

WALKING THE PATHWAY TOGETHER

2019-2020 Annual Report



IN FY 2019-2020

268
volunteers donated
2,547
hours of time

33 *families were served*
33 mothers & 64 children

80% *of households*
completed the program

88¢ *of every dollar collected*
directly serves the families in our care



Interested in having your organization
volunteer for BHA? Email bha@bha-pa.org.

Thank You

**to all of our volunteers, our donors, our sponsors,
our board, and our staff. We would not be able
to do any of this without all of you!**



Dear Friends

Fiscal year 2019-2020 was a year filled with challenges, but also a year filled with growth and hope. Through it all, BHA remained steadfast in our resolve that our programs would continue without interruption because that is what our families depend on.

In the fall of 2019, we said goodbye to our Executive Director, Crystal Brown. Crystal spent eight years at BHA, first as the Program Director then as Executive Director, walking alongside families on their journey to independence. We are thankful for her many contributions to BHA and wish her well in her new career.

Crystal's departure prompted board members and search committee members to think about BHA's future and the type of leader best suited to guide BHA into our next phase of life.

After several months of prayer and searching, we were thrilled to offer Kait Gillis-Hanna the job. Kait brings new skills to the team and a passion for the work being done at BHA. She has truly "hit the ground running," and we are excited to see BHA's growth under her leadership.

In the middle of our search, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Under the direction of Interim Executive Director, Marilyn Bellesfield, the staff at BHA was able to navigate through continuous changes as they worked to keep the participants and each other safe.

While many of the 14 participants living at BHA were impacted by COVID – 10 became unemployed and 12 lost their childcare – they continued working with their Family Advocates through weekly phone meetings to make progress on their goal plans.

And while many agencies serving the homeless had to shut their doors to new families, BHA

remained open and even welcomed four new families into the *Transitions Program*.

Through these challenges, we have continued to fulfill our mission of providing stable housing, supportive services, and loving relationships to families experiencing homelessness.

During FY 19-20, BHA served 33 families for a total of 97 moms and children, and 80% of families accomplished their housing goal.

Our unique approach and focus on preparing families to move into their own permanent housing as soon as possible, combined with connections to community resources, reduces isolation and increases long-term stability for the family unit.

- **BHA remains in a strong financial position,**
- **and through thoughtful stewardship,**
- **88 cents of every dollar directly serves the**
- **families in our care.**

As we look ahead to FY 2020-21, we remain hopeful that we will continue to meet the needs of families experiencing homelessness in our community. We are excited about our future, and grateful for your continued support of our programs and services.

We truly could not do this without you.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brent Smith
BHA Board of Directors
President

From our New Executive Director

Dear friends and supporters,

I want to begin by thanking you for your devotion to BHA – we wouldn't be here without you. Since joining this amazing team as the new executive director in early May, I have been in awe of the dedication people have for this organization.

My passion for serving others and the desire to make a direct impact on the community drew me to this role. My human services experience and master's degree in Strategic Management from Villanova University have helped to make for a smoother transition.

As you will see in this report, we highlight remarkable data and achievements of the last fiscal year. But our REAL success is measured in the intangible – the loving and supportive relationships we provide to families in their time of need.

Building a future of hope is our commitment and one we work toward every day.

Over the course of the last 30 years, BHA has grown into a program of which we should all be proud. The success of 2019-2020 is no different.

My vision is to continue to build upon that success while adapting to the growing needs of our participants. We have already moved forward as a trauma-informed organization, and I can't wait to see what we do next. We're currently working on our 2021-24 strategic plan which will fully support this vision.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has not yet been fully realized in our community, but I assure you we will continue to explore all avenues to provide our participants and their children

with opportunities to thrive as they work toward stable housing.

Someone recently referred to BHA as Harrisburg's best kept secret. That needs to change. I will focus on spreading the word on this impactful, life-changing organization. I hope you will join me.

I again want to offer a sincere thank you for all you do, and I look forward to meeting each of you so that we may work together to help our participants to reach their God-given potential.

Regards,



Kait Gillis-Hanna
BHA Executive Director





Program Stats

Transitions Program

Transitions is a bridge housing program for women with children experiencing homelessness. The Transitions Program provides housing and supportive services that bridge the gap from homelessness to stability. Families work closely with their Family Advocates to receive comprehensive services that equip single mothers to live independently while gaining the skills and resources to maintain their own permanent housing.

Individual people served:

- 33 adults
- 64 children

Total numbers served:

- 97 individuals
- 33 families

80% of participants successfully completed the program and obtained housing at program exit.

