



be INSPIREd

Your support
changes young
peoples' lives.

Their stories
can change
yours.



Huckleberry
HOUSE

2021
ANNUAL REPORT

This year, we dug deeper, adjusted more often, and learned more than ever before.

There's nothing quite like a pandemic to reinforce the importance of resiliency. The past year of ups and downs as we've continued to navigate our "new normal" has been a call to action for all of us to find ways to persevere, despite obstacles. In many ways, it's been one step forward, two steps back.

That's nothing new for the youth we work with at Huckleberry House. As some of our community's most vulnerable residents, these young people face issues such as abuse, neglect, violence, and homelessness. Still, they find ways to rise above even the most unimaginable of circumstances. At Huckleberry House, we help by providing shelter, counseling, connections, and open doors to keep young people moving toward self-sufficiency, no matter what.

Of course, we can't do it alone. Huck House has always counted on the support of a caring community who sees these issues as our collective issues. That hasn't changed. The community stepped up to help make life-changing and sometimes lifesaving support available to our young people at a time when they needed it more than ever.

What is different is that the stories of these youth are now a little more poignant, a little more relatable, and all the more extraordinary for the perspective we've gained. Many of us have had to channel our own inner strengths to make it through 2020 and 2021 and have found that it's no easy task. Yet, it's something we expect young people with fewer resources, in much more challenging situations, to do every day. And, that's exactly what they do.

So, while the need may be greater than ever to continue opening doors, the opportunity to learn something in return is greater, too. We invite you to let our young people's stories strengthen your resolve, reinforce your determination, and inspire you to keep expecting more for our youth and our community. Because when you do, we all have so very much to gain.

– *Sonya Thesing | Executive Director*

Huckleberry House Financials

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

REVENUE	EXPENSES
Programs and Grants \$ 2,927,729	Transitional Living Program \$ 1,270,112
United Way \$ 76,230	Kenmore \$ 529,010
Medicaid—Title XIX \$ 536,190	Crisis Shelter \$ 1,180,340
Contributions \$ 649,345	Permanent Supportive Housing \$ 195,774
Rental and Utilities Income \$ 342,871	Youth Outreach \$ 343,860
Purchase of Services and Discretionary Funding \$ 227,348	The Counseling Center at Huckleberry House \$ 380,636
Interest and Dividend Income \$ 29,427	Scholarships \$ 4,207
Special Events \$ 102,570	Fundraising \$ 58,963
Net Gain on Marketable Securities \$ 208,549	Administration \$ 450,031
Paycheck Protection Program \$ 593,225	
Net Assets Released from Restriction \$ 125,594	
TOTAL REVENUE \$ 5,819,078	TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 4,412,933

2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

William R. McNamara Scholarship	Soltis-Homer Scholarship
Melissa Bonner \$ 3,000	Joselin Aguilar \$ 2,000
Spencer Eget \$ 3,000	Tuqa Kadhem \$ 2,000
Ruth Miller \$ 500	
Ciera Robertson \$ 500	

The surplus in FY2021 is the result of unprecedented one-time government, foundation, and private support provided to address pandemic-related deficits due to increased expenses and changing operations, in FY2020 and FY2021 and to prevent deficits for the duration of the pandemic in FY2022 and beyond.

Because you choose to make a difference, these young people can, too.

Meet a few of the youth impacted by your support of Huck House programs.

As a young mother and victim of domestic violence, Angel knows how to survive. But for herself and her son, she wanted to do more than simply make it through another day. Thanks to the Transitional Living Program track for young people who have experienced violence, Angel is now learning how to thrive. “I was blessed with the opportunity to rebuild my life.” [Read more...](#)



Angel

Donavin

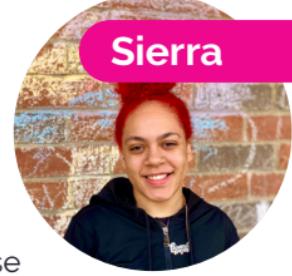


Despite growing up in and out of foster care and facing homelessness at 18, Donavin never once gave up on his dream of going to college. The Youth Outreach Program helped him connect with resources to make that possible. He's working toward a brighter future, and not just for himself.

“I want to be the best I can be, and I want to do that for my parents. I still want to one day be able to help out my mom.” [Read more...](#)

Food, clothes, and shelter aren't the only things a young person needs to grow. Without emotional support or the chance to develop any independence, Sierra found herself completely lost when she became homeless at 18. The Transitional Living Program gave Sierra a literal new lease on life. “Being in this program is starting to build my confidence. Things don't change overnight. But they do look different now and I feel more mature and ready.” [Read more...](#)

Sierra



Tajmir



Homeless and diabetic, there was a point in Tajmir's life where he could barely manage to stand up, yet alone support himself. Through the new permanent supportive housing program at Marsh Brook Place, Tajmir has found the help he needed to get his health under control and start taking back his life. “I gave up on life. But now my energy is back, and I'm motivated. I have the chance to do the things I need to do.” [Read more...](#)

A victim of life-long abuse, Glen reached a point where they knew they “had to get out of the situation, or get out of life.” With the Huckleberry House Transitional Living Program and counseling, Glen has found the opportunity to be their own person for the first time in their lives without fear of judgment or abuse. “We're not the best version of ourselves yet. But we are reaching for it. And we're not alone.” [Read more...](#)

Glen



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HuckHouse.org/Donate

Every dollar donated, every hour volunteered, and every door opened makes the difference between a life on the streets and a life with direction, opportunity, and hope.

