

**4 CORE**  
Programs



**17,850**  
NIGHTS OF SHELTER

**10,504**  
hours of counseling and support

**COUNTLESS**  
STEPS TAKEN

**THOUSANDS**  
of lives touched

Now We're  
**GETTING**  
Somewhere

**2017 Huckleberry House Annual Report**

See the numbers. And the incredible stories behind them.



## All young people are headed somewhere. Huck House helps them get home.

For the kids we serve at Huckleberry House, getting to a safe, supportive, and appropriate home is never a straight shot. Especially when you consider from where many of them come.

Issues such as violence, neglect, abuse, and poverty have taken their lives far off the beaten path. In many cases, the dangerous and devastating circumstances in which these kids grow up has stalled their development. Which means they often have to go backward, before they can move forward.

**But whatever the journey home looks like, Huck House helps youth through it.**

Sometimes that means giving them coping and communication skills so family arguments don't turn into violence. Other times, it's helping them learn how to budget, cook, and care for their own children so they can maintain a home of their own. And often, it's helping them navigate the system and get connected to resources that

can help them secure housing and move closer to their education and employment goals.

The fact is, we can put a roof over a young person's head. We can keep them off the streets. **But what we're really trying to accomplish is to get them "home."** Whether that home is with their family, another relative or friend, a foster family, or a home of their own, the important thing is that young people develop the skills and get the support they need to live safely and productively in a secure and stable environment.

Because every young person needs that foundation to get to a better place in life.

With your continued support, we can keep putting our community's at-risk youth on the path "home."

And that's getting somewhere every young person deserves to be.

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**24/7/365**

Hours of Operation

**17 Beds**

**5 Days**

average length of stay

Serving Teens Ages

**12-17**



**9,775**

Hot Meals Served

Young people in the Crisis Shelter get all their basic needs met, including 3 meals a day and access to hygiene items and clothing.

**4,140**

Bed Nights of Shelter Provided

That's a lot of kids off the streets—and in a much safer place.

**2,877**

Hours of Crisis Intervention

At the shelter, youth do more than watch TV or use SnapChat. They spend time working with counselors and their families to address the problems that brought them here and develop solutions that can help them go home.



# Crisis Program

## BY THE NUMBERS

**532**

Crisis Episodes Addressed

Whether kids are kicked out or leave home on their own to get away from difficult or dangerous situations, the Crisis Shelter is more than a respite. It's a place to tackle problems head on.

**92**

Safe Place Partners



White Castle restaurants, Columbus fire stations, and 24-hour Kroger stores helped 46 teens get to Huck House safely this year.

**NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE...**

**92%**

of Crisis Program teens returned to safe and appropriate housing

## **What it really comes down to is keeping kids safe at home—regardless of where “home” is.**

The goal of the Crisis Program has always been family reunification whenever possible. But sometimes, it simply isn't safe or appropriate for a young person to return home. The Crisis Program staff looks for alternatives in these instances to provide the best opportunity for a young person to feel secure and have his needs met.

### **Getting Johnathon “Home”**



When 16-year-old Johnathon came to the Crisis Shelter, he had been living on the streets with his mom, who was battling with drug addiction and post-traumatic stress disorder issues. After several weeks of sleeping behind a museum, Johnathon knew he needed to change his circumstances. He asked a Safe Place Partner for help getting to Huck House.

Because of his circumstances, Johnathon was approved for an extended stay at the shelter. Initially, Johnathon's mom went to the adult shelter, and she was closely involved with Johnathon's progress at Huck House. But, ultimately, mom continued to struggle with her own issues. Her participation with Johnathon and his counselors waned and eventually stopped all together.

While Johnathon felt a lot of guilt over leaving his mom—the two had been together through many tough times—he knew he wanted a different future for himself. His counselors helped him work through these feelings and start taking control of his own life. Johnathon reenrolled in school, applied for jobs, and learned other independent living skills, including how to use public transportation, during his time in the shelter.

Since family reunification was not an option for Johnathon, the Huck House Crisis Program team worked with Franklin County Children Services to find him an appropriate foster care placement. The foster family gives Johnathon the security he needs to continue focusing on his own goals.

*“Getting young people back home is always our goal. But home doesn't look the same for everyone,” says Melanie Gunther, Crisis Program Team Leader. “For Johnathon, a foster home made the most sense. By getting him off the streets and into a safe environment, he'll have his best chance to realize his potential. And that's a critical step in the right direction.”*

**38**

Safe, furnished apartments

**18 months**

of independent living support

**76 Youth Served**

ages 17-21

The Transitional Living Program provides safe, furnished apartments for homeless transition-age youth and their children for periods of 18 months. During the program, youth work on important life skills including how to budget, how to shop and cook, and how to maintain a clean and healthy home, and they get help practicing those skills in real life. These skills help them maintain permanent homes of their own when they graduate from TLP.

