



2018-19
ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2018-19

Dear Pres House Alumni, Friends, and Supporters,

We are pleased to send you the 2018-19 Pres House Annual Report. In this edition, we are excited to share some stories from a few of the hundreds of students and young adults that Pres House touches each year.

For the past couple of years, we have been working hard at measuring the impact we have in the lives of students. We are still doing that – you will find a few data points on each of the following pages. But as important as impact data is, transformation happens in people’s lives. So this year we want to share stories from five students who have been impacted by Pres House and by the way you support Pres House.

You may wonder who the students are that make Pres House their physical and spiritual home on campus. In addition to the stories shared here, we encourage you to watch a short video on the homepage of our website at www.preshouse.org. You will see that the students who make up Pres House are an incredibly diverse group. They believe different things, they come from different ethnic backgrounds, they express varied gender and sexual identities, they are studying different subjects, and more. In short, they reflect the best of what a faith-based community should look like: diverse and radically inclusive. We are incredibly pleased to help lead an organization that can honestly say to everyone: “You belong.”

Everything we do at Pres House is done to support the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth and wellness of students and young adults. That includes our financial management; we strive to be good stewards of the resources we generate and the gifts we receive so we can support students most effectively. This past fiscal year was strong: the PH Apartment building was full for the year covered in this report and filled up at the fastest rate in

more than seven years for the 2019-20 year. Our donors stepped up to help us raise more than \$28,000 in extra scholarship funds, allowing us to engage more than a third of all our residents in scholarship-supported wellness programs.

The demand for these programs continues to grow (we have a long waiting list), and your generosity confirms that we can rise to meet this demand. Toward that end, we are embarking on a five-year, \$500,000 initiative to grow our intentional living programs with a goal of involving 50 percent of our residents by 2024. This is an ambitious goal, but you have helped us reach many ambitious goals in the past. We are confident we can reach this one too.

All of this growth, and the stories in this report, are thanks to you – the donors, board members, volunteers, residents, students, and young professionals who make Pres House what it is. We hope you are encouraged by what is happening at Pres House and will join us in giving thanks for God’s faithfulness and fruitfulness. We sincerely appreciate your connection to Pres House and encourage you to contact us with any questions or comments on the information in this report.

Gratefully,



Laura Peck
*2018-19 President,
Board of Directors*



Mark Elsdon
*Executive Director/
Campus Co-Pastor*

HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP A DEEPER AND MORE MATURE FAITH

83% of those who participate in the Pres House campus church community have learned or tried something new in their spiritual life as a result of their involvement at Pres House in the past year, and more than 100 people participated in regular, ongoing small groups in 2018-19.

Sophomore Shaniya A. shares how Pres House helped her find spiritual community:

I'm Shaniya, a second year studying Psychology with a certificate in Gender and Women's Studies. Unlike some others that I've met, I did not find Pres House right away. The truth is, I wanted to be a part of a spiritual community; I wanted to find a church home on campus, but I was terrified. My family identifies as Christian, but doesn't really practice or attend church, and when we did, all I had were negative experiences. So it was safe to say that I was open to the idea of church, but had no idea what I was doing.

Fast forward a bit, and little old me was sitting in a club meeting, still with no church home. I was receiving weekly updates from a place on the corner of East Campus and State — but I never had the courage to actually stop by. A friend in the club was sharing about an experience where they had been discriminated against at another church. Set alight by fury, I talked to them about the emails I had been getting from Pres House and how accepting they presented themselves to be. Throughout the night, I had managed to convince my friend to check out Pres House's Freshman Small Group with me, hoping to right over how wronged they had been and convince them to give religion just one more try. We came late,



which would prove to be very on-brand for me, but Erica welcomed us all the same. By the end of the night, my friend had begun a healing process that they would take with them outside of Pres House, but I knew that I would stay.

In the concluding moments of my first Freshman Small Group, there was a feeling deep in my chest and I just knew that this was it — Pres House was the spiritual home I had been wanting. Eventually I was able to bite the bullet and show up to worship, but Pres House made sure I was never alone. It had been a long time since I had been to a church service, but Pres House met me where I was and made me feel included. No matter what preconceived notions I had about church, no matter how far behind I thought I was, no matter what non-traditional beliefs I held, Pres House has been here with me, helping and guiding me on my now richer and more fulfilling religious journey.

