



**HOMESPACE**  
WORKING TO CHANGE TWO GENERATIONS AT A TIME



**A message from  
Board President  
Peter Bordonaro:**

*"I often refer to  
Homespace as a family."*



**Youth Services  
Update:**

From the desk of  
Rebecca Prendergast



**Program  
Operations Update:**

From the desk of  
Kim Berghash

## Supporting at-risk young women

To achieve independence, two generations at a time

### KIYA'S STORY



That was then...  
This is now:

*pages 5-6*

### ALEXIS' STORY



When all else  
failed...

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### FROM OUR YOUTH



Our residents have  
a lot to say:

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## OUR MISSION:

Homespace supports at-risk young women to achieve independence, two generations at a time.

## OUR VISION:

Homespace strives to be the premier agency in WNY that provides services for at-risk young women and empowers them to be independent members of the community.

## OUR VALUES:

Family

Self-Sufficiency

Responsibility

Security

Resiliency

# FOLLOW US!



# @HOMESPACECORP

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## A message from our Board President, Peter Bordonaro:

I often refer to Homespace as a family. The metaphor seems appropriate, given the nature of the support that we provide to the young women we serve. In some cases, the Homespace staff is the only family that our residents know. But the notion of “family” permeates our culture at Homespace. Like a family, Homespace’s strength is a reflection of the collective success of its interdependent stakeholders – our residents, our talented staff, our dedicated leadership team, our Board of Directors and our supporters and champions in the community.

We take care of one another and work together to overcome challenges. We give each other second chances. We forgive one another. We laugh together. Sometimes we cry together. (It sounds cliché, but we really do! I have seen it - and done it.) Above all, we are passionate about and committed to our mission of supporting at-risk women to achieve independence two generations at a time. I’m proud to be a part of an organization that shares these values and uses them so adeptly to serve others, and I hope that you are too.

Every day at Homespace is busy, and that made for a very busy and exciting 2018. One of Homespace’s seminal achievements in 2018 was the opening of the Next Step program. Next Step is an agency operated boarding home for up to six female residents, ages 14 to 21, which provides independent living skills to youth transitioning from higher levels of care. The program is the vision of Homespace management team, led by Executive Director Kim Morris.

Kim and her team identified a need in the community for this level of care, and they have brought their vision to life by combining two units that were formerly part of our SILP program on Ellicott Street. Thus far, demand for spots in this program has far exceeded our program capacity. Operating a new program has brought its share of challenges, as expected. We continue to work together to overcome them, and as I write this we have tremendous momentum going to the future.

**2018 was also a year of growth.** We served more residents at Second Chance Home than we have in many years and added more SILP apartments in the community. Our staff grew to more than fifty employees, including a clinical supervisor of behavioral health services and a clinical consultant, both of which are key positions under the 29i and Children and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS) regulations. We also heightened our focus on grants and fundraising. We are fortunate to have received many generous contributions in 2018, each of which is so critical to our ability to pursue our mission.

While these are some of our more notable highlights, those of you who are close to Homespace know that there are many other triumphs and stumbles each day. We celebrate the good, and when we encounter the not-so-good we dust ourselves off, adapt and persevere. And we do those things together. That sentiment has me thinking about the family metaphor again!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your support and for believing in our mission – and for being a part of our family.

*-Peter Bordonaro, Board President*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## 2018 - 2019

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## A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE AND ADMIRATION TO OUR FORMER BOARD PRESIDENT

**Mr. John Kubicki** served on the Homespace Board of Directors for just over six years. Most of that time John served directly on the Executive Committee, with over four years as the President of the Board of Directors.

Throughout his tenure on the Board he was able to lead the restructuring of the agency to enhance productivity and to decrease the daily tasks placed on any one given director. He worked hard to build a more in-depth relationship with the M&T Charitable Foundation, and facilitated the agency's relationship with West Herr Automotive group, allowing for the agency to increase our number of vehicles. Most importantly though, John demonstrated a real passion for making our Second Chance Home group home a true "home" for the children, youth, and families that reside there.

John Kubicki left our Board of Directors with an impressive list of accomplishments. I am so very thankful for his personal attention to the details of the agency, the legacy of caring, and his support throughout the years of major growth for Homespace. As a Board Member, John debated topics that need to be debated, directed things to be completed, and many times compromised in order to reach the better good. He has done all of this without being disrespectful, bringing laughter when it was needed, and always ending debates with a hug. Not only was John an amazing President, he has become a lifelong friend! Thank you John for everything you have provided and supported Homespace with.

