eagle Scout Peter Kunka Jr. built a new shed outside the shelter
* First Federal of Lakewood (United Way Day of Caring)
* Girl Scouts of America
* Church of the Holy Angels
* JLP & Associates
* Key Bank
* Kirtland Christian Fellowship
* Maxim Healthcare
* McKinley Center
* Mentor United Methodist Church
* St. Gabriel’s students
* St. Gabriel’s Day of Caring
* Stars & Stripes
* Willoughby Hills United Methodist Church
Our volunteer base nearly doubled with opportunities to serve in the family or adult shelters. Missy Knight, volunteer services director, was challenged with scheduling, training and managing many more caring servants. As a result, she trained “volunteer” volunteer coordinator, Bridget Sulzer to assist her in tours, inquiries and other duties.

We ended 2015 with 137 volunteers in the Project Hope adult shelter and 112 volunteers for Families Moving Forward. In fiscal year 2016-17, nearly $160,000 of service was donated in the form of meal donors and site volunteers! Thanks to our volunteers, we are not only saving that much in funds, but we also use this value as leverage to bring in additional resources. Our volunteers are worth their weight in gold.

Missy has begun to cross-train volunteers as much as possible since we are finding that once they serve on site, our volunteers enjoy serving both populations in three separate areas:
- Project Hope for the Homeless: Two volunteers serve from 5:30-7 a.m. and three serve from 7-11p.m. every day of the week. They oversee chores being completed, serve meals, hand out lunches, provide informal oversight, and help to restore hope and renew lives.
- Families Moving Forward: Two volunteers serve from 1-4 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 7-9 p.m. on the weekends, serving meals, playing with children, and helping to build resiliency one family at a time.
- On-site packing lunches, organizing inventory, and supporting administration, and off-site raising awareness and support.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

In 2015…
- 57 children were at Families Moving Forward, through no fault of their own.
- 40 parents arrived at Families Moving Forward with their children, ready to build resiliency and a new life.
- Families Moving Forward provided 2,542 shelter units, or the total number of units of care provided from 1 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- 74% of Families Moving Forward guests transitioned to a better quality of life!

From January-June 2016…
- 41 children were at Families Moving Forward.
- 23 parents arrived at Families Moving Forward.
- Families Moving Forward provided 987 shelter units.
- 98% of Families Moving Forward guests transitioned to a better quality of life!

**KEY PARTNERSHIPS**

- Crossroads
- Extended Housing
- Family Planning Association
- Forbes House
- Lake County Free Clinic
- Lake County General Health District
- Lake County Sheriff’s Department
- Lakeland Community College nursing program
- Laketrans
- Lifeline (2-1-1)
- Morley Library
- Children’s Programming
- New Directions for Living
- Ohio Saves
- OSU Extension Office
- Painesville Township Fire Department
- Salvation Army
- Various church groups
In 2015, there were 54 households that were involved in the aftercare program, including 70 adults and 38 children or 138 individuals.

Tonya Abney, aftercare program coordinator, had 58 new participants. She distributed 155 care packages and facilitated two groups each month — one social event and one informational workshop.

A grant from the Ridgecliff Foundation has made the aftercare program possible since its inception in 2007.

The mission of lending extra support and guidance to guests upon transition has greatly reduced the overall recidivism in the shelter. It is often the only support or an added support to those who are struggling with mental health and/or chemical dependency issues.

Thanksgiving baskets complete with a turkey and all the fixings were donated by Truline Industries to 30 households in need. Christmas gifts were made available through our wonderful donors though our Christmas adoption program.

Sydney Winner, a 13-year-old volunteer, organized the annual Hope Shoppe through her church (Cornerstone Friends) and other partners to provide gifts for current or formerly homeless children to obtain gifts free-of-charge for their siblings or parents. Sydney birthed this event at age 9. At the Hope Shoppe, about 30 children shop, have their gifts wrapped, get family photos and enjoy crafts or decorating cookies.

“I’m involved in the aftercare program. What I love about it is, when we are low, I don’t have to buy toiletries, dishwasher soap, those little things really help us out a WHOLE lot. I haven’t had to shop for it yet! It’s given in such an abundance.”

R.W.

**ANNUAL AFTERCARE-SPONSORED EVENTS:**

- Celebration Service: Each year, we thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed on Project Hope and its programs. Former guests take this time to thank volunteers and staff for their help and guidance, share their incredible stories of transformation, and come together in a powerful time of worship.
- Annual Dinner and Freedom Road Run: Former guests share their stories and enjoy thanking the community for supporting the programs at Project Hope.
- Summer picnic: Former guests, staff and volunteers come together for a summer cook-out, games, face painting from Bubbles-n-Swirls, and fun.
- Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons: Thanks to the generosity of the community, former guests can come together for a donated, filling luncheon, time to share and fellowship, and receive much-needed in-kind support, through Thanksgiving dinner baskets from Truline Industries, Easter baskets, and Christmas presents from caring community members.
- Hope Shoppe, put on by Sydney Winner and Cornerstone Friends, allows children who currently live or formerly lived at Project Hope to pick out Christmas gifts for their families, teachers, and others in their lives.
- Monthly meetings with topics ranging from budgeting and current events, to healthy living and game days keep guests connected and on-track.