

2019 | LOWER LIGHTS MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORT

REBUILDING *lives*
RESTORING *hope*

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“I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed-and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors.” (Ecclesiastes 4:1)

This Bible verse speaks a deep truth about the work we do at Lower Lights Ministries. Yes, it has been an incredible year of growth, not only in the organization but in the lives of many of the people we serve. The statistics and stories you see in this annual report only begin to capture the beauty of what has happened around us in 2019. And this verse reminds us of a greater truth: that regardless of the resources we do or do not have, we can at least take notice of the oppressed among us and try to be a comfort to them. By caring enough to stand with them, by weeping with them in the face of the oppression and fighting it whenever we can, we are really doing our most important work. And we do not do this work alone – we are grateful to our volunteers, funders, supporters, and most of all Christ - the One who sees every tear and is a comfort to us all.

*Jan Quark
Chief Executive Officer*

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LOWER LIGHTS ministries

2019 | LOWER LIGHTS RECOVERY

In recovery our perspective is to take things day by day. We count the daily victories, the small joys, another day sober, another day off the street, another day with running water and hot showers, another night in a dry, safe bed.

The women we serve have serious obstacles to overcome and within our program they find a safe space to do the hard work necessary to heal and grow. And that space is growing! In 2019 we added 7 recovery beds to our program in a second location. These beds fill an important need in Franklin country, being the only Level III treatment option for women certified by Ohio Recovery Housing.



IN 2019 LOWER LIGHTS RECOVERY SERVED **21** WOMEN:

62% entered the program homeless

85% were victims of human trafficking

71% suffered physical or sexual abuse before the age of 18

80% OF PARTICIPANTS STAYED SOBER FOR AT LEAST 90 DAYS

68% OF PARTICIPANTS STAYED SOBER FOR AT LEAST 180 DAYS

2019 | RACHEL'S HOUSE

2019 was a year full of life and also a year of challenges. We experienced the daily struggle of working through trauma, codependency, and addiction. No matter how the women came to our program or how they left, we provided everyone a community within which they could process their experiences, a safe place to call home, and the care of a God that loves them abundantly.

One of our participants came to us after being in prison for 28 years. After a year of programming, she successfully graduated in November and we had a lot to celebrate! During her time at Rachel's House she gained employment, was promoted and was given an employee of the month award. She built healthy, supportive relationships in the Lower Lights community, including her spiritual and finance mentors who helped empower her growth and development. It is a joy to watch redemption stories like this one come to fruition!



11.3%

3 YEAR RECIDIVISM RATE COMPARED TO STATE-WIDE RATE OF 31%

292 NEW ATTENDEES AT THE BIBLE STUDIES HELD AT OHIO REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN

292

2019 | BRIGHT LIGHTS KIDS

71%

IMPROVED OR MAINTAINED GRADES IN READING AND MATH

71%

ACHIEVED A PERSONAL GOAL DESPITE CHALLENGES



In 2019, Bright Lights Kids served 30 children aged 7-16, empowering them to overcome barriers through one-on-one academic and personal mentoring. Our program often serves youth over multiple years, providing long-term support. This year we celebrated the high school graduation of one of our very first program participants and he has since been accepted at Columbus State!

For nearly 10 years, Bright Lights Kids has operated once-a-week programming from one location in Franklinton. In September, Bright Lights Kids expanded to a second location in the Hilltop neighborhood and started a pilot program with six children. Developing programming in a different location and within a new community has had its challenges, but each week we see progress within each child. We are encouraged by the improved academics, social and emotional skills, and healthy family relationships. We are excited about the continued growth of our program both in Franklinton and the Hilltop neighborhood!

2019 | LOWER LIGHTS FAMILY HOUSING



IN 2019 LOWER LIGHTS FAMILY HOUSING SERVED 12 FAMILIES:

85% came to the program with significant debt

81% did not have stable housing during the year before entering the program

64% were still stably housed one year after exiting the program

Lower Lights Family Housing is a residential family stabilization program. That rather clinical description does nothing to describe the beauty and power that becomes visible when a family “stabilizes.”

In 2019, we housed 12 families - 13 adults and 19 children. One of those families in particular shows what stabilization looks like. Mom and Dad fought valiantly to get out of homelessness but with a history of trauma and mental health issues, both parents knew they needed support. They embraced the programming we offer, meeting with finance mentors, a life coach and professional counselors.

