

Expect MORE

**Current circumstances
don't dictate our futures.**

**Hope, resiliency,
and the right support do.**

**The Huckleberry House
2018 Annual Report**



Expectations can be a powerful thing.

In the Columbus area, 2,000 young people are currently homeless. Thousands more are unstably housed or struggling with unsafe, unsupportive, or abusive relationships at home. At Huckleberry House, we work relentlessly to ensure that not one of them is without hope.

It is our belief that, regardless of current circumstances, **every young person has the right to expect more for their lives. More from their community. And more from themselves.**

That's why we've built our programs around doing so much more than providing an alternative to the streets. Yes, we offer warm beds, hot meals, and a place for at-risk and homeless young people to turn for the most basic of needs. But stepping in to address the current crisis is not, and never has been, our end game. We work with youth, and, often, their parents, to identify and build upon individual and family strengths, develop new skills, foster community connections, and open doors to opportunities for more stable, more meaningful, and more rewarding futures.

We expect more *for* the young people and families we serve. And we expect more *from* them in return, asking them to leverage their unique abilities and actively participate in setting and achieving their own goals.

In short, we expect them to thrive.

This attitude and approach go a long way in giving young people the confidence they need to rise above their situations, realize their own capabilities, and take advantage of the resources available to begin changing their lives for the better.

In 2018, Huckleberry House has been fortunate to partner with like-minded people and organizations who share our expectations for our community's youth. Highlights from the year include:

- A partnership with the Columbus Metropolitan Library network to provide 23 new Safe Places for young people to connect with Huck House's services.
- A collaboration with Community Housing Network to build the first permanent supportive housing in our area for homeless youth aged 18 to 24.
- Stronger relationships with area schools to provide better access to counseling.
- A new grant from the Columbus Foundation to expand hours at our YOP Shop.
- Our first annual sleep-out to raise awareness of youth homelessness along with more than \$76,000 in funds to support Huck House programs.

On the following pages, you'll learn more about these initiatives and our programs. You'll meet some of the youth we've worked with and learn how Huck House has helped them change their outlook and the direction of their lives. And you'll see how, with your continued support, we can keep raising the standards for all youth in our community, regardless of current situations.

Together, we can expect more.

And when we do, we can help our young people achieve more.

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Crisis PROGRAM

We don't help kids run away from their problems.

We help youth and families address issues head on.

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, the Crisis Shelter provides young people, ages 12 to 17, with a safe alternative to the streets when it's too difficult or becomes unsafe to stay at home. Young people often come to us to escape fighting, abuse, or violence in the home. They typically stay five to seven days. While here, youth can expect a warm bed, hot meals, and access to clothing, hygiene items, and other necessities. But they are also expected to actively participate in counseling—with their family members included whenever possible—in order to address the problems that brought them here. Family reunification is always the ultimate goal.



HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE
Crisis Program

The Expectation

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO VISIT THE SHELTER TO ESCAPE FAMILY PROBLEMS CAN WORK ON SOLUTIONS AND BUILD SKILLS TO ADDRESS THOSE ISSUES, SAFELY RETURN HOME, AND PREVENT FUTURE CRISIS SITUATIONS.

2018 RESULTS



90%
of Crisis Program teens returned to safe and appropriate housing.

When it isn't safe or possible for a teen to return to the family home, Crisis Program counselors help teens identify housing alternatives that meet each youth's needs.



438

Crisis Episodes Addressed

Crisis Case Managers help teens and their families address the root causes of fighting, discord, and other unhealthy situations at home.



77

Safe Place Partners

White Castle restaurants, Columbus fire stations, and Columbus Metropolitan libraries throughout the community help young people get safely to Huck House.



196

Hours of diagnostic assessments

Teens who come to the Crisis Shelter have the opportunity to meet with Licensed Social Workers from our Family Support Program and develop a specific plan with goals for addressing family, education, and employment needs.



10K+ **Meals and Snacks Served**

Youth enjoy healthy food along with plenty of food-for-thought as they share meals and conversation with Huck House staff and other young people in the shelter.

2,955

Regular Bed Nights of Shelter

Most teens stay at the shelter for five to seven days, giving them and their families the space and time they need to cool down, think things over, and work on strategies to address family problems.



1,162

Bed Nights of Extended Shelter

Huck House partners with Franklin County Children Services to provide longer-term Family Support respite care and Emergency Shelter Care as needed.

1,192

Crisis Support Hours

Teens and their families meet with Crisis Case Managers and other Huck House staff to talk through issues at home and learn skills for improving interactions with family members.



