



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Serving  
Saginaw County  
for over 40 years



A partner agency of the  
United Way of Saginaw County





**SAFETY**

**EMPOWERMENT**

**CHANGE**



# LEADERSHIP

**MARI MCKENZIE—CHAIR**

Retired, Yeo & Yeo

**CHRISTI BIRCHMEIER—PRESIDENT**

Underground Railroad, Inc.

**JENNIFER WYSONG—VICE CHAIR**

Independent Bank

**TERRIE CHRONOWSKI—TREASURER**

Yeo & Yeo

**MELISSA WALLACE—SECRETARY**

Delta College

**BARBARA BOGGESS**

Founding Director  
New Horizons Crisis Center

**TERRI CARMICHAEL**

Merrill Lynch

**SHARON HOPPER**

Future Insurance Agency, Inc.

**SHANE HUNT**

Ascension St. Mary's

**DARLENE KRUMPHOLZ**

Wildfire Credit Union

**DAVID NALL**

Covenant HealthCare

**JAMIE NISIDIS**

Braun Kendrick

**JON PICKELMAN**

Tri-Trust Bank

**MATTHEW TARRANT**

Braun Kendrick

**ALISA DIVINE ZEHNDER**

Personal Power Press

Dear Friends,



It was an exciting and busy year at Underground Railroad! We spent the summer knee-deep in boxes, tape, and bubble wrap as we moved eight employees from the Safety & Resource Center on South Washington to our newest space within the SVRC Learn to Earn Academy on Tuscola Street. The expansion is thanks to a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) amendment that granted URR an additional \$97,000 in funding. The space helps accommodate three new positions at URR. We welcomed a Crisis Services Coordinator, Crisis Advocate, and Housing Outreach Advocate in July 2019. The new positions enhance our advocacy efforts, allowing us to provide immediate, survivor-centered interventions that meet clients where they are emotionally and physically.

Fiscal year 2019 also marked the beginning of our Empowerment Circle giving society. Named for the philosophy that drives our mission and work, the Empowerment Circle is a special group of major donors whose annual support helps empower survivors and educate our community. In its inaugural year, we initiated more than 140 individuals and families to the Empowerment Circle. These members collectively contributed over \$73,000 to URR's program and operating needs.

Thank you for making 2019 another incredible year of growth and opportunity for Underground Railroad. With a strong team of dedicated staff, board members, volunteers and supporters, we're ready to take on a new decade of change.

Sincerely,

*Christi Birchmeier*







# MISSION

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

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## WITH SURVIVORS

We empower survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking & human trafficking by removing barriers to safety, and treating all victims with dignity and respect.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

We assume the leadership role for eliminating domestic and sexual violence in the community by focusing on prevention through education, resources and training.



# OUR REACH





at a glance...

## DIRECT SERVICES



**\$107,407**  
worth of  
individualized  
assistance was  
provided



**63** families  
spent time in  
**SafePlace**

**2,256**  
crisis  
helpline  
calls  
answered



**14,614**  
safe nights  
in  
shelter



**2,927**  
hours of  
childcare



**NINE**  
pets were kept  
safe with family



**79** households  
received

**48,528**  
nights of rapid rehousing,  
transitional housing &  
permanent supportive housing

**2,957** hours of  
individual & group counseling

**56** PPOs  
provided

**2,154** & court hearings attended





at a glance...

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

275 girls in Saginaw, Bay, Arenac, Tuscola & Huron counties became more joyful, healthy & confident through



Prevention Coordinator, Shawn Schutt, represents URR in the 1st annual "Over the Edge" event sponsored by the United Way of Saginaw County. Shawn repelled down the Covenant building on Mackinaw.



133 public awareness & community education events



Mid Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force gave 18 trainings



Ending abuse starts with what we teach our kids.  
#EndGenderRoleNorms



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.

888-399-8385

LAMAR

164 community members ran the GOTR 5K

9,875 K-12 youth attended

526 educational sessions

16 BAR STAFF "pregamed" with URR's sexual assault training



2 BARS HOSTED

Sexual Assault Awareness Month events



at a glance...

# DONOR GRATITUDE

Community groups & businesses  
raised over **\$16,170**  
through third party fundraisers

Over  
**\$243,370**  
worth of  
merchandise  
was donated  
to Underground  
Railroad Resale



**\$45,387**  
worth of  
merchandise  
helped  
survivors  
directly  
through  
vouchers



**235**

adults & children  
were adopted for  
the holidays



Our generous donors gave over  
**\$97,000**  
to our annual fundraisers, providing  
crucial operating support

Pat Peterson, owner  
of American  
Plumbing & Heating  
in Birch Run,  
purchased &  
donated a pig to help  
feed our shelter  
resident families for  
up to six months.  
The pig was raised by  
Hailey Birchmeier,  
daughter of URR's  
own Executive  
Director, for the  
Saginaw County Fair.

