

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Seafarers International House

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: A Year of Building

Dear Friend of Seafarers International House (SIH):

2018 has been a year of "building." First literally, when during the course of a municipal mandated exterior façade inspection of tall buildings in NYC, engineers discovered that the parapet of our guesthouse had to be replaced, at an unbudgeted expense of over \$130,000. We were blessed that the ITF Seafarers' Trust awarded SIH a \$100,000 grant to offset that expense. With several other unexpected repairs becoming necessary as the guesthouse (built in 1964) is aging, we tasked a Facilities Workgroup and hired outside experts to analyse the longterm needs of the building and undertook several projects to address deferred maintenance.

We also did some building of our staff as we hired new talent, Jeni Janis, Administrative Assistant, and Henryk Behnke, Development Director, after their highly respected predecessors Noreen Fleming and Christopher Roehrer retired after almost two decades of service each.

To advance our mission and better

serve immigrants and seafarers, we are building relationships with trusted partners such as American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Bronx Defenders, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, First Friends of New Jersey and New York, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Human Rights First, Immigration Equality, The Marine Society of the City of New York, New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC, North American Maritime Ministry Association (NAMMA), Red Cross, Restore NYC, Sierra Club, and Safe Horizon.

Figuratively, last year's 28 asylees built upon the advice of mentors, who had preceded them on the journey from asylum seeker to new American. The asylees, who we provided with free lodging, food and Metro cards, and assisted in finding a job and their own home, often became contributing members of their new communities within less than three months. We have built capacity to offer 50% more rooms to refugees, who will be granted asylum, in 2019.

In the meantime, our 7 port chaplains

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 an 84-room Guesthouse in New York City.

built upon 145 years of experience assisting seafarers in the ports, serving a total of 25,183. Many of the seafaring men and women suffer from isolation missing their family and friends. Some had traumatic experiences when mates got hurt, or worse, in fires and accidents, pirate attacks, and storms. SIH port chaplains are often the first outside contact with whom seafarers can share their experiences. They help mariners deal with traumas and through Wi-Fi or SIM cards provide needed contact to families back home. The trips to the mall or local sights are highlights for those that spend months on end on sea as they bring us the goods we often take for granted.

I hope you will enjoy reviewing the following pages with further details and accomplishments, as we build upon your loyal support. Thank you. ⚓



Crew members enjoy the presence and counsel of Port Chaplain Ruth Setaro, who took this photo.



Marsh Luther Drage
Pastor and Executive Director

2018 Program Impact

33,985 immigrants and seafarers directly benefited from SIH services

1,853 seafarers, regardless of faith, received Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and holiday greetings prepared by volunteers

28 new Americans found their first home in the US in our guesthouse, staying a total of 1,182 nights

66 volunteer visitors brought hope to 26 asylum seekers, who were locked up in detention centers

57 survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and local disasters were accommodated

3 advocacy events hosted to draw attention to the plight of asylum seekers

25,183 total of seafarers who were either visited or transported from 1,793 ships

432 youth, church and community gatherings accommodated serving about 6,480 people

1 successful completion of mandatory building inspection and reconstruction of a parapet with IFT Seafarers' Trust funding

2 memorial services hosted by Christ Lutheran Church for seafarers, who had no immediate kin

25 guest rooms renovated and Wi-Fi installed throughout the guesthouse

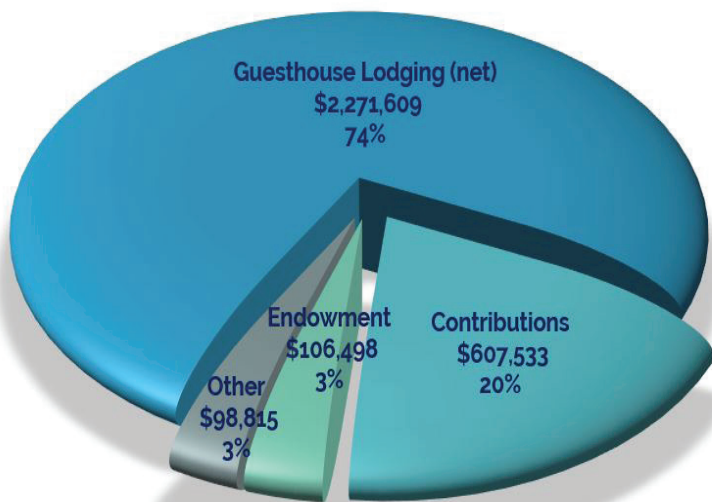
1 Platinum Seal of Transparency earned: www.guidestar.org/profile/13-5562413

