



HARVEST HOUSE

2019 Annual Report

Empowering the Poor and
Transforming Lives in Northeast
Oklahoma, One Guest at a Time
.....since 1996

From the desk of the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Harvest House,

December 31, 2019

As the year 2019 comes to a close I would like to express my deep gratitude to all the private and corporate foundations, faithful partners, fellow charitable agencies, helpful board members and indispensable volunteers and staff members who have all helped us to serve the needy and less fortunate in Northeast Oklahoma this year.

We are very grateful that you have enabled us to serve a record 2,722 households this past year. Their households include 7,283 individuals to whom we delivered 12,154 food bags, 25,613 items of clothing, 17,668 diapers, and 302 vouchers for new glasses as well as many other services that you will read about in this report.

You will also read about a fictional person named Michele on the facing page and the many ways she would be able to receive help and hope from her visit to Harvest House. She is fictional for privacy, but her story is typical of so many of our guests. We continue to find ways to give each guest a hand up and not just a hand out.

Harvest House is proud to be a part of the wonderful nonprofit sector and to be able to partner with the awesome foundations here in Tulsa. We were surprised to learn from the 211 Helpline people that we are now fifth largest on their list of agency referrals. We clearly are the backbone of the safety net for South Tulsa.

I am sure 2020 will bring it's own set of challenges but we look forward to all the successes it will also bring in the lives of our guests. May you each have a very happy and successful year in 2020!!

Thank you, and be blessed!



Marlene Cunningham
Executive Director



MICHELLE'S STORY

Michelle came into Harvest House in March, 2019. This was her story:

She had moved to Tulsa from Texas three years ago. Her father had abandoned the family when she was 12, and her mother, an alcohol and drug abuser, gave Michelle very little guidance or care. Michelle dropped out of school in her junior year and moved in with her older boyfriend. Her boyfriend realized he was not cut out for fatherhood and left when she became pregnant. Raising the new baby boy alone, she soon moved in with another boyfriend and they eventually decided to move to Tulsa where his brother lived. Michelle could not pass the vision part of the exam to get an Oklahoma driver's license, so she found a minimum wage job at a grocery store down the street from their apartment. Soon afterward she found herself pregnant again, this time with a little girl, and it was not long until the latest boyfriend found he was ready to leave.

Two years after he left, Michelle came to us with no food in the apartment, rent overdue and electricity about to be cut off. We immediately gave her a week's worth of quality, nutritious groceries of her selection and help for her electric bill that was about to be cut off. She shopped for clothing for her boy and herself, selecting two full outfits each. She was also able to select two outfits for the baby girl, a blanket, box of diapers, baby food, baby shoes and more. We realized she also needed help with her vision so we gave her a voucher for an eye exam and she chose online frames she liked from New Eyes in New Jersey, another wonderful nonprofit collaboration partner.

Michelle will have her new glasses within four weeks. We also showed her job listings for eight jobs, all of which paid considerably more than her current job; two or three were right near the bus route from her apartment.

She was unaware of housing assistance options, so we explained where to find the nearest DHS office where she could apply for section 8 subsidized housing, food assistance (SNAP) and could enroll them in Sooner Care. We showed two agencies that could help her with her past due rent. We also gave her a brochure for a program where she could receive her GED at no cost. We connected her with several training programs providing her job skills at no charge. She had not seen a doctor since her daughter was born, so we gave her lots of information about Good Samaritan free Health Services that makes two weekly stops very near her residence.

Michelle's son was struggling with behavior issues in school. So, we connected her with Big Brothers and Sisters of Tulsa to help provide positive male roles. We also introduced her to CAPS, where her daughter could get a 'Head Start' on pre-school along with free day care while Michele works.

At the end of the interview Michelle had a week's worth of great groceries, new clothes, new eyeglasses coming, bus tokens for doctor's visits and job interviews, help for both children's needs, and a new path forward for both education and employment that promised to improve her financial situation. Her utilities were secure and she knew where to find a better apartment for less money. She left Harvest House with hope, and a very positive attitude because she could see a new, better tomorrow for her family.

