Hi Folks,

The young people at OFS are absolutely amazing and everyone should know it! This was never more true than during the week of August 20th.

At that time, many living on the lower eastside of Madison were in fear of being underwater. OFS young people, who might not have much themselves, spent the day bagging sand so folks could save their homes and belongings. OFS participants and staff spent many hours that week filling sandbags, placing them near homes, and loading them into people's SUVs, pickup trucks and cars.

Fresh Start doesn’t expect anything for this. Our young people do good work in the community every day building affordable housing and completing major conservation projects. This was just another chance to make a difference.

However, I do ask one thing of you: Next time you hear someone talk about how youth don’t care anymore or how those kids all cause trouble, please remember last August. Please remember, and share the story of OFS youth – largely youth that have been marginalized – pitching in to save homes for so many in our community during the flood of 2018. Thank you.

Gregory Markle
OFS Executive Director

If in December, you were to tell me that in five months I was going to be accepted into Scholars of Promise at Madison College and be recommended to graduate (walk the stage) I would not have believed you. I would have called you crazy and said, “I wish.” Now I am happy to say I am going to be doing both of those things.

MEET JORGE

Jorge was a participant in OFS’ Legacy program (previously known as Pathways). Jorge is kind and helpful and we have enjoyed having his calm demeanor here at OFS. Kim Engles, one of OFS teachers, had this to say. “One of the comments Jorge made to me while he was in the classroom one day brought tears to my eyes. He had just been accepted into the Scholars of Promise program at Madison College. We were talking through what he wanted to study. He said he wanted to do something similar to what we do at OFS, maybe a counselor of some sort, or something where he was helping people. He said, ‘he wants to make people feel the way people at Operation Fresh Start made him feel.’ He is in the Liberal Arts Transfer program at Madison College and is looking to transfer to a UW School and pursue a career in counseling.” Jorge, we are so proud of you for your many accomplishments!
LEGACY (previously known as Pathways)

Legacy, OFS’ core program, continues to thrive, giving youth a life-changing opportunity to get their high school diplomas and gain invaluable work experience. This year, 145 youth participated in Legacy. The work experience, which involves building affordable housing and doing extensive conservation work, is a platform for education, teamwork, training and responsibility.

In September, we changed the name of our flagship program to Legacy (from Pathways). Youth, staff and board members had the chance to weigh in on the program’s name. Ultimately, we selected a name which honors the legacy that these youth will make in their lives and community.
More Program Highlights

Houses Worked On

3828 East Washington Ave, Madison
1801 Gilbert Road, Madison
57 Hart Road, Sun Prairie
715 Robin Drive, Sun Prairie
69 Hart Road, Sun Prairie

HART ROAD HIGHLIGHT

Operation Fresh Start is honored to build affordable homes for those in the community looking to own their first home. 69 Hart Road was a project that was truly near and dear to everyone’s heart, as it was built for a mother with a special needs son.

Brittany and Kingston were thrilled with their new home. Brittany described her and Kingston’s struggles and how OFS was there for them. “Kingston was born with a rare chromosomal disorder. He is unable to walk, or talk, and needs help with just about everything he does. I have wanted nothing more than to be able to find an accessible home for my son to grow old with me and OFS has made that possible.”

The Open House for 69 Hart Road was a rewarding experience for all. Youth participants who had put their hard work and love into the home were able to see the joy that was brought to this family.

Operation Fresh Start hopes to help more families like Brittany and Kingston, and continue the tradition of building futures for Dane County families.

Race/Ethnicity of OFS Legacy Participants

- White: 41%
- Hispanic or Latino/a: 19%
- Black/African American: 17%
- Asian: 22%
- Multi-Racial: 1%
More Program Highlights

**GRADUATE CREW**
Graduate Crew is an OFS program for those young people who show real promise and interest in the trades. This full-time, hire-for-service crew works on residential and commercial construction projects in the community. OFS Grad Crew is continuing its participation in the Fast Forward grant program from the Department of Workforce Development and OFS will continue to partner with J.H. Findorff & Son to have Grad Crew youth shadow on a worksite for one week out of each quarter. Grad Crew leads to apprenticeships for youth, as well as exposure to many of the subcontractors and roles needed to bring a project to fruition.

