

2015

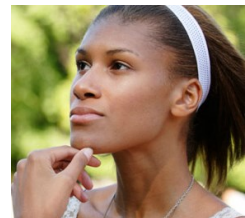


UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.



# ANNUAL REPORT

safety ● empowerment ● change



# Our mission

To provide safety and resources that empower victims of domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault and human slavery.

To provide leadership and education to end violence against women in our community.



# Our philosophy



Underground Railroad encourages the empowerment of victims and seeks social change which addresses the existing imbalance of power within violent relationships.

Victims have access to safety, information, available options and community resources, empowering them to make informed choices for themselves and their children.

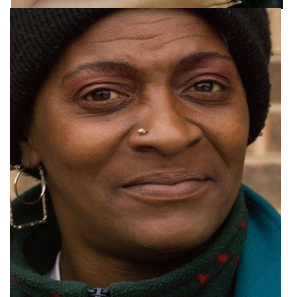
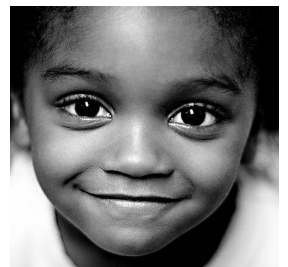
Underground Railroad provides support and advocacy, allowing victims to carry out their decisions with respect to their rights and self-determination.

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**Safety** in the form of shelter, services, and counseling, relies on planning. Great emphasis is placed on building collaborative partnerships with law enforcement and Saginaw County courts.

**Empowerment** is a philosophy that acknowledges a sense of powerlessness may result from emotional or physical abuse. Within the safety net of Underground Railroad, victims become survivors and are encouraged to direct their own journeys towards healing.

**Change** is key to a future without violence! Blaming victims for their own abuse is an attitude in need of change. Prevention effort is the key to ending violence. Underground Railroad has taken the lead in promoting healthy relationships and lifestyles as a central component of the fight to end violence against women and children in our society.



## Board of Directors

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Mari McKenzie - Treasurer

Tamara Coppens - Secretary

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## Grants

City of Saginaw  
(HUD CDBG)

Department of Housing & Urban Development  
Department of Justice—VAWA Office

F.E.M.A.

Michigan Department of Community Health  
(VOCA)

Michigan Department of Community Health  
(RPE)

Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Prevention & Treatment Board

United Way of Saginaw County

## A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends and Donors,

In 2016, Underground Railroad turns 39. On one hand, it's just another number, just another year. On the other, 39 has the reputation of being a year of reflection, one final year before your birthday sees the black "over the hill" balloons and cliché

jokes about your candles setting off fire alarms. It's often a simultaneous panic as we try to slow the aging process, and excitement that we're one year closer to the life wisdom we're sure 40 will bring. It's a tally of our successes and failures so far, and what - if anything - we've learned from them. Thirty-nine feels *on the cusp* of something. Thirty-nine feels like a time to take action.

At Underground Railroad, we want 39 to be the year that our community, our state, our nation, and our world collectively support survivors, remove the barriers to their empowerment, and end violence against women. Current proposed legislation is promising that we're moving in the right direction. From policy regarding batterers and firearm possession, to mandating high school curricula that educates students about dating and sexual violence, sexual harassment, and domestic abuse, we are beginning to have conversations that are crucial to understanding victims' needs, holding batterers accountable, and preventing violence against women for future generations.

On a local level, in 2016, URR looks to bolster our Human Trafficking Task Force, enhancing the coordinated community response for survivors of labor and sex trafficking regionally and statewide. We hope to see a revitalization of our Civil Legal Program, allowing survivors access to free legal representation and support. We will also collaborate to form a Men's Alliance initiative, mobilizing male leaders to use their strength to stop violence in our community.