Kim Morris, Executive Director, asks:

## “What does *family* mean to you?”

In sitting down to write my Annual Report for 2018, I was hit with writer’s block for an extended period of time. So much happened in 2018, so many ups and downs, so many changes! It was at times uncomfortable and difficult to prepare for the growth we experienced moving into 2019. We worked through a lot of program restructuring and added many new faces to our team which resulted in a lot of time spent in our search and preparation to find more space for our growing agency. It was all important work, but there was something more important to me. The one thing I believe got all of us at Homespace through 2018 was the flexibility we provide our staff in allowing them to put family first, whenever possible.

This is the mindset we model for the children, youth, and families we serve. Our employees also know that we encourage time off to be with family. We want to give our staff the opportunity to participate in events with their families and to ensure employees don’t miss out on important family events. This “family first” mentality was the springboard for figuring out what I really want to share about 2018.

So, I started to ask people what family meant to them, or in other words, how they would define “family”. I loved the responses I received so much, that I would like to share some with you.

*“Family are those you call with your best news and those you cry to on the worst days. They are there for you always.” -JR*

“Family doesn’t have to be blood related. Family are the people you share your life with; the ups/downs, and everything in between.” -SL

*“Family are the people who you know will be there for you, no matter what, unconditionally.” -KLG*

“Family is who you count on, sometimes you live together, sometimes you don’t, and sometimes you never even did; but Family is your people.” -CG

*“Ohana means family. Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten.” -CC, from Lilo & Stitch*

“Family are the people who help you become yourself and love you for who you are.” -SO

*“Family to me is my lifeline. Loving someone unconditionally, no matter what.” -IT*

“Family are the people who are your emotional sanctuary. It is not genetic it is a connection that transcends all biology.” -PF

*“Family is love.” -DJ*

“Family is created when your hearts speak to each other.” -AN

As I was reading through the responses above, I began to reflect...

How does Homespace encourage and reinforce “family” with the youth and children in our care? How do we, individually and as an agency, demonstrate what a positive, healthy, and supportive connection to family looks like? What else can we do to better ensure that the relationships which our clients have with their “family” members are as positive, safe, and strong as they should be? In which ways can we model, teach and coach them through conflicts when negativity arises, and at the same time remind them that family does not have to mean there is a biological relationship?

Continued on page 4...

Many of the responses to my question were shared by social workers; some in schools, others in government or child welfare. One in particular is a previous youth who lived at Homespace and has now rejoined our Homespace Family as a staff member. Each one of these individuals know the importance and value of family.

As Executive Director of Homespace, it is my personal goal to ensure that each and every youth that walks through our doors experience a feeling of connection, a feeling of family, a support system within and outside of the agency, and most importantly that they know, deep down, that they are worthy and deserve to have a family that they can define for themselves.



*-Kim Morris, Executive Director*

## BOARD DEPARTURES

**A heartfelt thank you and farewell goes out to two of our long term Board Members...**

**Ms. Ivy K. Diggs-Washington, M.A.** has been a dear friend of Homespace for many years, beyond her service as a Board Member. She organized and ran groups, participated in program development, ran parenting and support classes for our young parents and so much more. She is currently the Director of Workforce Development for the Buffalo Urban League. Previously she worked as the Director of Advanced Manufacturing Programs at Buffalo State College where she assisted youth and young adults in earning certificates that would lead them to well-paying jobs in the community. Ms. Diggs-Washington is an exceptional individual and asset to the Buffalo community. Thank you.

**Ms. Kayleigh Terranova** is a long time supporter of area not for profits. She currently serves as Account Executive for the United way of Buffalo and Erie County. She was an integral member of the Board of Directors over the past six years and remains an active “friend” of Homespace. As Homespace has grown throughout her service, Ms. Terranova participated in the agency’s completion of a Logic Model through Via. During this time she became immersed in the inner workings of the agency and provided a clear voice for our programs and staff to the Board. Her participation and in-depth understanding will always make her remembered as a remarkable Board Member of Homespace. Thank you.

# Kiya's Story

## That was then...This is now.

### Moving into a group home can be a scary unknown.

For Kiya this was true. She was a 14-year-old who was pregnant and as she says "a little wild." Kiya also came to us with experiences that no one should have to go through. These experiences made her not trust others and sometimes not even trust herself. Despite this she was thrown into a program where she had to rely on others and share her story in order to get the help and support she needed.



Kiya spent the majority of the next 6 years living with us and shared many life milestones with the staff of Homespace. Kiya gave birth to her daughter, graduated from high school (on her daughter's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday) and graduated from a nursing program. Kiya was also the first of our residents to move through the spectrum of care that we offer - first living at Second Chance then SILP and finally moving into her own Community SILP apartment which she still lives in today.

The day I interviewed Kiya was a month after she aged out of care. She was still living in her community apartment that was secured by Homespace and she shared many stories of her time at Homespace as well as feedback and hope for other residents and staff.

