Dear faithful friends of HoP,

Life looks very different for all of us right now. We’ve been pushed out of our daily routines and forced to do things differently. Emotions have been high, tensions have boiled over, and darkness has been brought to light…but does anyone else feel like they can see things with a little more clarity lately?

Change is uncomfortable, but it gives us the gift of new perspective. New perspective might allow us to see that, during a global shutdown, we are blessed to safely remain at home with our family. It might also show us that there are many who don’t have the luxury of a safe home, or financial and food security.

We’ve seen an outpouring of support over the last several months, and we are so grateful for the many of you who have stood with us during this time, ensuring that the children we have the privilege to serve did not miss a beat.

When most of the globe was paralyzed, we kept at it. We kept our hands to the plow and our eyes fixed on our mission:

• The amazing warriors who make up our staff showed up day after day to safely return to work and love these sweet children back to life.
• Two thirds of the residents at our girls home moved into their forever homes over the course of this pandemic.
• We applied for and achieved full and good standing accreditation through ECFA by faithfully demonstrating compliance with established standards for financial accountability, transparency, fundraising, and board governance.
• We closed out the arduous process of becoming a nationally accredited program through the Council on Accreditation.

We know the challenges and vulnerabilities facing these children are undaunted—indeed exacerbated—by a global shutdown, so we are dedicated to progress! The year ahead is sure to bring victories and continued challenges, but we are decidedly focused on the growth track that will expand our reach. We will remain steadfast in our mission to serve the most broken and vulnerable children in our state and country until every child has a home!

Looking forward,
Jason & Maggie Dunn
Founders

Until Every Child Has A Home.

It’s a lofty goal—some would say impossible. But we dare to dream with the tenacity and boldness we see time and time again in the children we serve. We didn’t get this far by accepting the status quo.

We opened House of Providence in 2012 in response to the crisis our foster youth are facing with a completely new model for group care. Every aspect of our program was intentionally designed to redeem childhood, feel like a home and a family, and awaken foster youth to their inner power and potential.

Providing several vital intervention and support services combined with individualized care and attention, we afford the children in our care the emotional, mental, and physical security to stabilize and begin to process their difficult journey through trauma focused therapy.

It’s watching our little ones overcome some of the worst life circumstances that drives and inspires us to keep striving for excellence and growth.
We are thrilled to report that the trend towards permanency for children who come through our program is high and rising; nearly every child we serve is discharged to a permanent placement (returning home, getting adopted, or being placed in guardianship). These results are significantly higher than programs in our category: the Children’s Bureau reported in their 2015 “A National Look At The Use of Congregate Care in Child Welfare” that 59.4% of children above the age of 13 move from residential foster homes to permanency.

SURVEYS

Collaborators:

Many of our collaborators have become involved with us because they have a personal connection to foster care. 100% of them, when surveyed said that they would recommend HoP as an organization to partner with.

Current Residents:

100% reported that they feel supported by the staff at HoP

Staff:

The five most commonly used words staff used to describe HoP are: Love, Excellence, Family, Unity, and Support.

Volunteers:

100% of our volunteers recommend HoP as a place to become involved.
The common response to behavioral problems in our society is to punish. We see this in our schools, in our homes, and especially in our juvenile justice system. The issue with this strategy is that it’s not only ineffective, but harmful.

40-80% of children behind bars have at least one diagnosable mental illness. This relationship between incarceration and mental illness is rooted in the relationship between trauma and behavioral problems.

Behavioral problems are merely the signal that a child lacks the social and emotional skills to handle the challenges they’re facing in an adaptive way—and the challenges faced by foster youth are significant; it’s clear why they’re 2.5 times more likely to enter the criminal justice system than their peers.

It’s also clear that the likelihood of incarceration is directly related to the level of instability and trauma a child is exposed to: foster youth placed in group homes—which are sometimes prison-like to begin with—are twice as likely to be incarcerated, and 90% of those with 5 or more placements will enter the criminal justice system.

Incarcerating children sets into motion a cycle of trauma and criminalization. Once the label of juvenile delinquent is applied, future behavioral problems are more likely to be perceived as dangerous and criminal, which leads to future arrests. Every time a child is re-arrested, fresh trauma exacerbates maladaptive coping behaviors, further entrenching them in this cycle.

But the developing brain is exceptionally resilient and pliable. Every time we respond to behavioral problems with compassion, patience, love, and guidance, we are breaking this cycle and tapping into the massive potential locked inside these kids.
Many don’t realize just how flourishing the human trafficking industry is in the U.S. It ranks in the top 3 countries of origin for trafficking victims, and it has the largest market for sex in the world. The global human trafficking market generates $150 annually with an estimated 40.3 billion victims.†

Traffickers prey on the most vulnerable people in our society, and foster youth are one of their most frequent targets. 74% of child trafficking victims were in foster care when they went missing.†† Children without homes or families—who feel abandoned, alone, worthless, and hopeless—are easier to lure and less likely to have people looking for them. Many traffickers actively target group foster homes by sending their girls in to lure kids out.

