

“SPEAK TO YOUR CHILDREN
AS IF THEY WERE THE
WISEST, KINDEST, MOST
BEAUTIFUL AND MAGICAL
HUMANS ON EARTH, FOR
WHAT THEY BELIEVE IS
WHAT THEY WILL BECOME.”

— Brooke Hampton, Author



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

“THERE CAN BE NO
KEENER REVELATION
OF A SOCIETY’S SOUL
THAN THE WAY IN
WHICH IT TREATS
ITS CHILDREN.”

— Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa



Dear Friends,

2017 was a year filled with success and accomplishment, with nearly 300 families and over 800 children supported in their pursuit of growth and stability. The outstanding work taking place in our Housing Programs and Dowd Education Center provides hope and resources to those struggling with issues of poverty and housing uncertainty. We are proud to say we are achieving our lofty goal of ending homelessness; one day at a time, one family at a time!

Thank you to our generous funding partners, volunteers and Board of Directors. Your dedication and support of our mission fuels the daily work of our amazing team and truly helps to transform lives. Together, we look forward to continuing our journey of nurturing children and stabilizing families.

Sincerely,

*Beth Fetzter-Rice,
Executive Director*



NOT ONE CHILD. NOT ONE NIGHT.



Mission: The Homeless Families Foundation (HFF) educates and nurtures children while empowering families to achieve stable housing and self-sufficiency.



HFF was founded in 1986 by community volunteers who believed it was unacceptable for any child to be homeless and that belief continues to fuel HFF's mission and programming. We believe all children in our community should have a home—and the key to ending homelessness is a stable family. We must work together with a sense of urgency to break the generational cycle of homelessness by fostering independence for families who are currently living in poverty and crisis.

The great equalizer in society is a good education. The great resilience builder in life is hope. At HFF we create a hopeful, nurturing environment for families and children where they are engaged in year-round education, housing assistance and supportive services. HFF has a variety of programs that empower struggling families and expectant mothers to achieve stable housing and self-sufficiency. The HFF's education program educates and nurtures children, Pre-K through 8th grade, from the Franklinton community and beyond with afterschool and summer programs, and home visits that provide both education and intervention.

EVERY YEAR APPROXIMATELY 1,200 FAMILIES AND 3,000 CHILDREN ARE HOMELESS IN COLUMBUS. EVERY DAY THAT WE FAIL TO END HOMELESSNESS IS ANOTHER DAY REAL FAMILIES AND CHILDREN ARE LIVING WITHOUT A HOME. WE MUST ACT EVERY DAY WITH PURPOSE TO BREAK THIS CYCLE.

In 2017, HFF served over 800 children and nearly 300 families. Current programming includes:

- **RAPID RE-HOUSING** works with families to help them move from homelessness to stable housing and assists in their efforts to become self-sufficient.
- **BEYOND HOUSING** aims to break the generational cycle of homelessness by assisting families, within our sphere of influence with maintaining safe and stable housing when faced with a crisis. Families served by HFF address issues that arise that threaten their stability and self-sufficiency.
- **HEALTHY BEGINNINGS AT HOME (HBAH)**, a collaboration with CelebrateOne, guides pregnant women toward stable housing and supportive resources in an effort to reduce the region's high infant-mortality rate. HFF is the Lead Housing Stabilization provider.
- **HOMELESS PREVENTION FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS (HPEM)** partners with Columbus' centralized homeless system to identify pregnant women with housing stability issues and help them gain/maintain safe, stable housing.
- **THE HFF DOWD EDUCATION CENTER** provides STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) focused academic programming for children in grades K-8. The afterschool and summer programs provide education and intervention to enhance social skills, self-esteem and overall health. Enrichment activities include: nutritious meals; fitness/recreation activities; field trips; and presentations from outside agencies that support education and well-being.
- **HFF'S SPARK (SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIPS TO ASSURE READY KIDS)** program provides families of 3-5 year-old children with the skills and tools needed to prepare their children to enter kindergarten. Parent Partners conduct monthly, in-home visits to work with parents on becoming their child's first teacher.

TWO BROTHERS BEATING THE ODDS

Surrounded by gangs, drugs and temptations to make poor choices, Eli and his brother, Isaiah, are a true testament to the power of positive influence. The HFF Dowd Education Center provided not only educational opportunities for these brothers, but also a sense of belonging within a strong support structure—a second family

Eli first came to the Dowd Center when he was nine years old, and his brother was just five. As a single parent, Eli’s mother struggled financially and battled homelessness before discovering HFF. At a time when they didn’t live in the “best area,” the Dowd Center provided a safe refuge for Eli after school, and in the summer.

