Transforming lives, one person at a time.

2019 Annual Report

www.houseofcharity.org
Overcoming Injustice: Louis’s Story of Success

Louis has worked hard to overcome obstacles that seem almost insurmountable. But now, he owns a restaurant and is looking toward opening more.

Four years ago, a series of events seemingly conspired to destroy Louis. First, his partner of eight years ended their relationship, leaving Louis homeless without warning. He spent two months living in his car until another program recommended him to House of Charity.

“I do have a felony record so it was kind of hard to get this place but the landlord and my advocate said ‘we’re going to give you a second chance.’ That just meant the world to me because you know, as a felon, I already can’t get places on my own. That was just right on time, I’m in a place, loving it, everything is great, start building my life. And then, boom…”

His cousin was killed; a man named Philando Castile.

A few days later, after taking his kids to a pool and staying at their mom’s house, he was arrested while driving home.

The charges? Throwing molotov cocktails at police the night before. Louis was shocked; he didn’t even know what a molotov cocktail was.

For two years, he fought the charges, knowing that if he lost, he would face a 20-year prison sentence. That’s how he met the woman he calls his guardian angel, Sarah.

She helped him get the charges dropped and figure out what to do next after losing everything because of a false arrest.

One day while they were chatting, she said he needed a job and asked how he felt about starting a food truck.

In the two years since Sarah asked that question, Louis served plant-based pop-ups that sold out in a few hours, purchased a brick-and-mortar building on Lake Street and became the sole owner of a plant-based soul-food making restaurant called Trio Plant-Based.

“House of Charity is a blessing to me still at this moment because I don’t get paid. I work seven days a week and I don’t get paid but I’m fine with that only because I know where this place is going.

Every person at House of Charity is a blessing because a lot of times when people are in this program, they’re alone. That moment of just somebody coming to see and talk to you is such a relief.”

From homelessness to a restaurant owner. And he’s not stopping there.

“My vision for Trio is to have one in each of our cities. In the middle of Black communities to change eating habits.”

He has faced more than any person should, but he doesn’t see it as a bad thing.

“It all came from an act of racial injustice. It’s our history. It’s my kids’ history, it’s your kids’ history. It’s history for our community. What happened and that we can share these stories with our kids and tell them that all bad situations are not always bad, they can turn out for good.

I face challenges every day being a black man; God made my skin thick for a reason, I experienced a lot of things in my life to get here, to serve the community healthy food and I know that’s my calling.”
Our Impact in 2019

104 clients were housed in our Supportive Housing

112 clients were housed in our Permanent Supportive Housing Program

82% of the people in the permanent supportive housing program remained housed for one year at the end of 2019

37% moved into independently leased apartments

203 clients were supported at our Day-By-Day outpatient treatment program

62,020 meals were served in our Food Centre

1,691 uses of our public shower

1,491 volunteers contributed

4,512 hours
2019 Financials

Statement of Financial Position

Assets
Current Assets:
Cash and cash equivalents - $194,412.82
Receivables – program services - $146,798.15
Prepaid expenses - $52,548.28
Other current assets - $
Total current assets - $393,759.25

Board designated investments -
$1,776,838.96
Property and equipment - $2,545,909.79
Other noncurrent assets - $
Total assets - $393,759.25

Liabilities and Net Assets
Current Liabilities:
Accounts payable - $203,751.18
Accrued salaries, wages, benefits - $117,162.70
Housing/remodel project payable - $
Government Overpayments - $251,821.87
Total current liabilities - $

Long-term debt - $773,869.25

Total liabilities - $1,346,605.00

Net Assets:
Unrestricted:
Board designated - $1,776,838.96
Undesignated - $1,573,838.38
Temporarily restricted - $18,048.89
Total net assets - $3,368,726.23

Total liabilities and net assets: $4,715,331.23

Statement of Activities

Revenues
Program revenue:
Transitional Housing - $1,388,576.32
Day by Day - $384,659.96
Housing First - $1,397,283.89

Contributions - $581,847.06
Government Grants – $
In-Kind Services - $133,833.28
Investment income - $
Interest Income - $27,857.60
Special Events net revenue - $
Other revenue - $506,925.04
Total revenue, gains, and other support - $4,420,983.15

Expenses
Program services:
Transitional Housing - $1,965,083.17
Food Centre - $
Day by Day - $500,278.74
Housing First - $1,351,707.57
Outreach - $61,620.13

Support services:
General/administrative - $562,902.45
Fundraising - $191,243.34

Total expenses: $4,765,668.68

Net change in net assets – $(327,636.77)

Net Assets
Beginning of year - $3,696,363.00
End of year - $3,368,726.23
Feed. Hunger impacts more than health. When you are fed, you can better pay attention in school or at work.

