

2022 ANNUAL REPORT





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Unless specifically authorized, MHDCC uses representative names and photos to protect the dignity and safety of those we serve.

Letter from the Executive Director



There is just something about music. It can be captivating. It can be sobering. It can be healing. It can be holy. Music has a way of helping us express emotion like no other medium. When

language barriers exist, music can help us connect. Where strangers co-exist, it can help us find common ground. Music can evoke strong memories, and can be the method through which the pain and suffering of the human condition is expressed.

In the words of Bob Benson, “There has to be a song. There are too many dark nights, too many troublesome days, and too many wearisome miles. Somewhere deep in the forgotten corner of one’s heart- there has to be a song. Like a cool, clear drink of water and like the gentle warmth of sunshine, and like the tender love of a child, there has to be a song!”

This past year, Merryman House Domestic Crisis Center encountered 824 individuals who needed that cool drink, that gentle warmth and that tender love because of the many dark nights and troublesome days caused by domestic violence. Many had lost their song- or even worse- never knew they had one.

In this Annual Report, I invite you to listen in between the lines. Listen for the times when the song reached a crescendo. Listen with your heart. Listen for all the ways

individuals have shown up for survivors through their time, treasures and talents.

Listen for the melody ... where the song is playing so loudly that the message of unity, service, hard work and faithfulness is so clear anyone can sing along. Listen for the harmonies ... the places where an act of love, an unexpected achievement or a life changed creates the most beautiful, rich sound. Yes, listen (don’t just read) because there is a song. Do you hear it?

I do. In my role as Executive Director, I sometimes hear the sounds of hearts breaking because of domestic violence. I sometimes hear the sounds of the cries of children as they adjust to life in an emergency shelter. Sometimes, I hear the sounds of fear and panic. I hear the sounds of poverty, abandonment, and abuse. And, I’ll tell you ... those sounds represent the real impact of what so many feel in our community. You can’t ignore those sounds. Yet, with time and with help, the songs of those beautiful lives have additional verses, bridges and choruses that are written. Those are the most beautiful songs of all!

I hope this Annual Report helps you to hear those additions. Sometimes, the new verses are ones of freedom. Sometimes, they record notes of hope, healing and health. Sometimes, chords of new jobs, college degrees, regained custody, and healed hearts are added. Those things happen because of supporters like you! The music changes when you show up and give. Your investment and support of our mission not only changes the song for our communities, it changes the singer who

sings them. It changes lives. You can hear it in “Billy’s” words below:

“I am just now getting to write my life’s song for the first time, and Merryman House is the reason why.”

Looking back on another year closed, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your faithful support in the mission of “saving, building and changing the lives of those affected by domestic violence,” and I invite you to make a gift today so that the song of hope can continue.

For you see, there simply has to be a song. Let’s keep making music together.

Dr. Mary E. Foley

Executive Director

Board of Directors Executive Committee



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dedicated Board
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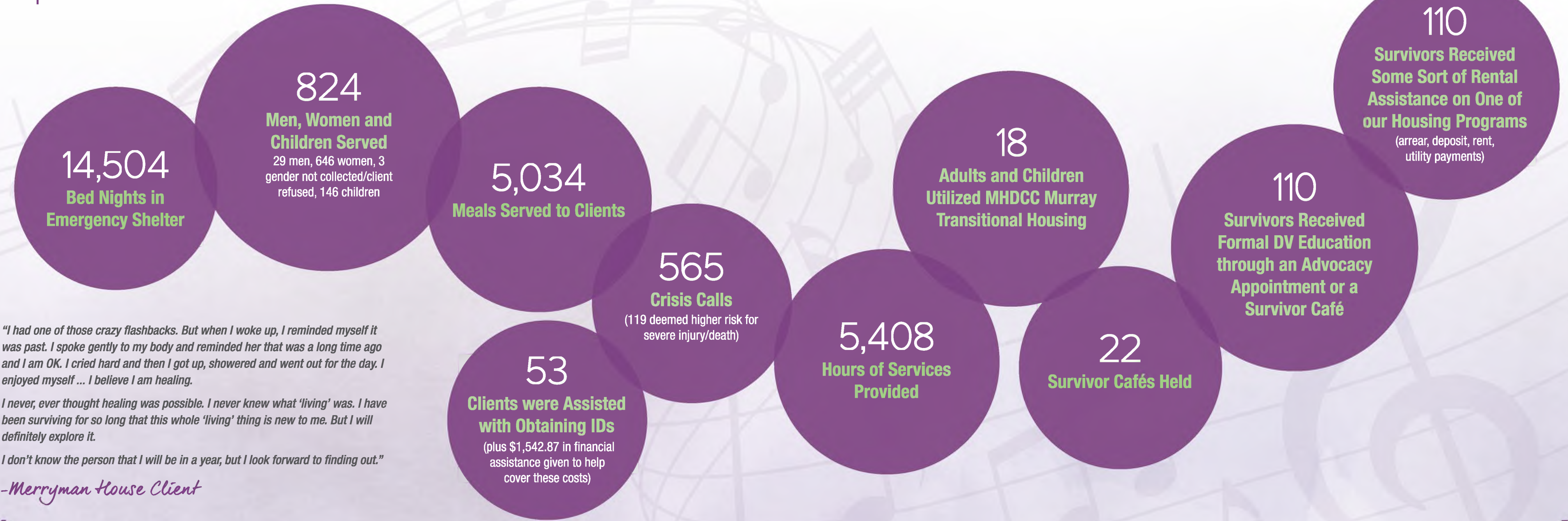
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Impact



