



HEARTS
WITH A
MISSION

2019 - 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

TOGETHER WITH YOU



Update from Hearts With A Mission

“Never once did I feel like I was just a number to them, or just a kid filling a bed. The only thing I felt was the love they offered a teen dealing with a huge crisis in their life. I stayed at Hearts for almost 4 months, and it was the biggest growing period I have ever had.” ~ Willow

2020-2021

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Letter from the Executive Director

This last year has been an emotional roller coaster ride of peaks and valleys. The completion of a new 15-bed facility for youth 10-17 in 2019 was followed a few months later with the opening of a 12-bed Transitional Living Program for youth 18-22.

We expanded our Safe Families for Children host home program to Lincoln County. Everyone was excited as kids and families were being loved and supported with hope for a better future. Our Independent Living program was at capacity serving 55 youth in Foster Families, and plans were well underway for our annual fundraising events beginning with a Fun Run in April, followed by our annual event in September. Then, unprecedented times hit us like a ton of bricks. The shelters were locked down. State contracts were reduced in budget cuts. Where smiles on the faces of staff always welcomed kids with hope, they were now being covered with a mask. We were no longer able to meet with kids in Foster Homes but had to communicate virtually. Host Families were being challenged to provide homes for kids, which could leave their own family at risk of severe health issues. Our Fun Run was canceled, and the annual event was erased by a fire leaving our community in devastation and despair.

But here we are, and our faith in God has enabled us to persevere. I am so proud of our Hearts community and staff for being steadfast in their commitment to show love and compassion despite all obstacles. Yes, we are faced with financial challenges, and we remain steadfast God will continue to provide the resources we need.

We are privileged to be part of this community effort to love kids and their families. I am humbled by your generosity and amazed by your heart for kids and families in crisis. This year, we have seen a lot of crisis. We have also seen amazing transformation of helplessness to hopefulness in the lives of kids and their families. THANK YOU!

Together we are making a difference! To date, HWAM has served over 1,746 kids an astonishing 135,000 nights of safe shelter. Thank you for your prayers and continued support!



May God Bless You and Keep You Safe,

Kevin Lamson

Kevin Lamson, Executive Director
Hearts With A Mission



Everything we achieve together starts with you
Hearts With A Mission was voted one of the 100 Best NonProfits to work for in Oregon. We are blessed to have staff who believe in our mission of caring for our homeless and at-risk youth. They are proud of the impact Hearts has in our communities.

Learning Along the Way



April Hubbard, LCSW, HWAM
Youth & Family Counselor

Backpacking: “Ugh! Every step I take, it feels like my backpack is pulling me backward!”

We heard this comment as we slugged our way up toward the summit, just before we would turn and descend back down the steep mountainside into the lake basin where we would camp. Despite recommendations and reminders to pack light, it’s not uncommon that the youth still overpack, electing to bring unnecessary changes of clothing, shoes, or even full bottles of perfume! These hills help them come to terms with the error of their ways and feel the weight of their choices, literally!

By the end of the trip, we’re laughing together about what things they thought they couldn’t leave behind, and whether, in the end, they were really “worth the weight” or just extra baggage that sapped their energy and “pulled [them] backward” down the hill. In response to that youth’s initial comment, I quietly noted to myself,

“Isn’t that just like life...?” Don’t we each choose what burdens we will carry, which we can’t let go of? How many of us (kids and adults alike) carry unnecessary emotional “baggage” that doesn’t serve us and what will it take before we decide to let it go?

The next night around the fire, another youth shared how heavy the weight of shame was that she had been carrying, and her desire to be free of that burden. She talked about the grace that Jesus extended to the woman caught in adultery and her desire to leave behind the weight of shame that she had carried. What a beautiful connection she made!

Thank goodness we have a Savior who states, “come to me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest... Take my yoke upon you... and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30). May we each dare to unpack our bags and examine all we have chosen to carry, asking does this serve us or drag us backward?



Our Board of Director’s Blessing for You

“The Lord bless you and keep you, make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. Amen.”



