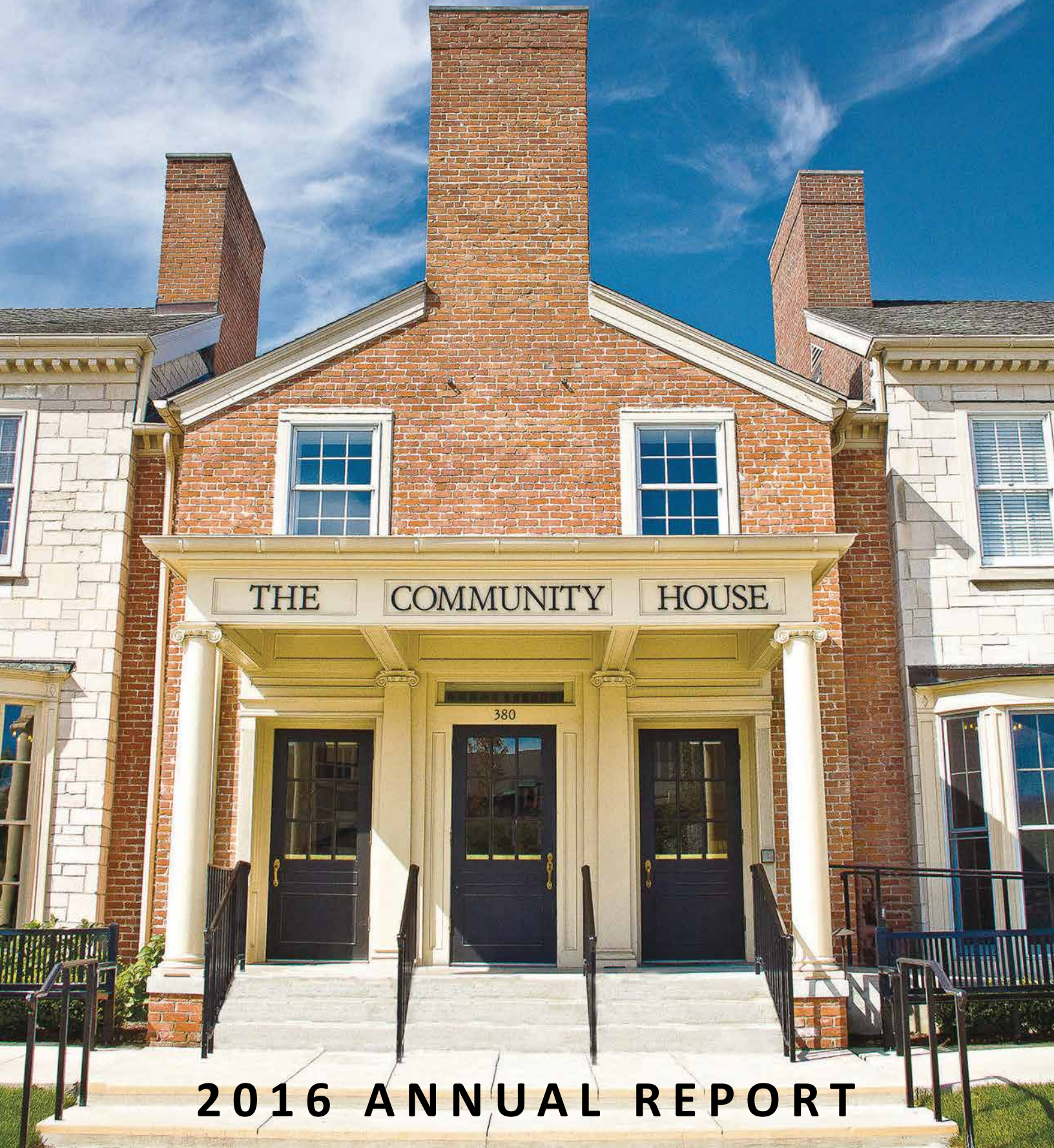


THE  
COMMUNITY HOUSE  
BIRMINGHAM



**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**



THE  
COMMUNITY HOUSE  
BIRMINGHAM

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# A Journey Back To Its Roots

On Monday November 14, 2016 - The Community House in Birmingham, Michigan, formerly known as TCH, announced a return to its nearly-century-old roots with the unveiling of a new name, identity and tagline.

