Community. Connections. Inspiring. Hope.



2021 ANNUAL REPORT





66 If everybody had a place like this, the world would be an amazing place."

Robert "Poppy" Turner
Peace Alumni, October, 2021







66

Words cannot express the amount of gratitude I have for all the support you have provided us over the years—from financial assistance at Christmas when I was at one of life's lowest points, to helping get a camp scholarship, getting the kids interested in gardening and music, and just listening to me vent when everything felt like it was falling apart again during covid lockdowns.

There are just so many positive memories and moments that you have added to our lives. Thank you for becoming another family that we didn't know we needed in our life. We are so very grateful for everything you have done for us, and continue to do for the community."

> Peace Parent January, 2022



DEAR PEACE FAMILY -----

2021 was a special year for Peace, even as the pandemic continued to present extraordinary challenges and uncertainty for our families.

We celebrated a number of accomplishments, important moments, and a very special milestone last year. All made possible by the unwavering commitment our staff, volunteers, community partners, and donors make to Peace each year. Your continuing support helps plant the seeds for a positive and more hopeful future for our organization—and for the young people and families we serve.

Peace's 50th Anniversary gave us the chance to connect with people from all corners of our big diverse Peace Family—including Peace Alumni from across the country, our community partners, long-time volunteers and donors, and even a few neighbors who were there at the start. I will be forever grateful to all those who shared their stories and for the incredible outpouring of support we received for our 50th Campaign. Your generosity helps ensure a more secure financial future for Peace, making it possible for us to sustain important programs and invest in new initiatives.

With a 50-year track record of helping people change their lives, I'm often asked what the keys are to Peace Neighborhood's long-term success—how others could replicate what we do here and bring it to other communities. When reflecting on all that we seek to provide here at Peace, I often share three essential ingredients to building a successful community center:

A safe place that builds community and important connections with the surrounding neighborhood and the people we serve. At Peace it's important that each and every person who walks through our front door, no matter their story or struggles, feels welcomed and genuinely cared for with kindness, understanding, dignity, and mutual respect.

Equitable access to resources, tools, and the opportunities that people need to be able to move forward toward their goals. We don't do it alone. We partner with a number of community groups and organizations that help us provide a range of wraparound support. It does take a village.

Proven programs and services that are specifically designed to meet our kids' and families' needs—and help them break intergenerational cycles of poverty. Since 1971, Peace has continually adjusted our programs and invested in new initiatives to meet changing needs. We build upon what we know works and collaborate with others to leverage expertise and resources.

At Peace Neighborhood Center, we plant seeds for growth and change.

We might not see the full harvest or transformational change overnight. It takes patience, consistency, steady guidance, accountability, an unwavering commitment to the people we serve, and a whole lot of love. We never tire of watching those seeds blossom—especially when we get to see Peace kids grow up and find fulfilling careers where they get to pay it forward by helping others.

We still have work to do. And we still need you. Your continuing investment in Peace Neighborhood Center enables us to not only invest in new initiatives, but also to sustain those programs we know work. I do believe that together, we can help people change the trajectory of their lives and break cycles of poverty—for future generations and for our entire community.

Peace and Blessings,

Bonnie Billups, Jr.

Peace Neighborhood Center Executive Director

Photo courtesy of MLive

Building Community, Bridges, & Life-long Connections

Since 1971 Peace has provided a safe and friendly space that fosters community and special connections with our neighbors and our larger community. Our extended Peace Family not only includes the young people, adults, and families we currently serve—but also a wide and diverse community of Peace alumni, staff, volunteers, donors, local educators, professionals, businesses and community partners. All of you play an important role in supporting the positive connections, relationships, and learning experiences our kids and parents have at Peace. All plant important seeds for future growth and possibilities. The kind that helps break cycles of poverty.

10,300 Shared meals and snacks served from Peace's kitchen throughout the year.

From Rose Martin's early spaghetti dinners, providing a nutritional meal has always been an important part of youth programs, family nights, and special celebrations that bring our extended Peace Family and community together. It's also essential in making sure people receive basic sustenance. Today, nutritious meals and snacks continue to be an essential component of Peace programs and activities—from After-School Programs and Family Nights to Saturday morning support groups and field trips.