HEARTS WITH A MISSION

Jackson, Josephine & Lincoln Counties

TO DATE

OVER

1,746

CHILDREN SERVED

OVER

135,000

NIGHTS OF SAFE SHELTER

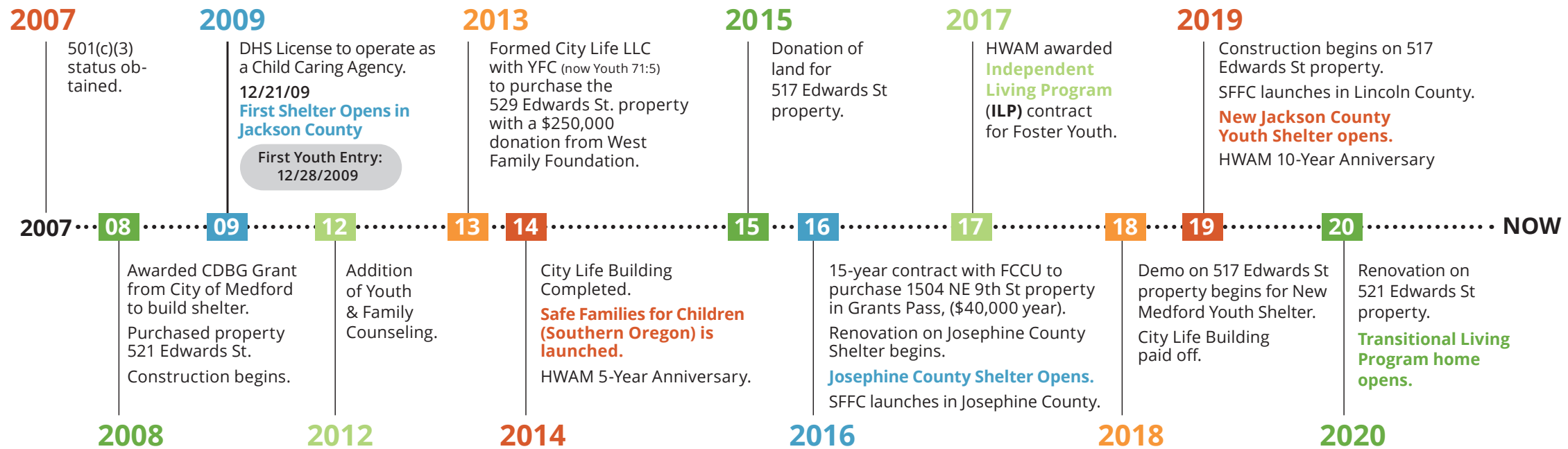
OVER

303,439

MEALS SERVED



HWAM TIMELINE



HEARTS WITH A MISSION

Emergency Youth Shelters Jackson & Josephine Counties

- Emergency shelter for up to 120 days with parental or guardian consent for youth ages 10 - 17
- 31 beds and three meals a day
- A safe stable-living environment
- Education, employment, and aftercare supports
- A safe exit plan is developed through case management

Transitional Living Program Jackson County

- Serving youth ages 18-22 years old
- 12-bed home
- Safe, stable housing for up to 24 months
- Skills training groups, individual service plans
- Coordinated case management
- Educational opportunities, mentoring, and employment support

Safe Families for Children Jackson, Josephine, & Lincoln Counties

- Surrounding families in crisis with caring, compassionate community and circles of support
- Provides short-term care for children, ages 0 - 22, with volunteer host families
- Allows parents facing crisis to address the issues that led them to the situation while their children stay with a Safe Family
- Foster Care prevention

Independent Living Program Jackson & Josephine Counties

- Assists youth age 16-21 who are, or were, in Foster Care
- Helps youth make a successful transition from foster care to independent living
- Skill groups, One-on-One supports, special events
- Tailored individual service plans to the needs of the youth

2007 - 2020



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple fundraising events were canceled this year.

