

# Moments of Bliss, Grace, & Growth





2022 ANNUAL REPORT





bliss /blis/ noun perfect happiness; great joy









When I moved back home [to Ann Arbor], I signed up for the shelter and enrolled my kids in Peace .... I just wanted them to be a part of Peace. It was one of my better decisions. Me and the kids are happier and healthier because of Peace. I try and make sure we attend every single thing we can because it's like the more I come, the better I feel. Just saying thank you seems so little."

– Peace Mother, June, 2022



## **DEAR PEACE FAMILY**

Absolute Bliss. Just how often in life have you found yourself experiencing such a thing? I know that in a world seemingly filled with pain, it can be easy to miss or forget about those moments. They may get drowned out by bad news, worry, or the stress that can often invade our everyday existence. It can be easy to lose sight of our blessings, leaving us feeling lost or overwhelmed by a world we can't control or understand.

That is why I feel honored to be a part of what happens here at Peace Neighborhood Center. Every day, I get to witness moments of absolute bliss, growth, and grace—understanding how important those moments are to each individual I have the privilege to know.

One example that comes to mind happened last summer on one of our Transformational Road Trips. These trips take Peace youth on a journey to a place they otherwise might not be able to go, offering them experiences and a view of the world beyond what they previously thought possible. When we finally got to Florida after traveling 1,400 miles in the van, nine boys got to see the ocean—many for the first time. And one of those moments of absolute bliss came roaring to life. These boys, who often try to act older than they are, poured out of the van, kicked off their shoes, and raced across the sand to *play* in the surf. All with gigantic smiles. When I think of all that we try to accomplish on these trips, I can't help but think back to the pure joy of that moment shining on those young faces. Absolute bliss.

What about closer to home? Here at Peace, I also get to witness moments of grace and real growth in all the lives we touch. In our new Wellness Program, we help address a lot of trauma and pain, by giving parents the space to open up and heal within a caring, supportive environment. Even there, with all the heartache that's addressed, we still witness moments of grace, as parents listen to and support one another. And recently, when a much-loved six year old girl passed away unexpectedly, we witnessed so much grace in our community's response—including the many ways our own Peace families stepped up to wrap a grieving family with love and caring support.

So when friends try to remind me that this world is a dark place, I cannot agree. I've seen moments when our kids experience true joy; witnessed too much growth; and been moved by the grace and strength among our Peace Family to be entirely pessimistic about the world or its future. At Peace Neighborhood Center we always seek to find the greatness in everyone and to be present every day—to capture those moments when someone's smile or their offer to help says it all.

As I look ahead, I see more great things on Peace's horizon—more lives touched and more souls healed. We have the opportunity to invest in a new initiative and footprint in Ypsilanti Township. It's a unique opportunity to bring the Peace model and our 51 years of experience to an underserved area of Washtenaw County—and partner with other local agencies to help Ypsilanti residents take steps toward their own transformational journey. While big news for Peace, helping to bring about change for more families in our wider community is an inevitable step in the legacy of growth and service that Rose Martin helped steer this organization toward decades ago.

Peace Family, we are so thankful for your continuing support of all that we do. Countless moments like the ones we share here are possible because of your continued commitment and investment in our work. We could not do it without you. And that is my bliss, my hope—that by working together, we have the power to change lives. Thank you!

With Gratitude,

Bonnie Billups, Jr., Executive Director







# An Integrated Portfolio of Programs and provide opportunities for learning that seed future growth and possib

## **AFTER-SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAMS**

#### **REACH: Elementary K-5**

- One-on-One Tutoring / Homework Help
- Social / Emotional Learning: Identifying & Managing Feelings & Emotions
- Early Literacy for Students/Families
- Recreational Activities
- Enrichment / Extended Learning Activities

#### A/Y Alternatives for Youth: Middle School

- One-on-One Tutoring / Homework Support
- Academic, Study & Organizational Skills
- Community Service & Leadership
- SMART Goals
- Social / Emotional Learning: How to Cultivate Positive Relationships & Support
- Extended Learning Activities & Workshops

#### **College & Career Prep: High School**

- One-on-One Tutoring / Homework Support
- Social / Emotional Learning: Self-Advocacy & Independence
- Educational Workshops & Field Trips
- College Applications & Essays Support
- College Visits

Peace works closely with parents, teachers, and schools—providing a critical connection between home, and school to help ensure kids stay on track academically, graduate from high school, and can go on to college or a skilled trade.

## SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS

#### Summer Day Camp: Elementary K-5

- Special Interest Clubs: Visual Arts, Dance, Gardening, Tennis, etc.
- Tuesdays at Silver Lake
- Weekly Field Trips to Regional Parks, Museums, Zoos & Community Sites that provide fun enrichment activities and extended learning experiences
- Quiet Time for Reading & Journaling
- Extended Child Care

#### Leadership Development Camp 6-8

- Special Interest Clubs including Design / Build, Nutrition, etc.
- Leadership Training & Community Service
- Educational Workshops and Extended Learning **Opportunities with Community Partners**
- Conversations & Visits with Local Professionals
- Academic Support
- Transformational Road Trips

#### 9th Grade Academy/Counselor-in Training

- Educational Workshops
- Setting Goals & Expectations for High School
- Visits to Local College Campuses
- Camp Counselor & Leadership Training

#### Paid Teen Camp Counselors: 10 - 12

# **360° Support —** ilities.

## FAMILY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

- One-on-One Parent Check-ins Twice/Year
- Parenting Workshops
- Themed Family Nights with activities and meals that build community and important connections
- Early Literacy for Students/Families
- Community Activities & Events that foster engagement with our wider community

## WRAPAROUND SUPPORT

- Weekly Food Distribution & Grocery Cards
- Emergency Assistance to help households across Washtenaw County cover rent, utilities, car repairs and other unexpected expenses
- Case Management Support includes: advocacy, guidance, and access to community resources and referrals.

Peace serves 172 households who are enrolled in programs and/or who live at three public housing communities: West Arbor, Maple Meadows & Baker Commons.

Advocacy & Referrals to Community Resources

### WELLNESS PROGRAM

All Wellness Program activities take place at Peace's new Wellness Center.

#### "Low-risk" Wellness Activities

Activities designed to foster trust & engagement; build community & important social connections; and improve self-awareness, mindfulness, physical health, and resilience. Examples include: yoga, walk & talk, journaling, arts & crafts, vision boards, and special outings.

#### **Bi-Weekly Support Groups**

Parents have the opportunity to discuss shared challenges & experiences, and share strategies. An important benefit of support groups is the peer learning, social connections & mutual support parents receive from one another.

#### Individual & Family Counseling

Intensive trauma-informed care and behavioral therapy tailored to a client's needs with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker at Peace.







## Life-Changing Support —

that helps youth, individuals and families achieve their goals.

### \$75,000+ IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

and additional in-kind support helped 740 households across Washtenaw County as follows:



2022

IMPACT



180 K-12 YOUTH

attended After-School and Summer Programs



## 12,200 MEALS Served at Peace Programs, helps alleviate food insecurity and builds community & connections

#### **172 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED**

Includes those enrolled in programs and/or those residents receiving services in 3 public housing communities: Maple Meadows, West Arbor, and Baker Commons

CAUCASIAN 12% LATINX 4% ASIAN 1% AFRICAN-AMERICA72% ATHER 8%

## Life-Changing Experiences —

that widen perspectives and spark moments of genuine awe, curiosity, and bliss.

Last summer, Peace was able to offer a full menu of summer camp activities, including three Transformational Road Trips, for the first time since the onset of the pandemic. Middle School girls traveled to Atlanta where they toured the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center to learn more about his work and legacy; visited two historic black colleges; and explored the Georgia Aquarium. Junior Stars, a small group of rising 5th grade girls whose mothers participate in support groups, enjoyed a "spa weekend" along Lake Michigan as part of their own wellness retreat. Middle school and high school boys headed south to the Miami area.

All unforgettable moments that Peace youth had the opportunity to experience last year.



But Well Worth the Trips!

Seeing the Atlantic Ocean for the first time; how "huge and clear" it is, and how when you cast a reel to fish, it never hits bottom. Using squishy octopus as bait on a fishing trip. Seeing an alligator nest in the Everglades, and learning to be careful so you don't set off a protective mother. Sawgrass and how sharp it is with little teeth along the side. Visiting with a "pretty cool" Miami artist at his home and studio, and seeing his creativity reflected in the outdoor shed he built with crates and pipes.

These are a few of the memories from Florida the boys recounted recently. When asked to share what they learned or gained from their trip, their responses were more nuanced and reflective. One shared, "you can bond with and get to know people [other Peace kids] you haven't seen or spent time with before." Another pointed out that they learned something new everywhere they went.

