# IMPACT REPORT

## 2022-23

BEACONHILL

FOUNDATION

# Dear Friends,

Reflecting on the past year and the impact you've made on our community; I was struck by the thought of how blessed we have been to be able to continue forward the mission of our past founders. What a heritage we have been left to steward!

Our tradition of cultivating care and community remains our primary focus. Your gifts of time, money and talents enabled us to:

- ***address*** every resident need for financial assistance,
- ***provide*** spiritual care for families with loved ones experiencing dementia,
- ***enjoy*** delightful music and arts programming, and
- ***grant*** 100% of the requests for scholarships from employees.

The heritage of care and compassion includes the nurture of our campus. Our buildings and grounds have benefited from enhancements made possible through donors and we continue to upgrade areas beyond what we thought was possible. In this issue, you will enjoy learning from donors about why they have continued to be interested in partnering with us as we continue to raise the bar of service to our residential community.

I look forward to meeting with you to hear your ideas!

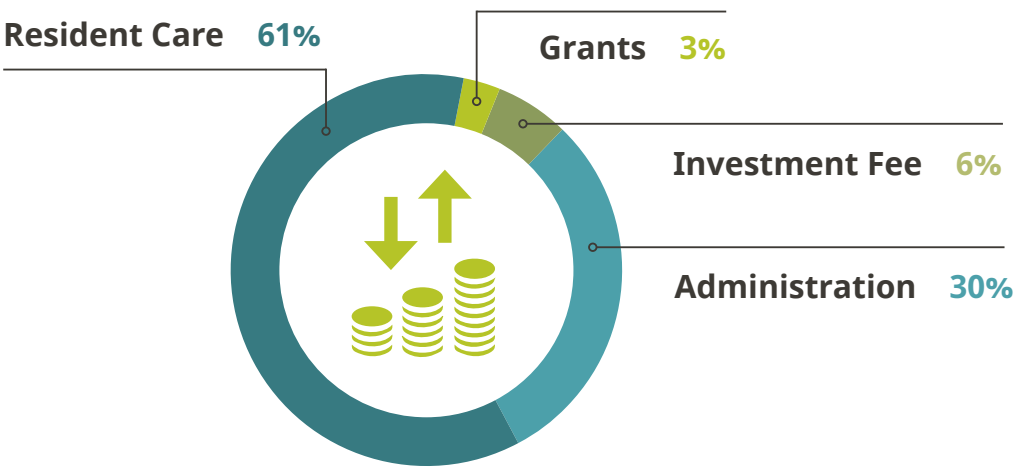
▲ *Pictured from top: Celebrating the Arts, Gallery Walk with Larry Blovitz, The Chuck and Philippa Webb Formal Gardens*

**Andi Allen**,
*Foundation Director*

# Financial Overview

Revenue and expense for year ending March 31, 2023.

| | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| **Total Revenue** | **$726,853** | **$121,084** |
| **Total Expenses** | **$467,025** | **$448,834** |




**Our 2023 balance sheet is strong and is summarized as:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Current Assets | $1,315,832 |
| Assets Limited to Use | $4,404,518 |
| Pledge Receivable | $30,000 |
| Current Liabilities | $(8,758) |
| **Total Fund Balance** | **$5,741,592** |

# A Generous Heritage of Giving

We are inspired by our growing list of supporters who believe the Beacon Hill Foundation serves as the heart of the Beacon Hill community. Through our work together, from the simplest gifts to lasting legacies, we are igniting our culture of philanthropy and ensuring a stable future for the community we support. *(April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023)*

Anonymous***** **L**
Mrs. Clara Adams
Mr. and Mrs. Kim Allen*****
Mrs. Andrea Allen
Mr. Philip Alt
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Baker*****
Ms. Gloria Baker
Mr. Robert Bennett*****
Mr. and Mrs. John Benz*****
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Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Wolfrom
Ms. Ellen Zahed
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Zimmerman*