The Nehemiah Project

MHDCC's Spiritual Enrichment Program is made possible through the support of the Ray & Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust, the Carson-Myre Charitable Foundation, churches and private donors. Participation is voluntary for Merryman House clients. The program exists to:

- Anchor survivors in the Christian faith to strengthen their resiliency;
- Serve the faith community by providing guidance on how to appropriately recognize and respond to domestic violence in the church;
- And, to restore the relationship between survivors and their place of worship through innovative partnerships.

When people experience traumatic events, they often question their faith or God's goodness and love. The Spiritual Enrichment Program provides a safe place to ask questions, a firm foundation on which to grow, and conduit for connection with the greater faith community.



The MHDCC Spiritual Enrichment Team recognizes just as we may serve survivors that would not immediately connect to a church for support, the Church will care for members that would never reach out to MHDCC for help. Our desire is to bridge the gap by offering specialized trainings to church leaders, teach leaders and members about how to identify and respond to abusive relationships, how to set a culture where disclosures of abuse are taken seriously, and how to support the work of local churches working with survivors within their congregations or communities.

And so, MHDCC hosted its inaugural conference, The Nehemiah Project, in April 2022 during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Conference attendees from more than 35 churches and organizations came together for critical information on ministering and responding to domestic violence survivors from a host of trauma-informed experts, including Dr. Mary Foley and Dr. Brooke Jacobs of Merryman House, Dr. Nathan Joyce, Senior Pastor of Preaching at Heartland Church, Tyra Lokey-Robinson of Sign Art Ministries, and keynote speaker Pastor Patrick Weaver of Patrick Weaver Ministries.

Of the attendees who took the post-conference survey, 96 percent answered "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" that they were now more confident in their ability to respond to domestic violence.

The Nehemiah Project will return this year on April 25, 2023.



I enjoyed the qualified and energy-filled speakers that presented facts and ways to implement a DV response team, and I loved their hearts for God! Great job - great balance!

-Conference Attendee

A Lifetime of Advocacy

Honoring 25 Years of Service (and Counting)!

Mary Jackson has dedicated her professional life to Saving, Building and Changing the Lives of those affected by domestic violence. Mary J., as she is affectionately known here, allowed us to celebrate her 25-year work anniversary in September. The word “allowed” was used because if you know her, you know “Mary J. Don’t Play.”

Mary started with Women Aware., Inc. in 1997 under then-Executive Director Krista Wood. Mary recounts her hiring like this: “I was there to interview to be a volunteer. During the interview, the phone rang, and Krista answered the phone. She looks at me and says, ‘Would you be interested in a part-time job?’ I’m like, ‘Yeah! I came in to work for free and now I’ll get some money.’ We then went on, and the phone rang again. She answered. She said ‘Would you be interested in a full-time position?’ I’m like, ‘Yeah, I’m movin’ on up!’”

And so, Mary joined a staff of approximately 10 individuals, working the midnight shift in the emergency shelter. Just five days later, she was offered the Children’s Counselor position and accepted. After roughly six months in that position, the Outreach Advocate retired and recommended Mary for the job, which she accepted.

From there, Mary spent 19 years driving from county to county, reaching and serving survivors who didn’t live in MHDCC’s emergency shelter. She ran on almonds, gum, water and her spiritual tapes. She can tell you about the four different office locations she had over time in Graves County, her different titles, about visiting and safety planning with survivors in the hospital, about the close-knit partnerships she built with law enforcement officers and school personnel, and all about the specific survivors over the years who have kept her going.