The rebrand included a revert to its original name — “The Community House” — a new logo, and the launch of a brand new website that was reimagined and rebuilt from the ground up. All changes were revealed to the public on November 14, 2016 at the organization’s “Rediscovering The Community House” open house event.

The rebrand was fueled in part by market research that studied both internal and external perceptions of The Community House brand and its long-held place as an extraordinary destination in the heart of the greater community.

At the unveil, those in attendance heard from leadership that they were “thrilled to launch the rebrand of The Community House.” Members of the Board of Directors stated “it was time to get back to our roots, and we invite the community to join us on this journey as we rediscover the truly unique and remarkable essence of our place in this community.” As President & CEO, I added that “we are humbled and blessed to offer our house as a true home-away-from-home to area residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and everyone who

relies on our facility for everything from early child care to weddings and from enrichment programs to fundraising events.”

At the gathering, features of The Community House’s new up and running website were also unveiled, which now includes a more engaging user experience, a cleaner and more intuitive navigation structure, improved functionality and enhanced content that focuses on the nonprofit’s mission. Formerly at [www.tchserves.org](http://www.tchserves.org), the new website is now found at [www.communityhouse.com](http://www.communityhouse.com).

## A New Philanthropic Course

With all of the exciting changes presented to those gathered, Leadership also announced that The Community House Board of Directors recently approved — unanimously — the creation of a new separate entity; The Community House Foundation. Guests and VIPs in attendance were told that the mission of The Community House Foundation will be to secure philanthropic funds critical in our efforts to



permanently endow The Community House. Those in attendance were advised that robust philanthropy via the planned Community House Foundation will also supplement a wide range of community programs, projects and services outside the normal revenue streams — while at the same time helping to raise critical funds for the protection and preservation of The Community House and its historic building.

## It All Starts at The Community House

Also unveiled was The Community House’s new tagline, “It All Starts Here.”

What our research validated was just how woven we’ve become into the fabric of this community. For nearly a century, we have provided an extraordinary destination where people can come together to enjoy extraordinary experiences; educational, social or philanthropic.

Whether someone is a newcomer to the area or a long-standing resident ...just starting a business, just starting a family, or just starting a night on the town...it all starts at The Community House.

*William D. Seklar, President & CEO*

# IN 2016...

**210,000** people walked through our doors

**46,327** meals were served at The Community House

**6,000** class registrations for our community education classes, lectures and programs

**3,646** people attended our Special Events

**2,230** children reached out to each month by the StoryTellers Guild

**1,404** people attended The Community House's Sara Smith Youth Theatre Performances

**832** donors gave to The Community House Annual Fund Drive

**730** classes, lectures and programs were offered at The Community House

**575** senior men gathered at The Community House for learning and fellowship

**300** children and parents attended our annual ParkArt event

**175** volunteers contributed 3,400 hours of time to The Community House

**103** people over 90 years or older attended The Community House's 90 & Beyond Celebration

**77** different zip codes represent Community House donors to whom we are deeply grateful

**1** is the number of private day care centers in Birmingham rated 5 stars by the "Great Start to Quality", and our Early Childhood Center (ECC) is the only one!



# Programs & Services

Programs and Services were developed to meet the changing needs of the community. The Community House offered social, educational and cultural enrichment in the form of lectures, classes, seminars and events.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

June 8, 2016 marked the ribbon cutting for the new Hackett Family Infant & Toddler Center, an expansion of the Early Childhood Center at The Community House. Endowed to The Community House in 1993 by beloved donors Jeanne and Robert Hackett, the 1,234 square foot Hackett Room is located on the northwest corner of The Community House, situated directly above the ECC. From 1993-2016, the Hackett Room served as a meeting room for Community House programs and events. Permission was granted by the Hackett children, Amy and David Palmer and Hilary Small to go forward with the intent to rededicate the space as the new Hackett Family Infant & Toddler Center. Along with the expansion, the Early Childhood Center provides an outstanding facility for 60 children including infants, toddlers and preschoolers. In 2016, the center received a prestigious five star rating, the

highest level obtainable, from “Great Start to Quality,” Michigan’s rating and improvement system for child care and preschool. The ECC program encourages the development of the total child and focuses on an active learning environment and problem solving skills through the use of the High Scope philosophy.

