

A Year of Resilience

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**Covenant
House**
New Orleans



Dear friends,

New beginnings can be filled with many different emotions: fear, anxiety, excitement, and great joy. We can embark on these periods in our lives with trepidation—fearful of the unknown ahead of us—or we can embrace these moments filled with **hope and promise** for a bright and better new day.

After the many challenges of 2020, marred by the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and grave social upheaval, our young people and staff looked forward to 2021 with great optimism. Instead, we were met with **even more adversity**.

The pandemic continues to wreak havoc on our lives, with tragic loss of life, relentless unemployment, and worsening mental and emotional health. In August, Hurricane Ida uprooted our family, forcing the evacuation of our shelter for over two weeks.

Our young people and staff epitomize the meaning of **resilience**. Time and again, they are putting into practice the lessons and life skills they're learning at Covenant House. They are persevering with a renewed sense of confidence, better equipped to handle the unknown challenges that lie ahead.



We celebrate and honor their resilience and resolve. We continue to remain open 24/7 to welcome them with unconditional love, absolute respect, and relentless support. And we **thank you** for your partnership, prayers, and love. Our youth are deserving, they are precious, and they are worthy.

Peace and blessings,

♥ RHENEISHA ROBERTSON,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To our staff:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to congratulate and thank you for your exemplary work this year.

The extraordinary obstacles you have overcome prove that Covenant House is truly a family that goes above and beyond to serve our youth. It is such a blessing to have a 24-hour shelter with talented and committed staff who love what they do.

As a family, we recognize that self-care is vital to the work you do. The board supports you 100%. We are continually honored by the way you love our youth, absolutely and unconditionally.

♥ DR. DEIDRE HAYES LCSW-BAC,
BOARD CHAIR



2021 *at a Glance*

67,545

nights of housing provided

847

youth & children served across all programs

185

youth & children served per night



125

youth received bus or plane tickets to reunite with family

248

found work or entered job training programs



OUTREACH & AFTERCARE

1,084

services provided to youth & children

2,080

hours in the community spent doing outreach

420

youth & children served

78%

found stable housing or family reunification

24/7 CARE CENTER

30%

of Covenant House youth are survivors

66%

found stable housing or family reunification

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



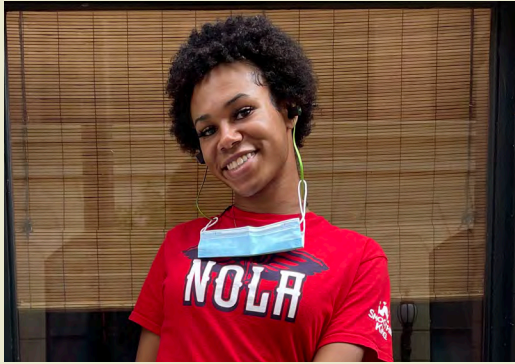
RIGHTS OF PASSAGE (ROP) TRANSITIONAL LIVING

214

youth & children received community-based supported housing

85%

graduated to a good job & stable housing



Gabriella arrived just prior to the onset of the pandemic, starting in our 24/7 Care Center before transitioning into our “Rights of Passage” (ROP) program.

“Covenant House means a lot to me. It’s a place where I can be myself. I feel free. Everything is about perspective. I’ve had my days... I’ve had my doubts... a lot of ups and downs. Covenant House is my safe place.

♥ GABRIELLA, ROP TRANSITIONAL LIVING

The Many Faces of *Covenant House*



Nic was struggling to fit in and feel accepted in his hometown. He came to Covenant House after watching the SHELTER documentary online.

His goal is to save enough money to move himself and his mom into a new apartment.

“I was tired of sleeping from house to house. Covenant House feels comfortable. I’m ready to turn over a new leaf and get clean.

♥ NIC, 24/7 CARE CENTER

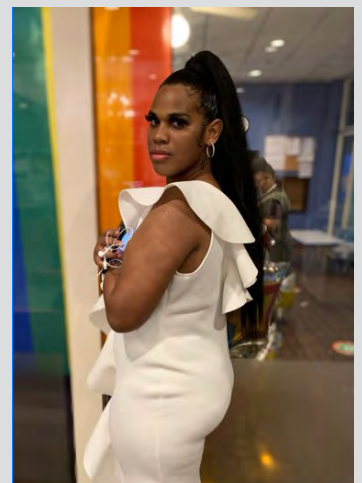
Ms. Dolita has been part of the Covenant House family for nine years, serving on our Outreach & Aftercare team.

“I’m passionate about fostering confidence in young people. I want them to know: if it’s important to you, then it’s important to me!