Although it was never easy, Kiya has always been grateful for Homespace and the staff and workers who stuck by her side, never giving up on her. Kiya feels that her time in foster care gave her the opportunity to focus and opened her eyes to what other possibilities there are in life. Sadly, she felt that if it was not for foster care she may have 3-5 children and be on public assistance.

Kiya also feels that her experience allowed her to become a better mother. She now understands that she can control herself and her life experiences for her daughter. She said that she is more mindful of who she exposes her daughter to and what life experiences she wants her daughter to have. Kiya now feels that she is aware of the importance of taking care of herself mentally and physically. Although she is still working on practicing self-care, she knows it needs to remain a priority.

Kiya, like everyone, is still a work in progress. Her vision for herself is to find someone who accepts her and her daughter for who they are. She wants to find someone she can grow with; someone who will treat her like a human. She will no longer accept mental, physical or emotional abuse from those around her. Kiya said that, **"Love should never put you in places that don't feel good."**

Kiya has dreams of becoming an RN and psychiatric nurse. She hopes one day to write a book about her life experience. She is often reminded of foster care statistics but is determined not to become one! In an ending remark, Kiya flashed her famous smile and said "I am really thankful, regardless of what people think."



## Messages from Kiya, Homespace Graduate

### To current Homespace residents:

Kiya suggested saving their money. Kiya stated that she often tried to "get over staff" by spending her PNA on stuff that were not basic needs however this only hurt her in the end. Kiya felt that if she would have stuck to the budget provided by her IL (Independent Living) workers she could have had a lot more savings. Kiya said that once the PNA stops real life begins and things are not cheap!

*Self-Love*



*IS WHERE IT'S AT*

Kiya would tell residents, especially those younger residents, to have self-love.

Life should not be about depending on a man. Young women need to find out what THEY are passionate about, what THEY want in life. Kiya cautioned other young women to be careful about how much

they give to others including family and boyfriends. Due to being in the program at Homespace she often had things that others around her did not have (extra money, an apartment, etc.). Kiya would like others to know that these things may disappear once out of care and you want to be sure that those you helped along the way will also help you when you need it. She said that it's ok to be selfish; this would have allowed her to better plan for her and her daughter's future.

Kiya would also tell other young woman to believe in themselves; just because you made choices as a young person does not mean your life stops. She wants others to know that it is up to you to create the best possible life for you and your child! Whether it's Homespace staff or not, surround yourself with people that love you and your child. **Success is in your hands; you have the power.** If you fall, get back on track and remember why you entered the program.

### To Homespace staff:

Kiya suggested that we continue to allow parents to have some freedom with their children. Give parenting advice but let mothers learn their own style and fail and succeed on their own sometimes. Kiya also enjoyed the activities that she was allowed to participate in including Disney on Ice, Gala Awards, Mother's Day Brunches, Darien Lake, Fantasy Island, Cheesecake Factory and Sheas Performances. She encouraged Homespace to continue to find ways to fund these events.

Kiya was especially grateful to our Executive Director, Kim Morris, for always supporting and encouraging these events. Kiya also had an amazing county worker, Valerie Nix. Although she had distrust at first with another worker, she came to trust and love Valerie who was always there for her and encouraging her to be her best for herself and her daughter. She felt that those staff with whom she was able to build relationships with were "real" and gave her advice and feedback even when she didn't always want it. She said that they picked her up when she was down and told her the truth no matter what.

Some things that Kiya would change would be to provide more incentives for youth pursuing their education. She feels that although staff were supportive of her pursuing an education past her high school diploma she often felt alone in the struggle. Kiya understands that she was in an independent living program but would have liked more hands-on help, financial support and incentives for college. Kiya admitted that she was not always program compliant but would also encourage staff to kick out youth who don't follow the rules and stop giving so many second chances.





## From the Desk of Rebecca Prendergast, Director of Youth Services

In child welfare, each year politics and other national events shape the work that we do on a daily basis. Most recently the focus has been on the need for children and youth to be in a family like setting and to reduce the use of residential care. To address this issue New York State has been preparing for the federal requirements of the [Family First Prevention Services Act](#).

This act, like many of its kind, is lengthy and can be difficult to read. However, the main theme is that federal financing will prioritize preventive services and family based foster care over residential care, therefore, limiting federal reimbursement for certain residential placements. On the home-front, Homespace will have to make changes in the upcoming year to prepare for a different way of doing business, and exploring other programming that would meet the requirements of the legislation.

As part of my role as the Director of Youth Services, I have been charged with being the point person for the Family First changes. Part of what we will be exploring is offering our Community SILP to young men, becoming a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) and exploring the possibility of certifying our own foster agency boarding homes/foster homes.

On the ground level we are asking that our Case Planners and Clinical Supervisors become even more diligent in seeking out adult and family resources early in a youth's case so that youth have the potential to leave our care earlier than in years past. In addition, Case Planners will be trained in specific tools including Mobility Mapping, Family Group Conferencing and Concurrent Planning so they are well prepared to help youth and families in this movement of Family First.

