

2018 ANNUAL REPORT





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Merryman House is always touching my heart with how much it does to help those desperately in need of recovery and self-esteem. So many lives are saved through the Merryman House Programs. I am thankful that God has reached out to me to be beneficial to this organization and its great efforts to successfully enrich and restore health and faith in those whose needs are fulfilled at Merryman House.



Bill Ford

Owner, Bill Ford Interiors, Inc.



Letter From the Executive Director

Hi Friend,

Yes, you- the one person reading this right now. I would love nothing more than to pour myself a cup of coffee (and you one if you would like), and the two of us settle in for a long conversation on this past year. I would tell you of how the impossible became possible. I would probably speak so fast that you might find it hard to keep up- and with good reason. The pace of this year has been neck-breaking at the Merryman House! I envision you putting up your hand and telling me, "What? Wait- go back. You mean all that happened this past year?" And, I would smile, set down my coffee and say, "It is nothing short of impossible... amazing... a miracle... isn't it?" And, just like that you would walk away inspired. Oh, not by Merryman House per se. No, you would be inspired by the silent strength that undergirded the Merryman House this past year. You would be warmed by the willingness of the well-known and the unknown people, who guided, gave and gathered. You would be proud of the people in your community who stepped up and stepped in to make the vision of an integrated care campus for domestic violence survivors a reality. Yes, you

2016 GOAL : \$3.7 Mil
 98% : DONE TODAY!

would be amazed. So, pour your coffee and settle in. I can't wait to highlight this year, and share the vision for the year to come. I invite you to join me as we showcase you- the donor or friend of the Merryman House. I cannot wait to gush about you, and provide an account of how you are making our community stronger.

Because I know you are busy just like me, I can start by giving you the short version:

The Merryman House launched its first-ever capital campaign in 2016 with the goal of raising \$3.7 million dollars. This would allow it to purchase 26 acres of land and expand to a 36-bed emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children. Because of you, at the time of this report, we are 98% of the way through the campaign, and have successfully moved onto our campus and opened the doors to our 36-bed emergency shelter on December 20, 2017. We share the campus with Mountain Comprehensive Care, and each own 13 acres. This will allow clients to receive trauma-informed mental health

services, residential and outpatient substance abuse services, and comprehensive domestic violence support services. *WOW!*

Because of you, we have renovated an administrative building complete with a commercial kitchen and dining hall. We relocated and opened our Paducah Outreach office, and we renovated and opened a residential services center. *WOW!*

Because of you, we now have a top-notch team of 42 employees who are committed to saving, building and changing the lives of domestic violence victims. Because of you, we are able to connect volunteers to the work for which they are best suited, and we are able to offer community partners space to offer their specialized services to those in great need.

Yes, because of you... the vision for the future has never been brighter, clearer, or more promising. So, if you have time, I invite you to read on and see what we have accomplished together.

Coffee anyone?



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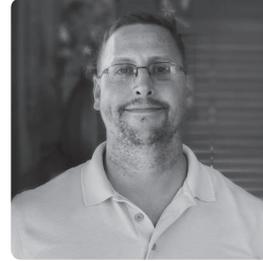
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“ There's a Place for You ”



Capital Campaign

The View From Here ...

There have been few seasons in my life that have challenged me professionally, like the past 2 years. When I joined the MHDCC as Executive Director in 2012, I could not have dreamed what awaited me, nor could I see what awaited me (probably best). This journey has been filled with challenge and change. It has required courage and humility. Most of all, it has been unimaginably rewarding. I've born witness to private prisons with lethal potential. I have looked into black eyes that stared back in pain. I have held broken hands, and broken hearts. I have not done it alone. Oh, goodness no. The Staff of the MHDCC are among the most dedicated and passionate service providers. What they do is hard. What they hear is heavy. What they see leaves a permanent imprint. Yet, they show up every day to work alongside the most courageous, resilient and loving adults and children. Sometimes, what we view is only part of the picture. That is what happened to us. From our point of view, we were meeting the need. We were providing the service. We were doing the best we could. But, sometimes in an effort to change others- we are changed instead.

