



**NEW  
MERCIES  
MINISTRIES**

# EMPOWER RESTORATION

Empowering families and restoring hope  
through the Gospel and God's provision!

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come  
to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

**Lamentations 3:22-23**



# **A CASE FOR SUPPORT**

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# Who Are We?



NEW  
MERCIES  
MINISTRIES

## MISSION

New Mercies Ministries is a gospel-centered organization providing supportive connections, safe housing, and restorative services for women and families, empowering them to gain stability and thrive in community.

## VISION

For every isolated family to discover the hope of the Gospel in a Christ-centered community.

## CORE VALUES

**Grace-Based Relationships:** We prioritize nonjudgmental understanding, aligning with Christ's call for grace and mercy over condemnation.

**Christ-like Service:** We serve others with humility and sacrificial love, following Christ's example of placing the well-being of others above ourselves.

**Trustworthy Stewardship:** We faithfully manage the resources and gifts God has given us to serve others and glorify Him.

**Dignity in Care:** We honor the worth of every individual, recognizing them as created in God's image, and empowering them to actively participate in their journey toward stability.

## LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

Staff, partner churches, donors, and volunteers serve in family preservation in Northern Indiana. The ministry began in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 2013 as a chapter of a national organization. In 2021, New Mercies Ministries (NMM) became a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit for the benefit of local governance and management of funds, achieving the ability to tailor programs to the holistic needs of vulnerable families residing in the communities of Northern Indiana.

## MINISTRY EXPRESSIONS

### HOSTING MINISTRY

Hosting children and unaccompanied youth in volunteer host homes.

### NEW/ SUPPORTIVE HOUSING MINISTRY

Providing a home where mothers can be reunited with their children after a crisis to build community, further restore stability, and continue their journey toward independence. *This new ministry is the purpose of this case for support.*

# HOSTING MINISTRY

## PURPOSE

Our mission is to come alongside families in crisis with a network of support. Volunteer Host Families open their homes to children while parents

get back on their feet. Family Coaches serve a dual role by coming alongside parents to encourage and mentor them and providing support to the Host Family. Supporting a parent in crisis often helps to prevent child abuse and neglect, deflect children from the foster care system, and stabilize socially

isolated families in hopes of keeping them intact. This compassionate support shares the light and hope of Christ with families in the community.

## PATH

Parents or legal guardians can self-refer or may be referred by an agency. Families are matched with Host Families, a Family Coach, and other trained volunteers, bringing a circle of support around them. Parents maintain full custody. The length of stay ranges from one day to one year.

## COLLABORATIVE COMMITMENT

Parents must be willing to be coached by the ministry and be working toward stability and reunification. NMM is dedicated to supporting and empowering families as they acquire the life skills necessary to successfully manage their family responsibilities. Families are reunited at the end of the hosting if a safe and stable environment exists. NMM has a 99.5% reunification rate.





## THE PROBLEM

### SOCIAL ISOLATION

God created people for community, but without support and safe housing, families face ongoing crises and hardship. For over a decade, NMM has witnessed the deep suffering of isolated families in Northern Indiana.



HOMELESSNESS



CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT



FINANCIAL INSTABILITY



DECREASED MENTAL HEALTH

STABILITY



SUPPORTIVE CONNECTIONS



MENTORING



SAFE TEMPORARY HOUSING



## THE SOLUTION

### SUPPORTIVE HOUSING MINISTRY

Through hosting, NMM builds meaningful relationships, guiding families from crisis to stability. For families needing safe housing, this solution offers a temporary place for reunification, mentoring, and support, leveraging volunteers and community partnerships for lasting impact.



## COMMUNITY IMPACT

### RELATIONSHIP BUILDING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The impact of the proposed project, focusing on relationship building and community engagement, will be substantial, encompassing the strengthening of families, the reduction of social costs, and the development of economic contributions and financial sustainability.



+ PARENTING EFFECTIVENESS

+ JOB READINESS

+ MENTAL HEALTH CARE

+ MEDICAL/DENTAL CARE

+ SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

+ FINANCIAL STABILITY

+ EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS/ATTAINMENT



DECREASE IN

- Homelessness
- Foster Care
- Unemployment
- Mental Health Crises
- Medical Costs



## ***PROPOSED PROJECT***

# **SUPPORTIVE HOUSING MINISTRY**



## **PURPOSE**

Our goal is to nurture ongoing relationships with vulnerable women and help stabilize and support families introduced to NMM through the Hosting Ministry by providing a home for mothers to reunite with their children following a crisis. Often in the Hosting Ministry, reunification between parents and children is delayed due to the lack of safe and affordable housing. This supportive housing option will shorten the time that mothers are separated from their children following a period of housing instability. This transitional period allows staff and volunteers to build deeper, trust-based relationships with the families served and help them further their walk toward independence.

