5647 State Street
Saginaw, MI 48603

Business Line: (989) 399-0007
24/7 Helpline: (989) 755-0411

facebook.com/UndergroundRailroadInc
instagram.com/undergroundrailroadinc
A letter from the
Executive Director

We are celebrating another successful year at Underground Railroad! Toward the end of last fiscal year, we began preparing for our five-year site visit by the Division of Victims Services. The peer monitored process is an opportunity for staff from other Michigan domestic violence agencies to review our organization and practices. The standards are developed by the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, and guide toward excellence in both services and administration. Early this fiscal year, Underground Railroad received a near perfect score. We are excited to further evaluate and perfect our services based on this review. At Underground Railroad we are continuously working hard to create an organization that aligns closely with our purpose and values. This last year we began developing our strategic plan for the next three years. Our focus includes providing high quality and accessible programs and services, cultivating community relationships to best support survivors, and developing sustainable funding for long-term operations. In the process we have spent many hours examining the organization to determine what we can do to foster positive change for survivors and our community. A large piece of this is a commitment to advancing diversity and inclusion throughout our systems. DEI initiatives were carefully woven into each pillar of our strategic plan, as we strive to model equality, listen to marginalized voices, and better reflect the community we serve. In the next year we look forward to leaning into our strengths and learning from our weaknesses to ensure a healthy future for survivors of abuse in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Sincerely,

Christi Birchmeier
Executive Director
OUR PROGRAMS

We believe that survivors need access to safety, information, options, and resources to make informed choices for themselves and their children.

OUR COMMUNITY

We will provide leadership in our community on issues affecting survivors. Prevention through education and activism is the ultimate goal.

YOUR IMPACT

Our supporters make change possible. Through monetary and in-kind donations, and volunteering, the Saginaw County community uplifts and empowers survivors.
Our mission is to empower survivors and create a culture of safety and respect in our community.

**WHAT WE DO**

**1 SAFETY**
- 24/7 Crisis Helpline
- 24 Hour Emergency Response
- Emergency Shelter

**2 EMPOWERMENT**
- Advocacy/Counseling/Support Groups
- Court Support
- Housing Assistance
- Youth Services
- Safe Visitation & Exchange

**3 CHANGE**
- K-12 Healthy Relationship Curriculum
- Community Education & Training
- Mid-Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force
- Girls on the Run
Tasia came to emergency shelter suddenly after a horrific event. That afternoon she appeared shameful and quiet; her spirit was broken. As much as she wanted a place of her own, it was in Tasia’s best interest to stay in shelter. With no income, three kids and medical issues that needed to be addressed, on-site housing was the best place for healing and safety. In the beginning, she was very negative, very sure nothing would ever change. Her history was like a roller coaster. She would work hard to find jobs and housing, to secure transportation, to keep it all running. Then it would disappear. Her abuser would destroy anything good in her life. After several months in shelter, Tasia was approved for transitional housing. She is getting stronger and more confident. You can even see it in her appearance. Tasia is still soft-spoken, but clear on what is right and what is wrong. She is a fighter and persistent in working toward a fresh start that will bring her the peace and happiness she deserves.
One of our volunteers met Jacob during a police ride-along for the Leadership Saginaw Program. Saginaw Police Department officers were responding to a domestic violence call. When they arrived, Jacob was on the porch trying to comfort his mom. His mom’s boyfriend was inside the house, angry and destructive. As officers interviewed all three parties, they learned that Jacob had made the call to 911. Jacob had recently attended Underground Railroad’s healthy relationship presentations in his freshman health class. He said he recognized the behavior that night as abuse because of what he learned about dating violence warning signs. This was the first night it had been dangerous enough to call the police, but he knew it could get worse if he didn’t intervene. The boyfriend was removed from the home, and Jacob’s mom was given resources to connect with advocates who could help.
Annette has volunteered with Underground Railroad Resale Store for over 6 years. She is part of a loyal volunteer team that sorts and tags donations from our generous community. Last November, Annette suffered a sudden and severe illness. After an eight day hospital stay, Annette was transferred to a rehab facility to learn how to walk again. When she was finally discharged, Annette returned home to rebuild her strength. “All I could think about was getting back to the store to volunteer,” Annette said. In January we were able to welcome her back with open arms. “I had to cut back from volunteering every day, but I’m still here three days a week. I love it, and I’ll be here as long as I can.”
Our pet shelter serves more than just cats and dogs. We’ve housed guinea pigs, birds, reptiles, and even a hedgehog! Popsicle fled with his family late one evening and spent the night in a car with mom and her two kids. The family had left in a hurry and did not have time to grab his cage, bedding, food, or water dispenser. The next morning the family called emergency shelter and were given space right away for mom, the children, and Popsicle. Staff made an immediate trip to the pet store and was able to purchase a small crate, straw, food and water bottle. Popsicle has been able to stay in a room with his family. Since then, a crafty volunteer has built him a studier home. Staff and other residents collect paper towel tubes for him to chew. His family loves having him close for snuggles as they heal from abuse.
Shun first came to Underground Railroad in 2016 after experiencing homelessness as a result of domestic violence. After a short stay in emergency shelter, she was offered housing. Working with her advocate, Shun was able to find a job, and received six months of rent assistance while she worked to become stable. During counseling she learned to not blame herself for the bad things that abusive people do. She learned that it's okay to set boundaries and say no. In 2020, Shun received a certificate of completion from the YWCA’s Getting Ahead economic empowerment program. She is now considering a career in human services to help others who may be experiencing similar hardships. She is hoping to volunteer with Underground Railroad soon to give back.
At the end of every season, each Girls on the Run team imagines and completes a community service project. The team at Freeland Elementary School wanted a project that would combat loneliness and foster friendships. After hearing several ideas they unanimously agreed on the “Buddy Bench!” A child sitting on the Buddy Bench may be looking for a friend because they are new at school, wanting to make new friends, missing friends who are absent that day, or wanting to play something different. Many people came together to make the Buddy Bench a reality, donating funds, supplies, time, and skills to the project. The team at Freeland Elementary has vowed to use the skills they learned during Girls on the Run - empathy, inclusion, and acceptance - when they see someone seated on the Buddy Bench. What a great opportunity for friendship!
118 households received housing assistance