Hunger never takes a day off for the weekend or a holiday, so neither do we. Our Food Centre is open 365 days a year.

For 53% of our daily diners, the food they receive in the Food Centre will be their only meal all day. We provide stability and sustenance to some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

House. Housing is a human right and it is our priority to help people move from homelessness to independence.

A home is the foundation for life. When you are safe and have a place to call your own, not only can you focus better on recovery or education but you also have ownership over something that illustrates what you stand to lose.

Homelessness doesn’t discriminate. In the past year, the number of unhoused individuals over age 55 has risen 25%. There are currently more than 1,000 unhoused older adults in Minnesota.

Empower. Like Louis, when someone is empowered, they are not only motivated to better themselves. They become passionate about their community and neighbors.

Empowerment is a potent motivator. When clients walk through our doors and are no longer greeted with stigma, judgement or disgust, they begin to realize that their situation is not permanent or impossible.

The most powerful voice for change is that of the people who have experienced it. By empowering the individuals who have experienced substance abuse or homelessness, we are empowering world-changing advocates.
House of Charity was founded by Brother de Paul to feed and house the men he saw begging on or around Nicollet Island.

By spring of 1954, House of Charity had fed more than 50,000 meals on a few tables in a tiny warehouse on Nicollet Island.

Just months after celebrating 20 years, the first meal in the new Food Centre on Park Avenue was served on Thanksgiving Day.

Brother de Paul and 300 friends celebrated House of Charity’s 30th anniversary by paying “a loving tribute to the handicapped.”

500 people were served holiday dinner and given a small gift. Parents who couldn’t afford gifts for their children were given toys and books.

We’ve grown programs, improved volunteer engagement & gained powerful new leaders. In the coming months, we’ll complete construction on our Park7 housing project!
On October 7th, I officially joined House of Charity for my first job out of college. I love people and was humbled to take on a position that celebrated people who donated their time for our community members. My main priority was to be there for the volunteers, in person, and welcome first-timers by getting them set up. From there forward, I began observing, analyzing, and adjusting the volunteer experience from start to finish, ensuring that volunteers felt comfortable, confident, safe, and prepared!

In 2019, we had 1,860 volunteers who came to serve at the Food Centre for the first time. Including both newcomers and legacy volunteers, we had 2,413 total volunteers donate a total of 4,516 hours! Some of our big supporters this year were returning corporations and faith communities. Combined, they have given approximately 372 hours of volunteering and some have been volunteering for two decades! Not to mention, the Minneapolis Police Department gives back here too. We see them come in teams that sometimes include the Chief of police and the Mayor.

This year we had a variety of groups and individuals, from both Minnesota and Wisconsin. There was a group that may hold the record for longest commute, putting in about 2 hours of driving to get here from our neighboring state. Thank you so much for coming so far! (If you think you’ve got them beat, I want to know!)

It has been a wonderful experience these past eight months, and I love talking to volunteers about the history of House of Charity. My goals for the future are to continue improving the volunteer experience and to learn as much as I can about homelessness so I can be as informed as I can!

Volunteers

Academic Arts High School
Accenture/Navitaire
Affinity Plus
Allina Health
University of Minnesota “Alpha Sigma Phi”
Ameriprise Financial
Berkeley Risk
Best Buy Digital & Technology
Boston Scientific
Breck School
Briggs and Morgan, P.A.
Brooklyn United Methodist Church
Capital One
Chapel Hills United Church
Chase
Christian Heritage Academy
City & County Credit Union
Colored Organics
Companion Linc
Gonyea Properties
Converge Twin Cities
DeLaSalle High School
Dougherty Family College
EGK
Face to Face Academy
First Reformed Church
Fogg & Powers LLC
Fun2Raise
Further Marketing
Galliard Capital Management
Girl Scout Troop 20085
Google Cloud
Hiawatha Collegiate High School
Hennepin Health (HCMC)
Highland Bank
HLB International
ICF Next
Inspire Family
InterCorps Council of Minnesota
Intermediate District 287
Joy Church
JP Morgan Chase
Juel Fairbanks
Juxtaposition Arts
Kraus-Anderson
Lake Harriet Community School
LAZ Parking
Luther Automotive Group
Macalester College
Medica Product
Messiah Church
Metropolitan State University
Meyer Borgman Johnson
Minneapolis Police Department
Minnesota Womens Gymnastics
MJ Marketing Group
Minnesota Internship Center
Merck
New Creation Baptist
Peace Lutheran of Pigeon Falls
Pre-Med AMSA
Property Solutions and Services
Real Staffing
Red Cow
Robins Kaplan LLP
Sequel Response
Shermer
Sleep Number
SPS Commerce
St. Ambrose
St. Olaf University
St. Peter
St. Timothy Church
Synergy Marketing
Medtronic
Temple Israel
Temple of Aaron
Thrivent
Trinity Lutheran
University of North Dakota
University of St. Thomas
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
University of Minnesota
VMware
Voya
Wells Fargo
WeWork
A Note from Paul, our Development Director