Gone will be the days that youth move in with us at the age of 16 and stay until the age of 21. Gone will be the days of PINS youth being placed due to not following rules at home. The new era will ask all providers to put into place services well before a child needs to be placed out of their home and explore kinship and other family like settings before residential. The youth placed with us may be coming to us with higher needs than we have ever seen before and we will be charged with not only meeting their needs while they are with us, but meeting these needs in a very short timeframe.

Although this may seem like a daunting task and there will be challenges, I believe that overall it will improve outcomes for youth and families. Too often we hear of youth who wish to live in a foster home but were told there are no homes for teens. Too often we see youth linger in our care for years only to return to their birth families when they turn 21. Too often we see our youth exiting care still struggling. **So, as we all take a deep breath and hold on for the ride, I ask that everyone remain positive and know that change can be difficult but can also be so rewarding!**

*-Rebecca Prendergast, Director of Youth Services*

# CFTSS

“NEW YORK STATE CHILDREN AND FAMILY TREATMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES HAS ALREADY HAD A SIGNIFICANT, POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE RESIDENTS OF HOMESPACE.”

Although the primary focus throughout our Annual Report is on fiscal year 2018, it would feel incomplete without sharing the news about programs which the agency has been working towards for a long time, especially this past year. Offering State Plan Amendment (SPA) services to our residents has finally come to fruition this January 2019.

NYS has been evolving its' Medicaid services in order to provide more effective, consistent, and comprehensive services to youth in foster care through the agencies that are currently serving them. With that, the state defined **Child and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS)** which includes several levels of behavioral health care to meet the needs of unique populations such as our foster care youth. These services range from increasing hands on experiences in the community to in-depth trauma and diagnoses counseling.

Kaitlin O'Keeffe, LCSW joined our Homespace family in November 2018 to initiate the start up and provide direction of the CFTSS program and team. Since her arrival, she has worked hard to build a solid team to work with the youth that are integrated into receiving services from the program. The testimony below demonstrates just that:

“CFTSS has already had a significant, positive impact on the residents of Homespace SILP and Second Chance Home. Some of the girls were initially hesitant about their Psychosocial Rehabilitation Specialist (PSR) because they didn't understand exactly what the term meant. Then they began to see the benefits of this service and were very grateful to be receiving it!

Residents have noted that their PSR Specialist is able to assist them in a very personal, individualized manner. One of our PSR clients has remarked to her Specialist: **“You've become like family, but you help me like staff.”** That is perhaps the greatest benefit of PSR – meeting treatment goals within a comfortable, friendly, yet still professional relationship that is totally catered to the specific resident. Another resident was brought to tears when her PSR Specialist stopped by after hours to celebrate her being hired for her first job: **“You encouraged me that I could get this job and now you're making me feel so proud of myself that I did get it.”** It is these kind of “little things” that PSR Specialists can do that make this service particularly valuable for our young ladies.

Our PSR clients are making notable strides in self-management, coping skills, identifying and responding to triggers, “public parenting” skills, stress management, increased community awareness, returning to or strengthening personal interests, and maintaining or re-focusing on personal health. All of our residents who are receiving PSR treatment have expressed their gratitude for and enjoyment of these services. The collaborative, individualized nature of PSR has made it a welcome addition to Homespace and a great asset for our residents.”

# Alexis' Story

## When all else failed...

Before I came to Homespace, my life was a disaster. I had family, but nobody to help me grow and become who I wanted to become. Eventually, authorities became involved and I didn't trust to give them any information on what was really going on in my life. Sooner or later, the people around me who I suspected were trying to make my life worse, convinced me to come to Homespace, and I did.



**After so many years of struggling to do good with myself, I came to the conclusion that my environment had a huge impact over how I felt in life.**

I grew up in an environment with very low socioeconomic status, around many drug addicts and people who were very mentally ill. I stayed with my mom, dad and little sister. While yes, they were physically there as parents, they were not present mentally and emotionally. I grew up taking care of myself and my sister. Neither of my parents worked so we had to survive on a social security income and food stamps. Half of the time we didn't even have enough to survive on that because they spent it on drugs or other irrelevant things.

