



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

LIFE HOUSE
Duluth

FROM THE OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

2017 was another exciting year here at Life House, and if it seemed like we were busy, it's because we were! Our drop-in youth center continues to be a safe, inviting and vibrant community where over 650 youth had access to food, basic needs and tons of awesome activities, including rock climbing, paddle boarding and our annual winter camping adventures at Camp Widjiwagan. Our Housing Program continued its growth, adding 11 additional units for youth and youth families in the newly renovated Gateway Tower building, as well as increasing its mental health support services for homeless youth. The future continues to be bright for our transitional employment program and its new business, "Limitless Candles". With the purchase of our neighboring building formally known as Cooper's Engraving, now affectionately named "The Life House Annex", the program now has adequate space to produce and sell their fantastic and sustainable products. Major renovations are now underway to create a state of the art classroom on the top floor and a brand new storefront and production space on the main level. If you happen to be walking downtown just follow your nose to 19 North First Ave. West, and check out our renovation progress and beautiful candle products!

While we're extremely proud of all our successes, the most impactful accomplishment in 2017 was easily the comprehensive renovation and development of our brand new licensed emergency shelter program named "The Loft". Located on the top floor of our main building The Loft provides emergency shelter and comprehensive programming and services for the most vulnerable youth in our community. The Loft shelter is the first of its kind in Duluth and is a much needed and welcomed addition to the homeless services available in our community.

None of these things would have been possible without the continued support of our donors, funders, volunteers and greater community. The youth we serve at Life House are truly an amazing group of young people, each one with their own dreams and aspirations. While achieving success under the circumstances they face is no small task, the resilience and motivation we see in so many of the young people we work with is nothing short of amazing. They are the reason we keep striving to provide the best services possible year after year.

As long as our community has young people in need, Life House will be here. Here today. Here tomorrow. Thank you for your continued support of Life House, so that no youth is left homeless, alone, uncared for, or fending for themselves on the streets.

Thank you for your support,
Eric Goetz
Operations Director

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SHANE JOPKE, CO-CHAIR

UNITED HEALTH CARE

LEANNE VENTRELLA, CO-CHAIR

MINN 6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DAVID BARNES, TREASURER

U.S. BANK

LAURIE HULL, SECRETARY

CENTER FOR ALCOHOL & DRUG TREATMENT

RON ALSTON

ESSENTIA HEALTH

PATRICK BOYLE

ST. LOUIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

PAT BURNS

RETIRED

CHARLES FAI

MINNESOTA SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM

FRED FRIEDMAN

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

RENEE GIBBS

FOND DU LAC

CHERYL GOLDBERG

IGO LEGACY HOTEL GROUP

NICK LEPAN

DULUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

JIM PAULSON

RETIRED

TINA WELSH

RETIRED

RECONNECTING YOUTH TO DREAMS

775 Youth Reached Through All Programs
13,647 Meals Served in the Youth Center
953 Visits to the Free Store
368 Youth Center Groups, Classes & Activities
27 Youth Placed in Life House Housing Program
70 Placed in Affordable Housing in the Community
15 Youth Stayed at Sol House for trafficking survivors
102 Youth Provided Mental Health Counseling and 40 Received Drug Counseling
49 Active in "Sober Life" Sobriety Support Group
94 Youth Received Academic Support
7 Completed High School, GED, or a Post-Secondary Degree
111 Youth Received Employment Support
33 Youth Received an Average of 45 Hours of Paid Job Training in the Legitimate Hustle Program

To the person who saved me-

I don't know what I would've done if I didn't join the Life House program and meet you, Kyle. Through my hurt, my guilt, my loneliness from not having anyone.... You helped me when I was homeless, tired, sick, and hungry. I had no place to turn and you found me a place to live. Gave me goals. Set boundaries. Told me that I needed to graduate high school to stay in my house so I graduated. That I needed to get a job, I did, and look at me now. A year and some months later- not on drugs, not going without food, not being homeless. All of this I thank you because without you I would be on the streets. I have gotten my act together and my life together. Not many people know the real me and the hard things I have been through and I couldn't be more thankful for someone who has come into my life and actually cared about me. You check up on me even now and I appreciate that to my heart. You are a wonderful human being and I can never thank you enough for saving my life! Thank you Kyle from my heart.