She said, “We didn’t have a lot of resources, but look at what we did with it.”

In 2018, Mary moved from outreach to our emergency shelter day shift. While there is less travel involved in that department, there is still constant movement, constant



need and our constant - Mary J. Clients and staff alike love her because she is always even-keeled, and always herself.

So, we asked Mary a few questions about her two and a half decades of advocacy. Here are her answers.

What is your favorite Merryman House story?

One was soon after we moved here [to the new campus], during a staff retreat. We were outside having a break, and I don’t even remember what Tishaunda said, but I was on all fours, laughing so hard I was crying. And, I’ve loved all the personalities of the officemates I have gotten to work with over the years. I’ve always been with good people.

Most memorable award or recognition?

I was honored to receive the Voices of Liberty’s Community Based Advocate Award in 2004 - I went to Frankfort and got to meet Gov. Greg Stumbo before the Crime Victims’ Rights Day Rally!

Most memorable client success story?

There was a young Latina woman, she was married to a guy from Chicago. He was in a gang. He beat her a lot. She was working, and she had a little baby. We were trying to get her out of the situation. She said, ‘In our culture, we don’t go against the man. It is hard for me to do this.’ It took a lot for me to talk her into it.

She said, “Well, I don’t have my papers. I can’t go anywhere.”

Later, there was a professional workshop and I met Gretchen Hunt, an attorney. I remember listening to her presentation and talking to her after the fact. She helped us - me and my client - go step by step on proving there was a marriage and all the necessary steps. My client eventually got her visa, and she got her DVO. She left Mayfield. Years later, I got a phone call, and it was her. She told me that she was living in New York, working as a registered nurse, and she and her child were doing well.

What has been the hardest part of your job?

Seeing clients that struggle to adapt to shelter and communal living, and trying to convince them to just wait. Telling them their needs can be met here if they just give us some time. Don’t run.

What skills or coping mechanisms have you developed over the years to protect yourself from the trauma you’ve seen?

I just know that all I can do, is all I can do. I don’t take it home with me, because if I do, I’m cheating myself and my family out of me. I’m not going to do that. It will consume you if you take on other people’s issues. Wherever I am, I give the person in front of me all of my attention, because they’re important to me. And I pamper myself; I don’t wait for someone else to do it. I just take care of me. I love me some Mary J.

What do you want others to know about your job?

You have to have the heart for it, because you may not know when you’re making a difference. I know who I’m doing it for. I am doing it unto Him. This is my mission. This job has made me a humble person, because I know I’ve been blessed. I have not experienced domestic violence, but it can happen to anyone. I have not experienced it today, but we don’t know what will happen tomorrow.



What do you want others to know about survivors and our work here?

DV is like a cancer, and it eats at the very core of the community. It doesn’t only affect the victim; it affects the community as a whole.

Countless Lives Saved, Built and Changed:

Mary J.’s work pre-dates our client and service management system, so we averaged the numbers we have from 2015 onward and multiplied that by the number of years she worked prior:

- **2,706** survivors served
- **1,189** of crisis calls taken
- **14,670** of services provided
- **50,000+** hours worked

Thank you, Mary J., for making our community a safer and better place for the past 25 years. We love us some Mary J.!

New Playground Installation

Did you know? **1 in 15 children** are exposed to intimate partner violence annually, and 90 percent of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence. We had 116 children stay in our emergency shelter with a parent this year alone.

And, emergency shelter or not, kids need to have space to play. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, a new, \$62,000 Play Mart Playground was installed at our Paducah campus in September for our smallest clients to enjoy. Play Mart also partnered with KY Playgrounds to make a joint donation of an additional bench, making the new area even more comfortable for parents.



The old playground space had long been enjoyed by survivors of intimate partner violence who found safety in MHDCC's emergency shelter or visited the campus for advocacy appointments and meals. Now, the space provides new joys and excitement for kids on campus.

"Because of this generous donation, even if for only a brief time, children served by MHDCC will be able to engage in the primary job of childhood, which is play!" Executive Director, Dr. Mary Foley, said. "They will be able to experience a space provided just for them, and feel the love that we hold for them."

Community Highlight Reel

We appreciate every dollar donated, every social media like and share and every word of encouragement to survivors and staff. Our community really does make the difference! Your engagement gives us energy, and your gifts and work make a difference in the lives of our neighbors who seek services here.

322 volunteers helped us Save, Build and Change Lives in 2022, giving us **3,390 hours** of their time!

