2025-26 SEASON OVERVIEW

Report for
Supporters & Donors

SEPTEMBER 2026









SAFE HARBOR

Letter to Supporters

Dear Friends,

My sincere thanks for your support of Safe Harbor. At Safe Harbor, our mission strives to support the physical and spiritual welfare of community members experiencing homelessness by providing emergency shelter, food, and hope.

This year marks the 23rd year Safe Harbor has served those who are among the most vulnerable in our community. It also marks the second year the shelter remained open through the summer at the request of the city, the county, and our community partners. As part of going year-round, the city, county, and other organizations agreed to fund summer operations for two years while the newly formed Task Force looks at a long-term solution to serving those experiencing homelessness. Safe Harbor is a part of that Task Force.

That two-year funding commitment has ended. The Task Force has submitted a recommendation to the city and county outlining the need for a 165 bed, shelter, with supportive services. The Task Force also recommended the current Goodwill Inn on Keystone Road as a preferred location. Expanding beds at Safe Harbor and Goodwill was mentioned as an alternative plan.

Throughout our work with the Task Force, the Safe Harbor Board has made it clear that any involvement in future solutions would require clear benefits for our guests, buy-in from our staff, and meaningful roles for our volunteers.

We remain active with the Task Force and continue to engage with community partners, but currently there is not a sustained funding plan for the Task Force's recommendations.

Safe Harbor is committed to staying open year-round but needs your support and the support of others to make that happen.

Safe Harbor remains a primarily donor-funded non-profit organization. Whether you support Safe Harbor with a monetary donation, a gift of time, or simply a kind word, you are an integral part of the Safe Harbor family, and we are grateful for your commitment. Each of you help bring dignity and hope to those experiencing homelessness.

We believe that together when we put our faith into action, we can transform our community — one life at a time. Hope, love, and dignity are transformative and empowering to the human person.

Wishing you peace and blessings,

Patrick Livingston

Patrick Livingston
BoardChairperson

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Operations Report

Hard to believe we now have two summers of experience under our belt. This past season, our operations focused on applying what we learned while also addressing new challenges.

Primary among the challenges—turning away guests has now become the norm rather than a rarity. With adding beds not an option, we focused on supporting our current guests in finding their path to a better situation outside the shelter. Each guest now has a tailor-made Guest Empowerment Plan that might involve employment, housing, and life skills training. Supports are provided either here in-house at the shelter or guests are connected to partners for targeted services. The plans are supported by our volunteer Care Connectors and revisited as circumstances change. There are 78 different paths into the shelter and 78 different paths out into a better place.

A second challenge surfaced last year and proved easier to resolve. Dinner was an infrequent event last summer, as our partner churches did not have the bandwidth to provide dinners year-round, and we did not have other resources to meet the need. Unfortunately, some of our guests rely heavily on the Safe Harbor dinner, and having one certainly creates a calmer atmosphere. This year, our churches and 5Loaves2Fish Northern Michigan provided meals approximately 40 percent of the summer. For the balance, Goodwill offered help from their excellent kitchen, and we were able to purchase simple-to-prep meals for a very reasonable price (your donations at work!).

We also addressed a major infrastructure issue the past year—our mattresses. We expected, of course, that going year round would accelerate mattress wear, but the consistent very high numbers forced significant breakdown. Even the best weekly efforts of our volunteers to turn and move mattresses could not prevent the problem. But, thanks to the generosity of the Cosgrove Foundation, we did purchase new memory foam mattresses that have a greater lifespan and better support guests while sleeping. An added bonus has been cleaning and moving the mattresses, which has proved much easier for volunteers and staff.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Rich Faller *Brad Gerlach*

