



Covenant
House
Pennsylvania



25 YEARS

of Building
Bridges to Hope



For every young person
who walked through our
doors believing you were
alone and discovered that
you were not.

For the donors, staff,
and partners who helped
build that bridge.

This is your story too.





Table of Contents

Welcome

Letter from Nicole, CHPA Alum
 · Letter from Alexia, CEO · Letter
 from Rob, Board Chair **03**

Our Impact

25 Years of Stewardship · From Two
 Beds to 109 · A Quarter Century of
 Hope · Father Steve's Story **07**
 · A Timeline of Relentless Support

Lives Transformed

Nicole's Story · 25 Years of Respect
 · Independence: Tyree's Story **12**
 · Full Circle: Whitney's Story
 · Hope Found an Address · 25 Years
 of Love

Our Community of Care

More Powerful than you Know:
 Vivienne's Story · York: Alexandra's
 Story · Preventing Human Trafficking **18**
 · 25 Years of Advocacy

Bridges to Hope

William's Story · The Power of
 Showing Up · 25 Years of Workforce **22**
 Development · Love as a Clinical
 Intervention · 25 Years of Healing

Gratitude

Building Brighter Futures · 25 Years
 of Partnership · Partners in
 Hope/Champions of Change · Our **30**
 Leadership





Letter from Nicole

Twenty-five years ago, Covenant House PA opened its doors with a simple promise: that no young person facing homelessness would have to face it alone. I know the impact of that promise personally.

If I could go back in time to my 18-year-old self, I would tell them, “It’s going to become very difficult for you, but I promise that you will be okay.” At 18, I was recently discharged from the military, had spent the money I earned in boot camp, and found myself unhoused and alone in Kensington. There really aren’t words to explain the feeling of being alone on the streets for the first time.

In hindsight, I consider myself one of the lucky ones. A peer introduced me to Covenant House while I was unhoused in Florida, so when I came across the Covenant House drop-in center in Kensington, I knew I had found a safe space. **Covenant House PA changed the course of my life the day I walked through those doors.**

Over the past many years, I’ve graduated from an Ivy League school with a bachelor’s degree in public health, obtained a master’s degree in palliative care, and returned to Kensington to work with the same population that I was once a part of. Covenant House PA, meeting me with love, made the difference in my journey.

What people often don’t see about youth homelessness is the hurt young people carry inside. A safe space, a non-judgmental approach, and being met with love at the right moment can change a young person’s future.

Unfortunately, my story is just one of thousands. **There is a young person tonight who will find themselves alone and unsheltered for the first time. Because of supporters like you, they may also find the safety and support of Covenant House PA.**

Thank you for changing my life’s trajectory. 🕊️

Nicole Sage

Alum, Covenant House PA | Penn Link Program Manager, Infectious Diseases

[*Read more of my story on page 12.](#)



Letter from Alexia

Every young person who comes to Covenant House PA arrives having already survived something most people never will.

They come to us during years that are supposed to be filled with possibility. Instead, many arrive carrying everything they own in a bag or two, having been told (in words or in silence) that they are on their own. Yet they still walk through our doors willing to believe their future can be different.

I think about that courage all the time. For twenty-five years, Covenant House PA's work has been to be worthy of it.

That has never meant simply offering a bed and a meal. It has meant meeting each young person as a whole person, not a case, diagnosis, or the hardest chapter of their life.

You will meet some of them in these pages. What I hope you notice is where their stories go. The young woman who arrived pregnant and afraid and is now raising thriving daughters of her own. The young person who once rode in our outreach van and came back to drive it. They did not just survive hardship. They built lives of their own and then turned around to help build someone else's.

That is what becomes possible when a young person is met with unconditional love, respect, and adults who refuse to give up on them. But we are not content to do this one young person at a time forever.

After twenty-five years, we know that youth homelessness is not inevitable. We know young people can heal, thrive, and build extraordinary futures when they have the right support. **Our goal is not simply to help young people through tonight. It is to help create a future where fewer young people ever need our services at all.**

We cannot do it without you. The young people in these pages were supported by a community that decided they mattered. That community is you.

Twenty-five years into this story, I have never been more hopeful about what is possible. Thank you for being part of it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alexia Clarke'.

Alexia Clarke
CEO,
Covenant House PA

Letter from Rob



As we reflect on the past 25 years of Covenant House PA, I am filled with deep gratitude for the countless individuals who have made this mission possible. Donors, volunteers, staff, board members, community partners, and advocates have each played a vital role in building a place of safety, dignity, and hope for young people who needed it most. **Because of your commitment, thousands of youth have found shelter, support, and a path forward.**

I am extremely proud of where Covenant House PA stands today. Our leadership team brings passion, integrity, and clarity of purpose to this organization, and I have full confidence in both their vision and execution. Together, we are strengthening our programs, deepening our impact, and responding to the evolving needs of youth with compassion and resolve.

Looking ahead, our work is far from finished. The need remains great, and so does our determination. I am inspired by what we have accomplished and energized by what lies ahead. With your continued partnership, Covenant House PA will remain a steadfast presence for youth in crisis—today and for generations to come.

Thank you for believing in this mission and for helping us build a future where every young person has the opportunity to thrive.

Robert E. Gorman

Robert E. Gorman, CFP®, CDFA®
Board Chair | Covenant House PA
Financial Advisor | Kita Gorman and Associates

25 Years of Financial Stewardship

= Lives Transformed

For 25 years, our donors have trusted us with more than money. They've trusted us with young lives. We hold that trust the way we hold the youth: carefully, accountably, and with deep respect.

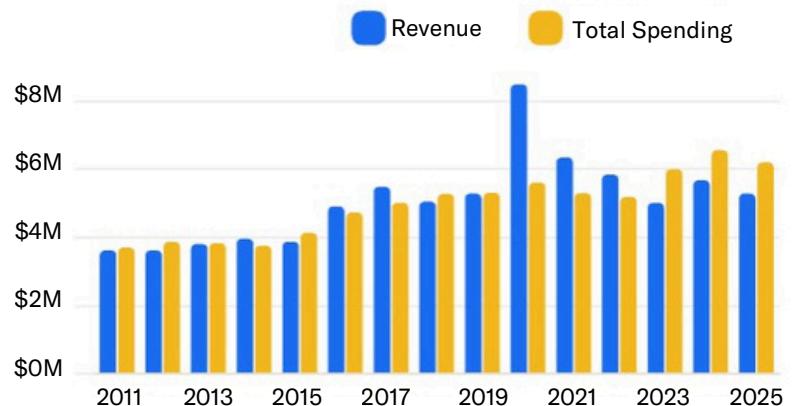
The numbers on this page are a record of promises kept.

What Came In, and What Went Out

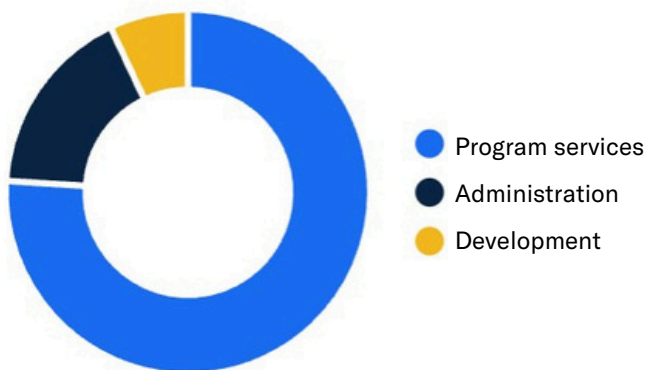
Year by year, what we raised and what we spent have tracked closely, the mark of an organization living within its means.

When you give to Covenant House PA, you're not just funding an organization, you're funding a way home. 🕊

We are serving nearly four times more youth annually while strengthening our financial future!



Where Every Dollar Goes



Planned spending by category, FY2027 budget

76 cents of every dollar goes straight to the young people we serve: a bed, a meal, a counselor, a second chance.

Over the past three years, expenses have exceeded revenue as Covenant House PA responded to growing need and served more young people than ever before, annually.

FY26 has been our turnaround year; marked by stronger planning, renewed fundraising momentum, and disciplined financial management.

With continued community support, we are projecting a balanced budget in FY27 while sustaining the programs youth rely on every day.

From Two Beds to 109

When Hugh Organ walked through the doors of Covenant House PA 26 years ago, he immediately sensed something different.

Before joining Covenant House PA, he had worked in foster care, where he often felt buried in paperwork instead of truly connecting with the young people who needed help most.

On his very first day at Covenant House, he watched a staff member warmly greet a young person who had clearly been surviving on the streets for a long time. That moment stayed with him.

“From that point on,” Hugh said, **“it was really about meeting young people where they were.”**

At the time, Covenant House PA was only a drop-in center. Youth could come inside for meals, safety, conversation, and support, but at the end of the day, they still had nowhere to go. The next morning, many would be lined up on the steps again waiting for the doors to open.

“When we first opened Covenant House PA, there were only two beds in the entire city for runaway and homeless youth,” Hugh said.

“In 2000, we acquired a small house on Grant Street where staff squeezed in 15 young people at a time. A year later, the organization expanded to a 51-bed shelter — and within a year, every bed was full. **Covenant House PA now provides 109 beds each night across its shelters and scattered-site apartments, and will expand to 12 additional beds by the end of the year.**”

Over the years, the organization also became a leader in anti-trafficking advocacy, helping overhaul Pennsylvania’s trafficking laws and pass Safe Harbor protections for youth survivors.