410 Parents, guardians, and their children participated in Peace Family Nights. Last year's themes included making Valentines, learning about Black History, literacy during March reading month—as well as our annual Summer Camp celebration and a special Thanksgiving dinner.

170 Local educators, professionals, musicians, teaching artists, volunteer tutors, and community partners connected with Peace kids and their families throughout the year to offer special learning experiences.

- 50⁺ Peace alumni, staff, and long-time volunteers shared their stories and perspectives to highlight the impact Peace has had in helping to change people's lives as part of Peace's 50th Anniversary Celebration.
- 200+ Members of our Peace Family—alumni, staff, long-time volunteers and donors, and community partners—gathered at Peace Neighborhood Center last June to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. A special thank you to Satchel's Barbecue, Rose Saxton for her homemade birthday cupcakes, and local artist David Zinn for his fun sidewalk chalk friends.

2021

COMMUNITY

CONNECTIONS





Life-long Connections

When Ruhi was in elementary school, she met with Katherine Selwa every week to get help with her homework, math, and reading. Katherine tutored Ruhi for four years before moving to Boston for college. Currently a sophomore at Grand Valley State, Ruhi still keeps in touch with her Peace tutor—who is now a Neurology Resident at Michigan Medicine and someone Ruhi continues to look to as both a mentor and friend.

A Bridge between Home & School

When schools moved back to in-person learning last Spring, Peace Staff mobilized a few cheering squads to surprise our youngest kids at local bus stops. All to offer encouragement and extra support as they boarded the bus to head to school for the first time since the pandemic started.



Building Community Around Literacy

Last Spring, Peace partnered with Abbott, Dicken, Haisley, and Lawton Elementary Schools to host a virtual Peace Family Night. We cooked and delivered over 50 meals to families' homes complete with special literacy supplies. Building Literacy Experts and Title I teachers from each school joined our Peace community online in Zoom break-out sessions to play fun literacy games with parents and their young children.

From special game nights and enrichment activities to our annual Thanksgiving dinner, Peace Family Nights are an important way to build community, incorporate fun learning opportunities, and foster meaningful connections for our families and their children.



Celebrating Important Milestones

To ensure a shy 5th grade student could participate in her drive-thru graduation ceremony at Dicken Elementary School, Peace decorated one of our mini vans and escorted Ennocence and her father to her first graduation! It was also the very first graduation ceremony that her father has been able to attend.

66

One of the things I appreciate most about Peace is how they bridge the gap that can sometimes be there between schools and families ... When families see us here in a safe, friendly space, I think that makes them more likely to feel comfortable talking with us at school. And it also, I hope, gives the message that we're all a team ... and our end goal is for their child to have the best experience and education they can."

Colleen McAlinden
Title I Teacher, Abbott Elementary School

Access to Resources & Special Opportunities

Each year, Peace Neighborhood Center provides a comprehensive range of programs and wraparound support to ensure our youth, adults, and families have access to the resources, assistance, and opportunities they need to be able to learn, work, heal, and achieve the goals they have set for themselves. In 2021, Peace helped over 350 people address a variety of challenges, stress, and uncertainty associated with the pandemic.



- **125** Peace kids attended our 2021 Summer Youth Programs where they had the chance to explore new interests, ideas, and places—and make new friendships. Educational workshops, special interest clubs, local field trips, and conversations with local professionals offered Peace youth valuable learning opportunities that plant seeds for future possibilities.
- **146** Elementary, middle, and high school students received individualized academic support throughout the school year and participated in a variety of enrichment activities and workshops.
 - 4 Peace high school graduates started college in September. Currently, 24 Peace youth attend college. Our College & Career Prep program provides continuing support throughout college that includes: a quiet study space at Peace when they're home, periodic check-ins, care packages, transportation to and from school, and special assistance to cover books and incidental living expenses not covered by scholarships.

WRAPAROUND SUPPORT -

- Adults received individualized case management services, advocacy, and support to connect them to resources and vital opportunities.
- 98 Young people, parents, and adults participated in support groups at Peace, giving them a chance to meaningfully connect with others, and share their stories and concerns:
 - Two Saturday Groups: Rising Sons for boys and STARS (Sisters Together Achieving Real Success) for girls;
 - "Talk About it Thursdays" for Peace Parents; and
 - Weekly substance abuse meetings for adults in recovery.