“We had cops and drugs and gangs all around us, but I managed to stay out of it because I was here [the Dowd Center] instead,” Eli said. “I’d go to school in the morning, and from there I’d go to the Dowd Center and I was always the last one to get dropped off. It’s something to do and somewhere to be instead of where I lived at the time.”

But the Dowd Center didn’t just provide a safe place to stay out of trouble. Eli was able to join other kids with a variety of activities like swimming, roller skating and weekly outings to movie theaters, museums and more. Educational opportunities extended far beyond books to ensure Eli and others learned important life lessons.

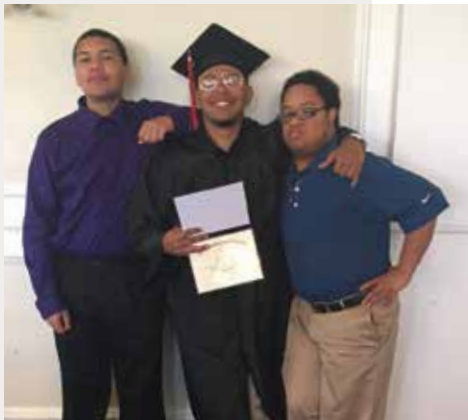
Like most kids, Eli was tempted to go down the wrong path, but he has found himself getting out of bad situations by focusing on the positive influences in his life—people like Mr. D. at HFF.

“I could have been in very bad situations, but I got out, luckily, because I thought about those people. Mr. D. still holds me at a higher standard than everyone else does,” Eli said. “When you’re faced with a bad situation, time stops and you’re sitting there and you think, ‘I can do this,’ which seems fun at the time, or I can get disappointment from the people who love me—and who I love.”

As Eli was approaching high school, one of his HFF teachers helped him get started at the Ohio Construction Academy. This opportunity provided real-life experience for Eli that would translate into a great career path. Currently, Eli is in his second year of a journeyman apprenticeship, and after three more years, he’ll be a certified journeyman. This career will allow him to build a strong financial future.

His brother, Isaiah, is now in high school and remains actively involved with the Dowd Center. He, too, has developed socially and is greeted by “everyone, everywhere we go,” as Eli puts it.

“If it wasn’t for the Dowd Center, I wouldn’t have had enough guidance to be as great as I am today. I had guidance from my dad and mom, from my grandparents, from my older siblings. But, it wasn’t enough because they’re family and you don’t want to listen to family all the time,” Eli said.



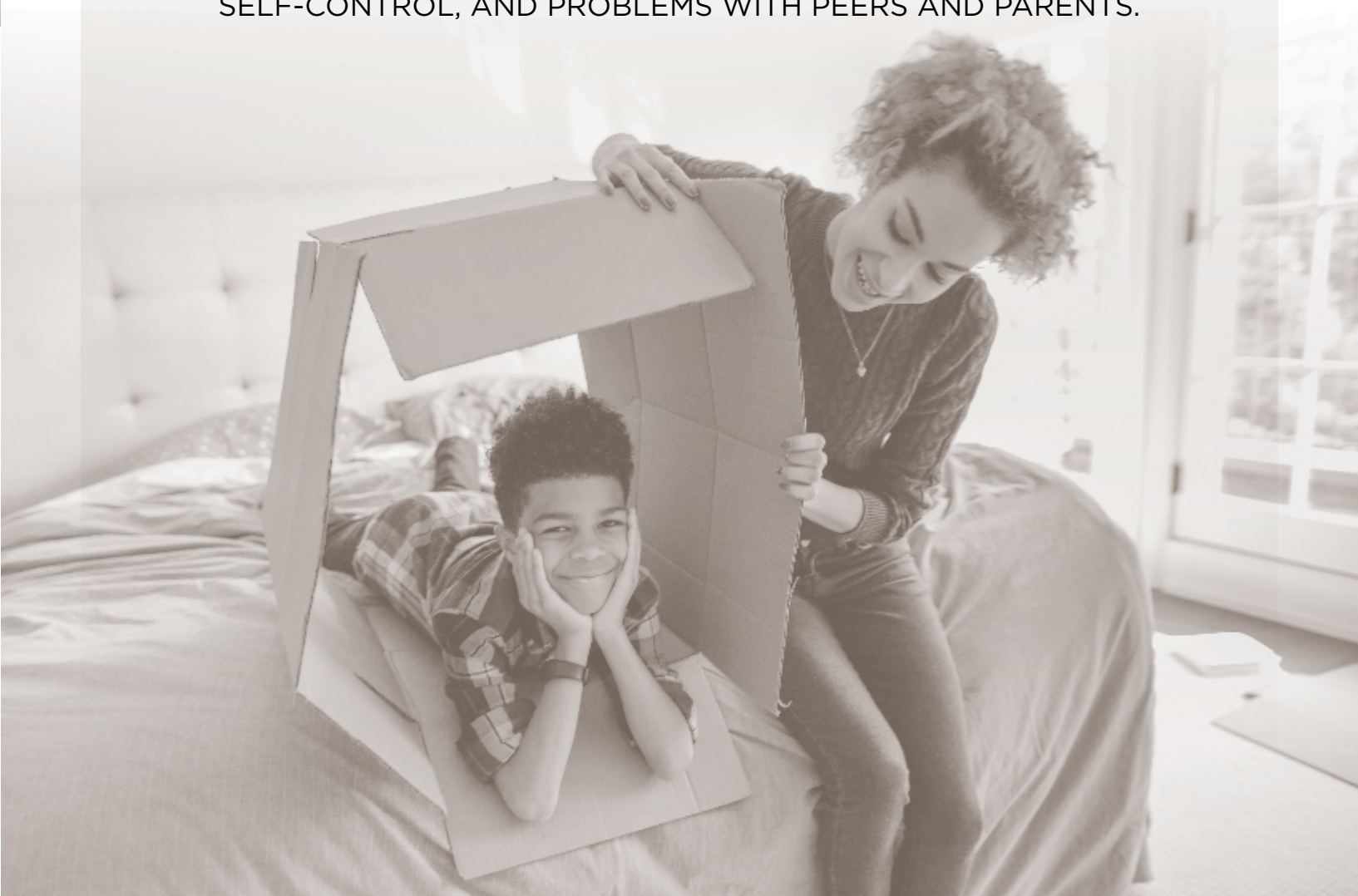
*THE MOST
INFLUENTIAL PART
FOR ELI WAS THE
SUPPORT SYSTEM
HE FOUND AT THE
DOWD CENTER.*

