



CULTIVATING THE FUTURE

Celebrating 50 years of Jackson Interfaith Shelter history and laying the foundation for the next 50 years.

CELEBRATING THE PAST, CULTIVATING THE FUTURE

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MEET THE FOUNDER

Jackson Interfaith Shelter was founded by Beverly Garges, a devout Catholic lay woman, in 1974. When she saw men struggling with alcoholism and living on the streets of Jackson, she was compelled to take action. She spent time providing food and clothing and building relationships with her new friends, some of whom were living under a downtown bridge. One cold winter evening, she was grieved to learn of a man freezing to death on the streets. Brokenhearted and angered by the thought of this happening in her own city, Bev knew she had to do more. Bev went to work pulling together the churches, businesses and community members of Jackson to create a place of respite for the men on the street. Bev worked tirelessly to convince skeptical Jackson officials of the need for a shelter, located a building, negotiated short-term free rent, and secured material support from community members.



In November of 1974, a former store at 436 E. Michigan Ave. became the first location of Jackson Interfaith Shelter. The connections Bev made kept the shelter running 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In 1978, as shelter operations expanded, Bev made an offer on our current facility, the church building (formerly Church of God) at 414 S. Blackstone St. With only 77 cents in the bank at the time, she relied on the generosity of her community to raise the \$3,000 down payment, receiving the last \$300 just hours before closing on the building.

Since Bev's initial vision was brought into being, Jackson Interfaith Shelter has grown from a small storefront shelter and soup kitchen for 10 men to a 76-bed shelter and resource center for men, women, and families. Additionally, our services have expanded to include providing housing in more than a dozen rental units in the shelter neighborhood and serving nearly 90,000 meals annually to shelter residents and other community members.

STATISTICS

Jackson Interfaith Shelter / State of Michigan Average

	Length of Stay	Positive Destination Rate	Recidivism Rate
Jackson Interfaith Shelter	42 nights	69.45%	4.24%
State of Michigan	69 nights	28.32%	14.06%

Time Period: 10/1/2023 - 9/30/2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

“ In August 2019, the Jackson Interfaith Shelter experienced its first executive leadership change in 37 years, and the Board of Directors was fortunate to find Steve Castle to serve as the new CEO. We were gratified to partner with Steve to build upon our agency's strong foundation and faith-based heritage while also analyzing opportunities to enhance the care we provide and modernize our facilities. Initial steps included the creation of a mission statement and establishing clear core values, renovating and enhancing residential spaces, and providing more resources for staff and volunteer development. Following these first, and most basic changes, we turned our attention to facility renovations that have upgraded almost every space inside—and outside—of the shelter, transforming it into a place that communicates hope, dignity and peace to all who come through our doors.

With each update, our goal was to create a facility that goes beyond “good enough for the homeless” to a true place of holistic transformation. And now, building on 50 years of faith, hard work, and incredible support from our donors and partners, we're ready to take the next step to enhance the level of care we offer to those we serve, especially our families. We're excited and humbled by the opportunity before us, and we look forward to expanding the resources we can offer to the most vulnerable members of our community.

– JACKSON INTERFAITH SHELTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

“SEEKING TO PUT GOD'S LOVE INTO ACTION, JACKSON INTERFAITH SHELTER PROVIDES TEMPORARY SHELTER AND OTHER ESSENTIAL RESOURCES TO PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OR POVERTY.”

ANNUAL IMPACT



268 individuals with mental health needs



26 Veterans



92 individuals with drug or alcohol abuse

At Jackson Interfaith Shelter, we believe in the transformative power of holistic wellness. We are blessed to partner with dozens of community partners to support the physical, mental, spiritual, and financial sides of a person, in addition to their need of permanent housing. Our partners include, but are not limited to, the following organizations and classes:

- American 1 Credit Union Financial Wellness & Mobile Unit
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters Programming
- College & Career Access Center
- Community Action Agency Housing Screenings & Financial Wellness
- Dinner Church
- Dr. Palmer Chiropractic Care
- Drive Staffing Job Fairs
- Ella Sharp Museum Field Trips
- Fatherhood Class with Bibles & Burgers
- “Few Do” Employability with Jim
- Home of New Vision HIV/HCV Testing
- Jackson College Blood Pressure Screenings
- Jackson District Library
- Jackson School of the Arts
- Jaxon’s Playhouse Field Trips
- Kids Club with Jana
- Kids Explosion with Together We Can Make a Difference
- Life Success Class
- LifeWays Community Mental Health Coping Skills
- Lions Club Vision Screenings
- Love, INC Birth Certificate Support
- Marketplace Manna Client Workshops
- Mental Health Youth Programming with Christy
- Mindfulness and Yoga with Deb
- MSU Extension Classes
- New Client Orientation
- Parenting Class by Corey from Family Service and Children’s Aid
- Parenting with Love and Logic Class with CPCAN
- Pet Therapy with Jackson County Animal Shelter & Cascades Humane Society
- Recovery Support
- Secretary of State Mobile Unit
- Simple Steps Nutrition Class with Laura
- Smiles on Wheels Dental Care
- WellWise Services Area on Aging
- Wolverine Street Medicine Footcare
- YMCA Memberships