\$37,203

165

In financial assistance and emergency aid helped households across Washtenaw County cover rent, utilities, car repairs, health related expenses, and other unexpected bills. Peace provides an essential safety-net for families who live near or below the poverty line.

348 Households received special food assistance: school lunch deliveries during remote learning, fresh produce at Peace's weekly food distributions, turkeys at Thanksgiving, and grocery gift cards to ensure Peace families had enough food on their table.



Individual Academic Support

In September, we pivoted back to Peace's traditional After-School programming for elementary, middle and high school students. We were especially grateful to be able to welcome back volunteer tutors who help students with homework and special learning challenges.



Transformational Experiences

Last Summer, Peace middle school student Zaron traveled to Europe to reconnect with a Dutch classmate he befriended in elementary school and protected from bullies. Understandably worried about letting her young son travel alone, Peace helped alleviate Zaron's mom's concerns and gave Zaron spending money to be able to bring home a few gifts for his family. 66

The younger kids that I've tutored are so happy to sit with an adult at the end of the day ... It's just a given that this is a safe place, that this is a happy place, that this is a place where [kids] are going to get a snack and see their friends ... It doesn't matter how long my day has been, when I leave after tutoring, my heart is so light. There's no way you can get that feeling anywhere else."

> Mary Louise O'Connell Volunteer Tutor



Camp Scholarships

Twenty Peace kids received scholarships to attend overnight camps in Michigan through our partnership with Washtenaw Camp Placement. Peace helped kids get ready and covered camp supplies. For some, it was the first time they've traveled away from home without family an opportunity for kids to spread their wings, explore new places, and discover their strengths.



Educational Experiences

Middle school students in Peace's Leadership Development Camp had the chance to connect with local professionals, role models, and community partners to explore a range of topics, including: potential career paths with Google, a workshop on adolescent health and consent with the Corner Health Center, and a discussion about the legal and justice systems with Washtenaw County District Judge Miriam Perry.

66

I feel like there were a lot of people here that I could look up to. I saw a lot of people who looked like me who were successful. . . . I always knew I wanted to go to school and that I wanted to be a nurse. Having the support that I had here [at Peace] made me feel confident that I could excel because I could get the resources I needed."

Teriana
Peace Alum, Nurse Practitioner



Proven Programs

YOUTH PROGRAMS // STRENGTHENING EARLY LITERACY

Peace's Youth Programs have always been central to our mission to create self-sufficient and positive community leaders. Peace offers young people a continuum of support throughout their growth and development—through an integrated range of age-appropriate programming. Individualized academic support, family literacy activities, nutritional meals, enrichment experiences, social connections, and vital emotional support are all part of the portfolio of services we provide youth from elementary school to their high school graduation, with continued support through college. Peace helps young people find their greatness—with the expectation that they will set their own goals, work hard, and continue to learn to build a path forward toward college or trade school and a fulfilling career.

SUMMER CAMPS // TRANSFORMATIONAL ROAD TRIPS

Peace's Summer Youth Programs provide a safe place for kids to learn, play, and explore beyond their neighborhood—connecting them to opportunities they otherwise would not have access to. Our summer camps provide different experiences targeted to elementary and middle school youth. A special Ninth Grade Academy helps students prepare for and successfully transition to high school.

An important right of passage for Peace youth is the opportunity to become Counselors-in-Training and ultimately work at Peace during the summer. A select group of older youth also earn a spot to participate in transformational road trips, where they get the chance to travel across the country to tour college campuses and visit historical civil rights sites and museums, national parks, and other points of interest. Beyond fun, these road trips offer young people valuable learning experiences that have a lasting impact in helping to shape their identity and future.

FAMILY ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMING

We learned a long time ago that in order for Peace to help a young person break the cycle of poverty, we need to engage their whole family. Our Family Enrichment Program offers family-centered activities, support groups, skills workshops, and vital support to help parents address a range of issues. Parents with children who are enrolled in Peace's After-School Programs are required to participate.

WRAPAROUND SUPPORT

Peace offers a range of individualized case management services and wraparound support that include: advocacy, food, transitional housing, counseling and support groups, and emergency assistance to cover unexpected expenses. All to help those who live near or below the poverty line manage extraordinary challenges and stressors, which have been exacerbated during the pandemic.

