



# House by the Side of the Road

## 2019 Annual Report

### Message from the House Manager

#### 2019 Board members

Mary Danforth  
President

Jean Bush-Bacelis  
Vice-President

Debra Dill  
Secretary

Gemaya Griffin  
Treasurer

Kevin Graber

Monica Harrold

Henry McQueen

Roger Vance

Dear Friends,

I want to thank ALL of you who helped us increase our stability and ability to serve many more families this year! We needed and appreciated every single financial donor, clothing donor and volunteer!

In 2019 we served 414 more families compared to 2018. 805 families were new to the House. In addition to serving more clients, we took in significantly more money than we spent last year, which will help us to purchase much needed clothing racks and shelving units for our household items. Some of our racks have been "fixed" with duct tape, and they definitely need to be replaced! Also, we have more regular volunteers than we had last year (from 30 to 40). And our donations of clothes and household items have increased significantly. All of these increases have allowed us to support the increased client base.

We are so grateful to all those who have provided this support. Please read some of the client stories in this Annual Report AND check out the video on our website.

Best Wishes,  
Mary Danforth,  
House Manager

**"Clients say they feel that they are treated with dignity and respect"**

#### 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.



## Who We Are

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

## Our Impact

In 2019 we served

- 3,242 families
- 270 families per month (average)
- 805 new clients

Our clients come from:

- 55% Ypsilanti
  - 35% Ann Arbor
  - 10% other
- (most from Washtenaw County)

## Volunteers Make a Difference



Early in her career, Cathie Bloem was a visiting nurse for the Washtenaw County Health Department where she saw the importance of the House by the Side of the Road for the young mothers and infants. When she retired recently, the House was her first choice for volunteering.

“I really enjoy volunteering, helping to manage donations and interacting directly with clients. I enjoy talking to them during their “shopping”. Their expressions of such sincere gratitude are heartwarming. It’s also fun interacting with the other volunteers. Everyone is supportive of one another; lots of personal stories and laughs are shared.

The clients really touch me, as many are or were recently homeless, suffer from addiction or have recently been released from incarceration. They are the vulnerable ones in our community who need our help. The House is a great place to help.

Besides volunteering at the House, I love gardening, and even mowing the lawn! I also love cooking and baking and hope someday to have the patience to decorate cakes and cookies beautifully.”

## Our Clients

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

“Donations directly benefit people in need,  
right in our own community”

# Client Stories

In 2019 we served the youngest “head of household” in our recorded history. “Jane” is 15 years old, homeless, with a 4-month-old baby and 12-year-old sister. She had a case worker with her, who said, “We were able to get the items we needed from the House by the Side of the Road.”

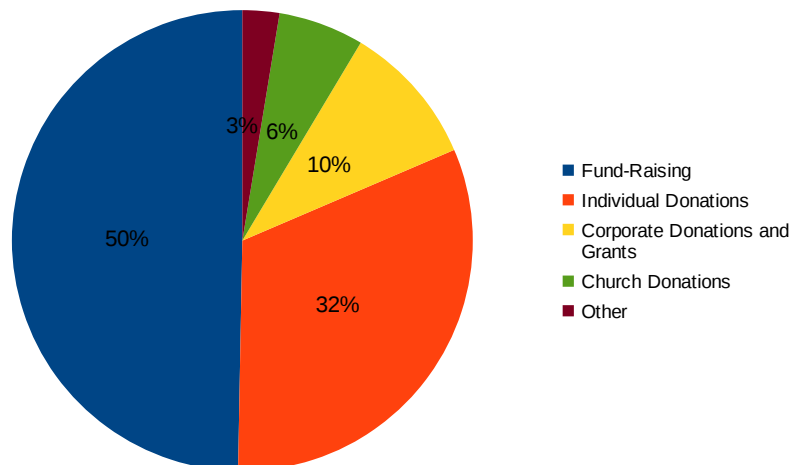
“Susan” is 83 years old, very thin, and lives in an extremely small 1-room apartment with a bed and no other furniture. She has a place to hang her clothes on one wall, but everything else is on the floor. She came by bus to the House by the Side of the Road, but collapsed twice while shopping. Mary, the House Manager, offered to take her home, which she gratefully accepted. Mary said afterwards: “Every time I see where a client lives, I can understand why they need the services we provide.”

“Bob” lived in a tent behind Kroger’s for the past 3 years before he finally got into the Delonis Center. He has done different jobs all over the United States, with a long list of reasons why each one ended. While he was shopping at House by the Side of the Road, he and another homeless client, who lives in a van, spent quite a bit of time discussing the best way to construct a bed in a van.

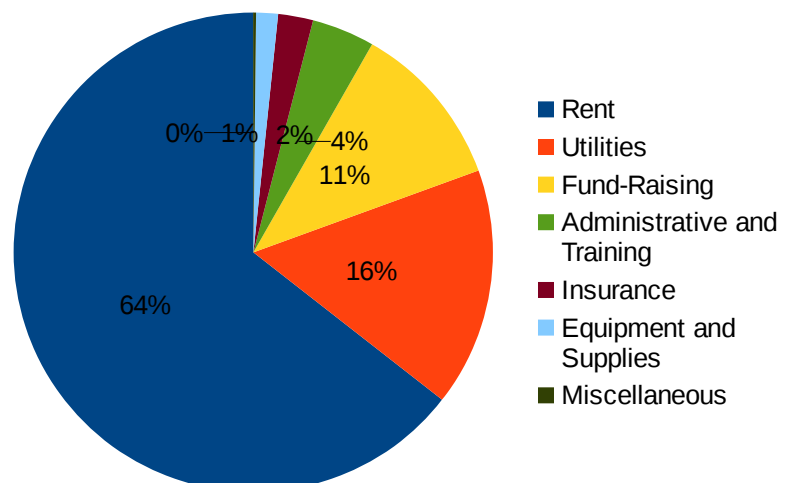
## We are a 100% volunteer-run organization

## Financials

Revenue	
Fund-Raising	\$26,865
Individual Donations	\$17,145
Corporate Donations and Grants	\$5,400
Church Donations	\$3,242
Other	\$1,396
	<b>\$54,049</b>



Expenses	
Rent	\$29,777
Utilities	\$7,437
Fund-Raising	\$5,172
Administrative and Training	\$1,959
Insurance	\$1,087
Equipment and Supplies	\$684
Miscellaneous	\$85
	<b>\$46,201</b>



# How You Can Help

## Give Funds

We provide families with clothes and household items with your support. Go to [www.housebythesideoftheroad.org](http://www.housebythesideoftheroad.org) to give today!

## 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 in and check out clients. Please call us at 734-769-4085, email us at [housebyroad@gmail.com](mailto:housebyroad@gmail.com) or come visit us!

## Donate Clothes and Household items

Our current needs are:

- Pots and pans
- Sheets of all sizes
- Blankets of all sizes
- Small appliances
- Backpacks/suitcases
- Large size men's shoes
- Boys clothes sizes 2-18, especially pants
- Women's and men's plus size clothes



## Special Thanks to

The Gerber Foundation  
Thomson Reuters  
Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor

## Contact

2051 South State Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

734-769-4085

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

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

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

## Hours

Open for clients: Monday - Friday, 10:00am - 2:00pm

Open for donations: Monday - Friday, 10:00am – 2:30pm  
(ring our bell at the back and we'll help unload your donations)

We are also open one Saturday a month (usually the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday)