

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS Seafarers International House

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: A New Normal

Dear friends of Seafarers International House (SIH):

"You rule over the majestic sea; when its waves surge, you calm them."
Psalm 89:9

While 2020 was a year of maintaining our services to seafarers and immigrants who were particularly affected by the pandemic, 2021 has been a year of adjusting toward a new normal with innovative service adaptations -- thanks to your generosity.

With Breaking Ground, an organization that provides transitional housing to community members, we found a partner that aligns with our mission. In early 2021, they started renting our original guesthouse to assist people with housing needs. We have always provided a home to those in need of shelter and Breaking Ground is doing just that as a parallel to our own mission, while providing income that, combined with your donations, enables us to fulfil our mission to vulnerable seafarers and immigrants.

In early 2021 we continued to provide lodging to seafarers and immigrants at "SIH Relocated", a midtown hotel. Beginning in October of 2021, we rented 10 mission-based lodging rooms at the Markle Residence, which is run by the Salvation Army. Seafarers as well as asylees feel at home at the location close to our original Union Square area site. It is conveniently located between subway stops with easy access to medical facilities, the SIU Union Hall and government agencies.

In the ports of Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Haven, and New York & New Jersey, crew members on container ships and bulk carriers who have not been allowed ashore because of COVID-19

restrictions, continue to rely on our 5 port chaplains to bring essentials on-board. Our chaplains assisted medical staff in inoculating seafarers on their vessels or they transported crew members with visas to vaccination sites. Since most mariners hail from countries with limited access to vaccines, they embraced becoming vaccinated. As one seafarer said to me "I can now re-enter the world again after my vaccination".

This Port Mission was supported through grants and generous individuals with major funding from the shipping industry and unions, who participated in the 2021 Setting the Course event, which was hosted as an in-person Cocktail Reception, limited to 100 vaccinated guests.

Immigration to the US remains stalled so only a few asylees were released from detention in 2021. Some immigrants needed a few lodging nights with us to obtain government issued papers or to travel to family members, - and we gladly accommodated them, hoping there will be more normalcy in our immigration process in 2022.

Leading into fall and the holiday season, we were delighted that many individuals and congregations continue to embrace our Christmas-at-Sea holi-

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.

day initiative, knitting hats and scarves, assembling satchels, or contributing financially. We received 2,162 satchels, which our port chaplains delivered to seafarers, who felt the holiday spirit despite their isolation knowing that their sacrifices are appreciated.

Looking ahead: Our operations may look different in the future, but our services - providing lodging to immigrants and seafarers, visiting ships and transporting mariners to malls and vaccination sites, supplying seafarers with necessities, and advocating for those invisible to society - remain robust in this new normal, thanks to your loyal and often increased support. ⚓

Marsh Luther Drege
Pastor and Executive Director

Photo below: Pastor Marsh returning with seafarers from a vaccination site.



2021 Program Impact

18,523 immigrants and seafarers directly benefited from SIH services during the challenges of the second year of the pandemic.

2,162 seafarers, regardless of faith, received Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and holiday greetings prepared by volunteers to recognize these essential workers.

31 immigrants received free lodging for a total of 238 nights. They hailed from Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, a country in the Middle East, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Korea, and Slovakia. Our temporary accommodations allowed us to care for an asylee along with his wife and two toddlers, - a whole family!

1,081 lodging nights provided to 101 seafarers in Manhattan.

15,232 seafarers were visited and counseled on 1,477 ships, receiving essentials they had requested.

791 seafarers were transported to the mall or medical facilities.

400 number of hand-knitted scarves sent to us from one of the most land-locked congregations in North America - Pastor Marsh's home congregation of Christ Lutheran Church in Minot, ND.

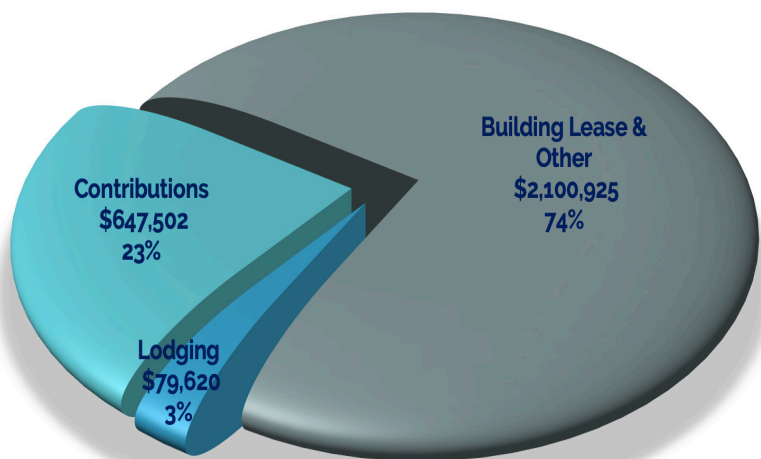
202 seafarers were vaccinated either onboard their vessels or at a vaccination site.

365 days of uninterrupted service provided to seafarers and immigrants in 2021.

2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

After an operating loss of \$506,324 in 2020 because of COVID-19 related challenges in adjusting our operations, 2021 helped us recover those losses and replenish our endowment for future emergencies. Thanks to you, our supporters, contributed income grew from pre-audited \$524,875 in 2020 to \$647,502. Our partnership with Breaking Ground was a major factor in 2021's financial recovery, providing building lease revenue to support our mission to seafarers and immigrants. Program services accounted for 83% percent of expenses with only 17% spent on support services and fundraising. Net Assets increased from \$6,255,361 in 2020 to \$7,870,434 in 2021. These figures reflect unaudited revenue and expenses and are subject to change once audited. To request the audited 2021 financial statements send an email to henryk@sihnyc.org. [📎](#)

Operating Revenue 2021 (pre-audit)
\$2,828,047



Operating Expenses 2021 (pre-audit)
\$1,752,786