Investing in New Initiatives

A New Family Wellness Program at Peace

Peace Staff have been designing a new integrated wellness program that takes a holistic approach to helping our families improve their health and well-being. The program aims to provide tools, connections, and supports for Peace families by integrating mental, physical, emotional and spiritual wellness practices that help cultivate personal growth & build resiliency.

In designing and finetuning the program's individual components, Peace staff will collaborate with community partners, research existing programs and best practices, and survey our own families. Through our initial interviews, surveys, and conversations, Peace has learned that many parents are looking for special connections, support, and tools to help them navigate life's challenges. An important component of the Wellness Program will be onsite individual therapy with two of Peace's licensed clinical social workers to help families address any trauma and underlying mental health issues that impede healing and contribute to negative cycles.

This Spring, Peace is launching our pilot program that includes counseling and two six-week programs:

- A yoga class on Wednesday evenings with a certified yoga instructor, and
- A Mom2Mom support group on Saturday mornings facilitated by Peace's two licensed clinical social workers, who are also both mothers.

All programming will take place at Peace's new Wellness Center a recently refurbished space on the first floor of Peace House across from our main facility. To encourage active participation, Peace will be providing childcare, transportation, and special incentives. As with all Peace programs, we will continually evaluate the program's effectiveness, making adjustments based on our families' feedback, participation, and outcomes.



FAMILY & ADULT PROGRAMS



Thank you to all who supported the 50th Campaign!

Your collective generosity has helped build a more secure financial future for Peace.

Over 300 donors have made commitments totalling \$1.3 million to build two important savings accounts: Peace's Above & Beyond Fund and the Peace endowment at the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. Both funds will give Peace additional financial capacity to be able to invest in *and* sustain proven programs and initiatives that will provide meaningful and lasting impact for our youth and families.

\$50,000 - \$100,000+

Three Anonymous Donors African American Endowment Fund *at the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation with support from the DTE Energy Foundation* Timothy and Robin Damschroder Steve and Judy Dobson Rita and Chuck Gelman * Dave and Louise Lutton Stan and Robin Mendenhall Mike and Debbie Tirico

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Thank you to all who supported the 50th Campaign!

Your collective generosity has helped build a more secure financial future for Peace.

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Building a Sustainable Future for Peace 2021 Peace Financial Summary

In 2021, our community of supporters provided \$1.31 million in annual support to help Peace meet the increased need we have witnessed throughout the pandemic. Nearly 80%, or \$1.03 million, came from private sources: individual donors, family foundations, local businesses, churches, and community groups. Government grants for Covid relief and basic human services provided 21% of our annual operating support.

Our community's extraordinary generosity has enabled Peace to sustain and continually adjust our programming, add staff where needed, increase emergency assistance, and expand case management support to meet our families' changing needs.

Peace's low administrative costs, coupled with the support from hundreds of volunteers, also means we can continue to take care of our young people and families at very low cost.

OTHER GRANTS FAMILY ENRICHMENT CASE MANAGEMENT STATE OF MICHIGAN **ADULT SERVICES INDIVIDUAL DONORS COVID FUNDING** 6% 5% **UNITED WAY ADVOCACY** 9% 5% 28% 4% ANN ARBOR HOUSING SATELLITE CENTERS COMMISSION 7% YOUTH 7% 49% PROGRAMS **PEACE HOUSE NEW WELLNESS** WASHTENAW COUNTY 9% 7% **ADMINISTRATION** 12% 4% **BEOUESTS &** LOCAL CHURCHES & LEGACIES 15% SERVICE GROUPS **FUNDRAISING &** 27% **COMMUNICATIONS (5)** LOCAL BUSINESSES. CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

2021 ANNUAL FUNDING SUPPORT

2021 ANNUAL EXPENSES

SUPPORT AND REVENUE ⁽¹⁾		
Individual Contributions	\$	372,018
Corporate Support and Foundations	\$	352,665
Churches, Community Groups, & Other Organizations	\$	56,343
Legacies & Bequests	\$	160,947
Washtenaw County	\$	119,430
Ann Arbor Housing Commission	\$	95,467
Washtenaw United Way	\$	18,514
State of MI Covid Funding	\$	60,000
Other Grant Funding	\$	74,023
Program Fees ⁽²⁾	\$	0
Building Rental Fees	\$	450
Miscellaneous Income & Reimbursements	\$	6,145
Total Annual Support and Revenue	\$ 1,316,002	