In FY 2021, with your support, Huck House:

- Opened 96 new apartments for homeless and at-risk youth
- Provided 19,691 nights of shelter to keep young people off the streets
- Offered 9,336 hours of counseling and mental health intervention to youth and families
- Awarded \$11,000 in scholarships to Huck House program graduates

July 2020

All 56 units at Kenmore Square fill up. Residents receive counseling and support to learn independent living skills and gain self-sufficiency.



August 2020

Marsh Brook Place opens as Central Ohio's first permanent supportive housing program for youth, offering 40 long-term housing units. A drive-through housewarming helps new residents feel right at home.



Huck House offers a range of safe, furnished, and supportive youth housing options with 113 units at 3 different campuses.



September 2020

YouthBuild visits Marsh Brook Place to assist residents with school enrollment. Six young people enrolled at YouthBuild Academy.

A good education is a fundamental building block in any young person's success story. In FY 2021, 87% of youth in our housing programs attended school, graduated, and/or help jobs.

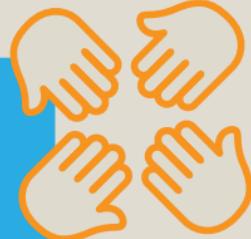


October 2020

Huck House livestreams its annual Youth Awards ceremony, honoring 10 youth and 5 scholarship recipients.



Huck House earns *Columbus CEO's Best of Business Small Non-Profit* award for the second straight year.



November 2020

The Danis Community Building at Kenmore Square passes inspection, opening up community space for art and cooking classes, support groups, dinners, and other activities that improve the lives of young people in our housing programs.





December 2020

Even in a pandemic, our good friend State Rep. Dontavius Jarrells hosts the fifth annual Very Merry Huckleberry Christmas Party at the Crisis Shelter, drive through style.



January 2021

As high-risk essential workers, Huck House staff members begin receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, allowing Huck House to safely increase capacity at the Crisis Shelter.

In FY 2021, 92% of young people coming to the Crisis Shelter found the support needed to stay off the streets and return to safe housing.



February 2021

The Olentangy Liberty High School DECA Club hosts its annual powder puff game to raise money for Huckleberry House.

March 2021

Huck House's Youth Outreach Program and YOP Shop move to the Kenmore Square youth campus.



In FY 2021, the YOP Shop addressed 360 requests from young people needing support to keep their lives on track, including housing support requests from 155 literally homeless youth.



April 2021

The annual SLEEP OUT! Columbus event goes virtual and raises \$110,000+ to benefit Huckleberry House programs while increasing awareness of youth homelessness.



Make your SLEEP OUT! Columbus 2022 pledge today!

3,000 young people ages 14 to 24 experienced homelessness in Columbus in 2021 while another 4,000 were at risk of homelessness, unsure of where they would sleep on any given night.



May 2021

Community members come out to spruce up the grounds at Kenmore Square and make our youth campus a more inviting, supportive space. Danis Construction organized the day, recruiting M+A Architects, Heapy, and Schaefer to help.

[Watch the video](#)

The Transitional Living Program boasts a 90% success rate, proving that counseling and independent living skills are key to creating long-term self-sufficiency and keeping at-risk young people out of the adult homeless system.



June 2021

Allen S. Coleman, an African American History Professor at Columbus Community College, visits the Huck House Crisis Shelter to discuss the historical significance of June 19th and celebrate the Juneteenth holiday with the youth.

2021-22 Huckleberry House Board of Directors (September, 2021)

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Beigel Ventures
Nicole Makeda
Vice President
JP Morgan Chase
Pete Shuler
Vice President
Crowe LLP
Marah Derzon
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Ryan Konst
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Megan Koontz
Fusion Alliance
Todd Lukens
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Supreme Court of Ohio
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Gold Star Mortgage Financial Group
Craig Smith
Scott W. Schiff & Associates Co., L.P.A.
Rajiv Thomas
Grange Insurance

Members serve without compensation



Huckleberry H O U S E

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Columbus, Ohio 43201

HuckHouse.org

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Administration: (614) 294-8097
Fax: (614) 294-6109

24-Hour Crisis Hotline: (614) 294-5553

YOP Shop
2216 Bancroft Street
Columbus, Ohio 43219
(614) 826-3630

Huckleberry House is accredited by the Council on Accreditation and is licensed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services. Funding agencies include ADAMH, City of Columbus, Franklin County Children Services, United Way of Central Ohio, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, U.S. Department of HUD, Community Shelter Board, Ohio Department of Justice.