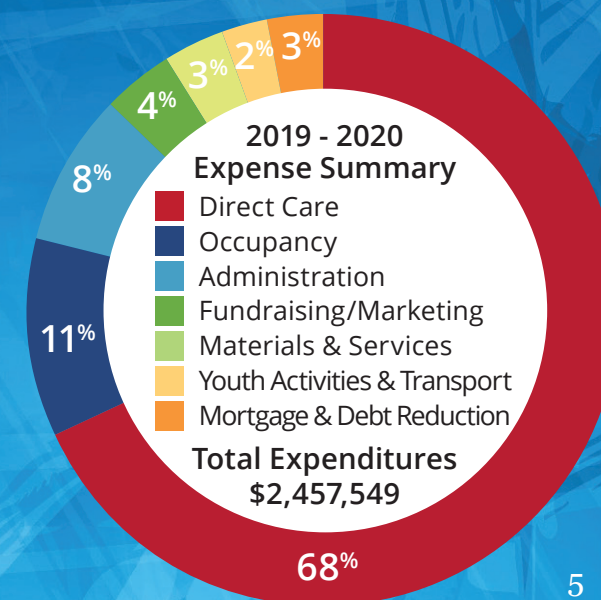
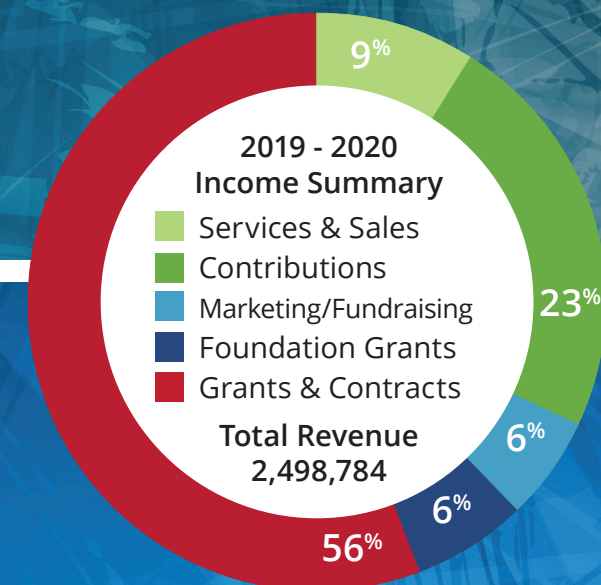
INCOME & EXPENSE

HWAM 2019-2020 INCOME SUMMARY

Services & Sales (SFFC/TLP)	\$224,893
Contributions	\$578,286
Fundraising/Events	\$144,555
Foundation Grants	\$156,891
Government Grants & Contracts	\$1,394,159
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,498,784

HWAM 2019-2020 EXPENSE SUMMARY

Direct Care	\$1,672,662
Occupancy	\$270,775
Admin	\$202,856
Fundraising/Marketing	\$95,668
Materials & Services	\$83,250
Youth Activities & Transport	\$59,124
Mortgage & Debt Reduction	\$73,214
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,457,549





Playing music by the beach helps Hailey during difficult times

Building Connections

Heather Siewell, SFFC Family Coach Supervisor, Jackson & Josephine Counties

Staying connected during a pandemic certainly requires creativity. Building new connections with strangers during a pandemic requires boldness and teamwork.

A very generous donor provided funds this past spring, allowing our Safe Families team to deliver \$500 grants to several families in need. This was when a local DHS caseworker introduced our Safe Families team to Trish, a grandmother caring for her two young grandsons.



The caseworker described Trish as an amazing grandma who has had more than her share of hardships, including being laid off due to COVID. When we reached out to Trish to share the \$500 gift, she was so grateful to have the financial help. We encouraged Trish to reach out to us if she needed anything, and we know it can be hard to ask for help. So when we called back to check in on Trish to see how she was doing, you could say it was “divine intervention.”

Trish was having a tough day and was so grateful for a friendly phone call. She needed a few things for the boys (baby gate, summer PJ’s, diapers). We reached out to our network of SF volunteers who quickly provided what was

needed, and we made the delivery. We learned more about Trish’s life and circumstances.

Over the past year, Trish’s husband had passed away; she was in an auto accident, which required invasive neck surgery, and then COVID hit. Trish was managing all this while raising her two adorable grandsons, as their mother (Trish’s daughter) is battling addiction.