67% of participants maintained or increased their income at discharge:

- 6 participants increased their income
- 4 participants maintained their income
- 5 participants decreased their income while in the program due to loss of employment or cash benefits

Supportive Services

- 31 life skills classes were offered
- 25 peer support group sessions were offered
- 100% of participants were connected to entitlement benefits they were not receiving at entry (cash, SNAP, medical insurance, SSI, childcare assistance, etc.)
- 100% of participants were connected to community resources for their family stability (Dress for Success, Diaper Bank, MH counseling, D&A counseling, etc.)
- 93% of participants completed a budgeting program while at BHA



Transitions Youth

Children at BHA can attend a weekly youth program focused on building resiliency. In addition, BHA's Youth Coordinator conducts emotional and developmental assessments on all children ages five and younger and works with the mother to educate her on developmental stages and provide referrals to community resources if needed.

Children served:

- 55 total
- Ages 10-18: 9
- Ages 6-9: 18
- Ages 3-5: 12
- Ages 0-2: 18

Assessments Completed:

- 36 Developmental
- 17 Social-Emotional

56% of youth demonstrated competency in conflict resolution activities

85% of youth demonstrated competency in skill-building activities

77% of youth demonstrated competency in self-regulation activities

Side-By-Side

Side-By-Side provides permanent housing for persons who have a disability and are experiencing homelessness. BHA leases housing in the community for individuals and/or families to reside in while they work to increase their stability.

Total numbers served:

- 9 adults
- 8 children
- 6 households

83% of participants maintained housing for at least 6 months. *(One family had only been in the program 2 months.)*

67% of participants maintained or increased income:

- One participant decreased due to pursuing GED and utilizing cash assistance
- One participant decreased due to COVID-related job loss

67% of participants accomplished at least one goal by a year in the program.

Next Steps

Next Steps is an aftercare program for families who have completed BHA's other housing programs. Families receive one year of follow-up case management to help them maintain housing and continue to work on other personal goals.

Total numbers served:

- 2 adults
- 9 children
- 2 families

100% of participants maintained housing while in the program.

100% of participants maintained or increased income while in the program.

87% of former participants (FY 18/19) maintained housing for one year after exiting the program.



Adopt-An-Apartment

PROGRAM

The *Adopt-An-Apartment Program* is an important piece to a participant's stay at BHA. Volunteers commit to cleaning and furnishing an empty apartment before a new family moves in. Volunteers personalize the apartment and make it a home for the incoming family. After graduation from the *Transitions Program*, families can take the furniture with them to their new permanent housing - eliminating the expense of having to furnish their new home.

In FY 19-20, nine volunteer groups totaling 128 volunteers adopted twenty apartments. This support has allowed BHA to maximize our resources by taking away the financial burden of furnishing apartments for incoming families. It has also allowed our Property Manager to focus on other projects on the block, as the *Adopt-An-Apartment* volunteers have continued to amaze us with their dedication to making sure our incoming families arrive to a clean and inviting place to live during their time at BHA.

Apartment Item Values:

Twin Mattress and Frame | \$250

Dining Room Table | \$200

Linens and Towels | \$40

Pack 'n' Play | \$50

Full Mattress and Frame | \$350

Sofa | \$500

Dishes, Pots, and Pans | \$50

Dresser | \$100

TV and Stand | \$250

Miscellaneous | \$100

Labor:

829 volunteer hours x \$25 an hour (*Property Manager salary as this is saving his time*) = \$20,725

Furnishing the Apartment:

- Four 1-bedroom units were adopted at a value of **\$1,640 each** *plus labor*
- Ten 2-bedroom units were adopted at a value of **\$2,030 each** *plus labor*
- Three 3-bedroom units were adopted at a value of **\$2,670 each** *plus labor*
- One 4-bedroom unit was adopted at a value of **\$2,880** *plus labor*

Total value of the Adopt-An-Apartment Program for FY 19-20

\$20,725 (*labor amount*) + **\$43,870** (*total value of items donated for the apartments*) = **\$64,595**



Financials

Fiscal Year 2019-20

Revenue

Individuals and Small Businesses | \$246,766
Foundations and Corporations | \$289,353
Member Churches | \$36,897
Non-member Churches | \$58,860
Contracts (CYS, HUD, etc.) | \$270,346
In-Kind Contributions | \$77,603

Investment Income (net) | \$1,053
Special Events (net) | \$60,812
Program Fees | \$18,408
Occupancy Fees | \$3,726
Miscellaneous | \$4,352
Net Assets Released From Restrictions | \$67,510

Total Revenue: \$1,135,686

Expenses

Program Services | \$781,028
Supporting Services:
 Management & General | \$56,954
 Fundraising | \$49,406

Total Expenses: \$887,388





Our Amazing Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart of BHA, and we are so thankful for all they do to build a future with hope for the families we serve. In FY 19-20, **268 volunteers donated 2,547 hours** of their time. This incredible gift of time given by so many people allows us to put the money we would have spent purchasing items or hiring workers back into our life-changing programs.



