



MARS HILL OUTREACH

local + global impact

Mars Hill has been working for measurable change in our city, nation, and world during the past year, and we are actively seeking people, projects, and organizations we can partner with in the year to come. We remain committed to supporting the most marginalized people, places, and issues of our day, providing individual relief and working for systemic change whenever possible. Contact Christine Mutch, Community Mobilization Pastor, at outreach@marshill.org with any questions.

Heartside Neighborhood, Grand Rapids

Degage Ministries + Mel Trotter Ministries are partnering together to host their annual Heartside Christmas Store. This store gives individuals and families experiencing homelessness the opportunity to purchase gifts for their loved ones in a dignified and accessible way. We are asking the community to help by purchasing inventory for the store or by donating their time on Dec 18 and 19. Help is also needed for the Mel Trotter Christmas Lunch that is provided for their guests on Dec 21. Purchase items online by Dec 10 at marshill.org/give/november. To volunteer, sign up at meltrotter.org/givehelp/volunteer.

Jenison Public Schools

We are working with Jenison Public Schools to support school-age students and their families who are experiencing or at significant risk of homelessness. We are inviting the community to help provide for their basic needs as well as some fun surprises for Christmas. [See marshill.org/give/november to see what is still needed, and drop off your gifts Dec 2 + 9 to our Welcome Center.] We are piloting this connection with Jenison Public Schools for the 2018 holiday season, and seeing what may blossom in the future with JPS. We are also taking note of how this may be able to expand to other local school districts in our surrounding area, recognizing every school district has homeless students and that that these are our literal neighbors whom we have opportunity to come alongside.

Michigan Immigrant Rights Center [MIRC]

Upon hearing of children being separated at our southern border from their families, we learned of the important work of MIRC in Michigan. They are the only organization in the state of MI that is providing FREE legal services to children like this who are separated from their families. [If hiring an individual attorney, it might cost a family 5-10K]. MIRC serves all of the children in the federal foster care system in Michigan. As of the end of October, all of the children who had been brought to Michigan who had been separated at the border from their parents earlier in the summer had been reunited.

Sacred Beginnings | Leslie King

Through the generosity of time, money, and resources on behalf of Mars Hill, Sacred Beginnings has opened a safe house for formerly trafficked women. At a learning lab in Spring 2018 about human trafficking, their need for a house for trafficked women was made known. Someone in attendance offered a home to Sacred Beginnings for \$1/month. Many people in the area—including several people from MH—then stepped in to make this house a home for Sacred Beginnings: an interior decorator from MH “adopted” rooms to decorate and furnish; a small group got together and donated landscaping materials and labor for the house; another woman from Mars Hill, who has a flourishing business sewing children’s clothing, is now going to be teaching survivors how to sew and become more self-sufficient. MH currently provides financial support to Leslie to advance her work doing street outreach and rescue as well.

Treetops Collective

The mission of Treetops Collective is to accelerate the process of belonging for resettled refugee women in their new communities, through both social and economic opportunities following their resettlement period. Mars Hill has supported both sides of this work through a Grassroots grant in 2017 that jumpstarted their Social Enterprise and through many Mars Hill volunteers involved in their Sister Circles program.

Since Treetops’ inception in 2016, this work has grown quickly and in August the opportunity came up to buy the building that they’ve been renting near downtown Grand Rapids. Mars Hill was able to provide a lead gift toward this endeavor, which then attracted another major gift, ultimately allowing them to purchase the building and permanently secure their prime location as a relational and economic hub. In addition to providing shared space to collaborate with strategic business partners [e.g., Public Thread, a cut-and-sew production company that employs refugee women],

the building also has six apartments on the 2nd floor which they will eventually rent to refugee women, offering reduced rent so that residents can save toward permanent housing. Our hope is to continue connecting volunteers with Treetops as they grow.

World Relief

For nearly 20 years, Mars Hill has partnered with World Relief in some of the most challenging places in the world. World Relief's mission is to empower the local [indigenous] church to serve those in their midst who are suffering as a result of violence, poverty, and injustice. This year particular support was directed toward humanitarian crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo [DRC], South Sudan, and Yemen.

Youth Housing Collaborative

This partnership aims to provide transitional housing and holistic support to those who are arguably the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness on our streets today: youth who identify as LGBTQ. Homelessness in general leaves youth vulnerable and at risk for abuse, trafficking, and victims of crime. LGBTQ youth are 120% more likely to experience homelessness than other youth. In GR, they consist of up to 30% of homeless youth. These youth are 2-3 times more likely to attempt suicide, have higher rates of substance abuse [often to cope or as social connection/protection], and have experienced violence at a greater rate. On top of this, LGBTQ youth are often marginalized from family and friends, church, school, and employment. Throughout 2018, 50 social service providers in Grand Rapids came together to research the greatest needs of this vulnerable population, and providing safe and affordable housing was a top recommendation. Meanwhile, in late 2017, Inner City Christian Federation [ICCF] had the opportunity to purchase 150+ homes in West Michigan, in the hopes of securing affordable + equitable housing opportunities to those in greatest need. They began partnering with churches to help provide funding [and labor, as available] for each house. Given Mars Hill's previous work with key organizations working with homeless youth, along with the needs identified of LGBTQ youth, a collaborative partnership is being piloted in order to provide holistic support and promote long-term health and success.

ICCF:	Owns the property, manages the renovation, and provides ongoing property management
Mars Hill:	Provides funding to ICCF for renovation. Optional: provides skilled labor volunteers
HQ:	Builds relationships at their Drop-In Center, allowing staff to screen + assess youth, and makes recommendations of possible tenants who would most benefit from this opportunity
Mel Trotter:	Uses established in-take process to suggest names of possible tenants for the house [who currently live in the MT shelter] Provides ongoing case-management [including life skills, job training] Takes on the lease from ICCF, so there's no risk to ICCF: tenants pay MT; MT pays ICCF
3:11 Youth Housing:	Selects, trains, and hires mentors to live in the house with the youth Provides programmatic structure for the house based on the 3:11 model

Grassroots Grants

Our Grassroots Grants provide funding and mentoring for people and organizations in the Mars Hill community who are launching new projects—whether for-profit or nonprofit—that can make measurable change in the world. 2018 grant recipients included the following:

Faith 45:	Provides support and resources for families who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant loss
Hope Gardens:	Building a vegetable garden at the Wyoming Regional Center to help provide agricultural skills and food security for students + families, as well as a sensory garden to build emotional regulation skills of troubled youth
Peacemakers:	Striving to build community + reconciliation in children through interactively learning empathy, conflict resolution, and peacemaking skills. Pilot programs will be launched in 2019 with diverse school groups in Grand Rapids

Subsidiaries: 20L, Affinity Mentoring, HQ

Over her history, Mars Hill founded three separate organizations to help make measurable change in key areas of our city and world. We are continuing to champion their efforts as they expand.

20 Liters:	Long-term clean water solutions for vulnerable populations across the globe
Affinity Mentoring:	1-1 mentoring relationships and support for at-risk elementary students
HQ:	Drop-in center and holistic services for youth ages 14-24 who are experiencing homelessness