



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

SAFETY • EMPOWERMENT • CHANGE



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.





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10/1/2016 - 9/30/2017

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OUR MISSION

Underground Railroad's mission is to empower survivors and create a culture of safety and respect in our community.





From the CEO

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW (10/1/2016 - 9/30/2017)

What a year! Our 40th anniversary brought many changes to the organization. First and foremost, longtime Executive Director, Valerie Hoffman, retired after 23 years leading Underground Railroad. I look forward to building on the achievements of the last two decades that have made this organization the community leader in ending violence against women. Valerie's legacy inspired our "Spirit of Survival" match challenge which generated over \$60,000 to grow Underground Railroad's Endowment Fund in addition to annual operating gifts. This helps ensure a sustainable future for victims' services in Saginaw County.

At the beginning of the year, Underground Railroad reinstated our Civil Legal Assistance program with the help of generous donors and funders throughout the community. This continued funding allows us to keep a paid civil legal attorney on-staff who can assist with divorce, custody arrangements, housing negotiations, and immigration issues for survivors of abuse. The Civil Legal Assistance program is crucial to help survivors navigate the legal processes without feeling powerless and re-victimized.

The end of our fiscal year saw the beginning of #MeToo, a national movement that empowers women through

empathy, and has started a world-wide conversation about the violence women face and the path to prevent it. Our own prevention staff worked hard in 2017 to reframe the community dialogue to include male voices against abuse. In April 2017, we hosted the first annual Men's Conference as a kickoff to our Saginaw County Men's Campaign, which asks male leaders to challenge the ideals and attitudes that support violence against women. We expect this campaign to yield big things in the coming year.

Finally, we were proud to introduce our new Empowerment Dinner & Celebration Gala last fall, and to honor our first ever Underground Railroad Empowerment Award recipient. In addition to recognizing Heidi Bolger of Rehmann Group for her community leadership and philanthropy, the event secured generous donations that made up part of a \$108,000 total fundraising revenue for the year.

We intend to build on the success of 2017 as we move forward with a strong team of dedicated staff, board members, volunteers and supporters. Thanks to all of you who have set the foundation for what is sure to be an outstanding 2018.

Christi Birchmeier

SERVICES



Crisis Helpline: Support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



Emergency Shelter: Our 19-room, 46-bed shelter provides safety and comfort



Emergency On-Call Response: Advocates provide 24 hour coverage to meet with victims



Advocacy/ Therapy / Support Groups: Individual/group counseling provide skills & empowerment



Court Support: Assistance with personal protection orders, court cases, & legal options



Housing Support: Varied programs assist survivors as they move into a new home



Individualized Assistance: 911 phones, household items, supportive services & more



Youth Services: Children's services include youth advocacy, therapy, & free, licensed day care



SafePlace Program: Provides supervised visitation & safe child exchange for families



Community Outreach: Prevention education in schools & community awareness presentations



Volunteer Opportunities: Opportunities to volunteer are available through various programs



Girls in the Run Program: Inspires girls to become joyful, healthy and confident



Underground Railroad Resale: Donations provide survivors with needs & help fund programs





Board of Directors 2016-2017

Sue Sulfridge - Chair
Covenant Healthcare, Retired

Valerie Hoffman - President
Underground Railroad, Inc.