*The Early Childhood Center expansion allowed us to offer spaces for 30 more children*



## DANCE ACADEMY

More than 400 students strong, The Community House Dance Academy celebrated its 52<sup>nd</sup> year in 2016. The Academy's vision is to be a source of inspiration and guidance for those who wish to make dance a part of their lives. In October, the Ballet Ensemble performed for more than 400 children at the City of Birmingham's annual Pumpkin Patch event. In December, The Community House Ballet Ensemble and friends performed the Nutcracker Story Ballet. They also hosted and performed at a special mother/daughter Sugar Plum Tea party for over 100 guests. As an educational component of the program, the Academy hosted an Artist Encounter Master Class with Caitlin Abraham, a cast member from the Broadway show "American in Paris."



## HOSPITALITY

The Community House continued to deliver an exceptional venue for many community, social and corporate events. The Hospitality Department served 46,327 guests in 2016. Forty-three couples chose The Community House for their wedding receptions, while others held their rehearsal dinners and/or wedding ceremonies at our beautiful facility including on the outdoor Van Dusen terrace. A total of 1,373 rooms were utilized for nonprofit groups, classes and other community events and meetings.

## PROGRAMS & ENRICHMENT

In 2016, The Community House Program and Enrichment Department offered over 730 class options including everything from Cooking and Art to Yoga and Summer Camps for Children. Class registrations totaled 6,000. One hundred seventy-two programs were offered for children. There were 13 complimentary or minimal cost programs.

## SARA SMITH YOUTH THEATRE

Sara Smith Youth Theatre presented three theatrical performances in 2016 — "Honk, Jr.," "Fame, Jr.," and "Aladdin, Jr.," The productions gave youth ages 8-18 the chance to learn about the art of theatrical performance. More than 1,404 members of the community attended the performances offering exposure to community theatre. Over 100 children were cast in the plays, and an additional 72 youth attended The Community House summer theatre camps.



*100 children  
were cast in  
our youth  
theatre plays*



# Community Outreach

The Community House is home to 14 unique supported groups and nonprofits who work to bring people together and give back to our great community. In addition, outreach activities such as Student Art Town and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leaders foster the development of our community's youth.

## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LEADERS

In May 2016, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leaders graduated a diverse class of 47 seventh graders, representing 20 public and private schools throughout the Woodward Corridor Communities of Detroit, Ferndale, Berkley, Royal Oak, Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills. Over the course of the school year, student leaders shared their unique experiences while engaging in problem-solving and self-awareness activities. The work of the Leaders culminated with a special group project called "The Apprentice: Leadership in Business & Innovation." The Leaders teamed up to form companies and were tasked with the innovating a product and creating a real-world business plan. The Leaders requested funding from a panel of real bankers from PNC and mock checks were presented for their efforts.

## PARKART

Over 300 children and their families attended ParkArt, "an evening of the arts," in Birmingham's Shain Park. ParkArt created an interactive, family-oriented event that allowed youth to partake in hands-on art projects. The event also included performances by The Community House Youth Summer Theatre actors and The Community House Ballet Ensemble. Art activities introduced children to Comics, Sand Art, Drawing, Repurposed Art, Photography, Face Painting and more!