Every Thursday morning, DRIVE Staffing Solutions hosts a job fair at Jackson Interfaith Shelter. This partnership was established in the fall of 2022, and has since provided hundreds of jobs for shelter clients and community members looking for employment. The DRIVE team makes this process seamless. A person can complete intake on Wednesday, attend the job fair on Thursday, and start work the following Monday. Along with other benefits, they are offered transportation to and from work, which is typically a significant barrier to permanent employment.

In addition to the Jackson Interfaith Shelter partnership, DRIVE Staffing Solutions works with other shelters to expand their impact and support both employers in the manufacturing sector, and individuals seeking employment.

Below are statistics from DRIVE for 2023-2024.



13
NEW PARTNERSHIPS



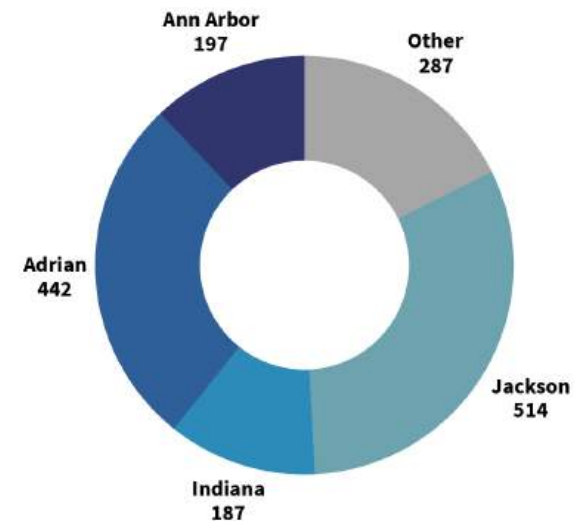
101
PERMANENT HIRES



7,811
EMPLOYEE ROUND TRIPS PROVIDED



\$115,303K
TOTAL IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



PLAYGROUND RENOVATION
SUMMER 2020

RESOURCE ROOM RENOVATION
NOVEMBER 2020



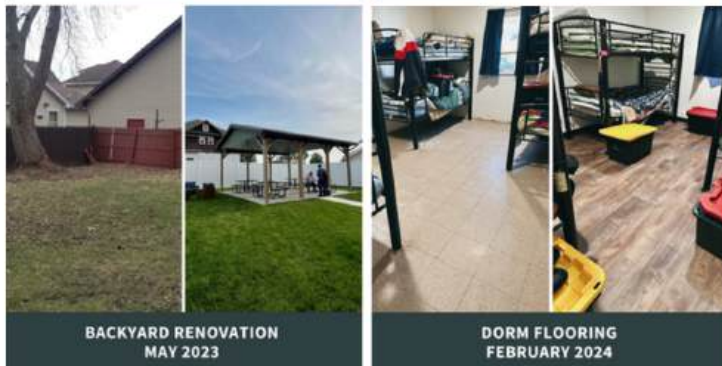
ENTRYWAY RENOVATION
JULY 2022

AUDITORIUM RENOVATION
JULY 2022



MEN'S RESTROOM RENOVATION
FALL 2022

PURCHASE OF A VAN
MAY 2023



BACKYARD RENOVATION
MAY 2023

DORM FLOORING
FEBRUARY 2024

1 A significant need to enhance the care of those residing at JIS is creating a separate space for families. Currently single men, single women as well as parents with their children all reside under one roof. The needs of a single mom with three small children, an elderly veteran with mobility concerns and a younger individual working on substance use recovery vary greatly. The family shelter will increase the safety and support we can offer to families by providing a separate space for them to work toward their unique goals. Additionally, this will free up beds at the current shelter to allow additional space for single women in need of emergency shelter to find stability and wrap around support.

2 With currently unoccupied property owned by JIS, we will construct a shelter that is utilized solely by family units, whether that be two parents or single parents with their children. This update would allow our current facility to transition into a shelter just for single adults. With the new family shelter located on the same property as our current building, efficiencies would be created for meal services, staff care, as well as meeting and event space. This project has been in the planning stages for the last few years, as our staff and board have regularly conversed about our expanding needs, the best way to meet those needs, and proactively acquired property to allow for necessary programmatic expansion.