See, in our seeing and in our serving, we began to struggle with complex questions: "Is this the best we can do?" "Is this the most we can offer?" "Is this the best way to do this work?" From our viewpoint- we had to do better. And, in finding the courage to answer "NO," to questions of our effectiveness, we found the



strength to give our "YES!" And boy, did the community ever echo with their YES too!

On December 20, 2017, the Merryman House Domestic Crisis Center moved to a new home! Below, is an email I sent to our Board and staff late the night we made the move. I'd like to share it with you.

Hi Board and Team:

Well. What. A. Day!

Everything that could have gone wrong did – but, as I sit here at my desk to send this email... The gate is fixed and some very tired men took a group picture... and I am sitting at my desk. So... it was a good day!

In the chaos of it all, one client stood in the foyer area and said, **"Thank you, Mary. I am just so excited! I can't believe this!"** We hugged... she cried. Then I cried. And – it was worth it. Or maybe it was the little one who squealed as he ran through to the toy room – all 2 years of him.

Or maybe it was the church group that showed up with bags for clients, or the cheerleaders that

brought wrapped gifts or the face book message that said, **"We feel led to give to the Merryman House... What is your address?"**

OR...maybe it was the man who drove his friend on the campus today and said, **"Where is the Merryman House?"** And right there... in the grass... a victim said to me... **"I have no where to go... I left. He has been beating me for 1.5 years. I had to leave."** And I said... in just a few short hours... you are going to be able to come here! And she did.

Maybe it was the 1,000 trips up the hill that reminded me of the hills life brings to us... That only create strong legs on which to stand. Maybe it was the team work I saw. Maybe it was the moments of laughter when the staff ran through their drill to be prepared for a not-so-funny reality – that people kill people...and so we stand ready.

Maybe it was the movers who looked at the stair case – desks in hand, and said... **"Really?"** (That was priceless.)

Or, maybe it was the nick name our maintenance employee gave us – **"Three-time Merryman House! Because we are gonna try 3 times before we get it right!"** (speaking of moving furniture). Yes... It has been a good day. Not all good moments,



or even good tempers or attitudes (I was the chief of sinners at one point), but all-in-all... team work made the dream work!

So, tonight, I can't hold back the tears. Maybe it's the fact that we did it. We are finally here. It's no longer a "goal or possibility" it's a REALITY. WOW. Just WOW.

Clients are in their rooms... and settling in. Building 1 is quiet. And, the gate will both open and close (GLORY) – and it's a wrap.

Our view is different now – literally and figuratively. Our new location is a beautiful, 26-acre campus that features a newly renovated 36-bed Emergency Shelter, a residential services building featuring on-site mental health services, housing stabilization services, comprehensive case-management services and much more. The campus features the Ray and Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust Outreach center, where victims of domestic violence are able to access a plethora of services from immigration assistance to specialized services for those who are considered traditionally underserved (i.e., persons with disabilities, persons with limited English proficiency, elderly, etc.). The Paxton-Goodman Administration building, or main "house" on the campus,

is full of history and character and rests on what some say is the highest point in Paducah. This space offers clients 3 specially prepared meals from a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen, opportunities to participate in a variety of life-skills groups, and wellness activities. It also provides a beautiful training area for community partners and spaces for groups to host meetings or community training events. The vision of creating a place where clients can receive integrated care is now a reality. The MHDCC shares the 26-acres with Mountain Comprehensive Care – an organization that provides substance abuse treatment services, including both in-patient and intensive outpatient treatment. We are also pleased to announce that we will soon share space with KY Legal Aid, which will offer an on-site attorney to assist with a host of legal issues faced by many survivors of domestic violence.

Our view of what is possible is broader. Our view of community support is greater. Our view of community leaders who possess a resolve to create environments that are safe for all is clearer. Our view of the mission to Save, Build and Change lives is unchanged. And, our view of what it will take to create innovate change, integrated care, and instrumental investments into the lives of those in need has never been more doable.

Because of you... I love the view from here!