How do the incredible volunteers at BHA build a future with hope?

- General maintenance and paint apartments before *Adopt-An-Apartment* volunteers come in to furnish and decorate.
- Pull weeds and spread mulch to spruce up the garden and flower beds on Hummel Street.
- Clean, furnish, and decorate apartments for incoming families in the *Transitions Program*.
- Help children at BHA learn conflict resolution skills during the *Transitions Youth Program* on Monday nights.
- Plan and execute three yearly BHA events – Little Black Dress Soiree, Golf Tournament and Annual Celebration – to help raise funds for BHA.
- Serve on the BHA Board of Directors and other committees to help govern and guide the work of BHA.



“As a follower of Jesus, I am committed to pursuing God’s shalom for all creation, which includes the flourishing and wellbeing of all of God’s children. I support BHA because providing housing for women and children is a non-negotiable and essential part of our seeking after God’s dream for us.”

Dr. Drew Hart
BHA Board Member

“I support BHA because it is an organization that truly fulfills its mission statement. They are a genuine and compassionate group of people who walk alongside individuals and families providing programming and services to help them become independent and thrive in their communities. I am inspired when I hear the testimonies and success stories of the women who have come through their program.”

Bonnie Millary
BHA Event Committee Volunteer

“Participants need time to work with the BHA staff to improve their skills and coping abilities. It is a pleasure to donate my time to watching participant’s children so that they can build independent lives. BHA provides the resources to help the individual create a better situation for themselves and their children and that is why I am happy to volunteer.”

Amy Mehl
BHA Youth Program Volunteer

We love connecting with our supporters and finding out why they choose to volunteer with BHA. We asked Linda Geesaman from Ridgeway Community Church of the Brethren to share how she got involved with the program and why it remains a meaningful experience for her.

Why did you want to get involved with our Adopt-An-Apartment Program?

I initially became involved with the *Adopt-An-Apartment Program* following a BHA presentation at our church. Ridgeway members have supported BHA's ministry for many years and so the response to my request for help was so overwhelming that we were able to furnish two apartments.

In addition, I personally wanted to be more involved since my retirement and while furnishing the first two apartments, I learned that it suited me perfectly. I like to organize, clean, repurpose, shop for bargains, and decorate. I am continuously inspired as each apartment becomes a home using a wide array of other people's discards.

How do you get people interested in working with you to adopt the apartments?

At the time I started the first apartment, I did an email to everyone in my contact list. Neighbors, past co-workers, friends, and relatives started donating items and offering to help. I took pictures of the finished apartments and shared them on posters at church and with those who had donated items.

In no time, I was developing a "stash" of items that have allowed me to do nine apartments to date. There is a core of volunteers that I text whenever I start a new apartment and they let me know when they are available. We work in two three-hour chunks of time, though my involvement is much greater.

Generally, we can complete an apartment in two weeks. The full team has evolved to about 25 volunteers that help when needed. I've also developed a relationship with two consignment stores that assist with needed furnishings. I have been told I have the "gift of gab," and I use it to spread the word about BHA's ministry and my project. Donations and new volunteers just keep coming.

What is your favorite part of adopting an apartment?

This project has been rewarding in so many ways. I like the hands-on opportunity to make a difference and share the blessings I have received. I like being able to provide that experience for fellow team members and those who donate. I like being able to support a larger effort – being an important "part of the body." I like the connection I can make with inner city life from the suburbs where I live. I like the healthy physical activity required by third floor apartments with steep narrow steps! I like the flexibility in choosing when I take on another apartment. *BHA Adopt-An-Apartment Program* works for me.

Linda





Our Annual Events



Held Every Spring

Our Annual Golf Tournament is perfect for a day out with friends, family, and business associates.



Held Every Spring

The Little Black Dress Soiree is a fabulous night filled with fashion trends, a silent auction, and networking.



Held Every Fall

Our Annual Celebration is an evening to recognize our sponsors, thank our donors, and celebrate how BHA is changing lives in Central PA.