

THERE'S  
MORE TO MY  
*Story*

MEL TROTTER MINISTRIES  
*2018 ANNUAL REPORT*

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# CEO & BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

2018 was a good year for Mel Trotter Ministries for many reasons. Not only was it our 118th year serving and helping those who are experiencing homelessness; we were also blessed once again to live out our mission of demonstrating the compassion of Jesus Christ to anyone experiencing homelessness in our community, and work toward our vision of bringing an end to homelessness, one life at a time, through the power of Christ.

In 2018, 493 people found permanent housing through MTM programs and services. We know historically that 82% of the people we serve do not return to MTM. Another 184 found full-time jobs. All our guests were given the opportunity to hear about and experience the love and hope found in and through Jesus and choose to grow in faith. We know that 229 people made decisions to follow Jesus.

We grew in many ways in 2018. We developed more partnerships with other organizations and ministries. We developed and expanded a pilot transitional housing program for guests who have income to live in homes while paying rent and utilities, but still need to receive case management to transition successfully to their new life.

There is still so much more to do. The challenging, (and maybe surprising), news is that in 2018 we served 4,256 individual men, women, and children. We know that overall we are seeing more families and vulnerable youth experiencing homelessness than ever before. Mental illness and disability continue to be the leading barriers for chronically homeless elderly individuals and the housing crisis in West Michigan continues to make it extremely difficult for people to leave homelessness for good.

Jesus said, “To whom much is given much is required.” We believe God is calling us to do more. In 2019 we will be conducting a feasibility study for a possible capital campaign that will bring sorely needed capital repairs to our existing building and create a more dignified, safe, and effective environment for our guests. This campaign will significantly improve the ability of our partners and us to walk alongside families and individuals as they leave homelessness forever.

We know that the blessings and changed lives of the last 118 years, as well as the vision for the future, are only possible because of you and others in the community who believe in what we do. This year we need to raise more than \$6.5 million dollars to accomplish this work. I know that sounds like a lot. The light and heat bills alone would astound you—however, think about this: in 2019 we will serve more than 4,000 vulnerable people, prepare more than 150,000 meals, and give shelter to many more men, women, and children.

So first, we are thanking you. Thank you for choosing to partner with us in supporting the work God is doing in and through Mel Trotter Ministries. Second, we would like to invite you to pray with us and partner with us for the future. In Ephesians 3:20-21, Paul writes that God, through HIS power, at work IN us, and for HIS glory, not ours, is able to do, “immeasurably more than we can ask, think, or imagine.” That is our hope, prayer, and vision—that God would work in us, for His glory, to do immeasurably more in the lives of those we are called and privileged to serve. We invite you into this ministry and work.



Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen  
President/CEO



Janis Petrini  
Board Chair



Jammy & Gabby

Single moms have the weight of the world on their shoulders, and no one knows this better than Jammy. She was managing just fine, taking care of her son and daughter, until she had a stroke in November of 2015.

With one health crisis, Jammy's story was forever changed.

Jammy worked to overcome the disabilities that the stroke had caused, but while waiting for disability payments to be approved and begin, Jammy's funds ran out as did her options. After her son graduated from high school, Jammy and her 11-year-old daughter, Gabby, were on their own and without a roof over their heads. Jammy went to the Salvation Army and they referred her to the Pathway Home shelter program at Mel Trotter.

"Everyone was very helpful," Jammy said. "Our advocate made everything go smoothly with my health issues. She was there every step of the way, and always kept us encouraged." During her time at Mel Trotter, Jammy took as many educational and finance classes as she could. After a brief time at a transitional home for families, Jammy and Gabby were finally able to put down roots in a rental home of their own.

"I don't think people realize how many families are struggling," Jammy told us. "They don't understand what being homeless entails, but there is help out there and we are proof." Thank you for helping Jammy and Gabby turn a page in their story and overcome homelessness!

There's more to Tammy & Gabby's story at [MTMstory.com](https://www.mtmstory.com)



Harold

Harold grew up under the influence of a father who ran a gambling house, which exposed him to drugs and alcohol from a young age. As a teen, Harold was a functioning addict during most of his high school years, but eventually the drugs took over and he moved out

of his parents' home after graduation. That move began Harold's story of homelessness which spanned many years, many states, and many failed opportunities to rewrite his story.

