



Covenant  
House

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT




Dear friends,

I often speak about how damaged and bruised our young people are - the sad result of years of abuse, violence, and trauma. Too many have been rejected (or worse) by those who should have loved them unconditionally, leaving behind physical and emotional scars that can linger for a lifetime.

But if you've ever met them, you know that's only part of their story. Their goodness, their bravery, and their resilience are truly inspiring. Their promise is palpable. They want the same things other kids do: love, respect, dignity, and the opportunity to pursue their passions and fulfill their dreams. Thanks to you, they are getting that chance.

We cared for more youth last year than ever before in our 32-year history. We're excited to share their successes and challenges as they journey from homelessness to healing to hope-filled independence. Thank you for believing in them - and for your support & prayers. God bless,

  
James R. Kelly  
Executive Director

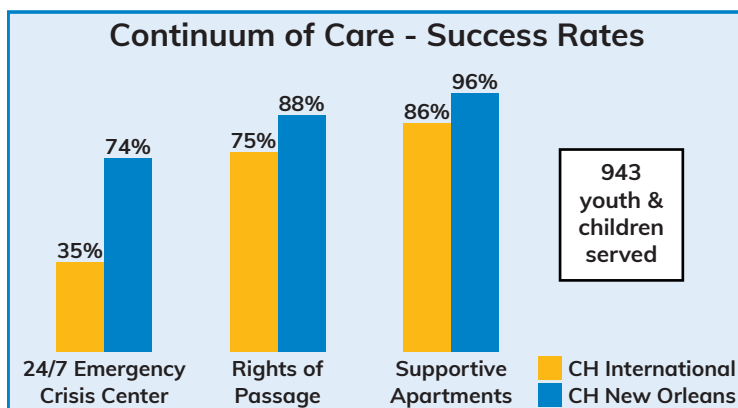




Last year, a total of **943** young people took refuge from the streets and abusive homes at Covenant House, receiving food, clothing, shelter, counseling, case management, life skills, and so much more.

## Highlights

- 24/7 Emergency Crisis Care**
  - 471** youth and children served
  - 74%** found stable housing and/or family reunification
- Rights of Passage (ROP) Transitional Living**
  - 117** youth and children served
  - 88%** graduated to a good job and stable housing
- Medical & Behavioral Healthcare**
  - 98%** of residents received comprehensive care in our onsite clinic, in partnership with Tulane Medical School
  - 81%** showed improved functioning in jobs, school, and interpersonal relations
- Employment**
  - 184** youth found work or entered job training programs
- Education**
  - 74** children enrolled in Early Head Start
  - 27** youth and children enrolled in elementary school, high school, college, or GED / HiSET programs
- Human Trafficking**
  - 78** young victims & survivors served
  - 77%** found stable housing and/or family reunification
- Street Outreach & Aftercare**
  - 394** youth received counseling and emergency services in the community
- Reunification**
  - 190** youth received bus or plane tickets to reunite with family or relatives offering a safe & stable environment



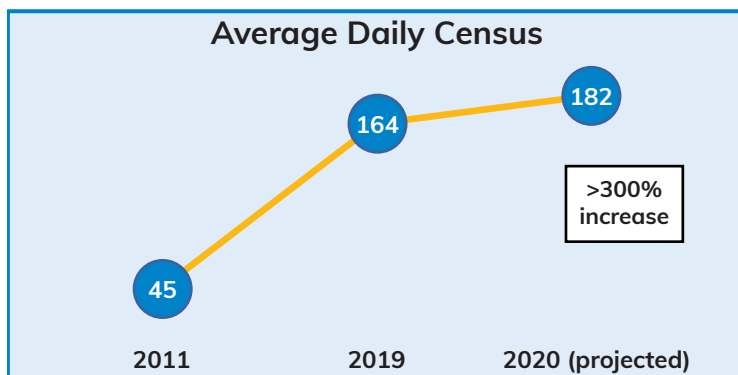
## Spotlight on Substance Abuse

The two greatest challenges facing our young people are **drug use** and **mental/behavioral health** issues. Sadly, the two are almost always connected.

Substance abuse often begins when our youth self-medicate to escape or mask their pain. It's cheap - and it's easy.

The problem is getting worse: a 2019 CDC study showed that Louisiana had the 2nd highest increase in drug overdose deaths in the nation. 70% of our kids identify as "users," and 40% have a serious addiction.

Thanks to a commitment from the **Goldring & Woldenberg Foundations**, we recently launched a major expansion of our substance abuse programming. We hired a full-time counselor, implemented a new youth-informed recovery model, and began construction on a beautiful new Health & Wellness Center. We look forward to updating you on our continued progress.



## 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

**40%**

of our young men have been in jail or juvenile detention

**40%**

have a serious drug or alcohol addiction

**36%**

identify as LGBTQ

**85%**

suffer from PTSD or poly-trauma

**15%**

ran away from abusive, violent homes

**40%**

of our young women are mothers

**33%**

aged out of the foster care system

**25%**

survived human trafficking and/or sexual labor



## Meet Kayla & Justin

Kayla had a rough childhood.

She was only 13 when she was first introduced to heroin... by her own mother. She quickly became addicted, turning to drugs to help her cope with the violence and trauma of her unstable surroundings.

