



LIGHTHOUSE OF HOPE MK

ANNUAL
REPORT

2019



FROM OUR FOUNDERS

2019 has been an exciting and full year for Lighthouse of Hope MK. So many things have happened here, in the country of North Macedonia, just this past year that have been in line with Lighthouse's vision for orphans. We cannot be more pleased with the outcome of the year.

As an organization, we have always strived to encourage the government agencies in North Macedonia to consider family-style group homes as an option for orphan care. With our background in trust-based relationships and secure, gentle attachment, we believe that institutional care, fundamentally, cannot offer children what they need to thrive. The alternative, however, is very real and very achievable. And in 2019, North Macedonia has made great strides towards bringing that into light all across the country.

Hearts are changing in North Macedonia and we are honored to be witnesses of that change.

With the hearts of the people, laws are also changing and being put in place and enacted. The biggest change in relation to orphan care happened in the Fall of 2019. At that point, a massive shift towards deinstitutionalization happened and all children 3-years-old and younger, living in public institutions, were moved into foster and/or group homes.

As we watched this happening, we knew this was an open door for Lighthouse of Hope MK to step in and offer help that we weren't sure how to offer before. We were able to speak with so many people and put our name out there as an option for support and partnership, and as a provider for a safe home for orphaned children. Since the beginning, we've worked to have a good relationship with the decision makers and policy implementers, and in the end we have seen the fruits of this labor. The JOY Home is the pride and joy of Lighthouse of Hope MK. While we believe everything we do and have done has long-term value,

The JOY Home is the reason we are in North Macedonia. From the first day we got the keys from the original owner, we were sure it was the perfect place to be a home for children from hard places. The size, set up, and beauty of the home could not have been more perfect and we got to work straight away.





FROM OUR FOUNDERS

pt.2

Project after project followed, and no matter how big or small, we felt an overwhelming amount of support from the community within North Macedonia and from international donors and partners. When people hear our vision, many want to join in and walk with us. So, they have! Two teams from America came to help with the clean up and preparation of the home - one team painted, cleaned, and got the home ready for the first official Open House. The second team helped clear out a large plot of chokeberry bushes that overgrown, making the second plot of land practically unusable.

Between the more hands-on projects, we were also able to raise support and gather donations for various other items like the kitchen and bedrooms. Without this support, we wouldn't be half as far toward opening the home to children. That is one of the biggest things moving to North Macedonia has taught us as a family - the importance of relationships. Without these relationships the funding, donations, and projects at The JOY Home (and everywhere else) wouldn't have been possible.

And we've learned that these vital relationships can come in many shapes and sizes. Volunteer groups, other NGOs from the United States and within North Macedonia and Europe, organizations who are willing to come alongside us and make donations and offer their services, companies who partnered with us both short and long term, and especially individuals who saw a need and filled it with their time, donations, or both.

So to everyone who has partnered with us in the past and who is partnering with us now, Thank You! We see you and we couldn't do it without you.

As we look towards 2020, and the things that are lined up to happen, we are so excited to get started. Looking back at how many things happened in 2019, leads us into this upcoming year with hope and excitement. We don't know exactly what will happen or what paths we will take, but we are confident that if we follow our vision and continue to have supportive partners like we have in the past, we will see amazing outcomes.

Thank you to all of you who have already come alongside us and those who have seen our vision and our goals and helped support them. We're so grateful to have worked with all of you and we're excited to see where the new year takes us.

Hopeful and encouraged,



CAREGIVER TRAINING

This year, Lighthouse of Hope MK was excited to be able to provide attachment and gentle teaching training to 37 nurses in the Bitola Home for Infants and Young Children.

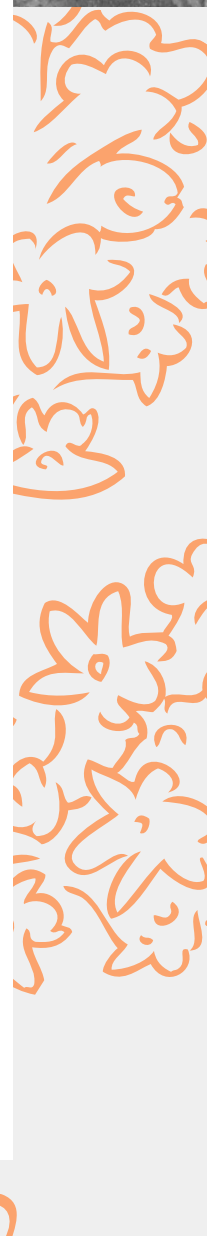
The training lasted for an hour and a half each session, and taught subjects like attachment, the benefits of play therapy, and Sensory Processing Disorders.

After the nurses attended all the classes they were awarded a certification from Lighthouse of Hope MK signifying that they had taken part in, and completed all [number] training sessions.

These trainings helped teach the nurses how to work with the children within the public orphanage but also in their own lives and daily experiences.

One of the many tactics they were able to learn during the training was how to de-escalate a situation in which a child is having a tantrum. As the nurses learned in their training, children are almost always responding in fear in these situations and need to be shown that it's safe.