Dr. Rich Faller
Operations Committee Chair

Brad Gerlach
Facility Committee Chair

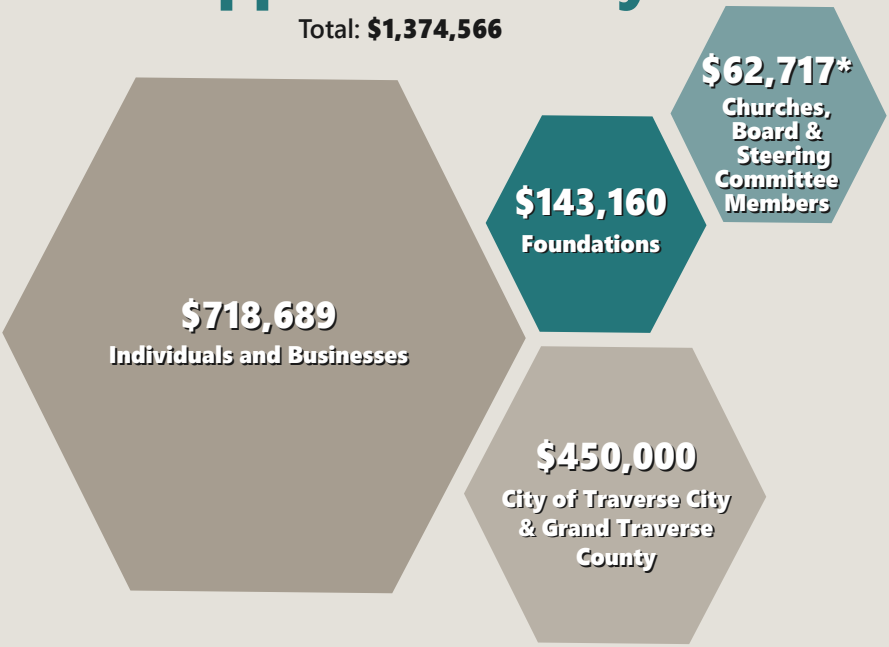


Safe Harbor's Impact

21	Local Churches Participating
2,300	Volunteers
26,082	Bed Nights / Meals Served
7,992	Showers
3,440	Loads of Laundry
358	Unique Individuals Served
72	Average Guests per Night
73	Average Length of Stay
70	Former Guests in Permanent Housing
28%	Percentage of Women Guests

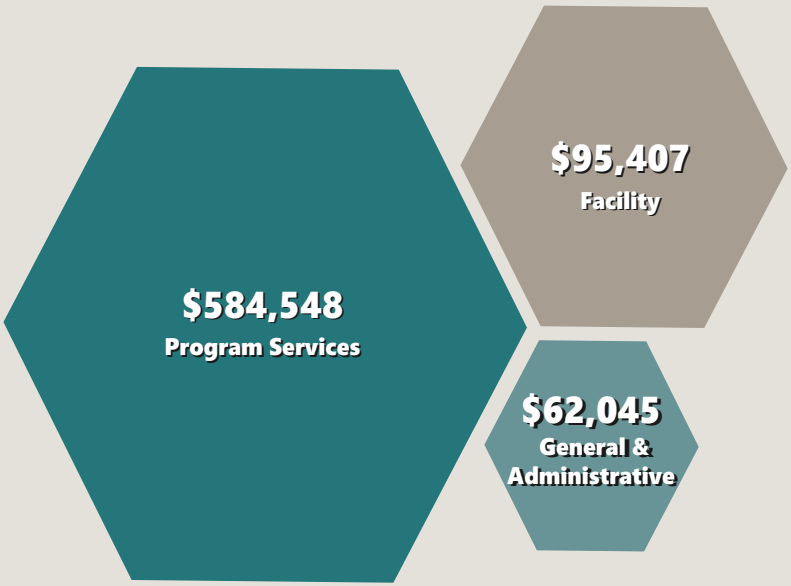
Support Summary

Total: **$1,374,566**



Expenditure Summary

Total Operating Expenses (Cash)*: **$742,000***
Capital Improvements: **$54,774**
Total Expenditures (Cash): **$796,774***



*Excludes $80,150 for value assigned to meals and services donated (in-kind).

Participating Churches / Congregations

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Central United Methodist Church
Christ the King Catholic Church
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Faith Reformed Church
Grace Episcopal Church
Holy Rosary Catholic Church
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
Kensington Church
New Hope Community Church
Northern Lakes Community Church
Presbyterian Church of Traverse City
Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Church
Sojourn Church
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
St. Joseph Catholic Church
St. Patrick Catholic Church
St. Philip Neri Catholic Church
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse
West Side Community Church
5Loaves2Fish Northern Michigan

Additional Assistance with Meals

Central United Methodist Church
5Loaves2Fish Northern Michigan

Season Overview includes donors, donations and expenditures from 6/1/2025 to 5/31/2026.



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A Special Thanks to Goodwill Industries of Northern Michigan, Traverse Health Clinic, City of Traverse City, County of Grand Traverse

Safe Harbor's principal mission is to support the physical and spiritual welfare of people experiencing homelessness by providing emergency shelter, food, and hope.

While Safe Harbor operates a non-profit year-round emergency shelter, it is also part of the continuum of care, collaborating with community partners to develop long-term solutions to homelessness in our region.









SAFE HARBOR

Safe Harbor of Grand Traverse, Inc.
P.O. Box 403, Traverse City, MI 49685
www.gtsafeharbor.org