

PROVIDING HOUSING AND SUPPORT
SERVICES FOR OVER 40 YEARS

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



HAVEN HOUSE/BRIDGES, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HHB would like to thank our dedicated staff and Board of Directors who serve as the foundation for the Agency and help to make a difference in the lives of our residents.



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EXECUTIVE UPDATE



**Bruno J. LaSpina,
Chief Executive Officer**

Haven House/Bridges, Inc. (HHB) has been committed for over 35 years to providing emergency housing shelters to homeless families in Suffolk County, NY. HHB has been fulfilling its mission of helping families increase their independence by assisting them with searching for and securing permanent housing,

Although this year our staff and residents were faced with unexpected challenges due to the pandemic, we faced it with caution and care. Who would have thought wearing a mask in public or private would be a symbol of protecting our personal health and protecting the health and safety of those around us? The demonstration of determination from our staff to protect the residents and those around us has been nothing short of commendable and admirable. Through determination and selflessness, staff of our Agency will continue to face the challenges presented by this deadly virus. We have instituted many protective measures such as ensuring all staff wear masks, the sites are continuously professionally sanitized, as well as, ensuring a sufficient amount of masks, gloves and disinfectant sprays are readily available at all program and office sites. Moving onward into 2021, with the unpredictability of this virus, our Agency will continue to vigilantly ensure the health and safety of residents and staff.

WITH OUR THANKS...

Staff have participated in a variety of locally held events in support of HHB's collaborators. The Agency endeavors to convey a spirit of gratitude both within the organization and the community. Although the pandemic has limited the amount of participation in some events, the community has shown support more than ever and for that we could not be more thankful.



**HHB participates in the
United Way of Long Island's
Mission United campaign**



**M&M Angels donated
Easter baskets to the
residents at Haven
House.**



**Holiday Magic looked
different this year but
certainly was not lacking in
gifts, thanks to the Christmas
Magic donations.**

Some of our donors:

**CLEAR VISION OPTICAL * The Hyatt
Regency Long Island*
North Babylon GS Troop 1037**

The generosity of the Long Island community enables HHB to continue to provide in many ways for the residents in our shelter programs. We thank you again for your support of HHB's mission and look forward to your continued support.



Huntington Station Latin Quarter

Santa surprised the children at Haven House and brought lots of gifts.

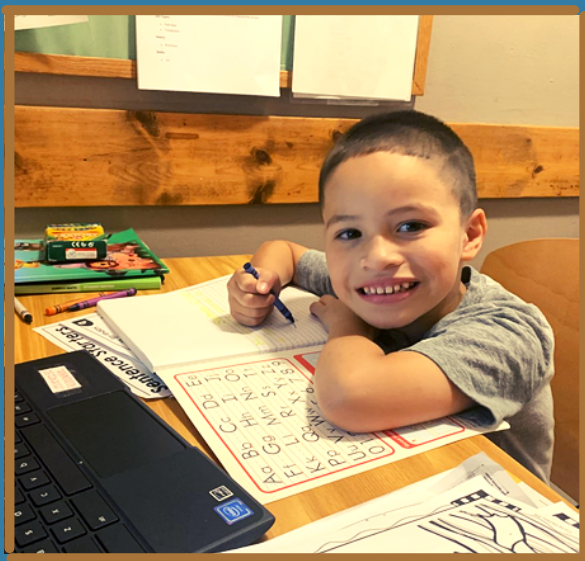


Suffolk County Legislator Samuel Gonzalez donated food for one of our shelters to celebrate Thanksgiving.



Pajamas for Peace

Their program was created in remembrance of the children who lost their lives at the Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting. They donate to HHB annually.



