

• For more than 60 years, the Girlstown Residential Program has been the foundation on which the rest of our services are even possible.



Guiding Harbor

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

65th Anniversary Edition

*Improving the quality of life for
children and families*

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TO OUR FAMILIES



Jennifer Trotter
Chief Executive Officer
Guiding Harbor

Dear Friends of Guiding Harbor,

2023 marks Guiding Harbor's 65th Anniversary. In 1958, we opened the doors to a beautiful Victorian home on Belleville Lake. We are so grateful for the women of GFWC MI who had a vision to provide a safe harbor for children with challenges. That has not changed in 65 years.

The description of our programs is the technical aspect of our role, but the reason we are good at what we do is because our staff take the time and effort to form purposeful relationships with these children, with parents and with caregivers. Connection is the piece that is required for meaningful change to occur. When people leave our services, the thing they tell us over and over is about the relationship they had with their case worker or youth specialist.

I love being here and telling you the stories of our history and our kids. I find so much value in those who came before us. I feel connected to previous leaders of this organization because we share something in common. I want you to feel connected to the children and families because you, our supporters, are so much a part of their stories. They may not know your names or recognize you on the street, but I promise that when we had a high school graduation party for 2 residents last year, they felt you cheering them on.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Trotter". The script is fluid and cursive.

Jennifer Trotter, CEO



65 Years and Counting

In 2023, we celebrated our 65th anniversary with a Tea and Tour event! What an amazing opportunity for Guiding Harbor staff, community, and supporters to get together for a chance to celebrate. We have gone through some major transitions and times throughout the years, including adding new programs to our services we provide and what we have heard over and over the past few years as “unprecedented times.” While it seems the past few years we have continuously gone through some type of crisis, we want to recognize that throughout it all, we could not have continued our work without the help of our supporters and dedicated staff!

Guiding Harbor, originally Girlstown Foundation, was created to be a safe place for youth to stay and learn how to manage their behaviors as well as how to be an adult while receiving support along the way. While our programs have slightly transitioned to meet new and different needs than back in 1958, we want to point out that our mission is the same: *improving the quality of life for children and families*. Guiding Harbor is continuously working to improve services to help best meet the needs of foster children in Michigan. Thanks to our dedicated supporters, we look forward to many more years of supporting children and families in Michigan’s foster care system. To learn how we celebrated this event see "Tea and Tour" on page 26.

NIGHTS OF SAFETY

23,360
64 cases in 2023

Foster Care

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.

3,689
Increased by over 2x!

Girlstown

We believe with the right kind of support, structure and therapeutic intervention, residents can learn to develop and maintain healthy relationships so they can safely return to their families and communities.

2,190
days of care.

Independent Living Services

For teens in foster care, it is especially difficult to navigate the path to adulthood. We work to support those youth and equip them with the skills necessary to thrive.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission: Improve the quality of life for children and families.

Vision

Guiding Harbor will educate each person placed in our care, teaching the life skills necessary to make wise decisions and to become a productive member of society.

Values

1. Physical and emotional safety – our highest priority is providing physical and emotional safety for children, families and employees.
2. Respect and belonging – we are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion and creating a space for children, families, and employees to thrive.
3. Small and mighty – we leverage our small agency size to guarantee individualized experience for our employees and those we serve.
4. Strong community – we strive to ensure our impact has a positive effect on those around us.
5. Ethics and transparency – we practice ethical and transparent service delivery to create more positive outcomes.
6. Resiliency – we champion people as they heal and grow from trauma.

The Competitive Environment

There are a plethora of Child Placing Agencies and Child Caring Institutions throughout Michigan, and it is still not enough to serve the number of children in care. Guiding Harbor recognizes that foster and adoptive parents have a choice for which agency they work with and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). has a choice in who they contract with to provide care. Because of that choice, Guiding Harbor strives to offer our services with a customer service focus. We are committed to being a welcome place for all children and all types of families. Philosophically speaking, other agencies providing similar services are our collaborators and partners in providing the best possible care for children and families.

Demographics of the service area

Black children are overrepresented in the foster care system making up 14% of the total child population but 23% of children in care. Hiring staff that is reflective of those we serve is a commitment that Guiding Harbor has made to mitigate racial bias. Our current workforce is 45% African American, 48% Caucasian, 2% Hispanic, 2% multiracial.

Legislative Environment

There are six advocacy and policy priorities: (1) Fully fund the cost of providing quality services to children and families in Michigan. (2) Work collectively to build a statewide high-quality continuum of care that supports families and communities. (3) Expand access of behavioral health services to children adolescents, and families as a priority

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Three-Year Goals

population. (4) Center on equity to reduce disparate outcomes for children and families. (5) Create a family-focused child welfare system that integrates a two-generation approach to family well-being. (6) Stabilize the workforce.

Financial Position

Guiding Harbor's financial position is stable.

Review

Each year we will review the plan and evaluate our progress. We will make revisions and additions as needed. For example, we are in the process of establishing a strategic initiative that addresses potential new programming and growth opportunities.

#1. Recruitment and Retention of Staff and Clients

Focusing our efforts on retaining staff as well as continuously looking for more families that would be interested in becoming foster parents to support more foster children in the foster care system.

#2. Increase Inclusivity with Clients and Staff

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) reported in 2021 that one in three youth in foster care identifies as LGBTQ+ and 84% of LGBTQ+ adults stated that they would consider adoption or foster care but only 14% could identify an inclusive agency near them.

Creating an inclusive environment could increase qualified families for foster care placements, increase adoptions, and increase client satisfaction.

#3. Increase Community Outreach

Creating more relationships with local businesses and organizations to help drive our mission further.

Our ongoing efforts enable us to uphold our commitment to delivering high-quality services to the children within Michigan's foster care system. While we have identified these areas as focal points for improvement, we conduct annual assessments of these values and objectives to ensure their alignment with our mission and our current operational capacities.

PROGRAMS

Foster Care

Before Mariah could even share her first cry, she had already been exposed to drugs in utero due to drug addiction from her mother. Mariah had been in the care of Guiding Harbor since she was three months old. During her time with us, she was in two placements: First, with her paternal aunt. Her aunt chose not to go through the process of becoming certified as a foster parent and did not get along with either parent. Guiding Harbor found it in Mariah's best interest to be placed with a different caregiver. Her second placement was also with a family member, her mother's godmother. Her second placement had an already positive relationship with her mother, Karen, and proved to be a more appropriate placement for the goal of reunification.