Capital Campaign Committee

Honorary Chairs

Meredith Schroeder
Gerry Montgomery
Billy Harper

Quiet Phase Chair

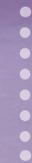
Gina Leeper

Public Phase Chair

Founder, Merryman Kemp



\$3.63
MILLION
PLEGGED



\$2.91
MILLION
RECEIVED

Capital Campaign Giving Levels

Thank you to our Capital Campaign Donors...

* In-Kind Gift

\$500k +

Community Development Block Grant
Federal Home Loan Bank
Mt. Comprehensive Care

\$250k - \$499,999

Delta Regional Authority
Ray and Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust

\$100k - \$249,999

Anonymous
Bill & Meredith Schroeder
Anonymous

\$50k - \$99,999

Carson-Myer Foundation
John & Vivian Williams, Sr.
Paducah Bank
Taylor Family
George Sullivan
Merryman House Board & Staff Campaign

\$25k - \$49,999

Harper Industries
Independence Bank
Leadership Paducah
US Bank
Mary Kay Foundation

\$10k - \$24,999

Anonymous
Atmos Energy
Pat Brockenbough
Business and Professional Women
Charity League
The Jones Family
Kentucky Colonels
Ronnie James
Lee & Sharon Powell
P&L Railroad
WPSD Channel 6*
Heather Abanatha

\$5k - \$9,999

Henchel Family
Linda Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley
Ben Teer

\$1k - \$4,999

Glenn Denton
Edward Jones Foundation
Tom Garrett
Chris & Beth Haas
Gina Leeper
LBL Contracting
Andrea Orr
Milner & Orr Funeral Services
Gerry Montgomery
David Morse
Payment Plus
Richard Robertson
Cynthia Sanderson
Tara Sawvel
Bill Schroeder, Jr.
James and Martha Sinquefield
Dr. Rheanel & Blaire Tolar
Joe Weitlauf
Dr. Patrick Withrow
Chip Wynn

It was easy for us to find *"our place"* after being approached by Mary Foley and the capital campaign committee to be a government sponsor through the community development block grant process. The full county commission is pleased with what has occurred through the transition to the new campus and improved services afforded to not just our county but the region.



Bob Leeper

McCracken County Judge
Executive

Grand Opening

Saving, Building, and Changing Lives

The Merryman House Domestic Crisis Center was founded in 1978 by Merryman Kemp. The center began with a small group of concerned women who were willing to open their homes to abused women and children. Those women did more than open their doors – they opened their hearts.

Today, forty years later, the Merryman House celebrated the grand opening of their new 26-acre campus alongside a standing-room-only crowd of community leaders and supporters.

“Today was a day for us to express our gratitude to all the individuals who said ‘yes,’” explained Mary Foley, Executive Director of Merryman House.

“I cannot possibly sum up two years in twenty

minutes,” she said to the crowd as she sought to honor all those who have stepped up to offer their support. **“Please, just keep giving your ‘yes.’”**

Our community has much more to celebrate than the opening of renovated buildings on a new campus: today, our community celebrates hope.

“Days like today restore a person’s faith in humankind and goodness,” said Merryman Kemp, who remains active as a board member of the organization she founded. **“There is reward in**

Our community has much more to celebrate than the opening of renovated buildings on a new campus: today, our community celebrates hope.

life for goodness. Goodness makes the world a better place. We are appreciative of every donation we receive from our community, but we are also very blessed by the positive changes we continue to see in our community’s perspective of domestic violence. Acts of kindness and goodness have a ripple effect, like throwing a pebble in a pond. You may never know the impact one simple act of kindness can have in making our world a better place.”



The Vision for the Future

Today's celebration was in honor of the progress made to date, but there is still work to be done. This campus is the first of its kind in the state of Kentucky. It's more than a shelter: it's a collaboration of community partners joining together to ensure the holistic needs of domestic abuse survivors are met.

Once complete, this campus will serve as a model for how trauma informed care is delivered to survivors of domestic violence throughout the state of Kentucky.



Robert E Byrge, AIA
Principal Architect

REB Architects, PLLC is proud to have found its place in supporting Merryman House! By providing architectural design services, we are enabling them to provide services to a much larger base of Kentuckians in need. Architecture isn't glamorous. The dream of an architect is to make the world a better place, through the function and beauty, one building at a time. In some small way, we are reaching our dreams with this project for Merryman House. With as many as one in three women experiencing domestic violence at some point in their lives, we are making their world a better place. The impact that this new facility will have on the lives of those that Merryman House serves is far greater than we can dream.