***A Facebook Status Shared by a Former Life House Youth
Kyle Naalsund is Life House's Housing Program Manager***

2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENSE

Futures	\$247,356	13%
Housing	\$855,698	46%
Youth Center	\$235,247	13%
Wellness	\$242,760	13%
Management/General	\$256,811	14%
Fundraising	\$14,313	1%
Total	\$1,852,185	

REVENUE

Contributions	\$205,799	9%
Foundation Grants	\$584,495	27%
Government Grants	\$1,238,696	56%
Fundraising Events	\$52,925	2%
Program Revenue	\$85,310	4%
Other	\$33,629	2%
Total	\$2,200,854	

FUNDING PARTNERS

- Anonymous
- Ben and Jean Overman Charitable Trust
- Bernick Family Foundation
- Cathedral Community Cares
- City of Duluth
- CN
- Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation
- Essentia Health Foundation
- Harbortown Rotary
- Head of the Lakes United Way
- Hearth Connection
- Lahti Family Charitable Trust
- Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation
- Mardag Foundation
- Medica Foundation
- Miller Dwan Foundation
- Minnesota Power Foundation
- North Star Foundation
- Northland Foundation
- Open Your Heart to The Hungry And Homeless
- Ordean Foundation
- RBC Wealth Management Foundation
- St. Louis County
- State of Minnesota
- The Victory Fund
- US Bank Foundation
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- US Department of Justice: Office on Violence Against Women
- YouthPrise
- Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community

2017 DONORS

GIFTS OF \$2,500 +

Anonymous
Hillary Allard
Debbie Cervenka
David and Lisa Goldberg
James and Nancy Holmgren
Ward and Charlotte Johnson
James and Diane Miner
Mark and Sue Pass
Mickey and Keely Pearson
Leanne Ventrella and John Hoivik

GIFTS OF \$1,500 - \$2,499

Jinell Abernethy
William and Pat Burns
Cheryl Goldberg
Robert E. Hoyt
Dan and Sarah Maddy
Shirley Simmonds
Wade Smith and Kathleen Braddy-Smith
Susan Vandersteen

GIFTS OF \$1,000 - \$1,499

Joel and Marilyn Bamford
Kevin Brisky
Richard and Liz Burns
Christine & Edward Barta
George and Elizabeth Goldfarb
Theresa Grosser
Greg and Rebecca Hansen
Steve & Martha Jorgensen
Jennifer and Jeffrey Korsmo
Andrew Kortuem
Robert and Candace Madich
James Mohn & Heather Muster
Mark and Sarah Seidelmann
Ommund D Skaar
Per and Elaine Wickstrom
Geof and Gudrun Witrak

GIFTS OF \$500 - \$999

Paul and Carol Anderson
Kirk and Marianne Bernadino
Terry and Kara Burn
Noah Craft
Mark Danielson and Theresa Smith
Thomas and Barbara Elliott
Richard and Linda Goese
Nanci Green
Steve Grindy
Keith & Lynne Hamre
Dennis and Denise Hamsher
Gilbert & Jean Harries
Patrick and Carrie Heffernan
Laurie Hull
Scott and Amber Johnson
Elise Lindaman
Melvin & Marian Maki
Amber McGregor
James and Linda Paulson
Harvey Plasch and Eric Huie
Patrick and Gail Schoenfelder
Michael Schrage and Jen Smith
Dan and Rosey Skorich
Peter & Sarah Sneve
David Taylor and Amanda Nelson
Tina Welsh and Kathy Heltzer
Harry and Claudia Welty
Stephen Stanley Wlosinski
Steven and Adele Yorde
Darrel & Pam Zimmer

GIFTS OF \$250 - \$499

Anonymous
Dean and Debra Ager
Ronald and Jane Alston
William and Evelyn Anderson
Tim and Laura Andrew
David and Judith Arvold
David Barnes and Jenifer Warner-Barnes
Jennifer Beers
Colleen Belk
Patrick & Jennifer Boyle

Patrice Bradley
Tjaard Breeuwer
Gary Brisky
Mary E Burmann
Wendy Champness and Loren Snyder
Jill Christie
Patrick Day and Jamie Sathers-Day
Patrick and Lynn Devlin
Rick & Beth Elstad
William and Colleen Erickson
Christine and Dennis Etchison
Joe Everett
Todd and Lisa Fedora
Harold and Ruth Frederick
Fred and Alana Friedman
Deanna and Bill Gronseth
Nick Johnson and Amy White
Diane Kauppi
John and Karen Keenan
Cathy and Jerry Kortesmaki
Byron and Rebecca Kuster
Sheila Leppala
Thomas and Judith Ling
Erich Lutz
Timothy Earl & Karyn Jean Lutz
John and Anne Marxhausen
Thomas and Constance Mills
John & Judy Miner
Clinton Moen
Randi Nyholm
Marilyn Odean
James Olson
Ross Peterson
Kip Praslowicz
Heather Lynn Rappana
Nancy Samuelson
Susan E. Schmidt
Mary and Bill Seitz
Steve and Kim Squillace
Bruce and Kaye Stender
John and Susan Streitz
Gay Trachsel
Robert and Lorraine Turner
Scott and Kate Van Daele
Michael and Luanne Wachula
Lee Zimmerman and Andrea Wahman

