

Make Dreams



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2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

Over the last few years, Journey House has seen some of its greatest dreams come true. The Journey House Center for Family Learning and Youth Athletics opened its doors in June 2012. Today, the facility serves as a hub for the City's Near Southside neighborhoods. In 2013, we saw the opening of the Journey House Packers Football Stadium in Mitchell Park. The Stadium has become a city-wide destination, showcasing our community and spurring economic development. Our most recent effort, Journey House's Campus Housing Initiative, will offer affordable, safe housing for motivated youth who are aging out of foster care or are homeless while revitalizing foreclosed and blighted nuisance properties around the neighborhood.

Our dedicated staff, board of directors, and numerous community partners made these visions reality through persistent hard work, patience, and unwavering belief in the possibility. We teach our participants that they can do the same thing in their own lives. Through programs in adult education, workforce readiness, youth development, and family engagement we prepare our participants with the skills they need to move their families out of poverty and make their dreams come true. We encourage them to set goals and to become engaged in the community by sharing their time and talent. With vision, commitment, and patience, anything is possible.

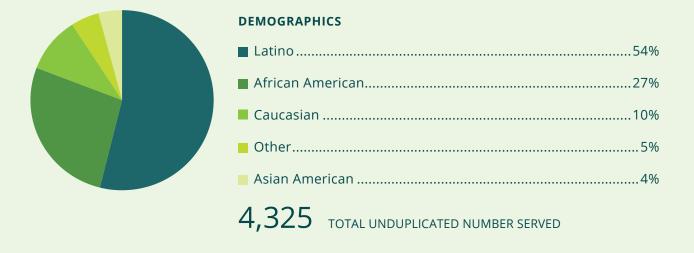
When our children and adults flourish and prosper, they improve their own quality of life and enhance those of their families and the community as well.

Thank you for sharing our vision and for your support along the way.

Together in the Journey,
Michele Bria, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer
Chris Calvelli, Chairman, Board of Directors

Journey House empowers families living on Milwaukee's near Southside to move out of poverty by offering adult education, workforce readiness, youth development, and family engagement programs.

2014 Numbers







Journey House Awards

Journey House's accomplishments were acknowledged by a number of organizations during 2014. The agency received an unprecedented number of awards throughout the year in recognition of its efforts and positive impact on the community.

The Governor's Council on Financial Literacy named Journey House as one of the recipients of the 2013 Wisconsin Financial Literacy Award given for efforts in promoting financial literacy among Wisconsin residents.



Journey House Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Michele Bria, was selected as one of the Milwaukee Business Journal's Women of Influence for 2014. This award is bestowed upon Milwaukee-area women who are leaders in their fields and are making an impact in their professions and communities. Dr. Bria also received the 2014 Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin's Amiga Award given to community leaders who have demonstrated exceptional support to the Hispanic community.

Journey House was awarded Honorable Mention as the Business Journal's Neighborhood Impact Project of the year for the Journey House Packers Football Stadium in Mitchell Park, a collaborative effort with Milwaukee County Parks.





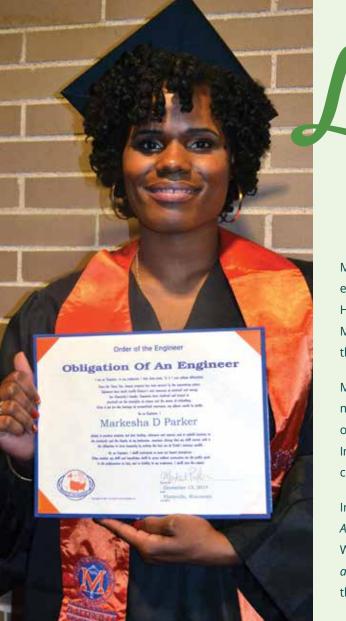
On November 19, 2014 at UWM Men's Basketball Game at the new Panthers Arena, University of Milwaukee – Wisconsin Athletics recognized Journey House with the Panthers Pay It Forward Award for their grateful appreciation for Journey House's many years of dedication and diligence to the greater Milwaukee Community.