**13,710**

Nights of shelter provided

**546**

Hours of parenting support/mentoring

Many TLP youth have children of their own. The program teaches young parents essential skills for how to care for and enjoy their children.

**2,897**

Hours of community support and mental health interventions

Youth in the TLP program receive one-on-one and group counseling to address a wide range of emotional issues and challenges. They have opportunities to put the skills they learn in counseling to work in real life situations and fine tune those skills with the help of their team.

**Transitional Living Program**

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**264**

Hours of victim services

TLP offers a special track specifically for victims of domestic violence. Young people participating in the domestic violence project work closely with Huck House's Victim Specialist and the TLP staff to address trauma, rebuild a sense of safety, and decrease social isolation in addition to working on other independent living skills.



**56%**

of TLP graduates achieved education goals

Youth in the program get the support they need to finish high school and even go on to college. More than half of youth who finished the program this year earned a GED or diploma.

**72%**

of TLP graduates achieved employment goals

Young people need money to make ends meet and live successfully on their own. The TLP program teaches youth how to find, prepare for, and successfully maintain jobs.

**NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE...**

**97%**

of program graduates secured permanent housing

## It boils down to helping homeless youth not only survive, but thrive.

It's one thing to provide a homeless young person with a roof over her head. It's another thing to teach that person how to successfully maintain a stable home so she can focus on her goals and improve her life. The TLP program helps transition-age youth, ages 17-21, develop essential life skills that will serve them well beyond their time in the program.

### Getting Angel and Marcus “Home”



Traditionally, the TLP program works with individual young men or women. Some of them have children of their own. But when we met Angel, our program had the unique opportunity to help support an entire young family.

Angel was a good student with a lot of potential. But due to her mom's mental health issues, she frequently found herself out of the home without a place to stay. Then Angel became pregnant. Between trying to parent her daughter and find a stable place to live, Angel's school attendance began to suffer. Her high school counselor took notice and contacted Huck House.

The Huck House TLP team connected with Angel and her boyfriend, Marcus, when they were living in the family shelter, desperately trying to find a way to care for their infant son. When the family entered the TLP program, the young couple received the support they needed to flourish. With a safe place to stay, they were able to care for their son and focus on their individual goals at the same time. Both Angel and Marcus were committed to giving their son a better start in life than what they had experienced. And so, with their team's support, they worked hard to set and achieve goals. Ultimately, Marcus was able to secure a well-paying, full-time job while Angel finished high school.

As Angel and Marcus prepared to finish the program, their TLP team helped the young family secure permanent low-income housing. Marcus will continue to work while Angel attends Columbus State. The couple is using the skills gained in the program to parent their son and maintain a secure and healthy home for him and themselves.

*“Angel and Marcus are amazing young people with a true desire to improve their futures and break the cycle of generational poverty for their own child,” says Amanda Glauer, LSW, TLP Team Leader. “The TLP program provided the guidance and support they needed to learn how to make it on their own. Now, instead of a young family on the streets or in a shelter, they’re living independently and thriving. They just needed the opportunity to make that happen.”*

4

full time, graduate-level  
mental health therapists

Serving youth ages

12-22

and their families

## Ongoing Support

for tough family issues

Teens and families get opportunities to practice the skills they learn in counseling in real life situations. Counselors helps them fine tune their communication, anger management, conflict resolution, self-care, coping, and self-sufficiency skills

and better understand how to make them work in their unique situations. Counselors also help link young people and their families with community resources for housing, employment, education, and government assistance.

989  
Hours of  
community  
support

2,096  
Community-  
Based  
Appointments

In addition to meeting with youth and families at Huck House, our therapists provide counseling in homes, at schools, or wherever it is most convenient for the people we serve.

190  
Hours of diagnostic  
assessments

When we first meet with young people, we learn about the issues they're facing as well as their strengths. Then we work together to help young people identify goals and determine the best ways to reach them.

## Family Support Program BY THE NUMBERS

1,351  
Hours of  
counseling

We help young people and their families with issues including crisis, trauma, school problems, substance abuse, housing issues, mental health issues, coming out problems, and immigration and assimilation difficulties.

100%  
of Transitional  
Living Program  
youth

Huckleberry House counselors work with all young people in the TLP program to help them address emotional challenges and work through the issues involved with homelessness.

NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE...