## **PATH**

Following a time of crisis alleviation in which children are hosted in a volunteer host home, mothers and their children will have the opportunity to be reunited in this home after meeting specified criteria. Young single women without children may also be considered after time spent with a Host Family when they have demonstrated that they are ready to continue their journey toward independence. Length of stay is determined by progression toward independence goals and will be different for each woman and family based on their unique circumstances.

## **COLLABORATIVE COMMITMENT**

Women must be willing to be coached by the ministry and be working toward independence. Families must be willing to live in a community with other women and families and actively participate in the activities offered by the ministry. NMM will engage with over **100** collaborative partners in the community to recommend their services to the women and children served by the ministry. NMM is dedicated to supporting women on their journey toward independence by helping them acquire the life skills that will empower them to manage their family responsibilities successfully.

## SUSTAINABILITY

Roughly 50-60% of families served by NMM's Hosting Ministry are impacted by the affordable housing crisis in Fort Wayne. NMM is uniquely suited to address this crisis by providing this safe and supportive housing option. While retaining NMM's Christian values, the Supportive Housing Ministry will create a space where mothers and children from diverse ethnicities, beliefs, and backgrounds can reunite more quickly following a hosting arrangement, facilitating deeper recovery from a crisis and continued progress toward self-sufficiency.

A proven volunteer-driven model that has been successful in the Hosting Ministry will serve the new Supportive Housing Ministry well. NMM currently has almost 250 approved volunteers from more than 50 churches in the area, and nearly half of those churches are partners that champion a volunteer recruiting strategy within their congregations.

NMM has impacted the lives of over 300 families in the 10+ years it has served in family preservation in Northern Indiana and has built a solid reputation in the community with over 100 referring sources.

Sources of funding are diverse and in 2025 came from private individuals (42%), foundations (34%), churches (14%), corporate sponsors (9%), and fundraisers (1%). 26% of NMM's giving goal is from recurring donations.

NMM is conducting a 3.5 million dollar capital campaign to cover the cost of renovating a building, purchasing furniture and fixtures, and providing operating expenses to sustain the ministry in its first 24 months. This campaign will have at least two phases. The first phase is the renovation of the main floor, at a cost of a little under \$1.2 million.

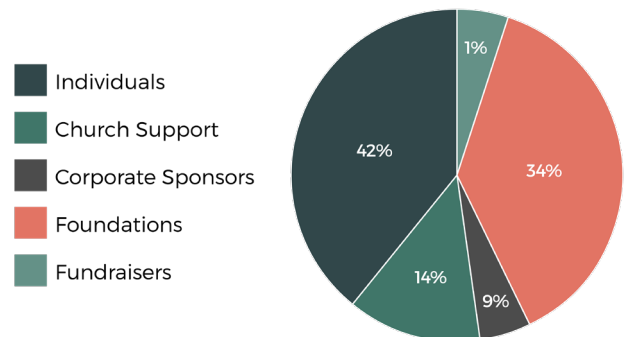
An incremental monthly rent may be charged to residents based on each family's ability to pay. NMM believes that families are more likely to be successful in achieving stability if they take ownership of covering a portion of their housing expenses.

## BACKGROUND

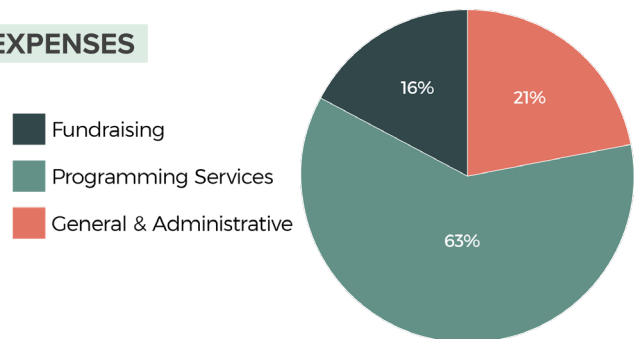
NMM has been offered the use of a building that is structurally sound but requires a significant interior overhaul under the agreement that the ministry will cover the upfront costs for the necessary renovations. This building faces Wells Street in the Bloomingdale neighborhood on the Headwaters Church campus which is located at 2000 North Wells Street in the Wells Corridor of Fort Wayne. The campus was originally a Catholic orphanage, and the designated building and four others like it were called St. Vincent Villas (villa meaning "second home"). This building, historically named Bowker Hall,

