



# House by the Side of the Road

## 2025 Annual Report

### 2025-2026 Board members

Mark Hopper  
*President*

Scott King  
*Vice-President*

Lynn Cohan\*  
*Secretary*

Ken Westerman  
*Treasurer*

Debra Dill

Venus DePena

Lorenzo Thurman

Stephanie Brinley+

\* served in 2025 only  
+ served in 2026 only

## Message from the House Manager

Dear Friends,

In 2025 we served many clients, each with their own story. Most of those stories we never learn. Those that are shared confirm how important our work is and how blessed we are to do it. We served people recently released from prison with nothing but the clothes they entered with, immigrants waiting for housing and looking for jobs, people needing clothes for job interviews, some needing clothes for soon to arrive babies, and homeless needing bedding and clothing to stay warm.

House by the Side of the Road is committed to providing children and adults in need in Washtenaw County with clothing and small household items at no charge. Because of the many individuals, churches, and organizations who provide money or donations of clothing, linens, and small household items, we continue to grow and help more of those in need in Washtenaw County. In 2025 we served 5,187 households (more than in any year of our 56!), 449 more than in 2024. 1,082 of those were first time visitors.

On behalf of the board, our volunteers, and our clients, thank you for your continued support. Your generosity made it possible for our 56th year to be our most impactful ever, helping those in need.

Best wishes,  
Gemaya Griffin  
House Manager



### Our mission

House by the Side of the Road's purpose is to provide FREE clothing and small household items to children and adults in need in Washtenaw County.

# Our Clients

Some clients are homeless, reentering society from prison, recent immigrants, migrant workers, dealing with mental health issues, or crisis pregnancies. People come in after family breakup, job loss, fire, or prolonged illness.

## Meet Our Client

Our new board member Stephanie Brinley interviewed our client, Cazzie Avery.



Cazzie has been a client at House by the Side of the Road. He shared how the House helped him during his struggles. Cazzie is a father who struggled with homelessness and seeing a house fire destroy his belongings.

Cazzie was introduced to House by the Side of the Road by people at the Delonis Center, in Ann Arbor, referred when he needed a suit for a job interview. After his first visit, Cazzie said, "House by the Side of the Road changed my life. It gave me an opportunity where I can come and reset my life... [it] is a treasure for people like me that couldn't afford certain materials to get to where they're going."

Cazzie recounted how coming gave him a sense of stability in the midst of change. He said, "Being able to walk in and walk out with a brand-new suit just did something to my self-esteem. It did something to my courage. It meant more than giving me some money, just the fact that people just sitting there and helping. That's why I come to House by the Side of the Road, because I feel like it's a home when I'm down."

Cazzie continues to visit and appreciates being able to get clothes and small household items. Being able to come back has provided him a sense of place when that has been difficult to find. He has shopped with his son too and appreciates the volunteers and their kindness.

## Who We Are

At House by the Side of the Road, we are happy to serve the needs of our clients. Volunteers and volunteer board members bring special skills and dedication to the mission of House by the Side of the Road.

Our clients pay nothing and are not required to provide a referral. We are proud to report we are uniquely a 100% volunteer run organization. That means we have NO paid staff but rely on the generosity of many individuals.

## Meet Our Volunteers

Meet Pioneer High School's newest club: The House by the Side of the Road club. Their co-presidents Cali Dugan and Lizzie Wernimont tell us about it.

### ***What made you want to start the club?***

We had been involved in clubs at Pioneer in the past, but none of the clubs we participated in really did much to help the community. At the beginning of the year, we decided to create a new club with the core value in mind of giving back to our community, making a positive impact. We began brainstorming ideas of local charities and non-profit organizations to base our club on, and when we came across House by the Side of the Road, we knew it would be a great fit for what we were looking for. Through the House by the Side of the Road, we were able to hold fundraisers, donation drives, and volunteer for a good cause and serve others in our community.

### ***What is the mission of the club?***

We believe everyone should be able to have access to necessities, and our mission is to give back to our community by helping those in need. We can do this by fundraising, volunteering, and donating to House by the Side of the Road to pay forward our duty of making our town, and community, a better place.

### ***How many members do you have?***

This is the first year of our club, and currently we have around 25 members. We are hoping to expand throughout our school over the next couple of years!