Mari McKenzie - Vice Chair
Yeo & Yeo, Retired

Terrie Chronowski - Treasurer
Yeo & Yeo

Sonia Severin - Secretary
Westside Decorating Center

Barbara Boggess
Founding Director of New Horizons Crisis Center

Terri Carmichael
Merrill Lynch

Jayne Grzegorzcyk
Andrews Hooper Pavlik PLC

Sharon Hopper
Future Insurance Agency

Kimberly Horne
Dow Chemical Company

Archia Jackson
HealthSource Saginaw

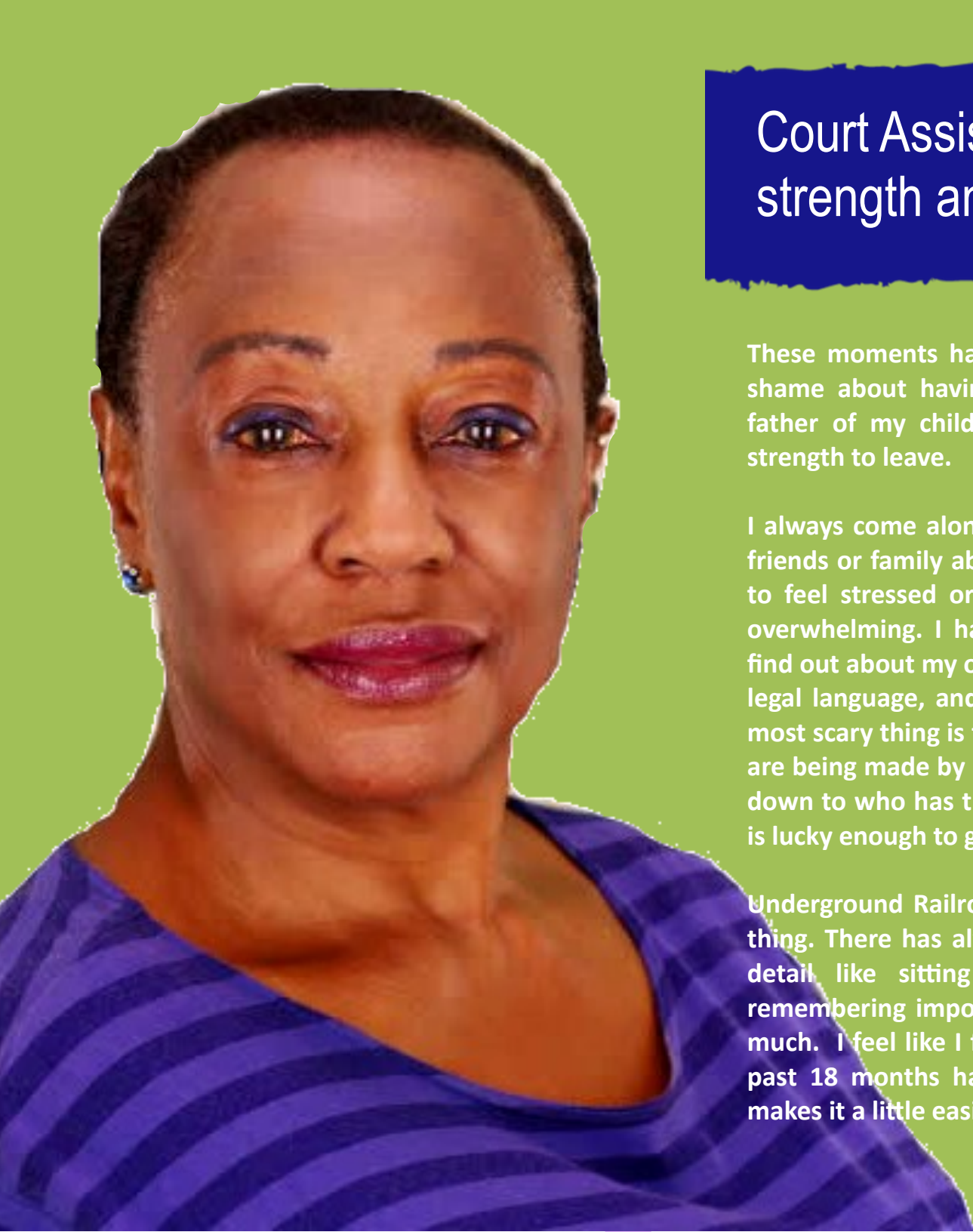
Darlene Krumpholz
Wildfire Credit Union

Dave Nall
Covenant Healthcare

Jon Pickelman
Tri-Star Trust Bank

Matthew Tarrant
Braun Kendrick

Melissa Wallace
Delta College



Court Assistance builds strength and offers hope

These moments have been so difficult for me. I have a lot of shame about having chosen this man to be my partner and father of my children. It took so much for me to find the strength to leave.

I always come alone to court because I haven't told any of my friends or family about what has happened. I don't want them to feel stressed or afraid for me. But coming to court is so overwhelming. I have anxiety about who might be there and find out about my ordeal. The notices I get, officers on my porch, legal language, and uneasy hallways are intimidating. But the most scary thing is that decisions that will impact my life forever are being made by people I don't know. So much of it can come down to who has the best lawyer with the best connections, or is lucky enough to get the right judge at the right moment.