Vision Care

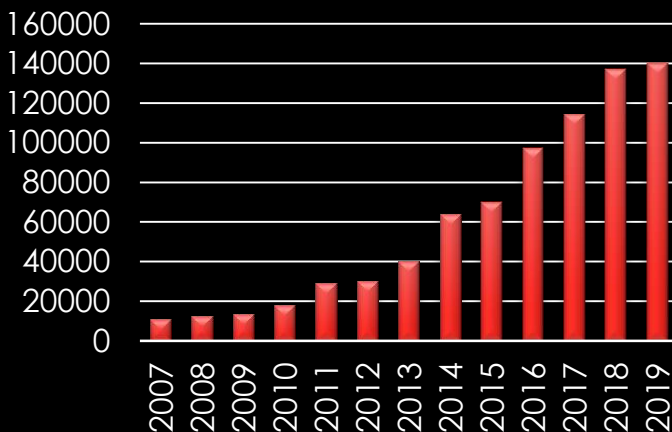
One of the most pressing challenges among the poor is good vision care. Prescription eyeglasses can cost from \$300 to \$1,000, far out of the reach of most of our guests. In search of a solution for several years, we found the right partner in New Eyes, a charity located in New Jersey. Our pilot program worked out the kinks during 2017; we gave 16 guests new eyeglasses. We upgraded it to a fully supported program and in 2018 served 211 guests. In 2019 we grew the program to serve 302 guests, and our plan is to help over 400 guests become 20-20 in 2020. We partner with local optometrists that give is a 50% discount, so we can give our guest a voucher to cover the exam. The guest selects the frame, we input their prescription into the New Eyes system and the new glasses are mailed to the guest's residence. NO cost to our guest. Our guests report they can now get a drivers license, read and complete job applications and perform job duties previously impossible. Amazing outcomes from such a simple solution.



Food Programs

Our guests with appointments select the grocery items, paper goods and toiletries they need from our large menu each week. We gross up the amounts based on the household size. Our guests tell us it is the best food program in Tulsa for the needy, and much in demand. We receive on average two and one half phone calls seeking every appointment we have available. If a hungry guest walks in without an appointment we have emergency bags of groceries for them any time. They contain shelf stable groceries plus whatever fresh fruits, vegetable and bread items we have available. The food programs are our most popular programs and probably the reason many guests seek out an appointment with Harvest House. See the graph below for the growth of these great programs:

Estimated Meals Delivered



Clothing Program

Some of our guests will not send their children to school or attend the church of their choice because they don't have appropriate clothes to wear. When clothing is donated to Harvest House (about 40,000 garments in 2019) from a church's clothing drive or a consignment shop, it is first curated to determine the best use of the garments. High quality gently used or new garments are tastefully displayed by type, color, size and season to assist our guests finding the clothes they need for the household. Up to three outfits may be selected for each household member. Lesser quality garments (over 12,000 garments in 2019) were sent to Goodwill, Salvation Army & Teen Challenge that suit their needs. The best business and evening attire (almost 1,000 garments) was delivered to Dress for Success, Tulsa.

In 2019 we sent about 26,000 really great garments home with our guests for every member of their households, along with lots of household goods.



Infant Services

No child gets to choose the circumstances of its birth, so we believe that all should have the same chances in life. No other agency in South Tulsa has a program to assist children under 4 yrs. with so many of their physical needs. That is what our Infant Services Program is all about ...diapers, blankets, clothes, bottles, shoes, baby food & more.