Nearly **\$8,000 worth of food and grocery items** were donated during February's Shop & Share event through the work of **40 volunteers** in **Kroger** locations and on our campus!

ACS Airsoft hosted an Independence Day concert benefiting MHDCC and raised **more than \$200!** Thanks to Preston Roberts for organizing and inviting us!

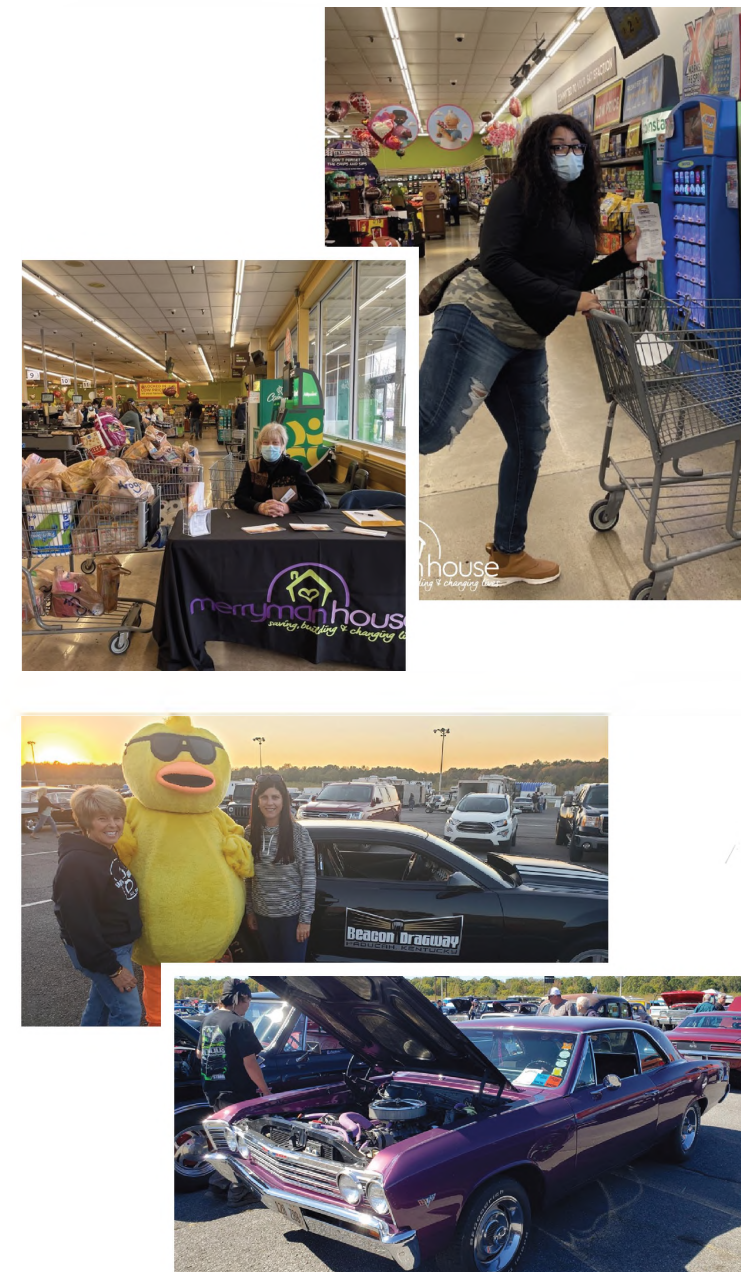
El Arbol Garden Club hosted a Designer Home Showcase benefiting MHDCC and **raised more than \$13,000** in July! Thanks to **Phyllis Stovesand** and all El Arbol members for your work and ongoing support!

Teams from **Denton Law Firm, PLLC, Harrah's, and Independence Bank** were paired with MHDCC for **Project United** for a day full of projects and support in September! Thanks to the **United Way of Paducah-McCracken County (now the United Way of Western Kentucky)** for organizing!

Ratoberfest hosted thousands of car enthusiasts, racers and spectators for its largest car show yet, and donated the \$30,000 proceeds to MHDCC to help us Save, Build and Change Lives! Thanks to **Keith Murt, Tiffany Murt, Mark Lawrence and Lo'Anne Peck** for their generosity and work to make that October weekend one to remember!

13 businesses ran specials for us during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and countless more organizations and individuals wore purple and helped us raise awareness of the issue and our services.

Thank you, Community!