Underground Railroad staff has helped me navigate this whole thing. There has always been someone by my side. The tiniest detail like sitting between us to block eye contact, or remembering important details to include in my file, meant so much. I feel like I finally have someone fighting for me. These past 18 months have been hard, but having you by my side makes it a little easier.

YEAR IN REVIEW

DIRECT SERVICES

2392 calls

to the
crisis
helpline



**8 dogs &
7 cats**

were
kept
safe with
their
families



1,775



people received
individualized
assistance

4,977

individual
& group
counseling
hours



610

PPDs
provided



1,914



hearings attended

56

HOUSEHOLDS

received

44,568

nights of Rapid
Rehousing,
Transitional Housing &
Permanent
Supportive Housing



13,164
safe nights
in
shelter

59

families
spent
time in
SafePlace



5102

hours of
childcare
provided



SAGINAW COUNTY 2017

MEN'S

CAMPAIGN

I PLEDGE

- ✓ TO STAND AGAINST ABUSE
- ✓ TO LEARN ABOUT THE ISSUES
- ✓ TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS
- ✓ TO SPEAK UP



STEVE HENSLEY

BRANCH MANAGER
COPOCO COMMUNITY
CREDIT UNION

"POSITIVE INFLUENCE OCCURS WHEN COURAGEOUS MEN SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER. AS MEN, WE SHOULD ASPIRE TO HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES."



SCOTT REED
FINANCIAL ADVISER

"TEACHING OUR GENERATION ,ABOUT KINDNESS, RESPECT ,AND CARING STARTS WITH US WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT EVERYTHING WE DO AND SAY "TEACHES" THE PEOPLE AROUND US WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE VALUE."

YEAR IN REVIEW

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



157
public
awareness
& community education
events attended



2,501 K-12 youth
attended **363**
educational sessions on
HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Girls on the Run inspired
314 girls
in Saginaw, Bay, Arenac & Tuscola Counties
to be **joyful**
healthy & confident


Over 50 male leaders
attended the first ever
Saginaw Men's
Conference

Members of the Mid-Michigan
Human Trafficking Task Force
gave **72 presentations**
to community members
& service providers



Volunteers become family

A social work internship with the Underground Railroad has provided me with life changing experiences. Since August, it has served as the environment which has motivated me to learn more about immigration, human trafficking, and the dynamics that encompass domestic violence.

It has encouraged me to listen more intently, as well as challenged me truly learn the definition of advocacy. The Underground Railroad provides me the tools to feel comfortable holding client meetings, assisting with domestic violence support groups, accompanying individuals while at court, and providing advocacy at the hospital. I even had the opportunity to act as an interpreter for a survivor of human trafficking. All of this has been incredible.

I feel nothing less than completely supported by the staff with whom I work, as they have deeply invested their time, love, and knowledge into me. Ultimately, I am left inspired from the clients I work with and have an understanding of what resilience is. I thank the Underground Railroad for creating this unparalleled learning opportunity.



YEAR IN REVIEW

DONOR GRATITUDE

Our community adopted
over 200
adults & children with
gifts



650 Volunteers
donated over
11,080 hours of
service

Our **Generous**
donors gave over
\$108,000

to our annual fundraisers
that provide crucial
operating support

Over **\$250,000** worth
of merchandise was donated to Underground
Railroad Resale. **\$45,000+** worth of
merchandise benefitted survivors
directly through vouchers

167 community
members ran in the
 5K to support
Girls on the Run

Community groups
and businesses
raised over **\$15,000**
through third party
fundraisers