416

Additional Counseling Hours

Young people and their families often meet regularly with Huck House Social Workers during their time in the shelter and after returning home to discuss their plans and continue to work toward their goals.

Partner Spotlight

Columbus Metropolitan Library

Safe Place
Partnership



COLUMBUS
METROPOLITAN
LIBRARY

At-Risk Youth Can Now Expect More from their Local Libraries

“Our staff members do quite a bit more than recommend good books. As a public library serving 23 different communities in central Ohio, we are uniquely positioned to respond to children in danger and direct them to the help and resources they need.”

– PATRICK LOSINSKI, CEO, Columbus Metropolitan Library

Huck House welcomed all 23 locations of the Columbus Metropolitan Library to the Safe Place program this year. These partnerships extend Huck House’s front porch to young people in need all throughout the community.

A young person who needs assistance getting to Huck House can visit a library (or any other Safe Place Partner) and let a staff member know he is there for the Safe Place program. The staff member then contacts Huck House, and Huck House will make transportation arrangements for the youth to get safely to the shelter.

“Our Safe Place partners play a critical role in helping us send the right message to kids in our community. We want young people to know they’re valued, that the community cares, and that help is available. By becoming Safe Place partners, the Columbus Metropolitan Library is embracing this opportunity and helping us get the word out that young people have safe alternatives and that it’s okay for them to start expecting more.”

– MELANIE GUNTHER, Huckleberry House Crisis Shelter Director



MEET
Olivia
Johnson

A CRISIS PROGRAM CLIENT*

Sometimes problems can get so intense that young people feel they have no other choice but to run. When Olivia was 16, she and her mother had many disagreements about school and goals. They couldn't communicate. They couldn't see eye to eye. "We were both having such a difficult time," Olivia's mom says. Olivia just wanted to get away from everyone, but she didn't know where she would go.

Her mother knew Olivia didn't have a plan. Through an outside resource, Mom received a referral to Huck House.

Olivia and her mother came to Huck House together. "The staff greeted us and told us about the program," Mom recalls. "I remember feeling so comforted and thanking God that my daughter was going to have a safe place to stay with people supporting her. I was still really concerned, and I didn't know what was going to develop from our experience. But in the meantime, I knew she was going to be safe."

Olivia stayed at Huck House for five days. She remembers feeling scared and nervous at first. "But I felt better having some time away. It was peaceful at Huck House. It gave me time to clear my head and figure out what I wanted to do."

Mom, too, took the time away to think through the situation and what she could do to improve it. "Having that break was really important to both of us. It gave us each time to really consider how we were going to move forward," Olivia's mother says.

At the end of Olivia's stay, she and her mother, along with Olivia's father, attended a family counseling session. The counselors helped the family talk through its goals and develop strategies for communicating, conflict management, resolution planning, and more. "We had a really good understanding of what we were going to do next. And when I took my daughter home, we both realized how much we missed each other. We were ready to figure out how to move forward," Mom says.

Olivia graduated high school. She has plans to start working soon and possibly attend college to pursue a degree in design. She is also starting to think about getting her own place at some point down the road. But for now, she's content to be living at her mom's, and the two agree they have found a "happy place."

Looking back, Olivia admits that, if it were not for Huck House, she could have ended up on the streets. She says she would encourage other young people who are facing problems to give Huck House a try. She says, "Don't be scared. You can do it. You can make your life better, and Huck House can help."

**The names and photo in this story have been changed at the family's request.*

Transitional Living PROGRAM

**Some young people
can't go home.**

**But with the right guidance,
they can make homes of
their own.**

Designed to serve young adults ages 17 to 21, the Transitional Living Program is an 18-month program created to help young people build the skills and confidence they need to live successfully on their own. Teens who enter the program can expect a safe, furnished apartment and guidance and support to develop a range of skills, including cooking, budgeting, keeping house, and even parenting for young people who have children of their own. In return, program participants are expected to actively set and work toward education and employment goals and to participate in counseling to address emotional difficulties and challenges. The young people in the program are not looking for a temporary respite from their problems. They're eager and willing to do what it takes to become self-sufficient and lead happy, productive lives of their own.



HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE
Transitional Living Program

The Expectation

WITH THE RIGHT SUPPORT, YOUNG ADULTS WHO DO NOT HAVE A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME CAN DEVELOP THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO SUCCESSFULLY SUPPORT THEMSELVES AND MAINTAIN JOBS AND HOMES OF THEIR OWN.

2018 RESULTS



100% of Transitional Living Program graduates secured permanent housing.



75 transition-age young people served

TLP always runs at capacity. When a young person graduates, we quickly refill the apartment and restart the process with another youth eager to get his or her life on track.



