

pathfinders

ZOON ANNUAL REPORT

Empowering Youth.
Changing Lives.



Dear Friend,

What a difference a year makes. None of us imagined last March that 2020 would end up as it did, and as we reflect on last year, we are tired. You probably are also. A year of isolation from family, friends and community. A lack of celebrations, safety and stability. A year filled with employment, systemic racial and health tragedies.

For our community's most vulnerable young people experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, trauma and crisis, these circumstances are not new, but the devastating impacts of these crises will be felt for many years to come.

So what was 2020 like at Pathfinders?

First and foremost, <u>our operations remained open without program suspension or staff layoffs</u> in order to support our young people. Pathfinders' dedicated staff, interns, volunteers, donors and community partners collectively made this possible.

Although we remained open, how we did our work changed significantly. Our Supported Housing team often sat in their cars outside our young people's apartments when they felt isolated at the beginning of the pandemic. We had to limit on-site capacity in our Drop-In Center and Youth Shelter. And therapeutic supports for young people who've experienced sexual violence, high mental health needs and substance abuse transitioned online.



Staying open proved to be critical for so many as one Pathfinders staff described, "Everyone is holding each other together, dealing with difficult things one day at a time. One of our young people was starting to give up, but four of us (three staff and a peer) came together and surrounded her with love and helped her feel supported in a time when she wanted to run away from the situation. **We're feeling power in working together right now**."

In all of this, there were other bright spots. **Our trauma-informed MPS middle school became a leader in online learning and family connection**. Some young people graduated from our Supported Housing program to self-sufficiency. And while many youth voiced their feelings of disconnection, isolation and difficulty coping, they also took brave steps to prioritize their well-being.

As access to other community services were difficult to navigate, limited or unavailable, we thank you for your investment that ensured Pathfinders was a place young people could turn to for support and to address their immediate safety and health issues.

Sincerely,

Timothy R. Baack, MS, LPC

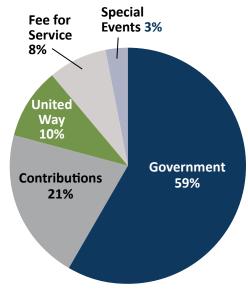
President & CEO

William Olivier Board Chair



2020 FINANCIALS

For more information regarding our financials or to download our most recent Form 990, please visit PathfindersMKE.org.



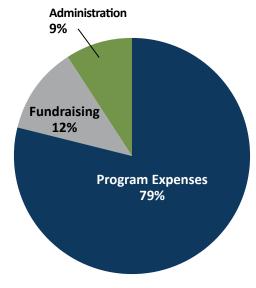


10%

8%

3%

TOTAL REVENUE \$5,229,820



EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES		\$4,926,054
	Administration	9%
	Fundraising	12%
	Program Expenses	79%

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The way each young person experiences homelessness and trauma is different; in turn their successes look different. At Pathfinders, we view each young person's progress in the context of their story, their trauma, their unique challenges and their goals. We share the power to define "what success looks like" with young people themselves.

With our mission of Empowering Youth and Changing Lives, young people are empowered to own and celebrate their achievements. Knowing that every day Pathfinders is walking alongside them.

From an organizational perspective, Pathfinders has key performance indicators for each program to inform the approach our work takes and to ensure that our work is effective. Below are the results of a few, select impact outcomes in 2020, which is remarkable given the difficult situations young people faced in the first year of the pandemic.

"Pathfinders is a safe space, if you have nowhere to go you can come here. They'll make you feel like you're at home."

- Pathfinders' youth

92%





SHELTER

Even with COVID-19 restricting us from serving as many youth at one time in congregant care, we served more youth in 2020 and achieved an outcome of 99% of youth exiting our temporary shelter to safety.

DROP-IN CENTER

While we had to limit the number of young people in our building due to the pandemic, our incredible staff found new ways to connect and serve young people in crisis with 92% of them having their basic needs met.

SUPPORTED HOUSING

All of the young people in our Supported Housing program were able to maintain their housing in 2020. In addition, 80% of them made progress toward their employment and educational goals.



Approximately

4,100

young people accessed Pathfinders' services in 2020, which includes one-on-one interactions with our street outreach team.

Of that number,

760

Young people received intensive case management, counseling, housing, shelter, sexual exploitation and trafficking advocacy, educational and basic needs support.

25%

Of the young people served accessed two or more Pathfinders services and of those who reported their sexual identity,

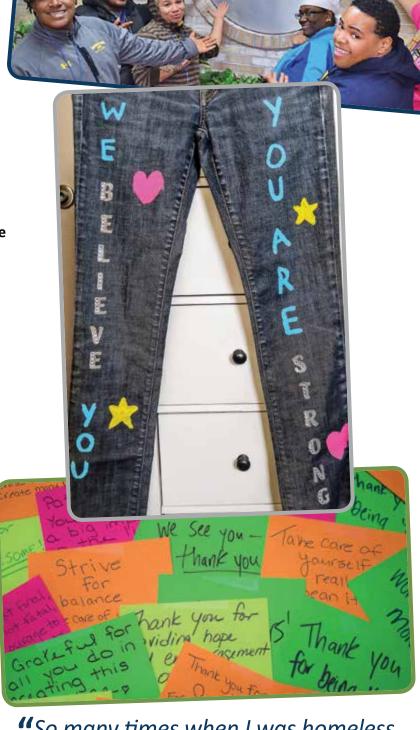
23% identify as LGBTQ+.