With no father in the picture, Kayla was placed in the custody of her drug-addicted grandmother after her mom went to jail. She eventually wound up on the streets and became pregnant at 16. Needing money to feed both her addiction and her baby, she began stripping on Bourbon Street, where she was routinely trafficked in private "VIP" rooms. By age 19, she had lost custody of her son Justin – and was spiraling into despair.

Thankfully, Kayla's uncle intervened, helping her get into a rehab program and eventually to Covenant House. With a little guidance (and lots of unconditional love), Kayla soon thrived in her new environment. Our staff referred her to Green Path, where she spends 20 hours per week receiving treatment (suboxone) and regular counseling. She has found steady employment and has begun saving 80% of every paycheck.

In time, Kayla's case manager helped her earn back custody of her 3-year-old son Justin. As residents of our "Two Generations" program, Kayla and Justin receive carefully tailored services to meet their unique needs, including individual & family counseling, medical & behavioral healthcare, and educational & vocational services.

Justin attends our on-campus Head Start center while his mother is at work each day. They look forward to moving into their own apartment soon, where they will continue receiving support and services, including tapered rental assistance to ease their transition to independence. Kayla's goal is to become a licensed social worker – so she can one day help others overcome their exposure to abuse, violence, drugs, and trauma.

We are so proud of Kayla, Justin, and ALL our brave and resilient young people.

*Did you know that 40% of the young women who walk through our doors are mothers? On any given night, we care for 30-35 toddlers. We're grateful to the W.K. Kellogg and Taylor Foundations for their support of our "Two Generations" mother-child program.*

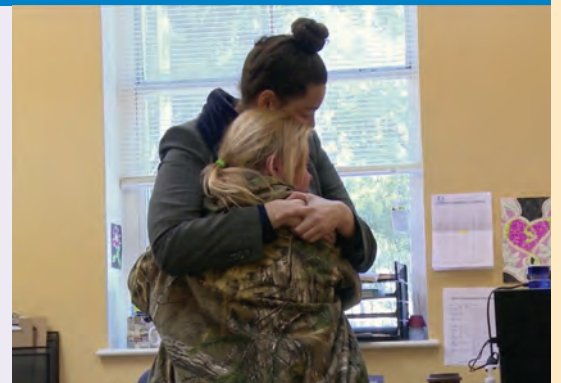


## SHELTER surpasses 2 million views!



Have you seen SHELTER yet? We are delighted that this powerful film featuring the youth & staff at Covenant House has now been viewed over 2 million times online. To see it for FREE - or to learn "where are they now" - go to:

[www.shelterdocumentary.com](http://www.shelterdocumentary.com)







## Sleep Out: 11-21-19

Last November, 200 business & civic leaders spent a night on the street for our 7<sup>th</sup> annual **Sleep Out**, raising funds (\$500,000) and awareness for our kids.

Our 2019 co-chairs **Thomas Morstead** and **Katie Harvill** have set a new goal to raise \$525,000 and recruit 215 sleepers.

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

<http://neworleans.thesleepout.org>



## Thank You

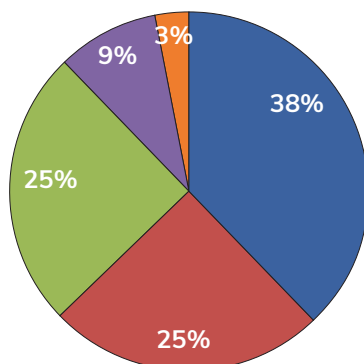
We can never say it enough. Without you, Covenant House would not exist. 75% of our budget comes from private gifts.

We work hard to be good stewards of your support. **In the past eight years, we have reduced our average daily cost from \$238 to \$97** – while greatly expanding and enhancing our programs and services.

Please know of our prayers of gratitude for all you do for our brave young people.

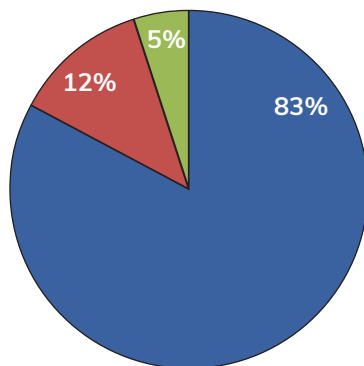


### 4 STAR-RATED (out of 4) by Charity Navigator



INCOME

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



EXPENSES

- Programs/Services
- Administrative
- Fundraising

*Note: excludes depreciation & in-kind services*

**FY19 (\$5,832,928)**

### 2018-2019 Board of Directors

Judge Lance Africk	Martha Landrum
Charles Beasley	Derrick Martin
Edgar "Dook" Chase IV	Kathleen Mayer
Philip deV. Claverie, Sr. (Chair)	Kristin Gisleson Palmer
Heather Millican Doyle	Christian Rhodes
Tawana Ewing	Gene Simon
Dr. Christian Fauria-Robinson	Dr. Julie Slick
Katie Harvill	Liz Sloss
Dr. Deidre Hayes	Tod Smith
David Krebs	Bruce Soltis
Madeleine Landrieu	Luis Zervigon

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