184

families received ongoing support to identify strengths, develop coping skills, and change negative behaviors



## **It's ultimately about helping teens and families use their strengths to build a safe and supportive home.**

Whether we're working with young people from our Crisis Program, youth from our Transitional Living Program, or families who come to us specifically for counseling, the young people and families we serve all face tough challenges. But they also have strengths. We leverage those strengths to help teens and families develop skills they can use to tackle their issues and to grow as individuals and families.

### **Getting Brian "Home"**



When parents and teens don't see eye to eye, it can lead to a lot of fighting and discord. Sometimes, it leads to depression and even suicidal thoughts.

While 16-year-old Brian was fortunate to have a safe home and a loving family, he wasn't really "at home" there. When his school referred him to the Family Support Program, Brian wasn't eating. He wasn't going to school. In fact, he wasn't doing much of anything other than spending time in a dark room all day.

His parents were clearly concerned. But a lack of communication as well as cultural differences—Brian's parents are immigrants, while Brian was born and raised in the U.S.—made it hard for them to connect. Brian's mom was pushing him to "snap out of it" by getting involved in activities like sports. Problem was, Brian just wasn't interested. And the things he did want to do were not supported or appreciated by his parents. The constant conflict led to severe depression.

During counseling sessions with Brian and his mom, we helped the family find ways to better understand each other. When mom gave permission for Brian to pursue some of his own interests, such as drama club and math club, Brian began to come out of his shell. In return, Brian also started to show interest in the things that were important to his parents, such as learning about and participating in the family's culture.

*"We knew this family had a lot of strengths and that mom clearly wanted to help her son, she just wasn't sure how," says Abbey Wollschleger, LISW-S, Family Support Program Team Leader. "By working with them on communication skills, we helped this family better understand each other and create a much more supportive home. Brian has shown tremendous improvement. He's not just getting out of bed and going to school now; he is enjoying his life and his relationship with his family."*

**661**

**Youth Outreach Runs to connect with at-risk young people on the streets**

**10 am–5 pm M-F**

**YOP Shop provides a place for youth to find us**

**Serving Youth Ages 12-24**



When young people can't or won't come to Huck House, Huck House goes to them. The Youth Outreach Program is the only local program to bring counseling and support to teens on their own turf.

**615**

**hours of street-based case management**

We connect with young people in schools, at community hangouts, and on the streets. We help the youth we meet with their education, food, safe housing, and employment needs and goals so they can create paths to self-sufficiency.

**3,558**

**youth contacts and**

**2,534**

**adult contacts made**

YOP workers spread the word about Huck House and resources that are available to help.

**104**

**Cases opened/ managed**

Beyond making connections and providing immediate assistance, YOP workers provide longer-term support through street-based or YOP Shop-based counseling.

**Youth Outreach Program**

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**160**

**YOP Shop visits and calls**

New in 2016, the YOP Shop provides young people with a place where they can find us. At-risk teens can visit the YOP Shop between 10 am and 5 pm Monday through Friday to talk with a Youth Outreach Program worker.

**8**

**Community Events**

YOP hosts and participates in unique community events designed to engage youth as well as adults who have connections to young people.

**NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE...**

**80%**

**of youth who connected with us through the YOP Shop were referred to support services**

**78%**

**of YOP street-based counseling clients were linked to support services**

## It comes down to getting kids connected to services and support that can help.

At-risk young people too often fall through the cracks because they do not know where to go for help, or they have a hard time asking for support. The Youth Outreach Program addresses that need by meeting kids where they are and by providing a safe, convenient place for youth to find us. Between our youth outreach runs and the YOP Shop, our goal is to find as many at-risk youth as possible and help them connect to services and resources that can support them in developing life skills, setting and reaching goals, and creating a road map to the future they want.

### Getting Amelia “Home”



When 22-year-old Amelia came to the YOP Shop, she was homeless and pregnant. She had a juvenile record, an eviction, and was legally blind. While she had a strong desire to get her life on track and provide for her baby, she had no idea where to start.

At the YOP Shop, she found the direction and guidance she needed. First, Amelia’s YOP counselor helped her make and get to doctors’ appointments so she could get contacts and literally see more clearly. Then the YOP program helped her put her future in focus, too.

By connecting Amelia to the Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program (JRAP), Amelia received the support and guidance she needed to start the process of getting her juvenile record expunged, removing a major obstacle to reaching her future employment and housing goals. Her YOP Shop team also helped her find resources to aid in her job search. The team was able to secure temporary housing through a program that provides support for parenting mothers. Then, the YOP Shop workers advocated on Amelia’s behalf to secure a permanent apartment for her.