Journey House and Discovery World were named as finalists for the BizTimes 2014 Nonprofit Collaboration of the Year award.

The Journey House Packers Football Stadium was named as a finalist for the 2014 Milwaukee Awards for Neighborhood Development Innovation (MANDI) in the Brewers Community Foundation Public Space Award category for the creation or use of public space that contributes significantly to the overall wellbeing of the community.

Journey House Director of Youth Programs, Charles Brown, was a finalist in the 2014 MANDI Northern Trust Navigator Award category recognizing an outstanding individual that has provided leadership and collaboration.





Markesha Parker

Markesha Parker has been involved with Journey House since she was in the eighth grade. As a teen, she was an active member and leader of Journey House's Girls in the House, Bridge Builders Program, and College Careers. Many nights, Markesha could be found at Journey House diligently working through difficult math problems until the Youth Center closed.

Math did not come easy to Markesha. She worked very hard to master the material. Her efforts were rewarded with an acceptance to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering in December 2014. While at UW-Platteville, Markesha continued to be a leader on her campus community.

In 2012 and 2013, she was awarded UW-Platteville's *Chancellor's Medallion Award for Outstanding Leadership*. In September 2014, the University of Wisconsin System President Ray Cross awarded Markesha the *UW System and Alliant Energy Academic Achievement Award*. Markesha was one of only three seniors from the entire UW System to win this award.

In January 2015, Markesha began her industrial engineering career at a Fortune 500 Company in the greater Milwaukee area. She aspires to give back to her community and continues to volunteer at Journey House.

"If you were to ask me, What does it take to make dreams come true?' I would tell you breaking barriers, conquering your fears, overcoming adversities, never giving up, being involved in your community and in school, patience, but most importantly, gaining the courage to share those experiences with others after you to give them hope and inspiration so that they can fulfill their dreams and accomplish their goals too."

- Markesha Parker





Campus Housing Initiative

Journey House's Campus Housing Initiative, started in 2013, is addressing several issues in our community. The program will increase access to affordable, safe housing for youth who are aging out of foster care (ages 18-25) or are homeless while providing a positive environment that encourages them to become self-sufficient residents of our community who achieve their dreams.

Complementary supportive programming from Milwaukee County WrapAround and Journey House assists with life skills, workforce readiness, financial education, and career pathways. At the same time, the initiative will transform foreclosed and blighted nuisance properties around the neighborhood into attractive spaces.

Campus Housing Major Partners: Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative, Milwaukee County WrapAround, Milwaukee County Housing, City of Milwaukee Mayor's Office, City of Milwaukee DCD, Cardinal Capital, Cesar Chavez BID and TREK Dreambikes.

Adult Education

Journey House's Adult Education Programs focus on building the academic and life skills needed by participants to secure and retain family-sustaining employment. 670 adults participated in Adult Basic Skills/GED, English Language Learning and Citizenship classes over the course of the year. 134 children benefitted from our onsite childcare.





Adult Basic Skills/GED: These classes are offered in both English and Spanish. Our primary focus in this area throughout the year was on preparing our students for the new National GED Exam which was introduced in January 2014. This new exam presents many challenges including cost (it is much more expensive to take) and difficulty (it is much more challenging, especially in math). We are working with our students to overcome these obstacles.





English Language Learners: The goal of our ELL classes is to increase employment opportunities for the adults in our community. By improving the ability to read, write and speak English, these classes provide greater access to jobs and educational opportunities. As part of a Wisconsin Technical College System pilot program, we increased the duration of our ELL classes from 2 to 2 ½ hours this year. The first two hours are direct instruction with the last 30 minutes saved for computer and conversation work.

Citizenship: In spring 2014, Journey House was very excited to receive Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) Accreditation. This accreditation enables our citizenship staff to now complete all the necessary naturalization paperwork for applications in-house. Thanks to a generous grant by the Charles E. Benidt Foundation, we are able to accommodate 25 new citizens each year.

Childcare: While parents are learning, their children (walking to age 6) are too. Our Childcare, free of charge and open to the children of our adult learners, is a bilingual environment rich in social and intellectual stimulation preparing its participants for Head Start and K4.