Life had also been a struggle for Karen. She struggled from run-

ning away from her foster home at age fourteen and experienced abuse, domestic violence, and homelessness. These adversities are what led to her substance use. There was also concern about Mariah's safety due to the volatile relationship between her parents in the home. Karen also suffered from an abusive relationship with her fiancé, Mariah's father. She complied with court orders by attending parenting classes and completing psychological evaluations. She was also ordered to do random drug screenings and substance use counseling. Through her willingness to reach reunification, she succeeded highly in her parenting classes and attended all family reunification programs offered by Guiding Harbor throughout the process.

She was able to comply with the treatment plan and meet all those



goals. She worked hard to prove herself to the courts and Mariah. Guiding Harbor was there through this transition with case management, referrals, and supportive services for Mariah and her mother Karen. With ongoing family assistance, the family continues to thrive. Guiding Harbor was there every step of the way reuniting Mariah with her mother. Mariah's story is a testament to the successful outcomes that can result from foster care to family reunification with the right support. It exemplifies the daily work of Guiding Harbor in helping families during times of crisis.

Supervised Independent Living

Jessie is a non-binary person who identifies as neither male nor female.

They prefer to be addressed by they/them pronouns. Like many foster children, Jessie had it rough growing up. Jessie grew up without proper guidance from their parents, and unfortunately, Jessie and their parents did not maintain a relationship after parental rights were terminated by the courts. Jessie's initial goal when first arriving at Guiding Harbor was to be adopted. They started in the Girlstown Residential program. The residential program provided them with residential services, guidance, support, a comprehensive treatment program, and resources to help them create a plan to achieve their goals. By achieving these goals, Jessie was able to excel in school. When graduating through the Girlstown program, Jessie went into the Supervised Independent Living program (SIL) with a foster family set up through Guiding Harbor.

The SIL program aims to empower young adults to live independently,

focusing on providing practical, hands-on experience. The program offers life skills assessment of strengths and needs, individualized life skills training, educational or vocational referrals and support, and employment referrals and support. SIL providers are expected to support and encourage the youth in meeting all goals set by the case management plan, with help from a case manager who also works directly with the child. In addition to building meaningful relationships with their foster family, Jessie considered their foster family as their actual family. This connection gave them a sense of belonging and security. Jessie graduated from Belleville High School in 2020 and went to college. They received the Guiding Harbor scholarship for college and attended Gran Valley State University (GVSU) in Grand Rapids. While attending GVSU, Jessie started to miss their foster family and decided to transfer to Oakland Community College to be closer to home. Jessie eventually moved out of their foster family home, made significant progress, and is now living independently.



Their case was recently closed because they aged out of foster care at twenty-one. Jessie had gone on to establish their own life and job. Jessie is an inspiring example of the success of Guiding Harbor's programs. They progressed from the Girlstown program to the Supervised Independent Living program to the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care program, which enabled them to transition successfully to adulthood. Although Jessie's case was closed because they aged out of foster care at twenty-one, they could establish their own life and job, thanks to the support of their foster family and Guiding Harbor. Jessie's story is a reminder of the power of perseverance and the importance of programs like Guiding Harbor's SIL program.



Adoption

Erika was just one year old when she came into care in 2013. Erika's parents struggled with substance abuse, mental health issues and domestic violence. She was placed in two homes, and then reunified with her mom a year later.

When Erika was 6, she came back into foster care. Due to all of the

instability and trauma she had experienced, her behavior made caring for her more complicated. Erika was in 5 different placements before returning to her mom again.

Once again, Erika came back into foster care when she was 8. This is around the time when Guiding Harbor started providing Foster

Care services. Before this, another agency was working with her and her family. She was placed with a relative and her parents' rights were terminated. The placement

with her relative didn't work out and Erika went to another foster home and then another. After a matter of days, while we were taking Erika to her therapy appointment, the foster parent (not a Guiding Harbor Foster Parent) put all of Erika's things in trash bags and left them in the driveway and would not allow Erika to return. Erika had nowhere to go but to our office while we searched for a placement.

Tonya was a newly licensed foster parent and wanted to foster a baby. We were desperate and asked Tonya if she would consider

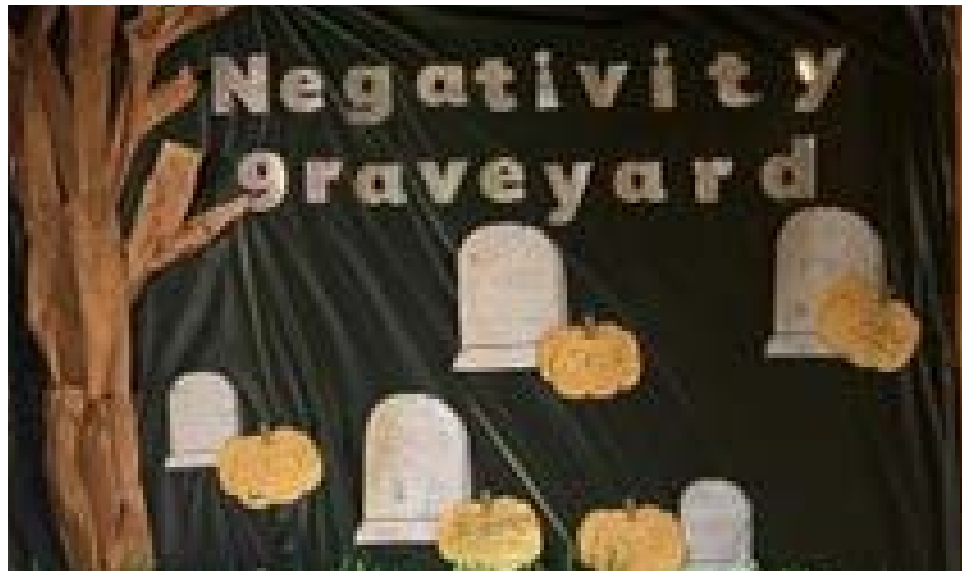
taking 10-year-old Erika temporarily while we worked to find a long-term placement. She agreed and the two hit it off right away. There were certainly bumps along the way, but before long, Tonya and Erika decided they wanted to be a family forever.