### FUNDING SOURCES

While we are funded primarily by the church and the body of Christ, all funds received were given with the intention of advancing our ministry to the vulnerable in our community by providing gospel-centered care.



### EXPENSES



## PROPOSED PROJECT

was the last to be built on the campus in 1952 and is on the National Historic Register. In more recent years, a previous owner, the YWCA, used the building as a transitional living home for women.

After both phases of renovation, this 12,238-square-foot building will house up to 17 families (with a capacity of 74 beds). The first phase will allow us to house 7 families, with a 24-bed capacity.

Headwaters Church agrees to abate 100% of the agreed-upon rent during the life of the lease in the amount of any renovations or improvements made to the building.

### WHAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED SO FAR?

Michael Kinder & Sons (MKS), a local design-build firm, was engaged and has demoed and remediated the basement from mold and asbestos. The design for the renovated building has been approved, and the construction documents, permitting, and bidding phases are underway. See Appendix 2.

The Supportive Housing Ministry has been incorporated into the overall Strategic Plan for NMM. For the first phase, we have received a cost estimate and timeline for renovations this year that is now incorporated in the plan. Staffing has increased to manage the additional workload. See Strategic Plan in Appendix 3.

NMM has partnered with a fundraising consultant experienced in funding development and family preservation ministries to help guide our capital campaign and coach our executive team. We are currently fundraising to secure the remaining funding needed for this project.

Once renovation funding is in place for the main floor, construction activities will begin, with an estimated timeline of 6 months and a tentative goal of opening the doors in February of 2027. The main floor will serve as the pilot Supportive Housing Program for 7 families. This space will include bedrooms and bathrooms, a shared kitchen, dining, and living room spaces, a playroom, a multipurpose classroom, and an office for the program director.

### COMMITTEES

The Board of Directors assembled the Empower Restoration Committee, chaired by NMM Board Chairman Troy Schrock, to oversee the capital campaign. The Building Committee was formed under the leadership of Board Member Ken Dearing. The Program Development Committee, chaired by the Executive Director, Bonnie Doolittle, began meeting and has made progress in shaping the programming for the new ministry.

At a Board of Directors meeting, the fundraising plan was approved, and since then, schematic design and design development phases have taken place. See Appendix 1.



## THE OPPORTUNITY

Will you prayerfully consider supporting Empower Restoration? The gift table below represents the potential for generosity and support for both phases of the campaign, as well as the first year of operating support. Your support will drive this initiative and create a meaningful and enduring impact on the families served in Northern Indiana. For more information, please see the 1-page document included with this booklet.

Thank you for any gift or pledge toward this God-sized vision.

<b>\$5,000 &amp; UNDER</b>	<b>MANY</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>
<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>
<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>
<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>
<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

**PROJECT GOAL \$3,500,000**



## PHASE 1 | MAIN-LEVEL

Program Spaces, Kids Play Area, Laundry, Sleeping, Kitchen, Dining, & Living Rooms  
4,675 Square Feet