Supplies for Success

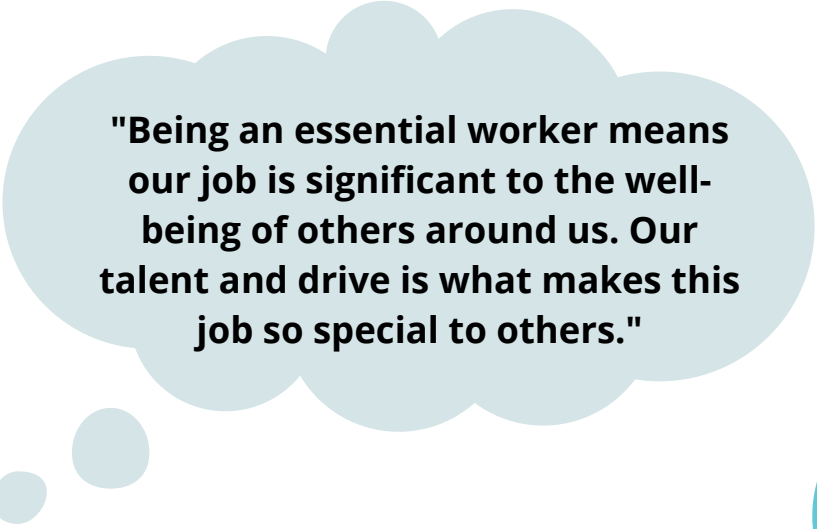
This was not the typical school year for the children in HHB; however, Supplies for Success made sure the children had the necessary materials to stay focused and organized.



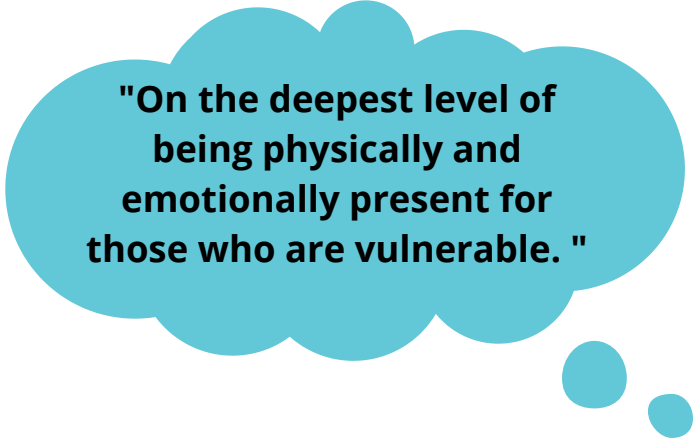
Clinical Trial Media

Their company provided HHB with a immense amount of baby supplies, thanks to their generous staff

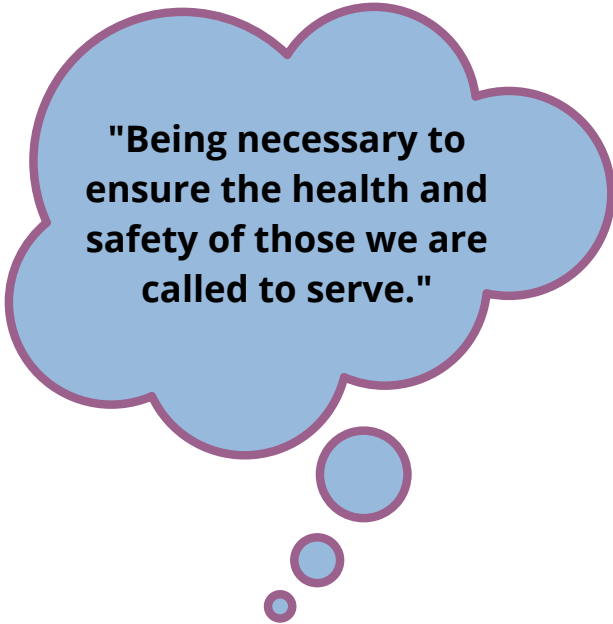
**During the pandemic, staff was posed with the question:
Describe what being an essential worker means to you.**



"Being an essential worker means our job is significant to the well-being of others around us. Our talent and drive is what makes this job so special to others."



"On the deepest level of being physically and emotionally present for those who are vulnerable. "



"Being necessary to ensure the health and safety of those we are called to serve."

Responses from many of our staff included: "Someone whose job is dependent upon the needs of others and mandatory in times of crisis".

"I recognize the risks associated with my position but I'm committed to providing services to those who are most vulnerable."

WHO WE ARE....

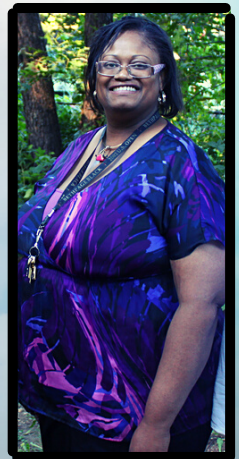
Haven House/Bridges, Inc. (HHB) is a 501(c) (3) human service agency, which provides emergency shelter for homeless families and permanent housing with support services for low-income individuals and families with HIV/AIDS in Suffolk County, New York. Our goal is to enable participants to live in the community at the highest level of independence possible.