**913**  
*Volunteers*  
donated over  
**17,178**  
hours of  
service





OUR

IMPACT



# SERVICES

Crisis Helpline

Emergency Shelter

Emergency On-Call Response

Advocacy/ Therapy /

Support Groups

Court Support

Housing Assistance

Individualized Assistance

Youth Services

SafePlace Program

Community Outreach

Volunteer Opportunities

Girls in the Run Saginaw Bay

Underground Railroad Resale



## BRITTNEY

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Brittney entered emergency shelter in November. At first she was quiet and stayed to herself. She was often seen crying and staring off into nowhere. As the days went by and she continued to work with her advocate and other staff, she began to blossom. She began coming to support group each week, where talk centered on self-esteem and family dynamics. In November she moved into the Transitional Housing program. She said, "I can walk out the door and not

have to worry about answering questions about where I've been. He was so unpredictable. What sort of mood would I be facing today? I was lost when I left, but then the freedom just sort of hit me. I can do what I want, when I want, and I don't have to answer to anyone but me. I am going to go to school and have a job and my own place. I get to decide where to put things away at when I move in to my new place. It's amazing."





## EMMA AND SAMANTHA

Emma joined Girls on the Run during her first year in a new school. Her mother, Samantha, saw an immediate change in the third grader. "She came out of her shell. She even tried out for the school play! I loved hearing Emma talk about the new friends she was making." Beyond the pride she felt as a mother, Samantha believes that running the end-of-season holiday 5K together was an incredible bonding experience. It was the first 5K for both her and Emma.

And hopefully it won't be the last! Emma plans to continue with Girls on the Run during her 4th and 5th grade years too. Her favorite lessons were the ones that taught confidence and kindness. "I learned to have confidence in myself," says Emma. "I like running, making new friends, and learning. I felt amazing!" Samantha wishes a program like this existed when she was a child. "I'd love to tell my nine year old self to go ahead and try everything! Be brave!"



## MARIA AND DAKOTA

Dakota entered shelter with his mom, close to Christmas. He was withdrawn from other guests and staff, nervous about even the briefest separation from his mom. The family was adopted through URR's holiday programs. Maria saw a change in Dakota on Christmas morning. "He was smiling more, and would step away from me to play with new toys. I can't express enough gratitude. As a family we've been through many things and my heart aches

when I think about all the sadness, confusion and fear Dakota has gone through—that so many children go through when they find themselves in pain over loss. When others make up their hearts to give, it makes such a difference in these kids' lives. It means to them that all is well with the world, that there is kindness and beauty in spite of all the hardships. God bless the good people that care to wonder about others. It is in those moments when we learn what a gift life is."





## CIARA

"During the URR program I learned the warning signs of an unhealthy relationship. It helped me realize some of the things to look out for in a relationship so I don't end up being in a situation I don't want to be in. After going through the program, one thing I might do differently in a relationship is making sure anything that bothers me is voiced instead of just letting it go or accepting it.

It's important to have this education because a lot of times we're just focused on academics, and we don't focus on our well-being or how we're treated in relationships. We need to bring awareness to kids who are dating at a young age to make sure they don't get harmed or in trouble, and so that they know they have a place to go for help."



## NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

"We're honored to be part of this heartfelt work that serves a hurting community. We have all been so impressed by what we have witnessed. We've observed concern and compassion for the hurting people who come to Underground Railroad. We've seen great patience as staff allow them to work through their situations at their own pace. We've listened to the women in the emergency

shelter express their joy at being 'finally safe' and appreciating all that is provided for them there. We've witnessed counselors comforting weeping women and wrapping encouraging and loving arms around them. We've played with the children in the daycare center filled with toys and color, and under the care of attentive workers who skillfully interact with them. URR is nothing but kindness and openness."



OUR

FUNDING







This year, Underground Railroad created the Empowerment Circle, named for the philosophy that drives our mission and work.

The Empowerment Circle is a special group of major donors whose annual support helps empower survivors and inspire change in Saginaw County.

Members receive special recognition throughout the year. Membership currently includes more than 100 individuals and families.