Underground Railroad accomplished great things at 38. Over 13,000 safe nights of shelter, over 1,500 hours of counseling and advocacy for survivors, a new space for animals that makes URR one of only 100 shelters internationally that houses victims with their pets. But 39 holds the anticipation of even more. Looking back at 38 and all the years before it, I see thousands of successes and failures that have ultimately helped us grow stronger, wiser, and closer to eliminating violence against women. So as 39 and then 40 approaches, we look in the mirror and see not one more wrinkle or one more dark spot. We see a smoother path for survivors and a brighter future for us all.

Sincerely,

President/CEO

Underground Railroad Inc.





## 24/7 Crisis Helpline

**2,684 calls** to the crisis hotline

Crisis intervention services are available on the phone, in person, or online for victims, survivors, friends, family, or service providers

## Emergency Shelter

**13,329 nights** of shelter

We provide a culturally sensitive, barrier-free environment for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking



## Advocacy, Counseling & Support

**1,315 individual and 226 group** hours of counseling services

Individual and group counseling with a client advocate empowers survivors with skills like safety planning, problem-solving and self-directed change



## Housing Support

**139 families** were provided with **60, 115 nights** of RRH, TSH and PSH support

Housing programs can be adapted to the needs of the survivor as they prepare to move into a place of their own. Housing and support is provided for up to 24 months in our Transitional Housing Program. Permanent Supportive Housing is available for survivors with domestic violence related disabilities for as long as they need it.



### Court Support

2,049 hearings attended &  
607 PPOs filed

We provide assistance with personal protection orders, court appearances, and understanding one's legal options.



### Monitored Visitation & Safe Exchange

41 families spent quality time together in SafePlace

SafePlace provides safe, supervised visitation and exchange for families in Saginaw County and surrounding areas



### Individualized Assistance

More than 1,940 adults received individualized assistance

Assistance is tailored to survivors' needs and may include 911 cell phones, clothing, personal care items, safety planning, etc.



### Children's / Youth Services

8639 hours of childcare were provided to youth clients

Children's services include youth advocacy and counseling, licensed daycare, children's groups field trips and after school activities



## Community Outreach

Over 2,049 youth attended 356 educational sessions, 84 public awareness events were attended

Outreach staff facilitates prevention education sessions in classrooms, present to community organizations on various topics, and participate in health fairs and expos.



## Girls on the Run

301 girls completed the program, and end-of-year 5K run

Girls on the Run inspires girls in grades 3-5 to become joyful, healthy and confident with an interactive curriculum creatively that integrates running

## Volunteers

934 volunteers donated over 19,800 hours of service to URR

Volunteers help in all aspects of the work we do. We work with local colleges and universities to provide internships for students.



## Underground Railroad Upscale Resale

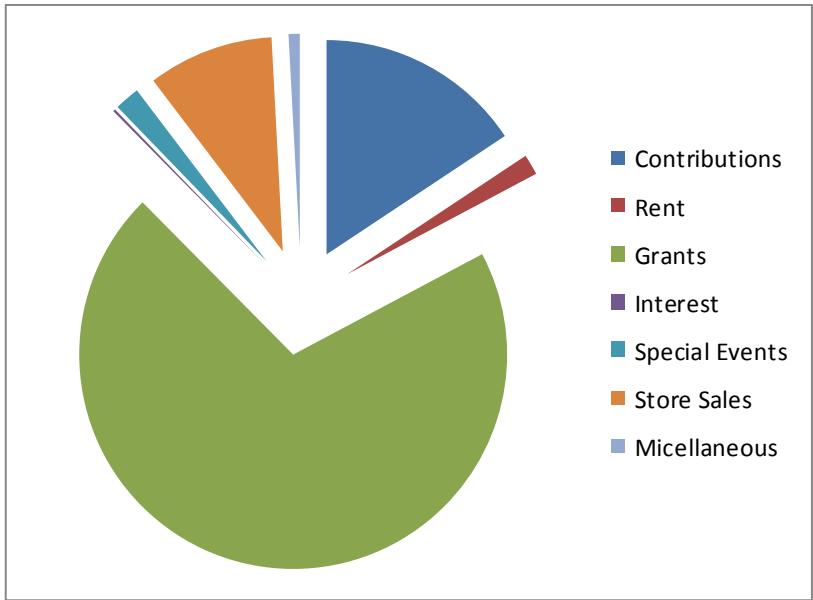
Clients received over \$15,000 of merchandise using our voucher system. Over \$30,000 contributed to operating funds.