*Since 1996, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leaders has sponsored 590+ seventh grade students*





*Student Art Town Artist Annika Fricke, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Beverly Elementary*

## STORYTELLERS GUILD

The StoryTellers Guild mission is to improve childhood literacy through the art of storytelling in underserved schools. Members visited classrooms in Dearborn, Hazel Park, Pontiac, Oak Park, Royal Oak, Utica and Warren school

**2,230**  
*children were  
read to by  
StoryTellers*

districts, as well as Beaumont hospital. StoryTellers shared the joy of reading with more than 2,230 children each month in grades K-5. The StoryTellers Guild held their annual fundraiser in April entitled "Feed Your Imagination." Renowned artist and author, Denise Fleming was the guest speaker. Proceeds from the luncheon were used to purchase new books for underserved schools.

## STUDENT ART TOWN

2016 marked the 26<sup>th</sup> year of Student Art Town, made possible by a grant from the DeRoy Testamentary Foundation. Art teachers from 33 metro Detroit public and private schools selected the artwork of 282 student artists for exhibition at The Community House one week preceding the fundraising event OUR TOWN Art Show & Sale. A special feature of the 2016 Student Art Town included a series of free children's art workshops also made possible by the DeRoy Testamentary Foundation. Twenty-seven students participated in a variety of classes including "Mummy Candle Making" and "Build Your Own Spooky Gingerbread House." The Community House hosted two ceremonies to honor the students. All elementary students received a participation certificate. The middle and high school students' artwork was juried and awarded prizes by Barbara Heller, of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Over 500 parents, grandparents, relatives and friends attended the award ceremony honoring the art achievements of the students.

## RACE RELATIONS & DIVERSITY TASK FORCE

The goal of the Race Relations & Diversity Task Force is to promote and embrace an appreciation for diversity and advocate for inclusivity, equality, and justice in the region. The theme of the 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, was "The Danger of a Single Story," which presented a TED Talks video along with a discussion panel moderated by Task Force member Nichole Pardo. The panel included John Akouri, President and CEO of the Lebanese American Chamber of Commerce; Cranbrook School students Maya Zreik and Sufia Ahmed; clinical psychologist Dr. Michael Young and Michigan Department of Civil Rights Executive Director Agustin Arbulu. The Diversity Champion Honor Roll Breakfast took place in April and recognized those who actively support ethnic diversity and the ideals of inclusion in the workplace. Both events helped raise funds to continue the Task Force's educational efforts. Both of these events were made possible by the Nissan Foundation.

**Over 270**  
*people attended  
our Diversity  
Champions  
Breakfast  
to honor 43  
Champions*





*Sponsored Group members: Gene Jacoby, Senior Men's Club, June Rowley, Newcomers Club and Dick Kamp, Senior Men's Club*

## SPONSORED GROUPS

In 2016, The Community House subsidized 10 Sponsored Groups and three nonprofit service organizations by offering them free space and administrative support. The Community House support of groups and clubs in the local community enables them to deliver their services and continue their charitable community

were: Rotary Club; Optimists Club; and Lions Club.

## PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

The President's Advisory Council (PAC), is a voluntary committee made up of 18 young professionals involved with The Community House and passionate about inspiring philanthropy in the next generations. The PAC hosted its first

***14 Sponsored Groups and Nonprofit Service Organizations were subsidized by The Community House to help them continue their good works***

work. Sponsored Groups included: President's Advisory Council; Birmingham Bloomfield Newcomers Club; International Culture and Cuisine; Race Relations & Diversity Task Force; Senior Men's and TCH Women's Clubs; the StoryTellers Guild, Friends of the Gardens, Open Bridge and the Principal Shopping District. The nonprofit organizations supported

ever event and fundraiser to support The Community House, "PAC(k) the Patio" event was held on July 13 on the Van Dusen Terrace with over 100 people in attendance. In conjunction with the event, a two-week clothing drive called "PAC(k) the Rack" was led by the PAC and over 1,000 items of gently used or new professional clothing was donated to "Jackets for Jobs" and the Disabled Veterans National Foundation

(organizations helping those in need with professional clothing for interviews or to reenter the workforce after duty). At the holidays, the PAC adopted a family from Variety -the Children's Charity and provided holiday gifts for children and needed household items to a local family in need.