YEAR IN REVIEW

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



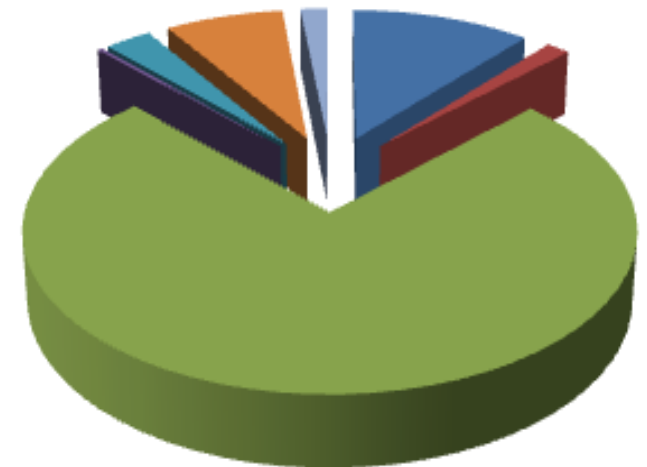
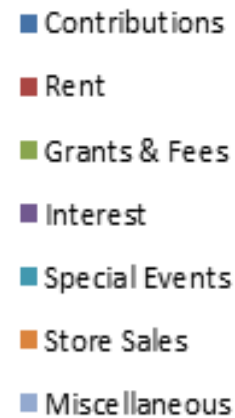
Community Contributions:

Businesses	\$16,441.00	5.25%
Churches	\$16,078.00	5.14%
Clubs/Groups	\$23,968.00	7.66%
Foundations	\$106,083.00	33.88%
Individuals	\$37,865.00	12.09%
In Kind	\$46,354.00	14.81%
United Way	\$66,292.00	21.17%
Total	\$313,081.00	100%

INCOME 2017

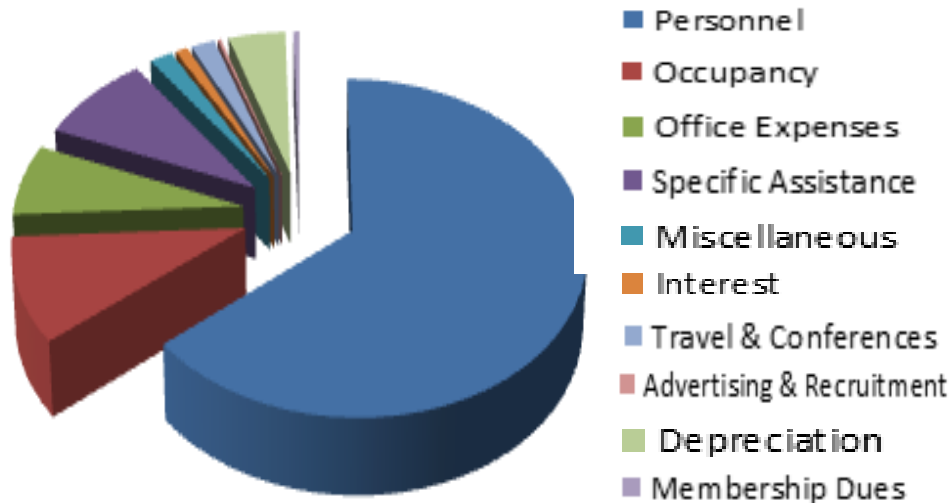
Income:

Contributions	\$313,081.00	11.15%
Rent	\$41,447.00	1.48%
Grants & Fees	\$2,109,423.00	75.13%
Interest	\$9,552.00	0.34%
Special Events	\$81,521.00	2.90%
Store Sales	\$206,048.00	7.34%
Miscellaneous	\$46,789.00	1.67%
Total	\$2,807,861.00	100.00%



YEAR IN REVIEW

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Expenses:

Personnel	\$1,837,840.00	64.08%
Occupancy	\$289,933.00	10.11%
Office Expenses	\$200,735.00	7.00%
Specific Assistance	\$255,798.00	8.92%
Miscellaneous	\$52,087.00	1.82%
Interest	\$28,323.00	0.99%
Travel & Conferences	\$53,805.00	1.88%
Advertising & Recruitment	\$7,918.00	0.28%
Depreciation	\$128,700.00	4.49%
Membership Dues	\$13,070.00	0.46%
Total	\$2,868,209.00	100.00%

EXPENSES 2017

Program/Services Expenses:

Shelter / DV Services	\$604,340.00	21.07%
Court Support	\$245,640.00	8.56%
Transitional Housing	\$948,929.00	33.08%
Sexual Assault	\$139,602.00	4.87%
Education/ Outreach	\$195,131.00	6.80%
Management/General	\$397,540.00	13.86%
Resale Store	\$211,498.00	7.37%
Fundraising	\$125,529.00	4.38%
Total	\$2,868,209.00	100.00%