Gently used donations provide survivors with household necessities. The remaining donation are sold to the public to fund URR programs and services.

# 2015 Agency Financial Report



## INCOME

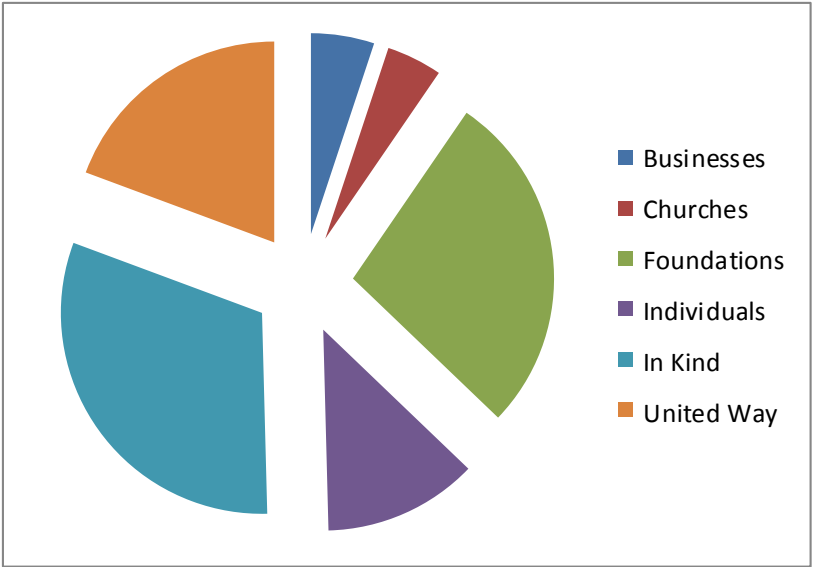


### Income:

Contributions	\$350,932	15.68%
Rent	\$34,689	1.55%
Grants	\$1,573,701	70.34%
Special Events	\$42,459	1.90%
Store Sales	\$212,624	9.50%
Miscellaneous	\$22,977	1.03%
TOTAL	\$2,237,382	100%

### Community Contributions:

Businesses	\$17,859	5.09%
Churches	\$15,675	4.47%
Foundations	\$96,900	27.61%
Individuals	\$43,575	12.42%
In Kind	\$109,076	31.08%
United Way	\$67,847	19.33%
TOTAL	\$350,932	100%



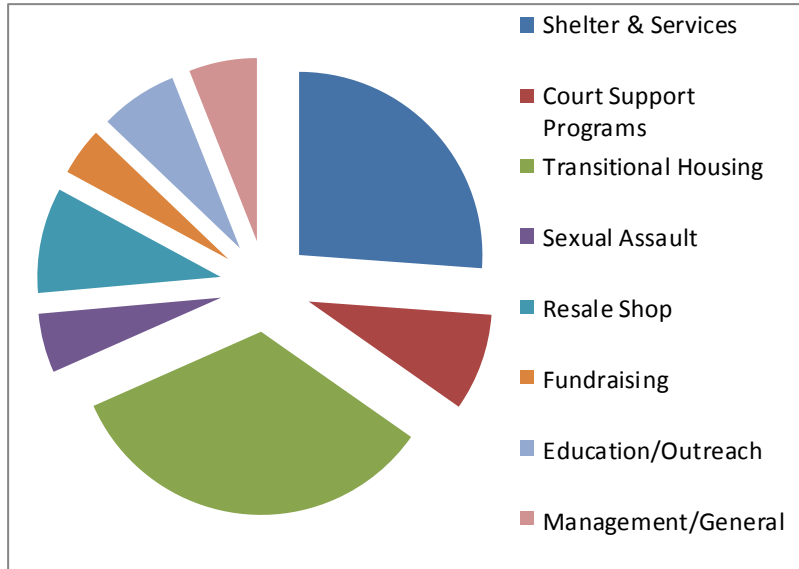
# 2015 Agency Financial Report



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.