## VOLUNTEERS

The Community House volunteers are considered "the heart of the House," as they are depended upon to run numerous special events, programs and classes. In 2016, 175 volunteers contributed 3,400 hours of time. Janice Degen was named the 2016 Volunteer of the Year.

## "MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE" TV SHOW

2016 marked the fifth season of The Community House's weekly Bloomfield Community Television talk show, "Making a Difference at The Community House." Scheduled guests were interviewed by President & CEO William Seklar about their involvement with the community and The Community House. The TV show highlighted programs and events while shining the spotlight on Community House sponsors, donors, teachers and volunteers who helped The Community House accomplish its mission.



# Special Events

Special Events gave patrons the opportunity to create lasting memories with new friends and old friends. Long-standing favorites such as “The Birmingham House Tour” and “OUR TOWN Art Show & Sale” were joined by new events “Jazz on the Rocks” and “SIP.”

## BATES STREET BLOCK PARTY

The Bates Street Block Party was a community event that featured tastings from chefs from area restaurants and caterers in Oakland and Wayne counties who incorporated Michigan grown ingredients into their recipes. Michigan vendors sampled and sold the best of Michigan cheeses, meats, baked goods, jams and other edible products while local breweries, wineries and distilleries were on hand for beverage tastings. Attendees also enjoyed live entertainment and family friendly children’s activities.

## 90 & BEYOND

The 90 & Beyond celebratory luncheon, presented by Talmer Bank, took place in May and honored people in the community who were 90 years of age and older. The event was highlighted with a sing-along of “Music Through the Decades” presentation. For recognition at the luncheon, honorees were asked to submit two photos of themselves—one then and one now. All honorees received a commemorative photo as well

as a keepsake gift. Sponsors included Talmer Bank, Samaritas Senior Living Bloomfield, Cedarbrook Senior Living and Aly Darin Photography. One hundred 90 year olds attended and three people were presented certificates for being over 100 years old. Presentations were made by Oakland County Commissioner, Nancy Quarles and Shelly Goodman Taub who provided Proclamations for each honoree.

## OUR TOWN ART SHOW & SALE

For 31 years, the juried, all media art show has provided a forum for Michigan artists to show and sell their work. The Opening Night “Art in Vogue” Party, included strolling hors d’oeuvres, a live fashion/art presentation and the first opportunity to preview and purchase art. The show was open to the public for three days, at no charge. 35 percent of the proceeds from the art sales were used to fund youth programs at The Community House. The 2016 event, sponsored by the Derooy Testamentary Foundation, showcased over 400 pieces of artwork from 165 artists. The art exhibition included paintings, pastels, sculptures, glassworks, fiber works,





*2016 Pillars of Vibrancy: Peter Leonard, Sandra Krafur, Norm LaPage, Bonnie LaPage, Dr. Frank McGeorge (front row L-R), Pat Rosen, David Trott, Alexander Zonjic, Paul Glantz, Mary Glantz (back row L-R)*

photography, jewelry and mixed media. Elizabeth DuMouchelle and Robert Dempster served as Co-Chairs and the show was juried by Barbara Heller and Rachelle Nozero. Benefactor Co-Chairs were Carol and John Aubrey and Nancy and David Lau.

## BATES STREET SOCIETY DINNER

The Community House hosted its first annual Bates Street Society Dinner in January of 2016. The event, presented by PNC Wealth Management and hosted by The Community House Board of Directors recognized donors who made significant charitable contributions to support the work and mission of The Community House. The recognition dinner officially inducted the donors into the "Bates Street Society." Membership into the Society is achieved when a donor's cumulative giving totals \$25,000 or more. In addition, the event also honored ten individuals who were deemed "Pillars of Vibrancy"

in the categories of Education, Culture, Wellness, and Philanthropy.

## BIRMINGHAM HOUSE TOUR

Birmingham House Tour presented tour-goers with seven spectacular private residential homes. The houses ranged in character from a sophisticated Parisian-style home, which was accented by exquisite designer details and artwork, to a contemporary spin on an arts and crafts revival home, which also included a simulated indoor golf course and home theatre. The Tour was sponsored by Hall & Hunter Realtors. Many attendees took a break in the day to enjoy a delicious lunch at The Community House before returning to the Tour to view additional houses.