### **Inspiration Level \$1,000+**

John & Sharon Benson  
Tammy and David Bernier  
Dr. Louis & Karen Constan  
Leslie & Terry Duperon  
Janet & William Gray  
Lynda Heathscott  
Linda & Howard Hollingshead  
David Kulhanek  
Terri Lechner-Carmichael  
Mari McKenzie & Jeffrey Roberts  
Dave & Gretchen Nall  
David & Lori Pendleton  
Annette Rao  
Cynthia Redmond  
Najibah Rehman  
Jeannette Ruhl  
David & Kristine Schaeffer  
Arleen Schrank  
The Pickelman  
Joyce Van-Ochten  
Edwin & Jill Wetmore  
Michael & Marcia Wolohan  
David & Michelle Youngstrom

### **Partner Level \$750—\$999**

Joseph Adel  
Mary Chris & James Church  
Kay & Steve List  
Dimitrios & Jamie Nisidis  
Jennifer Wysong

### **Advocate Level \$500—\$749**

Maryann Ackerman & Harold Zells  
Mary Sue Barry  
Margaret & Gene Beitz  
Eric Bialaski  
Todd & Lumpeny Hall  
Lynn Herkstroeter

### **Advocate Level cont. \$500—\$749**

Jami & Matthew Kelly  
Shari Kennett  
Zak and Korina McClellan  
Jay & Denise Peplinski  
Gene & Lori Pickelman  
Susan Piesko  
John & Hariklia Reitz  
Richard Schroeder  
Charles & Judith Stuart  
Tina & David Szarenski  
Kathy & Patrick Tagget  
Mike & Sharyl Tribble  
Arlene Walker  
William & Karen Zehnder  
Michael & Kimberly Zehnder

### **Ally Level \$250-\$499**

Donna Berg  
Barb & Brent Boggess  
Heidi Bolger & David Wallace  
James Borchard  
Suzanne Cederberg  
Melinda Chinery  
Robert & Theresa Chronowski  
Alissa Crawford  
James & Stephanie Duggan  
Thomas & Helen Egleston  
Jim Gemuend  
Rick & Mary Goedert  
Cynthia Gracey  
George & Jane Gugino  
Sarge & Renee Harvey  
Helen Haynes  
Angela Hebl  
Paula Holevac  
Nancy & Thomas Hollerback  
Sharon Hopper & Lee Latocki  
Shane & Louise Hunt

### **Ally Level cont. \$250-\$499**

Carl King  
Annette & Kevin Lange  
Beverly Lee  
Dr. John & Laurie Llewelyn  
David Loesel  
Dr. Albert Manlapit &  
Dr. Iris Martega  
Margaret Mosqueda  
Daniel Mrozinski  
Christine Olivarez  
Toby Robertson  
Lanny Roenicke  
Paula & Scott Silverthorn  
Mike Stodolak  
Patricia Theuer  
Carrie & Mark Thompson  
Tamera Tsulaia  
Lenora Walker

### **Friend Level \$150-\$249**

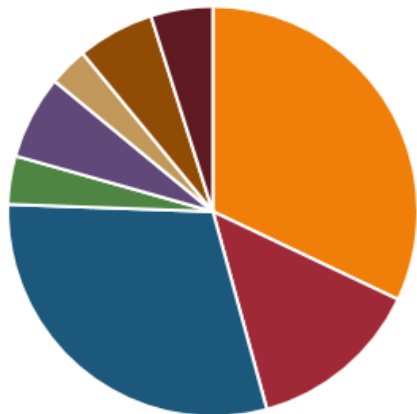
Pamela Ackerman  
Roselyn Argyle  
Kristi & Dave Bellsky  
Herbert & Frances Bernthal  
Carol & Rodney Beyer  
Alejandra Bohorquez  
Sara Brady  
Michele Bueker  
Reid Calcott  
Matt Campbell  
Karl Carson  
Pamela Cole  
Ruth Ann Delude  
Brittany Dicken  
Chris Fechter  
Dr. E Malcolm Field  
Bette Ford  
Tara Frank

### **Friend Level cont. \$250-\$499**

William & Mary Georges  
Gary & Sandra Glaza  
Linda Gleesing  
Amy & Mike Grossi  
Andrea & Steven Hales  
Nancy Haskin  
Clark & Eileen Headrick  
Nicole & Clayton Johnson  
Brenda Kolka  
Pavel Konecny  
Karen Lang Krause  
Steven & Cathy Kueffner  
Lawrence & Laura LaLonde  
Tony & Michelle Lyle  
Jeffrey & Tina McCulloch  
Debbie Medearis  
Frederic & Cynthia Morley  
Elizabeth Mueller  
Andrea Muller  
Joyce Otter  
Rebecca Owen  
Carmen Pasternak  
R.A. & Mary Linn Reindel  
Drewe & Larry Robinson  
Tom & Beth Rohde  
Kathleen & Gary Rummel  
Teresa Santana  
Anna Schaenzer  
Janice Shaffer  
Heather Shephard  
Larry & Mary Lou Smith  
Lynn & Sheila Stamiris  
Deb & Paul Steinke  
Angie VanWormer  
Shannon Vasko  
Katie Zehnder Weiss  
Julie Zoumaris