Adult Education Major Partners: Milwaukee Area
Technical College, Wisconsin Technical College System,
United Way, Alverno College, Marquette University,
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Discovery World, and
Milwaukee Public Library.

Workforce Readiness

The Urban Careers Institute Financial Opportunity Center helps clients evaluate both their employment and financial needs. Our staff works with participants on an individual basis to create positive work habits and ethics, to teach proper communication skills, and to increase financial literacy. Last year, 258 participants benefitted from FOCservices.



Job training: An Employment Coach works individually with participants to assess employment needs, past work history, and to identify the steps needed to secure gainful employment. Coaching is available for preparing resumes, researching job opportunities, building an employment portfolio (cover letter, resume, and letters of reference), preparing applications, or practicing interviewing techniques. Participants go through customer service and leadership training. Our iMac lab offers staffed, walk-in hours twice a week. During these hours, participants can receive help in searching online for jobs, filling out online job applications, or improving their overall computer skills.

Job placement: FOC participants have access to an employer network that Journey House has developed over the past several years. These cultivated relationships are key in securing employment. Additionally, participants are directed to appropriate educational programs and workforce training programs as needed to increase their opportunity for securing gainful employment. In 2014, 118 of our participants were placed in jobs.

Financial Education: Our financial coaches meet one-on-one with clients for a financial assessment, followed by subsequent sessions focusing on analyzing credit reviews, setting up a budget, and developing and monitoring a personalized financial plan. Workshops and seminars are planned throughout the year and include topics like using credit wisely, loans, and banking. For the fourth year in a row, we acted as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. For FY2014, 336 returns were filed free of charge for community residents.

Neighborhood Ambassadors: This year-round initiative is run in partnership with Alderman Bob Donovan, the City of Milwaukee, and United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS). The Ambassadors provide a number of public service activities to improve the quality of life in the Clarke Square Neighborhood and the surrounding communities while working with Journey House staff to gain work experience, prepare for the workforce, develop leadership skills and ultimately, get a job.

Urban Careers Institute major partners: Local Initiative Support Corporation, Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Youthbuild, United Migrant Opportunity Services, United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee, Department of Neighborhood Services, Menomonee Valley Partners, local aldermen, employers, and financial institutions.



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Youth Development

Journey House's Youth Development programs cultivate the personal, professional, and social skills necessary to overcome adversity and achieve success. Our participants are taught that academic achievement, self-discipline, and commitment are invaluable tools in achieving their dreams. In total, over 2,600 youth were served through our programs in 2014.



Academic offerings: Education is one of the keys to breaking generational poverty. In partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools, Journey House operates five Community Learning Centers: Albert E. Kagel Elementary, Bay View High School, H.W. Longfellow K-8 School, Humboldt Park K-8 Charter School, and South Division High School. These after-school programs increase student achievement and learning, provide alternatives to being home alone and offer safe havens from unwanted influences. Our College Careers Program prepares students for high achievement in post-secondary education and the workforce and a study hall, tutoring, and mentoring provide a structure for success.





Youth Leadership Programs: Our gender-specific leadership programs,
Girls in the House and Esquires, build positive life skills. These programs focus on academic and employment readiness and generate social awareness.

Athletic Programs: A first class athletic program leverages academic success and demands good behavior both in school and in the neighborhood while incorporating healthy, physical activity and family participation. We have found that in our urban neighborhoods, sports is the "draw" that allows positive adults to

influence our young children, helping them to build necessary skills to become contributing citizens. We offer soccer, basketball, football and cheerleading, and baseball. In 2014, Journey House took over management of the Felix Mantilla Little League. The League has 22 teams and over 300 participants starting as early as age 4.

Arts programs: Through art and artistic expression, we hope to help our students develop their imaginations and cooperation skills and to teach them the power of collaboration. Programs offered include visual arts (Mac design classes and design principles of art) and performing arts (spoken word, dance, music, and theatre/drama). In December, Journey House put on its first theater production—*The Jungle Book*. Thirteen youth made up the cast and crew and worked with Director Ricardo Galaviz to put on two shows open to the community.