For a long time I was searching for someone to walk in my faith with. I had grown accustomed to practicing my religion alone, and, if necessary, that is perfectly okay, but here at Pres House, there is an entire community of people who just want to be here with you on your journey, wherever that may be, and I'm blessed to have found them.

OFFER STUDENTS AN EXPERIENCE OF GRACIOUS WELCOME AND CONNECTION

The word students most commonly use to describe their experiences at Pres House is “welcoming.” 96% of worship participants report being meaningfully connected to at least three other peers at Pres House and feeling cared for by the Pres House community. 90% of residents report that through our programs they tripled the number of people they know in our building from fall to spring.

Junior Jacob D. shares about his experience finding friends at Pres House.



Freshman year, I didn't know what I was doing. I had no friends, no idea where I'd be living next year, it was my first time away from home, and college is hard.

What I really needed were some friends, which I happened to find here at Pres House.

I've always had a hard time with friends as a child. Growing up in a small town and having the interests of reading, playing Nintendo video games, and disliking sports is just far enough out there that almost no one wanted to be my friend. I was also massively introverted and bad at talking to people. I still am, occasionally just saying whatever I think people want to hear or having no clue how to hold a basic conversation sometimes. The only friend I had really as a kid moved away in the third grade, leaving me drifting trying to find where I fit.

Fast forward to freshman year of college. It's probably the first or second week and I wanted to find a church. Church was the one constant in my life back home and important to who I am. So, I came to Pres House. I knew no one. Afterwards, Pastor Erica came up to me and we talked for a bit. She invited me to come to the Freshman Small Group. I said sure because I hate saying no to people. So, I literally forced myself to come. I thought probably about 15 times to turn back. But I showed up.

That was the best decision I made in my entire college career hands down. No joke. I would even put it above deciding to go into chemistry. I made my best friends in that group. We still get together all the time now, two years later. Three of them are my roommates this year. Two of them are my groomsmen for my wedding this coming summer. They are friends I confide in; they are my friends who take me for who I am, an awkward nerd who is terrible at sports and has a bit too loud of a voice.

INVITE, IDENTIFY, AND SHARE STUDENT GIFTS IN AND OUTSIDE, OF PRES HOUSE

One of our areas of focus is to encourage students and young adults to step outside of their life on campus and use their gifts to impact the world around them. We are pleased that 100% of worship participants report that they are encouraged and supported in using their gifts. 35% of “involved” participants engaged in volunteer service in a typical month for a total of 3817 hours of volunteer work through Pres House.



New PhD graduate Samuel A. shares about learning how to respond to the needs around him on a service trip to San Antonio:

As we were getting ready to start our first full day of learning and service on our Break With a Purpose Trip, I was ready to learn all I could and just be an open book. We divided into groups, and I volunteered to be part of the crew to help out at La Casa, a house providing temporary accommodation for immigrant families seeking asylum. We were led there by Jackie, who, we were told, would tell us all we need to know once we get there. “Great!” I thought, “She will provide us all the training we need!” So, we entered the house and gathered around the kitchen table, eager for the training. She told us: “Families come in and out of this house every day, and the priority is to give them a good night’s sleep, some food, and some supplies to keep going. All of our time is spent focusing on this priority, so unfortunately, we haven’t had time to work on other aspects of the house. So this is your assignment: walk around the house, if you see something that needs to be done, do it. You don’t need permission, you don’t need to check in, just think of how you would do it better and just do it.”

Bing bang boom. Training over. I was rather surprised. The opportunities were endless. Rearrange furniture? Sure. Clean something? Okay. Fix something? Go for it! Talk with the family staying there? Of course! What if

you don’t speak fluent Spanish? Figure it out! (Body language goes a long way). We were just let loose on a house we had never been in to solve problems that were not defined. This was not the training I had expected.

So we jumped in. I started doing dishes, while others took down Christmas decorations. We cleaned blinds, swept, rearranged, organized toys. We talked with the family staying there. We played with their kids. All up to us. And it was awesome. And at this point, we really didn’t know much about the complex border-crossing issues. We were just helping.

As we worked at La Casa, I found the theme of ‘if you see something that needs to be done, do it’ to be very powerful. Here, I thought we would need to be instructed a little more before we were let loose. But as it turns out, we were already qualified, and knew everything we needed to know to start helping out. We didn’t need special training, we’ve been trained our entire lives how to be a good human and how to make a home. How do we interact with people we don’t know and don’t understand? We already know the answer: we try. We didn’t need to understand all the details of immigration issues to start making a difference. We didn’t need to take a class on Latino culture, or even a Spanish class, to be welcoming and to show love. We didn’t need to quibble about what is the best way to start engaging with others, we just need to start and it comes naturally.