- 93% placement rate of Grad Crew completers
- Average rate of pay at placement: $16.72/hour
- Retention rate in apprenticeships: 86%

**STRIVE**
Strive continues to focus specifically on youth ages 17 to 21 years of age that have their diploma, HSED or GED. The worksite activities include helping to build the future home of Operation Fresh Start, in addition to working alongside other OFS crews on a variety of different projects when needed.

This year’s cohorts served 30 participants and resulted in 24 successful completions. As the project continues to grow over time, we aim to provide our participants with a variety of resources to help obtain and maintain self-sufficiency. We do that by meeting with community and partner organizations to assist these young people with developing and implementing their career plans, whether those included additional training, employment or post-secondary education.

**OPTIONS**
Our Options Program engages with young adults between the ages of 18 to 24 to help them finish their high school education. Options seeks out young adults who have fallen through the cracks of the public education system and helps them explore and enroll in programs in Madison that work for their individual needs on a case by case basis. This year we:

- Engaged 86 young adults in the Options Program
- Reengaged 49 of those young adults in high school credit programming

**GRADUATE CREW**
In ‘17-’18, OFS served 12,437 meals for breakfast and lunch!
Building Futures Capital Campaign

Grand Opening!

PLEASE JOIN US for a community Grand Opening event on Thursday, April 11, 2019 from 3:30 – 6:00PM.

COMPLETING THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: WE DID IT!
In late fall of 2018, we finished the Building Futures Capital Campaign. This was a huge accomplishment for Operation Fresh Start and we are so very grateful to the community for this generosity and belief in our mission. We launched the campaign on May 1, 2015 at the Merrill Lynch Grand Gala. That’s 3.5 years of work for a fabulous new home for OFS. Very significant gifts in the fiscal year (10/1/17 - 9/30/18) came from CUNA Mutual Group Foundation, UW Credit Union, Cummings Christensen Family Foundation, Tate and Friends Foundation, The Evjue Foundation, Inc., The Cremer Foundation, and our Campaign Chairs, Lau and Bea Christensen. THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

VOLUNTEERS HELP US GET THERE
Volunteer work from local organizations, including Carpenters Local 314, Baker Tilly, Ascendium (previously Great Lakes Higher Ed), American Family Insurance, Alliant Energy Foundation and TASC, helped us to keep costs low and truly create a facility that is by and from the community.

WE MOVE on January 22, 2019! Our new address will be 2670 Milwaukee St. Madison, WI 53704
Building Futures Capital Campaign

6718 TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS WORKING ON NEW HOME

WORK CONTINUES ON THE BUILDING

During the ‘17–’18 fiscal year, we made significant progress on our new home at 2670 Milwaukee Street thanks to the hard work of OFS Legacy (previously Pathways) Crews, OFS Strive Construction Crews, and partners from Urban League of Greater Madison’s Foundations for the Trades program. We also were fortunate to have significant help from volunteers Mark Schneider (project mentoring) of J.H. Findorff & Son, Jan Cashin (Interior Design) of North Central Group Inc, and Steve Meyer, an all-around excellent carpenter.

In addition, every OFS youth had the opportunity to put their mark on our future home through quarterly youth Build Days, where all hands were on deck. We are proud to say that we stretched every penny to bring our home at 2670 closer to fruition.

In ‘17–’18, CPR/AED/First Aid was taught to 142 participants!
Gratitude to Our Donors

In the ‘17-’18 fiscal year we raised $1,560,993 in both cash and pledges towards the Building Futures Capital Campaign. This helped bring us over the finish line of our $4,500,000 capital campaign. What a milestone for OFS! Now, we look to the future with expanded programming in a space that is worthy of the aspirations of OFS youth.

American Family Insurance · Diane Ballweg · Lau and Bea Christensen

CUNA Mutual Group Foundation · The DeAtley Family Foundation
Irwin A. & Robert D. Goodman Foundation · J.H. Findorff & Son Inc.