## PHASE 2 | MAIN-LEVEL

Office Space and Sleeping Rooms  
4,675 Square Feet





## PHASE 2 | LOWER LEVEL

Kitchen, Dining, Classrooms, Living/Play

4,518 Square Feet



## PHASE 2 | SECOND FLOOR

Sleeping Rooms and Laundry

3,045 Square Feet

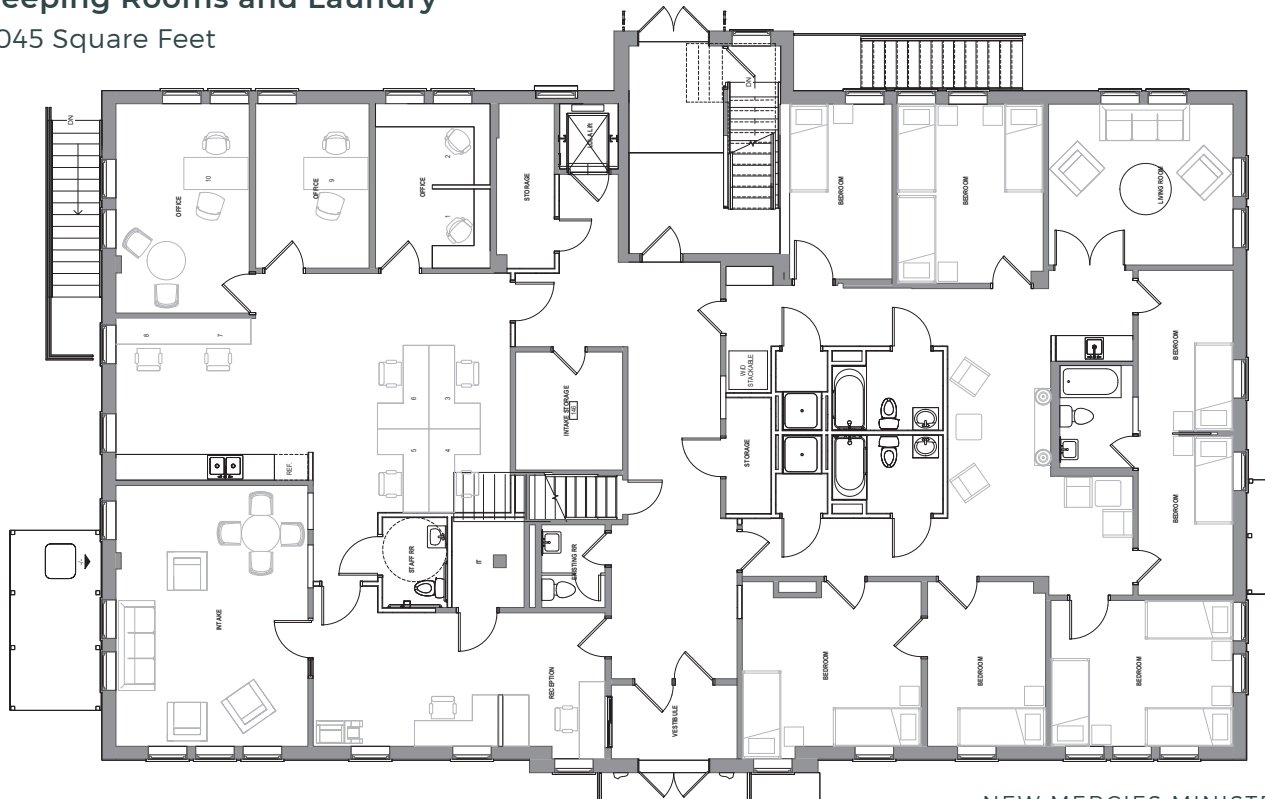
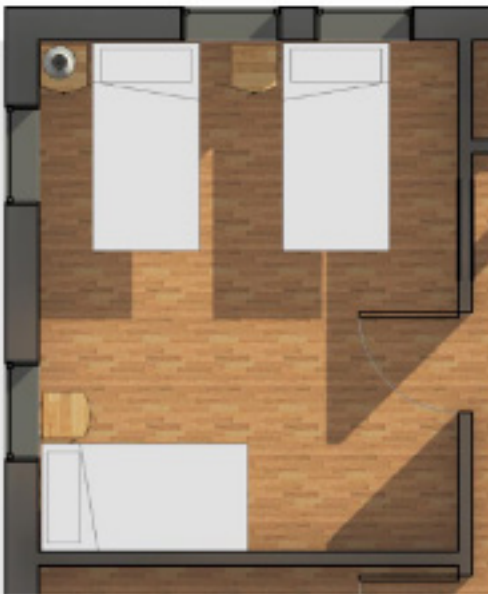