IMPROVE THE CAPACITY FOR STUDENTS TO INTERACT WITH PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM THEMSELVES

As a radically inclusive, welcoming community, we believe it is important to give students an opportunity to interact with people very different from themselves and learn how to build bridges and tear down walls. 88% of worship community members were looking for opportunities to interact with different people and found such a place at Pres House, or they were pleasantly surprised this happened even if they weren't looking for it. One of the opportunities students had to interact with people from very different backgrounds took place on our Break With a Purpose Trip to San Antonio, Texas, where we worked with migrant families seeking asylum.



“One of my best memories this year was finding a safe space to be authentically me.”

A recent MFA graduate and new staff member at Pres House, Rebecca B., shares about meeting migrant families in the San Antonio airport:

Minutes after we arrived at the airport and met with the Interfaith volunteers, a gray, soulless prison bus arrived. We greeted about fifty women and children, all clad in matching government-issued sweatpants and jackets, carrying a few possessions in cloth and Ziploc bags. In groups, acting as translators, we helped them print boarding passes and escorted them through security and to their gates, where we tried to explain their next steps.

To me, familiar airport annoyances became deeply daunting when seen through the refugees' eyes. One woman pointed out other passengers staring at their clothes, and said, “It’s so obvious we’re immigrants.” We discussed why there is no shame in that identity. Mothers asked me questions that I had never considered needing to answer: how to know when to board the airplane, what door to walk through, whether →

they would be separated from their children again. In my second language I tried to explain how to change planes, as many had to do, where I prayed airport staff would be merciful enough to help.

Collecting her shoes from one of the gray bins, one woman said to me, in Spanish, “I don’t know how we could do this without you.” I kept saying, “Lo pueden hacer. Ustedes son tan valientes.” “You can do it. You are so brave.” We had learned how these moms and kids may have leapt trains and endured human trafficking and detention center torture to make it even this far.

What comes next for these families? I would ask, “¿A dónde van?” “Where are you going?” Some to New York, New Jersey, California, Florida. Some to family, some seemingly had no connections at all. I asked, “Do you know what you’ll do when you arrive?” The usual response: “No.”

Many asylum seekers know how slim their chances are of being granted asylum and come anyway chasing a safer life. What do we do with such vast pain? I found myself tearfully overwhelmed by what seemed like hopelessness, my faith deeply in crisis. But I allowed myself to become equally overwhelmed with the generosity and selfless work of so many volunteers fighting for more competent and compassionate immigration justice — the way we were called to throw ourselves into this hard, crucial work, even just for a few days. I think of the kids laughing over toy cars with volunteers on the airport floor, how helping someone feel just a little bit safer can help them feel more human. What I’m clinging to is the ability within all of us to see wrong in the world, and to offer help.



GATHER

GatherX, a budding faith community for young adults launched by Pres House and area Presbyterian church partners, hit the ground running this year. Here is some of what they have been up to in the past year:

- Hired Laura Andrews as Lead Instigator
- Hosted 12 events
- Engaged 45 young adults
- Launched monthly and quarterly gatherings including Brunch and Learn, The Gathering Storytelling, and First Thursday Bonfires
- Connected with seven community partners outside of the church, such as One Barrel Brewing, Boulders Climbing Gym, Lakeshore Nature Preserve, and more
- Incorporated new steering team structure to include areas of Mission and Business, Engagement, Partnerships, and Events

“

GatherX is an inclusive community!

A place where you can be comfortable — regardless of faith, schooling, political views, etc. — all without the 'members-only' feel.

CARL BAKKER

”

HELP STUDENTS CULTIVATE WELLNESS IN COMMUNITY

Students at UW-Madison are experiencing increasing levels of depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders. We seek to address these challenges and help students cultivate practices of well-being and health in the context of relationship and community. This year, 287 people participated in wellness programs through Pres House. 87% of workshop participants reported finding emotional/wellness support at Pres House. 81% of Next Step sober living participants remain in addiction recovery and are enrolled in college or have graduated, saving Wisconsin more than \$300,000 in treatment and related costs since the program began.