The Guiding Harbor team rallied around this family and worked hard to get Tonya the tools she needed and Erika therapy and consistency, so that Erika could get the stability she deserved. Erika's adoption worker, Baila, joined our team last year. She is a real go getter and wanted to get things done

as quickly as possible so that Erika could finally be out of foster care.

After 11 different homes and spending more than ½ of her life in foster care, Erika was adopted by Tonya.

Erika has a sparkling personality. She is spunky and sassy and has a great sense of humor. She is a competitive figure skater and loves art. When you take a moment to soak in the story of kids like Erika, and realize all they have been through, you can't help but be their best advocates.



Negativity Graveyard

October 11, 2023: In honor of Halloween season, what is scarier than negative self-talk?! In the month of October, Girlstown residents learned about ANTs (automatic negative thoughts) and how to stop them. ANTs include but are not limited to overgeneralizing, jumping to conclusions, self-labeling, and catastrophizing. Residents learned to catch the negative thought (stop yourself when

it comes), challenge the thought (is this really true?) and change the thought (how can I think better about myself, give myself grace). Residents were then asked to put the negative thoughts to rest in the Negativity Graveyard. Finally, Girlstown residents wrote positive thoughts about themselves on pumpkins to symbolize growth in having more positive mindsets.



RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

What is Restorative Practice?

Restorative Practice includes strategies to help foster positive relationships, build community, and give youth voice. Restorative practices build social capital and achieve social discipline through participatory learning and decision-making. RP repairs harm when relationships have been damaged and can reduce violence and bullying.

Restorative Practice is a process in which an individual acknowledges wrongdoing, takes steps to repair harm, and is welcomed back into the community. This fosters a culture that elevates communication and values relationships.

Why Restorative Practices?

Research continues to demonstrate the beneficial outcomes of using restorative practice techniques, rather than traditional punitive approaches, in response to a child's misbehavior. These include improvement in child behavior, mental health, and disciplinary outcomes.

Our staff had the opportunity to go through Restorative Practice training in March. This training allowed staff to understand what Restorative Practice is and how to implement it in their work. Because we work with children and families that have gone through some form of trauma, it was beneficial for staff to learn different ways to

best support our clients with new techniques.

We received funding for this Restorative Practice training from The Ethel and James Flinn Foundation. The Flinn Foundation, along with many other foundations, play a vital role in supporting organizations like ours, dedicated to enhancing our knowledge of the latest and most effective methods for delivering quality care to children within Michigan's foster care system. Their ongoing commitment to providing essential funding allows us to further our mission and make a meaningful impact.

DID YOU KNOW?

Statistical outcomes may seem bleak for kids in foster care. Stats don't tell the whole story. The data can be improved by you! One loving adult can tip the scales toward success.

Did you know?

- You don't need to own your own home to be a foster parent.

You can rent or own, you just need enough space for a foster child.

- You can work full time and still be a foster parent.

Foster children can be placed in day care and after school programs as needed. Please consider that foster children can have many appointments to attend such as doctor visits, parenting time and therapy. A good support network is important to help you manage these challenges.

We need foster parents for kids of all ages, but especially kids 11 and up.

- Foster children are typically in care for one year while reunification efforts are in progress.

Some foster children may be reunited sooner but foster family should plan on providing a home for up to a year.

- The average foster child is 6 ½ years old.

You can choose the age of child you'd like to foster.

- You don't have to be rich to be a foster parent.

We will need to make sure you have enough income to support yourself, but there is a monthly stipend that is provided to foster parents that is calculated based on the age and needs of the child to help cover the cost of their care. Children in foster care are eligible for Medicaid which pays for medical, dental and mental health care. Many foster families qualify for reimbursement for the costs of day care.



Mental Health Disparities

Source: CONGRESSIONAL COALITION ON ADOPTION INSTITUTE'S FOSTER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM®

12.5 % of foster care alumni experience PTSD as opposed to 4.5% of the general population.


15.3% of foster care alumni experience a major depressive episode as opposed to 10.6% of the general adult population.

11.9% of foster care alumni experience Modified Social Phobia as opposed to 8.9% of the general adult population.

11.4% of foster care alumni experience Panic Disorder as opposed to 3.6% of the general population

Youth in the child welfare system who were placed in out-of-home care are also twice as likely to die by suicide compared with children in the child welfare system with in-home services. (1)

According to a survey conducted by FosterClub early in the pandemic, 12% of current and former foster youth ages 18 - 24 had "trouble accessing mental health care" (FosterClub, 2020).



"Courage doesn't mean you don't get afraid. Courage means that you don't let fear stop you."

– Bethany Hamilton

Some people are worried that having to let a child go might be too hard. We can't argue that it may be a challenging emotional time but here are some things to consider:

- Reunifying with a birth parent often leads to emotional stability for the child. Rebuilding their relationship with their biological family can strengthen their identity, cultural connections, and sense of belonging, all of which are important for long-term well-being.
- Even though you might not be with the child permanently, the love, care, and stability you provided during a difficult time leaves a lasting, positive imprint on the child's life forever. Their role in helping a child feel safe and supported contributes to the child's overall growth.
- Reunification represents a positive outcome in the larger system of care. By helping a family heal and come back together, foster parents

are playing a vital role in strengthening the community and improving outcomes for families.

- Foster kids need love more than you need to protect your heart.

Guiding Harbor has a team of staff that are dedicated to helping support you through the process of becoming a licensed foster parent. Our team will help provide you with training and resources to help you be successful. We are also here to guide you through challenges that may arise, and we will celebrate with you in the moments of joy. Call us for more information 734-697-7242.

More than 80% of foster children have mental health issues including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), major depressive episodes, modified social phobia, panic disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, alcohol or drug dependence, and bulimia (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2019).

A study of youth aging out of foster care found that at the beginning of the study when youth were still in care, 61% of youth received services for depressive symptoms, but only 39% of youth received services by the end of the study, after exiting care (Rapaport, 2015).

SPOTLIGHT - LINDSAY MCNAMARA,

FOSTER CARE SUPERVISOR



She has more than ten years of experience in child welfare and a proven track record of success in her role. She has experience in foster care, adoption, youth families, juvenile and mental health. Lindsay is passionate about advocating for children and their families and providing the necessary support and is committed to making a positive difference in lives.

"Guiding Harbor is a great organization with significant meaning behind it."