* ***BH Loyal*** denotes those who made donations three consecutive fiscal years

**L** Denotes ***Legacy Society*** Member

**Accurate Commercial & Residential Plumbing, Inc.**
**AT&T Business**
**CareLinc Medical Equipment**
**ECS Solutions**
**Eastern Floral**
**EdwardJones**
**Emmanuel Hospice**
**First Merchants Corporation**
**Greenbrier Development LLC**
**H.L. Bolkema Decorating**
**Kent City Baptist Church**
**Legacy Carpet Cleaning**
**Mall City Mechanical**
**Metal Tech Building Specialists**
**Metronet**
**Midwest Juice**
**MOVE Communications**
**Mr. Handyman of Greater Grand Rapids**
**NPF Investment Advisors**
**Pathway Senior Movers**
**Pinnacle Construction Group**
**Rockford Construction**
**Straight Line Fence-GV**
**The Breton Group**
**Trailhead Networks**
**VAST**
**Warner, Norcross + Judd**
**Ziegler**

# A Legacy Fulfilled

## *Family history intertwines with BHE's beginnings.*

For Foundation donor and Beacon Hill resident Gloria Baker, the legacy of Beacon Hill at Eastgate, and its roots as Michigan Christian Home, is more than local history. ***It's also the story of her family.***

Gloria, who has made her home at Beacon Hill, appreciates our community for the richness of offerings it has today. And she remembers fondly how it all began many years ago with passionate church members like her father.

Gloria's dad, Richard Baker, was a member of Wealthy Street Baptist church. Over time, its congregants began to recognize a significant need for housing for missionaries to stay while on furlough. Gloria smiled as she recalled, "we sat around the dinner table every Sunday, all talking to one another about how we could help these missionaries who had done so much for us." The church bought a house on the west side of Grand Rapids and Richard, a builder by trade, went to work fixing it up along with other members.

Of her father, she says, "He felt strongly that the Baptist churches should join together to build a home for missionaries — to honor them for dedicating their lives, carrying the word of God to far-flung places around the globe." The vision, which evolved into Michigan Christian Home (MCH), came to fruition in early 1960 when the doors opened for six Baptist missionaries who came to live there after spreading their message around the world.

Gloria remembers MCH proudly,

> **"This was the first of its kind in the area. It was the beginning of a new trend. Everyone was impressed with how large it was and the expanse of gardens."**

The need for housing and more enhanced nursing care continued to grow. A 17-bed addition opened in 1967, followed by further expansions and eventually a 29-bed healthcare center. Independent apartments for younger retirees were added in 1977.

As for the Baker family, their lives continued to intersect with MCH over the decades. Richard's personal life collided with his passion project when he welcomed home his second grade teacher, who had left teaching to become a missionary. She returned to live at MCH.

In his later years, Richard served on the board of MCH and his wife Doris, Gloria's mother, eventually moved into MCH. Gloria recollects her parents' hopes, that "Dad always wished that he would go first,

and that mother could live at the Michigan Christian Home, which she did, for seven years." Doris felt right at home among her friends from church and other widows who also lived there. She enjoyed the opportunity to try many new activities and hobbies in her later years. Gloria chuckles as she recalls her mother's enthusiasm for her life at MCH, "She was once playing volleyball with a balloon with other residents. She was laughing and having so much fun. And she loved helping, and would often wash and dry dishes after a tea. My mother had about 20 different hats, and she was always dressed up."

For Gloria, her life's journey took her to Wheaton College in Illinois, and to becoming a high school teacher. She taught at Cornerstone University for 30 years, leading human anatomy and physiology and sports classes. An outdoors enthusiast, Gloria coached tennis at Michigan State University, and has spent a great deal of time backpacking, completing the hike to the bottom of the Grand Canyon 22 times. Gloria also enjoys spending time with her sister, Jan Michaelson, who lives in Illinois and comes back to visit Gloria at Beacon Hill often.

As she approached her senior years, Gloria's choice of where she would live was obvious. Gloria appreciates the full history of how her father's commitment to creating a space for missionaries has led to what is now Beacon Hill at Eastgate. The space, and what is today's building, reflect an intention and investment in design for the very best care of residents. Considerable thought for the comfort of those who call the building home has gone into each decision along the journey from Michigan Christian Home to Beacon Hill at Eastgate.

