



The Journey Forward

2025 Annual Report



A Note of Thanks

Dear Friends,

I was meeting with a Resident recently, and they expressed concern that they wouldn't be able to afford hormone replacement therapy.

Resident: I want to start taking hormones, but I don't think I'll be able to afford them.

Me: As we talked about before, we'll pay for them. All you have to do is talk to your doctor and we will take it from there.

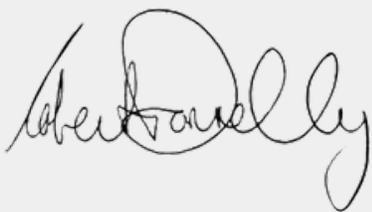
[pause]

Resident: I know. I'm just used to people saying they will do something and then not following through. And this really means a lot to me.

Because of you, our Residents don't have to worry about how they can access life-saving, gender-affirming healthcare or any other vital resources. You continue to ensure that what seems impossible to our Residents becomes possible—diplomas earned, careers started, relationships strengthened, and trauma healed.

I don't know what the future holds, but I know this: with your support, our Residents will thrive.

And for that, I am deeply grateful.



ROBERT DONNELLY
FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Strategic Planning

This year, with thoughtful input from our Residents, staff, volunteers, and supporters, we developed a comprehensive strategic plan to guide our work over the next two years. Along with identifying our strategic priorities, we also refreshed our vision, mission, and core values. While the heart of Opportunity House remains the same, these updates more clearly reflect our deep commitment to the St. Louis community and the young people we serve.

Vision

A world where all young people are thriving in a place they call home.

Mission

Provide young people in the St. Louis region with access to safe and stable housing and the support needed to thrive.

Core Values

Accountability

We all make mistakes. By taking responsibility and learning from them, we grow stronger as individuals and as a community.

Collaboration

We can't do this alone. Creating lasting relationships is essential to ensuring every young person has the opportunity to succeed.

Perseverance

We press on. The work may be challenging, but every young person deserves the chance to build the life they dream of—and we will not stop until they do.



How We are Unique

As we look back on the past year at Opportunity House, we are filled with deep gratitude for the remarkable journey we've shared. Each day, we walk alongside young people as they identify their goals, take their first steps toward independence, and build the futures they envision.

The path is not always easy, yet our Residents meet each challenge with courage and determination. With the guidance and resources we provide, they do more than meet their immediate needs—they gain the confidence and skills to dream boldly and move forward with purpose.

Long-term housing with minimal barriers

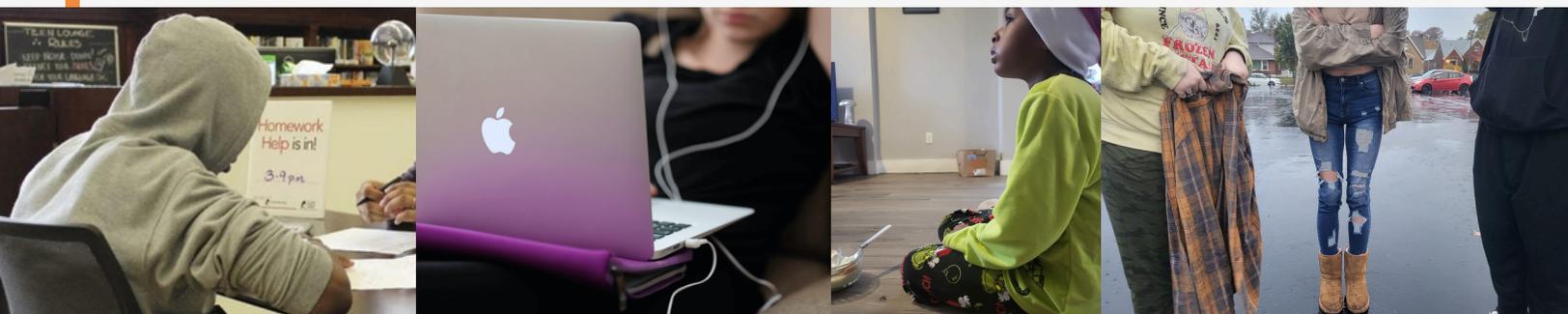
Young people aged 17 to 24 are eligible to enroll in the program and can continue receiving support until they are prepared to transition to independence. Unlike many programs that impose strict age cutoffs or time limits, Opportunity House does not require Residents to leave upon turning a certain age or after a set period of time. Instead, support is based on individual readiness, ensuring each young person receives the time and resources necessary to achieve lasting independence.

Access to gender-affirming care

Opportunity House recognizes that gender-affirming care is essential to the health, safety, and dignity of transgender and gender-diverse young people. To support Residents fully, Opportunity House covers the costs associated with accessing hormone replacement therapy and related care—removing a major barrier to life-saving medical treatment.

Aftercare and financial empowerment

The move from supported housing to independent living can be daunting. To ease this transition, Opportunity House provides a \$1,000 transition stipend in the month a Resident exits the program, followed by \$500 monthly in direct cash assistance for five months. This support helps former Residents maintain housing stability and build a foundation for long-term success.

