



Guiding Harbor
60 years and growing
2018 Annual Report

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Friends of Guiding Harbor,

60 years ago, the women of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) wanted to establish a place for girls in foster care, who were headed for reform school because of their behavior, the path to a decent and productive life. That place was Girlstown.

Since that time, there have been many transitions, our services have expanded and our name has changed. In 2018, Guiding Harbor experienced a change in leadership as Maria Lessnau moved on to the next step in her illustrious career. Because of that move, I was given the opportunity to join this amazing organization with such a rich history.



Throughout 2018, Guiding Harbor has continued to meet the needs of the children and families we serve. 65 children have received support in our foster care, residential and independent living programs. There has been a real focus on expanding our reach both geographically, by working to help families in neighboring counties, and in increasing the number of families and children we serve. This expansion should improve our marketability and financial position.

Despite this year of transition, 2018 was a great year for Guiding Harbor. This year, we made strides to improve our infrastructure so that we can meet the needs of both our clients and generous donors. We have focused on expanding our impact and we are preparing for the future of child welfare in Michigan. I am overjoyed to be part of Guiding Harbor. Thank you for welcoming me into your home.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Trotter".

Jennifer Trotter
CEO

Meet our Foster Parents

Nikki had to work hard to convince her husband and high school sweetheart, Lyle, to become a foster parent. Nikki was babysitting for a friend that was a foster parent and Nikki thought that she, Lyle and their 3 three children, had a lot of love to give and space in their home. In December 2013, Nikki and Lyle became licensed foster parents at Guiding Harbor.

It wasn't long before they received their first placement, three brothers! Lyle quickly found the joy of being a foster parent and realized why Nikki never doubted this decision for their family. Over the years, they have fostered 8 children in total. Nikki and Lyle added to their family with one more biological child. They have also adopted two of the children they fostered. Their house can be loud at times, but their home is filled with lots of laughter and love.



Lyle and Nikki are foster parents that spoke at the 2018 Auction about their beautiful family.

Lyle spoke at Guiding Harbor's 2018 Auction, "This road we're on would not have been possible without he continued support, love and dedication from every single one of the staff at Guiding Harbor. From the secretary at the front door to the CEO, every single one of them played a significant and meaningful role in helping us care for these children."

Some of the children they cared for went home and some moved on to other foster homes. Each of those children were fed, rocked, played with, cared for and tucked into bed by this family who made the choice to be there for these children in their time of need. Nikki and Lyle now celebrate their beautiful family. Their children range in age from 14 to 2. Every day may not be easy, but it is filled with love and effort by parents who refuse to give up.

Donations Needed

- Car seats
- Pajamas
- School supplies

- Bedding
- Underwear and bras
- Hygiene products

- Laundry Baskets
- Cleaning products
- Bath towels

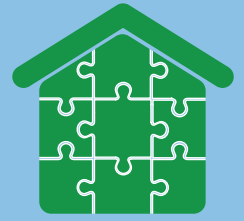
I am not afraid to grieve. I am afraid of what will happen to these children if no one takes the risk to love them.

Foster Care

Foster Care is the temporary out-of-home placement of children while their parent get support to help them address the issues that led to the children being removed.

- The primary goal of foster care is to safely reunite children with their biological families.
- If reunification is not possible, children then become eligible for adoption.
- Kids 16 and older can choose independence over adoption if they prefer.

We know that it is best for kids to have stability, safety and love. Guiding Harbor works hard to find that for kids as quickly as possible.



In 2018,
foster homes at
Guiding Harbor
provided
7049 nights
of safety.



E'Lissa and Eanise were placed in a Guiding Harbor foster home when they were very young due to issues surrounding their mother's substance use. Their mom, Lidia, was determined to get her children back home. She went to therapy to help address her substance use, completed parenting classes and anything else the court asked of her. After seeing her progress and determination, about a year later, the court ordered the girls to return home. Services were put in place to help with the transition. It's been several years and the family is still together. They like to check in with us from time to time to let us know how they are doing. We are grateful for the updates and thrilled to know that Lidia's hard work continues to pay off.

Hello everyone it's us again E'Lissa and Eanise. We are now just stopping by to say hello and let you all know we are doing great! We have been home 6 years and 1 month on December 29. I am E'Lissa. I am 9 years old and my sister Eanise is 7 years old. Guiding Harbor was our life saver my mom tells us all the time how amazing they were and how they made sure my mom got us back and I thank God everyday for bringing them into our lives. To all the foster parents, thank you, you matter too! Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year!

"I am grateful for the foster parents
and staff that cared for my children."

- Lidia



Supervised Independent Living

Supervised Independent Living (SIL) is a program for foster youth 16 and older who live in a supervised living arrangement while still getting case management and support services to help them become self-sufficient.