Guiding Harbor is pleased to welcome our new foster care supervisor, Lindsay McNamara, to our team. Lindsay graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's in social work and a minor in pre-law. Her social work career started with her Wayne County Prosecution Office internship. She worked in a special victim homicide unit with children who were victims of crimes, sexual assault, homicide, and physical abuse. Even in the beginning stage of her career, she has been goal-driven. She graduated college on Saturday and started her career working in foster care the following Monday morning.

Lindsay has personal experience with the foster care system. She was placed in her grandmother's care at eleven. Her experience gave her a unique understanding of the needs of children and families. She is determined to use her experience as a voice for people without one. Staff that have personal experience dealing with the foster care system are important aspects of the work. They can provide valuable insight and understanding on what works and what needs to be changed. It is also great for our clients to see how people can take negative experiences in their lives and turn it in to a positive.

She enjoys her time at Guiding Harbor. She's truly impressed with each staff member here. She says Guiding Harbor is a great organization with significant meaning behind it. She likes that fact of the residential aspect. Because there are so many teenagers without any familial support, it's heartening to know that there are staff members who genuinely care about the children and provide them with the necessary resources for a successful transition into adulthood. She looks forward to continuing to grow the program.

Throughout her career, she has found it challenging to overcome the obstacle of not being able to create resources in a timely manner to fix clients' problems. To tackle difficult situations, she typically uses different mental strategies like creating a list of pros and cons or brainstorming with coworkers and supervisors. She is great at calming people down in tense situations and has a talent for building strong relationships with clients. People find it easy to connect with her, and she can work collaboratively with anyone.

Some of the accomplishments in her career that she is proud of is she was able to obtain permanency for children where they would no longer experience uncertainty in the placement. She worked her way up to a supervisor position without her master's degree and in 2019 she was nominated for Foster Care Worker for the Year for the state of Michigan. Although she didn't win she still considered it a great accomplishment to be nominated.

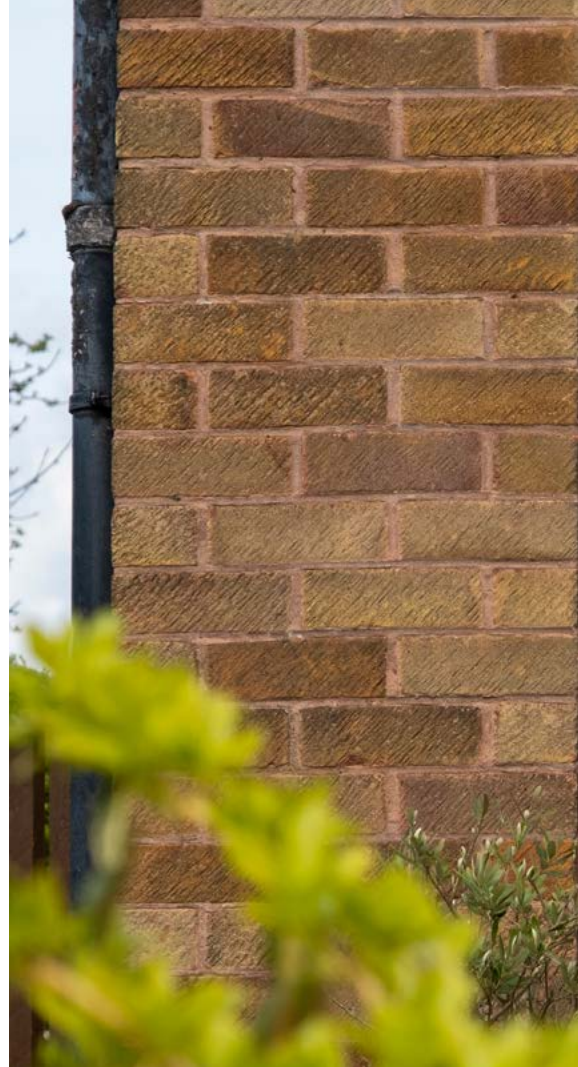
For self-care and fun Lindsay and her husband care for their pets and take them for walks in the evening. She works at an animal rescue and enjoys fostering animals, some of which she ends up adopting.

Welcome to Guiding Harbor, Lindsay.

INCLUSIVITY

All Children – All Families promotes LGBTQ inclusive policies and affirming practices among child welfare agencies and formally recognizes those innovative agencies that are leading the field. At the core of this work are the Benchmarks of LGBTQ Inclusion listed below. The benchmarks are organized into seven main areas of inclusive policies and affirming practices that organizations should implement to best serve LGBTQ children, youth and families.

In 2023, Guiding Harbor started this work to be a more inclusive agency and partnered with the Human Rights Campaign to ensure the work that we were doing was backed by research. We worked diligently through 2023 to ensure that the practices and language we were using were inclusive to all, and we were able to receive the Building Foundation for Inclusion tier. As an agency, Guiding Harbor is committed to ensuring we are doing everything we can to ensure we are a welcoming and inclusive agency for everyone to feel safe. We will continue to partner with the HRC and strive to progress through the different tiers.



Non-Discrimination

Staff Training

Rolling Out the Welcome Mat

Parent Best Practices

Youth Best Practices

Sustainability & Capacity Building

Leadership & Innovation



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

In 2023, the Board of Directors played a pivotal role at Guiding Harbor, steering our strategic vision, overseeing governance, and guiding crucial decision-making processes. Comprising 15 individuals with diverse backgrounds and expertise, our Board's collective dedication is instrumental in ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of our organization.

Our Board members bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the table, representing diverse fields including public education, finance, human resources and personal insights from the foster care system. This breadth of perspectives enriches our decision-making and empowers us to effectively address the challenges our clients encounter.

Board members are elected by their peers at the Annual Meeting from a diverse slate of candidates, serving two-year terms with the possibility of reelection. They convene five times annually to deliberate and vote on organizational matters, ensuring the best interests of Guiding Harbor are served throughout the year.

Through an anonymous survey, some of our board members shared their feelings about being on the Guiding Harbor Board:

"I have been on the board for several years and have seen it evolve into a better working board with more involved members that function as a team."

"I enjoy using my professional expertise to support this organization. The group is supportive and open"

"I like knowing that, through my Board work, I'm helping children overcome trauma and they then can move on to positive life experiences."

"I am very passionate about the cause and want to what I can to help these families & support the staff."

"The Guiding Harbor "job" is a difficult one at best. They take care of those whom other organizations have given up on. I admire the grit and strength of the staff who never give up. Sometimes like trudging uphill through the mud."