Yet for Hugh, **the true measure of success has never been legislation or buildings. “It’s not our accomplishments. It’s really their accomplishments,”** he says proudly reflecting on alumni who are now police officers, counselors, college graduates, and professionals helping others the way someone once helped them. “That’s what we do,” he adds.

“We give them safety, sanctuary, and opportunities that allow youth to grow into the young and productive adults that they can be.”



“We give safety, sanctuary, and opportunities that allow youth to grow into the productive adults that they can be.”

— **Hugh Organ,**
Chief Program Officer

A Quarter Century of Hope. Thousands of *Lives Transformed.*

For 25 years, we've been more than a shelter.

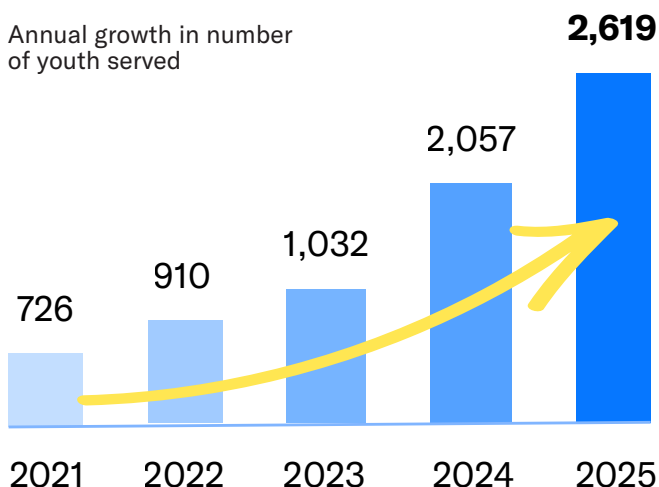
We've been a lifeline, a launchpad, and a community of support.

And the impact is real.

57,000+ Youth served since 1999

Moving the **trajectory** for youth.

Annual growth in number of youth served



45,743

Youth reached via street outreach



10,490

Youth served in emergency shelter



658

Youth served via transitional housing



144

Youth youth served in permanent housing

FY2025 IMPACT SNAPSHOT

2,619 Youth served in 2025 across core programs and services

31,029 Nights of housing provided

109 Youth slept in a Covenant House PA bed each night

1,866 Youth served through street outreach

424 Onsite medical visits **134** Mental health services

Average Length of Stay

73 days

Emergency Shelter

259 days

Transitional Housing

533 days

Permanent Housing

Youth Come Into Our Care with Diverse Experiences & Needs:

- 62% Mental health challenges
- 61% Have a high school diploma
- 36% Foster care history
- 30% Survivors of domestic violence
- 23% Employed at intake
- 18% Enrolled in school at intake



Father Stephen Siniari was one of Covenant House PA's pioneers. A former youth who experienced homelessness, he brought an unshakeable belief that relationship was the only tool that mattered.

"When we invest in young people, we invest in hope."

— Father Stephen Siniari

Father Steve's Story

Father Stephen (Steve) Siniari was there before Covenant House PA became what it is today — before the programs, before the buildings, before thousands of young people found safety within its walls.

"I was one of the first people on the ground when Covenant House PA was little more than a dream, a basement, and a whole lot of stubborn hope," he said.

As a boy, Father Steve experienced homelessness himself, sleeping in Philadelphia's subway system and learning early what it felt like to be cold, hungry, and invisible. Years later, returning to help open beds for young people facing those same realities felt, in many ways, like life coming full circle. "I never set out to be a pioneer...I just knew what it was to be alone in that."

That lived experience shaped the way he saw every young person who walked through Covenant House's doors. He understood that behind every crisis was a young person carrying pain, survival, and untapped potential — not someone who needed judgment, but someone who needed safety, consistency, and care.

Again and again, he watched youth heal when they were met with dignity instead of shame.

"At Covenant House, young people are treated like human beings first. They're reminded that they matter and that their future is still full of possibility," he shared.

Over the years, he has seen youth arrive carrying trauma, instability, and experiences that forced them to grow up too quickly. Some survived dangerous situations simply because they had nowhere else to go. Father Steve believes too many people ask, "What's wrong with this young person?" instead of, "What happened to them?"

For him, healing begins with relationships — adults who listen without judgment and create spaces where young people feel safe enough to trust again.

"They are not broken. They are incredibly strong young people who deserve the opportunity to heal, grow, and thrive," said Father Steve. **"When we invest in young people, we are invest in hope."**

Over 25 years, Father Steve has watched Covenant House PA become far more than shelter. He has seen young people who once arrived in crisis build futures they once thought were impossible.

25 Years of Relentless Support.

From a small Kensington drop-in center to a statewide leader in youth homelessness, trafficking response, advocacy, and healing — every milestone began with one belief: every young person deserves safety, dignity, and unconditional support.

A Beginning in Kensington

CHPA opens doors with a drop-in center, then a \$1/month shelter from Pastor Robin at Arch Street Methodist

Leading the Fight Against Trafficking

CHPA helps establish the Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition, with Sister Mary Rose challenging all CH sites to lead on anti trafficking.

Rights of Passage Program Opens

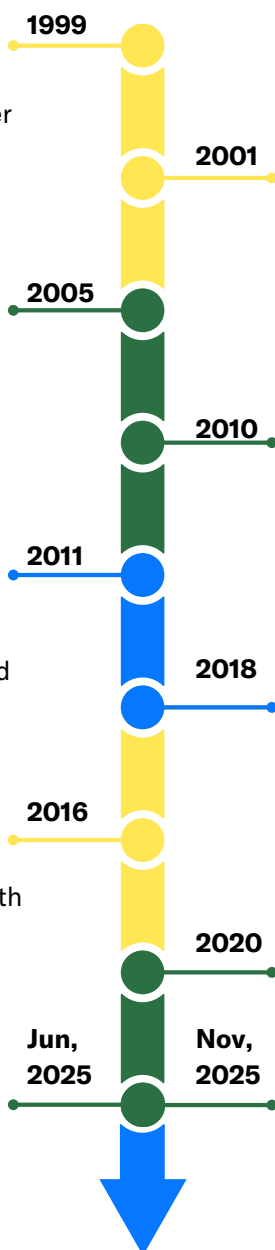
CHPA opens its first transitional housing facility in Kensington, a 20-bed, 18-month program comprising 10 two-bedroom apartment units. Residents have private bedrooms and share a kitchen, bathroom, and living room.

Expanding to York County, PA

York County invites CHPA to establish services, a reflection of CHPA's recognized leadership in trafficking intervention and youth homelessness response

A New Era of Healing

Construction completes and the Rights of Passage II opens, expanding transitional housing for youth



First Youth Emergency Shelter

Safe Haven opens, becoming one of the region's earliest providers with specialized services for youth experiencing trafficking, years before it becomes a policy priority

Advocacy Drives Policy Change

CHPA's advocacy contributes to Pennsylvania's Human Trafficking Commission and the advancement of trafficking hotline legislation, helping survivors access protection and support.

Safe Harbor Bill Signed into Law

On October 24, 2018, Act 130 was signed, shielding minors from prosecution for crimes coerced by their abusers, elevating law enforcement training, and creating a vital fund for trafficking survivors

Showing Up Through Crisis

During the pandemic, CHPA keeps its doors open 24/7 while expanding outreach, food access, crisis response, and behavioral health support for vulnerable youth

Sleep Out at the Ballpark

Thanks to leadership from, Covenant House International, Cencora, and the Phillies, our annual Sleep Out moves to the Ballpark, a movement more than a decade in the making!

The Next 25 Years: Our Bold Commitment

With our ambitious strategic plan, we will deepen services, expand access, build stronger partnerships, invest in innovation, and advocate for systems change, all to end youth homelessness as we know it.



“Over the past many years, I’ve graduated from an Ivy League school with a bachelor’s degree in public health, obtained a master’s degree, and returned to Kensington to work with the same population that I was once a part of.

Covenant House PA, meeting me with love, made the difference in my journey.”

— Nicole

Nicole’s Story

Nicole’s story began long before she ever walked through the doors of Covenant House PA. At 18 years old, recently discharged from the Marine Corps and unable to return home, she found herself homeless up and down the East Coast — and eventually back to Philadelphia.

“My parents told me, ‘If you don’t come home a Marine, don’t come home at all.’ In hindsight, it sounds harsh, but they watched me struggle before I went into the military and made the decision they thought they had to make.”

Everything changed on Kensington Avenue. While walking the streets, Nicole noticed the sign for Covenant House PA’s drop-in center and stepped inside. Within weeks, she became one of the very first residents of the organization’s original eight-bed shelter on Grant Street in North Philadelphia.

“It was small and simple, but there was something about sharing space, meals, and chores that made it feel like a home rather than a program,” she remembers. “If you ask me what a safe space looks like, I picture that house.”

What Nicole found at Covenant House PA was more than shelter. She found stability, community, and adults who believed in her future at a time when she struggled to believe in it herself.

Even after moving to Covenant House Los Angeles and aging out of services, Pennsylvania remained home in her heart.

“The staff at Cov’ PA were my favorite. They were the people I kept calling, the only ones I consistently checked in with to let them know how I was doing. No matter where I went, I referred to the organization as ‘my’ Covenant House.”