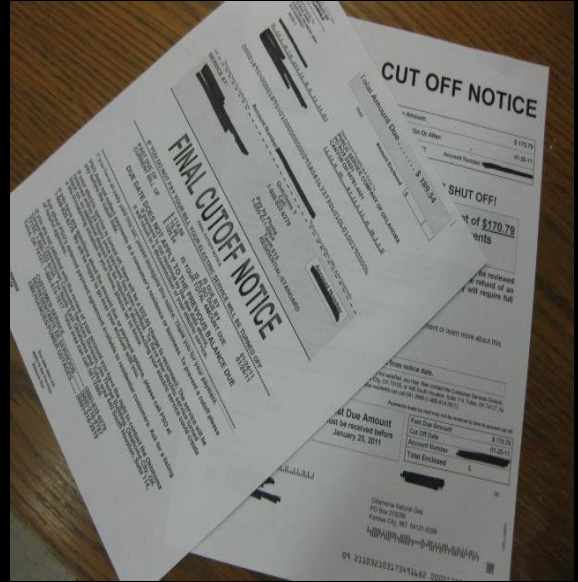
Bus Tokens



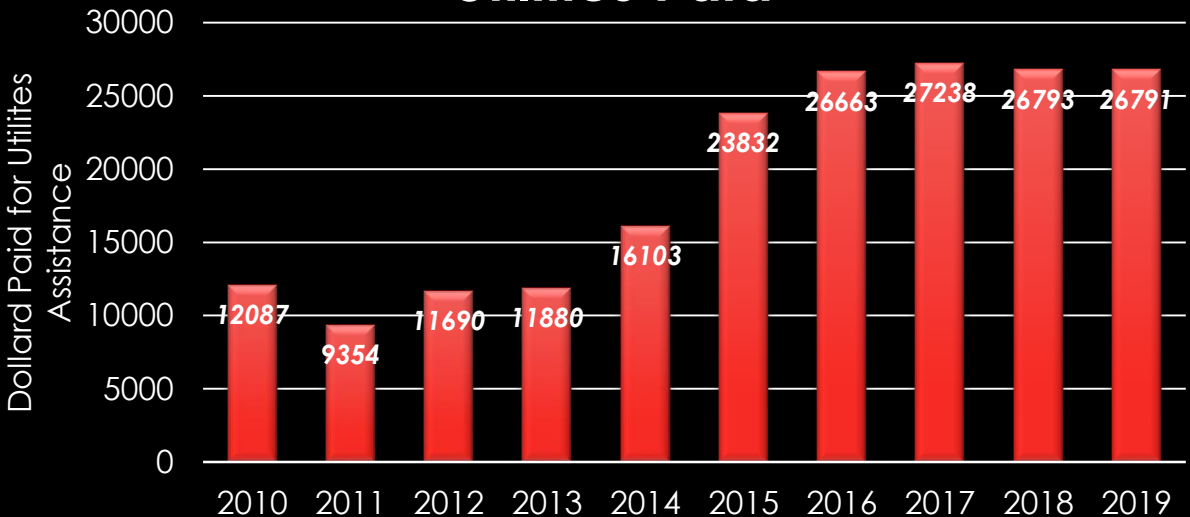
When a guest has a doctor's appointment or a job interview and no means of transportation, we give them bus tokens to ensure they are able to keep that appointment.

Utilities Assistance

Our guests often have to decide whether to pay a utility bill or feed the family or make similar difficult compromises. We help them get caught up with utility bills in cutoff status by paying part of the bill and showing the guest where they can get the balance paid off. There are half a dozen other fine agencies in Tulsa who partner with us on these cases. The graph shows the dollars we have paid to help our guests in the past decade.