616 life skills hours

TLP helps young people not just survive, but thrive. They work hard to master essential skills needed to support themselves and live independently in the community.



41 furnished, safe apartments

TLP provides temporary housing for young people and their children in secure buildings that are regularly staffed by Huck House employees.

313 hours of victim services

Ten TLP apartments are designated for young people who have experienced domestic violence. These apartments are in a secure, alarmed building that is staffed around the clock by workers trained in safety planning and victim services.

649 parenting hours

Young people in the program who have children of their own receive help with building skills to care for and enjoy their children.



15,242 nights of shelter

Instead of couch surfing or living on the streets, young people and families in our TLP apartments stay safe while receiving guidance and support to work toward a better future.

46% of program graduates achieved employment goals

While some young people who completed the program are still pursuing educational goals full time, 16 of the 35 graduates were employed.



80% of program graduates achieved education goals

Of the 35 young people completing the program in fiscal year 2018, 22 exited TLP with diplomas or GEDs in hand. Another six were regularly attending high school or a GED program. Five TLP youth were taking college courses!

2,312 hours of mental health intervention



While they are learning to fry eggs and pay bills, TLP youth also spend time addressing the significant issues that have left them without homes. Our counselors help young people build skills to cope with past abuse, neglect, and family discord and gain a healthier outlook on the future.

Partner Spotlight

Community Housing Network Partnership



The Marsh Brook Place project will provide the first local permanent supportive housing for homeless youth aged 18 to 24.

“As a great city, we have an obligation to make sure every citizen is sharing in that success story. This is our collective call to action.”

– ANDREW J. GINTHER, Columbus Mayor

Youth homelessness is a big problem in Columbus. And community leaders are recognizing the need to provide more and better solutions. After years of application and funding considerations, in summer 2018, Huckleberry House and the Community Housing Network were selected by a group of funders, including the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, to partner on a new solution to better address the unique needs of homeless young people in our community. Together, and with support from other local and national organizations, we launched the Marsh Brook Place project, which will provide the first local permanent supportive housing for homeless youth aged 18 to 24.

Marsh Brook Place, which will be located at 5981 Chatterton Road, will provide 40 apartments for homeless young people. TLP staff will provide programming and life skills training for the youth staying at Marsh Brook Place.

Unlike Huck House’s current TLP apartments, the stay at Marsh Brook Place will not be time-limited. Young people will have more time to further their education and find employment while working with TLP staff to develop essential skills and to address the many challenges they’ve faced in their short lives, which include neglect, trafficking, violence, and witnessing their parents’ opioid abuse. Construction on Marsh Brook Place will begin in spring 2019 and be completed in 2020.

“There is always more demand for TLP apartments than we can meet. Having this opportunity to connect and work with more young people who are eager to improve their lives is exciting and definitely a step in the right direction. It’s critical for the community to realize that homeless young people need more than a roof over their heads. They need support and new skills so they can really change their lives. Marsh Brook Place provides us with another option to help make that happen.”

– AMANDA GLAUER, Huckleberry House Transitional Living Program Team Leader



MEET Leomon McKee

A TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM GRADUATE

Leomon's first day in his TLP apartment was the first day he would have been officially homeless. Problems at his mom's house had escalated to a point where he couldn't stay there. And his couch surfing days were wearing thin. He literally had his bags packed with nowhere else to turn.

"I know this guy who pushes a cart around and collects cans. I figured that was going to be me one day if I didn't make some changes," Leomon says.

Fortunately, TLP provides the ideal environment for making change. Leomon remembers sitting down with his team for the first time and starting to talk about his goals and what he wanted for his life. At the time, without a high school diploma, he was struggling to find a job and make any money. So, with his TLP team's help, he determined to tackle that problem first.

"They helped me learn how to study, and they would give me rides or help me get bus passes so I could get to my tests," he said. "It's like they became my new family, pushing me, when I needed it, to make sure I did the right things and worked toward the goals they knew I wanted to achieve." Leomon successfully earned his diploma and soon landed a job at Kroger. But Leomon wanted more for his future. His true passion is videography and he has dreams of one day producing films.

In return for agreeing to produce a film to help promote the TLP program, Leomon's team helped secure a grant that provided funding for a new laptop. Leomon used the money he earned from his job to add new graphic design programs whenever he could. He created a TLP video that Huck House currently uses, and he has plans to produce a feature-length film about the program.