“All the teachers were real. They actually cared about you and wanted you to succeed, and they make sure you’re all right. Mr. D. (Dwayne McGraph, Recreation and Outreach Coordinator) is like a second dad to me—he’s a big part of my life,” Eli said.

HFF’S PARTNERSHIP WITH BUCKEYE RANCH STARTED IN 2017.
AN ON-SITE MENTAL HEALTH
PROFESSIONAL PROVIDED
APPROXIMATELY

60 CHILDREN WITH 355 HOURS

OF ONE-ON-ONE SESSIONS, FAMILY COUNSELING AND GROUP
SESSIONS. SESSIONS ADDRESSED CONFLICT MANAGEMENT,
BULLYING, SEPARATION FROM A PARENT, ANGER,
SELF-CONTROL, AND PROBLEMS WITH PEERS AND PARENTS.



IN 2017
HFF PROVIDED HOUSING
ASSISTANCE TO:

253 FAMILIES



BEYOND HOUSING



In 2017, with the generous support of community leaders like Peggy Kelley, HFF officially began its Beyond Housing program. The program helps families within the HFF sphere of influence who are experiencing a crisis that threatens their stability. Catching families before they fall into homelessness.

Peggy wants her giving to be “meaningful” and has faith that the HFF staff will provide the right intervention, to each family, at the right level of intensity, so that they can provide a safe and stable environment for their children. “Giving makes me happy and I feel blessed that I can help change the lives of struggling families,” Peggy explained.

Ninety-five percent of the families HFF serves are single female head of household. “I think when you struggle financially it is hard enough for families with two parents, it must be very scary for a single mom when something life changing happens like a broken down car or health issues.” That is why Peggy established the Hope for Families Fund at the Homeless Families Foundation. Peggy wants to encourage other individuals to give to the Hope for Families Fund and encourages others to “Give what you can. There is no gift too small.”

You can help a family in crisis with a donation to the Hope for Families Fund at: <https://homelessfamiliesfoundationorg.presencehost.net/give/hope-for-families-fund.html> or mail your gift to The Homeless Families Foundation with Hope for Families in the memo.