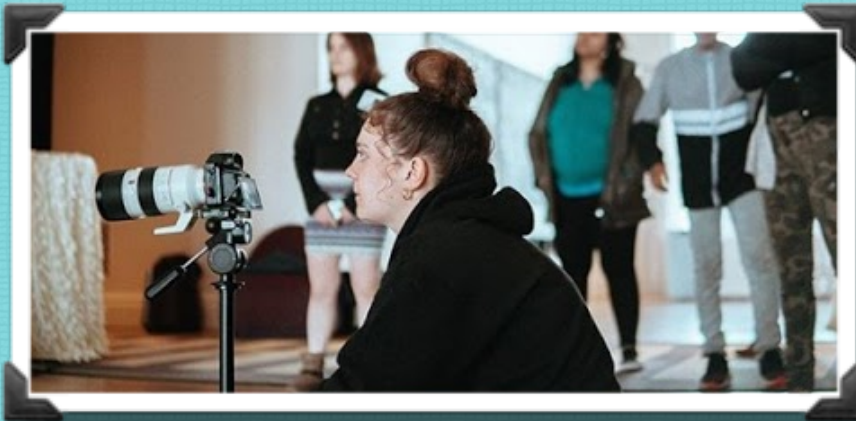
Years passed by, filled with tragic events and instability. After so many calls to crisis services and CPS one of my workers finally saw what I was going through and offered to help get me accepted into Homespace. I was initially skeptical about it, but I realized that if I wanted positive changes in my life this was where I had to start. Instead of ending up in court being accused of being a delinquent, I was shooting for the best of situations. It took about three court sessions to learn about all of the qualifications and advantages Homespace would provide for me. I had made my decision that last day in court and within two days I was put into Next Step.

## Homespace's Agency Operated Boarding Home, Next Step, was my “NEXT STEP” towards a better life.

*I lived with about 4 other girls and immediately, my first night there, I finally felt at peace.*

It was a new experience, but it was the best change that has ever occurred in my life. I finally had the structure that I never had before and was what I've needed all my life. Since October 21st, 2018 I haven't missed a single day of school. I am filled with motivation to live my life happily every single day. I got rid of my anxiety and depression. I've learned to forget my past in a peaceful, healthy way. I've learned things I would never have learned on my own. I have seen things I didn't even know existed because I have been able to experience what a normal person's life would be like.

It took some time for my mom to accept the fact that I like where I am in life, and to this day she's still a little upset I moved on to better things. Our bond has grown little by little over time. My sisters and I have the strongest bond I have ever had with anybody. I fully trust and appreciate every one of my workers at Homespace. As of today, I plan on continuing to do the best I can for myself. Using the inspiration and tools from living at Homespace, I can and will complete college and become a CPS and/or social worker in the future.



-Alexis

## From the desk of Kim Berghash, Director of Program Operations

We entered 2018 with a sense of fortitude, a desire to make meaningful changes and meet the needs of the community and our young ladies.

As is often said, **“progress is impossible without change.”** With that in mind, and energy running high our mantra became “It’s time for a new adventure.” Next Step, our 6 bed agency operated boarding home, was the result of that change. As a team, we moved through the certification process in preparation to open our new program in August 2018. Construction began on two of our SILP (Supervised Independent Living Program) apartments; numbers 11 & 12 were combined to make one program. In addition to coordinating construction was the hiring of new staff. In preparation for the opening of Next Step we hired and trained approximately 10 new employees. Some employees switched from other programs to work at Next Step, others were hired specifically for Next Step. Everyone worked together to ensure a smooth opening.



In addition to the preparation and opening of Next Step, we experienced staffing changes at Homespace SILP and Second Chance Home. All departments, at some point in the past year, were shorthanded; Direct Care Workers, Case Planners, and Supervisors. All Homespace employees worked together to ensure the continuity of care for our young ladies. There continues to be a hiring crisis; there are way more job openings than there are applicants, and as such, it has been challenging to secure qualified, reliable candidates.

Homespace began to use a more formalized approach to the New Employee Orientation. During the end of 2017, the 2018 monthly training calendar was planned. These trainings include a monthly New Employee Orientation, monthly CPR/First Aid training, a quarterly full 3 day TCI (Therapeutic Crisis Intervention) training and during the months when there was not a full TCI scheduled there was a “mini” TCI scheduled. Additionally, during the New Employee Orientation, the Director of Youth Services provides an overview of the Child Welfare Model.

Concurrently, we began planning for the Youth Support Specialist Supervisor, Corneisha Brown, to begin transitioning her role into our New Employee on-boarding trainer for all new hires. The agency researched new training programs that were specific to direct care work, however, still applicable to all of Homespace’s employees. A program was found through the National Resource Center for Youth Services: Residential Child and Youth Care Professional Training. A plan was made to send Corneisha Brown to that trainer certification course so we could provide a broader range of training for employees. We are currently in the process of using this certification as a model for our trainings and on-boarding process moving through 2019.

Throughout my several years of employment with Homespace there have been two things that always stood out to me: the complete desire to provide our youth with the best services possible and the camaraderie amongst our team.

