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**OUR IMPACT IN 2016**

Every day, the doors of Covenant House Missouri remain open to youth who are struggling with homelessness and disconnection. As an organization, it is our privilege to provide a path from hopelessness to opportunity. FY 2016 proved to be a particularly important year in Covenant House Missouri's history, as we introduced new programs and shifted strategies in order to best serve all our youth.

This year, we opened a Big Picture Learning High School within our building, where students can flourish as individuals within a community of learners, earning their high school diploma while developing employment experience. We moved toward trauma-informed care, so that we can begin to help youth heal from the multiple traumas they have endured. We unveiled our new Serenity Garden, where all youth, staff, and volunteers can spend moments of peaceful reflection.

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Dear Friends,

For nearly two decades, Covenant House Missouri (CHMO) has been a place of hope and direction for youth who are homeless and disconnected. While each year brings new strategies and a rededicated focus to our mission, 2016 proved particularly significant in a number of ways.

As you will learn in this Annual Report, in August 2016 we made a strong commitment to educational attainment by opening a Big Picture Learning High School right on our campus. While we have always supported our youth in their pursuit of a GED, this on-site high school makes it easier for students to access a secondary education. In a project-based teaching environment, youth learn in a collaborative environment that builds confidence and employment skills through twice-weekly internship placements. By making a commitment not to discharge students, we put the students first.

In 2016, we as a staff also began to apply a trauma-informed perspective to our work with formerly homeless youth. This approach—encouraged by social workers, psychiatrists, and many other thought leaders who work with marginalized youth—allows us to meet our youth where they are, and to be informed and empathetic about their worldview and their personal history. This trauma-informed lens is particularly important when working with youth who have endured physical or emotional abuse, as is the case for many youth who come to Covenant House.

We also remain fully dedicated to our commitment to be open and affirming toward LGBTQ youth. All too often, youth are harmed, rejected, or otherwise marginalized because of their gender identity. We welcome LGBTQ youth and support them for who they are, and we are so grateful for a vast network of donors and volunteers who share our commitment to all of our kids. Because of friends like you, CHMO opened our doors to 5,286 youth in FY 2016 and maintained the highest rankings with the Better Business Bureau. We also ranked among the top 4% of charities across the nation with a 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator for our 6th consecutive year.

We are making a difference and it’s because of your support and commitment!

OUR YOUTH BELONG, THEY ARE HEARD AND THEY ARE SEEN. THEY ARE SAFE, THEY HAVE VALUE, THEY HAVE A PURPOSE, AND ALL OF US ARE LUCKY TO KNOW AND SERVE THEM.

Thank you for making a difference.

With gratitude,

Suzanne King
Executive Director
Each day Covenant House Missouri works to empower youth who are homeless and disconnected to design their own path from homelessness to opportunity. As the only open-intake organization of our kind, Covenant House accepts youth regardless of mental-health diagnosis or criminal history.

From Crisis to Safety
The Crisis Program provides youth with safe, temporary shelter coupled with intensive support services to help them regain stabilization – the first critical step toward achieving self-sufficiency.

Transitioning to Independence
After youth attain stability in the Crisis Program, we help them move into our Transitional Living Program (TLP). This stable, supportive living environment provides a safe and encouraging setting for youth while they work to develop the skills and tools needed to achieve adult independence. In TLP, our youth learn how to budget, acquire job-interview skills, and experience sharing responsibilities with a roommate.

Wrap-Around Support
CHMO provides a comprehensive array of Support Services to youth living at CHMO as well as those from the community. In addition to individual and family counseling, medical services, and weekday developmental drop-in programs, we offer programs that support youth in a variety of areas as they move toward independence.

Employment Services are designed to prepare youth for the world of work and include an initial assessment, job readiness classes, expansive internship opportunities, career counseling and job placement.

Life Skills Classes are offered on a variety of topics including: assertiveness training, budgeting and banking, cleaning, healthcare and hygiene, home maintenance and repair, money management and personal safety. These classes fill in gaps the youth have in their knowledge so they can handle life on their own.

While we have much to celebrate from FY 2016, one of biggest milestones occurred on August 22, 2016, when we officially opened the Big Picture Learning High School located at CHMO.

The Big Picture Learning High School at Covenant House Missouri provides our youth with the opportunity to earn a high school diploma while developing meaningful work experiences and important work-readiness skills. The school is based on the Big Picture Learning model, a nationally-recognized and successful education model geared towards disconnected learners.

Some highlights of the Big Picture Learning High School at Covenant House Missouri include:

High school diploma attainment;
Small class size: fewer than 15 students make up the "advisory";
Hands-on learning through internships;
Real-world exploration and experiences; and
No tests!
STAN MUSIAL HALL OF FAME GALA

Stan and Lillian Musial were passionate about the plight of homeless teens. For more than two decades, the Musials dedicated their time and resources to help give our youth a voice in the community. On January 23, 2016, nearly 300 guests gathered at the Four Seasons St. Louis to show their support for Covenant House Missouri during the 8th Annual Stan Musial Hall of Fame Gala.

The elegant evening raised more than $227,000 net for the organization's important mission. Through holistic, individualized programs including mental health, education and career development, residential and community outreach services, Covenant House Missouri is empowering youth 16-21 years old to design their own paths to independence.

