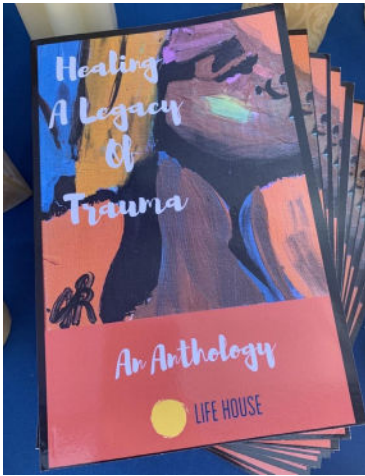




2021  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

LIFE HOUSE  
*Duluth*

## Pausing. Noticing. Being. Jordon Eunison-Chisti, Executive Director



This past year we celebrated 30 years of serving our homeless youth in the community. We had the honor of giving Mary Robillard, the founder of Life House, a tour this past August. We shared stories about the history of how Life House has evolved over the last three decades and how her vision has impacted many young people's lives. In reflecting on our time with Mary, her husband, and dear friend, I have been thinking about the unwavering commitment of our donors, businesses, and funders in supporting our work with youth in our community. Over the last 30 years, Life House has expanded to one of the most notable organizations serving homeless youth and young families in our region and state.

I have noticed what impact we are having on young peoples' lives through our expansion of programs. We have witnessed youth and young family's blossom whether it being sober for 6 months, passing a GED test, or moving into an apartment. We continue believing in possibilities as we calmly walk through the ever shifting uncertain socio-economic landscape that we are all navigating.

This past year we connected with Karen Nance, whose grandmother was Ethel Ray Nance born in Duluth in 1899. She is writing about her grandmother's experience growing up Black in Duluth. Through the generous introduction by DanSan Creatives, we had the honor of our youth spending time talking with her. From this conversation, we connected to Pa-Pro-Vi Publishing, who assisted us in publishing our first anthology, titled **Healing a Legacy of Trauma**. Below is a small excerpt from one of the youth's story:

*"No matter how much I am hurting, I have to remember that death is too easy. I must challenge myself to live. I have so much talent and knowledge to offer the world. I should not forget my significance. After all, one person can change the world. I want to be that person." by E.M., Learning from Attempting Suicide.*

This excerpt is a glimpse of how your contributions are impacting their lives. Every day, every moment, we are making an impact in some way. We are familiar with navigating crises, groundlessness, and an ever shifting emotional terrain when it comes to working with youth. We are their anchor. With your support, we witness their unspoken gifts of knowing how to be with uncertainty and thrive. Our young people have valuable assets that you are helping us lift up through stabilizing them in our programs.

We asked youth how they feel about our work in the community. One youth shared:

*"This is a balancing place. You can balance yourself out and get back on track."*

In this past year, we also continued diving into our work on equity, inclusion, and belonging. We are in the process of creating an Intercultural Development Plan. As part of this plan, we created a Cultural Humility Working Group, which centers Indigenous, Black, and People of Color as well as LGBTQ+ staff members. The purpose of this group is to generate opportunities for learning and create solutions to foster an organizational culture and youth programming where our differences and commonalities are supported and celebrated. We are committed to the lifelong learning process of this work.

Through compassionately engaging with our youth in a deeper, more holistic way, we continue to lift up our young peoples' stories as a way to heal from the pain and hurt they have experienced. We continue to watch them thrive because of your contributions.



# 2021 STATISTICS

806 youth reached through all programs  
7,137 meals served in the Youth Center  
541 visits to the free store  
230 Youth Center groups, classes & activities  
47 youth resided in Life House Housing program  
16 placed in Affordable Housing in the community  
12 youth stayed at Sol House - human trafficking survivors, for 1023 bed nights  
27 youth stayed at The Loft Emergency Shelter for 1509 bed nights  
200 youth provided Wellness Case Management Services  
56 youth received Substance Abuse Counseling  
15 active in "Sober Life" Recovery support group  
100 youth provided Academic support, 7 completed a degree  
124 youth received Employment support  
17 youth completed an average of 43 hours of paid job training  
in the Legitimate Hustle Program