To help Amelia provide the best start for her new baby, Huckleberry House staff set up an online baby shower drive. Through generous donations, Amelia received many baby necessities including clothing, a crib, and diapers. With these supplies and the support of her team, Amelia was ready to welcome her new baby.

Instead of Amelia and her baby facing life on the streets, today they are secure in their own home. Amelia continues to work and provide for her daughter. With the YOP Shop’s support, she continues to see the future she wants and to move closer to it every day.

***“So many times, young people like Amelia have the inner strength and the desire to reach their goals and make a better life for themselves,” says Kyra Crockett, YOP Team Leader. “They just lack the guidance and support to make the right choices and connect with the right resources to make that happen. YOP and YOP Shop are working to change that and to help young people like Amelia get, and stay, on the right path.”***

# Scholarship Program

BY THE NUMBERS



# \$12,000

TOTAL DISTRIBUTED

# 3

William R. McNamara  
SCHOLARSHIPS

**MARKIA  
SMITH**

**\$3,000  
McNamara  
Scholarship  
Recipient**

**APRECIA  
WILLIAMS**

**\$3,000  
McNamara  
Scholarship  
Recipient**

**SHAWNA  
SANTURELLO**

**\$3,000  
McNamara  
Scholarship  
Recipient**

# 2

Soltis-Homer  
SCHOLARSHIPS

**LEAH  
RAWAHNEH**

**\$2,000  
Soltis-Homer  
Scholarship  
Recipient**

**JUDAYZA  
JOHNSON**

**\$1,000  
Soltis-Homer  
Scholarship  
Recipient**

**It's about moving young people closer to their dreams.**

Every year, Huckleberry House administers scholarship funds to youth in our programs who have committed to pursuing their higher education goals. Scholarship funds are generously provided by Huckleberry House supporters who believe, as we do, that nothing should stand in the way of a young person's drive and desire to succeed.

# Fiscal Year 2017 Huckleberry House Supporters

At Huckleberry House, getting youth to a better place wouldn't be possible without the generous support of individual and corporate donors who believe in our work and our commitment to helping young people move through challenges and move toward their goals. Whether this is your first year giving or your 10th, we are grateful to the tremendous support of all of our contributors.

## Individual Donors

Donors in bold have supported Huckleberry House for five or more consecutive years.

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their contributions  
to United Way.

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Donors in bold have supported Huckleberry House for five or more consecutive years.

9 Round

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SPOTLIGHT:**  
**Why Give to  
Huckleberry  
House?**



“Being new to Columbus, I was interested in learning about and serving the community. Through my employer, I heard about Huck House and was immediately drawn to the cause. I learned more about the Huck House mission, and I knew I had to get involved.

Here’s why... As an adoptive parent, I had the chance to interact quite a bit with my daughter’s birth parents throughout the pregnancy and birth. Through our conversations, I learned about their past. They both had faced very tough times growing up, which led to continued troubles in adulthood. Their struggles brought them to a place where they were not going to be able to keep their child, an incredibly difficult decision to make. I saw their struggles, and I knew that, had they had a safe place like Huck House available to them, life could have taken a much different path.

I see them, my daughter’s birth parents, in the many faces of the clients that Huck House serves each and every day. I will forever be indebted to them for giving me the gift of being a mother. Today, my daughter is a beautiful, loving, funny, smart five-year-old. Truly, I view her birth parents as heroes for making such a difficult choice that ultimately benefited my daughter and gave her the opportunity to thrive in a healthy and loving household.

By supporting Huck House, I feel I am giving a little something back to them – possibly helping others who might be in similar situations now or in the future. I feel lucky to be associated with such an amazing organization.”

Tiffanie Hiibner  
Huckleberry House Board Member and Supporter



# Huckleberry House Financials

## Revenue

Grants	1,925,961
United Way	128,000
Medicaid	643,993
Purchase of Services and Discretionary Funding	318,508
Contributions	135,783
Special Events	61,214
Interest and Dividend Income	45,053
Net Gain on Marketable Securities	-99,348
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>3,357,860</b>

## Expenses

Transitional Living Program	1,334,403
Crisis Shelter	1,086,621
Family Support Program	267,163
Youth Outreach Program	260,357
Scholarships	9,658
Fundraising	74,249
Administration	318,487
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,350,938</b>

## 2016 Scholarship Recipients

### William R. McNamara Scholarship

Markia Smith	\$3,000
Aprecia Williams	\$3,000
Shawna Santurello	\$3,000

### Soltis-Homer Scholarship

Leah Rawahneh	\$2,000
Judayza Johnson	\$1,000

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