♥ DOLITA, AFTERCARE SPECIALIST

Rubi has excelled since she arrived about a year ago, graduating from high school and completing her job training program at Liberty’s Kitchen.



She’s looking forward to moving into her own apartment, where she will receive rental assistance in addition to continued 24/7 case management, love, and support.

“Covenant House helped me grow as a person. Without their help, I wouldn’t have achieved the goals I’ve reached.

♥ RUBI, SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Aaroneisha started in our 24/7 Care Center and now lives with her five sons in a supported apartment for young families.



“I was expecting a shelter for strangers. It doesn’t feel like that! The rooms are like dorms; they have classes and events. It feels like a family.

♥ AARONEISHA, TWO-GEN PROGRAM



Overcoming Intergenerational Trauma

16 years ago, Hurricane Katrina changed New Orleans forever. Now, some Katrina survivors are having children of their own in the midst of two new collective traumas: COVID-19 and Hurricane Ida.

A growing number of our youth (over **32%** of those we cared for this year) are **young families**. These mothers, fathers, and children face significant challenges to their well-being, heightened by layered experiences of childhood trauma and societal stressors that too often lead to poor health outcomes and quality of life.



Research shows that the neurological and social development of future generations is affected by the lived experiences of those who came before them. Our **Two-Generation (Two-Gen) Parent-Child program** works to break the cycle of intergenerational trauma by providing a best-practice, whole-family approach to build a “village” of support for our young families.

Our team works patiently with young parents to help them develop healthy bonds with their children, while also reaching out to family, friends, and community members to build a buffer against toxic stress.

When it comes to the development of young minds, everything matters—from the intrauterine environment to postpartum, early childhood intervention, and policy solutions. We ALL must do our part as a loving and supportive community to allow young families to thrive.

SHELTER Update: Matt, the Artist

Six years ago, Vice Documentary Films captured the stories of our youth in the documentary SHELTER. Among them was a kind, genuine artist named Matt.



The film followed Matt as he scored a job at Liberty’s Kitchen, obtaining on-the-job skills that he still uses as an employee in the restaurant industry.

We recently caught up with Matt and were delighted to learn that he has reconnected with family—and is creating amazing artwork and video game graphics.




Ultimately, Matt says he wants to be a full-time artist. We have no doubt he will achieve his dreams.

VIEW A FULL UPDATE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

Hurricane Ida: “Operation Cov Love”



What happened to our young people after Ida?

-  **28%** evacuated to Covenant House Texas
-  **32%** evacuated with friends or family
-  **40%** stayed in New Orleans

With your help, we raised \$240,000 for our emergency Ida evacuation & recovery efforts.



@COVENANTHOUSENOLA



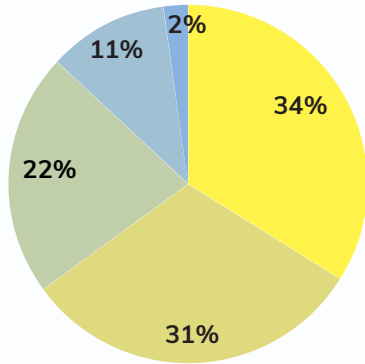
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COVENANT HOUSE NEW ORLEANS

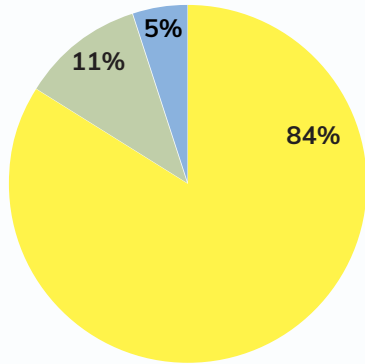


4 STAR-RATED (out of 4) by Charity Navigator



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

INCOME



- Programs/Services
- Administrative
- Fundraising

EXPENSES

Note: excludes depreciation & in-kind services

2021 Fiscal Year (Revenue: \$7,628,729)

2020-2021 Board of Directors

Dr. Deidre Hayes, Board Chair

- Judge Lance Africk
- Eric Alexander
- Dr. Marc Behar
- Judge Paula Brown
- Heather Millican Doyle
- Tawana Ewing
- Dr. Christian Fauria-Robinson
- Gregor Fox
- Thelma French
- Katie Harvill
- Karyn Kearney
- Dr. Jake Kleinmahon
- David Krebs
- Derrick Martin
- Kristin Gisleson Palmer
- Christian Rhodes
- Gene Simon
- Peter Wilson, Jr.
- Luis Zervigon



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SLEEP OUT
 2012 - 2021
 Covenant House

NOVEMBER 18, 2021

NEW ORLEANS

**JOIN OR WATCH IT LIVE AT
 NEWORLEANS.SLEEPOUT.ORG**