

This year through October, the Haven of Rest, which is Battle Creek's only emergency homeless shelter, has served over 2,000 unique individuals of our community, which has meant full shelters nearly every night. Many of our guests are children; many of our clients are Veterans. All of them come to us seeking hope.

Besides offering the beacon of hope, we are also the only facility that feeds the homeless every single day of the year. So far this year we have served over 65,000 meals – most of them hot, and all of them nutritious. No one ever leaves the Haven hungry, and we're proud of that.

The problem of homelessness has many roots; In our experience, a person's homelessness is often just the SYMPTOM of a problem, rather than the problem itself. The Haven's approach is two-fold: first, we solve the immediate crisis of homelessness (i.e., address the symptoms that are often critical) by providing food and shelter, and; second, we work with the person to address the underlying causal factors (i.e., the root problems) of their homelessness crisis.

These root problems - the underlying causal factors of chronic homelessness - often take the form of very substantial issues like substance abuse, mental health challenges, physical disabilities, or a combination of these things. The Haven provides excellent treatment and substance abuse recovery support within our Men's and Women's Life Recovery Programs, two of the most impactful ministries that exist in this community. These Life Recovery Programs save dozens of adult lives each year that would otherwise end in the tragedy of overdose and death. Through these programs, we also provide services for mental health and advocate for additional services at more in-depth providers when it is necessary.

Specifically addressing the needs of the children of homeless families, the Haven actively maintains the Inasmuch House, a 30 to 60 day emergency shelter for homeless women, children and families. Through this shelter, the Haven also maintains a comprehensive afterschool program for children of homeless families. This educational support goes on for up to nine months (a full school year) after these kids leave our shelter. That support is very important to helping the children we serve achieve academically.

Overall, our goals are to see 80% of the single people (those not in families) moving through our shelters in less than 30 days, and 90% moving through in 60 days.

For families and parents with children, we have a goal of moving 70% of our guests through our shelters in less than 30 days, and 90% in 60 days. To date, we have been able to achieve these measurable goals, and we track amounts of time that people spend in our shelters on a daily basis through software required by the State of Michigan's homeless information tracking system.

Simply put, the Haven of Rest is one of the most impactful agencies in this community, creating positive change, saving lives, and serving many of our area's most vulnerable people.

You may recall that in August of 2017, the Haven was in a fiscal crisis and was assisted through this crisis by the support of the Battle Creek Community Foundation, in the form of a \$50,000 loan and other operational support. I am happy to report that as of October 2018 this loan has been completely repaid, and we continue to work to restructure our balance sheet to eliminate our debt balances. We cannot put into words the gratitude we feel to the Battle Creek Community Foundation for their support during that difficult time.

Through this process we were also assisted by the accounting firm Plante, Moran, which was an additional support that the BC Community Foundation offered us, and whose accountants came on-site at the Haven and very thoroughly analyzed our books and helped us navigate through the internal operational issues that existed. In the review that was performed, the expert accountants from Plante, Moran looked at every single account the Haven had, and in each one, they reconciled every penny.

Also through this process, several positive changes were made to operations within the Haven. This year, the Haven continued the work, and completed several years' worth of financial audits through our accounting partners at Yeo & Yeo. Results from fiscal years of 2016, 2017 and 2018 have been completed, presented and approved by the accountants, and by the Haven's board of Directors. The Haven also presented an in-depth, long-term "Financial

Sustainability Plan” to a local group of funders, and we continue to follow this strategic document to its mid-2020 goals for the organization.

At this time of year the Haven, its ministries, and the thousands of people we serve in our region, need our community to step forward with strong financial support and sacrificial giving to our organization to allow us to continue these programs. In light of all we do, will you please consider a strong financial donation to the Haven of Rest to support these critical programs? We do indeed need your help and support to continue this work.

You can send your donation to the Haven directly at 11 Green Street, Battle Creek, MI, 49014, or you can go on-line to the Haven’s website at [www.thehavenbc.org](http://www.thehavenbc.org) to complete your gift so that these important programs can continue in our community. Thank you for answering this call to action, God Bless you, and God Bless the Haven of Rest.