

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Seafarers International House

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Lighthouses Always and Now

Dear friends of Seafarers International House (SIH):

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

I write this to you early in our 150th anniversary year 2023 as I reflect on the year prior, 2022, and our "branding symbol" of the lighted lighthouse. I'm always aware of the 2 million "people on the way" - seafarers and migrants - who have found a lighted welcome on their own dark and often unsafe journeys to the port of New York, and subsequent other ports, over these past 150 years. The Gospel writer Matthew takes that light metaphor and expands it to have Jesus say that not only are **all** of us the lights of the world, but that we are lights for the world **now**. Not some quaint lighthouse symbol from 150 years ago, but now, today, as we welcomed 20,000 seafarers and 23 asylees from 15 countries in 2022 alone.

Although we have had two retirements from faithful long-serving port chaplains this year, Revs. Luisito Destreza and William Rex, the light continues to shine as we have two additional port chaplains, Pastors Kate Drefke and Lowell Chilton in Albany. In 2022, almost 3,000 Christmas-at-Sea satchels were collected and distributed - a new all-time record of light shared.

The scenarios might be a bit different from year to year, but the approach is always the same: we give housing (subsidized for seafarers and free to immigrants) as well as practical and spiritual support providing a lighthouse welcome.

Here in Manhattan, we have been aware of the effects of "Title 42" this past year. Title 42 is a pandemic-era policy that both the Trump and Biden administrations have used to immediately expel arriving migrants back to Mexico or their countries of origin with the exception of arrivals from countries where the U.S. does not have good diplomatic relations - namely Cuba, Venezuela, Columbia, and Nicaragua.

As a result, these unmoored migrants from four countries make up the very small portion of those allowed to stay in the U.S. and pursue asylum claims. Then, in a most cruel twist, they are bussed to New York City from Texas and Florida so that Manhattan has been disproportionately overwhelmed with migrants arriving-sometimes as many as 3,500 migrants per week. At Seafarers International House we have been able to house some asylees from Venezuela and Columbia. We are grateful for our housekeeper, Damaris, at the Markle Residence (our temporary home). She is originally from Ven-

MISSION

Seafarers International House (SIH) is the Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants.

SIH offers hospitality, social assistance, and advocacy to a multi-national and multi-faith community in maritime ports on the Eastern Seaboard, Albany and in New York City.

ezuela herself and can assist these new arrivals in their own language and help them to navigate the city. She is a human lighthouse for such a vulnerable population and embodies the Biblical call to be lighthouses in our own contexts and to be lighthouses now.

Thank you for all you do as our financial and spiritual supporters which enables Seafarers International House to be a lighthouse now. ⚓

Marsh Luther Drefke
Pastor and Executive Director



Pastor Marsh (right) received Christmas-at-Sea satchels from church member Jeannine Comito and former SIH Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) intern and now Pastor Zach Dean of Calvary Lutheran Church in Hauppauge, NY. Photo: Selfie by Zach Dean, late September 2022.

2022 Program Impact

19,943 immigrants and seafarers directly benefited from SIH services

1,764 lodging nights provided to 169 seafarers in Manhattan.

15,135 seafarers were visited and counseled on 1,368 ships, receiving essentials they requested.

1,701 seafarers were transported to a mall or medical facilities.

2,915 seafarers, regardless of faith, received Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and holiday greetings prepared by volunteers to recognize these essential workers. This is a new record!

23 immigrants received free lodging for a total of 537 nights. They hailed from Benin, Cameroon, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Myanmar, Nigeria, Saint Lucia, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe (see highlighted countries on the map below).