Years later, Nicole returned — not as a resident, but as an outreach worker. She went from being the young person riding in the outreach van to the one driving it through Kensington, Center City, and South Philly, helping youth find safety the same way she once had.

“Some nights we were able to bring young people straight from the street into shelter, and those were my favorite moments — watching them step immediately from chaos into safety, the way I once had.”

Today, Nicole works at the University of Pennsylvania as a program manager supporting people with substance use disorders through a SAMHSA-funded program. She previously held leadership roles at Prevention Point Philadelphia, overseeing syringe services, overdose prevention, and HIV programs after earning degrees in public health and palliative care.

“My heart has always stayed with people who use drugs, people who are homeless, people living on the edge — maybe because I’ve been on that edge myself.”

When Nicole reflects on her journey, she sees Covenant House PA as part of the foundation that made it possible. “I came in as a homeless teenager who had been told not to come home. My life grew in the right direction, and CHPA is a huge part of why.”

More Than a Bed. A Place to Belong.

Making Room to Reclaim Joy.

Healing does not only happen in counseling sessions or visits to the clinic. It happens on hiking trails, beaches, around picnic tables, and dance floors, where young people laugh, build friendships, and experience the simple joys of being young.

Annual Beach Trips



For many of our youth, the annual Cov' beach getaway is the first time they see the ocean.

Every Milestone Matters



From birthdays and graduations to first jobs and proms, we celebrate the moments that remind youth they are seen, valued, and worthy of joy.

Community Dinners



At our Rights of Passage program in Kensington, community dinners bring residents together to share a meal, celebrate one another, and build the everyday connections that make a house feel like home.

Weekly Hiking Excursions

Fresh air, movement, and conversation help our Safe Haven residents build confidence, strengthen friendships, and discover that healing can happen one step at a time.



Volunteer Spotlight

Many of these moments are made possible by our incredible **Volunteer Ambassador, Celia Pretter**, whose years of dedication, creativity, and compassion have brought countless experiences, celebrations, and moments of joy to Covenant House youth.

A Springboard to Independence



Tyree Sampson-McKnight was just 19 years old when his family's house burned down a few days before Christmas 2020, leaving them homeless. Still in high school, Tyree was too old to stay with his mother and younger siblings at a family shelter. Instead, he spent the next two years in a men's shelter, where he was the youngest resident.

"It was stressful and unhygienic," he recalls.

Everything changed in 2023 when a shelter staff member connected him to Covenant House PA's Rapid Rehousing Program.

Unlike traditional housing programs, Covenant House PA's Rapid Rehousing Program partners with landlords throughout the community to secure scattered-site apartments for youth experiencing homelessness.

Covenant House PA leases the apartments, provides rental assistance and case management, and helps youth build the financial stability and life skills needed to take over their own lease. **The program has achieved a remarkable 100% housing success rate, helping young people transition from homelessness to lasting independence.**

Program Director Natalie Proud helped Tyree move into a studio apartment in Nicetown, complete with a bed, dresser, and other essentials.

"My goal was always to get an apartment. I just didn't think I could ever afford one," he says. "It relieved a lot of stress I didn't know I had."

At first, Covenant House PA covered half of Tyree's rent while he worked at a movie theater and learned to save. The experience was transformative.

"I was going through an earthquake in my life before the program—it felt like everything was shaken up. I had no control whatsoever. Once I had my own apartment, all that changed," he says.

When the time came to transition off rental assistance, Rapid Rehousing Specialist Tealia Ellis helped him prepare.

"Having stable housing has helped me keep up with healthy habits. I've matured a lot and settled down into an adult routine."

— Tyree, Covenant House PA Alum

"The Rapid Rehousing Program is a springboard to independence," Tealia says. "Many of our youth pay a portion of their rent while Covenant House pays the rest. That shared responsibility helps them build confidence and prepares them for long-term success."

"She explained the process well and gave me headway before ending the rental assistance," Tyree says. "I was ready."

Today, three years later, Tyree still lives in that same apartment and pays all of his own bills. He works full-time at a department store, contributes to a 401(k), and is building emergency savings for the future.

"It gave me the building blocks. Having stable housing has helped me keep up with healthy habits. I've matured a lot and settled down into an adult routine," says Tyree.

He remains connected to the staff who helped him along the way. "Ms. Tealia told me, 'You can always call Covenant House PA. Just because the program is over doesn't mean we can't help.'"

For Tyree, housing was more than a roof over his head—it was the foundation for everything that followed. And as he looks toward a future that includes a family and even a vegetable garden, he knows he is building it on solid ground. His journey is proof that when young people are given stability, opportunity, and support, they can create futures that once seemed out of reach.

Whitney's Full-Circle Journey: from Teen Mom to Social Worker

Whitney Moore arrived at Covenant House PA with two bags, a one-year-old daughter, and another baby on the way. She was only eighteen years old, a freshman in college, and suddenly without a stable place to live.

"I went from living at home with my mom to having my baby in my pregnant belly and a couple bags worth of clothing and belongings here at Covenant House," she said.

For many young mothers, that kind of instability would have meant the end of school. But Whitney refused to let go of her future.

"As a teenage mom, statistics are really low for us to graduate high school, let alone finish college," she said. "And I knew for myself that was something I HAD to do."

Covenant House PA stepped in to make sure she did not have to carry that burden alone.

Her case manager became, in Whitney's words, "probably my biggest connection relationship wise." She helped Whitney secure housing assistance, childcare, transportation to classes, SNAP and TANF benefits, and medical coverage for her children. Most importantly, she helped Whitney believe she could still move forward.

"She helped me stabilize, focus, and figure out the steps that I needed to take," Whitney said.



"For me, it's a really big thing to have broken that generational curse of homelessness and home instability.

— Whitney Moore,
Covenant House PA Alum

Because of that support, Whitney stayed in school and earned her degree on time.

"I was able to focus on staying in school, getting classes done," she said. "I didn't have to worry about childcare while I was in class. And I was able to finish college in four years."

Today, nearly twenty years later, Whitney is a social worker with the City of Philadelphia. She is also a homeowner, and the daughters she carried with her into Covenant House PA are thriving in college themselves.

"Having someone that was knowledgeable and was patient with me and helping guide me through the process really pushed me into wanting to be a helper myself," she said.

She also broke a cycle that shaped her own childhood. "I moved around a lot," Whitney recalled. "Sometimes we stayed with family members, we were crashing on couches. **For me, it's everything to have broken that generational curse of homelessness and home instability.**"

Where Hope Found an Address

When Bonnie Weiner talks about Covenant House PA's Embrace Building, she doesn't start with bricks and mortar. She starts with young people.

"If a young person is homeless, they have nothing else," she says. "They can't do anything else. There's no school, there's no light at the end of their tunnel. They need to be housed before anything else."

That belief led the [Weiner Family Foundation](#) to make one of the most transformative investments in Covenant House PA's history.

The story began during a tour of the Germantown campus. Bonnie's son, Dani, noticed the former Asher's Chocolate building sitting vacant next door.

"He said, 'Why aren't you guys buying this building?'" Bonnie recalls. Covenant House staff explained that while the building was full of potential, the funding simply wasn't there. For Dani, the answer seemed obvious. "It's right next to your building. It would be perfect for whatever you envision."

The vision became what is now the Embrace Building; a transitional housing program where young people can move beyond crisis and begin building independent lives.

Years later, Bonnie still remembers the day the building opened.

One young woman walked into the apartment that would become her home. She looked around and began to cry.

"Then we all cried," Bonnie says. "There was not a dry eye among us."

That moment captured everything the family had hoped the project would accomplish.

Housing was more than a roof overhead. It was safety, stability, dignity, and the opportunity to move forward.



"To see that concrete vision come into fulfillment... it's been the thrill of a lifetime."

— Bonnie Weiner

Chairperson of the Board | Weiner Family Foundation

In photo: Bonnie and Dani Weiner being honored with Covenant House PA's Lizzie Award at the opening of Embrace/Rights of Passage II.

Since then, Bonnie has met many of the young people whose lives have been changed by the program. She remembers visiting one resident's apartment and being struck by his joy.

"To see that happiness just makes us joyful," she says.

Today, when Bonnie reflects on the transformation—from a dilapidated factory to a place where young people can heal, grow, and thrive—she returns to the same conclusion.

"To see that concrete vision come into fulfillment... it's been the thrill of a lifetime."

A Community that Says, *"You Belong."*

Every visit, celebration, and shared experience sends a message to youth: **"You matter here"**.

Together, our partners, volunteers, alumni, and neighbors help surround young people with the encouragement, opportunities, and connections they deserve.

From Holiday Celebrations...

The holidays can be especially difficult for young people separated from family or without a place to call home. Together with our volunteers and community partners, we create new traditions filled with joy, belonging, and hope.



Every young person deserves to feel the warmth of the holiday season. Together with our community of supporters, we create new traditions to remind our youth that they are loved, valued, and never alone.

In 2024, **Philadelphia Eagles players surprised our shelter youth** with a night of laughter, conversation, and holiday cheer.

...to The Power of Team

Sports have a way of bringing people together, and reminding young people that great teams lift each other up. That's what our Cov' community does for youth.

Our "UnCOVditional Love Boat" team proudly took to the water at the 2016 Philadelphia Dragon Boat Festival, a celebration of teamwork, determination, and the community standing behind our youth.



Before becoming captain of the New York Knicks, Villanova standout Jalen Brunson would visit our youth while playing for the Dallas Mavericks, alongside teammate Dwight Powell and Coach Rick Carlisle.