Youth Development major partners: Milwaukee County Parks, Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Brewers, UWM Athletics, MU High School, MPS Recreation, Young Milwaukee Charitable Organization, NeWaukee, YES!, MPS, Discovery World, Betty Brinn Children's Museum, Milwaukee Public Library, Marquette University, UWM, MATC, Community Service Learners, Urban Ecology Center, UNCOM Helen Bader Cultural Arts, Dance Works, Milwaukee Public Theater, and local artists.



Family Engagement



At Journey House, we believe a strong family life creates a sense of belonging, providing security, and building a strong emotional foundation for both parents and children. Through our Family Engagement activities, we are helping our participants with practical advice, empowerment strategies, helpful tools, and loads of family fun. In 2014, 3,065 people took part in these activities and events.

Valentine's Day Extravaganza: This event featured cupcake decorating, hoop dance lessons and arts and crafts.

Game Night: Thank you to the Soul Sisters of Milwaukee for sponsoring an evening of fun with board games.

Conversations for the Cure: This breast cancer awareness event was held on June 5th in partnership with Kohls

Healthy Living & Cooking: A wellness grant through the United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee made this visit from a nutritionist possible.

STRONG Inside Out Tour Fitness Event: On August 2nd, people were inspired to move as they "Sweated out the Struggle" at the Journey House Packers Football Stadium.

Back to School Event: Held on August 9th in partnership with Faith Builders, this event distributed back packs and school supplies to attendees, offered haircuts and health checks, provided information on community resources and offered family games and activities.

Open House: This informational event took place on September 16th to familiarize community residents with the programs we offer. The evening included demonstrations by some of our instructors.

Halloween Spooktacular: This annual favorite event welcomed 637 guests.

Thanksgiving Dinner: Over 50 volunteers and 350 seated community guests gathered to give thanks.

Shop with a Cop: Seventy-five community kids paired up with law enforcement officers for breakfast and holiday shopping for their families.

Winter Wonderland: Nearly 800 guests attended this year's event.



Holiday Dreams Come True



It was a full Journey House for our annual Winter Wonderland celebration held on December 20th. Over 800 of our participants and community residents joined us for the celebration that, for the second year in a row, featured a performance by the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra as part of their Hometown Holiday tour.

In addition to a visit from Santa and a distribution of toys and books to all youth at the event, Journey House received a special gift: a van to replace the organization's old van which was stolen in early December. The vehicle came courtesy of Young Milwaukee Charitable Organization and Sommer's Automotive.

Journey House was also the beneficiary of the Young Milwaukee Charitable

Organization's Holiday Gala. This event, held on December 12th, collected more than 3,000 toys from party goers which were then donated to Journey House to hand out at our Winter Wonderland.



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Gala and Fashion Show

Journey House held its two major fundraising events at The Journey House Center for Family Learning and Youth Athletics in 2014. The venue provided guests a chance to get an insider's look at where our participants spend their time and what our facility has to offer the community.

On May 3rd, 321 guests joined us for the Journey House 45th Anniversary Gala & Auction. The event once again featured a silent and voice auction as well as a seated dinner and program. The evening's highlights included a performance by American Idol contestant Tiffany Engibous-Venegasa, song and dance by Journey House's very own Temptations, and a caricature artist on hand to create guests' portraits.



The Clarke Square Neighborhood was transformed into a fashion hot spot on November 8th when the Journey House Charitable Organization hosted its second Journey to the Runway, Dress to Give Fashion Show. Two hundred guests joined in the fun as 27 models took to the runway, showing off the season's trends from Altoroarte, Faye's Boutique, Luci's Boutique, Men's Warehouse, MOdE, NL Suits, and Park Lane Jewelry. Nine hair and makeup stylists and 40 fashion stylists and event support helped to make the evening possible.

Together these events grossed over \$200,000 in support of Journey House's programs and services.