Providing foster youth with a real support system is the best way to render the lure of traffickers ineffective. If a child feels loved—if they feel like someone would care if bad things happened to them—they’ll be less likely to fall for the predatory schemes traffickers use on vulnerable people.

House of Providence provides that support system, love, and care—and provides it permanently. Aging out is not an option for our kids, and nearly every child we serve transitions from our program into their forever family.

†† According to the national center for missing and exploited children
Our homes are specifically designed to feel like real family homes while fully meeting the mental and behavioral health needs of our residents. There’s nothing institutional about them.

Our routines complement the spaces by emphasizing the concepts of family and teamwork; each resident lives with a roommate to promote bonding, cooperation, and concern for others; residents are an integral part of meal-planning, preparation, and clean up -- just like a family; and our house parents provide empathetic care, structure, stability, and lasting relationships.
PERSONAL TREASURES

When a child enters foster care, they’re often leaving home in the midst of a family crisis with nothing but a garbage bag of a few belongings.

In the process of living with a string of strangers, in group homes, and sometimes going in and out of juvenile detention centers—these treasures often end up stolen, lost, or left behind.

To a child in foster care, having a place to keep their belongings—to even have belongings that are truly theirs—can be extremely meaningful.

Upon entering their beautiful new home, each child receives a welcome bag of gifts carefully curated from their personal interests, and each knotty-pine bed in our girl’s home is overlaid with an exquisite, handmade quilt that becomes their heirloom property.

NOT STAFF, FAMILY

Our staff are of the highest quality and character. It’s not uncommon for them to stick around after their shift just to spend more time with the kids.

We always over-staff to give our residents more individualized attention. If our state-mandated staff:child ratio is 1:4, we strive to maintain a 1:2 ratio for most of our children, and 1:1 for those who need more stability, love, and attention. We do our best to keep each resident with the same staff member every day to promote healthy bonding and attachment and to create stability and routines.

We strive to create a culture of excellence, unity, and high standards, and we hold each other accountable for maintaining this culture every day by addressing anything that falls short.
We are grateful to announce another year of strong support from our amazing donors! As we keep our eyes on progress and growth, we are committed to financial transparency, accountability, and prudence to ensure we can sustainably expand and continue to serve foster youth in excellence.

**Program Costs**
- 12.25% Administrative
- 87.75% Direct care for children

**Partnerships**
- 9% Private donations
- 22% Fundraising
- 69% Program Services
RESIDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Makayla
Beautiful Makayla came to House of Providence as a terrified, hopeless, and very angry twelve year old. You could see her struggling to carry the weight of feeling completely alone in the world--drowning in a sadness that would fill up the room.

We patiently walked with her, and showed her day by day that she was safe and loved. As she began to trust us, we watched her slowly emerge from the hiding place she had used to keep herself safe for so long. Knowing that her environment was safe, she realized she didn’t have to hide anymore!

She soon began to discover who she is apart from all the pain. She realized how much she loves people and transformed into the gregarious, extroverted girl who had been stifled by the sadness for so long.

After much trauma healing, she finished our program and was adopted. Today, Makayla is thriving with her new family! She has a great job and is entering her senior year of high school. She runs cross country and loves to go to youth group. Her smile is contagious and now that is what fills every room she enters!

Yasmine
When we met sweet Yasmine at that Detroit shelter for teen girls, we immediately saw her tenacious resilience. She was keenly aware of her circumstances, but she had the audacity to hold white-knuckled onto the hope that good things would still happen for her. She never lost her smile, even if it was peeking through a stream of tears.

She always knew deep down that she was lovable and smart. While her grades understandably suffered during her traumatic time before being placed in foster care, she always has a song in her heart that bubbled over onto anyone lucky enough to be around her.

Her kindness, however, was not always afforded to herself. She slowly learned that she was deserving of kindness, safety from abuse, and that she was not a “problem.” She eventually graduated from our program and moved in with her adoptive family! She graduated from a private high school with honors, she just bought her first car, and is starting college this year!
At House of Providence, we have ambitious goals for the future of foster care. Every child deserves to have a safe, loving, permanent home, and—with our national accreditation now completed—we plan to expand our model nationwide until every child has exactly that.

We teach the children in our care that they are not only worthy of love, but easy to love, as we walk with them away from abandonment and down the path toward healing. Since opening our doors in 2012, we have watched stories of brokenness, pain, and abandonment transform into stories of redemption, overcoming, and victory.

2020 has brought unprecedented challenges to vulnerable youth around the world, and they need support now more than ever. We are committed to driving forward to expand our mission, open more homes, and serve more children.

You can become a part of the life-changing work happening at House of Providence! Whether through donation, volunteering, or mentoring, there are so many ways you can show the children we serve how loved they are. Help us continue to raise the bar in foster care and expand our mission to give every child a loving home!