In the words of Helen Keller: **“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much!”**

*-Kim Berghash, Director of Program Operations*

## The Tequila Suter Humanitarian Award is a very special award to those at Homespace...

Ms. Tequila Suter was a full time employee that left us too soon at the hands of her boyfriend and a family member. Ms. Suter went far above and beyond for all of the Homespace children, youth, and families, specifically those at Second Chance Home where she worked. She inspired many to reassess their spiritual beliefs - taking some of them, even on her day off, to attend church with her and her family. She refocused them on their educational goals in an individualized and meaningful way, assisting them as they progressed, accepting their "hiccups" and working through disruptions. Ms. Suter was deeply dedicated to the care of each and every infant and baby in our program, often getting down on the floor at their level, always bringing smiles and giggles to their faces.



Ms. Suter was the ultimate example of a "team player" for her coworkers. She never hesitated to fill in shifts. She frequently stayed late, came in early, was understanding about emergencies, and brought a sense of comradery to those she worked with directly. To honor the tragic loss of Ms. Tequila Suter, someone within the Homespace family receives this special award; not for their punctuality, seniority, or performance, but rather for going above and beyond in their dedication, care, and focus on the children, youth, and families of Homespace. The individual receiving this award is someone who clearly and consistently reflects the Mission and Values of Homespace.



This year we are honored to provide the Tequila Suter Humanitarian Award to a long time employee who emulates all of the above and so much more, **Ms. Lindsey Carter, aka "Lindz", Administrative Director.** Lindsey started at Homespace in September of 2009 as a part time receptionist and has continued to grow both in her position and value to the agency over the last ten years! As Homespace has grown and evolved, Lindsey has, too. Lindsey's first passion is her family and her loved ones. She is the very proud parent of four children, Aaron (22), Alivia (18), Vivian (5), and Donald (2) and has been with her partner Donald for more than 14 years. Lindsey's second passion truly is the success of Homespace, its workers, and most importantly the youth and children we serve.

Lindsey is someone who steps in where she sees a need, she brings solutions to the table that are strategic and planned out. She often sees the pitfalls of the structure, inner workings, and functions of the agency before others do and is outspoken with her opinion. Lindsey is able to view the organization from a micro to macro level, always communicating openly on her expectations. All of these traits and more are apparent in the fact that she is adored and respected by those she supervises. When Lindsey does struggle it is always related to a concern involving our youth. For example, when she receives a late request from a staff member and is on her way out the door, she reviews it and more often than not, if it directly has an impact on a youth of Homespace, she will stop to open her computer back up and get what is needed for that youth. Many do not understand the full depth of what Lindsey does for Homespace; this was clearly marked when a coworker attended last year's Annual Audit Review and exclaimed to Lindsey "Wow! You do all this? I had no idea!" Lindsey Carter is a trusted and cherished partner in her role as Administrative Director. She clearly mirrors the remarkable dedication of Ms. Tequila Suter and we at Homespace are honored to present her the Tequila Suter Humanitarian Award.

-Kim Morris, Executive Director

## Words from our Residents

**Our residents have a lot to say about their life experiences and their time living at Homespace. Below are a few resident's experiences in their own words:**

**"My name is LeAsia** and I have been a resident of Homespace for approximately a year and 3 months. Homespace has taught me what it means to have a family. My experiences with staff have been great. There are staff that have been able to relate to me and the many struggles and tribulations that I have faced in my life. Homespace has taught me skills that I need and will use throughout my life. I attend parenting classes and accept and welcome advice from staff about my life, my choices, my decisions and skills as a parent. I can't wait to see what my outcome will be in life using the skills, classes and knowledge that Homespace has instilled in me."

**"My name is Audjanae** and I am so grateful for my experiences at Homespace as it has taught me the skills that I needed to be self-sufficient when I turn 21 in September. I have gone through troubles and trials in my life but with the support of staff and my own resilience I have been able to overcome the barriers. I also feel that Homespace provides a family like atmosphere and I am very appreciative for that. I genuinely care about the well-being of all the staff at Homespace. Homespace let me grow and allowed me the chance to make my mistakes and grow from them. They are always giving me support."

**"My name is Hailey** and I have only been at Homespace for a month. Staff have helped me to realize a lot of things one of those things being that I can be a good mom if I try my best and that I shouldn't be afraid to ask for help when I need it. Staff have been really nice to me and understanding at Second Chance Home."

**"My name is Jenysha** and I am a young teenage mother at Homespace. I came to Homespace when I was about 15 years old and pregnant with my first son. It was the scariest thing in my life: being 15 years of age, expecting my first child and not having much going for me. Homespace helped sign me back up for high school and they motivated me to not do it for me but for my baby. I am now 17 years of age and I live in the independent living program and I am about to walk across the stage and get my diploma in 2-weeks. I gave birth to another handsome young man that is also my responsibility. Homespace has helped me and motivated me to not only do better for me as a woman but also as a mother. Especially a former staff - if it wasn't for him and all his lectures I wouldn't be the woman I am today. Thank you Homespace!"