Awards



2022 Purple Ribbon Board Member of the Year Award Winner, Dr. Rheanel Tolar



Kentucky Lake Chamber of Commerce's Volunteer of the Year Award Winner, Jayna Burkey



United Way of Paducah-McCracken County's Live United Youth Award Winner, Addison Allen

We were so humbled and honored to have received the following awards in 2022!

2022 Purple Ribbon Award in Three Categories

- Board Member of the Year (Dr. Rheanel Tolar)
- Annual or Impact Reports of the Year (2021 Annual Report)
- Outstanding Fundraising Event or Campaign (2021 PaDucky Derby)

United Way of Paducah-McCracken County's Live United Youth Award

Addison Allen, Merryman House Volunteer

Kentucky Lake Chamber of Commerce's Volunteer of the Year Award

Jayna Burkey, MHDCC's Resiliency Center Coordinator

Mary Kay Ash Foundation Shelter Grant

\$20,000 grant given to one Kentucky domestic violence shelter

WKCTC Scholarships for Clients

Five \$500 scholarships for Merryman House clients as part of The WKCTC Guarantee. The Guarantee's goal is to increase education opportunities to diverse populations, low-income people and others who face barriers to post-secondary education in our region. We were one of eight community organizations to have been selected for a second time to receive these scholarships.



2022 Purple Ribbon Award, Annual or Impact Reports of the Year



2022 Purple Ribbon Award, Outstanding Fundraising Event or Campaign



Domestic Violence Awareness Month Awards

Speaking of awards, as a new addition to our DVAM activities, our staff, board members and clients nominated and voted for community individuals, organizations or businesses they felt most characterized our core values of Advocacy, Empowerment and Transformation within the past year. These winners were presented with their awards in November in front of their peers and supervisors.

The winners are as follows:

Advocacy Award, given for directly benefiting survivors of domestic violence, for being a voice for the underserved, showing up, and fighting for others:

Lindsey Eberhardt, Director of Sales & Marketing at Courtyard Marriott Paducah

Empowerment Award, given for directly benefiting survivors of domestic violence by supporting, inspiring and equipping survivors as they break through barriers on their journeys toward healing and restoration:

Lilia Rivera, Executive Director at Cornerstone of Hope, Inc.

Transformation Award, given for directly benefiting survivors of domestic violence by providing opportunities that create a lasting impact and being a change-maker:

Anne Bidwell, Community Impact Manager at United Way of Paducah-McCracken County

Our Executive Director, Dr. Foley, said this about our winners:

"The barriers domestic violence and trauma can create for survivors are often complex and rarely easy to solve in one try or one meeting. Lindsey, Lilia and Anne have all worked with us and our clients well past where many people would stop. They have each gotten us to solutions beneficial for our clients in a myriad of situations. We are thankful for a full community of partners like these three winners – many of whom were also nominated – who go the distance with us to advocate, empower and transform survivors of intimate partner violence."



Advocacy Award Winner, Lindsey Eberhardt



Empowerment Award Winner, Lilia Rivera



Transformation Award Winner, Anne Bidwell

Thank you for your work on behalf of survivors, winners!



8th Annual PaDucky Derby



After eight years, we have asked the community to adopt and race a total of 86,000 rubber ducks. We still haven't run out of puns, and you still haven't stopped adopting ducks and supporting our mission. In fact, even after 86,000 ducks raced, community members are still asking us about the next race and giving us ideas and *their* favorite duck puns.

This year was special, too, because we welcomed back some of our favorite and most experienced racers: AQS QuiltWeek adopters. Prior to the pandemic, the PaDucky Derby was held annually in April and was a QuiltWeek event. Quilters loved the duck booth and we loved them! In April 2022, QuiltWeek returned, and the duck booth with it, as we opened up our first-ever duck pre-sale just for our quilter friends. QuiltWeek attendees adopted nearly 1,000 ducks before the week was over!

Fast-forward through our open adoption period in September and October, and we adopted out a total of 17,910 of our 20,000 ducks - an increase of 4,910 from the 13,000 ducks that were adopted in 2021.

On Oct. 22, 2022, our largest flock yet took Montgomery Lake at Bob Noble Park by storm. **20,000 ducks** raced as an enthralled crowd of kids and adults alike looked on, cheering and whooping for their ducks, willing them to cross the finish line first.