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2021

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### EXPENSE

Futures	\$258,634	9%
Housing	\$1,497,511	51%
Youth Center	\$426,579	15%
Wellness	\$380,558	13%
Management/General	\$330,459	11%
Fundraising	\$30,722	1%
Total	<u>\$2,924,463</u>	

### REVENUE

Contributions	\$294,888	9%
Foundation Grants	\$462,563	14%
Government Grants	\$2,104,342	66%
Fundraising Events	\$80,493	3%
Program Revenue	\$225,762	7%
Other	\$34,707	1%
Total	<u>\$3,202,755</u>	

## FUNDING PARTNERS

- Archie D. and Bertha Walker Foundation
- Arrowhead Regional Arts
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- Cathedral Cares
- City of Duluth
- Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation
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- The Victory Fund
- Women's Foundation of Minnesota



\*Don't see your name listed? We apologize. Please let us know.

2021

## CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS

To celebrate our 30 years of service we held our second virtual Celebration of Success in May. The theme was Rooted in Hope, where we see past the darkness of the toughest situations and come away knowing we are all rooted in the bright light of hope and possibility. Chastity Brown shared her incredible voice and music with us for social hour prior to our program. We always enjoy working with Northern Waters Smokehaus who assisted us with food for our host kits for this event.

Even though we were unable to all come together in person during May, we took time to celebrate the accomplishments of our youth during a beautiful day in June at Central Hillside Park. We are grateful to Tig's Smok'n Pig BBQ who donated the meal and Crank & Dasher who provided ice cream for dessert.



# Being In Community

Life House has demonstrated over the years our commitment to working alongside our community partners. At the onset 2021, we began offering COVID-19 testing and vaccinations in our Community Gathering Space located in our new Imaginarium Building (16 N 1st Ave W).

Over the course of the year, Family Freedom Center utilized this space for their six week Family Freedom Start-up program. This space also provided us to work closely with the Duluth Youth Agency Council and support Denfeld Afterschool Happenings (DASH). As a prevention mechanism, staff have cultivated relationships through this program for youth to learn more about our programs.

Life House also responded and stepped up immediately to ensure Neighborhood Youth Services (NYS) did not close its doors to youth in the Central Hillside area last June. Our team committed to taking the lead for one year and assist the NYS team with the continuation of programming, activities, and support for the youth who walked through their doors.

We also cultivated deep relationships with local elders, community members and other organizations to walk alongside us and through the ever shifting landscape of the pandemic and emotional challenges that arose. Our human capacity and resilience has expanded as well as our young peoples.



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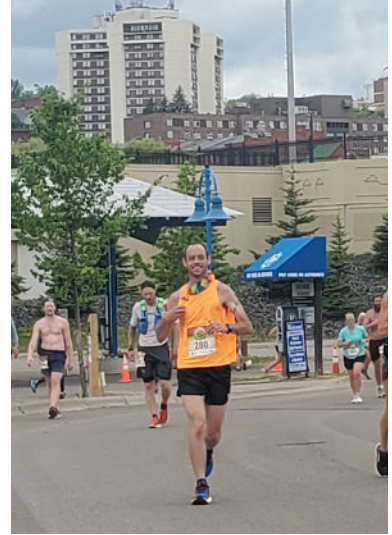
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## GRANDMA'S MARATHON CHARITY PARTNER

Life House was a Charity Partner for Grandma's Marathon. Our staff members Jordan, Marit, and Renita, ran the 5K, Miranda ventured the half marathon and our Executive Director, Jordon, went the 26.2 miles. We had many community members joining us to raise funds to support our work with youth. Our staff also volunteered and cheered runners on at one of the last water stations along the route. It was a beautiful weekend to be running.



# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

## NIIGAANII: SEEK YOUR POTENTIAL BILLBOARD BY IVY VAINIO

(Below) Niigaanii: Seek Your Potential billboard by Ivy Vainio – We have the honor of being the site for this beautiful billboard and this critical message being shared with our community.



## BREMER BANK

(Below) Bremer Bank gathered a wealth of goods for our youth moving into their first home.



