



Covenant House

Youth Programs & Activities: July 2017-June 2018

The past year at Covenant House was marked by unprecedented growth, not only in our expanded programs and services but also in the number of young people in crisis turning to us for help. Our average daily census climbed to **162** youth and children, the highest of any Covenant House in the nation except NY/NJ.

Our young people are among the most damaged in our community. Most have experienced years of **abuse, violence, and trauma**. They are like onions; when you “peel back” their protective outer layers, you find amazing goodness and resilience. *They are all good kids...* with boundless potential.

We are continually blessed by the support of our friends, donors, and volunteers. Thanks to you, our youth are receiving the loving care and support they need in their journey from homelessness to healing to hope-filled independence.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me...”

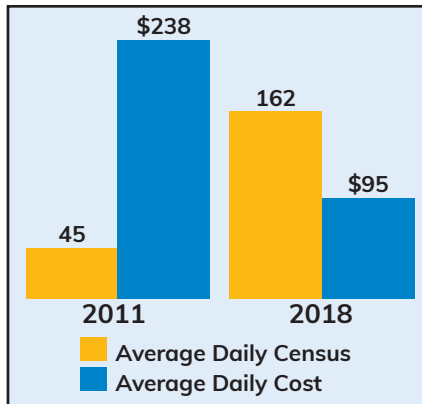
Matthew 25:35-36



We provided comprehensive services to a total of **896** youth & children last year – the largest number in our 30-year history. Our growth was partially driven by a continued expansion

of **off-site independent apartments** for individuals and families, as well as **supportive housing** for our youth living with chronic mental illness.

60% of our young people come from New Orleans, **26%** from elsewhere in Louisiana, and **14%** from across the country.



Highlights

- **Crisis Care** – **446** youth and children took refuge from the streets and abusive homes, receiving food, clothing, shelter, case management, and counseling. We helped **74%** of the youth in our 24/7 Emergency Crisis Center find stable housing, including family reunification whenever possible.
- **Rights of Passage (ROP)** – **86** young men, women, and families resided on campus as they worked, saved, continued their education, and learned new life skills. **83%** of ROP graduates secured a job and stable housing.
- **Health Services** – **3,232** residents and community youth benefited from onsite adolescent and pediatric healthcare, provided in partnership with Tulane Medical School.
- **Behavioral Health** – **95%** of our youth received mental and behavioral health services from our licensed counselors and a Tulane psychologist; **90%** showed improved functioning in jobs, school, and interpersonal relations.
- **Employment and Job Training** – **281** youth were served in our employment programs. **83%** found work or entered job training programs like Café Reconcile, Liberty's Kitchen,

JOB1, and our own White Dove Landscaping. We teach our youth job search & retention skills and have volunteers who conduct mock interviews.

- **Education** – **109** youth and children enrolled in elementary school, high school, or college; **12** youth enrolled in GED programs like Youth Empowerment Project.
- **Human Trafficking** – **255** victims of human trafficking received services from the *Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force*, with Covenant House as lead service provider in collaboration with our community partners.
- **Street Outreach & Aftercare** – **259** youth were provided with counseling and emergency services.
- **Reunification** – **157** youth were provided with bus or plane tickets across the country to reunite with family or relatives who were able to offer a stable and safe living environment.

Trauma-Informed Care

Studies show that chronic exposure to violence and toxic stress can have lasting physical and behavioral health repercussions. The vast majority of our residents have endured years of abuse and violence. **85%** of them suffer from PTSD or poly-trauma.



Our caring staff and licensed social workers provide trauma-informed care and clinical counseling to diagnose and treat our young people, helping them heal, recover, and prosper.

We also offer wellness programming like exercise, yoga, art, and music to help alleviate the effects of trauma and facilitate our residents' recovery from substance abuse disorders.

Our goal is to help our young people achieve greater emotional stability and foster a foundation of resilience. Above all, we provide unconditional love, absolute respect, and the support and mentoring that is sorely missing in our kids' lives. *If not us – who? If not now – when?*

Behind the Trauma: The Crisis of Runaway & Homeless Youth

"The question we should be asking is not 'what's wrong with that child,' but instead 'what happened to that child?'"
- Oprah Winfrey

90%

are survivors of abuse, assault, and/or rape

70%

were pushed out of their homes

45%

of our young men have been in jail or juvenile detention

40%

have a serious drug or alcohol addiction

33%

identify as LGBTQ

85%

suffer from PTSD or poly-trauma

15%

ran away from abusive, violent homes

40%

of our young women are mothers

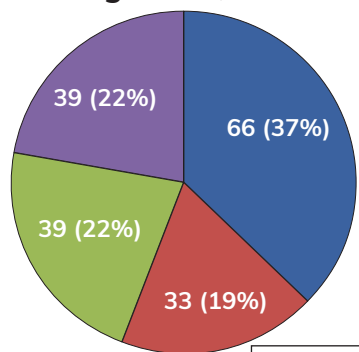
35%

aged out of the foster care system

25%

survived human trafficking and/or sexual labor

**Point in Time:
August 16, 2018**



- Crisis Center
- Rights of Passage
- Supportive Housing Apts
- Independent Living Apts

**Total:
177 youth
& children**



Meet Dana Marie

Alexis has the cutest smile. You can spot her grin from a block away. She is loved – unconditionally – by her mom, Dana Marie.