Ultimately, only three could win! These adoptive parents took our cash prizes:

\$2,500 | Hardin Baptist Church
\$1,000 | Judy Clements
\$500 | Mel Lindsey

A huge quack and a thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, Humana Healthy Horizons in Kentucky; our Flight Sponsors, Paducah Elks Lodge 217 and Cornerstone of Hope; Steve Schwetman and Mark Ryan for emceeing the race, all of our volunteers, everyone who adopted, and every sponsor who helped us raise more than \$90,000 for survivors! We could not do this without each of you!

The 2023 race will be held on Oct. 21, 2023. Follow our Facebook page for updates: [Facebook.com/PaDuckyDerby](https://www.facebook.com/PaDuckyDerby).

Our Sponsors & Partners

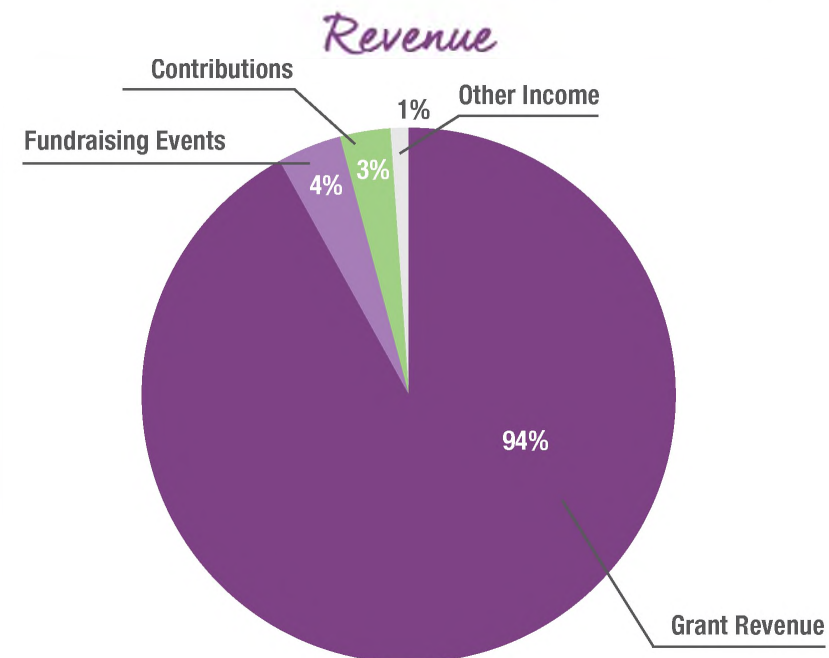
Humana Healthy Horizons in Kentucky
 Cornerstone of Hope
 Paducah Elks Lodge 217
 Heartland Capital Investments, LLC
 The Paducah Bank & Trust
 Strawberry Hills Pharmacy
 Taylor Motors
 Audiology & Hearing Center
 Baird Private Wealth
 Baptist Health Paducah
 David Spicer Jewelers
 Happy ZZZ's
 Moneymaker's Social Club
 REB Architects, PLLC
 Solera
 Adventure Camper Sales
 Atlas Equipment Services
 Bacon Farmer Workman Engineering & Testing Inc. / Marcum Engineering, LLC
 CFSB
 Craig Johnson Construction
 Courtyard Paducah
 Dawson Physical Therapy
 Denton Law Firm, PLLC
 Independence Bank
 KeeFORCE
 Marshall County Hospital
 Mercy Health
 Neiswender Family
 Occupational Therapy SOTA Club - Murray State University
 Peel & Holland

Socially Present
 Stanley Steemer
 Universal Compressor Solutions
 VUE Magazine
 Williams, Williams & Lentz, LLP
 Wyatt Bell + Co.
 Brightview
 Dannenmueller Blinds, Shutters & Closets
 Home Floor & Kitchens
 Milliner Orthodontics
 Paducah Barge
 Paducah Rigging
 Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union 184
 Puckett's Fine Jewelry
 The Bridge Inn, Inc.
 West Kentucky Rural Electric
 Zebra Graphics
 WPSD Local 6
 Bristol Broadcasting
 Froggy 103.7
 AAA Stow-A-Way
 American Quilter's Society
 Paducah Power
 Paducah Fire Department
 Banterra Bank
 David Morse
 Brent Housman
 Mason DeJarnett
 Dr. Daniel Jones



