



# Covenant House

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

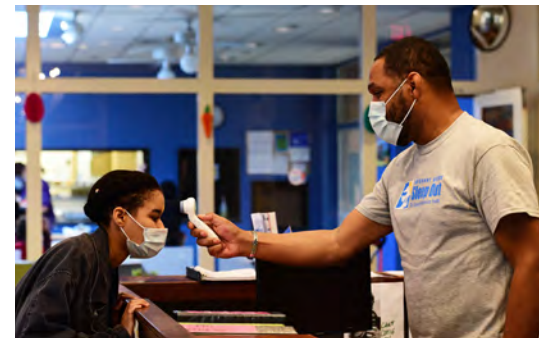
Dear friends,

Our young people are no strangers to adversity. Time and again, they have been rejected, discarded, and discounted. They've been told they aren't worthy. This spring, they were knocked down yet again; in the first weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic, over 85% of them lost their jobs.

Like so many of us, our youth are coping with increased anxiety and depression in the midst of this unprecedented crisis. They are fearful not only of the coronavirus, but of its effect on the goals they've been working so hard to achieve. Their resilience has been inspiring. Many have found purpose in our overdue national movement for racial equity and justice. They are brave, they are beautiful, and they are most definitely worthy.







Our dedicated team has been working 24/7 on the front lines to provide unconditional love and professional care, despite considerable health risks. We are currently caring for over 220 youth and children—the most in our history. We thank you for your continued support & prayers. Our kids need them now, more than ever. God bless,

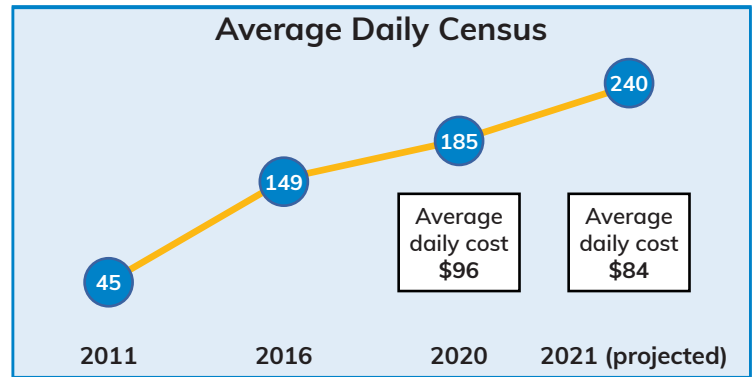
  
James R. Kelly  
Executive Director



Last year, a total of **896** young people took refuge from abusive homes and violent streets at Covenant House. They received food, clothing, shelter, counseling, case management, life skills, and so much more.

## Highlights

-  **24/7 Emergency Crisis Care**
  - **480** youth and children served
  - **70%** found stable housing and/or family reunification
-  **Rights of Passage (ROP) Transitional Living**
  - **112** youth and children served
  - **86%** 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**
  - **214** youth found work or entered job training programs
-  **Education**
  - **59** children enrolled in Head Start or elementary school
  - **56** youth and children enrolled in high school, college, or GED/HiSET programs
-  **Human Trafficking**
  - **90** youth served
  - **77%** found stable housing and/or family reunification
-  **Street Outreach & Aftercare**
  - **217** youth received counseling and emergency services in the community
-  **Reunification**
  - **148** youth received bus or plane tickets to reunite with family or relatives offering a safe and stable environment



## Spotlight: Kids of Trafficked Youth

You may know that Covenant House is a leading service provider and advocate for trafficked youth in our community. **25%** of our young people are survivors of human trafficking or sexual labor. What might surprise you? **40% of our survivors are mothers.**



The children of trafficking victims are often forgotten. We are currently caring for **28 babies and toddlers** who have survived the horrors of trafficking. The toxic effects of severe stress and trauma can stunt their development physically and emotionally, with long-term health and psychological effects.

We are collaborating with the nationally recognized team at **Children's Hospital** to explore how genetics, epigenetics, and early life experiences shape child neurodevelopment. We're also expanding our partnership with **Children's Parenting Center**.

How can we deliver the very best care to these young mothers and children? What specialized counseling and parenting curriculum can we develop for these trafficking survivors? Ultimately, how can we help **these tiny children of God to heal?**

We ask for your prayers of strength, healing, and hope for all youth and children affected by trafficking's vile exploitation.

## Covenant House Supports a Better, Hope-Filled World for our Youth



These are sad and troubling times for our nation. We stand in solidarity with our youth and staff who are greatly impacted—**79%** of our youth and **74%** of our staff are Black or African American. They deserve unconditional love and absolute respect, but instead have so often faced discrimination and rejection.

Every day, we see the ugly scars of systemic racism and prejudice show up as poverty, homelessness and human trafficking. The brave young people rebuilding their lives at Covenant House deserve to live in safety, with hope for brighter futures—as do all people of color who face persistent and egregious racism.