Jane G., a current UW junior studying accounting and Spanish, describes the benefits of participating in Pres House Apartments' Community Engagement Opportunities (CEO) program this past year:

“Participating in the CEO program benefited me by introducing me to new members of Pres House Apartments, getting me out of my comfort zone to try new activities, and relieving the financial stress of making full rent payments. Whenever I talk to people about my apartment situation, I can't help but mention that I took part in the CEO program and say how lucky I was for receiving such an opportunity.

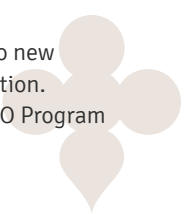
I loved attending the group fitness Zumba classes at the Natatorium. Since I am known for going every Friday, I encouraged my friend India to come with me one day. She is not as familiar with Zumba moves,

so I tried my best to show her what to expect and how to do certain ones. It ended up being fun, and I enjoyed being the pro! I also made a more conscious effort to run and work out, whether at the Natatorium, outside, or on the 7th floor exercise room in Pres House Apartments. I do better with motivation and completing things off a checklist, so the CEO Wellness chart was perfect for this endeavor. I improved my two-mile time as a result of this dedication, and I am proud of myself!

My first learning/community activity was attending the Guatemalan Worry Doll activity for Free Art Friday at Memorial Union. Although I am obtaining a certificate in Spanish, I am not as familiar with aspects of Latinx culture. So, since it was Latinx Heritage Month, I asked a new coworker to attend the workshop with me to construct our own worry dolls — dolls that are supposed to watch over you at night and take the worries away from you. This is a tradition I had never learned about before, so it was very eye-opening and fueled more of my Spanish interests.

My favorite CEO experience was an event in the fall semester — ‘Tuning up Your ‘YES,’ hosted by health coach Alyx Coble-Frakes. Alyx's interview experiment with another CEO member in front of us was an interesting thing to watch and learn from. We ended up doing the same activity with one partner (so I met a new CEO member also!) and thought about my life choices and figuring out what is holding me back and keeping me from saying ‘yes’ to things. It was only an hour of my time but definitely gave me lessons I can use for the rest of my life.

Participating forced me to open my eyes to new experiences that UW provides and take action. Thank you for letting me be part of the CEO Program at Pres House Apartments!”





“Thank you for cultivating a welcoming environment that makes it possible to deepen personal relationships. Pres House is my true home away from home.”



“
I have gained greater cultural awareness by deepening relationships with members from different countries.
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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FISCAL YEAR	2018-2019	2017-2018
Income		
Rental Income	1,997,779	1,897,464
Individual Contributions	154,675	108,627
Church Contributions	24,713	17,550
Grants Received	14,735	417,970
Investment Income	69,781	73,812
Other Income	5,688	31,248
PCUSA Support	0	1,000
	2,267,371	2,547,671
Expenses		
Program Services	1,768,934	1,631,278
Management and General	353,843	309,607
Fundraising	81,256	61,949
	2,204,033	2,002,834
Net Operating Gain	63,338	544,837
Add Back Depreciation and Amortization	380,583	358,119
Less Principal Repayment	(325,000)	(310,000)
Less Designated Grant Funds for Future Programming	0	(357,792)
Add Back Pre-Funded Grant Funds Spent	51,374	0
Net Operating Income Excluding Depreciation/Amortization, Principal Repayment, and Pre-Funded Grant Funds In/Out	170,295	235,164
Net income invested for future interest rate risk management and/or future debt reduction		
Statement of Financial Position		
These figures represent financial position as of June 30, 2019		
Assets		
Cash, Escrows, and Reserves	1,452,804	1,355,394
Investments	2,078,474	1,978,276
Accounts Receivable	21,339	9,248
Pledges Receivable	0	6,600
Land, Buildings, and Equipment (Net)	11,423,542	11,772,275
Other Assets	102,521	137,598
	15,078,680	15,259,391
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	43,327	34,431
Other Liabilities	394,054	339,958
Long-Term Debt	12,266,685	12,573,725
	12,704,066	12,948,114
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions	1,957,846	1,800,125
With Donor Restrictions	416,768	511,152
	2,374,614	2,311,277



GIVING

A big "thank you" to all of our generous donors! Thanks to you, this past year saw the most donors we've had in several years.