Beyond the opportunity to pursue his passion, Leomon learned critical skills for grocery shopping, cooking, and budgeting that he continues to use today. Since graduating from the program in 2016, he has lived independently in his own apartment, and he continues to work at Kroger. He's also rebuilt his relationship with both of his parents, using the skills and perspective he gained during sessions with his counselors to reconnect with his family.

Leomon's [TLP videos](#) are one way he's working to spread the word about Huck House and the support young people can find here. His dream is to see a program like TLP in every major city in the U.S. by the time he is 50.

"Everyone else gave up on me. I had no other options. But at Huck House, I found people who pushed me toward my goals. It changed my life. Now I hope that the videos I'm making can help change someone else's life, too."

Family Support PROGRAM

**Family problems
are a given.**

**With the right
support, resolving
them can be, too.**

No family can expect life to be perfect 100 percent of the time. The reality is, all families face challenges, and some are tougher to address than others. But all families, and family members, have inherent strengths that can be nurtured and developed to help overcome problems. The Family Support Program at Huckleberry House works with young people, ages 12-22, and their families to address conflict, adjustment issues, depression, anxiety, grief and loss, trauma experiences, and issues at school. We help them raise their expectations for a better family life by addressing the underlying causes of problems and supporting the development of effective, healthy coping skills.



HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE
Family Support Program

The Expectation

ALL FAMILIES HAVE PROBLEMS. THEY ALSO HAVE STRENGTHS THEY CAN USE TO DEVELOP NEW SKILLS, ADDRESS ISSUES, AND BUILD A HAPPIER, HEALTHIER LIFE AT HOME.

2018 RESULTS

203

youth and their families received ongoing support to develop communication, anger management, conflict resolution, coping, and self-sufficiency skills.



2,123

counseling hours

Family Support Program therapists work with young people and their families at Huck House, in their homes, at school, or anywhere it is convenient for them to meet.



865

community support hours

Therapists work with teens and families to practice skills learned in counseling in real-life situations and raise their expectations for success.



58
victim
services
hours

Therapists are specially trained to support young people and families who have been victims of violence.



121 **parenting**
support hours

When young people in our programs have children of their own, we help them not only improve their own lives, but also work on skills to ensure their children have healthier, happier futures as well.

Partner Spotlight

The Graham School Partnership



The Graham
School

encounter the world, engage the mind

Huckleberry House brings counseling services to school.

“The collaboration with Huck House gives us more trained hands on deck to address student needs, run group sessions, get parents and guardians involved, and ensure our staff has the resources it needs to address issues inside and outside of the classroom.”

– RACHEL WIDMER, School Counselor, The Graham School

The Graham School, located in Northern Columbus, is a public charter high school serving approximately 250 students annually. The school’s mission is to prepare urban students in Central Ohio for lifelong learning and informed citizenship. As part of that effort, school staff takes a proactive approach in addressing their students’ social and emotional needs. In fiscal year 2018, school counselor Rachel Widmer reached out to the Family Support Program to see how Huck House could help.

In response, Huck House sends licensed therapists to the school to work with students weekly. The students are learning how to advocate for themselves, and more and more students are asking for time with the Huck House counselors. Beyond getting help with their educational and family challenges, students are getting connected with additional services available at Huck House and with community resources, such as COTA bus passes. Based on the success of the partnership with The Graham School, the Family Support Program hopes to extend services into additional schools and recently began working with the Arts & College Preparatory Academy on Columbus’ east side.

“Many of the young people we support really struggle in school. Having the opportunity to meet them in that environment on a regular basis and address issues where they are happening, in real time, is invaluable. We’ve built relationships with students and teachers, bringing coping skills and strategies into the classroom. And we’ve connected with families and are starting to have more family sessions outside of school. This partnership has really flourished, and it’s a model we hope to use in other schools in the future.”

**– ABBEY WOLLSCHLEGER, LISW-S
Huckleberry House Family Support Program Team Leader**

MEET Madi Fant



A FAMILY COUNSELING PROGRAM CLIENT

“When you’re silenced by trauma, it’s hard to speak out,” Madi said during her speech at the 2018 Huck House Youth Awards. Yet, due to the hard work she’s put in with her Huck House counselors, Madi was able to stand up and share her story. And she has plans to one day write a book to encourage other victims of abuse and trauma to do the same.

Considering that three years ago, Madi was in the hospital recovering from a suicide attempt, she’s clearly come a long way. Throughout her young life, Madi has dealt with a great deal of abuse and trauma at the hands of different people in her life—people who threatened her, intimidated her, and made her feel useless. She knows what it’s like to live in fear, feeling haunted and completely hopeless.