One year later Dad is working at a job he loves for the first time in years and feels empowered as he supports his family. Mom has become a major volunteer at a food pantry and a strong advocate for her children and their special needs. Their kids have shown marked improvement in school and social skills. These outcomes show a family stabilizing but the real proof is in the joy in their faces and the love you sense among them.



2019 | EVENTS & VOLUNTEERS

ADDICTION ACADEMY

In 2019 LLM hosted its first Addiction Academy Conference; bringing together those affected by substance use disorders or passionate about recovery. The conference educated and empowered all to stand together against addiction in our city. Over 100 attendees took part in 15 different classes, taught by professionals in the field. One of the most impactful workshops was a panel involving 4 Lower Lights Recovery participants who reflected and analyzed their own experience in recovery. The panel gave professionals and family members new perspectives to help walk alongside others in their recovery journeys.

VOLUNTEERS

In 2019 we had more than 450 volunteers collectively spend 5855 hours engaged in meaningful service. In addition, close to 1000 hours were given by work groups and Family Meal providers!

LLM acquired a new property in the Fall of 2019 that requires a great deal of work to make it ready for a new family. Thankfully, we have skilled friends and partners that have jumped into this project with great enthusiasm! We hope to have it “move-in ready” in the Spring of 2020.



450

VOLUNTEERS MADE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH LOWER LIGHTS MINISTRIES.

5855

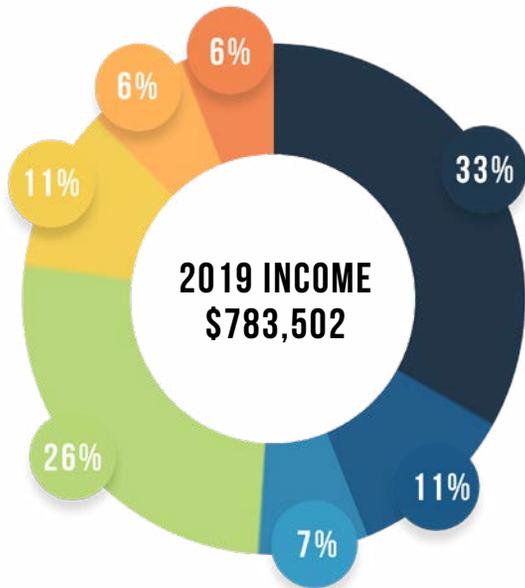
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS



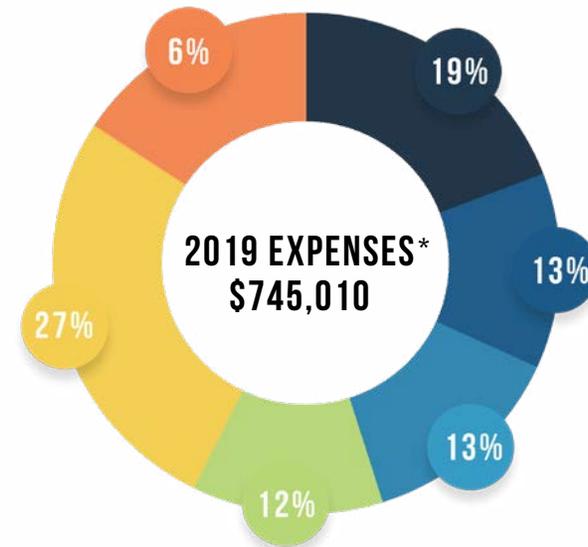
LOWER LIGHTS ministries



2019 | YEARLY FINANCIALS



- INDIVIDUALS
- FOUNDATIONS
- BUSINESSES
- EVENTS
- CHURCHES
- PROGRAM FEES
- OTHER



- BRIGHT LIGHTS KIDS
- ADMINISTRATION
- LOWER LIGHTS RECOVERY
- FAMILY HOUSING
- OTHER
- RACHEL'S HOUSE

*Depreciation not included.

Lower Lights Ministries is grateful for the support from everyone who has contributed in 2019, whether it be with time, prayers or finances.

Complete copies of the annual audit and IRS Form 990 are available upon request.

