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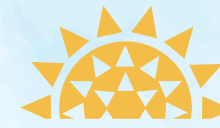
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# FIRST LIGHT

# ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Fiscal year 2021-2022 saw many new changes and new thought processes for First Light. It has been a year of transition as the founding Executive Director retired in December 2021 — leaving a long legacy of support for the homeless women and women with children in Birmingham.

It was a year of change, growth, challenges and, most of all, continued commitment to the work that is being done at First Light. First Light faced what many agencies faced across the country as COVID 19 continued to affect the homeless population in a more drastic way than it ever has. But through it all we persevered and continued to provide services to the guests of First Light and to those in our housing programs. We thank you for your help in making this happen.

This annual report celebrates all we accomplished as we responded to the needs and challenges of 2021 and 2022. The work that was done during this reporting period is evidence that despite the transition and uncertainties we faced, we remained resilient.

With the expansion of digital platforms, we have been able to reach and introduce the agency, its programs and volunteer opportunities to more people than ever before. Through the support of our staff, community, and the many partners who support this agency, we have reexamined the way that we meet the needs of those we serve every day. I am thankful for the volunteers and financial donors who believe in our mission, and to our stakeholders and those who stuck with us and who continue to be an integral part of the work that is being done at First Light. We are grateful for the diverse leadership and expertise of our board of directors, our junior board, and for their unique talents that help the agency perform at its best.

This year's impact, still reeling from the effects of COVID 19, proves that we remain vigilant in our mission. What is clear is that our success could not have been achieved alone.

**Sherry J. Bray, LGSW, MPA**  
Executive Director

## WHO WE SERVE

### EMERGENCY SHELTER

First Light serves single women and women with children in the emergency shelter in downtown Birmingham. Guests receive individualized case management services to help them gain the skills and resources they need to improve their situation and that of their children. These women may have experienced some form of mental illness, substance abuse addiction, sexual or physical abuse, and/or may be chronically homeless.

### SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

First Light also serves single individuals and families in its Rapid Rehousing Program, 35 single women with disabilities in its TRIO supportive housing program, and nine women in a permanent supportive housing program on the fourth floor. All of these individuals were formerly homeless but, with the help of social services support, have been able to establish stable housing in the community. Each receives case management services at home.

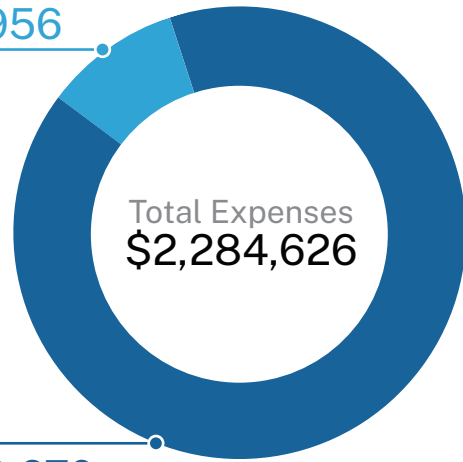
**MISSION** | Our mission is to work with homeless women and their children to create hospitality in a safe and nurturing community, to encourage them to maintain dignity, to find hope, to seek opportunity, and to grow spiritually, thereby achieving their full potential.

**VALUES** | Offer hope | Provide opportunity | Instill dignity | Ensure safety | Demonstrate hospitality



## FINANCIALS

MANAGEMENT, GENERAL,  
AND FUNDRAISING  
\$223,956



\$2,060,670  
PROGRAM  
AND SERVICES

PROGRAM  
REVENUE/INTEREST  
\$80,592

Inkind Contributions  
\$194,330

SPECIAL EVENTS  
\$228,496

\$100,000  
LEGACIES AND  
BEQUESTS

Total Revenue  
& Support  
**\$2,674,605**

\$687,862  
CONTRIBUTIONS

\$1,383,325  
GRANTS

We are grateful to our 2022 First Light virtual gala sponsors!  
Thank you for your support in the work we do everyday.

### PRESENTING SPONSOR

Pace

### CIRCLE OF OPPORTUNITY SPONSORS

Arthur Edge, III, PC  
Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama  
Cablz, Inc.  
Medical Properties Trust, Inc.  
Protective Life Foundation  
Thompson Foundation

### CIRCLE OF DIGNITY SPONSORS

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham  
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church  
SouthState Bank  
The Pierce Family Foundation  
Vestavia Hills Methodist Church

### COMMUNITY OF HOPE SPONSORS

Earl and Nan Foust  
Independent Presbyterian Church  
ProAssurance  
St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

### CIRCLE OF COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Decas Group  
Dunn-French Foundation  
DVA Navion  
Mazy Holiday  
Junior League of Birmingham  
Jemison Investment Company, Inc.  
Matt and Ashley Laird  
New Capital Partners  
Ed and Amanda Wilson

## PLACEMENT AND STABILITY MATTERS

27

children enrolled in school while their parents were educated about their rights. These children were safe, fed and provided an opportunity to go to school with their peers.

88

guests from the emergency shelter moved to permanent housing or transitional housing.

127

group sessions provided to include bible studies, life skills and educational groups.

24

families found safety in the emergency shelter.

9381

bed nights were provided.

614

individuals were provided with emergency shelter and received case management services to help them gain their independence.

117

formerly homeless individuals, including families were assisted in obtaining permanent housing through First Light's supportive housing programs.

BECAUSE  
OF YOUR  
GENEROSITY

1055

volunteers gave

599

donors donated goods valued at \$119,962.

5860

hours of their time and support, even during the pandemic.