Now, she also knows what it’s like to be heard, believed, and supported. Madi first connected with Huck House in the summer of 2017. She works with a team of counselors who help her deal with her past, address her current situation, and develop the community, social, and independent living skills she needs as an adult.

“Finding Huck House was almost too good to be true,” she says. “Having a safe place with counselors around to help has given me the opportunity and the motivation to start addressing my past and doing the work I need to do for my future.”

With her team’s help, Madi was able to set goals and work toward them one by one. She completed high school and got a job that she enjoys. She is also able to have a relationship with the family members she wants in her life, and she is working toward moving back into her mother’s home.

As she said in her speech, “The question I’ve fought with my entire life is, how do we receive justice from past experiences with cowards where we have no control? I recently learned an answer. We receive it from the acceptance of ourselves and our loved ones.”

While Madi says there is still a lot of uncertainty around her future and what she will do next, she does hope to one day write a book that will help other young people dealing with similar situations. But the most important thing for her is knowing she does have a future to look forward to, whatever it may hold.

“Everything in my life has changed because of Huck House. There was a point when I felt like it was all over, and I would never have anything,” she says. “Now I’m seeing I have a future and that there are things that I can and want to do with it.”

Youth Outreach PROGRAM

**No young person should
have to go it alone.**

**We provide support,
when and where it's
needed.**

Solving life's toughest challenges isn't easy. It's even harder when you're young, you have no one to guide you, and you have no idea where to turn. The Huckleberry House Youth Outreach Program helps resolve that issue by taking our services and message to the streets. As the only local program that brings counseling and support to teens on their own turf, we find at-risk young people, ages 12-24, where they are. And we work to remove barriers and connect them to community resources that can meet their needs and help them become self-sufficient. In 2016, we opened the YOP Shop, located on the bus line in the heart of the Linden community. The YOP Shop offers young people a place to meet with YOP staff and start forming the connections they need to succeed.



HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE
Youth Outreach Program

The Expectation

WITH A LITTLE DIRECTION, YOUNG PEOPLE STRUGGLING WITH DIFFICULT SITUATIONS CAN FIND WAYS TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS AND BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT.

2018 RESULTS

90% of youth visiting the YOP Shop and **95%** of street-based clients were linked with community support services that provide ongoing assistance to meet educational, employment, and safe housing needs.



4,272

youth contacts made

YOP workers connect with young people in schools, at community hangouts, on the streets, and at the YOP Shop.



2,328

adult contacts made

We actively reach out to adults in the community to help us spread the word about our programs and other resources that are available to help.

718

hours of outreach

YOP workers make sure at-risk youth know help exists, and we make sure they know where and how to get it.



485

hours of individual case management

We work with young people on the streets and at the YOP Shop to set and reach education, food, safe housing, and employment goals.

42

ongoing cases

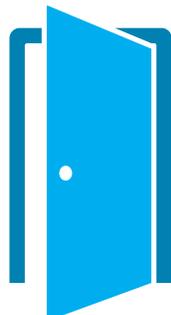
We provide as little or as much support as young people want and need. We can meet and work with youth on an ongoing basis to help them create and stay on paths to self-sufficiency.



60

YOP Shop visits

The YOP Shop is open 10 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday. Young people can stop in to talk with a counselor, use our computers and phones, or get information about other community resources.



90

YOP Shop calls

Young people who can't come into the YOP Shop can call to talk with a counselor and get more information about available services.

Partner Spotlight

The Columbus Foundation Grant



THE COLUMBUS^{US}
FOUNDATION

The YOP Shop extends its hours.

“We must make intentional investments in all of our young people if we want to continue to be a strong, healthy, and vibrant place to live—and do what we can to ensure all youth enter adulthood prepared to pursue opportunities to live well and flourish. The YOP Shop, and support of Huckleberry House, does this while playing an important part in fostering independence and success for our youth in-need.