More Powerful Than You Know: Vivienne's Story

When 18-year-old Vivienne Lawrence arrived at Covenant House PA's Safe Haven shelter in 2002, she was not new to being homeless. Throughout high school, she experienced chronic housing instability, often couch-surfing or doubling up at her friends' or her uncle's. After graduation, however, she found herself fully homeless and unsure where to turn. A referral to Covenant House PA changed the course of her life.

"I got every kind of support from Covenant House," Vivienne recalls. "I was living there, getting my meals and my clothing. But I also received structure, love, care, and support to get a job." While working in the kitchen of a restaurant, she began rebuilding her confidence and stability. One lesson, however, stands out above the rest: "I learned communication."

Today, Vivienne has dedicated her career to helping young people facing many of the same challenges she once endured. She is the newly appointed Coordinator of Services at the [Office of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness \(ECYEH\)](#) through the School District of Philadelphia, helping students overcome barriers that threaten their education and future opportunities.

"We provide assistance so they can stay in school," she explains. "Everything from transportation to support services, tutoring, and uniforms free of charge."

She sees firsthand how homelessness affects every aspect of a young person's life. "Number one is stigma," she says. "They are often looked at in a negative way. And they are disenfranchised; they don't have access to everything their classmates have." Beyond housing instability, many struggle with everyday challenges others may take for granted. "Having clean clothes, being able to get to school on time, doing homework. There are challenges in every way you can think of."

Vivienne credits Covenant House PA with inspiring her career path.



"You are more powerful and more important than you believe. You cannot imagine how powerful and important you are in this world."

— Vivienne, Covenant House PA Alum

"I received so much love and support at Covenant House that I wanted to give back," she says. Drawing on her own experiences, she approaches every one of her young clients with empathy. "I always approach them with love and understanding. When I was not approached with love and understanding, I struggled a lot. I make sure to hold space for them."

For Vivienne, that work is deeply personal. Every day, she has the opportunity to be the kind of caring adult she once needed herself. Through encouragement, advocacy, and understanding, she helps young people see possibilities beyond their current circumstances.

Today, Vivienne is one of thousands of alumni whose lives were transformed because someone invested in a young person in crisis. **Her story is a powerful reminder that when youth are met with safety, support, and unconditional care, they don't just overcome homelessness, they become leaders, advocates, and sources of hope for the next generation.**

Supporters of Covenant House PA make stories like Vivienne's possible, ensuring that young people facing homelessness have the opportunity to discover their own strength, potential, and purpose.



Care Beyond Philly: Alexandra's Story

When 21-year-old Alexandra arrived at the York County Sanctuary Program in October 2023, she was a new mom escaping an abusive relationship. After a traumatic birth experience, her two-month-old son Zy'ais had been admitted to the NICU with seizures, struggling to breathe and eat on his own. Alexandra lost her temporary housing when Zy'ais was transferred to a hospital in Harrisburg, and escaping her abuser, who left her with no money or ID. "I was scared when I got there," she recalls. "I thought my life was just going to be a nonstop cycle of being hit."

"Cov staff immediately connected me with domestic violence counseling and support services," she says. "I felt comfortable talking to them about the abuse. But it was also a reality check for me—there was a child involved now. I needed to break the cycle for him." **She credits much of her personal growth during this time to the support of Program Director, Yamily Applewhite. "There was nothing I needed that she couldn't help me with," she recalls. "She taught me to be Alexandra and 'Mom.'"**

Transformational relationships like the one between Alexandra and Yamily are a cornerstone of Covenant House's unique program model, which emphasizes longer stays to give youth time to build trust with staff and access wrap-around services.

"When you show up for Covenant House, you're showing up for the youth who feel like no one else is there for them. That lives with them forever."

— Yamily Applewhite, Program Director

"We're not capped at 30 days like other shelters," Yamily says. **"The more time we invest in our youth, the higher the likelihood that they'll obtain stable housing, find employment and/or continue their education."**

During her three-month stay, Covenant House PA's wrap-around support helped her regain control of her life. Staff helped her build a resume and develop the life skills to be independent and raise her son. She got a job at a grocery store and began to save for the future. **"I really didn't know anything about money," she says. "The Cov taught me about credit and financial literacy."**

Alexandra now works as a pharmacy technician and rents a house with Zy'ais, who is three and thriving. **"It was the best feeling in the world," she says of getting her own place to live. "I felt like, I've done this for my son. There's so much love in this house. This is what life is supposed to be like."** Alexandra remains passionate about Covenant House and returns often for visits.

"The Cov is the thread between where each of our youth start, and where they want to be. We provide structure, compassion, and resources, free of judgment," says Yamily. "When you show up for Covenant House, you're showing up for the youth who feel like no one is there for them. That lives with them forever."

What It Actually Looks Like

Most people have the wrong image of human trafficking. They picture strangers, abductions, and dramatic rescues. But exploitation often hides in plain sight, thriving in the gap between what people imagine and what actually happens.

For more than 15 years, Natalie Proud has worked to close that gap. She first came to Covenant House PA as a graduate school intern during the years CHPA was formalizing much of its anti-human trafficking work. One week into the internship, she knew she had found her calling.

“I realized very quickly this was exactly where I was meant to work,” she said.

Today, as Program Director, Natalie helps lead anti-trafficking response and advocacy through the [Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition \(PATC\)](#), chaired by Covenant House PA since 2005. She has learned that trafficking rarely ends when exploitation stops.

“One of the hardest things survivors face is that exploitation leaves permanent scars that are not their fault,” Natalie explained. Criminal records, incarceration, and barriers to employment can follow survivors for years, limiting opportunities long after they escape their traffickers.

“That is why advocacy is not separate from direct service. It IS direct service,” she says.

One of Covenant House PA's most significant victories came in 2018 with the passage of Pennsylvania's Safe Harbor law. The legislation established that minors cannot legally consent to commercial sex acts and should be treated as victims, not criminals.

“There's no such thing as a child prostitute,” Natalie said.

Tammy McDonald understands the importance of that change firsthand. While living in a safe house for survivors of sexual abuse and trafficking, Tammy learned through the Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition that Covenant House PA was hiring



“Advocacy is not separate from direct service. It IS direct service.”

— Natalie Proud,
Program Director

a Survivor Advocate. She joined the team and eventually served as a Youth Advisor and Transitional Housing Specialist.

“My lived experience allowed me to build rapport with the youth,” Tammy said. “I was able to relate and have that side of compassion.”

For many young people carrying shame and guilt, Tammy's presence was transformative.

“Having someone who truly understood those feelings and could help navigate them was incredibly powerful.” While on staff, Tammy's criminal record—stemming from her own victimization—was vacated, opening doors that had once been closed. Covenant House PA continued investing in her growth throughout that journey. Today, she works for the Philadelphia Police Department's Mounted Unit and supports youth through equine-assisted therapy.

“She's built a career from her healing,” Natalie said. And while their work together changed countless lives, both laugh that one unexpected benefit came later.

“The best part of Tammy leaving the Cov,” Natalie joked, “is that we could finally be friends because I wasn't her boss anymore.”

Today, Natalie is Tammy's emergency contact, workout partner, and one of the most important people in her life. **25 years of impact does not always announce itself. Sometimes it is a law that changes a system, a record cleared, or a survivor helping the next young person find their way home.** Sometimes, it is two women who met in a crisis and became family.

Changing Systems. *Changing Lives.*

For 25 years, we've fought not only for the young people who walk through our doors, but for those who never should have needed us in the first place.

Lasting change requires changing the policies, perceptions, and systems that impact young people experiencing homelessness and human trafficking. Alongside youth, partners, and advocates across Pennsylvania, we've helped transform laws, secure critical funding, and ensure young people's voices remain at the center of decisions that shape their futures.



2013: Fighting for Safe Harbor

Protecting Victims, Not Criminalizing Them

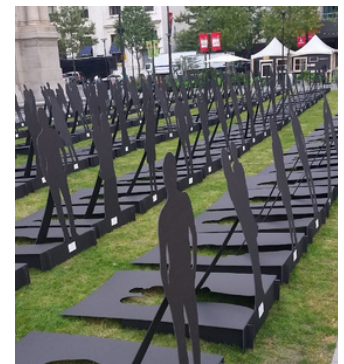
Covenant House PA helped lead the successful effort to strengthen Pennsylvania's human trafficking laws, advocating for child survivors to be recognized as victims deserving protection—not prosecution.



2016: #AmICutOut

546 Young People We Couldn't Help

546 silhouettes outside Philadelphia City Hall in October, 2016 represented every young person turned away that year because there simply wasn't enough space. The campaign sparked a citywide conversation and helped secure funding for 25 new shelter beds.



In November, this led the City of Philadelphia to dedicate a budget line to address youth homelessness, a landmark investment to combat youth homelessness.

2018: Safe Harbor Becomes Law

A Victory for Survivors

Act 130 strengthened protections for child survivors of trafficking, shielding them from prosecution while expanding services, training, and accountability across Pennsylvania.



Youth Advocacy

"Nothing About Us, Without Us!"

The most powerful advocates are young people themselves. At Covenant House, youth voice and choice guide our advocacy, ensuring those with lived experience help shape the policies that affect their lives.



More Than a Program — A Family

Sometimes the difference between crisis and opportunity is a single phone call. For William Brown, that call came at exactly the right moment.