- Educational support and vocational planning
- Employment assistance and financial planning
- Monthly stipend, health and dental care
- Case coordination and advocacy

SIL is intended to be a transition into independent adulthood. Youth in this program must demonstrate maturity. Youth work, go to school and they are expected to follow mutually agreed upon rules of the program.

10%
of kids exit
Michigan's
foster care to
emancipation.
Services
like SIL help
prepare kids
for life after
foster
care.

“If it hadn’t been for Girlstown, this would not be my story.”

We received a phone call from a 30 year old woman. She said that about 15 years ago, she was a resident of Girlstown. She told me that when she entered the program she was failing out of school, she was sneaking out of the house at night, hanging out with boys and drinking alcohol. She was angry and rebellious. She said that because of the love and support she received at Girlstown, she was able to graduate from high school. She told me that she still keeps in touch with the other girls she resided with back then because “Girlstown made us a family.” She is now employed full time at Burger King and she has 3 children. She said that people may still criticize her choices, but she is proud of how far she has come. She said if it hadn’t been for Girlstown, this would not have been her story. She thinks that she would have ended up on the street somewhere and her children would have probably ended up in foster care because she was headed down the wrong path. She called that day, to say thank you.



“Thank
you
Girlstown”

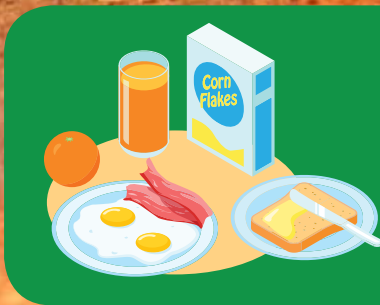
Change your thoughts & you change the world

Girlstown Residential

Girlstown is a safe alternative for girls in foster care ages 12-18 who have emotional or behavioral challenges that make it difficult for them to be in a traditional foster home.

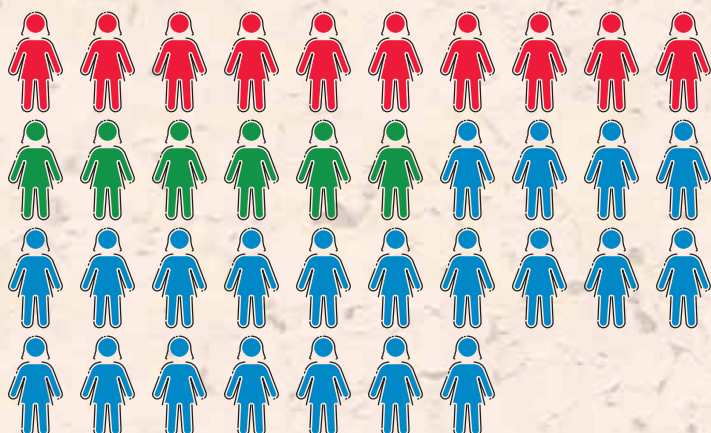
- Community-based residential facility where 14 girls can live while they get treatment.
- Case management, therapy and psychiatric services, life and social skills training, educational support are all available for the residents.
- The goal is for the girls to leave Girlstown and go home, back to a foster home or onto independent living.

Guiding Harbor welcomed a new community partner in 2018, Trinity Episcopal Church of Belleville. Members of this group host a monthly dinner for the residents of Girlstown. The girls help to plan the menu and cook the food and they all eat together. The volunteers also spend time mentoring, playing games and planning community outings. This partnership has been beneficial to all who have been impacted by the generosity of Trinity Episcopal Church.



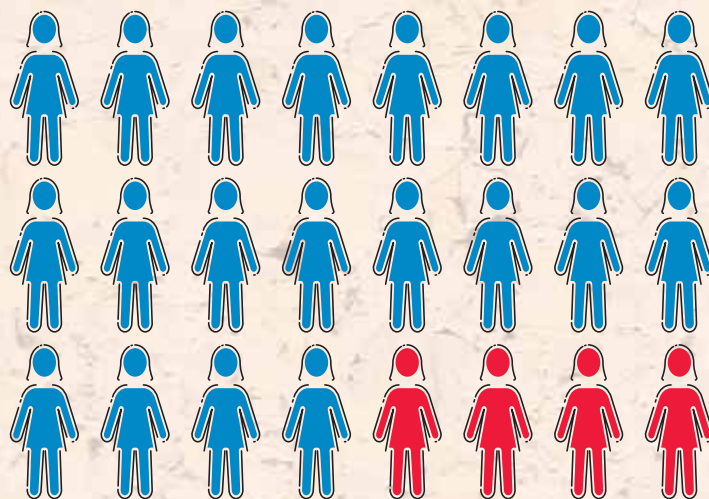
8,075 Meals were provided to girls living at Girlstown in 2018.