3,827 crisis calls answered

5284 hours of group & individual counseling

13,399 nights in shelter for over 600 people & 7 pets

414 PPOs provided & 3,754 hearings attended

98 families spent time in Safeplace

949 hours of free childcare
3,341 K-12 students learned about healthy relationships

346 girls were inspired through Girls on the Run

Generous donors gave over $100,000 to annual fundraisers

Over $250,000 worth of merchandise was donated to Underground Railroad Resale

716 volunteers donated over 14,300 hours of service

176 adults & children were adopted for the holidays

141 community education & public awareness events

“Touchy Subjects” podcast had 3,921 downloads
Your donations provide immediate physical needs and long term solutions for those in need. Your gifts give survivors of abuse the first step to heal and transform their lives. Give today at undergroundrailroadinc.org/contributions

Your estate gift can change the lives of generations to come. Learn more at undergroundrailroadinc.org/planned-giving

When you donate stock you’ll make a meaningful impact in your community, and avoid paying costly capital gain tax as well. Learn more at undergroundrailroadinc.org/stock-donations

Your donations of food, clothing, cleaning supplies, personal care products, and household items help keep our shelter and housing programs running. Surplus donations stock our resale store and help fund our programs. See our wish list at undergroundrailroadinc.org/contributions

To learn more about donations email our Development Director at ksova@urrinc.org
Your business can make an impact while engaging employees! Volunteer as a group, offer workplace giving opportunities, or organize a collection drive at your company location.

Many of our volunteers are called to give back through their church or civic minded organizations. Volunteer opportunities include maintenance projects, event volunteers, resale store sorting and more!

You don’t need a group to make a difference! We have one-time and long term opportunities to join our volunteer family!

To learn more about volunteering email our Volunteer Coordinator at csanders@urrinc.org
Underground Railroad ‘s Empowerment Circle is 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. The list below reflects gifts made between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022.

**Inspiration Level**
$1,000+

Mary Sue Barry
Patricia Barry
Julie & Peter Bender
John & Sharon Benson
Tammy & David Bernier
Brent & Barbara Boggess
Warren & Anna Booms
Leanne Brown
Terri Carmichael
Jeanne Murphy Causley
Mary Chris & James Church
Louis & Karen Constan
Thomas & Mary Damuth
Leslie & Terry Duperon
Linda & Howard Hollingshead
Jami & Matthew Kelly
George Moylan
Dave & Gretchen Nall
Sally Quaderer
Annette Rao
Arlene Schrank
Joyce Van-Ochten
Edwin & Jill Wetmore
Arthur Winterstein
Gretchen & Gregory Witherspoon
David & Michelle Youngstrom
Scott & Dawn Zimmer