I am writing to you during an extremely challenge time for the people we serve. This is a time marked by the Covid-19 pandemic, the tragic killing of George Floyd, and our Minneapolis community’s difficult efforts to rapidly find justice for Mr. Floyd and all Black, Indigenous, People of Color. While this report is about 2019, I find it impossible not to mention the impact of these events and recognize how much they will drive our work in 2020 and beyond.

The contributions of all our supporters in 2019 have built the strong House of Charity that has ensured that we were able to keep feeding, housing, and providing vital addiction and mental health services to people experiencing homelessness in Minneapolis during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you all so much for the generous contributions of your time, hard-earned money, and a huge variety of toiletries, blankets, food, and other gifts that are vital to the people we serve. The same donors have been sewing masks, finding hand sanitizer, and many other things to help the people we serve during the pandemic.

We are so grateful to have generous and loyal donors and volunteers. Seventy-five percent of our donors continued to give to us last year, and we had 12% more new donors.

Thanks so much to those of you who have given for so many years, and we are so happy to welcome those who joined our cause for the first time!
A Note from Deb, our CEO/Executive Director

Last year when I sat down to reflect on House of Charity none of us could have imagined what was ahead. Despite two global pandemics of racism and Covid-19, we have not only survived, but thrived. This is to the credit of a committed staff who has worked through many adversities. Highlights of the year include:

- Moving Shelf Of Hope to our Food Centre to keep a food shelf on the east side of Downtown.
- Beginning and completing Park7, a 61-unit apartment complex designed to meet the unique needs of our chronically homeless community including being the first building where those experiencing homelessness will be able to bring their pets. Residents will move in August 2020.
- Moving our Day By Day Program into First Covenant Church, providing much better space for counseling and allowing for better community collaboration.
- Juxtaposition Arts collaborated with our residents and diners to create a mural in our Food Centre.
- Strengthening our leadership team with strong professionals dedicated to the future success of House of Charity.

This was all achieved while ensuring necessary modifications to keep our staff, residents and diners as safe as possible from Covid-19. As everyone knows addressing the pandemic of racism is certainly not that straightforward.

We did however concrete steps to address the welfare and safety of our staff and residents from the insidious racism in our community. This included getting our staff to work safely through curfew, ensuring staff that their jobs would not be at risk for protesting, acknowledging the pain of our BIPOC staff, residents and diners and providing mental health support to those in need.

Moving forward we are recognizing Juneteenth as a holiday and have provided education about Juneteenth to staff and board members, we cut our official ties with the Minneapolis Police Department and are having hard conversations among our white board members in order for them to understand their obligation towards anti-racism as witnesses to the dire effects of our communities disparities. All of us at House of Charity acknowledge our responsibility to ensure that unlike the murder of George Floyd by the hands of those we pay to protect us, we will ensure everyday that we do not have a knee on the necks of those we serve.

A Note from Mark, our Board President

Dear Friends of House of Charity,

Your gifts of volunteerism, financial support and advocacy allow House of Charity to make a difference in our community by feeding, housing and empowering those in need. Clients count on House of Charity to help them in their most trying moments and will continue to do so in the future.

Over the past year, we’ve seen to see the impact that homelessness has on our community and how the problem is only worsening. COVID-19 has done nothing but amplify our community’s homelessness problem and the impact becoming unhoused has on our most vulnerable people. The murder of George Floyd and the resulting social justice movements have shed further light on the significant inequalities that exist in our community and how we must take new approaches to solve for systemic racism. Now, more than ever, our community needs House of Charity and House of Charity needs you!

I thank you for your support and ask that you continue to advocate for House of Charity and our clients when talking to friends, neighbors and colleagues. Together, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,
Mark Biedenfeld
Annual report can be viewed online at
www.houseofcharity.org/annual-report-2019

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