3 The project will serve traditional and non-traditional families who are experiencing homelessness in our community. They will be able to access the same and expanded services as our main shelter. Additionally, our on-site and close proximity partnerships with the Welcome Home Organization, Altering Outcomes and MyPlace will allow our families to access 24/7 daycare services, job opportunities with transportation, and housing and supportive service options for at risk youth.

RECENT DATA:

In 2023, we served 64 families which included 110 children. In 2022, we served 57 families which included 106 children. Every week, we receive calls from numerous women and families we are unable to help due to lack of space.

CURRENT CHALLENGES:



Family units typically require a longer stay than single adults. Besides the challenge of finding a job, saving money and searching for housing, a family has the added responsibility of securing childcare, healthcare, schooling, etc. While searching for housing, if the family requires more than two bedrooms to sufficiently house their family, the search becomes more difficult because rentals with three or more bedrooms are often much harder to find.



Housing families and single females in the same wing offers its own unique challenges. This can include relational altercations between parents and single adults, varied schedules based on the needs of everyone involved, and even the potential trauma a single female might experience if she has children but is unable to have them with her at the shelter or is currently navigating custody challenges.



While we intentionally keep our family units together for the sake of the children, **having dads in the same wing as single females who may have experienced domestic violence can contribute to additional trauma.**



It is not uncommon to house upwards of 10 families, which could comprise of over 30 parents and children. During these times, the number of single women we can house is extremely limited. **Weekly, we have over 10 inquiries from single females who we are unable to accommodate due to a lack of available beds.**



We provide classes, services, case management, and general support to all who stay at our shelter. **Families often can benefit from services targeted to their specific needs, and also often operate on a different daily schedule and weekly structure than single adults do.** Finding time and space to meet the unique needs of our families and singles is often challenging.



A SEPARATE FAMILY SHELTER WILL OFFER:

More appropriate **sleeping arrangements** for family units. We will be able to better accommodate unique family situations.

The **space and staffing** to support families through targeted classes, services, childcare support and case management.

Kitchenette space for parents to **learn how to prepare meals**, rather than relying solely on shelter-provided meals.

Increased bed availability, along with a more comfortable living space, for single women at our main shelter building.

Overall, this new build will **increase our total sheltering capacity** from 76 to 120+.

EXPERT RESEARCH ON WHY THIS MODEL IS NEEDED:

From the National Library of Medicine, *“Understanding Mechanisms Driving Family Homeless Shelter Use and Child Mental Health”*:



From the California Health Report, *“For Many Homeless Families, a Tough Choice: Separation, or a Shelter Bed?”*:



From the Atlanta Mission, *“The Importance of Keeping Families Together in Homelessness”*



FAMILY SHELTER RENDERINGS AND SITE PLAN



“ In August of 2024 I celebrated five years since becoming a part of the Jackson Interfaith Shelter team. Considering all that has happened and witnessing God’s abundant faithfulness, much of it through incredible partners like you, I am humbled knowing that my time at the shelter only represents a meager 10 percent of the life of this incredible place. For 50 years there have been countless lives touched through thousands of partners in giving, praying, serving, staffing, feeding and sacrificially loving the often-overlooked members of this community.

Over the past five decades, there have been a few defining moments for Jackson Interfaith Shelter. Taking the initial leap of faith to found the shelter, moving to our current location, and building the dormitories to expand from a dozen beds to nearly 80 would be some of the most critical. At each one of these critical moments, the people of Jackson have faithfully committed to making these dreams a reality.

Right now, we are in the midst of one of these defining moments for Jackson Interfaith Shelter that our community will reflect upon for decades to come. Thank you for putting your fingerprints on this moment where we have the opportunity to take significant strides forward in our care for vulnerable families in our community. It’s a beautiful thing knowing that when those who come after us reflect on where the shelter is in another 50 years, they’ll be able to say when the need was there, the community took the bold steps necessary to make the family shelter a reality. ”



STEVE CASTLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



WILL YOU HELP LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE OF JACKSON INTERFAITH SHELTER?



Your gift of \$100, \$1,000 \$10,000 or more will not only help make this expansion project a reality, but it will be **doubled** thanks to the generosity of the John George Jr. Trust. They will be matching every gift that is donated to the Family Shelter project, up to \$3,000,000.00.

Will you consider making a tax-deductible gift or a pledge today?

You can learn about our various giving options, as well as the latest updates and project budget, by scanning the QR code below or visiting interfaithshelter.com/familysshelter.

HELP LAY THE FOUNDATION WITH A GIFT OR PLEDGE TODAY





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