Having worked for HHB for fourteen years, Felicia shares with us her "why"

In Jan 2007, Felicia began her career with HHB as a Case Manager. She was promoted to Program Supervisor at one of our shelters that house four families.

"I was always very interested in assisting individuals who experienced homelessness; I obtained the position and was given the opportunity to work with families who are experiencing homelessness. Coming from a strong family unit myself, naturally, I expected every family to have the same dynamic as my own; however, this was not the case."

"I try my best to put myself in the residents' shoes in order to determine the necessary steps to assist them to overcome various obstacles. To achieve their goals, I assist the residents to develop steps to achieve their own success. With effort from both myself, staff and the determination of the resident, there is nothing that cannot be achieved."



Felicia Caldwell,
Program Supervisor

"During this pandemic, I was touched by the amount of additional support staff provided to the residents during these uncertain times. Staff ensured the health and safety of the residents by providing resources for mental health as well as diverting their attention to more pleasurable activities. In addition, HHB provided necessary PPE equipment for staff, hired an external cleaning company and has remained in accordance with CDC standards. Due to staffing issues, the Agency and program staff banded their efforts together to ensure site coverage."

"All in all, HHB demonstrates leadership and responsibility for the residents and staff to ensure not only that the residents are safe but just as importantly, they achieve success. This promotes a positive work environment that can be mimicked in the future, especially during such a crisis as a pandemic. "

Haven House/Bridges, Inc. Shelter Program

In 2020 Haven House/Bridges, Inc. operated 7 emergency shelter programs with 86 beds and 1 transitional home for homeless families in Suffolk County. The Covid-19 pandemic impacted our programs in unforeseen ways. Newly developed government funding to support those financially impacted during this crisis led to a decrease in the need for emergency housing. As such, the Suffolk County Department of Social Services (SCDSS) began to reduce the number of available units. In September of 2020, due to a decrease in community need, HHB closed its transitional home.

In December of 2020, in collaboration with the SCDSS, HHB transferred one family from one of our program shelters to another vacancy within our shelter programs leaving that home vacant. This home remained vacant well into 2021. Despite these challenges, HHB joins SCDSS and other providers in the hope that preventing homelessness has surely become a priority for Long Island. As for those who continue to struggle with maintaining housing stability, HHB continues to operate it's remaining programs and provide quality case management services to this vulnerable population.

Our program assists residents find permanent housing and develop life skills including:

- Socialization
- Self-Care
- Parenting
- Opening/Managing Public Assistance Case
- Nutrition
- Money Management
- Apartment Management
- Appointment Attendance

Support services include 24-hour staff supervision, life skill development assistance and referral services.

Residents also receive instruction in:

- Fire Safety and Exit Drills In The Home (EDITH),
- Personal Safety Education
- Smoking Cessation
- Nutrients Balanced Eating
- Entitlement Education
- Vocational Training and Education

While their reasons for homelessness vary, the families entering HHB's shelters share one thing in common, the need for stable housing.



**Haven House/Bridges, Inc. operates the Frank McCaughey
Mindres Emergency Family Shelter Program.**

Haven House / Bridges, has been approved through the Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) a grant in the amount of \$250,000. These funds will allow us to upgrade our HVAC system, install fencing around the perimeter, as well as, several other enhancements to better maintain the home so we may continue to serve the residents in our community.

This funding will allow our Agency to give the Frank McCaughey shelter the renovation it needs so that it continues to be a safe, comfortable place for families to get on their feet and achieve their goals of securing permanent housing.

Before



Stay tuned for the after!

HHB PROVIDED 32,790 MEALS TO CHILDREN IN 2020

**ALL SCHOOL-AGED
CHILDREN
WERE ENROLLED**

96 Families Received Services

101 Adults

130 Children

**37 % of Adult Residents
Participated in a Vocationally
Related Opportunity, Including
Obtaining/Maintaining Employment**

**14 FAMILIES SECURED
PERMANENT HOUSING**

SHARING their WHY...

Interview With An HHB Resident..

Q: What brought you to HHB's Emergency Shelter Program?

A: "I lived in North Carolina and when I relocated to New York there was no access to permanent housing and I became homeless."