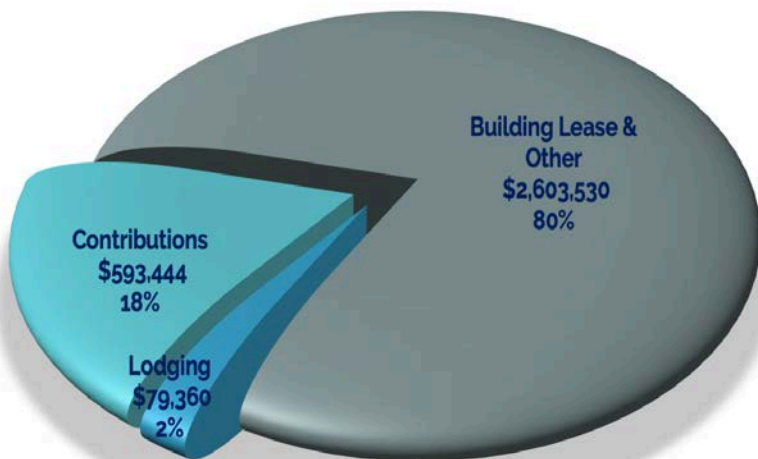


2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

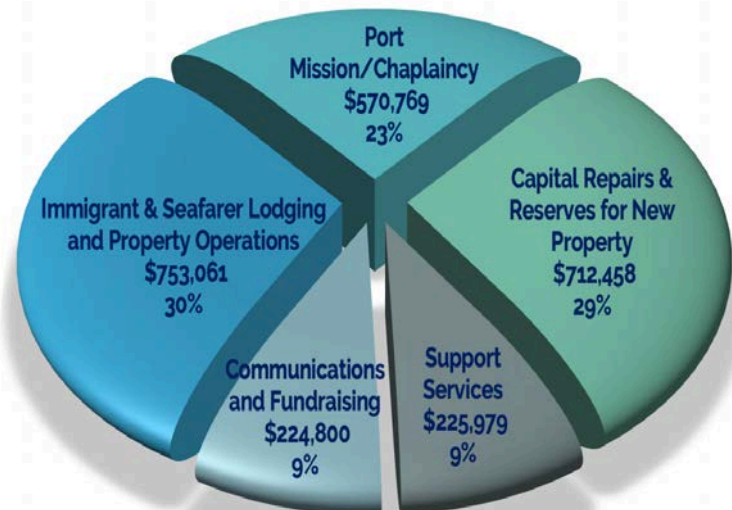
Operating gains in 2022 help replenish our endowment for future emergencies and to build reserves for a new property with mission-based guestrooms and offices. Our partnership with Breaking Ground is a major factor in our financial recovery, providing building lease revenue to support our mission to seafarers and immigrants as well as contributing to reserves for our own future home. Donations are essential as we enter our 150th year of caring for those in need.

Program services accounted for 82% percent of expenses with only 18% spent on support services and fundraising. Net Assets increased from \$7,870,434 in 2021 to \$8,816,744 in 2022. These figures reflect unaudited revenue and expenses and are subject to change once audited. To request the audited 2022 financial statements send an email to henryk@sihnyc.org. [📧](#)

Operating Revenue 2022 (pre-audit)
\$3,276,334



Operating Expenses 2022 (pre-audit)
\$2,487,067



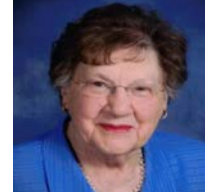
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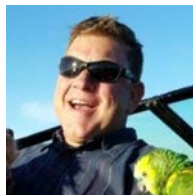


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by Louise M. Egan 

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Members of the Homeport Society have included Seafarers International House (SIH) in their retirement and legacy plan by listing SIH in their will or making SIH a beneficiary of a life insurance or a qualified retirement plan.

- Barbara and the late Rev. Dr. Dennis Anderson
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Lighthouse Keepers make monthly gifts providing a reliable income stream to support Seafarers International House's mission.

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Melanie Whapham and Judy Kellogg (3rd and 4th from right) from St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Marlborough, MA, had the chance to personally deliver 31 Christmas-at-Sea satchels to crew members in advance of the holiday. Photo by Ruth Setaro, mid-November 2022

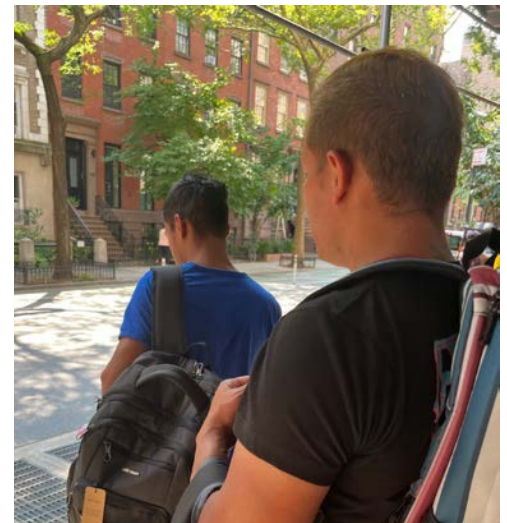
CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA: A HOLIDAY INITIATIVE

A record 2,915 seafarers received Christmas at Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and holiday cheers. On their behalf, thank you to all participants, donors, Amazon Wish List contributors, and knitters:

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Mariline Alicea
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Two Venezuelan asylees at the Markle Residence.
Photo by Marsh Drege, July 2022.

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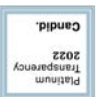
2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Seafarers International House



Crew members of the Poland Pearl shared this photo with our Port Chaplain Ruth Setaro in January 2022. The snowman was allowed to borrow a scarf that was included in a Christmas-at-Sea satchel. In 2022, a record of 2,915 seafarers received these satchels!

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