Through this training, Lighthouse was able to support the nurses of the Bitola public orphanage with their daily work with the children.



THE JOY HOME RENOVATION AND TEAMS FROM THE UNITED STATES

In April of 2019, we were honored to have the Cornerstone Team come from the United States to help in the painting and renovation of The JOY Home to prepare it for our first official Open House. The gathering was a huge success, with over 100 visitors coming to see The JOY Home and learning about Lighthouse of Hope MK's work in North Macedonia.

The renovation of The JOY Home has come a long way since then. The cabinets are installed in the kitchen, along with all the appliances. This year we were able to collect donations to fund all of the cabinets, the cost of installation, and all the appliances, as well as the light fixtures throughout the house, and the Superhero bedroom for special needs kids through social media campaigns and monthly email updates.

In June of 2019 another team from the United States came to help us prepare The JOY Home to accept children. A team of eleven volunteers from Graves Memorial Baptist Church organizing all our donations, cleaning up the yard, and clearing half of the aronia (chokeberry) plot adjacent to The JOY Home's yard.

With the help of these two teams and the donations we've received over the course of the year, the progress of The JOY Home has come a long way. We are looking forward to continuing this progress into 2020 and seeing it's completion in Spring of 2020.





THERAPY DOG TRAINING

2019 was a year of beginnings for Lighthouse of Hope MK. One of the many things that began this year is the Therapy Dog Training Program. The rescue puppies that we took in from the village two years ago are now old enough to begin more therapy-specific training. So, with help from Jennifer, Faith and Dustin have taken on the training of the four dogs, to teach them good manners and how to be calm around people and children.

Chicken, Nugget, Tater, and Hashbrown will each find a loving family at one of our group homes, either The JOY Home, or one of the homes we build in the future. They will offer emotional support, a playful friend and protector, and a chance for the children in the group homes to learn responsibility and how to care for other creatures in a healthy, safe environment.



ONGOING DONATIONS

Another part of Lighthouse of Hope MK's fundraising and support raising is ongoing donations.

This includes things like financial gifts, toddler bed mattresses, kitchen utensils, children's clothes, and stuffed animals.





TBRI TRAINING AT TCU

In October 2019, Jennifer had the opportunity to attend training to become a practitioner for Trust Based Relational Interview at Texas Christian University in Dallas, Texas. After nine weeks of homework, studying, reading, and testing, she attended a week-long, intensive course and learned amazing things about parenting and caring for children from hard places, and how to help them learn to live in a healthy home.

Trust Based Relational Intervention, from The Karyn Purvis Institute for Child Development, will be the foundation for all the caregivers, parents, and workers in Lighthouse of Hope MK's group homes.

Now that Jennifer is a practitioner, she will be able to train and certify the group home parents and other childcare providers for Lighthouse of Hope MK so that they will have the tools they need to help the children they work with heal from trauma backgrounds and institutionalized care.

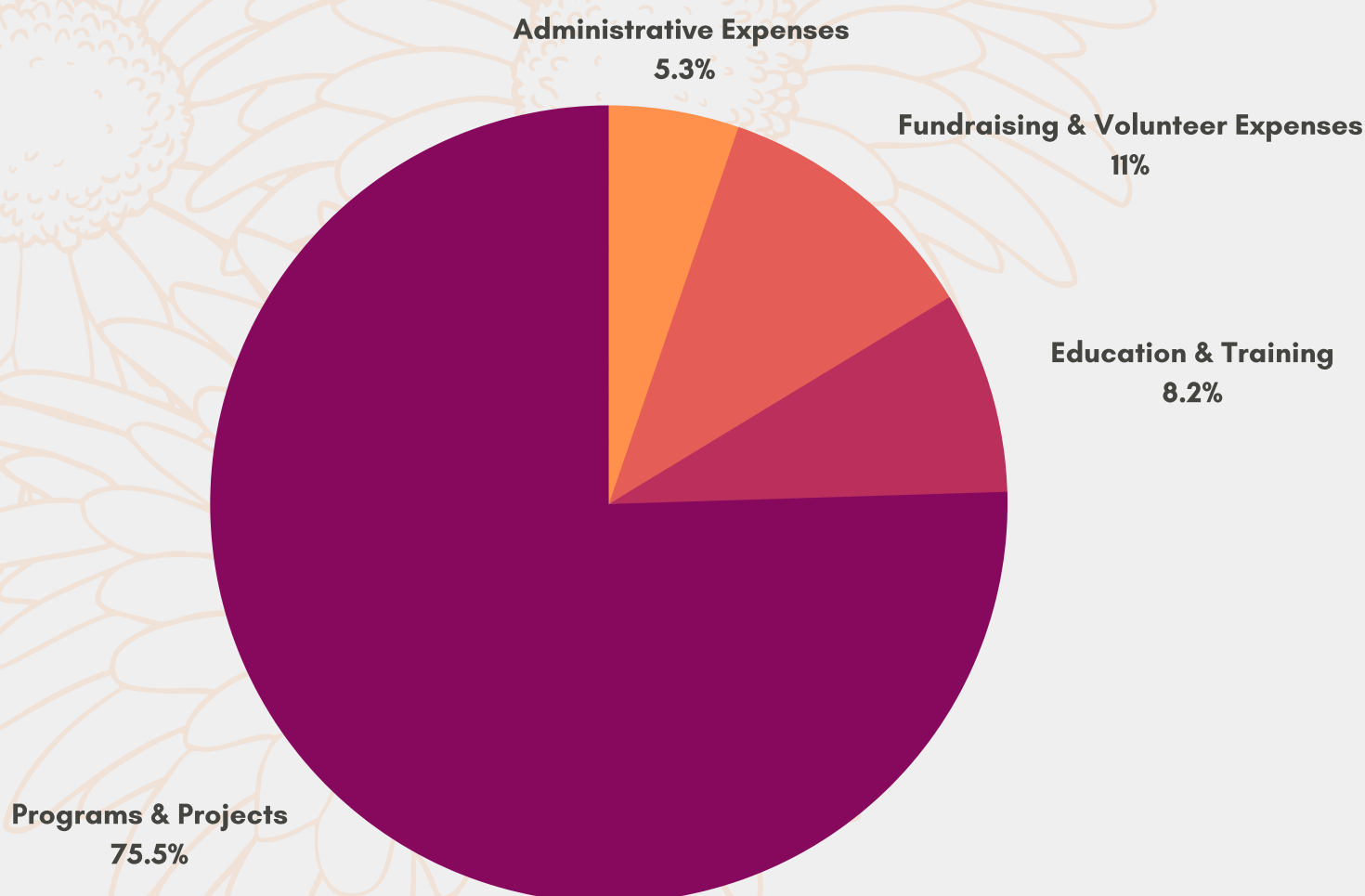
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