Facing homelessness and unsure where to turn, William had a friend contact Covenant House PA on his behalf. The very next day, staff called to schedule an intake. He mapped out the bus routes, made every connection, and showed up.

What he found was more than a place to stay. He found people who saw his potential long before he fully saw it himself.

Like many young people experiencing homelessness, William was navigating adulthood without the support system most of his peers rely on. He had ambition, determination, and talent. What he lacked was a safety net.

At Covenant House, people stepped into that gap. His case manager, Camillia Gillespie, helped him secure benefits and navigate systems that felt overwhelming. Staff members encouraged him, checked in on him, and made sure he knew he mattered.

"It registered to me that I am noticed," William said. "I'm not just walking around invisible."

That realization became a turning point.

One of the people who took notice was Covenant House PA Board Member, Brian Rueger. After learning about William's interest in technology, Brian sponsored his enrollment in a CompTIA A+ certification course, helping him gain skills that would open doors to future employment.

"William wasn't looking for a handout," Brian said. "He was looking for an opportunity."



"The biggest thing Covenant House gave me was people. People who cared. People who checked in. People who wanted to see me succeed."

— William, Covenant House PA Resident

That support eventually led to an introduction to fellow board member Wil Reynolds, founder of Seer Interactive.

Today, William interns with Seer's IT team, helping troubleshoot systems and support employees while gaining real-world experience in the field he hopes to build a career in. He lives in a shared apartment through Covenant House's Rights of Passage Program, recently adopted Omar, his fluffy emotional support cat, and just graduated college.

"The biggest thing Covenant House gave me was people," William said. "People who cared. People who checked in. People who wanted to see me succeed."

In many ways, William's story reflects what Covenant House has spent 25 years building: not simply programs, but relationships.

Because while housing creates stability, relationships create possibility.

The Power of Showing Up:

Why Brian Rueger and Wil Reynolds Choose to Invest in Youth

Neither Brian Rueger nor Wil Reynolds joined the Covenant House PA board looking for recognition.

They joined because they believed that every young person deserves someone in their corner.

Over the years, both men have become champions for Covenant House's mission, not simply through financial support or board service, but through something equally valuable: relationships.

For Brian, the work is rooted in a simple belief that potential is universal, but opportunity is not.

Again and again, he has seen young people arrive with extraordinary talent, resilience, and determination. What they often lack are the connections, resources, and advocates that many others receive through family, professional networks, or circumstance.

"When you meet young people here, you quickly realize they don't need someone to save them," Brian said. "They need someone willing to believe in them."

That belief is what motivated him to support William's certification training and introduce him to others who could help him move forward.

One of those introductions was Wil Reynolds.

As the founder of Seer Interactive, Wil has built a career around helping people discover their strengths and create opportunities for growth. The same philosophy guides his involvement with Covenant House.

"We're pulling the ladder up on young people in tech as the market's needs shift," Wil says.

What resonates most with Wil is the courage he sees in Covenant House youth.



The relationship between Brian, William, and Wil grew from something simple: taking the time to see one another. That's often how lives change.

One opportunity. One connection. One person who says, "I see you."

These youth face challenges many adults would struggle to overcome, yet continue pursuing education, employment, and brighter futures.

For Wil, creating opportunities for young people like William isn't charity, it's an investment. "I wanted Seer to be a rung of opportunity on that ladder, so anyone with the desire to level up or learn new skills has a chance to keep climbing," he said.

Together, Brian and Wil represent what has defined Covenant House PA for 25 years: a community of people willing to open doors.

Not because they have all the answers. But because they understand the power of showing up.

The relationship between Brian, Wil, and William did not emerge from a formal mentorship program. It grew from something much simpler: people taking the time to see one another.

And that's often how lives change. One opportunity. One connection. One person who says, "I see you."

For William, those moments helped build a future. For Brian and Wil, they reaffirm why this work matters.

Covenant House has never been only about providing shelter. It has always been about building family.

Leo's Story: A Hand Up, Not a Handout

Leo Carlin never expected that delivering 20 beds would begin a relationship spanning more than two decades.

Introduced to John Bon Jovi while helping launch the Philadelphia Soul arena football team, Leo became involved in the team's community outreach efforts. One day, he helped deliver beds to Covenant House Pennsylvania's Germantown shelter. There, he met then-Executive Director Jerry Kilbane—and before long, he found himself serving on the Board of Directors, eventually becoming Board Chair.

Over the years, Leo helped guide Covenant House PA through pivotal moments of growth, including the development of Rights of Passage (ROP), the organization's first transitional housing program in Kensington. Looking back, he describes the project as a "massive undertaking" and one he remains deeply proud of because of the opportunities it created for young people rebuilding their lives.

His belief in transitional housing only grew stronger through his leadership at the [Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation \(JBJSF\)](#), where he now serves as President. Through the Foundation's partnership with Covenant House PA, JBJSF played a critical role in bringing both Rights of Passage I and Rights of Passage II to life. Together, these programs have provided safe, supportive housing for 658 young people and counting, creating the stability needed to pursue education, employment, healing, and independence.

"Jon and the JBJ Foundation believe in recognizing and maximizing human potential," Leo explains. "Transitional housing is a key element to these young people getting on their feet, living up to their potential, and being able to live on their own and feel good about themselves."



"All children belong to all of us. We have a moral obligation and a responsibility to make sure they have the same opportunities we were given in life."

— Leo Carlin,
President | Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation

What has stayed with him most are the young people themselves.

"I had the opportunity to meet some of the kids back in the day, and some of their stories, their resiliency, and their courage—I had to fight back tears sometimes," he recalls. "Some of them weren't even safe in their own homes."

For Leo, the solution begins with a simple but powerful belief: "All children belong to all of us." He continues, "We have a moral obligation and a responsibility to make sure they have the same opportunities we were given in life."

That philosophy has guided his work for decades. Whether through Covenant House PA, the Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation, or his own business leadership, Leo has remained committed to creating not handouts, but "a hand up"—the opportunity for every young person to discover their potential and build a future filled with possibility.

25 Years of Workforce Development

= *Building Careers. Building Confidence.*

Employment is about far more than earning a paycheck. It's the confidence of a first interview, the pride of opening a bank account, the stability of a living wage, and the freedom to imagine a future beyond homelessness.

Financial Literacy and Job Prep

When young people have the skills, support, and confidence to earn a living wage and manage their money, they gain more than a job. They gain the freedom to build the future they deserve.

Without Covenant House, I wouldn't be in the position I'm in. While my stay here at CHPA, I acquired a job, received housing, and learned many valuable life skills. About a month ago, I was fighting a legal battle, battling homelessness, facing hunger, weather changes, all types of stuff. I felt like the world was against me. I never knew such programs existed, and I was so lucky to have been a resident at CHPA. To anyone that feels like it's the end of the road, keep going. I promise that I didn't see myself here about a month ago. To have been on the road for as long as I have, I feel like I deserve this for all my hardships.

Hope + Housing
+ Opportunity
Solution



A diploma. A résumé. A first bank account. A first job. Each milestone brings young people one step closer to lasting independence.

Workforce Impact in 2025



100 youth
participated in
onsite job-readiness
programs



90 youth
obtained or
maintained
employment



\$13.85
average
starting
hourly wage



Hands-on career training equips young people with skills employers are looking for today.

From Hope to Movement

John Ducoff arrived at Covenant House PA in 2014 expecting to stay only a few months.

A leadership transition had created a temporary need, and as a member of Covenant House International's leadership team, he was asked to step in until a permanent executive director could be found. But almost immediately, he found himself drawn in.

"I fell in love with the place," he said. "I would be awake at midnight, at two in the morning—not because I was anxious, but because I was so excited about what the next day had in store, what we could do, what we could build."

Just days after arriving, a chance encounter crystallized why the work mattered.

Walking through the shelter, Ducoff noticed a young man sitting outside the clinic with his head in his hands. He stopped to say good morning. The young man looked up, wearing a Bensalem High School t-shirt—John's alma mater.

"He grew up about 100 yards from where I did," Ducoff recalled. "When I graduated high school, my parents supported me through college and law school. When he graduated, his parents threw him out on the street. That's it. That's the whole difference."

The experience shaped his understanding of youth homelessness.

"Every young person deserves what I was so lucky to have—a community of people who support them, care for them, and help them cross that bridge."

At the time, Covenant House PA was struggling to meet growing demand. In one year alone, the organization served 521 young people but was forced to turn away 546 others because every bed was full.

"Most people picture adults when they think about homelessness," Ducoff said. "They don't picture teenagers."



"Every young person deserves a community of people who support them, care for them, and help them cross that bridge."

— John Ducoff

Former Executive Director, Covenant House PA

One day, an 18-year-old who was eight months pregnant arrived seeking shelter. Staff welcomed her, offered her food, then had to tell her there was no room. "It was the most devastating thing I have ever been part of," he said.

Later that day, an NBC Philadelphia crew arrived to interview him. Ducoff spoke about the 546 young people Covenant House had turned away because every bed was full.

The interview sparked a public awareness campaign. For the next year, he carried the message everywhere he went. The effort culminated in what was believed to be Philadelphia's first City Council hearing focused on youth homelessness. Seventy-five staff and young people attended wearing shirts that read "We Stand With the 546."

The hearing helped secure funding for 25 additional shelter beds.