Responsibilities of Guiding Harbor's Board of Directors:

1. **Governance and Oversight:** The Board responsible for setting the Guiding Harbor's mission, vision, and strategic direction. They ensure that we operate in accordance with our mission and values, and they oversee management to ensure effective implementation of the strategic plan.
2. **Fiduciary Responsibility:** The Board has a duty to ensure that Guiding Harbor is financially sound and that resources are managed responsibly. They approve budgets, financial statements, and major expenditures, and they monitor financial performance to protect our assets and investments.
3. **Executive Oversight and Accountability:** The Board hires, evaluates, and if necessary, replaces the executive leadership. They provide guidance

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service to others"

and support to the leadership team, ensure that we comply with legal and ethical standards, and maintain accountability to stakeholders including donors, members, and the community.

These duties collectively ensure that the Board acts in the best interests of the organization and its stakeholders, maintaining transparency, accountability, and strategic foresight.

If you would like more information about the Board of Directors or if you are interested in joining the Board, please contact Jennifer Trotter at jtrotter@guidingharbor.org.

Board Member Spotlight

Carol Wilson, Member-at-Large, has served on the Guiding Harbor board for 12 years. A dedicated supporter, she has consistently made valuable contributions to the organization. Carol first became involved with Guiding Harbor through her membership in the General Federation of Women's Club, where she was invited to join the board. She has remained committed to our mission ever since.

When asked about her favorite aspect of serving on the board, Carol spoke of the fulfillment she feels knowing that Guiding Harbor makes a meaningful difference in the lives of children in need. Having a personal connection to the foster care system, she understands the impact of the support she received and continues to support Guiding Harbor's efforts to provide that same level of care to children today.

In addition to her board responsibilities, Carol is a travel enthusiast. During her travels, she diligently researches and selects wines from around the world to donate to the annual Guiding Harbor auction. Her wine selections are always a big hit, and it's exciting to see what she brings each year. When she's not traveling, she enjoys spending time with family or boating on the lake. Carol serves on various committees, with her favorite being the auction committee. She finds it not only a joy to work with such a great group of people but also recognizes the significance of the auction as it raises the most funds for the organization each year.

Carol's continued involvement with Guiding Harbor is invaluable, and we are so fortunate to have her as an advocate for children in Michigan's foster care system.



Carol Wilson
Member-at-Large

2023 BoD Roster

Linda Clayton-President

Deborah Mohre-Vice President

Jill McCormack-Secretary

Monte Bertram-Treasurer

Carol Wilson-Member at Large

Robin Chapekis

Paula Coulier

Sue Johnson

Bridget Hanson

Rae Lynn Hlcks

Connie Hopkins

Kathy Lewis

Ruth Ann Northon

Stephanie Saville

Christie Vaghy

FINANCIALS

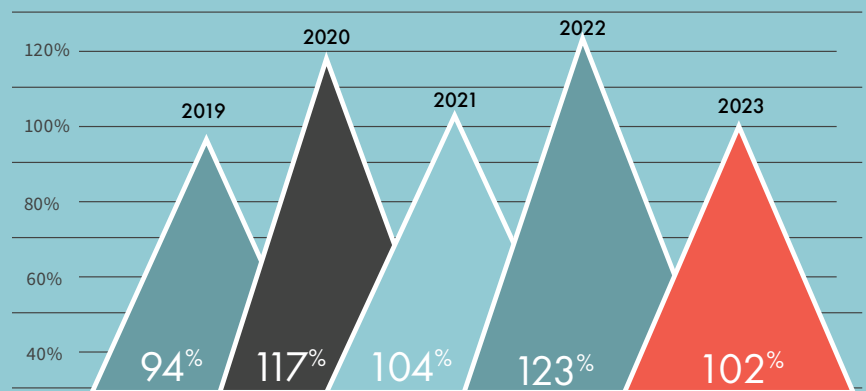
Guiding Harbor Belleville, Michigan

Brief Report on Financial Statements
Year ended December 31, 2023

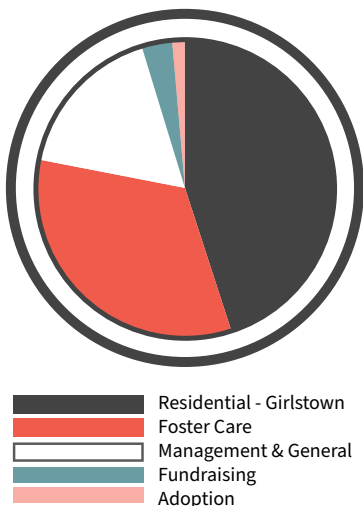
Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Girlstown Foundation as of December 31, 2023, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Total Expenses/Revenue



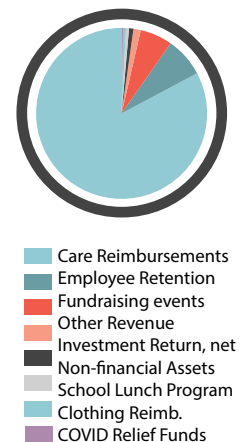
2023 Expenses



Allocated Costs

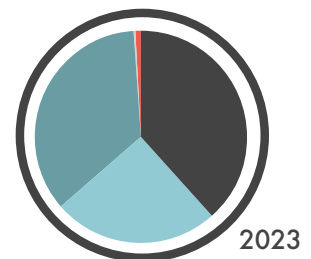
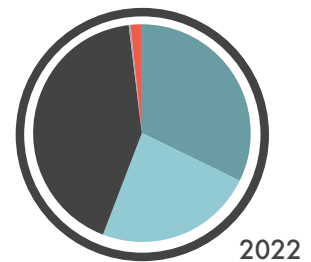
The costs of program and supporting services activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statements of activities. The statements of functional expenses present the natural classification detail of expenses by function. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited. Salaries and related expenses have been allocated to program service activities based upon estimated time percentages for each employee. Most other costs are either charged directly or are allocated to program service based on management's estimation of actual salaries by function.