EXPENSES ⁽¹⁾		
Youth Programs	\$	480,675
Family Enrichment Program	\$	49,780
Case Management: Adult Services	\$	107,431
Advocacy & Direct Assistance	\$	37,203
Satellite Centers	\$	67,000
Peace House	\$	9,570
Wellness Program Design & Development	\$	10,260
Administration	\$	68,017
Fundraising ⁽⁵⁾	\$	149,000
Total Annual Expenses	\$	978,936
Change in Net Assets ⁽⁴⁾	\$	377,067

2021 50th Campaign Contributions \$ 880,610⁽³⁾

NOTES:

1. 2021 financials shown here are preliminary, unaudited figures for Peace's Annual Support and Expenses.

Audited financials will be publicly available upon final receipt and approval of Peace's independent annual audit. Expected June 30, 2022.

- 2. Peace typically charges a minimal fee for Summer Day Camp, but chose to waive all fees in 2021 to alleviate financial hardships during the pandemic.
- 3. Includes 2021 50th Campaign payments only. Total Commitments to Peace's 50th Campaign were \$1.3 million which reflects: \$112,500 in gifts made in 2020; \$77,250 in direct gifts to Peace's Endowment, and outstanding pledge commitments totalling \$244,090.
- 4. Change in Net Assets reflects 4 1/2 months of operating reserves.
- 5. Peace's fundraising and communications expenses, which are typically 9%, reflect additional costs associated with Peace's 50th Campaign.



THANK YOU!

Your generous annual support in 2021 was essential in helping Peace meet the increased need and challenges the pandemic continued to present for our youth and families.

\$50,000 - \$100,000+

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Dr. Diana Little was a great friend of Rose Martin's, and the two would often take long walks together. A native of Detroit and a graduate of Wayne State Medical School, Dr. Little was also one of the few women who practiced obstetrics and gynecology as an OBGYN when she first started her medical practice. She had over 58 years of experience treating women as a private practitioner, primarily through St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital.

As a long-time donor to Peace, Dr. Little believed deeply in the wraparound support Peace provides mothers and families. She passed away last April at the age of 82, and left a meaningful gift to Peace as part of her estate.

Her generous bequest will be used to support Peace's case management services and wraparound support — including Peace's new Wellness Program.

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Reflections from a recent Peace Staff retreat

What we Do:

- We are a one stop shop for families.
- We take care of people.
- We keep people safe. We stabilize.
- We are the people to call with the best and worst news.
- We plant seeds and pull weeds.
- We strengthen our community.
- We inspire and find greatness in others.
- We create hope.
- We advocate.
- We create traditions.
- We connect communities.
- We are family. We are the village.

Why we come to Peace every day:

To serve and to learn. To make a difference. To be someone's person. Because we care. Because Peace is an authentic place. Because Peace is family. Because we can be real. Because I see how connections make a difference. To change lives.



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OUR VISION

A community where personal growth, opportunity and diversity are constant; the cycle of poverty and social and economic inequality has been broken.

OUR MISSION

To provide programs for children, families, and individuals who are affected by social and economic problems—to help them discover options, enhance skills, and make choices that lead to self-sufficiency and positive community involvement.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **1.** We value openness, consultation, diversity and inclusion.
- **2.** We prioritize our programs. We create and implement new ideas for optimum effectiveness.
- **3.** We nurture our clients to reach their highest potential.
- **4.** We employ competent, motivated people, and provide the training, tools, environment, and opportunities for them to succeed with our clients.
- 5. We focus on what we do best, and collaborate with those who are "best in class".
- **6.** We value our donors' and sponsors' involvement & seek to include them.
- **7.** We address inequality in ways that help our community learn, heal and change.

8. WE CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES.

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Thank you for being part of our Peace Neighborhood Family and for helping us provide a safe place and loving home for many in our community.



To stay connected to all that happens at Peace Neighborhood Center:

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For more stories on Peace's impact, please visit: peaceneighborhoodcenter.org/about-us/50-stories

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