Gloria generously supports the Beacon Hill Foundation and says fondly,

**"I feel that my efforts to donate to the Foundation are also continuing my family's legacy, and what my father started so many years ago. It makes me happy to think that I am helping to continue to expand his vision and enrich our community all these years later."**

As a young girl, Gloria says, "I remember thinking, this is what [the church] should do! The church should provide for the women who have served it loyally for years out in the field and at home, in choir, in Sunday school." And that's exactly what Michigan Christian Home achieved and the spirit that continues to guide Beacon Hill at Eastgate today.

This May, the Beacon Hill Foundation Board of Trustees invited donors to a special celebration in the Community House Auditorium to personally thank them for their contributions to the Beacon Hill Foundation. Chairperson Micki Benz kicked off the event with highlights of the achievements made possible by our donors. Amanda Daggett, Director of Nursing, shared her personal story of receiving an employee scholarship, and how, in turn, she urges her employees to continue their education with the support of the Employee Scholarship Fund. Jim Rauwerda, president of the Eastgate Neighborhood Association and Board Trustee of the Beacon Hill Foundation, spoke about the positive connectivity between Beacon Hill and the surrounding community. Most importantly, our generous donors were at the heart of this event. Following the remarks, the board members, management staff, and donors all mixed, mingled and enjoyed scrumptious treats from our esteemed culinary team.

**"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."**

*Hebrews 10:24*

**Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity and support of the Beacon Hill Foundation.**

# Embracing the Creative Spirit: Celebrating the Arts in all its Splendor

**A large part of "Cultivating Care and Community" is through the Beacon Hill Foundation's commitment to Celebrating the Arts.** Andi Allen, Foundation Director, has worked closely with residents, families, and staff to create additional opportunities for cultural enrichment. The arts have a profound impact on emotional and social well-being, especially for older adults. They can evoke powerful emotions, promote empathy and understanding, and provide an outlet for self-reflection and healing. It enhances and enriches their everyday experiences and brings joy and fulfillment.

This year, the Celebrating the Arts Spring Concert series featured five performances of talented, renowned concert artists, soloists, chamber musicians and a singer-songwriter. Once again, the Foundation's

commitment to Celebrating the Arts allows us to bring this world-class entertainment to the Beacon Hill Auditorium, just steps away for our residents.

And local artists, whose talented works grace our walls, came to Beacon Hill for artist gallery walks and artist receptions. Mary Anderson and Larry Blovits each led gallery walks, sharing the inspiration behind their work and answering questions from residents.

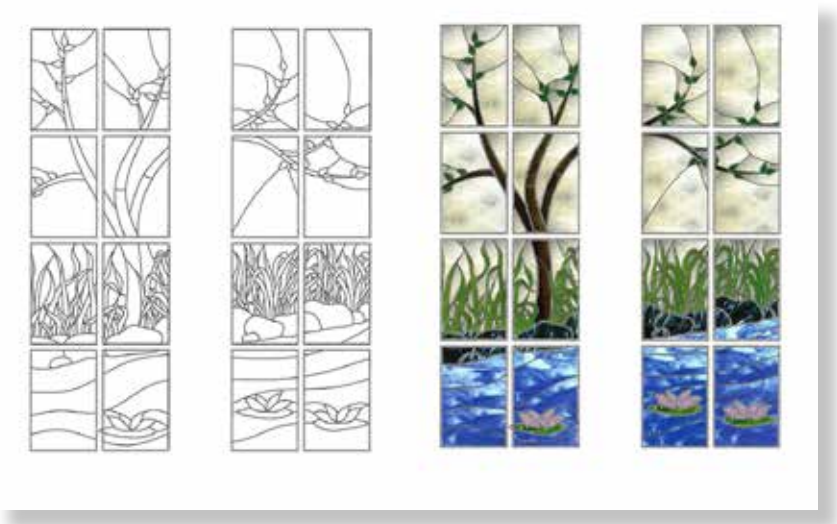
This summer, Beacon Hill at Eastgate is delighted to continue the annual tradition of inviting residents, families, and staff as well as the Eastgate neighborhood to join us as we showcase exceptional musical performances with artists like Edye Evans Hyde and Judy Harrison at our Concerts on the Green series.

Through Celebrating the Arts, the Foundation brings world-class talent right to Beacon Hill, for all our residents and the Eastgate community to enjoy.