Guiding Harbor has provided foster care, Supervised Independent Living and residential care to a total of 65 youth in 2018.

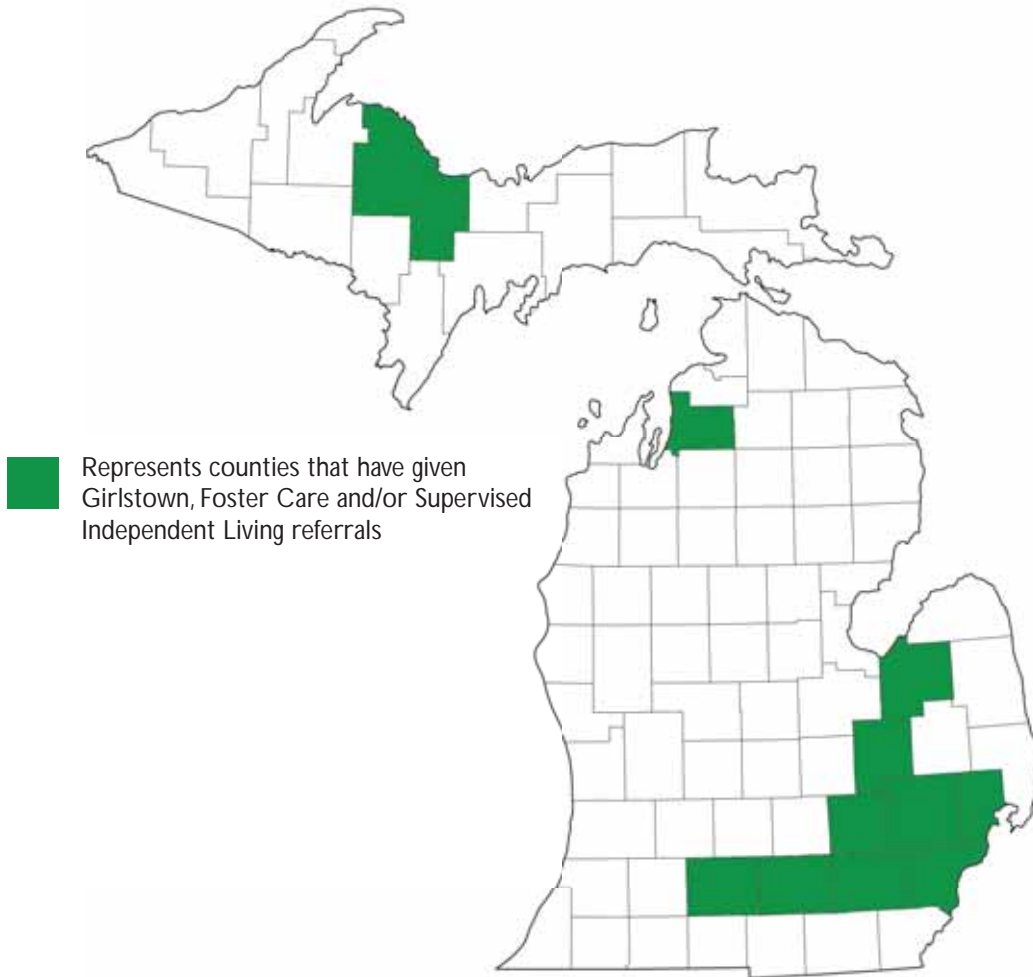


Our foster care program has served **37 foster youth** in 2018. The foster youth were placed in licensed foster homes in Belleville, Romulus, and the surrounding areas. There were **10 foster youth** who found a forever home through adoption and **6 youth** who were returned home to their parent's care.

Our residential program, **Girlstown**, served **24 female youth** ages 12-18 in 2018. The youth in this program attend Van Buren Public Schools. We had **4 youth** who were employed at businesses in Belleville. The independent living skills they learned from **Girlstown** allowed them to move onto Supervised Independent Living placements, where they continue to develop skills to live independently.



Michigan 2018 referrals by county



Referrals By County	Girlstown	Supervised Independent Living	Foster Care
Antrim County	1		
Calhoun County	1		
Genesee County	1		
Jackson County	1		
Marquette County	1		
Livingston County	1		
Macomb County	3		1
Oakland County	2	1	3
Tuscola County	1		
Washtenaw County	1		
Wayne County	11	3	33
Total	24	4	37



Thanks to our Donors

Donation of \$5000 and above

Cotton Correctional Facility
Huron Valley Women's Facility

Donation of \$1000 - \$4999

GFWC Southeastern
Westland Community Foundation
Mohre, Deborah
Cooper Street Correctional Facility

