Partnerships make the NOAH Project possible. There is no way we could offer our model of holistic care to our clients without the number of churches, community agencies, and individuals who walk with us every day. These connections help us provide brown bag lunches with sandwiches and snacks, a dental clinic, interns to assist with casework, resources to navigate clients into housing, and much more.

I want to highlight some of the partnerships that made 2017 possible.

First, our partnership with over 65 local churches, schools, civic groups, unions, and other organizations made providing 39,787 lunches possible in 2017. Many of you are part of these groups, and there is no way to thank you enough for helping provide these lunches. They are critical to the work we do. They are the first step in welcoming our clients into the NOAH Project. This simple lunch is our most powerful engagement strategy to get clients to walk through our doors so we can help them get housed.

Our partnership with Covenant Community Care helped transform the lives of many of our clients this past year. Covenant offers primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care to the residents of Metro Detroit. Their mobile dental team comes to NOAH four times a year and last year served 153 NOAH clients. Many had not seen a dentist in years and were quite apprehensive about it. Bringing the dental team onsite takes away the barrier of transportation, and because our clients trust us they are willing to trust the dentists. We also partnered together to have a mental health and substance abuse therapist come to our Community Center program on a regular basis.

Through our partnerships with the Neighborhood Service Organization, Southwest Solutions, Cass Community Social Services, and Central City Integrated Health we were able to help navigate 236 individuals into permanent housing. Navigating a client into housing is complex. They need a state ID, Social Security card, birth certificate, and other documents just to get on the waiting list. Most clients need assistance to fill out all the paperwork. Getting approval for housing is just the beginning. The NOAH team helps the client find a place to live, move in, get furniture, and adjust to life in a safe warm place instead of on the streets. We could not do this alone.

Inside you can read about our partnership with UpShift which allows us to offer our Earn-A-Bike program. This chance to learn valuable bike repair skills (as well as get a bike!) is one of the most requested programs at NOAH and would not be possible without this partnership.

The last partnership I want to highlight is the one we have with you! Whether you volunteer at NOAH with Bag Lunch, Art and Soul, or the Community Center, whether you tell others about NOAH, or whether you give financially or donate the things needed to run this program – we are grateful for your partnership and would not be able to provide services without you.

Thank you,

Amy Brown
Executive Director
15% of hours by One-Time Volunteers (1,367 hours)
8% of hours by Nurses in our Monday and Thursday Wellness Center (736 hours)
38% of hours by Peer Support Volunteers (3,488 hours)
38% of hours by Long-Term Volunteers (3,488 hours)
That’s more than 4 full-time employees!

39,787
The total number of lunches NOAH served in 2017.

8,487
bus tickets given, assisting individuals in getting to 4,243 medical appointments, job interviews, or housing searches.

3,519
Teeth cleaned in 153 mouths

2017 By the Numbers

Program Spotlight: Earn-A-Bike

“Where’s the next bike class?” is a question we hear all the time at NOAH. That’s because Earn-A-Bike is one of the most popular programs, with clients lined up for a coveted space on the list. Earn-A-Bike isn’t just about a fun activity though. It offers NOAH clients a much needed reliable source of transportation. Individuals apply and are chosen by NOAH staff for the program and must commit to attending the classes.

Helen participated in one of the sessions this year. “The bike has been useful because when I don’t feel like walking I can get on my bike and ride it wherever I want to go, and I can get there in no time!”

“I learned how to put a bike together! I had no idea that there were so many different parts that made up a bike!” said Helen. “We learned how to adjust the brakes, and Zach showed us how to fix a flat. It was amazing and very interesting.”

Earn-A-Bike empowers NOAH clients because they truly earn the bikes. Participants have to put in the time and effort to rebuild the bikes, and they get a real sense of ownership through that process. NOAH has offered a total of eight Earn-A-Bike sessions which allowed 45 individuals to rent their walking shoes.

“I think it’s neat to run into past participants and hear them tell me all about their bike...They’re always so jazzed about it.”

Finding Community

James has been part of the NOAH family for many years and has a reputation of being a real jokester. If you met James today, you’d find him laughing with a friend or joking with staff. This hasn’t always been the case though. James has struggled to stay in housing since the early 2000’s. He receives Supplemental Security Income, but his benefits were insufficient to pay for rent, groceries, bus fare, and utilities. Many times he would find a place on his own, fill out the paperwork, and do everything he knew how to do, but he still could not make ends meet. After losing yet another apartment and landing back on the streets, James knew he needed something more. A friend told him about this church on the corner of Woodward and Adams that provided lunch and casework services for people who were homeless, and he decided to give it a try. When he walked in the doors of NOAH, James found more than a lunch and resources. He found community.

Living on the streets had taken its toll on James. Most days he felt as if he did not matter. That changed when he started spending time at NOAH. Staff learned his name and stopped by to say hello and to ask how things were going. Other guests also reached out and soon became his friends. Spending time at NOAH became the one thing James could count on to lift his spirits.

As James worked with NOAH caseworkers, he was encouraged to apply for a specific housing program that would meet his unique needs. His was assigned a housing caseworker who would help him figure out how to stay in his new place. He was overwhelmed with the process, but he talked to us about his anxiety. We assured James that we would help him get the birth certificate, state ID, and Social Security card he needed.

James, NOAH, and his housing caseworker became a team over the next few months. We worked together to help move James’ case through the process, and on September 8 he walked into NOAH with apartment keys proudly in his hand. This time, James feels confident that he can stay in his apartment because he now has the help and support he needs: his housing caseworker and his NOAH family.