Financials

Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022



Grant Revenue: \$3,392,062

Contributions: \$135,282

Fundraising Events: \$122,945

Other Income: \$43,966

Not Shown in Graph

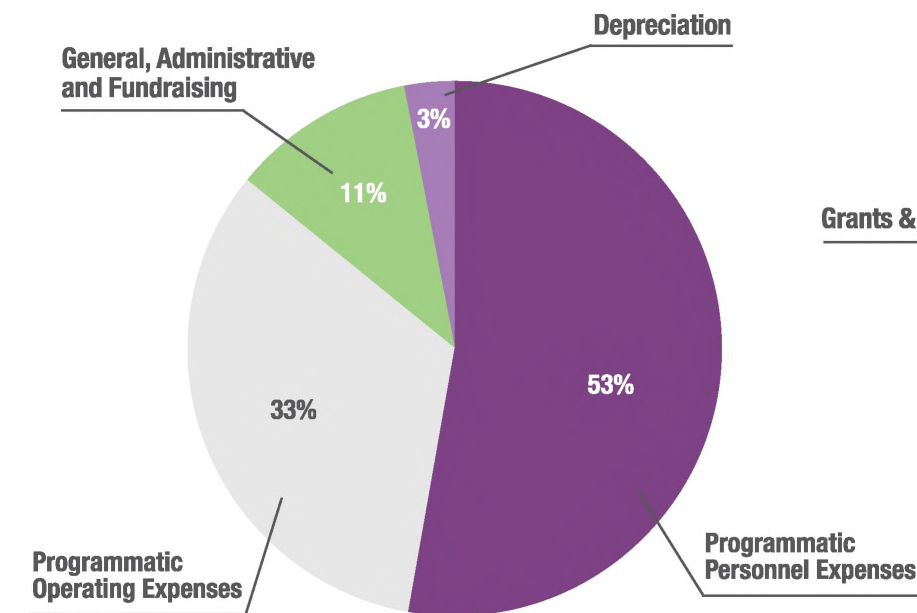
Investment Income (loss): \$(64,054)

Gain on Disposal of Assets (loss): \$(14,031)

Total Revenue: \$3,616,170

The Financial Statements with Independent Auditor's Report for Year Ended June 30, 2022 is available upon request.

Expenses



Programmatic Personnel Expenses: \$1,902,039

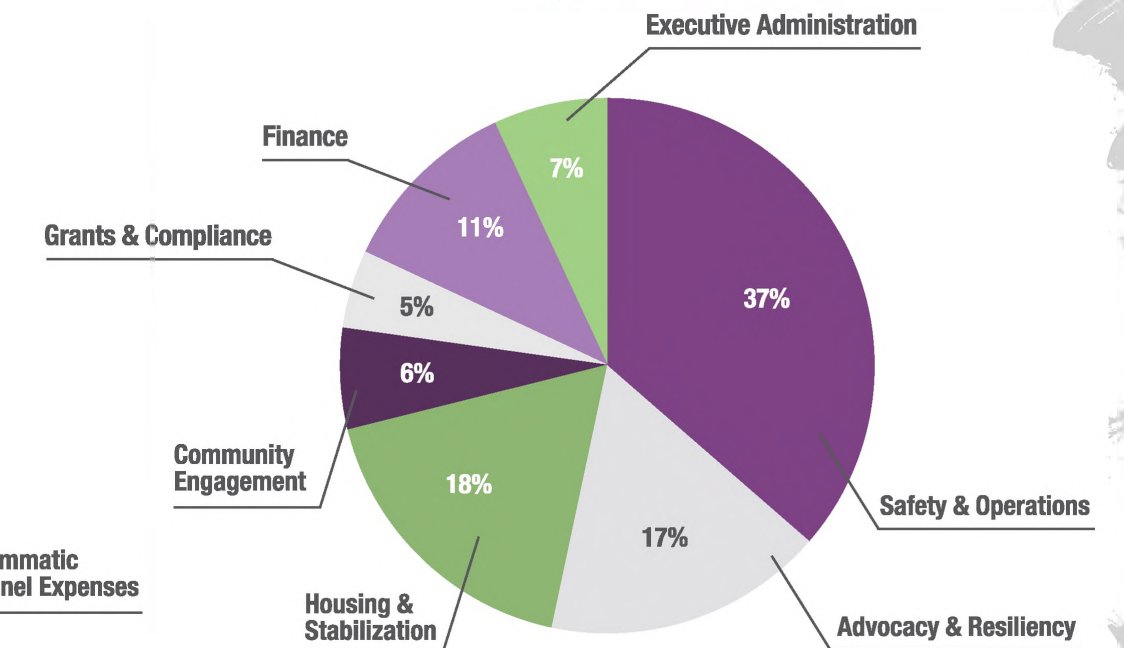
Programmatic Operating Expenses: \$1,186,971

General, Administrative and Fundraising: \$401,847

Depreciation: \$123,989

Total Expenses: \$3,614,846

Expenses by Department



Safety & Operations: \$1,349,058

Advocacy & Resiliency: \$597,867

Housing & Stabilization: \$647,323

Community Engagement: \$215,420

Grants & Compliance: \$180,033

Finance: \$381,683

Executive Administration: \$243,462

Miscellaneous expenses and depreciation are allocated to each department proportionally.