## SIP

Aficionados of extraordinary food and fine cocktails gathered in March for a new fundraising event entitled "SIP," sponsored by the Bank of Birmingham. Small plate stations and craft cocktail pairings were offered by some of the area's best restaurants. Entertainment

was provided by Detroit jazz crooner, Ben Sharkey, who entertained the crowd with his stylish interpretation of jazz and R&B favorites. A live auction gave SIP patrons an opportunity to bid on unique experiential packages. The evening concluded with an afterglow party, "Rémy's Night Cap After SIP," which featured live musical entertainment, small bites and Remy Cointreau USA signature cocktails.

## JAZZ ON THE ROCKS

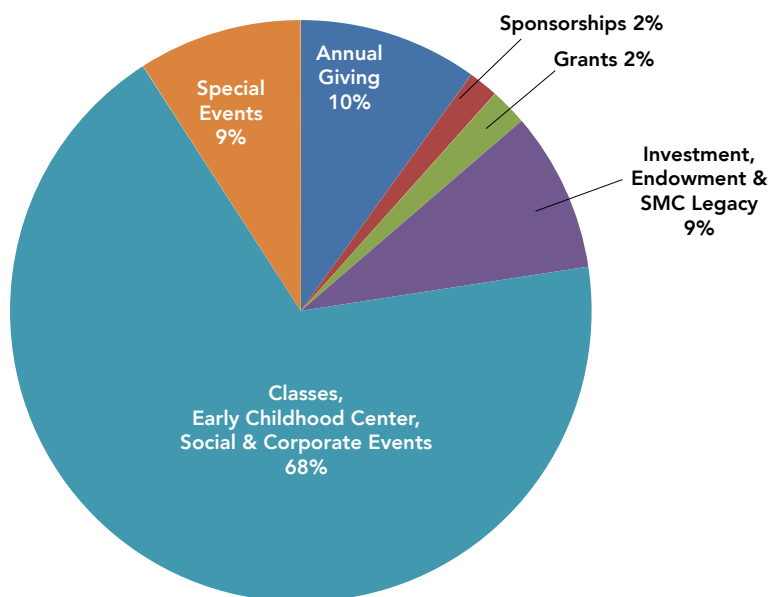
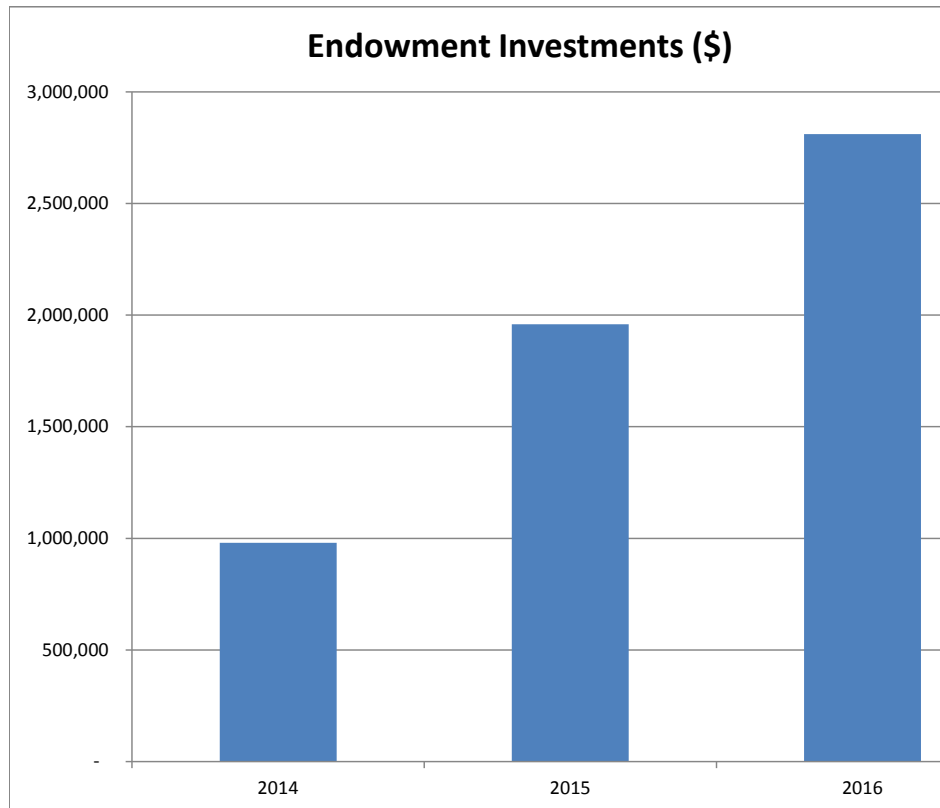
The Community House brought jazz back to Birmingham in August with "Jazz on the Rocks." The jazz series took place on the tented Van Dusen Terrace with Ron Kischuk serving as the event's artistic director. Performers included the Johnny Trudell Quartet; Jerry McKenzie, Just Jazz, featuring Lori Lefevre on vocals; Carl Cafagna Group; and Ron Kischuk, Masters of Music. A highlight of the event included signature cocktails, specific to each session, provided by the professional crew at Rémy Cointreau USA.