Even "looking up random facts on our phone" during the ride also made the list. To make a long ride more interesting, Bonnie always encourages kids to be curious—to close their social media and use their phones as an informational tool. When an exit sign in Dayton, Ohio includes the Edwin C. Moses Boulevard, the question, "I wonder what that guy did to get a street named after him?" gets kids Googling to see what he accomplished. The bonus? They earn points along the way to use for a small upgrade later, like dessert.

These trips have always been an important point of passage for those Peace kids who earn a spot. For many, it's the first time they've had the chance to travel that far from home without their parents or families. To see places they've never been before. To learn something new at every place they visit. To bond in a way that only sharing close quarters and new experiences can provide. Even making sandwiches during pit stops helps to bring these young people together. Every moment counts, and widens their perspective on how they see the world. All seed future growth and possibilities.











To learn more from those who participate, watch the 8-minute Wellness Program Video:



## Improving Health & Well-being —

in ways that build resilience and help families heal.

Throughout the agency's 51-year history, Peace has always piloted new initiatives or pivoted existing programs to address our community's changing needs. During COVID, as we witnessed an increase in stress, anxiety, and depression, we expanded programming to include support groups for teens and mothers. And we knew we had to do more.

This winter marks the anniversary of Peace's new Wellness Program. A natural extension of the wrapround support Peace provides our families, the new Wellness program gives parents the opportunity, time, and space to focus on and improve their health & well-being.

We have long suspected that over 75% of Peace families suffer from unaddressed mental health issues or some kind of family trauma that they bring to the table every day. When designing the new program, we spent time surveying and meeting oneon-one with parents to better understand their needs, the depth and details of their struggles, and the kinds of support and activities they would appreciate and participate in. What we learned confirmed our parents' need for a special place and programming that gave them the opportunity to heal.

The new Wellness Program is intentionally designed to offer multiple access points and ways for parents to participate. Wellness Activities like yoga, walk & talk, and journaling build trust and community—and help parents develop mindfulness, greater selfawareness, and resilience. Bi-weekly support groups have fostered important peer support, shared learning, and a source of understanding and mutual support that reminds parents they are not alone in their struggles. And for those in crisis or who need more intensive help, individual and family therapy with Peace's licensed clinical social workers has offered an important "life-line" and source of support.

One year in, the feedback we've received has been overwhelmingly positive—and we've witnessed a growing bond between parents that has strengthened their community. Participants regard the new Wellness Center as a safe and welcoming place—a "brave space" where they have room to shed and share—within a supportive and caring environment.

We've definitely been through some big challenges this year. Being here at the Wellness Center has definitely helped me open up... being okay and comfortable with sharing things. [Having] an ear to listen to what I've been through...being able to come here and share with other moms, getting their feedback and input. That's helped a lot. Our community needs more programs like this."

We have learned a lot in the program's first year, and have witnessed important growth. It's been gratifying to watch parents develop closer relationships. And when a young girl explains that "you can't just hide your feelings away from everybody you love because they won't really know [what you're going through]. If you put on a fake smiling face, it really doesn't help you," — you know she's listening, learning, and growing. Those are the moments we get to witness here at Peace.



Kemba Braynon, an Associate at Quinn Evans Architects, is part of the design team for the new HUB Community Center. She also has a special connection to Peace and this project, as one of the first to stay at Peace House as a newly single mom. A transformational experience she credits as helping her put her life back together and move forward in her career.

66 It meant so much to me that the first time I walked into Peace House, it was such a beautiful and welcoming space. Living there helped me hold my head up, and served as a reminder that I meant something and that everyone, despite their life circumstances, deserve well-designed spaces where they can thrive. Staying there was such a pivotal experience for me and my family. I loved being there and appreciated the 360° support I received. That experience made me realize that creating beautiful and welcoming spaces makes such a difference for the people who use them... And it completely changed my outlook on the kinds of projects I want to work on as an architect."

## A New HUB Community Resource Center —

an opportunity to serve Ypsilanti residents more effectively, where they live.

Peace has often been asked if we could replicate what we do here and bring it to other communities. A year ago such an opportunity presented itself.

Our long-time community partner Zion Lutheran Church approached Peace about taking ownership of an 8,000 square foot property in Ypsilanti Township, formerly St. Mark's Church. Zion's goal was to transfer ownership to a trusted organization who could serve the surrounding community.

Sound familiar? It's how Peace Neighborhood Center got our start at 1111 North Maple Road 51 years ago!

We know from experience that a successful community center should provide three essential ingredients:

- a trusted, safe, and welcoming environment;
- equitable access to resources & opportunities; and
- a portfolio of interconnected programs & services that can provide 360° support.

We also know that to be successful, we can not "pack up" an exact replica of what we do here in Ann Arbor and drop it in the center of a new community—with its own history, needs, and priorities.

Rather, Peace's goal is to partner with other local agencies who serve Ypsilanti residents. Over the last 10 months, Peace has been deeply immersed in an ongoing discovery phase to:

- better understand the specific needs and priorities of area residents;
- learn about current programs, any gaps in services, or barriers to access; and
- meet with and identify potential community partners.

From that process, nine local agencies have pledged to form a new nonprofit Coalition which will work together to deliver a portfolio of programs and services that will work in synergy to serve Ypsilanti residents more effectively.

Peace envisions providing 20-30% of the programming, while nonprofit partners will provide the rest. In addition to Peace, the initial Coalition partners include:

- Food Gatherers
- Habitat for Humanity
- FedUp Food Ministries
- Community Family Life Center
- Educate Youth
- Mentor-2-Youth
- Our Community Reads
- 2 Marines

Peace has plans to renovate and transform the facility located at 1515 Harris Boulevard into a new HUB Community Resource Center—a multi-use flexible community space that can also serve as a home and convening platform for the Coalition. Peace is currently working with Quinn Evans Architects and Phoenix Contractors. Both have experience working together and transforming spaces in Ypsilanti.

At Peace, we know that to help people change the trajectory of their lives, we need to take a holistic and comprehensive approach to serving residents at a safe, trusted, and welcoming place embedded in their own community. With your support, we seek to replicate our success in Ann Arbor through a new partnership and space in Ypsilanti.

## **Sustaining Vital Programs & Services** 2022 Peace Financial Summary

In 2022, our community of donors invested over \$1.27 million in Peace Neighborhood Center through their annual gifts. Your extraordinary generosity made it possible for Peace to sustain our core programming, return to offering summer Transformational Road Trips, invest in a new Wellness Program, and help Peace meet the increased need we continue to witness, even as we emerged from the pandemic.

80%, or \$1.02 million, of our annual operating support came from private sources: individual donors, family foundations, local businesses, churches, and civic groups. Government grants and reimbursements to support health & human services provided 15% of Peace's annual operating support. And Peace's low administrative costs, coupled with the in-kind support from hundreds of volunteers and our community partners, means we can continue to take care of our young people and families at very low cost.

**2022 ANNUAL EXPENSES** 



#### 2022 ANNUAL FUNDING SUPPORT

SUPPORT AND REVENUE (1)		
Individual Contributions	\$	617,507
Family / Private Foundations	\$	281,289
Churches, Civic Groups, & Other Organizations	\$	104,404
Corporate Support / Local Businesses	\$	17,604
Washtenaw United Way	\$	16,742
Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation	\$	35,000
Washtenaw County (CBCO / OCED)	\$	88,500
Ann Arbor Housing Commission	\$	107,000
Program Fees <sup>(2)</sup>	\$	2,600
Building Rental Fees <sup>(3)</sup>	\$	3,861
Total Annual Support and Revenue	\$	1,274,507

EXPENSES <sup>(1)</sup>		
Youth After-School & Summer Programs	\$	516,465
Family Enrichment	\$	37,580
Wellness Programming	\$	78,891
Case Management: Adult Service	\$	98,750
Advocacy & Emergency Assistance	\$	88,236
Satellite Centers	\$	84,503
Peace House	\$	5,987
Administration	\$	97,113
Fundraising	\$	79,571
Capital Improvements	\$	84,785
Total Annual Expenses	\$	1,171,881

Change in Net Assets \$ 102,626

2022 50th Campaign Pledge Payments \$ 122,931 <sup>(4)</sup>

#### NOTES:

- 1. 2022 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, 2023.
- 2. Peace charges our families a minimal fee for Summer Day Camp.
- 3. Peace rents our facilities for private events to help cover the cost of utilities and cleaning.
- 4. Includes 2022 50th Campaign pledge payments, which have been invested in two long-term savings accounts, which provide available operating support when needed.