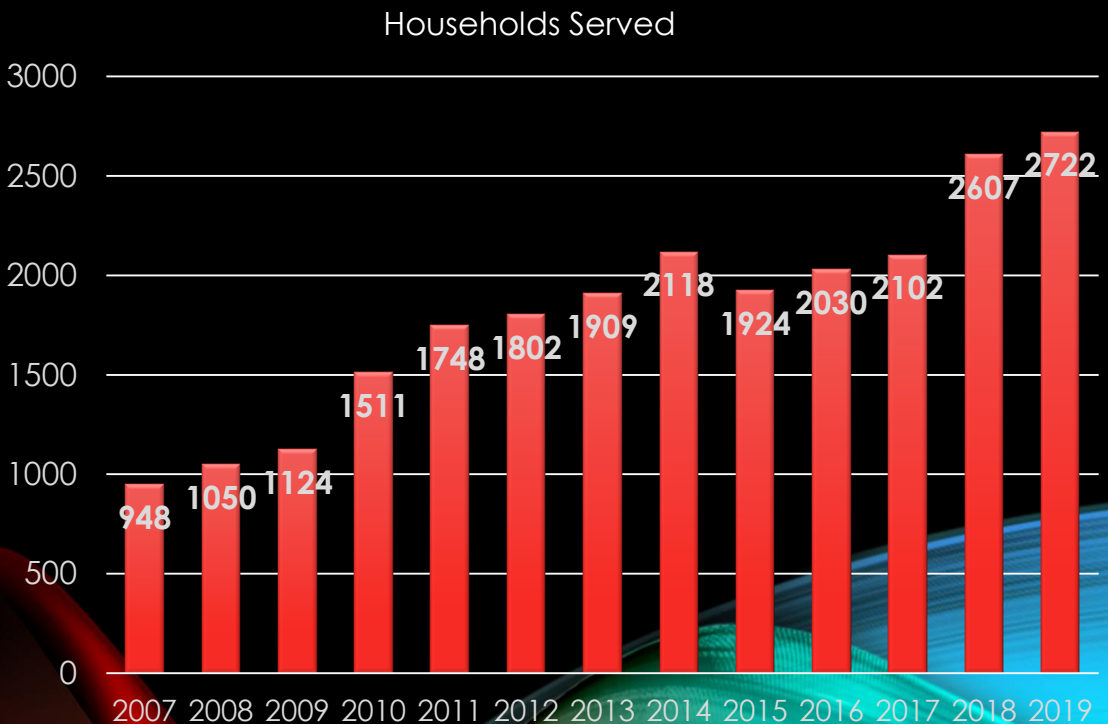


Utilities Paid



THE INTERVIEW

The interview process is where we help our guest begin to re-envision their situation and hope for success begins. We qualify the guest, ensure we are doing all we should from our seven programs, and then begin to assess all the challenges facing this household. Solutions from many sources, especially the many wonderful charities in Tulsa's continuum of care, are offered to address every issue presented. Their load seems much lighter as they leave Harvest House with a clear path forward and renewed hope for a better future.



Collaboration Partners

Harvest House works closely with many other charitable agencies and merchants in the Northeast Oklahoma area and has many great partners who help us serve the needs of our clients. Some of our more frequent collaboration partner organizations are listed below:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Areas of Collaboration</u>
New Eyes	Eyeglasses for our vision-challenged guests
RiverGate Church	6000 sq ft of office space rent free
Christ Redeemer Lutheran Church	Semi-annual clothing drives, cash donations
Salvation Army	Clothing, furniture, and paper goods, especially toilet paper
Community Food Bank of E. OK	Regular supply of food products & USDA products at no cost
Wal-Mart	Clothing at end of season and plastic bags
ECHO Shops	Quality clothing from the resale shop
Panera Bread	Weekly supply of quality bread
Clarehouse	Bed liners and adult diapers
Goodwill Industries	Clothing and household goods
Park Plaza Church of Christ	Bread and excess food items
Dress for Success	High quality business apparel
South Tulsa Community House	Groceries, other items
Rize	Fresh organic pastries
Subway	Fresh bread
Sharehouse	Furniture
Tulsa Teen Challenge	Clothing
Local citizens of Tulsa	Clothing

Financial Partners

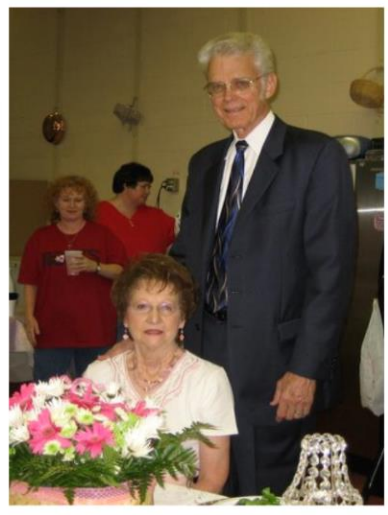
Each year, we like to thank the wonderful donors who partner with Harvest House in delivering help and hope to the needy in our community. We are very much indebted to the foundation community whose support and generous grants provided in 2019 enabled us to accomplish our mission. Oklahoma is an amazing place and may well be the most benevolent state in the nation. Thank you for partnering with us!

Private Foundations

- The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation
- David E. and Cassie L. Temple Foundation
- Jess L. and Miriam B. Stevens Foundation
- Christian Life Foundation
- H.A. & Mary K. Chapman Charitable Trust
- The Sharna and Irvin Frank Foundation
- C. W. Titus Foundation
- Flint Family Foundation
- Ryan and Genevieve Tedder Foundation
- Joseph and Virginia Dibert Foundation
- Ralph & Frances McGill Foundation
- Oxley Foundation
- George Kaiser Family Foundation
- Carpenter's Class FUMC
- Gelvin Foundation
- ARIA Foundation

Corporate Foundations

- Helmerich Trust
- Cox Charities
- Q T Corporation
- Raymond James Tulsa Wealth Advisors
- Sams/WalMART
- D P Financial & Tax



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