Today, Ducoff serves as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Legal Officer of Covenant House International, but the lesson he carried from Philadelphia remains unchanged:

"Every young person deserves people who care about them, support them, and give them the time and space they need to build a life."

Love as a Clinical Intervention

“One of the greatest privileges of my life is that I’ve been involved with Covenant House since 1985.”

For Dr. Ken Ginsburg — adolescent medicine specialist at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and longtime partner of Covenant House Pennsylvania’s onsite Connections Clinic, and a trainer for Covenant House International sites across five countries — the work has never simply been about medicine. It has always been about relationships.

“You cannot engage a human being in a healing journey until they are seen, heard, and respected,” he said. **“To work at an agency like Covenant House that has as its mission to serve with absolute respect, unconditional love, and relentless support allows me as a doctor to see humans as they deserve to be seen, and then to partner with them in a loving, healing process to begin their healing journey.”**

Over four decades alongside young people experiencing homelessness, trauma, and instability, Dr. Ginsburg has witnessed extraordinary resilience.

“The youth at Covenant House have endured hardships I can only begin to imagine,” he reflected. “What they have is protector’s brains. They’ve learned to protect themselves. **But healing begins when safety replaces survival.**”

“When we create an environment that enables them to feel safe, they still have this protective brilliance, but they have protection to spare. And what does protection to spare look like? Compassion, empathy, kindness, warmth.”

For Dr. Ginsburg, Covenant House’s integrated model of care is what makes that transformation possible.

“We work as a team. We do not separate the body and the mind, acting as if feelings are over here and the body is over here. Healing is about integration — body, mind, emotions, behavior.”

That philosophy also shapes the next generation of healthcare professionals. Through the Connections Clinic



“Seeing people as they deserve to be seen, and enabling their strengths to be elevated — that’s what invites healing.”

— Dr. Ken Ginsburg

Adolescent Medicine Specialist | Medical Director

partnership, medical and dental trainees learn what trauma-sensitive, strength-based care truly looks like.

“They’re learning what loving, respectful practice looks like,” Dr. Ginsburg said. “What it means to see people as they deserve to be seen while still holding them to the highest expectations.”

He believes too many systems focus on correcting behavior before building trust. Covenant House reverses that approach. “Telling people what not to do doesn’t invite them into a healing journey,” he said. **“Seeing people as they deserve to be seen, and enabling their strengths to be elevated — that’s what invites healing.”**

Again and again, he has watched young people arrive guarded, withdrawn, or angry, only to rediscover their capacity for connection once they finally feel safe. “I work with the best humans on earth — our youth,” he said. “They remind me every day that the potential in every human being is always there when we support them and see them as they deserve to be seen.”

At its core, Dr. Ginsburg believes Covenant House’s mission is simple but transformative: **“We are about uplifting humans. About using a strength-based model to bring out the best in them — and helping them understand why they deserve to be healthier. Healing has never started with judgment. It starts with dignity, connection, and love.”**

Healing the Whole Person

As Covenant House PA's psychiatrist, Dr. Lydia Sit works with youth carrying the weight of trauma, instability, rejection, grief, and survival. Many arrive after years of feeling misunderstood or unseen. Some have learned to protect themselves by staying guarded. Others no longer trust adults at all.

When Dr. Sit sits with a young person at Covenant House PA, she looks beyond the behavior in front of her.

"Instead of treating a young person like they're acting out of spite," she explained, "we have to ask what they're trying to communicate. Beyond the anger. Beyond the shutdown. Beyond the fear. We need to realize this is a person," she said. "Not the behaviors they're presenting."

Dr. Sit believes healing can only happen when one feels safe and understood, without the threat of punishment, shame, or being controlled.

"What our youth need is us at our best," she reflected. "Not simply reacting to them, but understanding what's underneath the behavior."

For Damian, that understanding changed everything.

After losing his mother in 2020 during the height of the pandemic, Damian found himself facing housing insecurity while simultaneously struggling to navigate his mental health and ADHD diagnosis. "I was going through a lot," he shared. "I just didn't know where to go."

What he found at Covenant House was more than shelter. It was safety.

"A safe space to me is being somewhere you know that even if you struggle, there are going to be people there who have your best interest at heart," Damian said. "People who reassure you that things are going to be okay. I found that at the Cov."

At Covenant House, staff listened without judgment. They stayed present during difficult moments. Through onsite healthcare and counseling, Damian began building coping skills, understanding his diagnosis, and learning how to navigate his own healing journey.



"A safe space to me is being somewhere you know that even if you struggle, there are going to be people there who have your best interest at heart... I found that at the Cov, in people like Dr. Lydia."

— Damian, Covenant House PA Alum

"Dr. Lydia and the clinic staff helped me get my health to a place where I could obtain stable housing and eventually learn how to navigate the healthcare system on my own," he said. "I was able to build coping skills and better understand how people in my predicament deal with mental illness and mental health."

The support extended far beyond clinical care.

"Covenant House PA offered me a plethora of resources," Damian shared. "They connected me to programs like HopeWorks, helped me seek support for my GED, and even helped me navigate food insecurity. Most meaningful, though, were the relationships... with the staff, but also other residents. It was kind of like a brotherhood."

"I always felt like I could ask Dr. Lydia any questions without being ridiculed or looked down upon. I always felt like they saw me as human."

Today, Damian continues moving forward with confidence, stability, and hope.

"The Cov allowed me to feel comfortable and honestly have a chance at thriving."

Together, Damian and Dr. Sit's stories reflect the heart of Covenant House PA's model of care: healing begins when young people are treated not as problems to solve, but as human beings worthy of dignity, safety, and unconditional love.

Healing Beyond the Basics.

Caring for the Whole Person.

Healing looks different for every young person. That's why our integrative care model extends far beyond shelter, creating opportunities to restore confidence, reduce stress, build healthy relationships, and rediscover joy.

Because healing isn't one-size-fits-all, our programs include movement, creativity, connection, and experiences that nurture the whole person: mind, body, and spirit.

Our trauma-sensitive care is grounded in “[Reaching Teens](#)”, developed by our lead physician, Dr. Ken Ginsburg (page 27). First implemented in Philadelphia, this strength-based model now guides Covenant House International sites across the federation.



Animal Assisted Healing

Healing sometimes comes with four legs. Through equine therapy with [Pegasus Therapeutic Riding Academy](#) and visits from Ronon and [Comfort Caring Canines Therapy Dogs](#), young people experience trust, comfort, confidence, and unconditional acceptance.

These are just a few examples of our integrative programming, which also includes yoga, meditation, music lessons, sports, spiritual services, creative arts, writing workshops, and much more.

Creative Arts



The above artwork, **What Home Means to Me**, was created by a former resident, reminding us that creativity can help young people process their experiences, express hope, and imagine what's possible.

Whether through paint, poetry, or the written word, creative expression helps young people reclaim their voice and envision a brighter future.

Go - by the original ClevDonn

Those who live in the ghetto know the importance of survival
We work wit heart at our hardest wondering where did all the time go
Searching for peace in these violent streets
Live on the beat as the crime wave speaks
But history speaks for it self, there is a cause and effect
So much was lost it puts a life on pause
We don't know where to go but a road of hope
One of the toughest journeys to travel is a search of true soul
Living life in happiness is the ultimate goal
Greater than silver and gold is what lies in the dome
Let's think our way through this, let's think our way home

Bob's Story: Building Brighter Futures

For Bob Mauch, the mission of building healthier futures extends far beyond healthcare.

As CEO of Cencora and former Board Chair of Covenant House PA, Bob has spent nearly two decades helping strengthen a community where young people experiencing homelessness can find safety, stability, and a pathway forward. Yet his connection to the mission began with a simple realization.

"I was looking for a way to make an impact beyond the things I was doing professionally," Bob recalls. Then, by chance, he attended a panel discussion where Covenant House PA's then-Executive Director, John Ducoff, spoke about the organization's work. **"When I heard John describe the mission and the organization, I knew that was what I wanted to be involved with."**

At the time, Bob admits he knew very little about youth homelessness. "I would have been in the category of naïve and unaware," he says. What changed his perspective was learning that the young people Covenant House serves are often facing circumstances entirely outside their control. "The biggest realization was that these are amazing young people in difficult circumstances trying to work it out."

Over the years, it was the resilience of those young people that kept him engaged.

"If you see a youth shutting down or acting out in anger, you might assume that's a bad kid," Bob says. "I wish more people understood the opposite."

One memory stands above the rest. During his first Sleep Out, Bob thanked a police officer providing security outside the shelter. She shared that she had once been a resident at Covenant House herself. "To run into someone who was a success story—it was a positive double whammy," he says.



"If you can help, however you can help, then you should."

— **Robert Mauch**

Former Board Chair, Covenant House PA
CEO, Cencora | Longtime advocate whose leadership and partnership have helped expand Covenant House PA's reach, visibility, and impact.

Under Bob's leadership, Cencora has become Covenant House PA's largest corporate partner, helping expand awareness, volunteer engagement, and philanthropy. Last year, that partnership brought [Sleep Out](#) to Citizens Bank Park, introducing countless new supporters to the cause.

But for Bob, the true measure of impact remains unchanged. "We're often trying to measure outcomes," he says. "Those stories are amazing. But what I think about is the literal lifesaving activity that happens. You have someone who comes in and clearly needs help. Without that help, they could easily not be alive."

His message to the young people Covenant House serves is equally powerful: "You're my heroes. My heroes are those who are given much more difficult circumstances and still find a way to become who they're meant to be."