"I heard about Mel Trotter...that they were the only shelter that could help me end my homelessness. There were other homeless men and women that pointed me in the right direction toward the Mission. I checked into Mel Trotter Ministries, found a job, and entered the Restoration Program for men. With the help from staff, the Salvation Army, and the Restoration Program, I was able to get my first apartment. If it had not been for MTM and others in the community who support the Mission, none of this would have been possible for me and for the men and women like me in Grand Rapids."

Harold's story continues, and his goals are to be an advocate to other homeless people and be part of the ministry in his church.

There's more to Harold's story at [MTMstory.com](https://MTMstory.com)



Deshawn

Deshawn was adopted into his aunt's large and safe family at age six after experiencing abuse. Despite being accepted by his new family, Deshawn still felt incomplete and misunderstood. He chose a lifestyle that was continually getting him into trouble—stealing, lying, and skipping school. Deshawn states that his

refusal to listen to those who wanted to help him led him to running away and to eventually experiencing homelessness.

"The day I decided to go meet my biological mom, my life changed forever. Her smoking and drinking rubbed off on me. After a while of living the street life of getting drunk and high all the time, I got addicted. I was being used by my friends and didn't care."

Deshawn eventually landed in jail for two months and things continued downhill. After a suicide attempt, Deshawn entered a mental health facility. It was during his time there that Deshawn became determined to make a fresh start—to write a new story.

"I came to Mel Trotter to continue in my new ways. If I had not come to the Mission, I would probably have fell back to my old ways. I have priorities now and important adult responsibilities that are making me grow as a person. I want to be a mechanical engineer. My goals are to take every opportunity that comes to me, and I would like to thank the people who make these opportunities possible."

[There's more to Deshawn's story at MTMstory.com](https://www.mtmstory.com)



# EVENTS Recap



22nd Annual Golf Event



Season of Hope



Thanksgiving Community Meal



Christmastime Luncheon

# OUTCOMES

Your investment makes a difference.

## RESCUE

**108,072** nights of emergency shelter for individuals & families.

**472** youth ages 18-24 were served.

**156,475** nourishing meals served with love & dignity.

## RESTORATION

**2,201** patients visited the Clinics, which provide dental, vision, and chiropractic services.

**87** families with children found housing.

**493** men, women, and children found stable housing.

**184** people secured employment.

**82%** of guests who exit MTM programs successfully remained housed after one year.

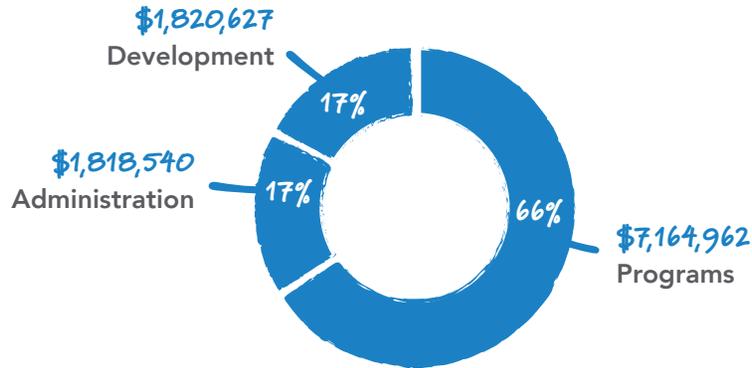
# FINANCIALS

Your investment in rescue & restoration.

## WHERE YOUR GIFTS GO

### EXPENSES FOR FY 2018

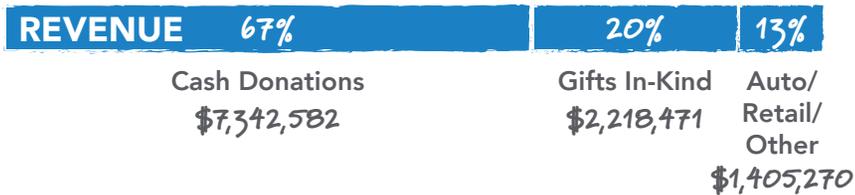
\$10,804,129



## ANNUAL INCOME FOR FY 2018

### REVENUE

\$10,966,323



## SOURCES OF SUPPORT



For more information, refer to Form 990 online at [meltrotter.org/financials](http://meltrotter.org/financials).

# BOARD of TRUSTEES

2018 - 2019

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## MISSION

Mel Trotter Ministries exists to demonstrate the compassion of Jesus Christ, through rescue and restoration for anyone experiencing hunger and homelessness.

## VISION

Through the power of Christ, bring an end to homelessness in West Michigan, one life at a time.

MEL TROTTER  
MINISTRIES

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[meltrotter.org](http://meltrotter.org)