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Your collective generosity and continued annual support has been essential in helping Peace sustain vital programs and services that help over 800 households across Washtenaw County.

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## OUR VALUED COMMUNITY PARTNERS















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Special thanks to Peace's Community Partners who provide multi-year funding support, expertise, special services, in-kind support, and/or volunteers to help Peace deliver all our Youth and Family Programming. We couldn't do it without you.



For over twenty years Peace has partnered with the Ann Arbor Housing Commission to be able to provide programming, activities, and small events at two housing communities

on Maple Road: West Arbor and Maple Meadows. Having access to additional space for youth programs was especially important during COVID when Peace hosted students in-person to support virtual learning. Over the last ten years, AAHC has provided generous financial support to help cover the cost of Peace's Program staff who support both communities—as well as case management services for adult residents at Baker Commons.



It would be hard to overstate how important the United Way of Washtenaw County has been for Peace since the agency's founding.

UWWC has provided financial support for Peace through donor designations and direct grant support. **Over the last 25 years, over \$900,000 in direct grant funding** has been instrumental in helping Peace invest in new initiatives and sustain existing programming.

#### In 2022, UWWC awarded two important grants:

- an unrestricted operating support grant that will provide \$15,000/year for 3 years; and
- a \$20,000 planning grant awarded for Peace's new HUB Community Resource Center in Ypsilanti.



Since 1932, the Ann Arbor Thrift Shop has played an important, if quiet, role in our community's safety net. Run entirely by volunteers, AATS has supported Peace clients for nearly 30 years through a range of emergency funding and in-kind support. Peace

families referred to AATS have been able to shop for clothing and household items for free. More importantly, the Thrift Shop has provided regular monthly grant support totalling over \$95,000—which has been instrumental in helping Peace provide emergency assistance to help families who fall behind in their rent and/ or utilities. Last year, AATS awarded Peace \$28,500—which provides an important source of monthly income for a year to help Peace cover the costs of providing emergency assistance for households across Washtenaw County.

# PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER STAFF 2022 - 2023

Bonnie Billups, Jr. Executive Director

MaryAnn Johnson, LMSW Wellness Program Co-Director

Bernice Hardman, LMSW Wellness Program Co-Director & Family Enrichment

Raven Vawters Youth Programs Director

America Vicente Reaceh Programs Director

Anabel Cruz, BSW Maple Meadows Program Coordinator

NaTiyah Hugan Satellite Center Program Coordinator

Taylor Gamble + Alternatives for Youth Program Coord.

Lauryn Comer + College & Career Prep Program Coord.

**Deshawn Leeth+** Youth Programs Assistant

Khalil Madoula-Bey Middle School Programs Manager

Isley Coleman Middle School Programs Manager

Kashiada Kidd College & Career Prep Program Manager **Dwight Johnson** College & Career Prep Program Assistant

Elanda Curry, BSW Case Manager

Kelly Martin, BSW Case Manager, Baker Commons

**DeShara McKinney** Case Manager, Baker Commons

**Ella Olive** Office Manager

**Cornelius Olive** Building Maintenance Supervisor

John Ulmer Transportation

Jeremiah Young Information Technology

Dawn Dameron Kitchen Manager

Keira Overstreet Kitchen Assistans

Kevin Lill Director Annual Giving & Communications

Suzanne Upton Director, Major Gifts & Grants

NOTE: + Denotes Peace Staff who transitioned to new opportunities and/or graduated school.

Abbot School PTO Absolute Title, Inc. Ann Arbor Chapter of Links Ann Arbor Host Lions Club Anna's Kindness Argus Farm Stop Bethel AME Church Bethlehem United Church of Christ Bodman Law LLC Comcast's Lift Zone Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Rho Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Ann Arbor, Alumnae Chapter Dicken School PTO Eastern Michigan University School of Social Work Elmo's Liberty Street T-Shirts First Presbyterian Church First Unitarian Universalist Church Forsythe Middle School GBU Financial Life. District #630 Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Kroger Co, Plymouth Road Store Lawton School PTO Logan Elementary Student Council New Beginnings Community Church of Washtenaw County

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Produce Station

## OUR VISION

A community where personal growth, opportunity and diversity are constant; the cycle of poverty and social & 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.



Stay connected to learn more about those moments of bliss, growth, and grace that happen at Peace Neighborhood Center,



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