In addition to supporting students through general giving, donors also helped fund specific needs as noted with the following symbols:

♠ Ph Apartment Scholarship/Sober Housing | ♥ In Kind | ⇨ Young Adult GatherX Program
★ Break With a Purpose | ▲ Bring Back the Basement

\$50,000 +

Anonymous

\$10,000 - \$49,999

Covenant Presbyterian Church ♥⇨
Perry Fund
Katinka Marie Stout ▲

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Westminster Presbyterian Church ♥⇨
Mark Elsdon and Erica Liu ▲
John Knox Presbytery
Wrede and Melissa Smith ▲
UW Credit Union ▲

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Alyce Andrus - In Memory of Paul Grier Andrus
Judith Blue
Brad Brown ▲
Christ Presbyterian Church ♥
Evan A. Dickinson
Karen Best and David Fields ★
Alice Honeywell and Booth Fowler
Savannah Kenny
William Arthur Longbrake
Douglas and Norma Madsen
David and Martha Nelson
Bill and Kathleen Cook Owens
Joy and C. Duane Patterson
Leroy and Lois Plekenpol
Synod of Lakes and Prairies ★
Carol Quintana
Tom and Mary Rath ▲
Travis and Lauren Serebin
Jon and Susan Udell
First Presbyterian Church, Waunakee ♥♥
Edmund Philip Willis

\$500 - \$999

Elton and Carrie Aberle
Anonymous
Laura Peck and Greg Anderson ▲
William Ault
Cynthia Bird Bush
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church ▲

Dale Heights Presbyterian Church ♥♠
Robert and Carol Frykenberg
Souheil Haddad
Andy Holmes
Dan Bolt and Jee-Seon Kim
Paul and Kathy Kuehn ▲
Fern and William Lawrence
Charlotte Miller - In Memory of Donald W. Miller, Professor of Mathematics at U of NE

Anne Norman ★
Karen Pridham ▲
Alison Radigan
Robert Sanchez ▲
Maggie and Jacob Wright Schieffer ▲
William and Judith Schuele - In Memory of Norma D. Cranston Schuele ▲
Becky Jo Schwei
Tom and Debi Schwei
Gloria Stange
Chris and Liz Sundahl
Robert and Pauline Weaver

\$250 - \$499

Scott Anderson ▲
Anonymous
John Block
Lisa Cantrell ▲
First Presbyterian Church, Baraboo ▼
First Presbyterian Church, Cambria ♥
First Presbyterian Church, Oregon ▼
Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church ♥
Sun Valley Presbyterian Church ♥
Union Presbyterian Church ♥
James and Sally Ann Davis
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Mary Harland
Callie Hill ▲
Emily Johnson ▲
Laurie Jones ★
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Roy Alan Lembeck
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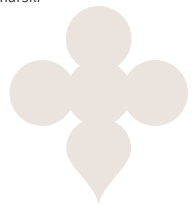
Kenneth and Stephanie Martell
John and Jeanne Morledge - In Memory of Paul Morledge
Eric Mischo
Bob Patterson
David Quade
Carol and John Toussaint - In Memory of Walt Pridham
Joe Yang

\$1 - \$249

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Anonymous (5) ▲
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Andrea Aul ★
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Mary Ellen and Charles Elliott
Ron and Linda Elsdon - In Honor of Pastors Mark and Erica
Lynn Entine ▲
Edward A. Erdmann
Delma Erikson - In Honor of the student center, having been a member back in 1954-57. Happy memories.

Jeanne and Herb Evert
Margaret Faden
Michael and Renee Fahey
Norman Fedderly
Auralia and Glenn Feifarek
Joy Fosgett ▲
Erik Franze
Robert and Nanette Franze - In honor of Erik Franze and his Pres House experiences
Nancy A Freeman ▲
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Steven McCarty ▲
Ruth and Martin Massengale
Carol Merritt ▲
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Valori Miller ▲
Ginger Morgan ★▲
Jennifer Morgan ▲
Patrick and Susan Morrissey - In Honor of Our 60th Wedding Anniversary 12/20/18
Marge Murray - In Memory of Stan Murray
Joan and Joseph Nagle
Leana Nakielski ▲
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Eric Orthey ▲
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Susan Paddock - In Memory of Robert and Elizabeth Paddock
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Thomas and Sandra Steffen
John Steinberg - In Memory of Darline Steinberg
Natalie Strait
James and Virginia Swab ▲
Monica Theresa ▲★
Daniel H. Thompson
Edith B Thompson - In Memory of the Lowers
John and Helen Tibbitts
Janice Walden ▲
Zuf Wang ★
Wendy Weber
Norman and Joy Wideburg
Abbey Zacharski





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