When we asked Trish what she needed most, her response was “to take a bath alone.” Anyone with small children can

understand that! Trish has no one to help with the care of the children, so we added a respite host family to Trish’s circle of support. The respite family lives on a little property with chickens and a tree swing, which is very similar to Trish’s home and something the boys will love. Grandma, knowing the boys will be safe and cared for with the host family, now has time “to take a bath alone.”

The kindness of one generous heart and a \$500 gift opened a door. This allowed a compassionate host family to walk through boldly—the result, an unlikely connection between strangers and a grandma who is no longer alone.



Be a Mentor, Make a Difference

Each year, an estimated 25,000 youth emancipate or “age out” of the foster care system.

A significant amount of youth in the child welfare system will never be placed in a permanent home and will age out of foster care with few supports or opportunities. Without the skills needed to navigate adulthood, these are the young people most at risk for human trafficking, gangs, homelessness, credit fraud, substance abuse, and unplanned pregnancy. But we can change that!

Safe Families PLUS (Providing Lasting Unconditional Support) Mentors are vital partners in helping older youth transition successfully to adulthood. Mentors pair with a youth or young adult between the ages of 14 to 21. They are expected to commit to at least one year of meeting consistently with their mentee. Mentors can serve as “anchor families” to youth, providing a safety net to fall back on after leaving the child welfare system.

To volunteer, contact: Bill Hague
bill.h@heartswithamission.org
541-944-3391



Reaching out in times of Crisis

Marisa Hayner, SFFC Family Coach Supervisor, Lincoln County
Contact Marisa at 541-261-7410
marisa.d8@heartswithamission.org

Isolation is a hard feeling, especially when you have nobody to call, rely on, or connect with. Many families are socially isolated with a nonexistent or unavailable family to help. Parents or guardians may be incapable of providing a safe and caring environment for their children, putting them at risk of abuse and neglect. In the past, extended family or neighbors stepped in to help families in crisis by caring for their children for short periods. Adding to the problem is that most state child welfare agencies are required under law to rescue only those children who suffer blatant abuse or neglect, leaving thousands of children at risk.

SFFC helps struggling families by pulling them out of isolation and connecting them with caring, compassionate, and safe community volunteers. Safe Families is a unique program that provides overnight hosting to keep children safe while parents are working on building stability within their household.

Rebecca and her 15-year-old daughter, Hailey, had been homeless for four years. This small family heard about Safe Families for Children and reached out for help. SFFC was able to connect Rebecca and Hailey with a host family who hosted Hailey while Rebecca was working on finding stable housing and employment. With frequent hosting, a family friend, and family coach support, Hailey was able to overcome several obstacles and have housing. Even during a global pandemic, Rebecca could move into a place that now could be called home and reunite with Hailey. We were able to connect a Safe Family mentor with Hailey to keep her active while Rebecca was working. While Hailey and her mentor were unable to meet for a while due to the spread of COVID-19 in Lincoln County, the connection was still alive through phone calls, texting and check-ins from the Safe Family mentor.

If you see a family or child in crisis, know that you can reach out to Safe Families for Children. Together, with you, we can make a difference.

A Surf Board for Cory

Early August, the owner of Pure Vida Surf Shop responded to a post. SFFC of Lincoln County had posted on their Facebook Page asking for connections to support Cory, a local Safe Families teen who wanted to surf all summer but didn’t have a surfboard or much gear. Cory has had a rough year, and the thought of being able to get out and ride the waves meant so much to him.

The owner of Pure Vida Surf Shop immediately reached out to the Safe Families Coordinator in Lincoln County and shared that they had a surfboard, booties, and a couple of free surfing lessons they would like to gift to the teenage boy.

We are so thankful for Pure Vida Surf Shop for showing love and connection to our excited teenager. Cory is now all set and ready to surf. Thank you, Pure Vida!



“Thank You! I was in need of work clothes that I couldn’t afford myself and HWAM came to my rescue. I’ve struggled most of my life to get into the spot I’m in now. It’s definitely a new experience having people who genuinely care about my well being. I’m so grateful to be in a place where my future is important to not just myself but those around me too.”