2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

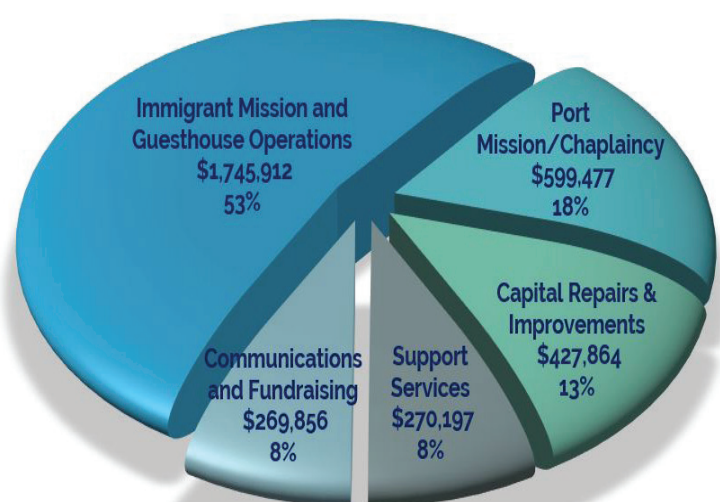
In 2018, SIH allocated \$124,000 to accommodate asylees and provided a room subsidy of \$184,000 to seafarers. The operating expenses exceeded revenues by \$228,851 because of unexpected capital repairs. Program services accounted for 84% percent of expenses with only 16% spent on support services and fundraising. Net Assets were \$5,374,369.

The figures below reflect unaudited revenues and expenses and are subject to change once audited. You may request the audited 2018 financial statements by email (henryk@sihnyc.org), call (212) 677-4800 ext. 1203, or mail your request. [↗](#)

Operating Revenue 2018 (pre-audit)
\$3,084,455



Operating Expenses 2018 (pre-audit)
\$3,313,306



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by
Sheila and Frank Giglio
Marie Lehmann

Lilianne DeGaetano
by
John DeGaetano, Exclusive Restoration
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Ruth Setaro (Connecticut)
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Social Work Interns: Naz Seenauth; James Vild
CPE Summer Intern: Zachary Dean



Crew members of the Helsinki Bridge enjoy a trip to Liberty State Park. Photo by Henryk Behnke.

HOMEPORT SOCIETY

Members of the Homeport Society included Seafarers International House in their legacy planning remembering SIH in their will or making SIH a beneficiary of an IRA or life insurance.

- Henryk Behnke and Sterling Gilreath
- Susan Smyth Bell
- Paul K. Erbes
- Dr. Ann Siegle Drege and Rev. Marsh Luther Drege
- Pauline and Harry Forse
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- Rev. Margay Jo Whitlock



Mission Staff members, who visit seafarers from left to right: Pastor Marsh Drege, Clinical Pastoral Education Summer Intern Zachary Dean and Port Chaplains Sigrid Erickson, Rev. Arnd Braun-Storck, Ruth Setaro, Rev K. Robert Schmitt, and Rev. William Rex. Photo by Henryk Behnke.

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. Dennis A. Anderson
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Henryk Behnke
(henryk@sihnyc.org) or call him at
(212) 677-4800 X 1203.**

CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA: A HOLIDAY INITIATIVE

A heartfelt thank you to all volunteers, who donated, knitted, and put together 1,853 satchels, up from 1,775 last year!

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1,853 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.

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Seafarers International House



2018/19 Social Worker Intern James Vild (left) with some of the 66 SIH volunteer visitors at the Elizabeth Detention Center in November 2018, when they brought hope to asylum seekers, who are detained in prison-like conditions. Photo by Marsh Drege.

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