

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Seafarers International House

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Overwhelming!

Dear friends of Seafarers International House (SIH):

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; For I am the Lord your God, the Holy one of Israel, your Savior". Isaiah 43:2-3

Haven't we all felt overwhelmed this past year? And yet, you have helped us weather the storm caused by the pandemic with your overwhelming support ... this imperfect storm that disrupted the lives of so many of us as well as those often unseen seafarers during the crew change crisis and invisible asylum seekers detained in jail-like facilities, while the immigration process grinded to a halt.

You, our supporters, expressed compassion for seafarers and immigrants during the time of crisis by increasing contributions significantly. When we had to cancel our major fundraiser, the

2020 Setting the Course Banquet, individuals, shipping industry partners and unions, decided to send donations instead of buying tickets so that our 6 port chaplains could continue to visit ships that some likened to "floating prisons" because travel bans made crew changes impossible for most.

Spring was financially disastrous as we had to stop operating the guesthouse, which typically subsidizes our mission with about 75% of total income. Tragically, we had to part with our guesthouse staff, first hoping to rehire them in the summer, then by the end of December. Saving our organization when our services are needed most, we received a "gift" in the form of a respite organization (Comunilife) that leased our space from April to July to attend to community members recovering from COVID-19. With that blessing, we were able fulfill our continuing mission to seafarers and immigrants, while contributing the health insurance of the laid-off staff members throughout the year. And all through the pandemic we have been able to house seafarers in a midtown hotel now temporarily known as "SIH relocated".

The Right of Asylum Online Advocacy Event was a great way to reach new friends – over 100 people attended all across the nation with over 2,000 seeing it on social media in the days after. Many participated in lobbying against new asylum rules and sent contributions to support our work with asylum seekers.

When senior groups, businesses, and congregations could not meet in person to assemble Christmas-at-Sea satchels, they contributed financial-

A seafarer in the port of New Haven, CT, for a moment does not feel overwhelmed thanks to the encouragement of Port Chaplain Ruth Setaro.

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 and in New York City.

ly and assembled satchels in their homes and, in the end, showed 2,080 seafarers during the Christmas season that their sacrifices are appreciated.

We have been overwhelmed by the gifts of "imperfect storm weatherers" like you who enabled us to serve almost 20,000 people in the ports and at SIH relocated where we now provide lodging and social work assistance.

Please take a moment to recognize the amazing individuals, congregations, synods, foundations, shipping industry partners and unions listed in this report who helped us through the tempest of 2020 and who prepared a solid ground for 2021, where we will continue our service to seafarers in the ports of Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Jersey and CT, and housing seafarers and asylum seekers who are beginning to re-merge after the lock-down.

We are overwhelmed by your support. Thank you. ⚓



Marsh Luther Drage
Pastor and Executive Director



2020 Program Impact

19,746 immigrants and seafarers directly benefited from SIH services while their lives were disrupted during the pandemic

2,080 seafarers, regardless of faith, received Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and holiday greetings prepared by volunteers to recognize these key workers

12 asylees stayed for free at the guesthouse and at *SIH relocated* a total of 442 nights; we also hosted 11 local disaster survivors

18 volunteer visitors brought hope to 8 asylum seekers before detention center visits had to be cancelled

3 months (April - June) during which a community partner cared for people recovering from COVID-19 at the guesthouse

14,644 seafarers, the invisible essential workers, who often worked on extended contracts, were visited on 1,407 ships receiving essentials they had requested during the crew change crisis

1,351 seafarers were transported to the mall or medical facilities before COVID-19 restrictions made shore leave impossible for most mariners

72 seafarers received at times free lodging at *SIH relocated* when between job assignments because of COVID-related disruptions and quarantine requirements

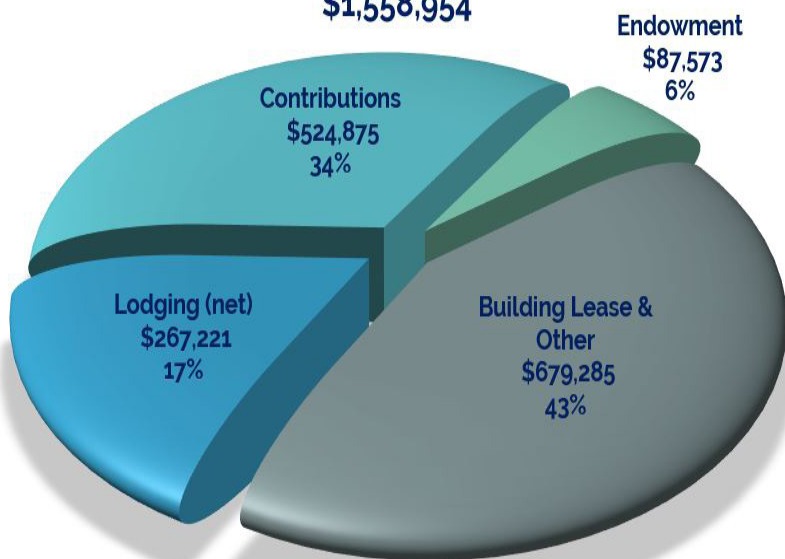
2 advocacy campaigns, one championing seafarers to be recognized as essential workers, and another online campaign attended by over 100 people drawing attention to a failing immigration system and opposing new rules that would have dismantled asylum to the United States