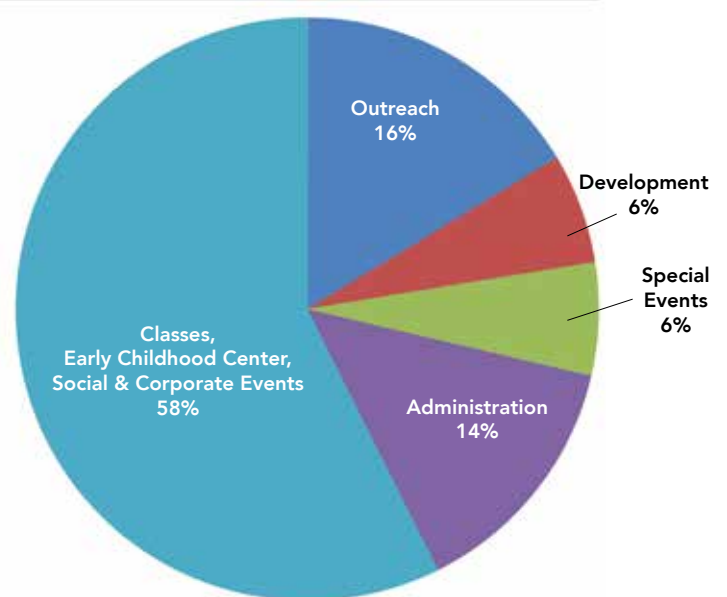
# Financial Overview

As a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, The Community House continued on its path to solid financial stability in 2016, significantly improving on many business metrics with improved offerings in our Early Childhood Center and strong growth in our Hospitality Program. Fine tuning of operational and business processes resulted in greater productivity and efficiencies. Importantly, we cannot over stress the incredible financial and emotional support we received from our Board of Directors, key stakeholders, sponsors and supporters.

As a critical community educational resource and asset, we take seriously our responsibility to be the best stewards of your gifts, hoping you will continue to help us carry on our good work. Your donations are vital to our on-going stability and future sustainability. Thank you for supporting and believing in what we do. Our important work continues.



**2016 Operating Revenue**



**2016 Operating Expenses**



## Funders and Partners



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## *Dominic DiMarco and Erin O'Neill-DiMarco*

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The Community House has made every effort to ensure donors are properly recognized for their support.

If your name has been omitted or incorrectly listed, please accept our apology and contact the Development Department at 248.594.6417.