# Gift of Talent

As you walk through our community, you surely notice that the walls are covered with beautiful works of art. Some pieces have been passed on to Beacon Hill by residents and their families, two galleries are curated by local artists and change every few months, and many have been commissioned by our organization. One special project of love included the talents of resident Sue (Betty) Weiss who recently died to this life but left us her artistic legacy through the design of the chapel door windows.

Five years ago, the Foundation team worked with Chaplain Rich to create an appropriate theme for our chapel doors. Sue listened to our ideas and met with the stained glass artists for inspiration.

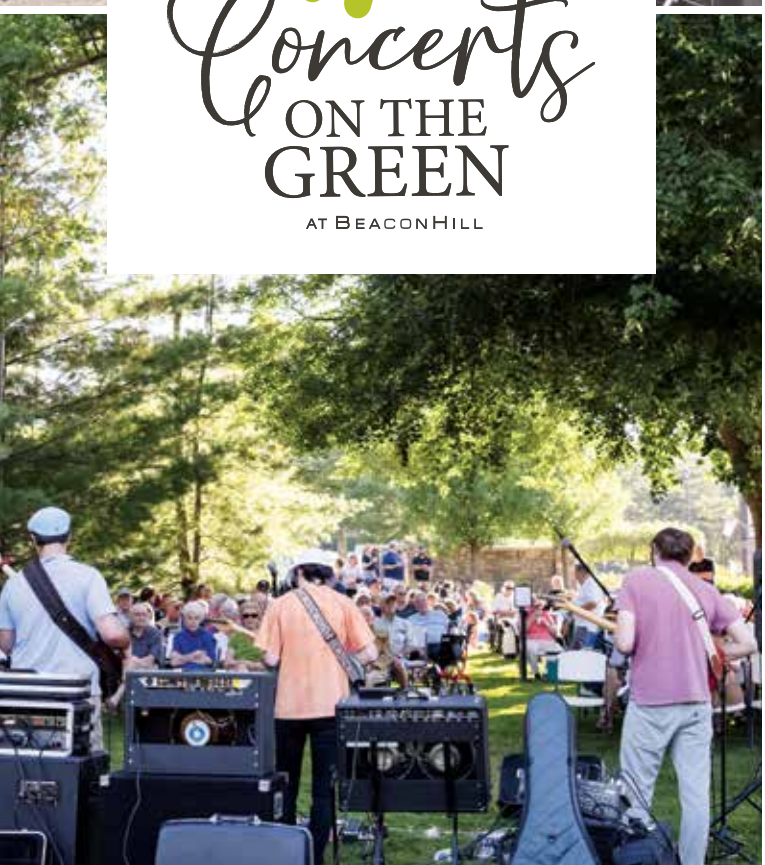


Throughout the Bible, ***water*** is an ever present character. The Psalmist speaks of streams of water as pictured in our stained glass. As the tree is nourished by the water, it bears fruit so that others will be blessed. God nourishes people spiritually, so that people can, in turn, nourish others. What a wonderful picture for our caring community!

**We are grateful for donors who made these doors possible and also to Sue who helped to translate the message of the Psalmist through her drawings.**

# Celebrating Our Community Through Music

**Thank you all!** Work that you do in supporting Beacon Hill helps to raise awareness and resources for the Beacon Hill Foundation, whose mission is to ensure the physical, social, and spiritual care for all residents in our residential community. We extend our heartfelt thanks for helping us fulfill our Christian mission to care for all our residents at a time in life when they need it most. Your partnership with the Foundation makes a difference!



# Driven by Need, Guided by the Spirit: A Story of Faith and Trust

## *Board trustee Mike Cypher reflects on Beacon Hill's heritage and mission.*

**Mike Cypher** has a unique perspective on the heritage of Beacon Hill at Eastgate. A board member since 1992, he has been part of the organization's evolution from Michigan Christian Home. Mike intimately knows the roots of Beacon Hill and how it grew to become the community it is today. As he looks ahead to the future, he's excited for continued expansion opportunities and believes that supporting Beacon Hill's mission to serve seniors is more important now than ever before.

To say Mike has seen many advancements during his tenure is an understatement. "Things have changed dramatically," he says. "We didn't have all the levels of care we provide today when I started." He remembers how it began "with a great mission statement and businessmen who saw the need to provide for pastors and missionaries when they could no longer serve and were looking to retire. At the time, many did not have a retirement plan and there weren't many options or resources. Local churches decided to pool their resources to take care of them after they served."