Age 20, Dana Marie is a child of Katrina. Her dysfunctional, abusive family lost everything to the deadly flooding. Shortly thereafter, her mother died of breast cancer, followed later by her father's death from a heart attack. All alone, she was soon taken into a broken and overwhelmed foster care system.



When Dana Marie aged out of the state's custody at age 18, she began "couch surfing" to keep a roof over her head. Within a few months, she became pregnant with Alexis. Facing an uncertain future, she made the brave choice to come to Covenant House.

Despite everything, Dana Marie has an infectious positive outlook on life. She has taken full advantage of *all* we have to offer – starting in our Crisis Center, graduating to our transitional living program, and finally moving into her own apartment with Alexis.

Being homeless can be especially traumatic for a young family. The experience often negatively impacts the physical, mental, and behavioral health of both mother and child. We arrange physical and psycho-social exams, making sure that each child's shots are up to date. Thanks to Children's Hospital, our young mothers attend parenting classes on Thursday nights, after bathing and putting their children down for the night.

Before Dana Marie could start working and saving, our team enrolled Alexis in our Head Start program. Next, we helped her prepare for job searching. She loved the mock interviews with Mr. Bruce, one of our many volunteers. With shoulders back and head held high, Dana Marie soon marched out to find employment. Within three days, she landed a great job at a restaurant. A diligent saver, Dana Marie never wants Alexis to be homeless again. She knows the "street" is no place for a child.

Dana Marie gives new definition to the word "resilient." **We are so proud of her.** Forty percent of the young women who walk through our doors are mothers. What do they all have in common? How **good** they are, how **beautiful** they are, and how **brave** they are.

Thank you to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for its support of our "Two Generations" mother-child program.

Have You Seen SHELTER yet?



We're so proud of Matthew, Taylor, and Rafael for braving a live studio audience (and their first time flying!) to share their stories with Megyn Kelly on *The Today Show*. To see them in **SHELTER** - a new, powerful, and raw VICE documentary - go to:

www.shelterdocumentary.com





Sleep Out: 11-15-18

Last November, 167 business & civic leaders spent a night on the street for our 6th annual **Sleep Out**, raising funds (\$465,000) and awareness for our kids.

Our goal this year is to raise **\$475,000** and recruit **175 sleepers** (one for every youth and child in our care).

Please call Rich at 504-584-1141 or email rarnold@covenanthouse.org to register – or visit our event website below:

<http://neworleans.thesleepout.org>



Thank You

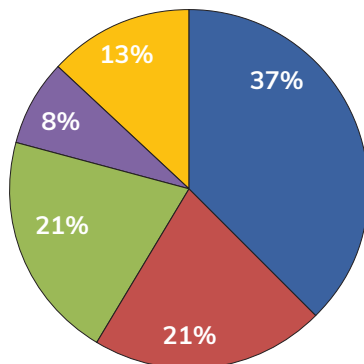
Your generosity is changing lives. Without you, Covenant House would not exist. **79%** of our budget comes from private gifts.

We work hard to be good stewards of your support. In the past seven years, we have reduced our *average daily cost* from \$238 to **\$95** – while greatly expanding and enhancing our programs and services.

Please know of our prayers of gratitude for all you do for our Covenant House family.

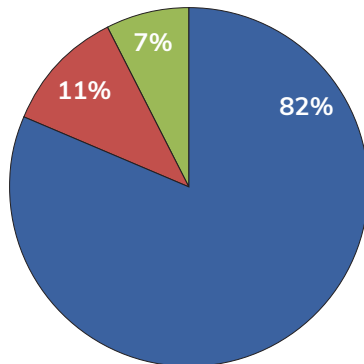


4 STAR-RATED (out of 4) by Charity Navigator



INCOME

- Individuals
- Corps/Foundations
- Government
- Special Events
- Other



EXPENSES

- Programs/Services
- Administrative
- Fundraising

Note: excludes depreciation & in-kind services

FY18 (\$5,607,331)

2017-2018 Board of Directors

Judge Lance Africk
Charles Beasley
Edgar "Dook" Chase IV
Philip deV. Claverie, Sr. (Chair)
Tawana Ewing
Vaughn Randolph Fauria
Dr. Dierdre Hayes
Katie Harvill
David Krebs
Madeleine M. Landrieu
Martha Landrum

Derrick Martin
Kathleen Mayer
Kristin Gisleson Palmer
Christian Rhodes
Gene Simon
Julie Slick, MD
Liz Sloss
Tod Smith
Bruce Soltis
Sally Suthon
Roderic F. Teamer Sr.
Luis Zervigon

611 North Rampart Street • New Orleans, LA 70112-3505
(504) 584-1111 • www.covenanthousenola.org