4th Annual Paducky Derby



The 4th Annual PaDucky Derby benefiting the Merryman House Domestic Crisis Center was held on April 21st at 3pm at Noble Park, and attracted the largest crowd in its 4 year history. The event, which takes place each year during AQS' Quilt Week, features 10,000 rubber ducks "adopted" from supporters world-wide.

"This event provides a unique, family-friendly way to support the Merryman House, and engages people from all ages and walks of life in the mission of saving, building and changing lives," said Executive Director, Mary Foley. **"We are so grateful for the on-going support of so many in our community."**

The race is the signature fundraising event for the organization, and raised **\$32,372.50**. This year's \$1000 winning duck went to Anita Williams – with Shane Hooper – claiming 2nd place and \$500. Lynx employees claimed the \$2,500 Team prize – selling over 800 ducks for the cause. The organization will kick off the event in the Fall with sponsorship and team recruitment – and the ducks will return for their 5th year on April 27, 2019!



Camp Braveheart

Merryman House hosted its 2nd annual Camp BRAVEHEART summer of 2018 and provided campers with access to specialized care to help them deal with issues ranging from disrupted attachment, trauma-exposure and emotional dysregulation. The annual camp is led by Dr. Emily Brame-Thomas, a licensed clinical psychologist, who is trained extensively in the treatment of trauma. Camp BRAVEHEART is based on the principles of Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI). Children who have experienced domestic violence, foster care or orphanage-rearing or other forms of abuse have often

experienced complex developmental trauma, demonstrating an interactive set of psychological and behavioral issues. TBRI is a therapeutic model that trains caregivers to provide effective support and treatment for at-risk children.

“We are so fortunate to have Dr. Emily and our own very dedicated staff and community volunteers to provide this service to our community,” said Brooke Jacobs, Director of Client Services for Merryman, **“Merryman House is more than an emergency shelter – it is and must continue to be a campus where**

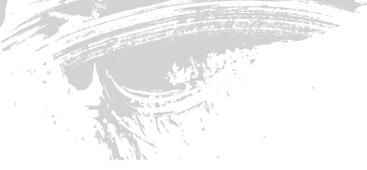
integrated care and collaboration is a top priority. The need is so great, and we must come together to truly bring lasting change to those who need it most.”

Dr. Brame-Thomas, who leads the camp for Merryman House, also leads the camp in other countries. **“Trauma is not only a first-world problem – It is a human problem, and one that needs our immediate attention. Children and adults can heal from issues such as domestic violence or other difficult issues with the right care, intervention and support,”** said Dr.



I show up for child and adult survivors at the Merryman House because I believe that all people, regardless of age, can heal and grow after they have endured trauma like domestic violence. It’s my honor to come alongside the Merryman House in their mission to save, build, and change the lives of the children and adults they serve.

Emily Brame-Thomas
Licensed Clinical Psychologist



Emily Brame-Thomas, **“Camp BRAVEHEART is a small way I can give back to the children in our community, and ensure that providers are well-trained and equipped to meet the needs of children from hard places.”**

The camp, which is funded in part by the Paducah-McCracken County United Way, is an annual event hosted by the Merryman House Domestic Crisis Center and consists of a week-long training for staff/care-givers who volunteer as “buddies” for the camp. The camp itself is offered for five days and teaches children important life-skills and gives them tools to help them regulate their emotions, and behavior. **“This is just the beginning,”** said Executive Director, Mary Foley, **“We have made a commitment to the children living in our emergency shelter through Camp BRAVEHEART, and we hope to offer this unique opportunity to foster care providers, adoptive parents, survivors and other organizations in the future. We are truly grateful to the Paducah United Way for believing in our commitment to serve this community in a meaningful way.”**

Trauma is not only a first-world problem – It is a human problem, and one that needs our immediate attention.