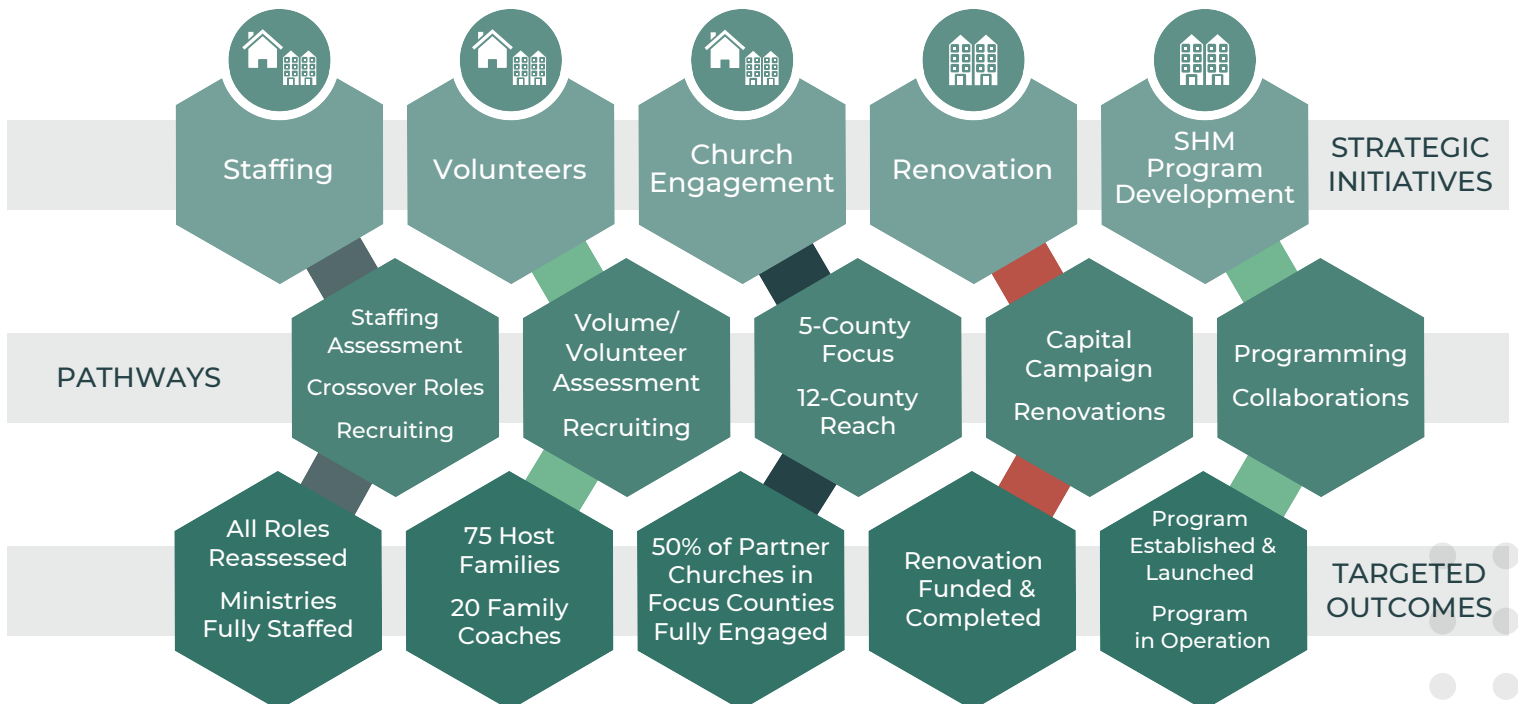