2023 Support & Revenue

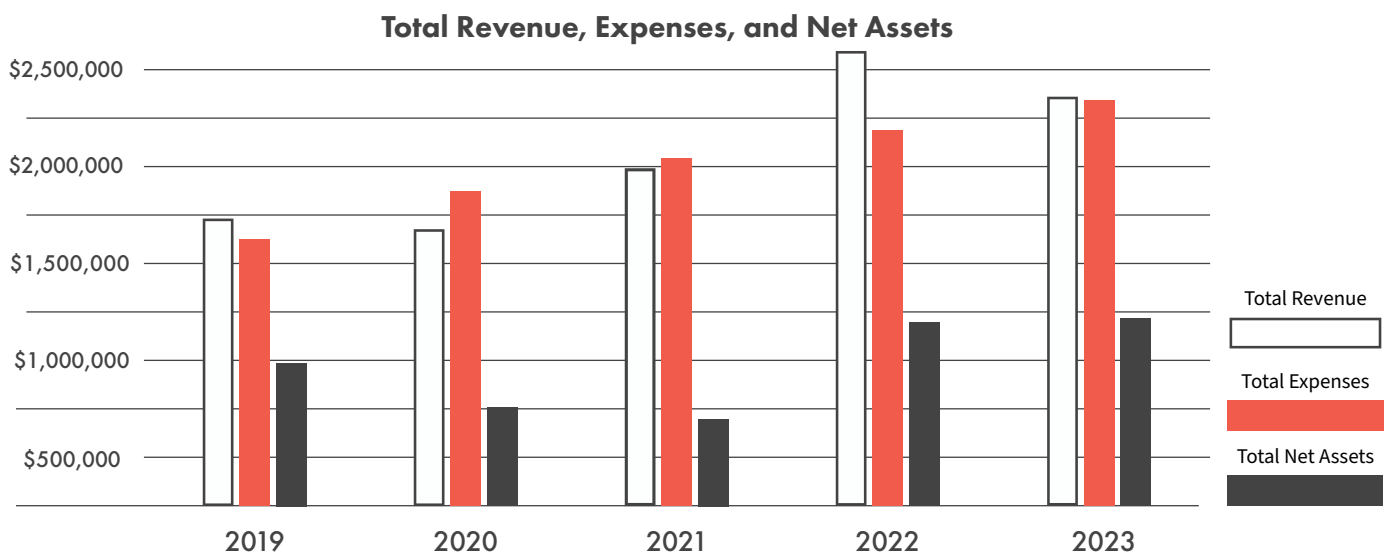


STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	\$362,333	\$292,927
Investments	239,256	214,834
Accounts receivable, net	334,061	382,203
Inventory	2,739	2,539
Prepaid expenses	5,312	13,164
Total current assets	943,701	905,667
Noncurrent assets		
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation	468,827	491,529
TOTAL ASSETS	1,412,528	1,397,196
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	680	\$8,572
Accrued wages	40,606	38,848
Compensated absences	35,028	35,310
Other accrued liabilities	8,408	12,083
Line of Credit	74,511	86,511
Refundable Advance	-	-
Current portion of long term liabilities	30,084	28,188
Total current liabilities	189,317	209,512
NONCURRENT LIABILITIES		
Noncurrent portion of long term liabilities	29,490	59,574
TOTAL LIABILITIES	218,807	269,086
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions		
Undesignated	\$1,124,713	\$1,107,746
Board designated	65,786	18,750
With donor restrictions	3,240	1,614
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,193,712	1,128,110
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,412,528	\$1,397,196

DECEMBER 31, 2023 (with comparative totals as of December 31, 2022)

ASSETS

Cash | Investments | Acc. Rec. | Inventory | Prepaid Ex.



GIVING

“In a society that functions optimally, those who can should naturally want to provide for those who can't. That's how it's designed to work. I truly believe we're here to take care of one another.”

— Levar Burton

Guiding Harbor is primarily funded by MDHHS for every night a child spends in our care. For us to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children and families in need, we rely heavily on the generosity of our donors. The importance of our donors cannot be overstated, your contributions are the lifeblood for us to fulfill our mission.

Donors like you enable Guiding Harbor to offer essential services such as foster care, adoption assistance, and residential programs for children who have faced abuse, neglect, or other hardships. Your financial support ensures that these children receive not only the basic necessities but also access to

educational opportunities, mental health services, and extracurricular activities that promote their development and well-being.

Moreover, the impact of donors extends beyond immediate financial aid. Your consistent support fosters a sense of community and stability for the organization, allowing us to plan and implement long-term initiatives that address systemic issues. For instance, through sustained donations, Guiding Harbor can invest in training programs for foster parents and staff, enhancing their ability to provide high-quality care and support.

In addition to monetary contributions, donors often provide valuable resources, including time and expertise, which are critical to the organization's success. Volunteer efforts, pro bono professional services, and in-kind donations significantly augment Guiding Harbor's capacity to serve more children and families effectively.

We know there is no shortage of places where you can donate your time and money. We are grateful that you have chosen Guiding Harbor and trust that we are using your contributions to help our kids and families.



Leave a Legacy

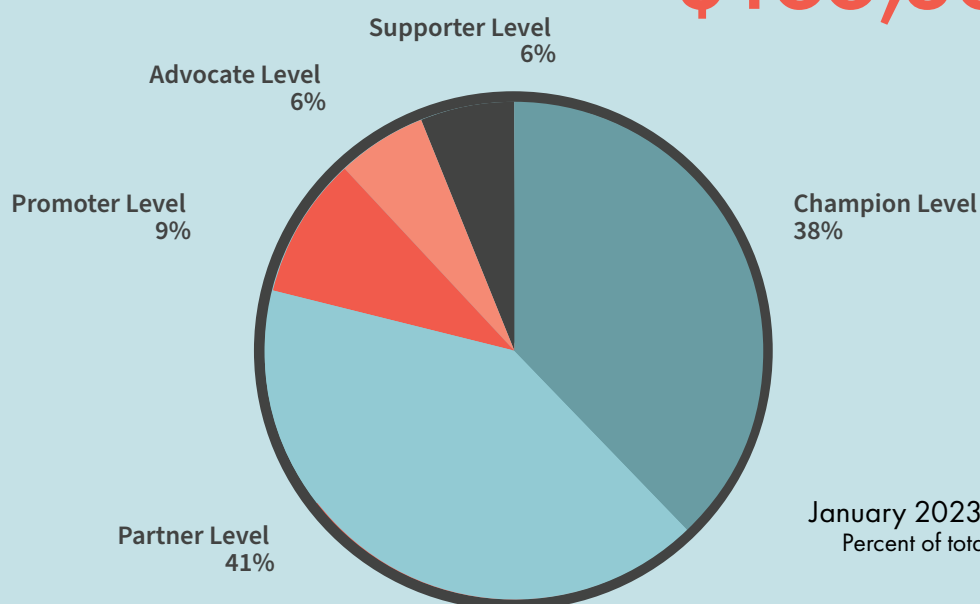
A legacy gift is a planned future gift that designates part of your estate to Guiding Harbor.