Lives Touched



Thank You Donors

To Our Amazing Donors

I'd like to begin with a little background of how I became involved with the Merryman House. When I was in college, I learned that domestic violence is real and that it does not discriminate. One of my best friends, whom had a great family and support group of friends, was a victim of domestic violence. I did try to help, but I had to watch her go through what no human should ever undergo. I vowed to take a stand against this abuse and be a voice for those that feel they can't ask for help or are too ashamed to speak out. I wasn't sure where to start or how to get involved, but God always knows and He put me in the right place at the right time. It only took listening to one heartfelt speech from Mary Foley and I knew exactly where I needed to be. When I joined the Board of Directors of the Merryman House over three years ago, I had no clue how much this

Organization would positively impact my life. Especially since I wasn't doing this for me, I just wanted to serve.

It fills my heart with joy each time I read a report or receive an email of a new donation to our Organization. We began our capital campaign to move our facility in order to expand our number of available beds, as we couldn't meet the demand in our old shelter. This was a huge undertaking and could only be done with the support of our community.

As a certified public accountant, I often have clients ask me about the benefits of donating to different organizations and charities. My advice is that donating to an organization many help reduce their taxable income and provide a benefit on their tax returns depending on their circumstances.

However, when you donate to an organization, such as the Merryman House, and you believe in and support the cause, the feeling of doing good and helping others far surpasses the benefit of any tax write-off!

We are so grateful to our many donors and supporters of the Merryman House! We are getting closer every day to meeting the goal set for our capital campaign, but we still need your support. Your donations and support are truly invaluable, no donation is too small; there is a place for you!

Blessings,

Kelly Scruggs

Kelly Scruggs

Merryman Board of Director

“ I knew the new facility and as I learned about Merryman House, it seemed like a natural fit ”

Billy Harper
CEO & President





Future Vision

Define and Inspire

The future of the MHDC is clear: Saving, Building and Changing Lives through the core values of Advocacy, Empowerment and Transformation through

Compassion, Dignity and Courage.

Our work is not done. In the coming year, Merryman House will:

GOAL 01

Create expanded client programs for holistic life skills:

- Develop our food program to include client participation
- Expand our trauma informed care programming to include a variety of holistic arts
- Create a social enterprise of survivor made products
- Expand our children's program to include nationally-recognized practices for child survivors

GOAL 02

Diversity funding sources for grant and non-grant sources:

- Sell old property and apply proceeds towards capital campaign loans
- Develop second annual fundraising event/program
- Seek out and apply for additional grants (federal, state, private) that align with mission
- Increase individual donations and company donations for general fund
- Seek out other revenue generating opportunities like food service for Mt. Comp

GOAL
03

Collaborate with community partners to empower clients and educate members of the community:

- Develop an education and prevention program in schools
- Partner with other nonprofits to expand and diversify the integrated care services provided to clients on our campus
- Collaborate with community childcare centers to provide trauma informed care for our clients
- Increase employment opportunities for clients through partnerships with local businesses
- Collaborate with local medical facilities to provide in-house health care services to our clients

GOAL
04

Expand and develop a diverse power board:

- Activate a Board Development Committee
- Establish board diversity matrix for recruitment and skills identification (successor planning)
- Formalize a board orientation program
- Continue annual retreat to ensure ongoing strategic planning and implementation
- Establish a retention program for retiring board members through donor programming, volunteerism and community involvement with Merryman House

GOAL
05

Expand staff as necessary to better meet the mission of Merryman House:

- Hire Human Resources/ in-house Counsel position
- Establish a Development Department
- Implement a transportation program and hire necessary staff
- Expand bilingual programs
- Establish an internship program

Overall – the future is for INTEGRATED AND COLLABORATIVE Trauma-informed care for our survivors. This will include on-site substance abuse treatment, legal services, specialized mental health, educational internship programs with local colleges/universities and much more.



Ask For Support

Merryman Giving Society

LEVEL
100
Partners in Courage

LEVEL
250
Partners in Compassion

LEVEL
500
Partners in Advocacy

LEVEL
1000
Partners in Empowerment

LEVEL
5000
Partners in Transformation

LEVEL
5000+
Major Gifts

LEVEL
100000+
Legacy Gifts

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merryman house
saving, building & changing lives