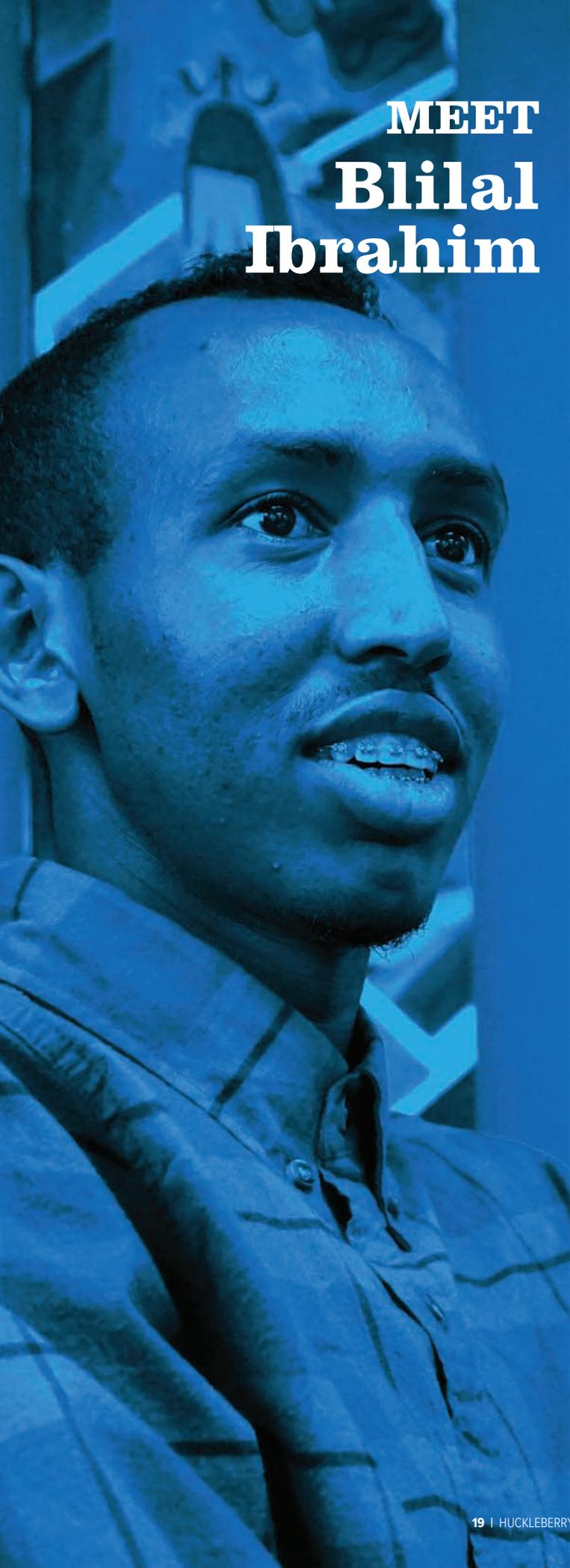
– DR. MARK LOMAX, II
Community Research and Grants Management Officer, The Columbus Foundation.

Since the YOP Shop opened its doors in 2016, it has increasingly become known as a safe, go-to place for young people in the community that need help—or just someone to listen. Too many at-risk young people lack a caring adult who can help guide them on their path to self-sufficiency. The YOP Shop helps solve that problem by being available when young people are ready to reach out.

Thanks to a generous grant from The Columbus Foundation, the Youth Outreach Program hired a new YOP worker in September 2018, allowing the team to staff the YOP Shop full time. From 10 am until 6 pm Monday through Friday, young people who stop into the YOP Shop or call in can expect an open door and the chance to talk with someone right away.

“We’re seeing the numbers of calls and drop ins at the YOP Shop pick up, and having someone there for these young people is critical. We can now continue to have our workers out on the street, making new connections. But we don’t miss anyone who calls or stops in. It works almost like a dispatcher. If someone calls the Shop, our worker there contacts those of us who are out in the community. And we can often arrange for someone to go over and check on the young person right away. It’s really improved the ways in which we’re available to youth when they need us.”

– KYRA CROCKETT HODGE
Huckleberry House Youth Outreach Program Team Leader

A close-up portrait of Blilal Ibrahim, a young man with short dark hair and a light beard, looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression. The image is overlaid with a blue tint and white geometric shapes like arrows and lines.

MEET Blilal Ibrahim

A YOP SHOP CLIENT

When Blilal was 17, his parents were killed in the civil war in Ethiopia. He was left with no one and nothing. A missionary group brought Blilal to the United States and eventually connected him with another refugee in the Columbus area. Blilal spoke very little English, and he was dealing with severe medical issues that made it painful for him to eat. While his mentor through the refugee program helped him enroll in high school, that was just the first step in his journey.

Blilal's school referred him to the YOP Shop, and for Blilal, that made all the difference. He says he still remembers the first day he visited YOP Shop, and how that experience put his life on a new path.

"Blilal was trying to navigate a foreign country and figure out what to do next with really no idea of where to go first. Most of us take life's little challenges for granted because we have parents to help us through the process. But when you're on your own, and you're in a whole new country, it's overwhelming," says Kyra Crockett Hodge, YOP Team Leader. "Blilal's bright and he's a fighter. What he really needed was someone who could point him in the right direction and help him start making connections."