For Bob, building healthier futures begins there—with believing in the resilience, potential, and promise of every young person.

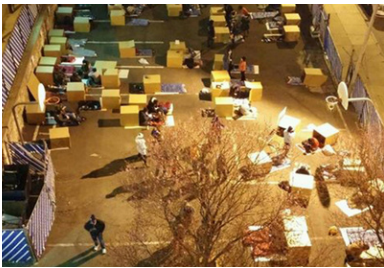
Making an Impact Though Events

Our events bring our community members together in powerful ways, raising critical funds, building awareness, and standing in solidarity with youth experiencing homelessness.

Sleep Out: One Night Changes Lives

Join the Movement.

Sleep Out is more than a fundraiser. It's a movement of people who believe every youth deserves a safe place to sleep. For one unforgettable night, hundreds of supporters come together to sleep outside in solidarity with youth experiencing homelessness, raising the critical funds that help them find safety, healing, and hope.



What began years ago in the parking lot outside our shelter (top left photo) has grown into one of Covenant House PA's most powerful annual traditions.

Last November, thanks to our presenting partner Cencora, the Philadelphia Phillies, and hundreds of supporters, Sleep Out at the Ballpark became the largest Sleep Out in Covenant House PA's history. Together, we raised more than \$1 million to support young people overcoming homelessness and trafficking.



Join us at Sleep Out at the Ballpark on Thursday, November 19, host your own DIY Sleep Out, bring a Student Sleep Out to your school or campus, or organize your own fundraiser.

To learn more or participate, visit: covenanthousepa.org/events/



For nearly two decades, the Henkels & McCoy Golf annual event has brought together businesses and community partners raising over \$2.5M to invest in our youth.

Join us on the greens Monday, September 21, for friendly competition and camaraderie while investing in the futures of the youth we serve. Learn more or register here:

henkelsgolf.com/



Many Ways to *Make a Difference*

Every act of generosity helps young people find safety, healing, and hope.



Donate

Help Bring Every Young Person Inside

It doesn't take much to show that you care. Your gift provides shelter, healthcare, crisis care and case management, education and workforce development, and life-changing support.

To support our 25th Anniversary Campaign, please visit: covenanthouseevents.org/PA25th



Partner
with Us

Three Ways to Be Part of Our Story

Our 25th anniversary year is a milestone that carries both credibility and momentum. Partner with us through corporate partnerships, individual giving, or legacy giving and align your name with a quarter century of hope.

To explore partnership opportunities, please visit: covenanthousepa.org/25th-anniversary/



Volunteer

Share Your Time. Change a Life.

We invite you to share your time, talents, and voice with the young people we serve. Whether you volunteer once or become a long-term partner, your presence can help remind youth that their community believes in them.

Interested? Please visit: covenanthousepa.org/volunteer/



None of this happens without you!

Acknowledgments: Partners in Hope

- Aberdeen Asset Management
- Accenture
- Altec Industries Inc.
- Amazon Business
- AmeriHealth Caritas
- Ameriprise Financial
- Arcadia University
- AWP Safety
- AYCO Charitable Foundation
- Badger Daylighting Corp
- Balaney Restoration LLC
- Bank Of America Charitable Foundation
- Baumeister-Reichard Trust C/o Catholic Social Services Of The Archdiocese Of Philadelphia
- BCR Funds Schwab Charitable
- The Benevity Community Impact Fund
- Berwind Trust
- Blair Park Services LLC
- BNY Mellon
- The Bock Foundation
- Bright Funds
- CAMCO Management Company
- Carita Foundation
- Caterpillar Inc.
- Cencora (AmerisourceBergen Foundation)
- The Charitas Foundation
- Charles Schwab & Co Inc Cust
- Chester County Community Foundation
- Chicago Community Foundation
- Chicago Title Insurance Company
- Chick-Fil-A - CFA (Corporate)
- Children's Hospital Of Philadelphia
- The Claddagh Fund
- Claneil Foundation
- Cisco Systems Capital Corporation
- Citizens Bank
- Citizens Bank Foundation
- City of Philadelphia: DHCD NPI | Office of Homeless Services | Office of Housing and Community Development | One Philly SNAP Program
- City Light & Power
- Clarence J Venne Foundation
- Cleveland Brothers
- Connelly Foundation
- Concrete Cutting Systems
- The Cotswold Foundation
- Covenant House International
- Covenant House New Jersey
- The Cozen O'Connor Foundation Inc.
- CME Associates
- Comstar Supply
- CRC Evans Pipeline International
- Cross Country Infrastructure Services
- Custom Truck One Source
- D & D Collision Services
- DAFgiving360
- DDA Credit
- The Daniel C and Thirza J Tanney Foundation
- The David A. and Helen P. Horn Charitable Trust
- Dejana Truck and Utility Equipment Company
- Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- The Dibona Family Foundation
- A Division of WESCO Distribution Inc. Hamby Young
- Dock Street Capital
- Duane Morris LLP
- Dynamic Advertising Solutions
- Elliott Lewis Corporation
- The Emerson Group
- Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church
- EPIC Insurance Brokers & Consultants
- Ernest D. Menold Inc.
- Ernst & Young
- Essent US Holdings Inc.
- Estee Lauder Companies
- Express 4X4 Truck Rental
- The Evans Foundation
- The Family Foundation
- Farber Foundation
- Fat Brands Foundation
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (EFSP)
- United Way Worldwide
- Federal Home Loan Bank of New York
- Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh
- Ferreira Construction
- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
- Fidelity National Title Group
- Five Below Foundation
- Five Together Foundation: Amy Holdsman
- Ford Motor Company

Acknowledgments: Partners in Hope

- Fox & Roach Charities
- The Gage Family Charitable
- Garnett Wood Products Co. Inc.
- Globus Medical
- Graybar
- Greater Phila Urban Affairs Coalition
- Greater Philadelphia Chapter of IFMA
- Green Ladies Golf Club
- Gordon Family Foundation
- Green Tree Community Health Foundation
- The H&K Group
- Hamilton Family Charitable Trust
- The Hassel Foundation
- Hearthstone Builder Foundation
- Heavy & General Construction
- The Hedera Group
- Henkels & McCoy
- Herc Rentals
- Heritage Toyota Harrisburg
- The Hillis Group
- The Honickman Companies
- Hospital Of The University Of Pennsylvania
- Howard Family Gift Fund
- Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation
- HUD Community Projects Funds
- HydroChem PSC
- IBEW Local 269 JATC
- IBEW Local Union 98
- INC. Gesumaria Contracting
- Inc Global Rental Company
- Inc. Virgin Unite USA
- Independence
- Independence Foundation
- ING North America INS Group
- Inc. Interpublic Group Of Companies
- James and Margaret Connolly Charitable Fund
- Jack and Mary McEntree Trust
- Jack Doheny Company
- Jackson National Life Insurance Company
- JJ Kane Auctioneers
- JMB 1 Enterprises LLC
- John Deere Construction & Forestry
- Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation
- Judi Marvel Charities Inc
- Julian A. and Lois G. Brodsky Foundation
- KHMA
- Kinder Morgan - American Petroleum Tankers
- Spring Point Partners LLC
- Square
- Kita, Gorman and Associates
- Kleinbard LLC
- Knapheide
- Legacy Foundation
- Lennar Foundation
- The Lemole Family Charitable Trust
- The Leo and Peggy Pierce Family Foundation
- Lifepath Christian Ministries
- LLC BDCI
- LLC The Garis Agency
- LLC Custom Truck & Equipment
- LLC POM Of Pennsylvania
- The Laborers International Union of N.A. Local 332
- The Lily Foundation
- LiUNA! Baltimore/Washington Construction & Public Employees
- Linde-Griffith Construction Co.
- Lockton Companies
- Lynmar Builders
- The Patricia Kind Family Foundation -
- The Philadelphia Foundation
- The Pilgrim Foundation
- MAFI Fund
- M.F. Irvine Companies LLC
- MFS Consulting Engineers & Surveyors
- Mabey Inc
- Macy's/Bloomingdale's
- The MartinBrower Company
- Maxim Crane Works
- McLean Contributionship
- Melito Inc
- Mobile Cause
- Morgan Stanley Gift
- Inc. Morgan Stanley Global Impact Funding Trust
- National Philanthropic Trust
- National Safe Place Inc.
- NESCO Specialty Rentals
- National Basketball Association
- New Cumberland Federal Credit Union
- New Jersey Heavy & General Construction Laborers
- Norris Sales Co. Inc.
- Northstar Contracting Group
- Philadelphia 76ers (Sixers)