## EXPENSES

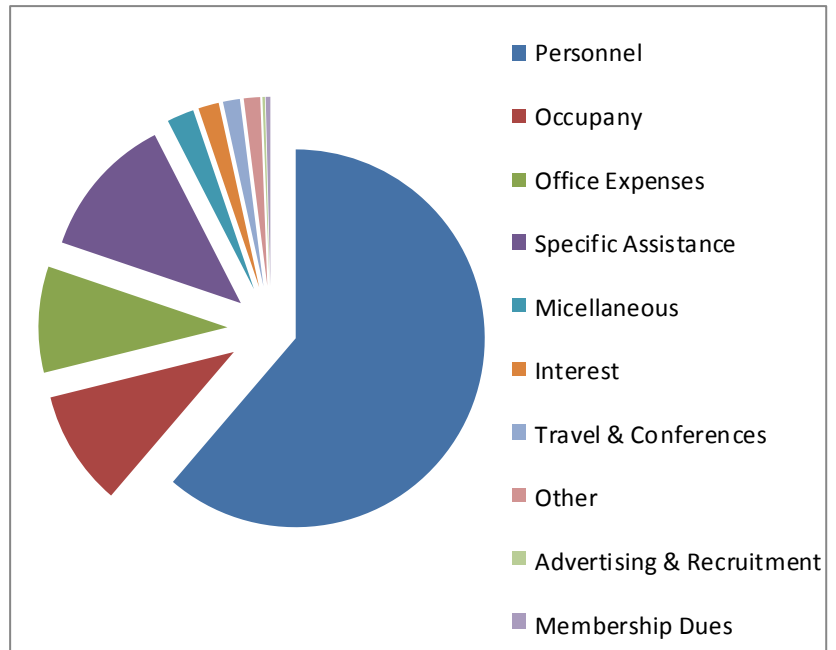


### Program / Services Expenses:

Shelter & Services	\$585,833	26.16%
Court Support Programs	\$192,285	8.58%
Transitional Housing	\$753,012	33.62%
Sexual Assault	\$117,268	5.24%
Resale Shop	\$208,554	9.31%
Fundraising	\$94,858	4.24%
Education/Outreach	\$153,521	6.85%
Management/General	\$134,513	6.01%
TOTAL	\$2,239,844	100%

### Expenses:

Personnel	\$1,372,057	61.26%
Occupancy	\$221,166	9.87%
Office Expenses	\$203,356	9.08%
Specific Assistance	\$274,723	12.27%
Miscellaneous	\$56,568	2.53%
Interest	\$39,523	1.76%
Travel & Conferences	\$32,394	1.45%
Other	\$31,263	1.40%
Membership Dues	\$8,794	0.30%
Total	\$2,239,844	100%





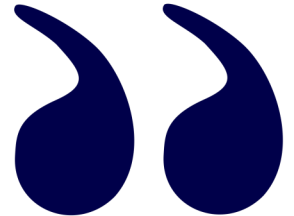


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It was so important to find the warm approach in helping children heal through understanding. Thank you for being such a caring, genuine, loving figure that the children trust, respect and enjoy.

*I've gathered tremendous support and loving encouragement from so many people. One abandons despair and embraces hope for a real future.*



*The URR is a place of empowerment where a woman such as myself, and so many others, can be helped to realize brighter possibilities. It may shift a tough road traveled onto a clearer path.*



I've never in my life had this type of experience where I felt very safe & secure-all the support, kindness & love. You all have helped me with my self-confidence. I don't know where to start to show my extreme appreciation. Thank you to all.

The support I received has made it possible for me to believe in myself again. I have gained confidence in myself and my choices in life.

My counselor has been more than a counselor but an advocate, a lifeline, guidance, and full of compassion. I believe I can discuss whatever, however difficult and it will be received with objective input in a loving, dignified way. I thank her so."