Adams Outdoor Advertising · Ascendium Education Group · August Foundation
Dave and Terri Beck-Engel · Caritas Foundation · Doug and Sherry Caves · Kevin and Sheila Conroy
The Cremer Foundation · Cummings Christensen Family Foundation
The Evjue Foundation, Inc., the charitable arm of The Capital Times · Madison Community Foundation
Merrill Lynch · Madison · National Guardian Life Insurance Company · Nimick Forbesway Foundation
Oscar Rennebohm Foundation · Dan & Patti Rashke (TASC) Family Foundation

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Tate and Friends Foundation · UW Credit Union
Building Futures Campaign Supporters

Even more THANKS!

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Scott and Sharon Frank · Grant and Sarah Frautschi · Deirdre Garton · Gorman & Company · Henry Herzing · Brian and Julie Hornung
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Wilson Foundation · Edward Wing and Susan C Wing · David and Julie Worzala

We apologize that we are not listing all donors. Please note, those listed made donations or in-kind contributions of $1,000 or higher.

Please know that we are grateful for each and every contribution! Questions, please call Jill W. Pfeiffer at 608-444-8095.
Partner Highlights

J.H. Findorff & Son - Findorff has been a significant partner for OFS for years. This began with the development of a direct pipeline for employment, which included assisting in the creation of a curriculum with a week of job shadowing on a Findorff construction site. Findorff is the largest employer of former Fresh Start participants in the construction field. In the Building Futures Capital Campaign, Findorff took this partnership to the next level, providing a lead financial gift and acting as our unpaid consultant throughout the project, which included some construction, running the budget, selecting subcontractors, engaging volunteers, and teaching new construction techniques.

Dane County Parks - In nature there are symbiotic relationships. In caring for Dane County Parks, OFS and the Parks Department have such a symbiotic relationship. OFS Crews do significant work on the parks. Throughout the year, youth complete work clearing invasive species, building trails, caring for facilities and guarding against flooding in Dane County Parks. Dane County provides necessary funding for this work to occur. But the partnership goes deeper, with Dane County working to develop an apprenticeship track for youth wanting to become arborists. Dane County Parks is now engaging in the development of a pre-apprenticeship certification for all OFS youth doing work on the parks, including hiring former OFS youth into positions within the parks system.

Urban League of Greater Madison - OFS and Urban League partner in Foundations for the Trades, a seven-week program to provide adults in the community the opportunity to learn basics of the construction industry leading to employment. ULGM provides the classroom education components and OFS provides the hands-on skills training. Through this partnership in 2018, over 30 adults participated in training to be ready for a career in construction.

In ‘17-’18, 36 volunteers provided 1395 hours of program support.
We are filled with gratitude for the community of volunteers, donors, funders and partner organizations that come together to help us fulfill our mission. Thank you!

Alliant Energy Foundation
Alliant Energy Matching Gift Program
American Family Insurance
August Foundation
Eken Park Neighborhood Assn
Blackhawk Evangelical Free Church
Chris Reese Agency American Family
City of Madison Community Development Division
Commonwealth Development
Construction Labor Management Council of Greater Wisconsin, Inc.
The Corps Network
Corporation for National & Community Service
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Wisconsin Department of Corrections
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Workforce, Innovation and Opportunity Act
YouthBuild USA

Please note, businesses, funders, and foundations listed are either program partners or donated a value of $250 or higher during the fiscal year, October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018. We apologize that we are not able to list everyone, even though we are grateful for each and every contribution. At this time, we are not listing individuals who donate to Operation Fresh Start’s annual operating costs. Please let us know if this is important to you by contacting Jill W. Pfeiffer at jpfieffer@operationfreshstart.org or call 608-444-8095. We are grateful for each and every contribution!
Please note, the budget includes pre-audit numbers at this time.

Assets do not include the Capital Campaign or the new home for OFS during the construction phase.

Types of solicitations include: appeal letters, contracts, donor engagement, events, fee-for-service and grants. Donations collected are voluntary from the public.
Board and Lead Staff Members

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Gregory Markle – Executive Director gmarkle@operationfreshstart.org
Brian McMahon – Deputy Director bmcmahon@operationfreshstart.org
Gloria Nelson – Operations Director gnelson@operationfreshstart.org
Jill W. Pfeiffer – Development & Communications Director jpfieffer@operationfreshstart.org

* Copies of the most recent annual report are available to the public.

In ‘17-'18, OFS had 310 participant visits to the health office!

2019 Address: 2670 Milwaukee St. Madison, WI 53704