## Our Impact

In 2025 we served:

5,178 households

432 households/month (average)

1,082 new clients

Our clients came from:

58% Ypsilanti

36% Ann Arbor

6% Other cities in Washtenaw County

### ***What has the club done/organized?***

We aim to hold at least one fundraiser per month, and throughout the year we have been able to organize many different events to raise money and foster connections among those in our community. So far this year, we have done fundraisers such as a bake sale, a bottle/can drive, and a clothing and book drive. Additionally, we volunteered at House by the Side of the Road, and we hope to do so a few more times before the end of the school year.

# How You Can Help

## Volunteer

Our volunteers are the heart of what we do. We need people to receive, sort, tag, and hang up clothes, sort and display household items, and check clients in and out. Email us at [housebyroad@gmail.com](mailto:housebyroad@gmail.com).

## Give Funds

Consider helping to support the House.

- Become a sustaining donor by donating any amount per month
- Honor someone (birthday, anniversary, return of good health, graduation, wedding, etc.)

Give today! Go to:

[www.housebythesideoftheroad.org](http://www.housebythesideoftheroad.org)

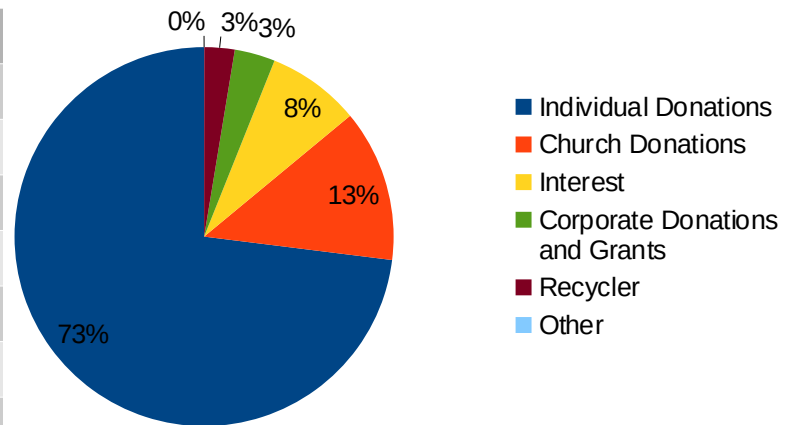
## Donate Clothes and Household items

Our current needs are:

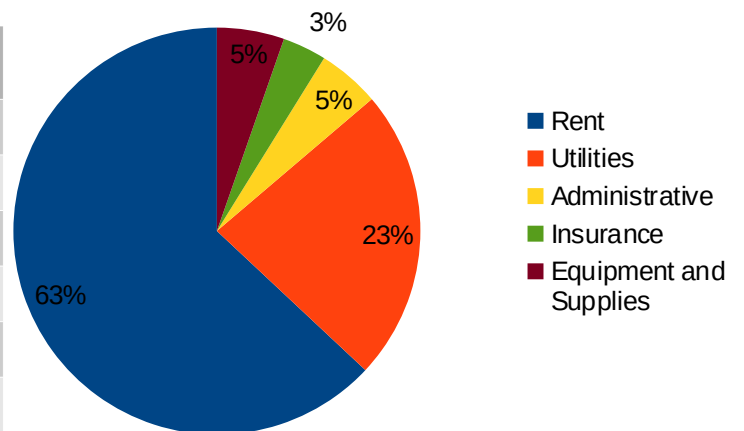
- Pots and pans
- Sheets and blankets
- Towels
- Small appliances
- Backpacks/suitcases
- Tennis shoes
- Pajamas
- Men's jeans

## Financials

Revenue	
Individual Donations	\$74,941
Church Donations	\$13,327
Interest	\$8,141
Corporate Donations and Grants	\$3,552
Recycler	\$2,659
Other	\$9
	<b>\$102,629</b>



Expenses	
Rent	\$53,346
Utilities	\$19,647
Administrative	\$4,183
Insurance	\$2,952
Equipment and Supplies	\$4,526
	<b>\$84,654</b>



## Contact

2051 South State Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

734-769-4085

[housebyroad@gmail.com](mailto:housebyroad@gmail.com)

## Hours

Open for clients and donations:  
Monday - Friday, 10:00am – 1:30pm

[www.HousebytheSideoftheRoad.org](http://www.HousebytheSideoftheRoad.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/housebysideoftheroadAnnArbor/>