"Even though I have not been in Homespace a long time I appreciate what they have helped me with in that short amount of time. The staff are really caring and understanding. Yea I wish I would have come here sooner than later but things happen for a reason. I love coming in the office and putting a smile on all the staff's faces even though I am "extra". I don't like seeing unhappy faces. If it wasn't for Homespace I do not know where I would be or what I would be doing. I want to say thank you Homespace for helping me out even though I did not like coming and then I was only here for a short amount of time." **ME, age 20**

"Before Homespace I was already independent when it came to buying myself clothes and going to doctors' appointments, etc. but Homespace taught me how hard and easy it can be to live independently. In the last almost 4 months of me being here they have also taught me how complicated it can be to have a roommate. Even though I came to Homespace independent there are still many things they are teaching me such as how to manage a bank account and how to apply for jobs. I am very thankful for being accepted into the Homespace SILP program. Before coming to Homespace I was living in a homeless shelter for teens. So, I am very grateful for the opportunities and all the help that was given to me when I entered the program." **JW age 16**



## GRANTS & PARTNERSHIPS

*During fiscal year 2018, Homespace Corporation was the lucky recipient of several grants which allowed us to increase the quality of life for the youth and families living in our facilities.*

*We would like to highlight two partnerships that were integral to the progress we made this year:*

### The James H. Cummings Foundation



The James H. Cummings Foundation seeks to continue the legacy of Dr. Cummings by providing services for vulnerable youth and children. In particular, The Cummings Foundation has a mission to increase high school graduation rates and enhance the quality of care for children and youth outside of the school environment. Homespace Corporation is proud to be supported by this Foundation which shares our common goal to assist communities such as our population of at-risk youth who have been placed in foster care in the Buffalo area.

Based on the funding received from the James H. Cummings Foundation, Homespace was able to complete much needed repairs and upgrades for the entryways to the apartments at our Supervised Independent Living Program located at 1030 Ellicott Street in Buffalo.

The concrete work, completed by Occhino Corporation, turned out to be a much more in-depth job than initially anticipated. However, with the funding from the Cummings Foundation and the expertise of Occhino Corp., the concrete entryways and porches were able to be completely repaired, sealed and upgraded, providing a beautified space and heightened safety for our residents.

Without the generosity of the Cummings Foundation, Homespace would not have been able to tackle and complete such an extensive construction project in 2018. We extend our heartfelt thanks to The James H. Cummings Foundation for their positive impact on our programs and continued partnership.

