



2022

Annual Report

The mission of Belknap House is to provide families in Belknap County safe shelter when children are especially at-risk during homelessness; to empower families to become self-sufficient and independent by providing them with opportunities for education and access to community resources.

Leadership Report

Dear Friends,

What an amazing 6th year for Belknap House!

In July 2022, we hosted an open house to celebrate our first five years of successful shelter operations. We welcomed donors, friends, and neighbors to learn more about our programs and services. Our July celebration was front-page news in the local newspaper, *The Laconia Daily Sun*. One corporate business owner who saw the article made a generous donation after learning about the depth of services Belknap House provides to both parents and children. The news of his contribution led to additional news articles, donations, and an invitation to area business members to tour the shelter. The increased exposure piqued the curiosity and interest of other business and community members. In the weeks that followed, close to 100 people toured the shelter. The impact of all of this was substantial. Some business and community members made contributions and/or gave in-kind donations. Those who toured our shelter expanded their awareness of the services provided to children and parents. Each person left the tour with an increased understanding of how some families become homeless.

Belknap House celebrated the following successes in 2022:

- Eight families secured housing of their own
- The 8th Annual Golf Tournament had its best year ever
- BH achieved an increase in diversified revenue sources
- New playground equipment was donated and installed
- A new front entrance and roof, funded by grants, were constructed
- New board members were welcomed, along with a new treasurer
- We distributed our first Annual Report

We are grateful for our dedicated staff and volunteers that keep our shelter open 24/7. Our shelter staff, led by Tom Sica our Shelter Program Manager, facilitates the smooth running of the shelter and ensures 24x7 safety and support to our residents. Acting as a case manager, Tom meets with families regularly and supports their collaboration with service agencies and resources. Our volunteers helped with meal preparations, family programs, office duties, serving on our board of directors, driving our BH van, fundraising events, renovations, and facilitating children's activities. Towards the end of 2022 and into 2023, Belknap House began focusing on increasing its capacity to support more families in need throughout Belknap County. We are evaluating several options to address that need in the future. Belknap House relies on donors, grants, corporate partners, and fundraisers to provide our revenue stream to support our work with homeless families. We appreciate all individuals, partners, businesses, services, and grant organizations that provided their time, talents, and resources. We are able to help families overcome homelessness due to your generosity.

Don House, President

Don House

Paula Ferenc, Executive Director

Paula Ferenc

Belknap House



A Brief History & Current Facility Updates



Belknap House is a maturing nonprofit. It began as a small coalition of community members working to find a solution for homeless families in Belknap County. After establishing a Board of Directors in 2014 and writing up a business plan, Belknap House became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Fundraising toward the purchase of a building then ensued. In 2016, the group purchased the building at 200 Court Street and began renovations. After extensive renovations, Belknap House opened its doors to welcome its first families in March 2017. It was open as a shelter from October through May for the next few years. It was operated as a vacation hostel during the summer months to raise funds to support the shelter. Based on the year-round need for a family shelter, in 2019, the board decided to keep the shelter open every month. Belknap House celebrated its sixth anniversary as a shelter in March 2023.

Two significant capital improvements to the shelter were planned for 2022. This first was renovations to the front entrance and roof. The project required building an addendum roof and expanding the front entrance landing. The roof protects those entering Belknap House from rain and snow. The renovations concluded in May 2023. The second capital improvement project to the rear handicap entrance is underway. This project involves building an addendum roof, an expanded landing, and the addition of an ADA-compliant handicap ramp. The project will be completed in the summer of 2023.

Belknap House is grateful to the following grant makers for supporting these capital improvement projects: **Franklin Savings Bank Fund for Community Advancement, Madelaine G. von Weber Trust, and Housing Ministries of New England.**

Financials

Financial Results for the 2022 Fiscal Year:

Revenues:

Donations:	\$210,435
Fundraisers:	\$57,364
Grants:	\$117,671*
Shelter income:	\$20,257
Interest:	\$2,167

Expenses:

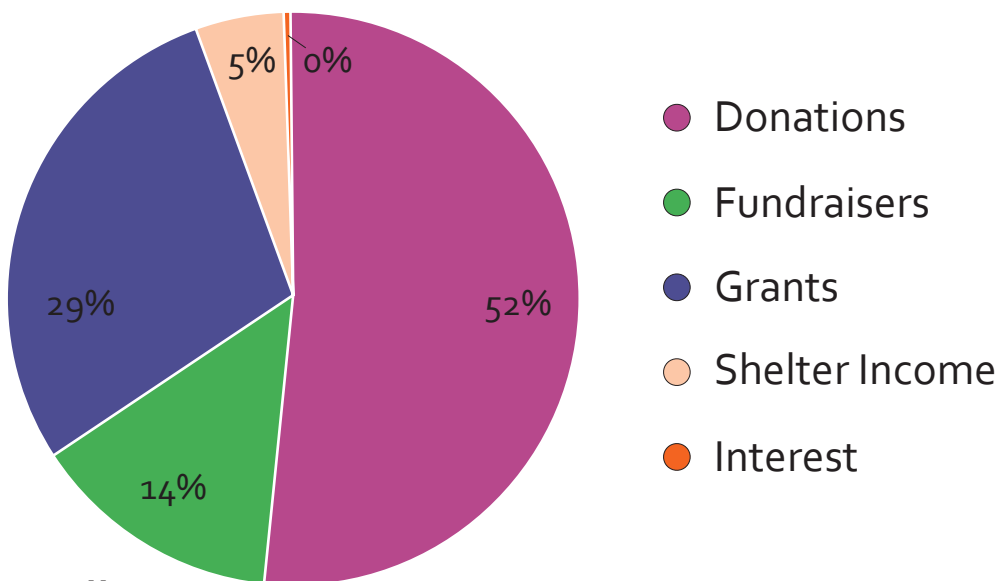
Program Services:	\$245,518.00
Fundraising:	\$32,995
General & Admin:	\$57,802
Total Operating Expenses:	\$336,315

Total Operating Revenue: \$407,894.00**

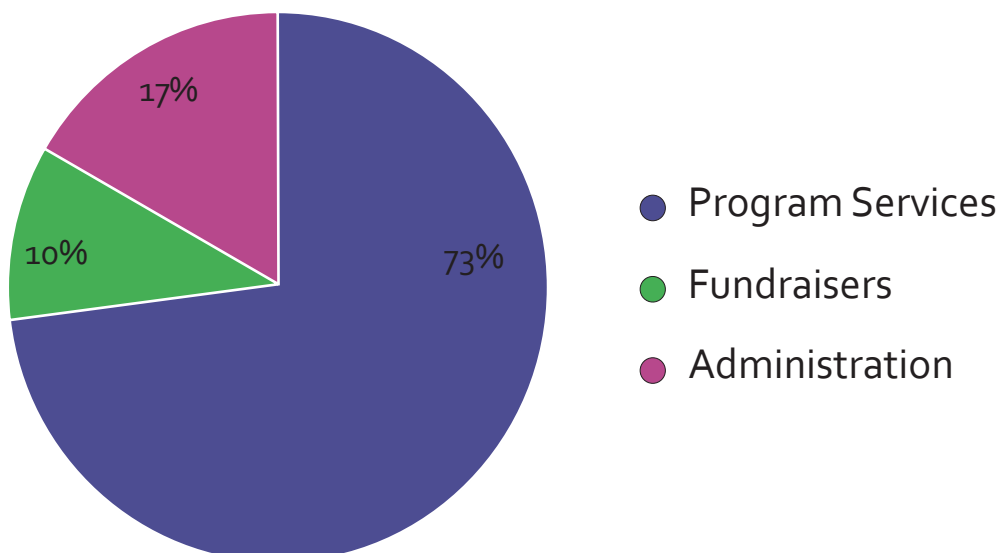
*\$24,600 in grant funding is devoted to capital improvements in 2022

** a portion is devoted to a 4-month emergency reserve fund

Belknap House Revenue 2022



Belknap House Expenses 2022





2022 Facts & Figures



Belknap House provided 5,635 nights of shelter for 15 families, 23 children, and 19 parents.

23,046

The total number of bed nights Belknap House has provided over 6 years.



1,943

Hours of time given by our volunteers.



8

Number of Belknap House families that secured housing.



51

Number of Class & Program Hours provided to parents and children.



4

Number of Corporate Partners Belknap House gained.



54

Number of professional and community collaborative partners.



\$28,290

Value of In-Kind Donation of Goods.

A Family Success Story



In May of 2022, Mandy and Jeff, and their 3-year-old son, Josh, arrived at Belknap House. The family had been homeless for several weeks. Although they resided with extended family briefly, the arrangement could not be sustained. Intensifying the daily challenges of homelessness, Mandy and Jeff each had a disability, and their son Josh was recently diagnosed with autism. Having nowhere else to go, the family reached out to Belknap House.