2017 Annual Report Revenue

CONTRIBUTIONS:

17.4%	Individuals	\$420,003
53.2%	Government	\$1,280,550
13.8%	Foundations	\$330,780
14.0%	Corporate	\$335,217
1.6%	Community Organizations	\$40,031
	TOTAL	\$2,406,581

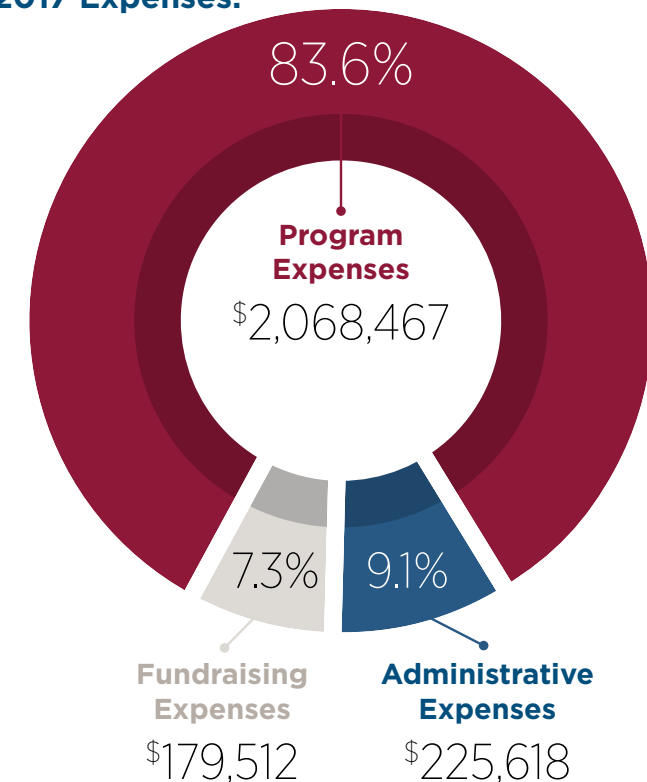
2017 Year-end Net Assets: \$2,594,919

The HFF Endowment Fund was established in December of 2015 to allow HFF to achieve its greatest goals in the coming decades and have an impact in our community for generations to come.

BY DECEMBER OF 2017 IT HAD
GROWN 78% TO \$89,089

You can help HFF's endowment grow with an unrestricted bequest, planned, honorary or memorial gift. For more information, contact Donna Powell, Director of Donor Relations and Advancement, at 614-715-8342 or dpowell@homelessfamiliesfoundation.org.

2017 Expenses:



*from 990

Carry over funding from 2016 was applied to 2017 expenses.

IN 2017, HFF CHANGED THE
LIVES OF CHILDREN THROUGH
ITS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES:

THE DOWD
EDUCATION
CENTER SERVED



107

PRE K-8 GRADE
STUDENTS DURING
THE SCHOOL YEAR
AND IN THE SUMMER



130

CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES WITH THE
SPARK PROGRAM

THANKS FOR ALL THE SUPPORT!

FREEDOM CIRCLE \$5,000 AND UP

John and Charlette Allred
Stuart and Laney Burgdoerfer
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Don and Michelle White

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Theresa Wahlsmith
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Stephanie B. Yager
Lisa and Myrna Yashon

CHAMPIONS OF HOPE MAKE IT MONTHLY Champions of Hope directly impact the lives of hundreds of children and families with monthly donations.

Sarah Armstrong
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Georgia Bishop
Mimi Bertram
Anthony and Maria Brown
Brian Charles Brown
Dean and Chrissy Bruno
Robert B. Byers
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CORPORATE \$50,000 or more \$25,000 to \$49,999 \$5,000-\$24,999 \$1,000-\$4,999 Corporate \$50,000 or more NetJets Aviation, Inc. \$25,000 to \$49,999 Nationwide Insurance \$5,000-\$24,999 Hexion Inc. Park National Bank \$1,000-\$4,999 Grange Insurance Companies Star Leasing Company White Castle Martin Painting & Coating Company Employees Delicious Real Estate Group

TWELVE OF THE HFF DOWD EDUCATION STUDENTS, 4-8 GRADES PARTICIPATED IN THEIR FIRST LEGO CHALLENGE LEAGUE NATIONAL COMPETITION.

From Sept '17 to Dec '17, the students learned coding, engineering, digital programming and more, to build an autonomous robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS technology to solve predetermined missions. This opportunity challenged the students to think like present-day scientists, applying real world math and science concepts to their service project. 2017 was the first year competing. The Dowd team placed 12th out of the 22 teams in the robotics component of the competition, and received one of seven total awards given for their service project!

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Kent Johnson and Gillian
Thomson Fund
Sandy Pond Foundation
Seanna C. and Matthew D.
Walter Fund



“TRY TO BE A RAINBOW
IN SOMEONE’S CLOUD.”

— Maya Angelou, Poet and writer



817 | 93%
CHILDREN | OF THE FAMILIES
HAD POSITIVE OUTCOMES.

The Homeless Families Foundation receives support from the Community Shelter Board and its funders, which include the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and the United Way of Central Ohio, supplementing the generous donations of numerous individuals, corporations, foundations and community organizations.

HFF Privacy Policy:

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