

COVENANT HOUSE MICHIGAN

PRESENTATION BY MICHELLE KUHAR (Feb 2018)

- **MISSION STATEMENT** – We who recognize God’s providence and fidelity to His people are dedicated to living out His covenant among ourselves and those children we serve, with absolute respect and unconditional love. That commitment calls us to serve suffering children of the street, and to protect and safeguard all children. Just as Christ, in His humanity, is the visible sign of God’s presence among His people, so our efforts together in the covenant community are a visible sign that effects the presence of God, working through the Holy Spirit among ourselves and our kids.
- **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE** - Covenant House Michigan is a faith-based nonprofit organization that provides hope to homeless, runaway and at-risk youth ages 18-24. We provide shelter, educational and vocational programs, as well as other support services, to help overcome hurdles such as homelessness, unemployment, inadequate education, violence, drugs and gangs. Our goal is to redirect them onto a path toward meaningful and successful adulthood
- **FINANCIALS** –
 - Covenant House Michigan received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for the second year in a row. Nearly 90% of CHM’s funding comes from private sources.
 - If an individual from Michigan donates to Covenant House in New York, a portion of the donation will be directed to Covenant House Michigan (because of the Michigan origination)
 - You can donate directly to Covenant House Michigan
- **HISTORY**
 - Part of an international organization, located in many states and multiple countries. Each Covenant House operates differently with different available programs.
 - Started in Michigan through the “sponsorship” of Cardinal Maida in 1997
 - Has served over 60,000 youth since inception.
 - Part of “larger” Covenant House Organization established in New York
 - 5 acre gated Campus was leased to Covenant House Michigan by the Archdiocese on a 99 year lease. (Site had been a nursing home)
 - Faith-based but not formally tied to a church.
 - Covenant House Michigan includes Academies in Detroit metro area and Grand Rapids, shelter in Detroit, and a shelter being built in Grand Rapids
- **CLIENTS**
 - Homeless and at risk youth, over 5000 young people are homeless in Metro Detroit at any one point in time
 - Wide variety of backgrounds including homelessness, mental illness, victims of violence, abuse and neglect, unstable family situation or no family, “aged out” of foster care system.
 - CHM tries help youth see a different image of themselves – giving them the hope and support they need to move toward meaningful and successful adulthood.
- **PROGRAMS**
 - Homeless shelter for “youth” 18-22 year olds
 - 2 residential programs – 90 day Caritas (crisis housing), and 2-year Rights of Passage programs.
 - Covenant House Academy – 4 schools (3 in Detroit, 1 in Grand Rapids) providing teachers and computer-based education for 16-22 year-olds to earn high school diplomas
 - TMZ – Total Me Zone, daily classes such as self-esteem, budgeting, life skills
- **OUTREACH TEAM** – individuals go out into the Detroit community and distribute information and get to know youth that may need assistance. They help brings kids off the street and help direct them to other programs.
- **RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS**
 - 75 beds – 45 available for Caritas program, 30 for Rights of Passage program
 - 2-year program
 - Each resident works with a social worker who provides support, guidance and push to accomplish something
 - each person gets an individual plan, may include mental health care, may include educational support such as enrolling in high school, college or trade school, job program – getting support for certifications, resumes, job searches
 - Nurses available to provide health assessment
 - Psychologist on campus
 - Social workers for 90-day and 2-year programs

- Provide as much support as possible to establish a structure in the lives of the youth
- Try to Give them a piece of family life that they have never experienced, including family activities such as board games, pumpkin carving, talent shows, etc.
- “Act as parents” to support the youth and encourage them to put forth the effort to success
- While in the residential programs the youth have access to a wide range of classes and activities such as job preparation, anger management, grief workshops
- Many enrichment activities are also provided such as yoga, arts, dance
- Art therapy is also available through a grant
- When on campus they have do not have their cell phones, they get them when they leave. Teaching them to be responsible during the day and be productive.
- After their time at Covenant House Michigan, relationships with the staff of Covenant House may continue if the individual is interested.
- COVENANT HOUSE ACADEMY
 - 3 schools in Detroit (one on site of residential campus, 1 in Grand Rapids)
 - Intended for high-school drop-outs 16-22 years old
 - Individualized learning
 - All computer-based with certified teachers providing individualized support
 - Self-paced and individually structured to meet unique class requirements of student, operate year-round without an annual academic calendar
 - Include social opportunities including a prom in the spring
 - Graduations help in June and December
 - Operates on a charter-school model
 - Open to anyone in Detroit Public Schools district
- CLOTHING CLOSET
 - A large well-stocked clothing closet is on-site
 - Clothing closet provides residence access to business attire so they can dress for job interviews etc.
- PUBLICATIONS
 - Publish a large newsletter twice a year,
 - A smaller update is published about 4 times a year.