Q: In what ways has HHB helped you and your family?

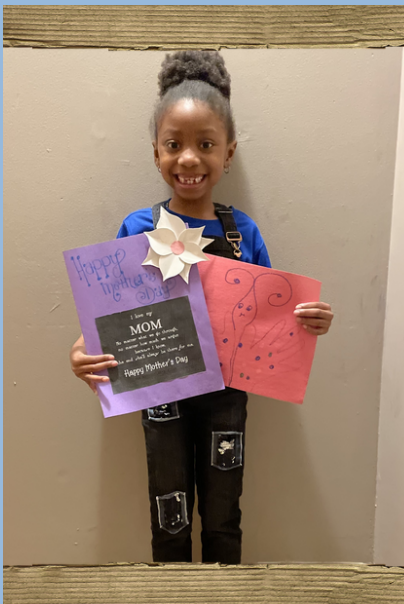
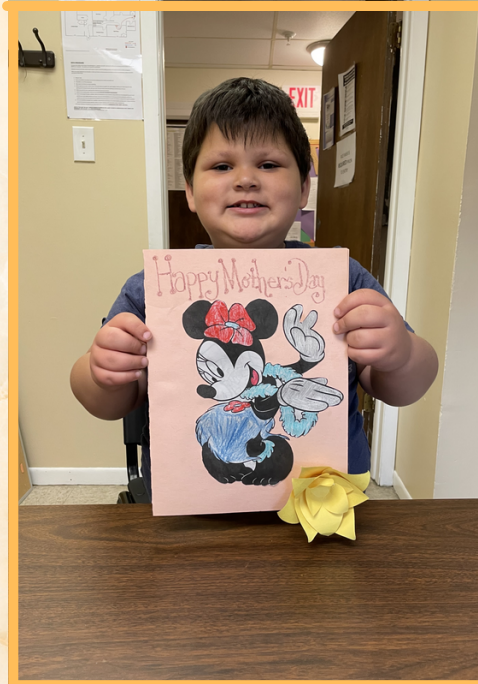
A: "HHB staff has been really good with helping me search for housing."

***HHB provides resources to residents that they may not even be aware exist.**

Q: Where do you see yourself and your family in 5 years?

A: "In five years I would like to be in permanent housing."

***HHB assists residents with maintaining employment, managing their Public Assistance case and any other assistance they may need to obtain permanent housing.**



HHB's Permanent Housing Program

HHB's Permanent Housing Program provides permanent housing to low income, homeless individuals diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. The program assists residents to maintain their status in the community while managing the effects of a chronic disease.

This program provides both housing and case management to its residents. Small caseloads ensure that residents receive intensive and individualized support services. Staff provide residents with necessary resources and education on the management of substance abuse; mental/medical health issues; transportation; obtaining childcare; entitlements training; HIV/AIDS education and crisis intervention, to name a few.

In addition to the routine successes the HHB program participants make in completing daily tasks to maintain health, finances, household maintenance and overall well being, many achieved additional accomplishments while residing in our Permanent Housing Program.

Program Outcomes for 2020

- One resident has demonstrated significant improvement with managing his medication and improving his ADL skills. Additionally, he has worked diligently to improve his anger management by developing effective coping skills.
- One resident worked to develop his assertion skills and has been appropriately addressing concerns he is having with his housemate.
- One resident enrolled in on-line certification classes to upgrade his business degree.
- One resident's daughter is attending college, as well as working. She was promoted to a Manager's position.
- One resident's son took summer classes at college and maintained a GPA of 4.0.
- One resident's daughter secured part-time employment while attending college.
- One resident and her family discharged to independent housing with a Section 8 Voucher.

In addition to resident fees, the Permanent Housing Program receives funding for personnel services and program operations from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) via the New York State Supported Housing Program (NYSSHP) and Operational Support for AIDS Housing (OSAH), respectively.

SHARING their WHY...

Interview with HHB's Permanent Housing resident...

Tara and her daughter have been living in HHB's Permanent Housing Program for the last 6 years. Prior to her admission, she was residing in an Emergency Shelter Program. Tara shared that she was experiencing feelings of depression and hopelessness, and contemplated taking her own life. With the support of staff, she was able to get the treatment she needed and obtain permanent housing in a supportive program.