After a few days of residing at the shelter, the upheaval and turmoil of homelessness began to subside. The anxiety of not knowing where you would spend the night slowly lost its grip on the family. Mandy and Jeff were now ready to begin the critical work done at Belknap House.

Working closely with the Shelter-Program Manager, who provides case management to all families, the couple focused on fortifying their pre-existing connections with outside social agencies and finding additional resources to assist them with newly developed goals. Mandy and Jeff participated in regularly scheduled wraparound meetings and collaborated with a team of service providers to address

the needs of the parents and the child. Working with the family, each agency helped bolster and empower Josh's Mom and Dad to achieve their goals.

The parents thrived in this supportive environment and dedicated themselves to addressing the barriers that stood in their way. Little Josh obtained additional educational support and services, which increased from two days of programming to five days. As Josh was learning in school, his parents worked with a team of professionals to acquire additional knowledge and skills to care for their son. Meanwhile, Dad maintained a full-time job loading delivery trucks. Mandy and Jeff also participated in required classes at Belknap House: Budgeting, Nutrition and Cooking, How to Be a Good Tenant, and Parenting. These services and opportunities, combined with Mandy and Jeff's hard work, set them on a path of success. After 5 ½ months, the family moved into an apartment of their own. Growth and change take time, patience, and support. The staff, community partners, and volunteers of Belknap House are grateful to be part of this family's success.

Open House & 5 Year Celebration

Belknap House Board of Directors and staff hosted an Open House in July 2022. The shelter's doors were open to the public in honor of their 5th anniversary serving homeless families in Belknap County.

The event was a success, with a steady stream of visitors touring the shelter, learning about in-house education classes provided to parents, and meeting former residents who shared their Belknap House experiences.

Thank you to those who supported the Open House as Board and staff members, volunteers, class facilitators, and community members. The atmosphere of joy, learning, community, and celebration was palpable from all who attended.

We appreciate the Laconia Daily Sun for highlighting our 5th year celebration!



The Laconia Daily Sun

WEEKEND SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2022 VOL. 23 NO. 45 LACONIA, N.H. 527-9299 FREE

Belknap House turns 5

Unique program keeps unhoused families joined during unsteady times

By ROBERTA BAKER
THE LACONIA DAILY SUN

LACONIA — There's a book nook where community volunteers read to little ones, and a playroom with computers and toys. In the living room, a 5-year-old races Matchbox cars on a coffee table while his big sister curls up with a novel. Outside, children ride bikes in the driveway. Others play at a water table, or on the swing set and slide. There are birthday parties for guests and crafts for parents and children to do together.

The residents of Belknap House have a common bond that is not instantly apparent: they are families experiencing homelessness — together.

And they are grateful for this unusual oasis, which serves as a haven and a training ground for what happens next: finding and keeping a place to live.

"It's our helping hand up, providing safe shelter when people are most vulnerable, but also empowering them to be self-sufficient so they can move forward," through a network of resources, referrals, guidance and education from 40 community partners, said executive director Paula Ferenc. "Being homeless, you've got to figure out a lot of stuff."

Since its doors opened five years ago...

see FAMILY page 12

DRY FIREWOOD **Suspicious deaths in** **Sandwich woman dies**

Highlighting our Corporate Partners

Belknap House extends its appreciation to the following corporate partners for their support in 2022 on behalf of homeless children and parents! We are grateful many of these partners took time out of their schedules to tour Belknap House to learn about our parent programming and the struggles many of our families face during homelessness. Your interest and interactions with families at Belknap House positively impact everyone involved.

Belknap House's goals to sustain financial stability, improve impact measurements, and look for new ways to move families into sustainable housing are crucial to address the growing need for sheltering children and empowering parents with our unique helping hand-up approach. As a maturing nonprofit organization, diversified fundraising revenue creates stability and keeps us from being dependent on one or two funding sources. In developing different revenue streams, we build a solid foundation to ensure our nonprofit's growth and success over time.

Thank you to our corporate sponsors - *Jersey Mike's Subs, Nucar Automotive Group, Mills Industries, and Melcher & Prescott Insurance!*



Consider Becoming a Corporate Partner!

