# HISHANDS

REACHING HEARTS | CHANGING LIVES



# **Building Momentum**



**IMPACT REPORT 2023** 

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY MISSION // CLEVELAND, OHIO

### **Building Momentum**



Linda Uveges

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Friend,

I believe 2024 will be a wonderful year for the men, women, and children served by The City Mission. That's because we're building on the many blessings of 2023, including the groundbreaking for our Rothstein Village Transitional Housing for Families.

When the first families from Laura's Home move into these safe, affordable homes later this year, it will absolutely change their lives. These women and children will continue to enjoy the resources you provide through Laura's Home and Pathways, giving them a firm foundation for independent living later.

In the same way, you help men in Crossroads qualify for betterpaying jobs that will benefit them and their famililes. They'll leave here with confidence, skills, and faith, making them a real asset to our greater Cleveland community.

When you give our residents a solid footing this year, you give them greater stability in the years ahead. You also give a head start to their sons and daughters, breaking the cycle of poverty and underemployment in their families and our community.

Thank you so much for your support. I'm grateful that I can count on your help to keep the momentum going. And I can hardly wait for next year's Impact Report, so you can see all the fruits of your compassion.

Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

**PSALMS 62:2** 

n Christ,

Linda Wuges

### **Your Impact**

991 INDIVIDUALS SERVED







73,581 TOTAL NIGHTS OF SHELTER



42,953 Women & Children



30,628

134,055 TOTAL MEALS



67,713 Women & Children



66,342

123

### **Financial Report**



\$10,929,500







3.4%

PRIVATE SUPPORT FOUNDATIONS

**OTHER** 

#### **HOW YOUR GIFTS ARE USED**



#### **OUR BOARD**

#### **Trustees**

Theodore A. Wagner **Board Chair** 

Sandy Chochola Board Co-Vice Chair

**Emmett Robinson** Board Co-Vice Chair

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> Thomas Okray **Board Treasurer**

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Sara Lehrke

Karen Shaw Nelson

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#### **Emeritus Members**

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Providing help and hope to all people through the transforming power of God's love













## **Transitional Housing**

### "This is the next step towards stability to break the cycle of poverty one family at a time."

hen a mother and her children come to Laura's Home, they are just beginning their journey toward a stable, self-sufficient life. Escaping homelessness or abuse is followed by months of healing, learning, and planning. But what comes next? Too often, the women at Laura's Home have had limited options for moving into safe, affordable housing. However, that is changing!

On November 16, 2023, we broke ground on the Rothstein Village Transitional Housing for Families. This exciting new venture will give 16 families the opportunity to increase their annual income and save money before moving into independent housing. During their stay, they will continue to have access to the supportive services you help provide at Laura's Home.

The only housing of its kind in Cleveland, this may be one of our most important projects to date.

As the child poverty rate dropped at the national and state level in recent years, it rose in Cleveland. More than half of children under age five in our city lived in poverty in 2022. Nearly 3,000 children in Cuyahoga County experienced homelessness during the 2021–2022 school year. The rate of absenteeism for these children is troubling, as it means they will be significantly behind their peers in terms of education. The long-term effects are, sadly, too easy to predict: joblessness, dependency on government services, and an unbroken cycle of poverty.



"The City Mission is responding to the critical need for single mothers to have access to safe, affordable housing through our transitional housing initiative and need a bridge to the next step towards stability to break the cycle of poverty one family at a time," says Linda Uveges, CEO.

Dr. Fred and Jackie Rothstein generously gifted \$1.5 million for the project. Jackie tells us, "We love our community, we love the people of Cleveland, and the suffering here is immense. We're happy that we can be part of changing it for a few people."

Thanks to an incredible outpouring of support, we had our most successful Giving Tuesday ever with \$145,000 raised for Cleveland's first transitional housing for women and children.

Completion of the Rothstein Village Transitional Housing for Families is expected in December 2024.



### **New Horizons**

### "I just wanted to give my kids a better life."

better life — that's all any parent wants for their children. But that's been increasingly harder for single mothers in Cleveland to achieve, especially with rising costs of food and rent. When children are forced to move from one relative's home to another, or even sleep in the backseat of a car, it is virtually impossible for them to keep up with their schoolwork, much less get ahead. Without stability and a good education, these children are more likely to continue living in poverty as adults.

For 10 years, New Horizons has equipped single mothers with the skills to secure and maintain steady employment, improve their financial stability, and become homeowners — free and clear. This stability with a permanent home for their children has a lasting impact.

Leslie, a single mother of three boys, lost her support system when her father passed away and had nowhere to go. "When I came to Laura's Home all I wanted was a support system and to give my kids a better life. God answered my prayer and today we have so much more," shared Leslie the day she moved into her New Horizons home.

The family just celebrated their first
Christmas in a home of their own.

"It was a very long journey," she says.

"It's been three years since we had a home. All the bad we had experienced, this just washes it away, and today there are only tears of joy. Now I want to pay it forward and help others."

Leslie now works full-time as a community health worker, and she and her boys are excited about their new home. "She's worked so hard and she deserves this. Now we'll be together just like a real family," shares her son, Jordan.

This past year, you helped two more families move from Laura's Home into homes of their own through the New Horizons program, making a total of 12 families assisted. We have a goal of placing five families into homes for the 2024/2025 fiscal year, and we hope you'll help get them there!

### Crossroads

# "When residents leave the Mission, I want them to have a career."

hen a man comes to Crossroads
Men's Crisis Center, the first order of
business is moving him out of crisis
mode. The second is restoring his place in the
community. An important factor in this process
is preparing him for suitable, sustainable
employment. This includes offering classes
on workforce readiness, GED prep, computer
skills, resume writing, and more.

Abdul Dollar, Crossroads Program Manager, explains, "We want to equip men with more information than they had when they came in here. When they leave the Mission, I want them to have a career."

On October 4, 2023, 37 Crossroads residents attended a Career Expo held at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C). It was a resounding success with attendees and representatives from various local businesses.

"We know manufacturing is the biggest thing here in Ohio," says Abdul. "But we also look into supply chain logistics, CDL drivers, welding, electricians. There's also the Cleveland Clinic and other hospitals — you don't have to be a doctor or a nurse to get a job there."



To date, 78 men have completed the Workforce Development Program. At least 60 percent have obtained gainful employment after graduating. "It helps the community," Abdul says, "because they have livable wages and can pay for their own housing."

Your support for The City Mission is crucial to the professional success of our program graduates. Asked how donors can get more involved, Abdul suggests, "Come out to the Mission and see what we do here. You read about their stories in black and white, but you need to come, take a tour, and see what your money is invested in. After 114 years, we are still in the business of transforming lives. We're still doing the work." And we couldn't do it without you — thank you!