Without justice, there can never be true peace. We ask for your help and prayers in lifting our voices together to confront and dismantle racism and inequality in order to build the world our kids need and deserve.

## Grace: On the Front Lines of the Pandemic

Grace came to us at the age of sixteen. She had been living in an extremely abusive, dysfunctional home. Her mother had serious mental health issues.

After guiding her through the program, our team helped Grace find an apartment. She now works as a certified nursing assistant in the emergency psychiatric unit, while attending college part-time and studying psychiatry.

“Due to the pandemic, I’m working twelve-hour shifts, six days a week,” Grace says. “I’m not afraid. This is my job and I love it.”

Grace credits her time at Covenant House for helping her find her passion for helping others. She dreams of one day running her own nursing home.



“Some patients take their anger out on us, but I’m good at calming them down—like my Covenant House family taught me. How I grew up prepared me to help people, to tell them that people care... **and that there is hope.**”

Like our brave staff, Grace puts the needs of others ahead of her own—every single day.

“There was one young girl who came to the hospital after attempting suicide. No one could reach her, but I was able to gain her trust. I am not too concerned about the virus; this is what I signed up for. And if do get sick? **I trust in God’s plan.**”

We are so proud of Grace, just as we’re proud of *all* our brave and resilient young people.

## Elijah: Finding His Voice for Social Change

You would like Elijah. Not only is he a good kid—he’s a phenomenal artist.

Elijah lost his cousin, grandfather, and several friends to gun violence. Understandably, it’s been a long recovery process. **Art is his healing therapy.**

“Painting is a relief for me,” he says. “It helps me find a better place to rest my mind. Instead of keeping all the negative energy in me, I put it all on canvas.”

Elijah clearly has a bright future as a painter, but his primary passion is activism. He’s quiet—but he has so much to say. His paintbrush is his voice.

“I paint to stand up for what’s right. When you look at my art, you see life.”



A diligent saver, Elijah recently moved into his new apartment. It’s large enough to accommodate his disabled mother and sister, with enough room to spare for his artwork.

His newest painting is a portrait of Trayvon Martin. In his hand is a bag of Skittles (found in Trayvon’s pocket after his death). Only the letters “les” are visible, which is Spanish for “them.” The small, colorful bag has a powerful impact—symbolic not only of his youthful innocence, but also of the larger community and movement he represents.

“There’s more there... **under the surface.**” Just like with our youth. Just like with Elijah.

To watch a special new video about Elijah, go to [www.CovenantHouseNOLA.org/Elijah](http://www.CovenantHouseNOLA.org/Elijah)



## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Sleep Out

Last November, over 200 business and civic leaders spent one night on the street so that our youth don't have to, raising critical funds (\$620,000) and awareness.

This year's event on **November 19th, 2020** will not look the same as in the past, but the urgency has never been greater. We are carefully exploring our options (including virtual) to ensure the safety of all youth and sleepers—our #1 priority.

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

[neworleans.thesleepout.org](http://neworleans.thesleepout.org)



## Student Sleep Outs

Are you interested in hosting a Sleep Out on your campus? Students take the lead recruiting classmates and planning the program, with guidance from our staff.

Visit our website below to learn more! (Photo: **Isidore Newman High School**).

[neworleans.studentsleepout.org](http://neworleans.studentsleepout.org)



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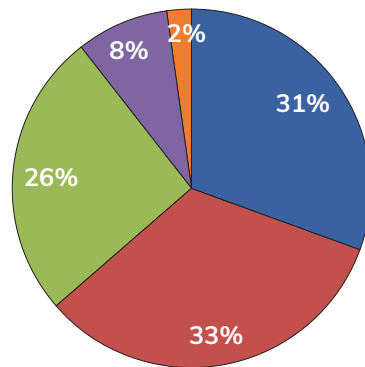
Best Documentary  
Special Jury Prize  
New Orleans Film Festival



Best Documentary  
Audience Award  
New Orleans Film Festival

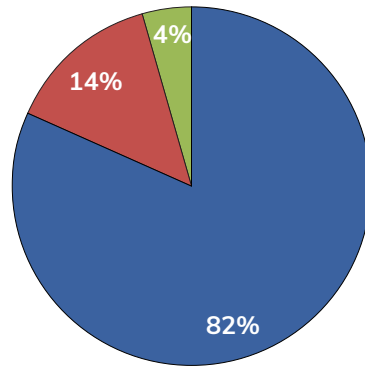


### 4 STAR-RATED (out of 4) by Charity Navigator



INCOME

- Individuals
- Foundations & Corporations
- Government
- Special Events
- Other



EXPENSES

- Programs & Services
- Administrative
- Fundraising

*Note: excludes depreciation & in-kind services*

**2020 Fiscal Year (\$6,473,985)**

### 2019-2020 Board of Directors

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