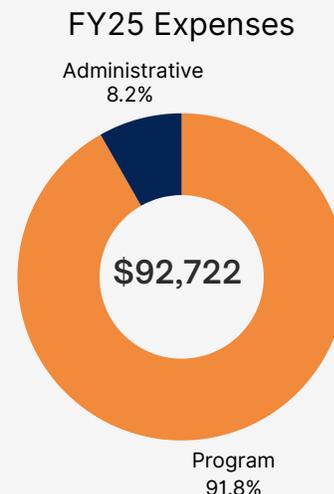
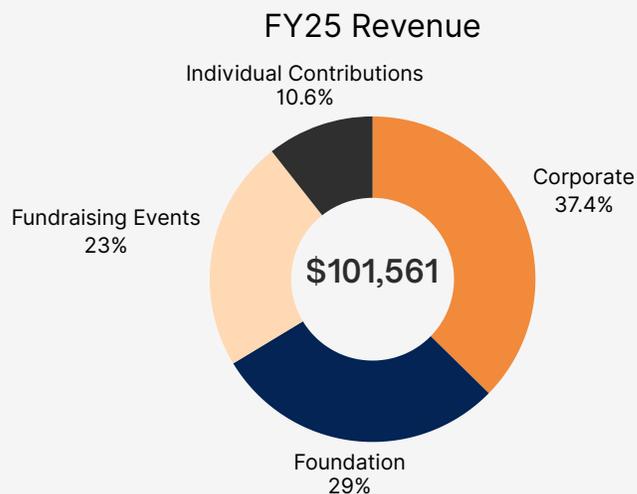


Our Impact

In 2025, we shifted our focus from expanding our bed capacity to enhancing the comprehensive support services available to our Residents. This year marked several exciting developments: we launched our Mentorship Program, connecting Residents with caring community mentors; we opened our office to increase engagement and accessibility; and we welcomed two new case managers to ensure we can meet the unique needs of every Resident.

The results of these efforts are already clear. Our Residents are taking meaningful steps forward—prioritizing their mental health, building stronger connections within the community, continuing their education, and achieving personal milestones that reflect their growth and resilience.

By the Numbers



Number of therapy sessions	117
Mentorship hours	64
Nights of care	3,071
Number of Residents served	10
Educations completed	2

It is a relief to encounter an organization unrestricted by conventional nonprofit norms, which prioritizes responding to client need in real time. How are young folks supposed to navigate our increasingly hostile world without a safe place to call home?

Lou Vinarcsik, Board Member

2025 Events

February

Giveback Tuesday: Katie's Pizza and Pasta Giveback Tuesday

In February, Katie's Pizza and Pasta invited Opportunity House to participate in Giveback Tuesday. As part of the event, all sales for the day at Katie's restaurants were donated to Opportunity House and several other local organizations.

June

Local Minds, Big Hearts: Opportunity House Trivia Night

The third-annual Trivia Night was a huge success! Nearly 175 community members flexed their brains to support the work of Opportunity House. The community showed up in a big way, with the event raising more than \$18,000.

August

Showing up with Pride: Black Pride Expo

Staff and volunteers attended the annual Black Pride Expo, an annual event hosted by Black Pride St. Louis to support and uplift the black queer community. It provided Opportunity House with the opportunity to connect with the community and forge new relationships.

September

More than a Celebration: Tower Grove Pride

The Opportunity House team was on-site to celebrate the queer community at Tower Grove Pride. The event served as an opportunity to connect with community organizations and introduce the work of Opportunity House to the community.

October

Calling All Spirits: First Annual Bingo Night

With more than 100 attendees, Opportunity House hosted its first ever bingo night. The event served as an opportunity to raise funds, strengthen relationships with donors, and develop new relationships with members of the community.



Board of Directors



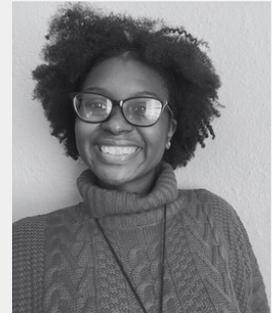
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Board Member



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Katy Buranda
Board Member



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Nicki Stonich
Britt Bajier

Laurie Brimmer
Staci Johnson
Daniel Dornsief

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Samantha DePierro
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Pam Hardy

Michael Hegger
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Pam Hardy
Michael Hegger
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Pamela Hinrichs
Janet Holt
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Amanda Hotop
Angelo Jackson
Brittini Johnson
Sabrina King
Emily Knerr
Elizabeth Krasnicki-Kilby
Jessica LaFleche
Ann Lamb
Saribeth Lavelly
Tamara Laws
Samantha Lyons
Linda Malone
Brenda Malone
Alexander Maxwell
Antonelle McBride
Rachel McClarney
Roxanne McClarney
Nick Mckeever
Teresa McKenzie
Xenia Meshik
Victoria Mischeaux
LeighAnn Monteer
Alida Moore
Erica Mosca
Michele Mosley
Barbara O'Brien
Jason Onwubiko
Scott Owen
Roy Pfautch
Tom Price

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Chanel Ricketts
Marni Romano
Jack Rosenberg
Janelle Rosenberg
Christine Rowan
Jeffrey Ricker
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Marni Romano
Jack Rosenberg
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Andrew Ruiz
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Oshea Smith
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Erin Sokol
Kelley Staab
Adam Stefo
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Joshua Torres Wedding
Maria Torres Wedding
Maria Totoraitis
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Brian Vacek
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Roxie Wright
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Ella Carter
Jon Kidd
Lauren Lindewirth
George Marchin
Michael Slonim
Emily Zickel

Thank You

Our true impact is the growth and resilience we see in our Residents everyday. The young person who finishes school. The Resident who gets that first job. The one who shows up for therapy, week after week.

These are stories of possibility. And every time someone donates, volunteers, spreads the word, or supports us at one of our events—they help write these stories.

Thank you for your commitment to the young people of St. Louis.

We can't do this without you!