*Photo credits: Doug Ashley, Robert Dempster, Neighborhood SEEN, Green Holly Weddings*



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Cedarbrook Senior Living  
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## Bates Street Society Dinner

PNC Bank—Presenting Sponsor  
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## Bates Street Block Party

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## Charity Golf Classic

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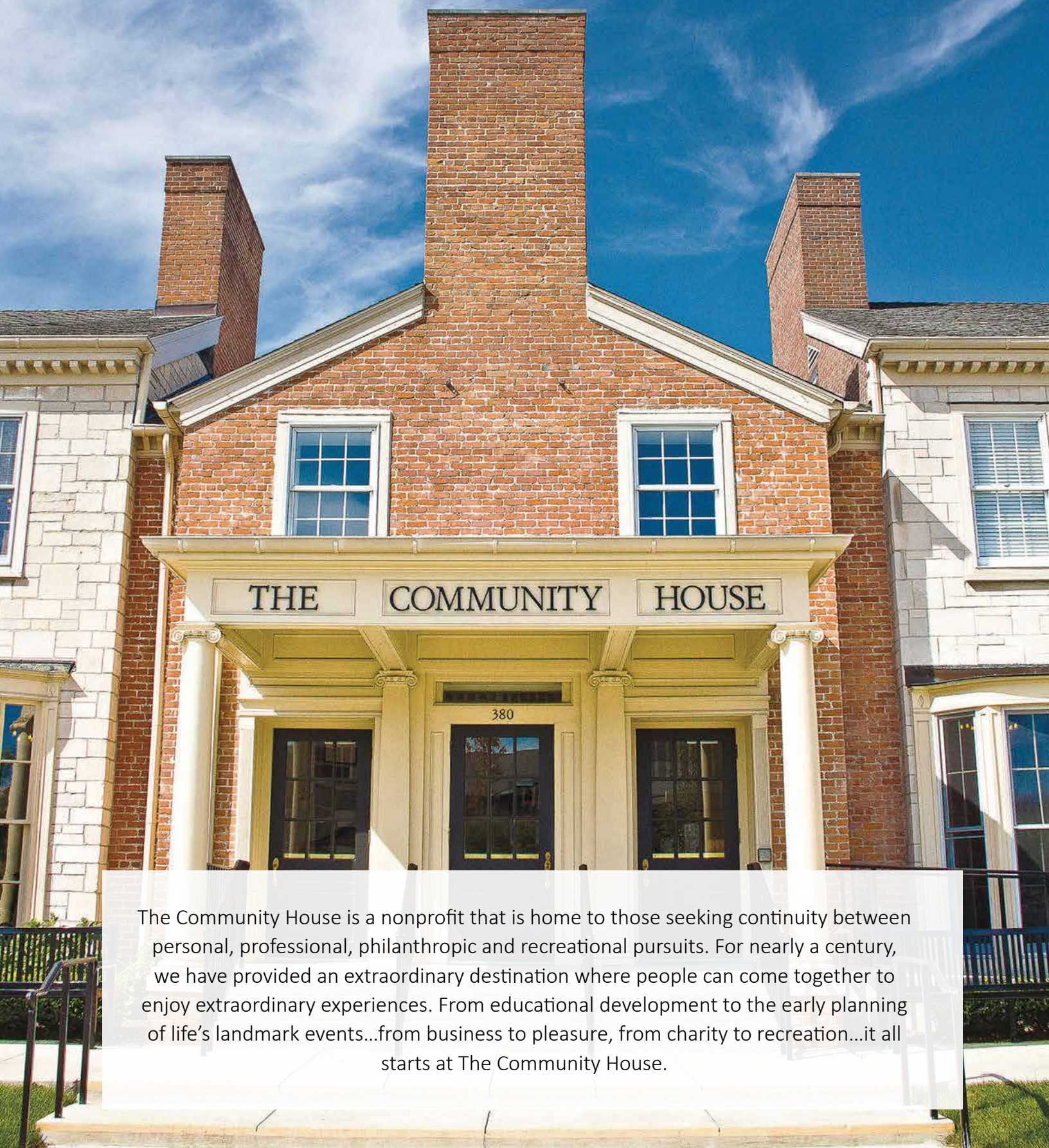
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