2017 DONORS

GIFTS UNDER \$250

Kevin and Alissa Acker
Leslie and Rosemary Adolphson
Nancy Aldridge
Maria L. Allen
Tim and Kay Allen
Jolene Allison
William and Nancy Amberg
Bill and Karen Anderson
Patricia Anderson
Ted Anderson & Anne Roesner
William and Karen Anderson
Charles and Karen Andresen
Amy Back
Steve and Terri Balaich
Lee Ball
David and Julie Bard
Marilew and Robert Barnidge
Carla Jo Bayerl
Diane Bean
Jean Beauduy
Matthew and Renee Beaumier
Terry and Sharon Becker
Forrest Beery
Trent Beise
Farrah Bennett
Rae-Jean Bergner
Gary and Patricia Berntsen
Thomas Betts & Therese Presley
Daniel S. and Margaret Billings
Richard Bjorum
Cameron & Nicole Bloom Kruger
David and Kelly Bolgrien
Sue Bosell
Merlyn & Mary Bowker
Frank Boyle
Melissa Boyle and Jennifer Stenersen
Jeff Brown
Laura Budd
Bradley and Lori Bunge
Steven Burgess
Cynthia Busch Nelson
Mary Campbell
Peter and Virginia Campbell
Al and Yvonne Carl

Mary Dell Carlson
Tim Carpenter & Kathryn Nelson
David and Debora Carroll
Mike & Laurie Casey
Michael and Kathleen Cashin
Pat Castellano
Cionek Family
Esther Circle
Carol Cohen
Mark Cohen
Dawn Conlan
Jeff Corey and Michele Plateau
Eddie J. Crawford
Shelia Crews
Thomas and Linda Curran
Stephen B. Daniel
Barb Darland
Elena Davidson
Chris Davis
Malcolm Davy
Eric T. Degonia & Sheila Hawk
Chrissy Deiger
Christopher and Carmel Demaioribus
Jason Drabek
Gayle and Mary Draxten
Martha Lynn Eberhart-Galinski
Gary Eckenberg
Emily Edison
Peter Entwistle
Gail Blum
Charles and Vicki Lynn Faegre
Julie Fairchild
Denny and Jackie Falk
Donna Farrell
Scott and Pamela Fifield
Philip and Victoria Filiatrault
Shaun and Sara Floerke
Mike and Ernestine Mary Forsman
Mary Forstrom
Laurie Fosnacht
Diane Foss-Engstrom
Robert and Marcia Fulton
Susanna Gaunt
Margaret and Allen Geer
Joseph and Gina Geis
Jacqueline Gerst
Michael and Ann Gibbons
John D. Gibbs
Renee Gibbs
Carol Gieseke
Bob Gilmore
Cary Gimpel
Linda Glaser
Neil Glazman and Barb Russ

Donald & Sarah Goebel
Jeffrey and Kelly Goetzman
Melanie Goldish
Charles & Tracy Goman
Jessica and Kurt Goodermote
Judy Gordon
Sheryl Grana
Joseph Grant and Stacey Achterhoff
Beverly Grindahl
Nathan Grizzle and Katie Morford
Michael Grossman and Holly Church
Penelope Grunzke-Johnson
Francis Guldbrandsen and Diane Vertin
Rosemary Guttormsson
Dena Lynn Hagen
Beth Hager
Reid and Lynn Haglin
Susan Hall
Camille Hansen
Shawn and Cammy Hansen
Bill and Jan Hanson
Karen Harden
Candice Harshner
Beverly and John Hart
Todd and Mary Hautajarvi
Mark and Rachel Hayward
Madeline Heaslip
Carolyn Beth Heistad
Susan and Leroy Hieb
Robert M. and Riksene Higgins
Brian Hill and Susan Darley-Hill
Zoe and James Hill
LoAnn Hirsch
Marcia & Paul Hoff
Doug Hoffman and Jennifer Jtwros
Joel and Shannon Hoffman
Egil & Gudrun Hoivik
Betsy & John Holcomb
Elissa Hoole
Elliot M Hoole
George and Connie Host
Alayne House
LeAnn House
Paul and Michelle Howard
Brian and Jennifer Hren
Robert Hunter
Hilary L. Huntley
Michael and Lori Huska
Maxwell Hutchens
Thomas and Marsha Hystead
Dennis & Sue Isernhagen
Marjorie Jackson
Julie Jago

*Don't see your name listed? We apologize. Please let us know.