Mike notes how uncommon the community was at the time. "Nursing homes didn't have a concept of serving Christians," he explains. "They only cared for the physical side of a person but not the spiritual side.

They might have been faith-based in name but it wasn't their mission. Their mission did not include helping them on their spiritual walk."

Mike became a board member following his brother who held a board position before him. As the treasurer at Cavalry Baptist Church, he was encouraged by fellow member Roy Sturgeon to join the board. Mike says he was already acquainted with Michigan Christian Home as some of his family members lived in the community. He shares, "My wife's grandmother Beulah Miller was in Assisted Living and then Skilled Nursing at Beacon Hill. Another relative, my sister-in-law's dad, Virgil Newander, was a retired missionary and lived there. He was diagnosed with MS and faced significant physical limitations but cognitively was intact. He needed the stimulation our community environment provided."

Mike has witnessed three extensive building expansions during his time. "I see the positive changes for seniors who move in here," he says. "Residents don't have to worry about things like maintaining a

house." He notes how the transformations are especially significant for the elderly within his own church who often were unable to socialize or leave their home.

**"There is a big change in the social structure as now these seniors have social outlets and see people their age, and go out and do things," Mike says. "I see how physical and mental states improve as they're able to be more active."**

He remembers how friends at church moved into Beacon Hill at Eastgate as Covid broke out and how "every time we talk to them, they say it's the best decision they ever made. They just love the independent living concept and enjoy the opportunity to have fellowship and socialize."

The years have not been without challenges, as times of increasing risk have called for increasing faith. Mike recalls, "When Metro Hospital decided to vacate, that required a lot of prayer and faith to step in there. Interest rates were going crazy at that time. We felt there was a lot of risk. And as board members, we were a little bit nervous! We had faith in our leadership, Jeff and the rest of the team, and faith and confidence that God would continue to honor our efforts." The first independent living expansion was a big step, but Mike says they became more confident as expansion helped to fulfill the founders' original mission. "Each time we step up, there is some risk involved," he says. "The original building has served us well and for a long period of time. We're grateful that it has given so much to us for

so long. No matter what the future holds for us, the core mission will remain the same."

For Mike, the ongoing, huge need to care for seniors and Beacon Hill's high level of quality service continues to drive his dedication to the organization. Donating to the Beacon Hill Foundation is more than a worthy cause, it's a mission to take care of others, and that idea behind benevolent care motivates Mike to keep giving. He cites the Ten Commandments, "Honor your father and mother. To me that means, take care of the people who brought you here — they cared for you when you were a baby in need, take care of your elders when they need help."

Looking ahead, Mike wants to ensure Beacon Hill can continue to fulfill the original vision for the organization, as established by its founding members, and serve its mission of caring for more people. "Right now, we have a huge waiting list," he says. "We can feel that urgency as we are excited to serve more seniors." Mike points to the heritage of Michigan Christian Home and Beacon Hill at Eastgate, as the mission and the organization's ability to serve seniors. He says "we want to be able to take care of people the way you want to be taken care of. It's the right thing to do."

BEACONHILL
FOUNDATION

1919 Boston Street, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

**Call 616-608-8285**
bhfoundation@beaconhillgr.org

## Mission

Ensuring that Beacon Hill at Eastgate continues to meet the physical, social and spiritual needs of its residents, has adequate resources for development of its campus and facilities, and remains an integral part of the Eastgate neighborhood.

**Beacon Hill Foundation Board**
Jeffrey Huegli, *President*
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Mary McLoughlin, *Trustee*
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**Beacon Hill Foundation Staff**
Andi Allen,
*Foundation Director*

BEACONHILL
GOLF CLASSIC
2023

CELEBRATING
20 YEARS

MONDAY, JUNE 19
THOUSAND OAKS
GOLF CLUB

### WE WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR OUT ON THE GREENS FOR OUR 20TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC.

What a beautiful day for our 208 players, who together raised over $60,000 for the Beacon Hill Foundation.

**Championship Circle Sponsor:**
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The Breton Group, Greenbrier Development, Pinnacle Construction Group, Ziegler Investment Banking

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