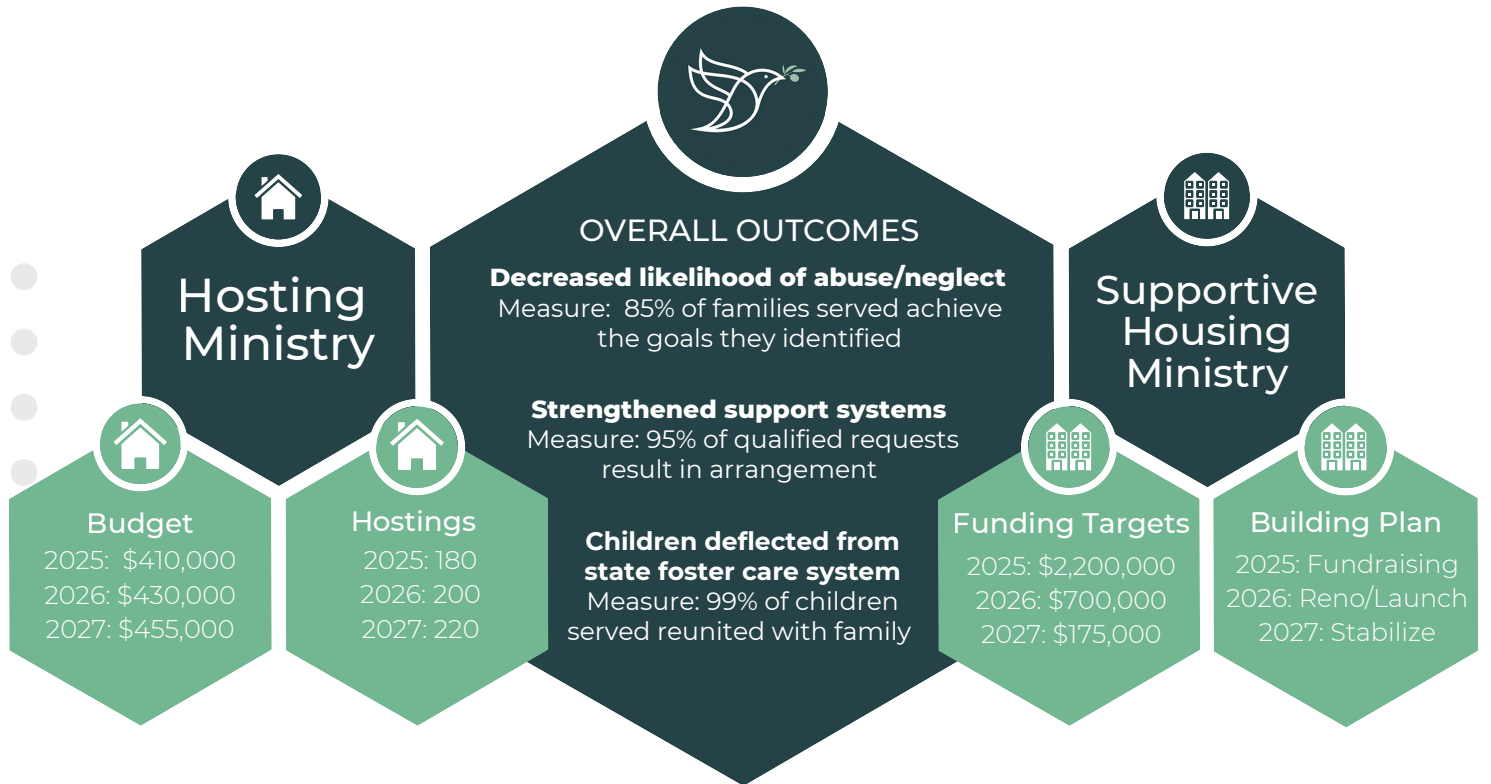