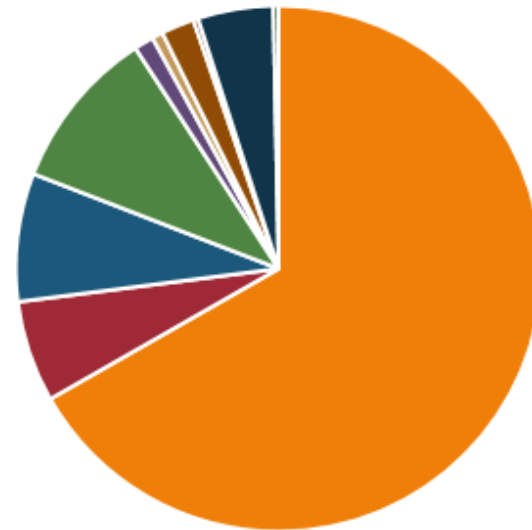
# at a glance... EXPENSES



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

## PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Shelter & Services	\$991,324	32.05%
Court Support Programs	\$423,913	13.71%
Transitional Housing	\$921,787	29.80%
Sexual Assault	\$117,958	3.81%
Resale Shop	\$204,027	6.60%
Fundraising	\$94,845	3.07%
Education/Outreach	\$188,143	6.08%
Management/General	\$151,000	4.88%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,092,997</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



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

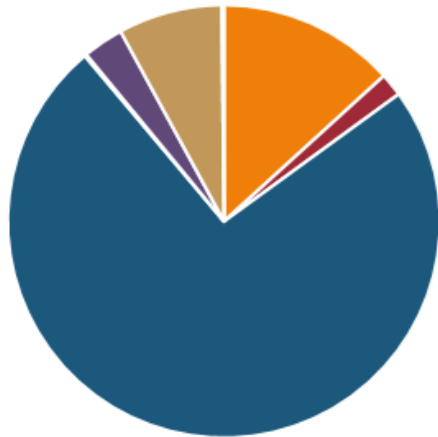
## EXPENSES

Personnel	\$2,075,282	66.75%
Occupancy	\$193,893	6.24%
Office Expenses	\$245,009	7.88%
Specific Assistance	\$309,808	9.96%
Miscellaneous	\$37,346	1.20%
Interest	\$20,952	0.67%
Travel & Conferences	\$63,138	2.03%
Advertising & Recruitment	\$9,211	0.30%
Depreciation	144,353	4.64%
Membership Dues	10,005	0.32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,108,997</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



at a glance...

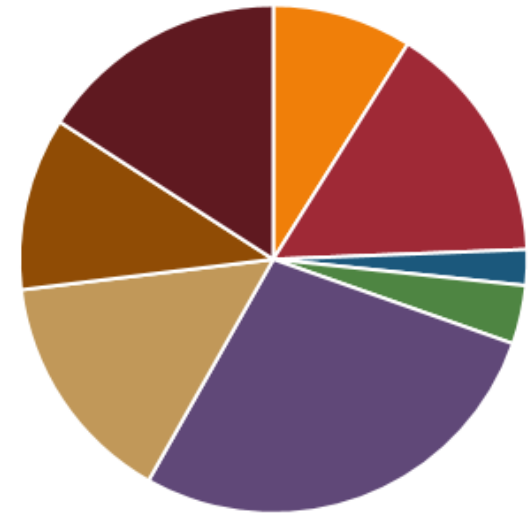
# REVENUE



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

## INCOME

Contributions	\$412,405	13.25%
Rent & Fees	\$53,973	1.73%
Grants	\$2,298,710	73.87%
Interest	\$4,728	0.15%
Special Events	\$94,731	3.04%
Store Sales	\$242,003	7.78%
Miscellaneous	\$5,097	0.16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,111,647</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



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

## COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Businesses	\$36,662	8.89%
Endowment	\$63,902	15.49%
Churches	\$9,356	2.27%
Clubs / Groups	\$15,382	3.73%
Foundations	\$114,629	27.80%
Individuals	\$61,473	14.91%
In Kind	\$45,387	11.01%
United Way	\$65,614	15.91%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$412,405</b>	<b>100.00%</b>





## UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.

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