92%

Of those we serve identify as Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, Asian and Multi-racial and nearly

99%

of the young people we work with identify as low- or extremely-low-income.

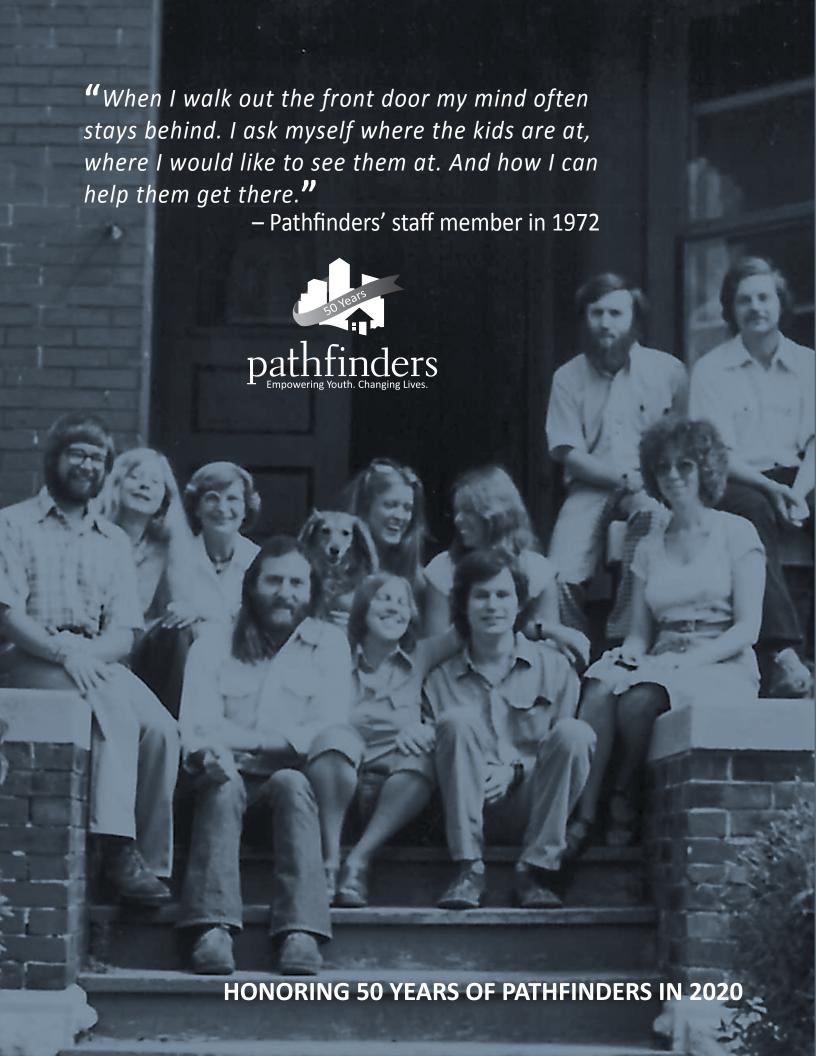


path finders

"So many times when I was homeless, I wanted to kill myself. Pathfinders reminded me that I am strong and it's worth it."

Pathfinders' young person

YOUNG PEOPLE SERVED





"I feel confident and responsible enough now to live a good and healthy life."

youth participantin 1981

Three grassroots organizations formed in the late 60s-early 70s in response to community crises – crises that continue to impact the greater Milwaukee area today. They quickly became what is now known as Pathfinders.

Today, Pathfinders represents one of Wisconsin's oldest and most effective nonprofit organizations serving youth in crisis. Our low-barrier, innovative services support young people in finding safety, hope and healing through our free and voluntary services.

We mentioned several times that 2020 wasn't how we expected to celebrate our 50th year of service. But in many ways, we felt blessed. We are honored that you entrusted us with your investments at a time when the world felt unstable. And we're energized by where we're going in the near future.

Since our inception in 1970 through today, many themes have remained constant. These photos and quotes are of young people who found a safe space, found their voice and found the courage to take steps toward building their futures.

"No one ever really believed me about the abuse before but here you actually did." – youth in 1995

"My favorite thing about the Drop is that it's like a safe zone. I can just come here and be me. I can deal with whatever I'm dealing with safely."





Thank you! Pathfinders is grateful for the financial and in-kind contributions of individuals, foundations, corporations and organizations that helped us Empower Youth and Change Lives in 2020.



TRAILBLAZER CIRCLE

(\$20,000 and up)

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COVID-19 Urgent Needs Fund
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Pathfinders worked to ensure the accuracy of this listing. If you see a discrepancy, contact development@pathfindersmke.org.

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Bill & Gwen Werner Fund

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The Birch Lodge Fund

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F SUPPOR

Pathfinders' Loyalty Society recognizes financial donors who invest in our mission three or more years in a row. This new donor recognition program was launched in 2020 in honor of our 50 years of serving Milwaukee's most vulnerable young people and in celebration of the extraordinary commitment many of our donors make by investing in Pathfinders each calendar year. Listed below are donors who have given to our mission annually.

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