Tara reported the support her daughter received from staff enabled her to excel in school. Tara's daughter was provided with a laptop and annual school supplies to ensure she had the best chance at success. After graduating High School with honors this year, including six academic awards, Tara's daughter is looking forward to attending college in September to obtain a degree in Child Psychology.

Some of Tara and her daughter's most cherished memories were from HHB's annual Holiday Magic event, Tara recalls "it was a blessing".

Tara notes HHB's staff provided assistance along the way. From her knee surgery back in January 2017, when program staff assisted her to get to her medical appointments enabling her to achieve quick and full recovery to providing resources, encouragement and support to pursue employment leading to full-time employment. Most notably, Tara is grateful to staff for assisting with an application to apply for Section 8 Housing, successfully securing a Housing Voucher, which gave Tara the security of long-term affordable housing.

Tara "loves feeling productive and plans to pursue further education to explore the field of Medical Decoding".

Despite all of the challenges experienced in 2020 Tara felt supported through the COVID-19 pandemic. She was thankful for the additional assistance with cleaning and sanitizing her home, as well as, the provision of masks, sanitizer and an air purifier. Having the support of staff, who shared on-going updates and information, "made her feel safe".

Tara is optimistic about her future and credits "the program and staff for a safe, happy, and healthy home environment".

Her next goal includes purchasing a car and, hopefully, a house of her own.

HHB's Newest Program

The Homeless Prevention Program

On October 1st, 2019, the Homeless Prevention Program began assisting Suffolk County individuals and families to remain in or obtain permanent housing. Through 2020, we have been able to continue this program.

Individuals are eligible if they meet the At-Risk of Homelessness or Homeless criteria and income guidelines.

The Homeless Prevention Program offers rental assistance, financial assistance to secure housing and benefit/entitlement advocacy for participants.

The Homeless Prevention Program is made possible through a grant funded by the NYS OTDA Solutions to End Homelessness Program (STEHP).

Prevention Program Outcomes

From January to December 2020
there were **237** Referrals

23 households comprised of **61**
individuals received assistance

- 1 household obtained a long term housing voucher
- 12 households were assisted with maintaining current housing
- 6 households obtained alternative housing:
 - SPA Housing – Supported (1)
 - Apartment through Affordable Housing Application (1)
 - Private rentals (4)

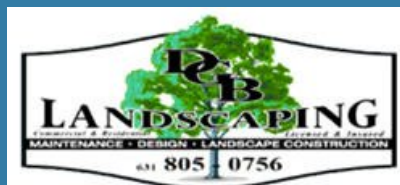
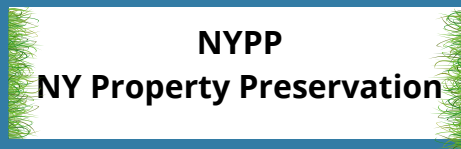
14 Households Graduated the program

Human Services Award Celebration

What would have been the 30th year of the celebration of our Human Services Award, annually held in November, was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Although the event was cancelled, generous donations were still received. This is immensely appreciated, as it allowed us to provide additional necessities and support to our residents.

Although we were unable to hold our annual fundraiser due to the pandemic, we wish to thank all of our loyal donors who gave so generously:

Thank You



James Knapp (Knapp Flooring)
Frank Amalfitano (United Veterans Beacon House, Inc.)
Larry Grubler & Bonnie Arguilla (TSLINY)
Adele Hoffman
Adrianna Barry (Direct Drainage, Inc.)
Mr. & Mrs. Frank DiFazio
Mr. & Mrs. Frank McCaughey
Marcia K. Field
Michael Mendicino
Kevin Kamm (BK Fire Suppression & Security Systems)
Nicholas DelVecchio (Frank Brothers Fuel Corp)
Bill and Amy Handwerker
McDowell Brothers, Inc.
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Susan Vahjen
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Michelle Sandler
Arrow Exterminating Co.
The Posillico Foundation
Mary Beth Griffin
Joel & Randi Schleifer
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Bonanno
Atlantic Floor Covering

Dolores & Steven Cianciabella
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Taylor Air Inc.
Steve & Susan DeMaio (Lowe Drugs)
Alston & Bird
Steven Cianciabella (Cue
Brokerage Group)
Bruno LaSpina
DGB Landscaping, Inc.
Jon Ruiss



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where you can learn more about our programs, see wish
lists for needed items and donate.

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