Donation of \$551 - \$1000

Annoymous
Clayton, Linda
Costco Wholesale
White, Jennifer
in honor of Avis White

Donation of \$251 - \$550

GFWC - Charlotte
GFWC - Gun Lake Area
DeMarco, Linda
Flushing Women's Club
Jenkins, Judy
Wilson, Carol
Haggert, Betty
GFWC Northwestern District
Duckham, Jo

Donation of \$101 - \$250

White, Avis
GFWC - Lake Orion
Bisson, Beth and Greg
Celani, Melissa and Joseph
GFWC - Dimondale Home Culture Club
Williams, Joe and Anne
GFWC - Caledonia
JPMC
Armour, Susan
GFWC - Madison Heights
GFWC MI
Trotter, Jennifer and Robert
Fick, Kathy
Baker, Denise
Devine, Valleri
Follis, Diane
Ludwig, Michele
VanHorn, Delores
Kogelman, Jeanette
GFWC Marlette
Champagne, Tamara
GFWC Madison Heights
Ackerman, Michelle
Bailey, Carolyn
Meike, Melissa
Ramm, Karen
Mitchell, Ellen & Brian
GFWC - Three Rivers Woman's Club
Iltis, Joyce
Burns, Bob & Chris
Royal Oak Woman's Club
Anonymous

Donation of \$51 - \$100

Allyn, Paige
GFWC Lenawee
Nieschulz, Nancy
Connolly, Kathleen
Johnson, Susan
Adamski, R. J.
Brown, Donna
Williams, Rico and Janiece
Devenney, Rebecca
Holzer, Christie
Kamper, Jane
Plezia, Kristen
Saltzgaber, Tony
Upston, Madilyn
Whitmire, Lynne
Shelander, Jeanne
GFWC - Tekonsha Research Club
Chenalls, Alicia

Donation of \$1 - \$50

Evart Women's Club
Taylor, Anthony and Lori
Voci, Frances and Rocco
GFWC Kalamazoo
Lewis, Kathleen
GFWC - Newberry
Bair, Timothy
Jarczewski, Michelle
Northon, Ruth Ann
Pidwall, Judy
Simpson, Judith
Anderson, Pamela
Toothacker, Linda
GFWC - Lake City Women's Club
McCormack, Teresa and Jill
Spellman, Carol
Feger, Karen
Rough, Linda
Vrem, Kevin
GFWC - Adrian Woman's Club



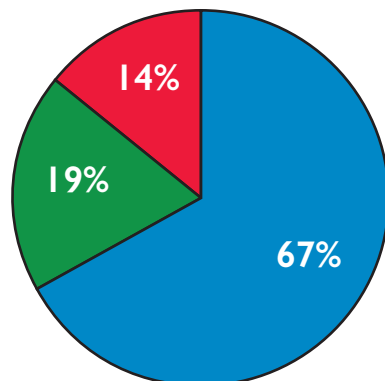
Financial Report

Girlstown Foundation
(dba Guiding Harbor)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2017
(With Comparative Amounts as of December 31, 2016)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 67,100	\$ 147,893
Investments	204,557	240,903
Accounts receivable, net	305,548	311,140
Prepaid expenses	<u>11,007</u>	<u>11,043</u>
Total current assets	588,212	710,979
Noncurrent assets		
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>608,739</u>	<u>621,267</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,196,951</u>	<u>\$ 1,332,246</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 66,181	\$ 60,296
Accrued wages	16,413	18,027
Compensated absences	26,458	24,071
Other accrued liabilities	8,861	8,945
Line of credit	9,394	33,710
Current portion of long-term liabilities	<u>25,576</u>	<u>22,921</u>
Total current liabilities	152,883	167,970
Noncurrent liabilities		
Noncurrent portion of long-term liabilities	<u>158,179</u>	<u>175,467</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	311,062	343,437
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	201,853	306,434
Board designated	655,279	654,233
Temporarily restricted	<u>28,757</u>	<u>28,142</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>885,889</u>	<u>988,809</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,196,951</u>	<u>\$ 1,332,246</u>



2017 Expenses

14% Program

19% Operations

67% Personnel



Guiding Harbor
525 Huron River Dr
PO Box 727
Belleville, MI 48112

**2019 will be a big year
for Guiding Harbor;
join us in making it possible:**

- Become a foster parent or independent living provider
- Sponsor a family, an activity or a Guiding Harbor youth.
- Volunteer to be a mentor
- Attend our events, even bring a friend. Coming soon is the Open House, Wine Tasting and the Annual Auction
- Tell someone about the great work being done at Guiding Harbor

Thank you

Because of your continued support and contributions, in 2019 we will continue to broaden our continuum of care by adding an Adoption program to the Guiding Harbor array of services. We will continue to focus on strengthening our infrastructure so that we can continue to be efficient and effective in meeting the needs of our clients and community partners.