2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

COVID-19 related challenges are reflected in our finances with lodging revenue that accounted for 72% of income last year dropping to just 17% in 2020. Overwhelmingly, it was our supporters' response that enabled us to fulfil our mission with contributions accounting for 34% of income, up from 22% in 2019. Even with the ability to lease the building for three months to a partner organization that took care of COVID-19 patients in recovery, operating expenses exceeded revenues by \$551,048. Program services accounted for 83% percent of expenses with only 17% spent on support services and fundraising. Net Assets increased from \$6,150,830 in 2019 to 6,159,175 in 2020. The figures below reflect unaudited revenue and expenses and are subject to change once audited. To request the audited 2020 financial statements send an email to henryk@sihnyc.org. [📎](#)

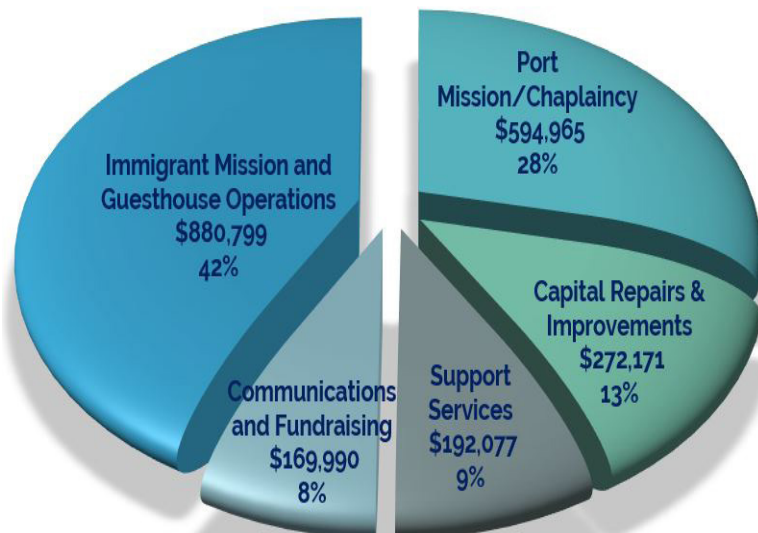
Operating Revenue 2020 (pre-audit)

\$1,558,954



Operating Expenses 2020 (pre-audit)

\$2,110,002



GIFTS IN MEMORY AND HONOR OF

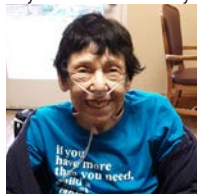
In Memory of

Seaman Art Belcher, US Coast Guard †

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by Deborah Bailey



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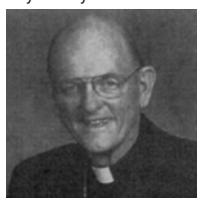
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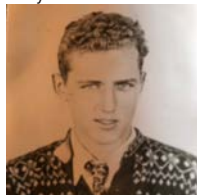
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In Honor of

Aba (my 5th Grade Student) & his family

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Carolyn and Edward Wagner

by Susan Smyth Bell

Rev. Margay Jo Whitlock

by Sally Ann Parsons





Pastor Marsh Drege assisting a seafarer at the "Seafarers International House Relocated." From April to August 2020, seafarers stayed for free thanks to the support of the ITF Trust, Seafarers International Union and the TK Foundation.

HOMEPORT SOCIETY

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

- Barbara and Rev. Dr. Dennis Anderson
- Sterling Gilreath and Henryk Behnke
- Susan Smyth Bell
- Paul K. Erbes
- Dr. Ann Siegle Drege and Rev. Marsh Luther Drege
- Pauline and Harry Forse
- Dr. Kathleen and Rev. David L. Hurty
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- Rev. Susan E. Tjornehoj and Rev. David Wangaard
- Carolyn and Edward Wagner
- Rev. Margay Jo Whitlock

For more information or if you would like to participate email Henryk Behnke (henryk@sihnyc.org) or call him at (212) 677-4800 X 1203.

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS

Lighthouse Keepers have set up automated monthly giving to ensure that Seafarers International House has a regular and stable income stream to fulfill its mission.

- Barbara and Rev. Dr. Dennis A. Anderson
- Susan Smyth Bell
- Stephen Bennett
- Dr. Karen Beres and Dr. Lance Drege
- Frederick Bindel
- Rev. Serge A. Castigliano and Rev. Susan L. Lunning
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- Guan Yang



Volunteers of the Upper Susquehanna Synod donated over 700 Christmas-at-Sea satchels, which Port Chaplain Bill Rex (right) picked up. Sadly, Robert "Bob" Bradford (left) passed away Christmas Day. He will be missed.

CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA: A HOLIDAY INITIATIVE

Many supporters stayed home and knitted during the pandemic. Others provided financial support so that we were able to distribute 2,080 Christmas-at-Sea satchels to seafarers, who were grateful to be recognized for their sacrifices as they worked on extended contracts. On their behalf, thank you!

Advent Lutheran Church, Wyckoff, NJ

Anonymous

Janice Averill

Deborah Bailey

Judy Baird

Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

Lisa Bartley

Susan Smyth Bell

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Claudia Biniossek and Dirk Betz

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Lynn and Richard Cardozo

Shirley Carson

Martha and Fred Carter

Chatfield Lutheran Church Prayer Shawl Group

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Christ Lutheran Church, Newburgh, NY

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Zion Lutheran Church, Rahway, NJ

Zion Lutheran Church, Saddle River, NJ 

2,080 crew members regardless of their faith or nationality received their satchels filled with a sweatshirt, socks, a T-shirt, a knitted cap, nuts or chocolate and a Holiday Greeting Card.

2020 DONORS List of supporters including in-kind donations and soft credits

Thank you for your overwhelming support of seafarers and immigrants during these unprecedented times.

\$50,000 and over

Mother Cabrini Health Foundation
New Jersey Synod, ELCA
New York Community Trust

\$25,000 to \$49,999

German Society of the City of New York
Seafarers International Union

\$10,000 to \$24,999

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