2017 DONORS

James Jarocki and Kris Blakeslee
Lynda John
Brent and Leslie Johnson
Gunnar and Ingrid Johnson
Jordan and Sarah Johnson
Marjorie Johnson
Matthew and Patricia Johnson
Robert and Jacquelyn Johnson
Rodney and Kiersten Johnson
Sherri Johnson
Tiffany Johnson
Whitney Johnson
Shane & Nichole Jopke
Terry and Dawn Jordan
Rachael Jost
John Judd and Karen Olesen
Char Juntunen
Sharon Beth Kaner
Michael and Catherine Kaups
Kimberly Keil and Robert Nygaard
John and Elizabeth Kelly
Kathryn Kelly
Charles Kendall
Sue Kerry
Christine King
Deborah A. King
Stan W. Kitson
Fletcher and Carol Koos
Karen and Frank Koshere
Don Kozlovski
Michael & Dawn Kregness
Leona Krieg
Laura and Todd Krollman
Nathan LaCoursiere & Nora Sandstad
Debra Lafave
Shannon Laing
Koresh & Jill Lakhan
Dennis Lamkin and Jon Niemi
Mark and Sandra Lanthier
Andrea Larson
James and Betty Lehet
Nick and Erika Lepak
Dan Lew and MayPakou Ly
Judith K. Lewis
Amy Losiewski
Gregory & Patti Luke

Liya Luoma
Andrea Lyons
Anne and Malcolm Macaulay
Liz Maeshima
Michael and Linda Magni
Jan Magree
Joe and Bonnie Majerus
Jennifer Maki & Andrea Crouse
Joel and Donna Manns
Kevin and Melinda Marble
Gerald and Beverly Martin
Mary Maslowski
Elisabeth Mason
George Mason
Myrna Matheson
Laurie Mattson
Kathryn Matvey
Michael and Julie McDonnell
Keith and Lynn McGraw
Cindy and James McLean
Teresa McLean
Rita M Meyer
Vincent and Carol Michealson
David and Anne Miller
Joe & Lee Mogen
Beth Moncrief
Daniel and Karen Morgan
Laura & Colin Mullen
Constance Murphy
Timothy Musick
Debra Neuman
Lois Nordean
Yvonne Novak
Daniel and Elizabeth O'Brien
Meghan O'Connell
Kyle O'Reilly and Nicole Wise
Brad and Lezlie Oachs
Bethany Olmstead
Elizabeth Olson
Michael Oney
Mark and Christine Osthus
Jill and Steven Oswald
James and Andrea Palumbo
Dayle and Gregg Patterson
Raymond and Jeanne Pearson
Shonda Romano Peller
Roger & Lydia Pellett
Joan and Alan Peterson
Michael Peterson
Richard Petersson
Dawn Plath
Harry & Janice Podgorski
Allyz Kramer Polacsek
David and Patricia Polasky

Sandy and Geoff Popham
Andrew Powers
Elizabeth Preus
Ray and Kathy Privett
Mary Anne Quackenbush
Gerry Ralph
Scot and Karri Ramsey
Betty Ramsland
Deborah Rasmussen & Geoffrey Gates
Lance Reasor
Mary Pat Renaud
Tracy and Richard Ricketts
Russ and Christine Ridgewell
Raina Riedesel
Cristy and Larry Rivers
Joseph and Olga Rosenzweig
Mark and Nancy Rubin
Alan Michael Ruppe
Christine Russom
Bruce and Leane Rutherford
Ed & Jane Ryan
Marlene Saar
Natalie Salminen Rude
Dean and Julia Sampson
Susan Samuelson
Betsy Saraceno
Gerald Allen Schlafer
Barbara Schlichting
Heather Schmidt
Russ and Diane Schmidt
Patricia Schmitt
Janet and Fred Schroeder
Kristi Schulte
Alyssa M. Scignoli
Tad Sears
Thomas and Julie Seidelmann
Jack and Cindy Seiler
Robert and Margaret Seitz
Sean and Andrea Sengenberger
Mary and Daniel Shaw
Blake Shippee & Shanna Aldrich
John and Toby Sillanpa
Tina Silverness
Jamie Simonette
Faye Sleeper
Michael Sowl
Tim Spangenberg and Julie Zenner
Larry and Joanne Spears
Robert Spehar
David and Brenda Sproat
Jean Michaels Sramek
Brian & Jodi Stacken
Ashley Stalvig
Thomas & Maureen Stanley