And that's exactly where the YOP Shop excels. Kyra connected Blilal with Nationwide Children's Hospital, personally taking him to appointments and providing support throughout the medical process and a procedure to remove his tonsils. She also helped Blilal through the process of obtaining a green card and becoming a legal citizen. The Youth Outreach Program connected Blilal to housing services for immigrants and helped him get his driver's license and find work he enjoys.

Today, two years after coming to the U.S. alone and scared, Blilal is thriving. He works for the Limited and shares an apartment with two other refugees. He has plans to attend technical school, and he has hopes for a productive and happy future.

He also continues to be grateful to the YOP Shop. Blilal drops in regularly to say hi and keep the staff updated on his progress. "I come to see Ms. Kyra and all the good people here," he says. "She supported me with everything, all the time."

Given the situation just two years ago, seeing Blilal smiling with a positive outlook on the future is a remarkable transformation. "I'm happy with my life," he says. "It's good."

Scholarship PROGRAM

We help reduce financial barriers to education.

So all young people can have a shot at realizing their dreams.

Not all young people expect to have the money to pay for college, technical school, or a career training program. But that doesn't mean they don't have the skill, dedication, and desire to pursue a degree or license that will help advance their futures. The Huck House board of directors endowed a fund to provide scholarships in perpetuity, allowing us to give awards each year to help turn dreams into realities.

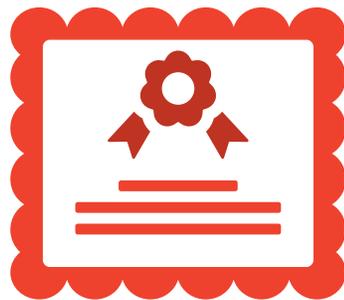


HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE
Scholarship Program

The Expectation

ALL YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PASSION AND DRIVE TO ACHIEVE HIGHER EDUCATION GOALS
WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH THEM.

2018 RESULTS



\$11,000

awarded by Huck House
in scholarships to young
people in our programs.

3

**William R.
McNamara**
SCHOLARSHIPS

Aja Bolden
\$3,000

Nikkita Terrell
\$3,000

LaToja Owens
\$1,000

Judayza Johnson
\$2,000

Shawna Hunt
\$2,000

2

Soltis-Homer
SCHOLARSHIPS

First Annual Huckleberry House Sleep Out!

Spend one night on the streets.

And you'll never want anyone to have to do it again.

On April 20, 2018, Huck House hosted its first annual Sleep Out to give community members the opportunity to experience what it's like for young people in Central Ohio who have no place to sleep at night. The event raised thousands for our programs. More importantly, it opened hundreds of eyes and raised awareness for the youth homelessness problem in Central Ohio.



HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE
Sleep Out! Columbus

The Expectation

NO YOUNG PERSON IN OUR COMMUNITY SHOULD EVER
HAVE TO SPEND THE NIGHT ON THE STREETS.

2018 RESULTS



The 1st Huck House Sleep Out raised awareness and generated funds for Huck House programs while inspiring others to expect more for all young people in our community.

83 community participants

Sleep Out participants committed to spending one night in the elements to experience what it's like for homeless youth in the community.

\$76,000 raised

The Sleep Out raised funds to support Huck House programs and help all young people find safe alternatives to a night on the streets.

*"For the youth and just homeless people in general, this is their life. I definitely want to continue to raise awareness and advocate because no one should have to sleep outside."
—Sleep Out! Columbus participant*



40 degrees

The temperature plummeted on the night of the Sleep Out, reaching a low near freezing.

100s of expectations changed

"A community that's as prosperous as Columbus, we don't want anyone or any youth to be homeless any night. So it's our responsibility to provide that safety net for them. From the United Way's perspective, we applaud this event."

— Lisa Courtice, President and CEO, United Way of Central Ohio

\$7,107 contributed by the Bexley Sleep Out Club

A student club at Bexley High School, which has hosted four annual sleep outs of its own, became a sponsor of the Huck House Sleep Out and will continue to use their event to benefit Huck House programs.

"The president of the Sleep Out Club, Annie Politi, researched different homeless programs in Central Ohio. After presenting the work the Huck House does, the entire club was on board for helping. It makes a huge difference for students to know they are helping others their age."

— Anna Schottenstein, Bexley High School teacher and Sleep Out Club advisor

1 senior project

Sleep Out participant Katz Kadlic, a student at Wellington School, was so moved by the experience that he decided to host his own sleep out at his high school.

"The goal is not only to make people aware of what is occurring, but to find a group of students who are touched by the work Huckleberry House is doing and introduce them to other ways they can help. We don't want this to be a one-and-done thing. We want it to continue and create a dedicated group of new helpers."