Acknowledgments: Partners in Hope

- Philadelphia City Fund
- The Philadelphia Phillies
- PA Department of Community and Economic Development
- PA Housing Affordability Fund - PHARE Program
- PECO
- Pathfinders IT LLC
- PayPal
- Penn Virginia Corporation
- The Philadelphia School District
- PIDC
- PipeLine Machinery CAT
- PJP
- Plasterer Equipment Company
- PLC Center
- PNC CHARITABLE TRUSTS
- PNC Financial Services
- Power & Tel
- Premier Truck Rental
- PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
- Professional Realty Advisors
- Project Home
- Public Health Management Corporation
- R.E. Pierson Materials Corp.
- The Rachel And Drew Katz Foundation
- Raffle 2015
- Raymond James Charitable
- Reading Truck Equipment
- Reynolds Family Fund
- The Rhode Island Community Foundation
- The Rorer Foundation
- The Rice Family Foundation
- Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers
- Ruth Walker Trust
- Ryerson University
- SAP
- Sachs & Co. Matching Gift Program Goldman
- The Salvation Army
- The Savitz Organization
- The Scholler Foundation
- The Schoor Family Foundation
- Seer Interactive
- SEI
- Second Chance Foundation
- SPI Communications
- Scott Power and Utility Equipment
- Service Link
- Sorensen Family Foundation
- The Stanton L. Triester Family Trust
- Sterling
- Sunesys
- The Sunoco Foundation
- Sunoco Logistics
- Synchrony
- Terex Utilities
- TIAA
- The TJX Foundation
- Toll Brothers
- TransUnion
- Truist Financial Corporation
- TSNE MissionWorks
- U.S. Accounting Ernst and Young LLP
- Ulta Beauty
- UPS
- US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking
- United Rentals
- United Way Of New Jersey
- United Way of Southern Pennsylvania
- United Way UWGPSNJ
- Upper Dublin High School
- Urban Affairs Coalition
- Valley Youth House
- Van Ameringen Foundation
- Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
- Vermeer North Atlantic
- Versalift East LLC
- Vert Charitable Trust
- Villanova University
- Volvo Construction Equipment
- Voya Foundation
- W.W. Smith Charitable Trust - Brian Jones
- The Wawa Foundation
- The Weiner Family Foundation
- Willis Towers Watson
- WSFS Cares
- Yak Access
- York County CommunityFoundation
- York County Office of Children, Youth and Families
- Zimmerman-Heimbach Foundation
- ZONAR Systems
- Zurich American Insurance Company

Acknowledgments:

Champions of Change

- Anna Abbatemarco
- Kate Albertini
- Michael Appaneal
- Cameron Arimoto
- Christina Avino
- John Azzi
- Jonathan Baker
- John III Bantivoglio
- Patrick and Stephanie Battel
- Scott Balestrier
- Carl Becht
- Bill Bedrossian
- Reid Behrendt
- Andy Beittel
- Keith Bentley
- Claire Biermaas
- Curtis Bixel
- Fady Boctor
- Scott Boegner
- Kelly Bond
- Anastasia Bottos
- John Brabazon
- Estate of John Joseph Brabazon
- Robert Braden
- Phil Bruce
- Jalen Brunson
- Louis Bucky
- John P. & Barbara A. Byrne
- Elizabeth Campbell
- Evan Cantiello
- Leo and Suzanne Carlin
- Kevin Casey
- Alexia Clarke
- Megan Clark
- Jeffrey Cohen
- Ofelia Cohen
- Leonard Cohen Estate
- Brittany Colacurcio
- Marcia & Gregory Coleman
- John Colosimo
- Jim & Megan Connolly
- Jeff Cook
- Angela Cosenza
- Bill Coskey
- Siobhan Costanzo
- Robert Keebler Thomas and Courey
- Tara Cox
- Gale Crawford
- Susan Crowe
- Joseph Curcio
- Charles Cycon
- Christina Dannunzio
- Eric Datis
- Laura Davis
- Joanne and James Dearlove
- Greg Deavens
- Terrance Delaney
- Edmund Delussey
- Michele Depetta
- Aly Dial
- Charles Dickinson
- Barry Dobil
- Missy Dolaway
- Luimbe Domingos
- Richard Dominico
- John Dorval
- John Ducoff
- Connie M. Duffy-Hoffnagle
- Nadine Durham
- Brian Earle
- Aldridge Electric
- Brian Emmons
- Kenneth Enochs
- Lester A. Erlemeier
- Dan Esposito
- Ashley Fareno
- Jeffrey Fenton
- Timothy Filewicz
- John Foley
- Timothy Folk
- Jerry and Lucille Francesco
- Richard Freas
- Lois Friel
- Raymond B. Johnson

Acknowledgments:

Champions of Change

- Chris G Gaffney
- Kathryn Gaffney
- Michael Gallo
- Lisa Garber
- Lisa Garlatti
- Mark and Diann Garnett
- Julianna Geer
- Michael Giangjordano II
- Anthony Giovannone
- Ignace Goethals
- Reginald and Angela Goins
- Maxine Goldberg
- Robert Gorman
- Stephen Gothard
- Samantha Gower
- Stacy Grant
- Mary Beth H. Gray
- Karen Greene
- Jason Grelle
- Michelle Grimes
- Estate Of Abby Ann T Van Pelt Griscom
- Courtney Grugeon
- The Estate of Margaret M. Haely
- Helen Hammerschmidt
- Ronald Harmon
- J Haulenbeek
- Bill and Holly Hamrick
- Jordam Holbert
- Anne Marie and Terry Horner
- Erin Horvath
- William Hyman
- Paola Jarvis
- Brian Johnson
- Ellen Johnston
- Dr. Frances Katrishen and Nicos Sordis
- Tracey Keele
- Theresa Kehler
- Christopher Keith
- Meg Kelly
- Lauren Ketterman
- John A Kirick
- Brianna Klein
- Bell and Brecker Kleinbard
- Amy Kothari
- Luke Krauter
- Estate of William W. Langbartel
- Adam Lampl
- Jenn Lanting
- Peter Lapham
- Gerry Lenfest
- Isabella Lenhoff
- Jim Lim
- Michael Lorenca
- Stefanie Love
- Evelyn Lynch
- Susan and Robert Mauch
- Estate of Rosalie Marie Minder / Michael Morrison Prep
- Rod and Kerry Henkels
- Peter Maggio
- Reiner Mauer
- Christopher and Stacy Maus
- Mike Maxwell
- Nathaniel Mayer
- Michele and Lawrence McAlee
- Debbie McCabe
- Kathleen McCusker
- Laura and Marc McKenna
- Matt Markovich
- Mark Mayhew
- Megan McGowan
- Frank and Helen McGrane
- Matt McGraw
- Katie McGlade and Susan McAnally
- Dan McVay
- Ginette Meluso
- Steve Mermelstein
- Dan S. Meske
- Skye Michiels
- John H Moore
- Kevin Morgan
- Patrick Morrissey
- Daniel I Murphy
- Estate Of John L Murray

Acknowledgments:

Champions of Change

- Monica Naim
- The Nassivera Family
- Esperanza Neu
- Rebecca Newhall
- Debbie Nocito
- David Tysen Jr Nutt
- Melissa O'Brien
- Matthew Odhner
- Scott O'Neil
- Ryan Onushco
- Hugh Organ
- Neelam Patel
- Anessa Pappas
- Samuel Pauling
- Vince Pellegrini
- Serafina Perrone
- Al Perry
- Imran Pervaiz
- Jack and Sandra Piccininni
- Andrea Plescia
- Lara Price
- Tracy Pulos
- Vince Range
- Tate and Stephanie Rarick
- Dan and Lindsay Redfield Family
- Duane Reid
- Wil Reynolds
- Lenny Roberts
- Michael Roberts
- Stephen and Judy Rosa
- Brian Rueger
- Paul and Lisa Rumore
- Aaron Sandonato
- Mia Savoca
- Tom Schweizer
- KOLEEN Carr Seits
- Kathleen Sheehy
- Michael S Smith
- Jennifer Sparks
- Jason Springer
- Bill Stedman
- Mary Stengel Austen
- Eric Stowers
- Dan Stratton
- Jeff Sumner
- Maureen Swanson
- Joseph C Swift
- Thomas Sykes
- Helena M. Tatlow Estate
- Jeremy D. Taylor
- Julianne J Tewksbury
- Donald Toft
- Tara Tomasko
- James Turner
- Shannon Urban
- Joe Viesta
- Ellyn Jo Waller
- Edward & Sally Wagman Family
- Alissa Weiss
- Jane Wismer
- J Eustace Wolfington
- Seth Williams
- John Wright
- Francis J. Wunderlich
- Robert Zindell

Our Leadership

Board of Directors

- Robert Gorman, Chair (2013)
- Jen Sparks, Vice Chair & Secretary (2021)
- Jeff Cook, Treasurer (2014)
- Robert Mauch, Former Chair (2016)
- Mary Beth H. Gray, Former Chair (2021)
- Brie Darragh (2024)
- Christopher Keith (2023)
- Reiner Mauer (2025)
- Lawrence McAlee (2002)
- Deborah McCabe (2013)
- Monica Naim (2023)
- Wil Reynolds (2021)
- Brian Rueger (2021)

Senior Management

- Alexia Clarke, Chief Executive Officer
- Hugh Organ, Chief Program Officer
- Lusana Masrur, Interim Chief Development Officer
- Westly Mandoske, Director of Finance
- Frank Richardson, Director of People & Culture
- Yamily Applewhite, Program Director
- Dr. Ken Ginsburg, Medical Program Director
- Emmanuel Ehirim, Program Director
- Natalie Proud, Program Director
- Dr. Lydia Sit, Psychiatrist



Left: Team photo from 2016 staff retreat at Cranaleith Spiritual Center



Right: Team photo from 2026 staff retreat at Cranaleith Spiritual Center



**Covenant
House**
Pennsylvania

Covenant House PA is a nonprofit
501(c)(3) organization.

EIN/Tax ID number: 23-3003176

DUNS number: 126713036

Address: 31 E. Armat St, Philadelphia, PA 19144



215-951-5411 x 2802



development@covenanthousepa.org



www.covenanthousepa.org