Sources of Contracts

CITY OF MILWUAKEE

Community Development Block Grant

• Workforce Development (Neighborhood Ambassadors)

LOCAL INITIATIVE SUPPORT CORPORATION (LISC)

Financial Opportunity Center

MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE (MATC)

General Purpose Revenue

Adult Basic Skills

Pre-College Division





MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS (MPS)

Community Learning Center

- Bay View Community Learning Center
- Humboldt Park K-8 Charter School Community Learning Center
- Kagel Elementary School Community Learning Center
- Longfellow K-8 School Community Learning Center
- South Division High School Community Learning Centers Summer Stars

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Violence Prevention Initiative
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AL Schutzman Altoroarte Jewelry Alverno College

AXA Advisors

Arrowhead High School Robotics Club

Arts at Large Athletes for Youth **Aurora Specialty Pharmacy**

Badger Mutual Insurance Company Betty Brinn Children's Museum

Bicycle Works Big Beautiful and Blessed

BMO Harris Bank Boutique Larreaux

Boy Scouts Bovs & Girls Clubs of Greater

Milwaukee Breadsmith Franchising

Briggs & Stratton Brookfield Central Honor Society Bryant & Stratton Internship Program

Business Journal Cardinal Capital

Cardinal Stritch University

Carroll University Internship Program Cesar Chavez Business District Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

Christ Church Episcopal City of Milwaukee

Community Development Block Grant Department of City Development

Department of Public Works

Housing Authority Mayor's Office **Municipal Courts** Police Department

City Year

Clarke Square Media Productions Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative

Club Latino

COA Youth and Family Centers

Colectivo

Community Building Milwaukee Community Shares of Greater

Milwaukee Core-El Centro Crahan Law Crate & Barrel Cristo Rey High School **Dance Works**

Danielle Buren Photography Department of Natural Resources

Discovery World

Divine Savior Holy Angels High School **Donald Driver Foundation**

Downtown Montessori School Dreambikes

El Rev

Eppstein Uhen Architects ESPN Deportes Radio 1510 Escuela Verde

Eva's Elf Faith Builders Faye's Boutique

Foley & Lardner Forest County Potawatomi Community

Foundation Fox 6 News **FUEL Milwaukee**

Genco Germantown High School Student

Council **Girl Scouts** Girls on the Run **Green Bay Packers**

Greater Milwaukee Foundation Greater Milwaukee Literacy Coalition

Greater Milwaukee Committee Grob, Inc. **Gruber Law Offices**

H&R Block Harley-Davidson Museum

Helen Bader Foundation Hilton Milwaukee City Center Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Hispanic Professionals of Greater

Milwaukee

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Hmong American Peace Academy

Holy Inspired Jewelry Hunger Task Force **ICM** Corporation

International Association for Human

Values

Interstate Partners Johnson Insurance Services Journal Broadcast Group

KBS Construction Knick Salon and Spa

Kohl's Cares

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Lakeland College Girls Softball Team Lammi Sports Management

Layton Boulevard West Neighbors Legacy Salon and Day Spa

Legends of the Field

Leuder Financial Group

LISC Milwaukee Luci's Boutique **Majic Productions** Major League Baseball

Mali Bria Designs and Photography

Manpower

Marcus Corporation Marquette University

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County Executive Office Housing Wrap-Around

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Parks and Recreation Sheriff's Office Shop with a Cop

Milwaukee County Zoo

Milwaukee Public Library Milwaukee Public Schools Bay View High School Humboldt Park K-8 School

Albert E. Kagel Elementary School Longfellow K-8 School

South Division High School Milwaukee Public Schools: Recreation

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Milwaukee Urban Soccer Collaborative Milwaukee Wave Professional Soccer

Milwaukee World Festivals Milwaukee Yoga Movement

Mode

Molina Health Care Monster Worldwide Mount Mary University

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Serenitees

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US Department of Education **USA Football**

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Wild Space WIPFLI

Wisconsin Challenge Academy Wisconsin Conservatory of Music Wisconsin Department of Instruction

Wisconsin Literacy

Wisconsin Technical College System Wisconsin Youth Leadership Academy

WIMR-FM 98.3

Woman's Club of Wisconsin

YWCA

YES! for Schools

Young Milwaukee Charitable Organization

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(eastern side)

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FUTURE 2018 VISION OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