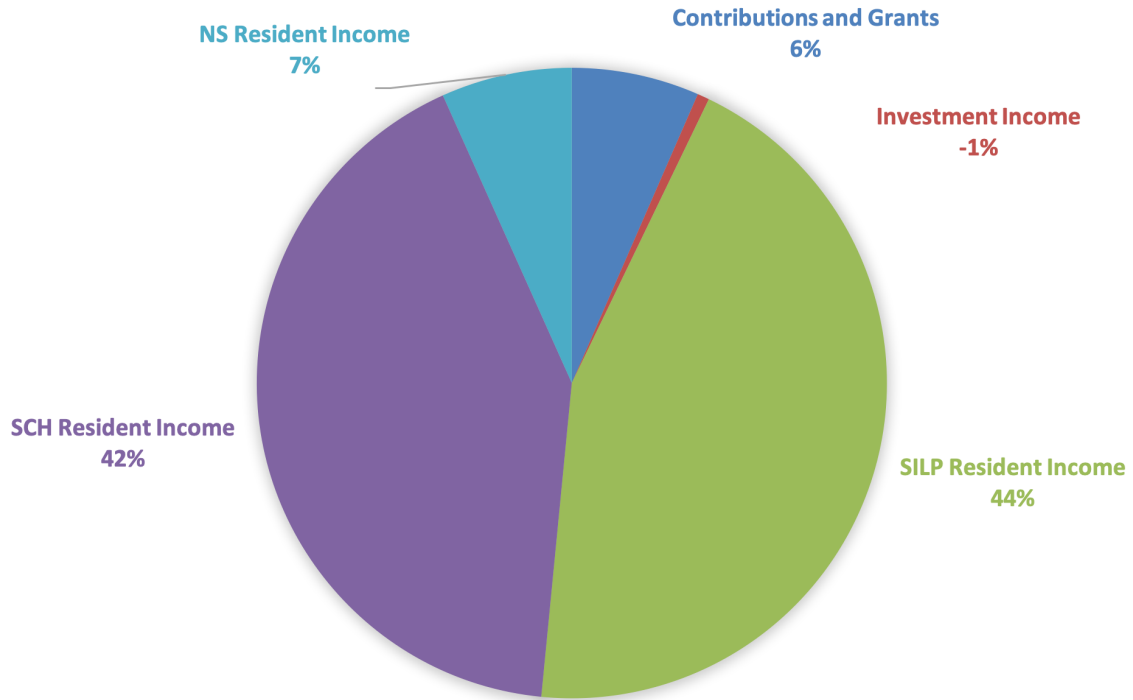
### The East Hill Foundation



The East Hill Foundation has been a long time supporter of Homespace. Their mission to “enhance the quality of life of residents of Western New York” is aligned with the mission and values of Homespace. Our partnership with The East Hill Foundation allowed us to update and enhance security measures at Second Chance Home, our mother/baby group home located at 1171 Michigan Avenue in Buffalo.

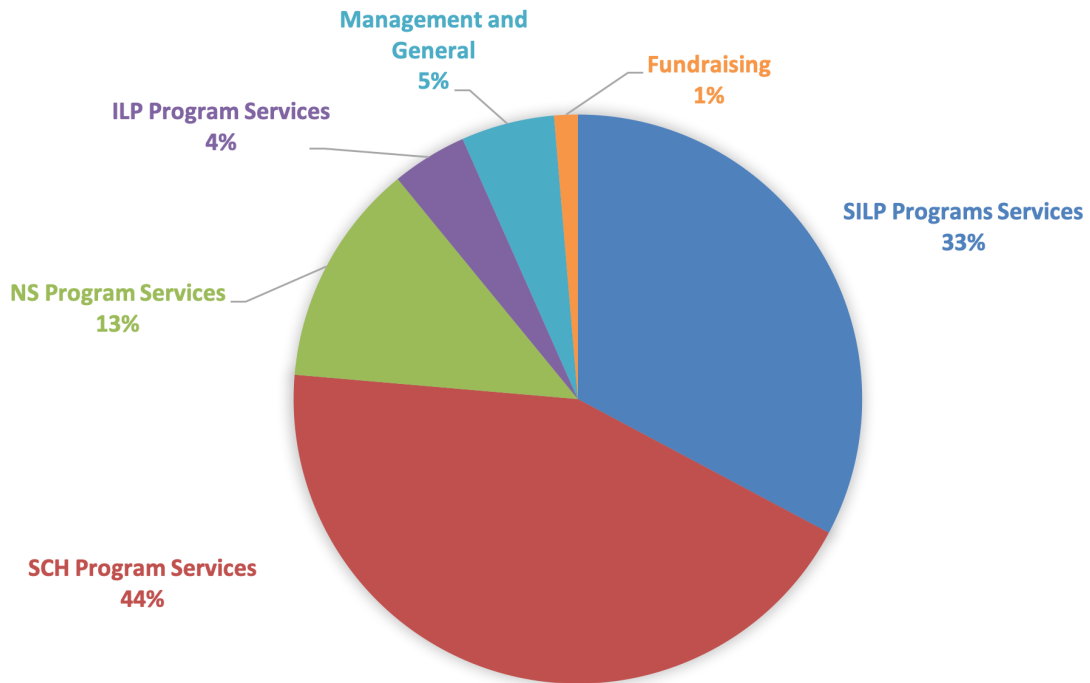
Due to the generous contributions of The East Hill Foundation, additional cameras were installed and updates and realignments were made to the existing cameras at Second Chance Home. We are so very thankful for their continued support in keeping all of our children, youth and families safe and secure.

### 2018 REVENUE



TOTAL REVENUE \$2,711,018

### 2018 EXPENSES



TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,489,240

# 2018 DONATIONS

2018 was a year of rapid growth and expansion for Homespace Corporation. We were fortunate to receive over \$40,000 in charitable contributions from a variety of sources. Individual contributions, Corporate Sponsorships, and Private Foundation Grants were all instrumental in providing the necessary financial support for our various programs. As our programs continue to expand and Homespace begins to offer new and more intensive varieties of services to the youth in our care, so do our needs in fundraising and development.

There were so many donations, big and small, this fiscal year. Homespace is supported not only by the major grants and monetary donations we receive, but also by the incredibly thoughtful in-kind donations given to our youth, such as clothing, toys, and household items. These donations, in combination with our community partnerships and individual volunteers, help us to accomplish our goals time and time again. We thank each and every one of you who have so generously supported our agency.



On behalf of our staff, Board of Directors, and most importantly the young women and children who are a part of our *Homespace Family*, please accept our deepest gratitude. Your contributions are the foundation for the work we do here at Homespace. All donations directed to our agency continue to directly support the needs of the youth who depend on our programs. We could not succeed in our mission without the generous support we receive from the community. We hope that you will continue to invest in our programs and we encourage you to keep up with us as we grow.

**From our Homespace Family to yours,  
we extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation!**