Partnership Levels



Diamond: \$25,000



Emerald: \$15,000



Sapphire: \$10,000



Ruby: \$5,000

Benefits to Becoming a Partner:

- Strong Community Connections
- Publicity/Marketing Opportunities
- Creates Opportunities to Expand Outreach and Build Bridges
- Boosts Morale in the Workplace
- Promotes a Positive Brand

LET'S PARTNER!

Thank You, Donors!

Belknap House is grateful for our community of donors; individual, business, faith-based, and service agency contributors. Your help sustains us and supports our growth, which is vitally important to the population we serve. Challenges continue for families facing homelessness, and with the present housing crisis, even more so. Yet, in 2022, your generous contributions positively impacted the well-being of children who would otherwise be living in cars or sleeping on couches. Your contributions empowered parents, providing them with education and agency resources. Your contributions have provided us with financial sustainability, which is critical for a maturing nonprofit. Through your contributions, eight families moved into their own place! Thank you!

In 2022, Belknap House received more than double the dollar amount of In-Kind donations of goods and services than the previous year! We received hundreds of dollars in household and pantry supplies, a new playground and ground cover, a dishwasher, weekly house meals, shoes, boots, clothing, and more! Thank you! Belknap House will continue to provide support to infants, children, and their parents move through the angst of homelessness into achieving the ultimate goal of securing a place to call home with your continued compassionate and generosity.



Volunteer at Belknap House

What inspires a person to volunteer at Belknap House?

The answers to this question are as varied and diverse as the volunteers who invest their time and talent in helping homeless families become independent and self-sufficient. For some, it offers the opportunity to give something back to the community or to make a difference to the people around them. For others, it is a recognition of our call to advance the dignity and worth of every person. Regardless of the motivation, what unites all of our volunteers is that they find their work at Belknap House engaging and rewarding.

Volunteers play an intricate part of the success of Belknap House. Whether a person is teaching a parent program, managing the office, assisting with childcare, serving on our board, supporting one of our fundraisers or is helping to clean and prepare a room for a new family, a volunteer's gift of service advances the mission of Belknap House by contributing to the day-to-day operations of the shelter and supporting families. While the benefits of volunteering are always evolving, there is one thing about it that will remain true: it changes lives. Thank you for volunteering at Belknap House!

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Office Assistant
- Fundraising
- Mentoring
- Occasional Childcare
 - Life Skills
- Board Members

For more info and application visit our website!



Annual Events

- Belknap House Online Auction - March
- NH Gives - First Tuesday/Wednesday in June - Join us for the 24-Hour Online Day of giving!
- Twin Barns Event - August 2023
- 9th Annual Golf Tournament - September 11th - *If you are interested in becoming a sponsor please contact us!*
- Giving Tuesday - November 28th - Join us for the National Day of Giving!
- Year End Giving Campaign - November/December

Make a Donation

Belknap House provides support to families and keeps them together through generous donations from people like you!

Help to sustain Belknap House on a monthly basis - Members of our Monthly Giving program help Belknap House meet the needs of homeless families every month!

Monthly Donations mean predictable income so we can plan expenses and budget items better, knowing the money will be coming in.

By clicking on the Donate button you can give a one time donation or sign up for a monthly, quarterly or yearly tax-deductible contribution.

Alternatively, a check may be mailed to the address listed below.

Belknap House
200 Court Street
Laconia, NH 03246

www.belknaphouse.org/donate

Every Donation Counts!

\$35.00

This donation will help us maintain and replenish our family food pantry!



\$75.00

This donation supports our ability to provide summer enrichment programs for our kids!

\$150.00

This donation supports our educational programs & customized case management for parents!



\$500.00

This donation keeps Belknap House running by contributing to our monthly utility and van costs!

\$1,500.00

This generous donation supports an individual's stay for a month at Belknap House!



Belknap House
200 Court Street
Laconia, NH 03246



Belknap House Annual Report

2022



Board of Directors -

Don House, *President*

Sarah Laffey, *Secretary*

Lee Cheshire

Alfred T. Columb

Colleen Garrity

Kimberly Gibbs

Bill Gile

Celyne Godbout

Greg Flynn

Carol Jerry

Christine Dembitzky - *Volunteer Treasurer*

Senior Staff -

Paula Ferenc

Executive Director/Development

Tom Sica

Shelter Program Manager


Kate Persson

Executive Assistant

Kevin Person

Senior Shelter Assistant

CONTACT US

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 www.belknaphouse.org
www.facebook.com/

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