



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT

*I am
Empowered*



Table of Contents

Our Services	Page 3
Our Mission	Page 4
Letter from the Director	Page 5
Board of Directors	Page 6
Survivor Testimony.....	Page 7
Direct Services Successes.....	Page 8
Community Engagement Successes	Pages 9-10
Donor Gratitude	Pages 11-12
Financial Highlights	Pages 13-14





I am
Safe



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 of abuse



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



Court Support: We provide help with personal protection orders, court appearances, and legal options



Housing Support: Programs are adapted to the needs of the survivor as they move into a new home



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



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



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



Community Outreach: Prevention education in schools and 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 necessities and help fund URR

The mission of Underground Railroad, Inc. is to empower survivors and create a culture of safety and respect in the community.

Underground Railroad, Inc. will:

- 1) provide services for survivors of domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault and human slavery
- 2) assume the leadership role for eliminating violence against women within our community
- 3) maintain adequate facilities, staffing, equipment and resources to support our programs
- 4) diversify and expand funding sources to enable the corporation to adapt to the changing political and economic environments
- 5) enhance and expand community understanding and support for our mission



*I am
hopeful*

From the CEO

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW 10/1/2017—9/30/2018

Dear Friends,

Closing out my first year as Underground Railroad's Executive Director, I'm excited to share the news of our growth and development in the 2018 fiscal year.

The past year brought major renovations to our Safety & Resource Center which houses our emergency shelter and direct services staff. Capital projects included a new roof and air handlers, as well as a new boiler and control system throughout the building. These projects are crucial to our mission of providing safe and comfortable housing for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking.

We also saw the expansion of our SafePlace program, a project that has doubled the number of safe and supervised visitations provided for families in our region. This year we also welcomed a new Housing Manager, and an additional Domestic Violence Advocate who will help the agency continue to provide the important services that remove barriers to achieving safety, empowerment, and change.

Finally, thanks to a generous grant from the Bay Area Community Foundation, Underground Railroad staff and board worked with the Community Action Network to overhaul our strategic plan for the next five years. Our outlined goals will continue our history of growth and innovative programming for survivors of abuse in Saginaw County. As responsible stewards of your investment in this work, we have ended the year financially strong. We are poised to carry out our strategic plan and deepen our impact in the years to come.

It continues to be an honor to grow together with you to serve this community, and work towards our mission to empower survivors and create a culture of safety and respect in our community.

Sincerely,

Christi Birchmeier

Christi Birchmeier, Executive Director



Board of Directors



Mari McKenzie - Chair
Yeo & Yeo, Retired

Sharon Hopper
Future Insurance Agency

Christi Birchmeier - President
Underground Railroad, Inc.

Kimberly Horne
Dow Chemical Company

Sonia Severin - Vice Chair
Westside Decorating Center

Darlene Krumpholz
Wildfire Credit Union

Terrie Chronowski - Treasurer
Yeo & Yeo

Dave Nall
Covenant Healthcare

Melissa Wallace - Secretary
Delta College

Jamie Nisidis
Braun Kendrick

Barbara Boggess
Founding Director of
New Horizons Crisis Center

Jon Pickelman
Tri-Star Trust Bank

Terri Carmichael
Merrill Lynch

Matthew Tarrant
Braun Kendrick

James Hernandez
Saginaw Valley State University

Jennifer Wysong
Independent Bank

I was 25 years old, bartending in my small hometown, when I was sexually assaulted by my employer. Following the assault, I resigned from my job, began experiencing extreme bouts of depression and anxiety, and was struggling to perform everyday tasks. I withdrew from my friends and family, finding social interactions difficult and never knowing what might trigger a flashback. My relationship with my boyfriend was on the rocks, and he couldn't understand why I wasn't able to just "move on." As his frustration with me increased, he told me to find a therapist or he would leave.

I found Underground Railroad's free counseling services online, and finally called for more information. My therapist spent a lot of time getting to know me before we started talking about what happened. Once I felt like I could really trust her, I began to open up about the assault and other childhood traumas. For the first time in a long time, I felt hopeful about my future. I used that glimmer of hope as motivation to continue, and began meeting with my therapist for an hour or more each week. We used Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) to revisit traumatic events and reprocess the memories.

As I became more empowered, I found the tools necessary to leave my unhealthy relationship, develop new friendships, reprocess grief and loss, and actually begin to love myself. After 12 weeks of therapy, I felt strong again, and able to handle the other areas of my life that weren't perfect on my own. I felt a new sense of growth and excitement. My new self confidence pushed me to apply for my dream job at the Grand Canyon. Four weeks after leaving therapy, I got to call my therapist to tell her I was offered the position. Without the help of Underground Railroad I would have never dared to believe this dream could come true.