## ROTARY CLUB OF DULUTH #25

(Below) The beauty of sharing a Thanksgiving meal with our youth.



## STAFF HOLIDAY PHOTO WITH THE CLAUSES

(Below) Every year we take time to celebrate the Holiday season with our youth. We have about 100 youth that join us in receiving gifts for themselves and their children, enjoying a meal together, and take photos with the Clauses. The Rotary Club of Duluth #25 provided a delicious holiday meal this past year for our youth and young families.



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- Affinity Plus Credit Union
- American Association of University Women
- AMSOIL INC
- Arrowhead Psychological Clinic
- Asbury United Methodist Church
- Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
- Barr Engineering Co
- Bell Bank
- Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica
- Borders Sports Bar and Grill
- Capri Investments
- Centricity Credit Union
- Charities Aid Foundation of America
- College of St. Scholastica
- Community Foundation for Delta County, Beaumier Donor Advised Family Fund
- Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, Don & Wanda Tracy Charity Fund
- CyberGrants
- CROSSTRAC EQUIPMENT, INC.
- Daybreakers Bowling League
- Deboer Automotive Services, Inc.
- Duluth Congregational Church
- Duluth Ice Dam Company LLC
- Duluth Police Department
- Duluth Superior Friends Meeting
- Entact, LLC
- Fidelity Charitable
- First United Methodist Church
- Fitger's On-The-Lake, LLC
- Forbes United Methodist Church
- Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick P.A.
- Gardner-Builders
- Give MN
- Hailey Sault
- Hanft Fride
- Happy Sleeper Mattresses
- Haunted Shack Volunteer Committee
- Hope Lutheran Church, Floodwood
- Hope Lutheran Church, Moose Lake
- IGO Legacy Hotel Group
- Irving Community Association
- Lake Superior Interfaith Community Church
- Jamar Company
- Kitchee Gammi Design Co.
- Kolar Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac
- Lake County Sex Trafficking Task Force
- Lakeside Presbyterian Church
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
- Maurices, Inc
- Members Cooperative Credit Union
- Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
- Meyer I Borgman I Johnson
- Meyer Group of Duluth, P.C.
- Minnesota Power
- M & L Properties
- National Financial Services LLC
- National Philanthropic Trust
- Network for Good
- North Shore Bank
- North Star Foundation
- Omega Centre International
- Piedmont Dental
- Pilgrim Congregational Church
- Raymond James Charitable
- Schwab Charitable
- Seeds of Abraham
- Sir Benedicts Tavern on the Lake
- St. Joseph's Ladies Guild
- St. Michael's Catholic Church
- St. Peter's Esther Circle
- St. Scholastica Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Program
- Superior Choice Credit Union
- T. Rowe Price Program for Charitable Giving
- The Boldt Family Fund, Inc.
- Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing
- Touch of Plasch
- Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA

\*Don't see your name listed? We apologize. Please let us know.

# BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

- Truist Comprehensive Distribution
- Your Cause-The Blackbaud Giving Fund
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- US Bank
- US Bank Wealth Management
- Valley Youth Center
- Vanguard Charitable
- Whimsy
- Wilson-McShane Corporation
- Wipfli
- Young Plumbing and Heating



Each year, countless businesses and organizations partner with us to provide caring support for the homeless and at-risk youth that we serve. THANK YOU.



## DEEP CLEANING OUR YOUTH CENTER

(Left) Members from Harbortown Rotary volunteered several hours to deep clean our Youth Center.



## SPRUCING UP OUR CLASSROOM AND OUTDOOR COMMONS

(Above) Affinity Credit Union helped to create a welcoming environment for youth in our Futures Education Program.

## BRAND NEW BIKES FOR YOUTH

(Below) The Pulkrabek Foundation donated funds to purchase bikes for youth.



LIFE HOUSE PROVIDES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY TO ALL QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, CREED, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, RELIGIOUS BELIEF, SEX, GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION, AGE, PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY, VETERAN STATUS OR OTHER PROTECTED CLASSIFICATION. LIFE HOUSE ENCOURAGES INDIVIDUALS WITH DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND MEMBERS OF THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY TO APPLY.