**Advocate Level**
$500—$749

Joseph Adel
Paul Albosta
Margaret & Gene Beitz
Lynda Bickel
Scott & Tammy Boehler
Brittany Dicken
Daniel Garant
Todd & Lumpeny Hall
Sharon Hopper & Lee Latocki
Michele Hutchinson
Eve James
RJ Paullin & Shari Kennett
Annette & Kevin Lange
Barbara Mahar-Lincoln
Christina Maser
Marcia Michael
Janet & Jack Nash
Marcia Pahr
Jay & Denise Peplinski
Jon & Samantha Pickelman
Susan & Robert Piesko
John & Elizabeth Polzin
Toby Robertson
David & Kristine Schaeffer
Anna Schaenzer
Stuart Sherry
Charles & Judith Stuart
Lisa & Michael Sullivan
Jeannie Talbot
Pat & Katharine Tessin
Marcia & Darryl Thomas
Carrie & Mark Thompson
Mark Turpin
Michael & Marcia Wolohan
Judy Zehnder
Michael & Kimberly Zehnder

**Partner Level**
$750—$999

Janice Hennessy
Dimitrios & Jamie Nisidis
Frederick & Sue Tobin
**Ally Level**  
$250-$499

- Sherry Beyer
- Carol Champagne
- Jaime Cramer
- Larry & Terri Daly
- Helen Egleston
- Tara Frank
- Sarge & Renee Harvey
- Jason Holyszko
- Cheryl Howell
- John & Martha Kaczynski
- Carl King
- Karen Lang Krause
- Samantha Kukla
- Kay & Steve List
- Iris Marteja & Alan Manlapit
- Barbara McDonald
- Katie McDonald
- Mari McKenzie
- Janice & Michael McMeans
- Katilyn Mcmillan
- Margaret Mosqueda
- Joanna Nelson
- Eric & Carli Neumeyer
- Kailen & Mitch Piper
- James & Beth Reindel
- Tom & Beth Rohde
- Vicki Rupp
- Vickie Schmitzer
- Caroline Scott
- Susan Scott
- Joseph Sienko & Joan Hirschenberger
- Kathleen Snook
- Sheldon & Carole Spencer
- Mike Stodolak

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

- McKenzie Stone
- Sue Sulfridge
- Ryan Sullivan
- William & Karen Zehnder
- Thomas & Frances Zuzula

**Friend Level**  
$150-$249

- James Borchard
- Kim & Christine Braeutigam
- Joseph Parker Day
- Ruth Ann Delude
- Annie & Auldon Dugalech
- Michael & Patricia Forster
- Marie Guimond & David Tuskey
- Dawn Haefele
- Alexis Horton
- Kate Jankens
- Beth & Allan Kawiecki
- Alyssa Kelly
- Dana & Irene Kilts
- Timothy & Linda Lou Kreager
- Betty Lou Marx
- Thomas & Patricia Middleton
- Kerry & Cynthia Novak
- Kathy Renee
- Ed & Connie Schneller
- Patty Shaheen
- Kathi & Herb Spence
- Jen Wysong
- Andrew Zeek
- Alisa Divine Zehnder
- Drew & Tracy Zehnder
**EXPENSES**

**PROGRAMS/SERVICES**

$3,538,292

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program/Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter &amp; Services</td>
<td>$1,318,229</td>
<td>37.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Support Programs</td>
<td>$431,902</td>
<td>12.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Housing</td>
<td>$1,055,928</td>
<td>29.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Assault</td>
<td>$63,979</td>
<td>1.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$104,130</td>
<td>2.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/Outreach</td>
<td>$139,909</td>
<td>3.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management/General</td>
<td>$197,298</td>
<td>5.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resale Store</td>
<td>$226,917</td>
<td>6.41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OPERATING EXPENSES**

$3,538,292

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>$2,312,766</td>
<td>65.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy</td>
<td>$253,531</td>
<td>7.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Expenses</td>
<td>$188,347</td>
<td>5.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Assistance</td>
<td>$450,402</td>
<td>12.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$31,296</td>
<td>0.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$15,973</td>
<td>0.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; Conferences</td>
<td>$75,522</td>
<td>2.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising &amp; Recruitment</td>
<td>$22,602</td>
<td>0.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>$177,860</td>
<td>5.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>$9,993</td>
<td>0.28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**REVENUE**

**COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS**

$423,422

- Businesses: $42,432 (10.02%)
- Churches: $18,311 (4.32%)
- Clubs / Groups: $12,160 (2.87%)
- Foundations: $165,851 (39.17%)
- Individuals: $95,629 (22.58%)
- In Kind: $27,629 (6.52%)
- United Way: $61,430 (14.51%)

**INCOME**

$3,305,967

- Contributions: $423,442 (12.81%)
- Rent & Fees: $37,381 (1.13%)
- Grants: $2,653,499 (80.26%)
- Interest: $4,352 (0.13%)
- Special Events: $83,624 (2.53%)
- Store Sales: $98,521 (2.98%)
- Miscellaneous: $5,148 (0.16%)