FIG 2000 Floor Plan



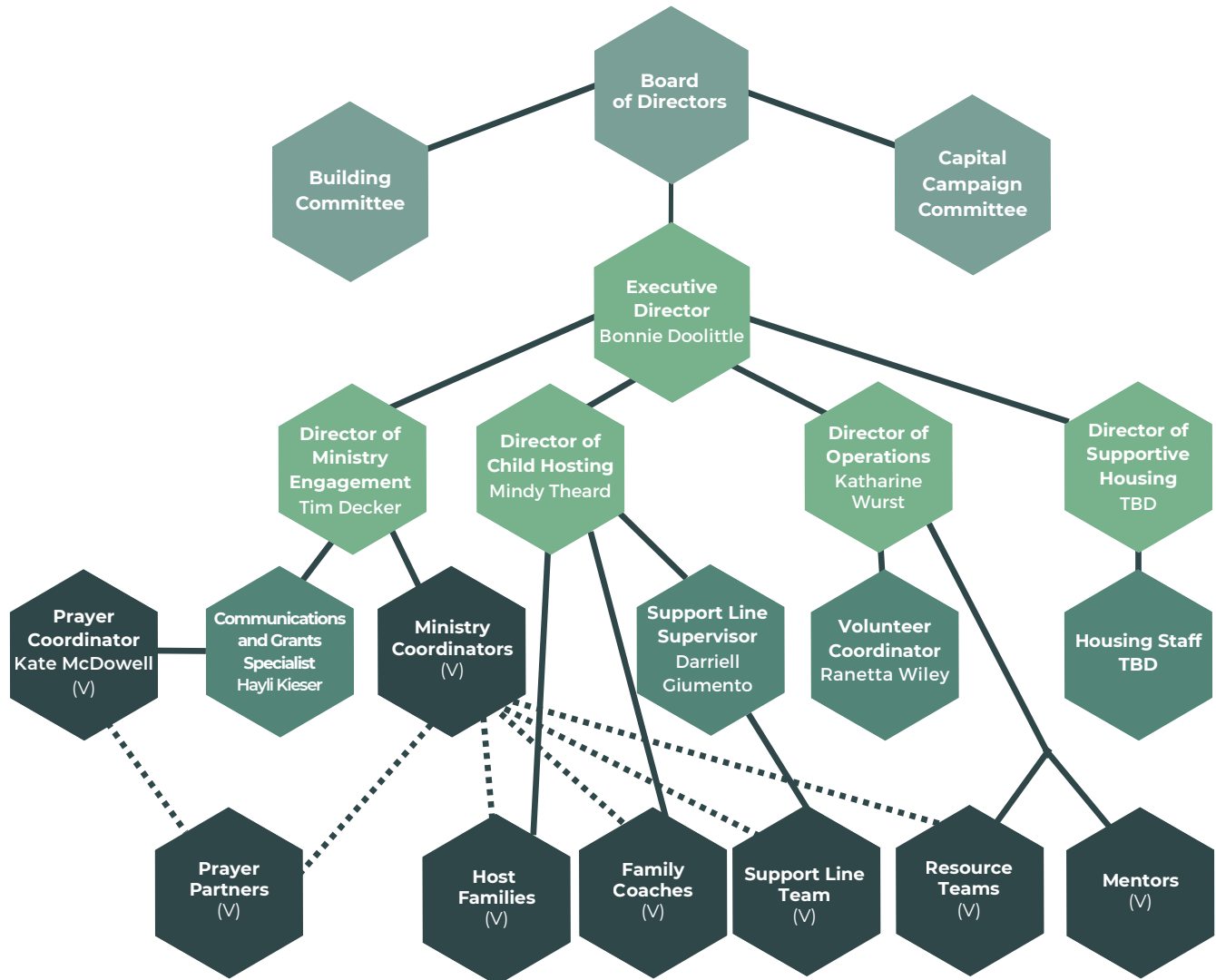


## 2025-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN





## ORGANIZATION CHART



## APPENDIX 5 / BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Bonnie S. Doolittle**

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

New Mercies Ministries

[bdoolittle@new-mercies.org](mailto:bdoolittle@new-mercies.org)

260-437-3348

### CHAIRMAN

#### **Troy Schrock**

PRESIDENT & FOUNDER

Advisor Catalyst

[troy.schrock@advisorcatalyst.com](mailto:troy.schrock@advisorcatalyst.com)

248-760-1784

### SECRETARY

#### **Kim Plattner**

FORMER DIRECTOR

Safe Families for Children Ft. Wayne

[kdplattner@gmail.com](mailto:kdplattner@gmail.com)

260-450-5030

### TREASURER

#### **Andrew Suci**

PRESIDENT/FOUNDER

Arrow Financial

[arrowfinancialfw@gmail.com](mailto:arrowfinancialfw@gmail.com)

260-804-7006

### DIRECTOR

#### **Ken Dearing**

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Perma-Column, LLC

ELDER

ONE Church

[dearingfamily@frontier.com](mailto:dearingfamily@frontier.com)

260-615-7499

### DIRECTOR

#### **Maci Doden**

ATTORNEY

FORMER ATTORNEY

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana

[maci.eric@comcast.net](mailto:maci.eric@comcast.net)

260-443-5511

### DIRECTOR

#### **John Nussbaum**

PRESIDENT/CEO

Berne Apparel Co.

[johnnussbaum@berneapparel.com](mailto:johnnussbaum@berneapparel.com)

260-417-7150

### DIRECTOR

#### **Joel Usina**

MARKETING DIRECTOR

Rival Holdings

[joel@jmusina.com](mailto:joel@jmusina.com)

260-438-8407



**NEW-MERCIES.ORG**

**(260) 627-9002**

**MAILING ADDRESS**

New Mercies Ministries

PO Box 25712

Fort Wayne, IN 46825

EIN: 86-3804719

To schedule a tour of the shelter building,  
please email us at [info@new-mercies.org](mailto:info@new-mercies.org).