We would like to recognize Jean Watson Trust Fund for the legacy donation in 2023.

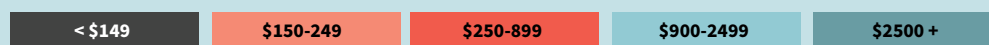
Contact Linda Clayton or Jennifer Trotter for more information.

Guiding Harbor Donor Summary

Total Donations **\$155,362.95.41**



January 2023-December 2023
Percent of total received donations



Planned giving, often referred to as legacy giving, involves arranging charitable donations during your lifetime or as part of your estate planning. It's a thoughtful and lasting way to support causes that matter to you, such as improving the lives of children in need.

- **Leave a Lasting Legacy:** Planned giving allows you to leave a meaningful legacy that will continue to benefit children and families long into the future. Your generosity can make a profound difference for generations to come.
- **Tax Benefits:** Depending on your location and the specific nature of your planned gift, you

may be eligible for tax benefits, such as reduced estate taxes or an income tax deduction. These benefits can maximize the impact of your gift.

- **Support a Cause You're Passionate About:** Planned giving enables you to support the causes that matter most to you. If child welfare and improving the lives of children are close to your heart, your gift can help transform lives.

How YOU can make an impact:

- **Bequests:** Including Guiding Harbor in your will or estate plan allows you to designate a specific amount, asset, or percentage of your estate to

our organization.

- **Life Insurance:** You can name Guiding Harbor as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, providing support without affecting your current financial situation.
- **Charitable Trusts:** Explore options like charitable remainder trusts or charitable lead trusts to provide for both your loved ones and Guiding Harbor.
- **Retirement Accounts:** Designate Guiding Harbor as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), or other retirement accounts to support our mission.

THANK YOU

Planned giving is a personal and thoughtful choice. We recommend consulting with a financial advisor or estate planner to determine the best planned giving strategy for your circumstances.

Your decision to include Guiding Harbor in your legacy is a testament to your commitment to making the world a better place for vulnerable children. Together, we can continue to provide hope, sup-

port, and opportunities for those who need it most.

For more information on planned giving or to discuss your legacy gift, please contact us!

Champion Level

- Labor and Economic Opportunity
- Meijer

- Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
- First Nation Group, LLC
- Mohre, Deborah

Thank you for considering planned giving as a way to support Guiding Harbor. Your generosity will have a lasting impact on the lives of children and families in need.

Partner Level

- Saint James Lutheran Church
- The Village Club Foundation
- Watson, Jean
- Burt Lake Friends
- Wilson, Carol
- Chapekis, Robin
- Hanson, Bridget
- Ally Financial Inc.
- Bertram, Monte
- Saville, Stephanie
- GFWC - Gun Lake Area
- Kapusansky, Tracy
- Egan's Pub
- MI Dept of Correction
- Anonymous
- Hicks, Rae Lynn
- Northon, Ruth Ann
- Jenkins, Judy

- GFWC - Charlotte
- Johnson, Susan
- Guina, Jeff
- Herrera, Guadalupe
- GFWC Menominee
- Clayton, Linda
- Tarnopol, Kim
- Lewis, Kathleen
- AThingz
- Morrison, Jon
- White, Avis
- Rochester Junior Womens Club
- GFWC Brooklyn Heart of the Lakes
- Coulier, Paula
- Tomaszewski, Nicole
- Trotter, Jennifer

- Ruczynski, Tom and Vera
- Murray, Ann
- Walker, John and Kristen
- Kokenakes, Staci
- Walters, Shari
- Walmart
- Belisle, Lisa
- Wright, Ted
- McCormack, Jill
- Blair-Krosnicki, Deborah
- Hopkins, Connie
- Vaghy, Christie
- Fick, Kathy
- GFWC Reed City
- Sturr, Colleen
- Whitsett, Colleen
- Vrsek, Shelly
- Cobb, Jennifer

Promoter Level

AJA International LTD
Alford, Casey
Cossette, Jessica
David C Brown Funeral Home
Edward Jones

Fick, Christopher
Michigan Medicine
Yield Giving Open Call Fund
Upston, Madilyn
Jenkins, Kris
Keene Sheeran, Patricia

Holzer, Christie
Wright, Ted and Nancy
Breuer, Lisa
GFWC - Lake Orion
Tomaszewski, Ashley
Royal Oak GFWC

GFWC - Caledonia
DeMarco, Linda
Mohre, Sara
Colby, Brenda
Bonfiglio, Anne
GFWC - Kalamazoo Area Women's Club

Parenteau, Tammy
Meike, Melissa
Crist, John & Jan
Dobbins, Kenya
Raubenolt, Heidi
Curtiss, Darlyn
DelVero, Mary Beth

Flushing Women's Club
Stewart, Molly
Bisson, Greg
Hissong, Kelley
Taylor, Jennifer
Kinlin, Clisty

Advocate Level

- Rosen, Mitchell
- Sweeney, Brenda
- Curran, Paul
- Bailey, Carolyn
- GFWC - Big Rapids
- Lawther, Linda
- Hayes, Kim
- Spannuth, Darolyn
- Klee, Sherie
- GFWC - Tekonsha Research Club
- Berry, Ann
- Clark, Linda
- Clayton, Chuck
- GFWC - Hastings Woman's Club
- Young, Maureen

- GFWC Mt. Pleasant
- Walker, Amy
- Howie, Ali
- Radojevic, Kelly
- Gotts, Lori
- Lambrecht, Jeannine
- Benefit Review Service inc.
- Donations, Cash
- GFWC - Rogers City Area Civic League
- GFWC - Vermontville Women's Club
- GFWC-Manistique
- Nyauchi, Loice
- Papa, Regina
- Romeo Monday Club
- Lahtinen, Dianne