Co-chairs Cheryl & Jon Nienas welcomed the attendees and introduced Sue King, Executive Director of CHMO. Sue shared the great progress Covenant House Missouri is making and also highlighted its three-year strategic plan for elevating the important work of CHMO.

Janet Musial Schwarze, Martin Schwarze and Jeff Musial presented the Stan Musial Hall of Fame Award to two Covenant House Missouri alumni, Saudi Crudup and Cindy Dixon. Crudup is now a naval reservist and foster father to his two younger sisters. Dixon recently graduated from University of Missouri – St. Louis with a Bachelor of Science degree and is working at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.
Covenant House Missouri means different things to different people. Each youth who passes through the doors brings a different story, different challenges, and different dreams. For Ricky, Covenant House Missouri provided both an education and an adventure.

"I did all four years of high school and was just one month from graduation, but I didn’t have enough math credits," Ricky explains.

His mother, a school bus driver with a strong commitment to her son’s education, went to talk to his principal, hoping to find a way for Ricky to complete his credits and graduate in a timely manner.

The principal’s response horrified Ricky’s mother: He said he considered Ricky just another number on his paycheck.

MEET OUR youth:

"That’s when my mother decided I was not going back to that school," Ricky says. Instead, Ricky sought his GED through Covenant House Missouri, which had previously provided his older brother with mental health services. Thanks to the support of Covenant House staff – and his own determination and drive – Ricky attained his degree even earlier than he would have at his old high school.

But for Ricky, Covenant House was about even more than an education. Now a truck driver, Ricky recalls that Covenant House leadership noticed and encouraged his love of the open road.

"I loved bike-riding and traveling, but really, I had never gone anywhere," Ricky says. Covenant House Missouri Executive Director Sue King told him about the Tour De Tahoe, a 72-mile bike ride around Lake Tahoe in Nevada.

Ricky could be eligible to participate in the famous ride, but the entry fee was steep.

"I needed to raise $3,500," Ricky recalls. "And Sue and Miss Eileen helped me get there by talking to friends who chipped in. They showed what the heart of Covenant House is: you want to do something, you want to achieve, and Covenant House helps you, by whatever means possible, to achieve your goal."

With a grateful laugh, Ricky adds: "I raised $10,000."

Today, Ricky can credit Covenant House Missouri with a once-in-a-lifetime ride at Tour de Tahoe, a new understanding of fundraising through building a meaningful network, and (of course) his degree.

We are so proud of the man Ricky has become!
HOW YOU CAN HELP?

Your support empowers young people served by Covenant House Missouri to design their own path from homelessness to opportunity and independence. Learn more at www.covenanthousemo.org.

Join Us

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER.

Volunteer

Donate your time to tutor, conduct mock interviews, teach a class, be a part of our special events, or help out around the office. Your time can have a huge impact!

Donate

No matter the amount, your investment goes a long way...

$25 PROVIDES SEVERAL MEALS TO YOUTH IN CRISIS CARE

$100 GIVES A YOUNG PERSON WHO IS HOMELESS A WARM AND SAFE BED FOR A NIGHT

$250 ALLOWS A YOUTH THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN STRUCTURED DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES INSTEAD OF HANGING OUT ON THE STREET CORNER

$1,000 SUPPORTS 10 YOUTH TO ENHANCE THEIR EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS BY PARTICIPATING IN OUR 7-DAY EMPLOYMENT SKILLS CLASS

IN FY 2016, OUR VOLUNTEERS DONATED 1,200 HOURS TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH WE SERVE!

THESE VOLUNTEER EFFORTS SAVED COVENANT HOUSE MISSOURI $20,400.*

INVESTMENT & OTHER INCOME

$42,453

CONTRIBUTED SERVICES & MERCHANDISE

$6,520

SPECIAL EVENT REVENUE (NET)

$488,606

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

$884,359

$761,000 COVENANT HOUSE INTERNATIONAL

TOTAL

$3,221,762

*These figures are invested into our programming and are AUDITED numbers

EXPENSES

FUNDRAISING

$107,886

MANAGEMENT & GENERAL

$256,625

PROGRAM SERVICES

$3,357,702

$3,722,213 TOTAL

NET ASSETS=$2,675,896
MISSION
To serve suffering children of the street, and protect and safeguard all children ... with absolute respect and unconditional love.

VISION
To lead change that challenges homeless youth to pursue a life of opportunity.

PRINCIPLES

Immediacy
Young people come to us in crisis and we provide for their basic human needs — food, clothing, a shower and medical attention — immediately.

Sanctuary
We provide safety to protect our youth from violence and degradation.

Communicating Values
We show our young people that caring relationships are based on trust, respect and honesty.

Structure
We provide structure and reasonable expectations so our youth can focus on their futures.

Choice
We help our youth make positive choices and encourage them to believe in themselves.

Covenant House Missouri has more than 19 years of experience in providing quality services to youth who are homeless and disconnected. Learn more about our services at www.covenanthousemo.org.
Covenant House
International
OPENING DOORS FOR HOMELESS & TRAFFICKED YOUTH
Millions of kids suffer on the streets every day. For over 40 years, Covenant House has sheltered and cared for these young people—now standing as a powerful human rights movement for homeless and trafficked youth in 30 cities across 6 countries.

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