I am
strong



YEAR IN REVIEW

direct services

566

PPOs
provided

&

2,154

court
hearings attended



4,514 hours
of childcare
provided



\$97,783

worth of
individualized
assistance was
provided



2,256
calls
to the
crisis
helpline



83

households



received
42,557

nights of
rapid
rehousing,
permanent
supportive
housing, &
transitional
housing

78 families
spent
time in SafePlace



14,096
safe nights
in shelter



21

pets were
kept safe
with their
families



4,715
individual
and
group
counseling
hours



Through Underground Railroad, I found people who understood what I was going through. I found a community.

—Survivor



2017-2018

I am Learning



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.
SUPPORT, EMPOWERMENT, CHANGE
for victims, families, and our community



OUR SERVICES

- 24/7 HELPING
- EMERGENCY SHELTER
- COURT SUPPORT SERVICES
- COUNSELING, ADVOCACY & SUPPORT GROUPS
- CHILDREN'S YOUTH SERVICES
- TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH
- LANGUAGE TRANSLATION



Under the
Rainbow
Resale
Shop

“Thank you so much for coming to teach us about Underground Railroad, the types of violence, and how we can help prevent it. I learned a lot that I can use in real life to make sure I’m safe and happy.”

YEAR IN REVIEW

community engagement

“The training we received should go hand in hand with responsible service. Well-informed team members are important to recognize sexual harassment and know what to do about it. It's the first step to making staff and customers feel safer.”
- Local Bar Owner



25

bar staff



attended the
“Pre Game”
sexual assault
training

2,181

K-12 youth
attended

416

educational
sessions



345

girls in
Saginaw,
Bay, &
Arenac
counties
became
more

joyful,
healthy, &
confident
through



OVER

50

AREA LEADERS



149

public
awareness

community
education events
attended

Members of the
Mid-Michigan
Human Trafficking
Task Force gave


67 trainings

to community
members



ATTENDED THE
2ND ANNUAL
SAGINAW
COUNTY
MEN'S
CONFERENCE

2017-2018

A black and white photograph of three women standing in front of the open rear hatch of a white van. The woman on the left is wearing glasses and a light-colored long-sleeved shirt. The woman in the center is wearing a striped long-sleeved shirt and is holding a white plastic bag. The woman on the right is wearing a striped short-sleeved shirt and is also holding a white plastic bag. They are all smiling. The background shows some trees and a building.

“Because I see the importance of Underground Railroad’s work, I make an annual financial gift to support the mission, and am proud to be a member of the Empowerment Circle, URR’s major gifts group. The work this organization does is astounding. Their reach across the county is expansive. Their services and programs are the result of a generous community. “

I am
grateful

YEAR IN REVIEW

donor
gratitude



413
community members
ran in the 5K
to support
Girls on the Run

Community groups
& businesses
raised over

\$13,200

through
third party
fundraisers

Over \$189,000 worth of
merchandise was donated to
Underground Railroad Resale.

\$50,000 + worth of
merchandise helped survivors
directly through vouchers.



994 Volunteers
donated over **17,990** hours of
service

Our
community
adopted over
200 adults &
children for the
holidays



Our generous
donors gave
over

\$75,000

to annual
fundraisers,
providing
crucial
operating
support



*I had the amazing privilege of
volunteering this year. I learned a lot
about what Underground Railroad
really is and does, and learned a lot
about the people they serve. It really
is impressive and heart warming.*

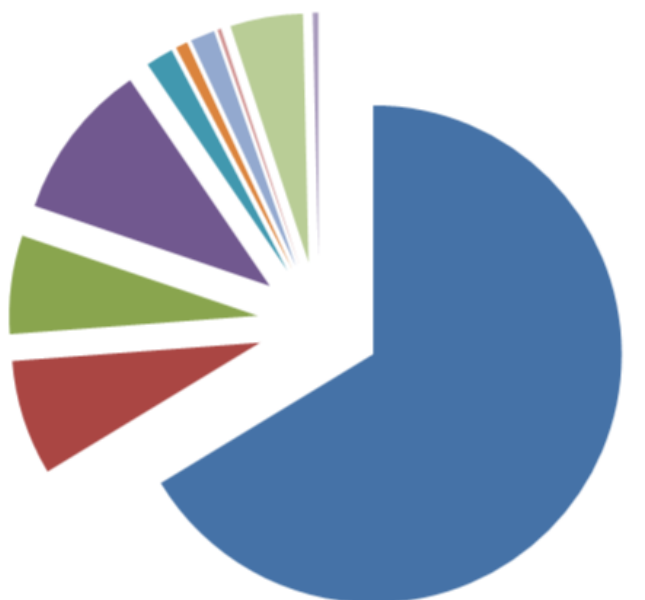
- Volunteer

2017-2018

EXPENSES

Expenses:

Personnel	\$1,919,737	66.33%
Occupancy	\$216,768	7.49%
Office Expenses	185,295	6.40%
Specific Assistance	\$297,702	10.29%
Miscellaneous	\$51,931	1.79%
Interest	\$22,485	0.78%
Travel & Conferences	\$45,988	1.59%
Advertising and Recruitment	\$7,008	0.24%
Depreciation	\$136,862	4.73%
Membership Dues	\$10,550	0.36%
Total	\$2,894,326	100%



Personnel	Interest
Occupancy	Travel & Conferences
Office Expenses	Advertising & Recruitment
Specific Assistance	Depreciation
Miscellaneous	Membership Dues



Shelter & Services	Resale Shop
Court Support Programs	Fundraising
Transitional Housing	Education/Outreach
Sexual Assault	Management/General

Program/Services

Shelter & Services	\$777,340	26.86%
Court Support Programs	\$302,989	10.47%
Transitional Housing	\$919,206	31.76%
Sexual Assault	\$125,201	4.33%
Resale Shop	\$208,752	7.21%
Fundraising	\$103,519	3.58%
Education/Outreach	\$190,832	6.59%
Management/General	\$266,487	9.21%
Total	\$2,894,326	100.00%

There are so many words to describe all Underground Railroad has given me, yet not enough words to describe all that I have overcome.

- Survivor

REVENUE

“Underground Railroad has opened my eyes to a great need. I live among the recipients of their life-changing work. Supporting Underground Railroad has given me a tangible way to make a difference.”
- Donor & Volunteer

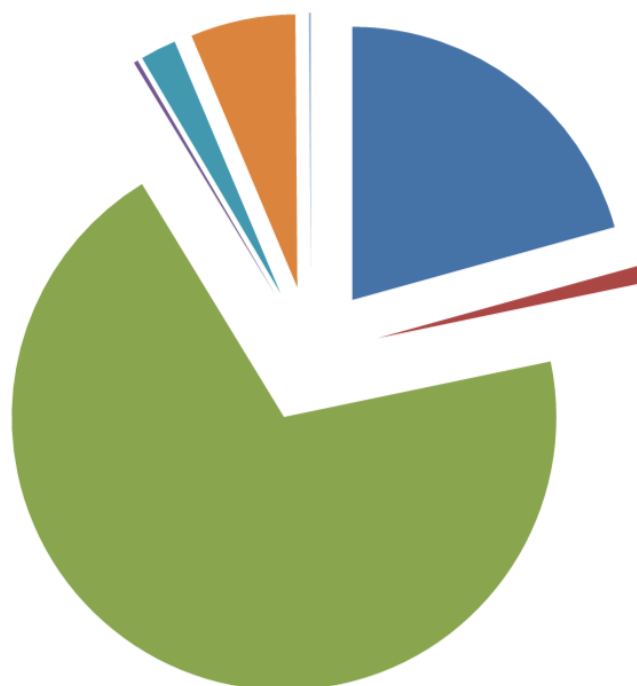


■ Businesses
■ Endowment
■ Churches
■ Clubs/Groups
■ Foundations
■ Individuals
■ In Kind
■ United Way

Community Contributions:

Businesses	\$41,420	6.61%
Endowment	\$62,572	9.99%
Churches	\$14,687	2.34%
Clubs/Groups	\$15,306	2.44%
Foundations	\$342,974	54.76%
Individuals	\$43,007	6.87%
In Kind	\$42,469	6.78%
United Way	\$63,876	10.20%
Total	\$626,310	100%

Income		
Contributions	\$626,310	20.70%
Rent & Fees	\$31,526	1.04%
Grants	\$2,103,584	69.52%
Interest	\$7,625	0.25%
Special Events	\$64,546	2.13%
Store Sales	\$188,742	6.24%
Miscellaneous	\$3,452	0.11%
Total	\$3,025,784	100%



■ Contributions
■ Rent & Fees
■ Grants
■ Interest
■ Special Events
■ Store Sales
■ Miscellaneous





UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.

5647 State Street, Ste. A
Saginaw, MI 48603
Business Phone: (989) 399-0007
Fax: (989) 399-0010



facebook.com/UndergroundRR



twitter.com/URRSaginaw



instagram.com/undergroundrailroadinc



undergroundrailroadinc.org