2017 DONORS

Anita and Harlan Stech
David Steinberg
Kelly Steinmetz and Kirsta Majerus
Michael and Kirsten Stellmaker
Susan Stelman
Roxy Stolis
John and Maxine Strange
Bill & Mary Stroozas
Ann C. Sudoh
Carolyn Sundquist
Pat Tessier
Patrick and Carol Thompson
Dale and Ruth Thorpe

Annie Thors
Erik Torch
Gregory and Connie Toscano
Marilyn Toscano
JoEllen Travis
Carole Turner
Linda Valla
Mary Van Evera
Jackie Vavrosky
Robert and Joanne Vavrosky
Gregg & Shawna Velander
Nick & Donna Ventrella
Gene and Lynnette Verhel
Trudy Vrieze
James and Alice Waldo
Spring Waldron
Terry and Theresa Teich
Sandra and Russell Ward
Jenna Warmuth
Suzanne Wasilczuk

Peggy Welter
Jim & Ann Wheeler
Mark and Mary Whitlock
Robert & Barbara Wieman
Mark Wilhelmson
John and Sherry Williams
Paul and Mary Windberg
Marlys Wisch
Peter Wodrich and Deborah Freedman
Mitchell & Darlene Wolfe
Kirby and Cathy Wood
Christina Woods Anamikiikwe
David & Susana Pelayo Woodward
Heather Wright Wendel
Karen Younggren
Robert Zallar
Thomas Zelman
Dennis and Vicky Zimmerman
Michael and Sheralyn Zlonis

BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

- A Touch of Plasch
- Altrusa International
- Asbury United Methodist Church
- Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica
- Cathedral of Our Lady Of The Rosary
- Curtis Oil
- Denfeld High School
- Donald Holm Construction
- Duluth Amateur Hockey Association
- Duluth East High School
- Duluth Elks Lodge
- Duluth Energy Systems
- Duluth Gospel Tabernacle
- Duluth Superior Friends Meeting
- Duluth Superior GLBTAQI Pride
- eLogger
- Essentia Health
- First Lutheran Church
- First United Methodist Church
- Forbes United Methodist Church
- Glen Avon Presbyterian Church
- Harbortown Rotary
- Hope Lutheran Church
- IGO Legacy Hotel Group
- Inter City Oil Co., Inc.
- Lake Country Power
- Lake Superior Interfaith Community Church
- Lakeside Presbyterian Church
- League of Women Voters
- Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
- Minnesota Power - An Allete Company
- MN School Food Service Association Northland Chapter 36
- National Bank Of Commerce
- New Life Covenant Church
- Pilgrim Congregational Church
- Security Jewelers
- St. Joseph's Ladies Guild
- Super America
- Temple Israel
- The Grooming Shack
- Themadones Duluth, Inc.
- Thibodeau Johnson & Feriancek, PLLP
- Thrivent Financial
- Torchbearer Beta Chapter #70187
- Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- United Baptist Christian Church
- US Bank
- Wells Fargo Bank

THE LOFT REMODEL

On a Friday afternoon in the spring of 2016, a teenager was abandoned by his guardian at Life House. Youth Center staff worked frantically to find a safe place for him to stay that night, to no avail. That's when the dream of opening a shelter in the Youth Center was born. Throughout 2017, thanks to the generous support of the Mardag Foundation and the City of Duluth, the upper floor of the Youth Center was completely renovated. In January of 2018, The Loft Teen Emergency Shelter opened, providing crisis housing for up to ten teens.



THE ANNEX REMODEL

Life House had the opportunity to purchase the neighboring avenue building when Joel Cooper of Cooper's Engraving retired in 2017. With our job training program in need of a new home, this was a chance we couldn't pass up. Funding support from the City of Duluth allowed for the purchase and assistance from Harbortown Rotary readied the space for the Legitimate Hustle Program to move in. While still a work in progress, the youth in are able to use the space as a workshop for the Limitless Candle business while further renovations occur.



2017 HIGHLIGHTS



The Youth Center hosted a “Peace Week” around International Day of Peace to encourage youth to turn to peaceful methods for conflict resolution.



The 2nd annual change drive encouraged people to clean out their couches and bring their spare change to Life House in September.



The 2017 Prom theme was Hollywood Red Carpet. Over 50 youth attended!



Sol House had some animal visitors during weekly group time to give the youth residents new experiences with baby goats and chicks.



The Life House staff pose before opening the doors to the annual Holiday Party. Thanks to generous supporters, we were able to distribute gifts to more than 100 youth and young families.