*2019 was a very encouraging year for
Lighthouse of Hope MK!*

There were several things that stand out, when it comes to our financial stability and increases in giving this year. A few of them are:

- Lighthouse of Hope MK saw a 59% increase in donations in 2019, when compared to 2018.
- We were able to pay our mortgage debt down to under \$20,000 in 2019.
- More than 75% of donations we received went directly to Lighthouse of Hope MK's programs and projects for orphans in North Macedonia.

We are excited and encouraged and looking forward to an even better year in 2020!



BUDGET

REVENUE

AMOUNT

Institutional Donations	\$11,684
Individual Donors	\$37,914
Fundraisers (Social Media Campaigns)	\$11,188
In-Kind Gifts	\$4,913
Donations Total	\$65,699

EXPENSES

AMOUNT

Administration

Professional Fees	\$800
Bank Fees	\$947
Office Expenses (Postage, Printing, Stamps, etc)	\$1,483
Administration Total	\$3,230

Fundraising

Solicitation Licenses	\$2,262
Fundraising Fees (DonorBox, Paypal, etc)	\$850
Fundraising Total	\$3,112

Education and Training

Continuing Education and Training	\$3,500
Travel Expenses	\$1,520
Education & Training Total	\$5,020

Volunteer Expenses

Volunteer Housing	\$3,636
Volunteer Expenses Total	\$3,636

Programs & Projects

Joy Home Loan Repayment	\$19,200
Ongoing Expenses (Electricity, etc)	\$3,098
Joy Home Renovations	\$21,960
Bitola Orphanage project	\$751
Misc Projects (Therapy dogs, etc)	\$1,210
Programs & Projects Total	\$46,219

Total Expenses

\$61,217

FAMILIES IMPACTED

In 2019, we were able to positively impact families who have welcomed children into their homes in various ways: through adoption, foster care, and kinship placements.

For these 3 families, we provided support through conversations about difficult topics, answered questions, became a listening ear, and lent books from our library.

CHILDREN HELPED

In the first quarter of 2019, volunteers with Lightouse of Hope MK donated more than 100 hours of their time to play therapy in the Home for Infants and Young Children, in Bitola, North Macedonia. We were able to concentrate our work on approximately 25 special needs children between the ages of 6 months and one year old. The partnership we have with the local public orphanage director and staff is a strong one, and has remained even after the institution closed in Fall of 2019.

FRIENDSHIPS FORMED

In addition to our longstanding friendship with Sumnal Association for the Development of the Roma Community in Macedonia, 2019 brought us a new ability to join with LinkAcross.

LinkAcross is an NGO that works to advance healthcare, economic, and community development in the Balkan region by collaborating with strategic partners and linking local opportunities to global resources.

In October 2019, two of our volunteers worked together with LinkAcross as they provided Pediatric First Aid Training to 25+ school teachers in Bitola.

OUR TEAM

OUR BOARD MEMBERS



Zoran Naskov



Jennifer Naskov



Nastassia Naskov



Mike Kozlinski



Kassie Wilson



Melinda Helle



Betty Easter

OUR TEAM MEMBERS



Faith and Dustin Minter, and Aleks Naskov are all a part of the Lighthouse of Hope MK Team in their own unique ways. Our team wouldn't be the same without them!