Strategic Plan 2023–25

In July, our Board of Directors and staff took two full days to compile our next three-year Strategic Plan. We asked ourselves and each other, “What’s next?” and “Where do we want MHDCC to be three years from now?”

As an investor in our organization, we welcome you to see the results of this process, and how we will focus our time and energy through 2025:



Goal #1

MHDCC will Develop as a Regional Resource Center

Objective 1: Develop digital administrative forms and processes for MHDCC and other nonprofits.

Objective 2: Develop and implement more research-driven practices.

Objective 3: Develop and credential training for licensed professionals.

Objective 4: Generate program income (via copyrighted materials and fee-based training) through said developed processes, forms, practices and training.

Goal #4

MHDCC will Prioritize Staff Wellness

Objective 1: Increase competitive wages to match salary schedule.

Objective 2: Develop continued staff training through quality assurance.

Objective 3: Increase access to mental and physical health services in order to combat burnout.

Objective 4: Develop a staff wellness board committee to monitor and support staff wellness.

Objective 5: Conduct DEI training and development for staff.

Objective 6: Increase staffing to meet current needs.

Goal #2

MHDCC will Refine its Client Services

Objective 1: Hire an additional mental health staff member.

Objective 2: Organize client intake and orientation.

Objective 3: Create additional housing units with childcare availability on or near campus.

Objective 4: Identify a team of volunteers who can create and lead holistic activities.

Objective 5: Increase accessibility to services through transportation assistance, weekend and evening programming, and outreach counties.

Goal #5

MHDCC will Increase Board Development and Resources

Objective 1: Create a more diverse board.

Objective 2: Increase board fundraising of private solicitations.

Objective 3: Develop consistent funding streams through local churches and businesses.

Objective 4: Develop a round-up fundraiser at cash registers.

Objective 5: Explore ways to create a social enterprise venture.

Goal #3

MHDCC will Develop and Implement Prevention and Education Initiatives Targeting Specific Populations

Objective 1: Engage counties by delivering training on trauma-informed care and domestic violence to community systems and officials.

Objective 2: Offer prevention programming to young adults (high schools) in all eight counties.

Objective 3: Create awareness campaigns targeting underserved, high-risk or typically under-utilized populations (e.g., men, business leaders, etc.).

Objective 4: Create a referral system that incorporates river counties, schools and hospitals.



How to Get Involved

Give

Financial gifts are essential to our operations. You can help us Save, Build and Change Lives by giving online at merrymanhouse.org or by mailing a check to our P.O. Box, which is listed under “Get in Touch.” We invite you to explore recurring gifts and/or planned gifts with us. Contact Kayla Myers for more information (contact information to your right).

In-Kind Giving

We also gladly accept donations of physical items to help offset some of our operational costs. Scan these QR codes with your smartphone to be taken to our Amazon Wish Lists:

Shelter Needs:



New Home Essentials:



Volunteer

We have consistent needs for volunteers in multiple areas of our agency. Take the first step by filling out our Volunteer Application at the bottom of our Get Involved webpage: merrymanhouse.org/get-involved.

Book a Talk & Tour

Have you ever wanted to see our campus, or have an opportunity to pepper us with questions? Well, you’re invited! We host Talk & Tours for groups of 5-15 individuals. Groups receive a presentation, a tour of campus and an opportunity to ask questions. The more people who know about our services, the better. Survivors often turn to friends and family before ever reaching out to us.

Enroll in Kroger Community Rewards

Then, select Merryman House as your Community Rewards partner! You shop, and Kroger donates to us with no extra cost to you.

Follow Us on Social Media

Merryman House

Facebook: @MerrymanHouse.Paducah

Facebook group: Help Needed at the Merryman House

Instagram: @MerrymanHouse

Marshall County Resiliency Center

Facebook: @MCResiliencyCenter

Instagram: @MCResiliencyCenter

Get in Touch

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24/7 Crisis Hotline

800.585.2686
270.443.6001
merrymanhouse.org/hotline-chat

Donations can be made online at
merrymanhouse.org or sent to

Merryman House
PO Box 98
Paducah, KY 42002