~ Annie (TLP Resident)



Learning to Set Up for Success

April Hubbard, LCSW, HWAM Youth & Family Counselor

Rafting: The art of metaphors. Often during our adventure trips, I encourage youth to consider the metaphors hidden in everything around us. During this weekend on the river, we talked extensively about the river as a representation of our lives with its periods of calm, and periods of tumult and chaos. We discussed how each person had gained confidence throughout the day, not by avoiding the scary parts, but by facing them and learning through the struggle. Finally, on the last day of the trip, I asked each youth what they had come away with, and what they would remember about this trip.

It’s funny how we might attempt to teach one thing, but instead they take away something very different! Some shared that they had learned patience, mindfulness and the power of positivity. One youth shared that she learned to not be so impulsive about her decisions. “What made you think of that?” I asked, as this was new to the conversation. She related her own tendency to jump into situations without a second thought, only to regret it later, but how on the river, we had stopped collectively in order to scout out rapids and how we would run them before we got there with our boats. This level of planning and anticipation set us up for success, which she got to experience first hand.



Shoes and Socks is a program based on Senior Projects for high school students from area schools. The proceeds go to all organizations that serve children and families. If you are interested in doing this type of senior project contact Will Young at the Medford Shelter for more information.

An Educational Year

Tony Mendenhall, Grants Pass Youth Shelter Manager

Every superhero knows that wins don’t come before the battles. This last quarter has brought us many challenges in the Grants Pass shelter.

During the Pandemic, our Life Coaches have transitioned to teachers as kids were staying home from school to complete their school year on Chromebooks, via Skype and Zoom. For many kids, it was very challenging to be away from friends and losing face to face interactions with teachers.

Our Education Coordinators and Life Coaches, however, dug in and formalized a daily school structure in the house, complete with P.E. classes, music, and art in addition to core subjects. The quarter came to a close and 100% of our youth passed their classes—many with all A’s and B’s! Two of our youth in their junior year displayed capabilities previously unimagined. They took full advantage of the opportunity to work at their own pace. With the support of our Education Coordinator and excellent life coaching staff, both girls were presented their



High School diplomas in a graduation ceremony in June. One of these young ladies has applied to Portland State to pursue a degree in Social Work. The other is enlisting in the Army with hopes of being an Army nurse.

We are so proud of them and grateful for our staff, who created an environment of support and encouragement for these youth.

2019 - By the Numbers

THE NEED

Did You Know that Oregon:

Tied for **#1** In the nation

Highest Rate Homeless Children and Youth

Scored **#10** In the nation with

Foster Care Placements

Ranked **#15** In the nation for

For Most Underprivileged Children

At the county level, Josephine and Jackson Counties are within the top 10 for enrolled, homeless K-12 students. Jackson County has 2,224 and Josephine has 951.

Thank you for your support of these children, which is especially critical during the current pandemic.

“It was a safe place where I could get myself under control.

This shelter put me back on the right track.”

~ Andrew

Independent Living Program (ILP) ILP Makes a Difference for Oregon Foster Youth



Oregon systematically collects data about Independent Living services and outcomes. According to the most recent data, foster youth who had an ILP Skills Trainer had better outcomes than foster youth who were not enrolled in ILP.

	With ILP provider	Without ILP provider
Graduated High School/GED	71%	45%
If graduated enrolled in post secondary	65%	35%
Got job training	21%	12%
Currently working and/or enrolled in school	67%	50%

The Independent Living Program is making a difference for the youth who participate in the program.



SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us
for a special Virtual Event

Celebrating the Young at Hearts

Saturday,

November 21st

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

For more information go to
www.heartswithamission.org
or contact Cassie Waterman 541-944-3350
cassie.w@heartswithamission.org

Presented by


Stephanie  Jarrard



HEARTS WITH-A MISSION

Every Child Deserves a Home

2019 - 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Youth Shelter | Safe Families for Children | Transitional Living Program



SHELTER LOCATIONS

Medford: 517 Edwards St | Grants Pass: 1504 NE 9th St.

ADMIN OFFICE

529 Edwards St, Medford, OR 97501

MAILING ADDRESS

711 Medford Ctr #334, Medford OR 97504

LINCOLN COUNTY

PO Box 299, Newport OR 97365