- Montague, Dawnetta
- Sykes, Margaret
- Allen, Christian
- Barry, Nancy
- GFWC - Madison Heights
- Cannon, Teresa
- Bowman, Lexi
- Chatterton, Rosy
- Green, Beth
- Bittner, Angela
- Dimondale Home Culture Club
- GFWC - Eaton Rapids Women's Clubs
- McPherson, Julie
- Oddy, Matthew and Elizabeth
- VanHorn, Delores

Supporter Level

- Nesbitt, Karen
- Celani, Melissa and Joseph
- Hawkins, Mary Diane
- McGraw, Kristen
- Martin, Lisa
- Landis, Brad
- Vijayakumar, Harry
- Allum, Lois
- Follis, Diane
- Foster, Linda
- GFWC - Harrison Women's Club
- Krumm, Karen
- GFWC - Swartz Creek
- Page Sander, Katherine
- Spiegel, Harriet
- Kern, Diana
- Adamski, R. J
- Callaghan, Mary Lynn
- Cavinder, Alice
- Christensen, Louis
- Christopher, Margaret

- Connors, Angel
- GFWC - Adrian Woman's Club
- GFWC - Grand Valley
- GFWC Northwestern District
- Hanson, Jane
- Hubbard, William and Abby
- Knapp, Merrie
- Lande, Shirley
- Palik, Nancy
- Pearson, Lucie
- Richard, Norma
- Sopata, Sylvia
- Stevens, Aaron
- Strahanoski, Debra
- Thomas, Annette
- Voci, Frances and Rocco
- Whitmire, Lynne
- Parra, Michelle
- Barnes, Karen
- Bumhoffer, Delores
- Dartt, Julie

- Geraldts, Laurie
- Harding, Martha
- Lacey, Thomas and Jeanette
- Russell, Sharon
- Steenwyk, Felicia
- Wilke, Deborah
- Hlckok, Carmen
- Ketelsen, Carol Anne
- GFWC - Evart
- Bergin, Barbara
- GFWC - Dearborn
- GFWC MI Past State President's Club
- Stefanski, Gretchen
- Sweitzer, Bradley
- Wilson, Kelly
- GFWC Lenawee
- Guina, Alyssa
- Hightower, Sandra
- King, Susan
- Yarbrough, Nakenya

"Every child deserves a champion — an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can possibly be."

– Rita F. Pierson



Tea and Tour

Throughout Guiding Harbor's history, the members of GFWC-MI and other supporters have come to visit Girlstown. For many years this was celebrated with a Tea and called an In Gathering. As the tradition continued, it has been called an Open House, a Family Picnic, etc, but this year we wanted to honor our history and celebrate our 65th year with a Tea and Tour.

Guests joined us for an afternoon Tea with light snacks. The centerpieces for the tables were beautiful teapots decorated with flowers. Each guest had a unique teacup from which they could enjoy their tea or lemonade and share in an afternoon making a connection with tablemates. Following a historical presentation of Guiding Harbor, the guests went to Girlstown where some of the residents volunteered to give tours of their home.

This Tea and Tour event was a fun way to celebrate this milestone. We are grateful for all who could attend.

Third-Party Events

In 2023, we had such an outstanding response of 3rd party events that we would like to highlight!

GFWC-Gun Lake for hosting a Pontoon Cruise to benefit Guiding Harbor! They raised over \$1,000 to support children in Michigan's foster care system.

GFWC - Tekonsha Research Club hosted an Ice Cream Social which raised over \$1200.00

Our Friends at Burt Lake (Our Vice President Deb Mohre is a part of this group) raised over \$1,300 with a backyard BBQ hosted in Northern Michigan.

We also had a lot of Facebook Birthday Fundraisers that we are so thankful for! These fundraisers raised over \$900! This is such a fantastic and easy way for our supporters to fundraise for Guiding Harbor and we are so thankful for each one of these fundraisers.

Supporter Level (Continued)

- Barret, Deana
- Kern, Deb
- Robbins, Julia
- Tucker, Elaine
- Wesley, Leo & Barbara
- Allen, Denise
- Bules, Michelle
- Babcock Tillman, Kim
- Banfield, Denise and Melvin
- Clark, Alice
- Dambra, Christine
- Duckham, Jo
- Garceau, Laurie
- GFWC - Lake City Women's Club
- GFWC MI
- Gibson, Mita
- Giess, Dianna
- Holiday Inn Belleville
- Jarczewski, Michelle
- Kirchner, Debi
- Loosvelt, Kacey
- Price, Sue
- Roach, Marte
- Saltzgaber, Johanne
- Taylor, Barb
- Tulikangas, Paul
- Vincent, Sharla
- White, Stephanie
- GFWC - Iron Mountain -Kingsford
- Lambert, Sheila
- Pietsch, Amber
- Porod, Christine
- Suchovsky, Donna
- GFWC Lake Orion
- Leonard, Fran
- Mikutowski, Liz
- Odum, Pamela
- Pigeon Area Women's Club
- Timmerman, Michael
- Bissonette, Sarah
- Charlton, Donna
- Coyne, Greg
- Fuller, Fran
- Laing-Johnson, Susan
- Lee, Angela
- Leotti, Lauren
- Molnar, Nancy
- Rough, Linda
- Singer Jr, Stanley
- Stellard, Ann
- Curran, Evelyn
- GFWC Hastings
- Leo, Karen
- Oury, Barbara
- Ballinger, Sue
- Gmeiner, Linda
- Victory, Sinead
- Williams, Charmaine
- Kienzle, Patricia
- Povilaitis, Melissa
- Arnason, Jennifer
- Clayton, Larry
- Coursey, Jacqueline
- Derbin Serge, Loretta
- Doulette, Anne
- LaPradd, Elaine
- Lucas, Hope
- McKendry, Dorothy
- Montes, Katie
- Roth, Kathleen
- Shollack, Kim
- Springer, Kathleen
- Warren, Gail
- West, Kari
- Wright, Marge
- Zehetmair, Paula
- Barnes-Holder, Emilie
- Blum, Luke
- Bouquenoy, Marie
- Deever, Joann
- Forry, Shawn & Shereen
- Salow, Kathy
- Schneidewind, Stephanie
- Scholefield, Susan
- Shollack, Donna
- Simms, Suzanne
- Baker, Mildred
- Hicks, George
- Johnston, Susan
- Mida, Karen
- Ross, Rebecca
- Saylor, Kristie
- Wilson, William
- Mcinally, David





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***Improving the quality of life for
children and families***