— Katz Kadlic, Wellington School Student

8 hours on hard concrete

Participants spent the night on the cold, hard plaza behind COSI. In the morning, they returned to their homes, but with a new perspective.



To learn how you can help, visit HuckHouse.org to register for Sleep Out! Columbus 2019.



Sleep Out! Bexley



Huckleberry House Supporters

**We strive to expect more
for all young people
every day.**

**Gratefully, we don't do
it alone.**

Huck House appreciates the generous support of the individuals and organizations in our community who donate time and resources to support Central Ohio's at-risk youth. In 2018, our supporters rose to the occasion to help the young people in our programs—and those on the streets—expect more compassion, more concern, and more commitment from their community. Together, we're learning that the more we expect, the more our young people will be able to achieve.



HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE
Supporters

The Expectation

THE COMMUNITY'S GENUINE CONCERN AND COMPASSION FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE CAN BE CHanneled INTO GREATER AWARENESS AND BETTER SOLUTIONS THAT WILL HELP END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN CENTRAL OHIO AND ENSURE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL.

2018 RESULTS

1,300+



Community members, volunteers, and corporations joined us in expecting more in 2018.



622

donors became first-time Huck House supporters.

348

volunteers donated

1,769

volunteer hours

to support Huck House programs.



200+

in-kind donations of goods

such as school supplies, toiletries, household items, baby items, and gift cards, helped young people in our programs access the items they need to achieve their goals.

Throughout the year, items were donated directly to Huck House and via multiple local collection drives sponsored by businesses, schools, and service organizations.

194

United Way donors

designated their gifts to support Huck House programs.



\$25,000

in gifts and goodies contributed through the 2017 holiday drive helped make the season bright for youth in Huck House programs and their children.



3

new critical partnerships

with the Columbus Metropolitan Library, Community Housing Network, and The Graham School expanded the reach of our services.

Together, we can expect more.

Visit www.HuckHouse.org to see how you can help.



MEET Janet Soltis

A LONG-TIME HUCK HOUSE SUPPORTER

When Janet Soltis was very young, her grandmother, a Russian immigrant, taught her an important lesson about expectations: If you expect a child to misbehave and treat him as if he will, then that's exactly what the child will do. Much better to focus on the positive and always reinforce the child's strengths.

That lesson has stuck with Janet her whole life. She first learned about Huckleberry House in the 80s when she was a middle school teacher for Columbus City Schools. Hearing of her students' experiences at Huck House, she realized that the program was very much in line with the wisdom her grandmother had imparted.

Janet became a regular contributor to Huck House, and in 2008, she started the Soltis-Homer Scholarship, which provides a total of \$4,000 annually to deserving young women who participate in Huck House programs. But Janet wanted to do more than provide financial support. She wanted opportunities to interact with the teens. Today, Janet can be found at Huck House baking cookies with the youth in the Crisis Shelter. She regularly provides them with pizza parties. And she hopes to soon start hosting taco nights.

"I think a lot of older people look at youth, and especially youth who may be dealing with a lot of problems in life, and they are really leery of them. Or they only see the negatives and not the strengths," Janet says. "But these young people are so bright and interesting, and they have so much to offer. They are an inspiration, and I really enjoy my time with them."

Janet often talks with her friends and peers about her time at Huck House and encourages others to get involved. She finds that many times, people are unsure of how they can help. "Of course, there is always a need for funding for the programs. But what the youth really need is to know that someone cares and that they are valued," Janet says.

Janet says that donating time and attention is its own reward. "When you come in and spend time with these kids, you find that they are really just typical kids who may be frustrated with their situation. But they have so much insight."

"I think that we, as community members, stand to gain even more from the experience of volunteering than the young people do."

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

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Huckleberry House Financials

Revenue

Programs and Grants	2,079,436
United Way	121,000
Medicaid	507,660
Purchase of Services and Discretionary Funding	295,765
Contributions	230,027
Special Events	82,387
Interest and Dividend Income	40,410
Net Gain on Marketable Securities	25,213
Total Revenue	3,391,995

Expenses

Transitional Living Program	1,379,675
Crisis Shelter	1,119,423
Family Support Program	308,249
Youth Outreach Program	226,045
Scholarships	10,015
Fundraising	122,579
Administration	314,532
Total Expenses	3,480,518

2018 Scholarship Recipients

William R. McNamara Scholarship

Aja Bolden	\$3,000
Nikkita Terrell	\$3,000
LaToja Owens	\$1,000

Soltis-Homer Scholarship

Judayza Johnson	\$2,000
Shawna Hunt	\$2,000

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