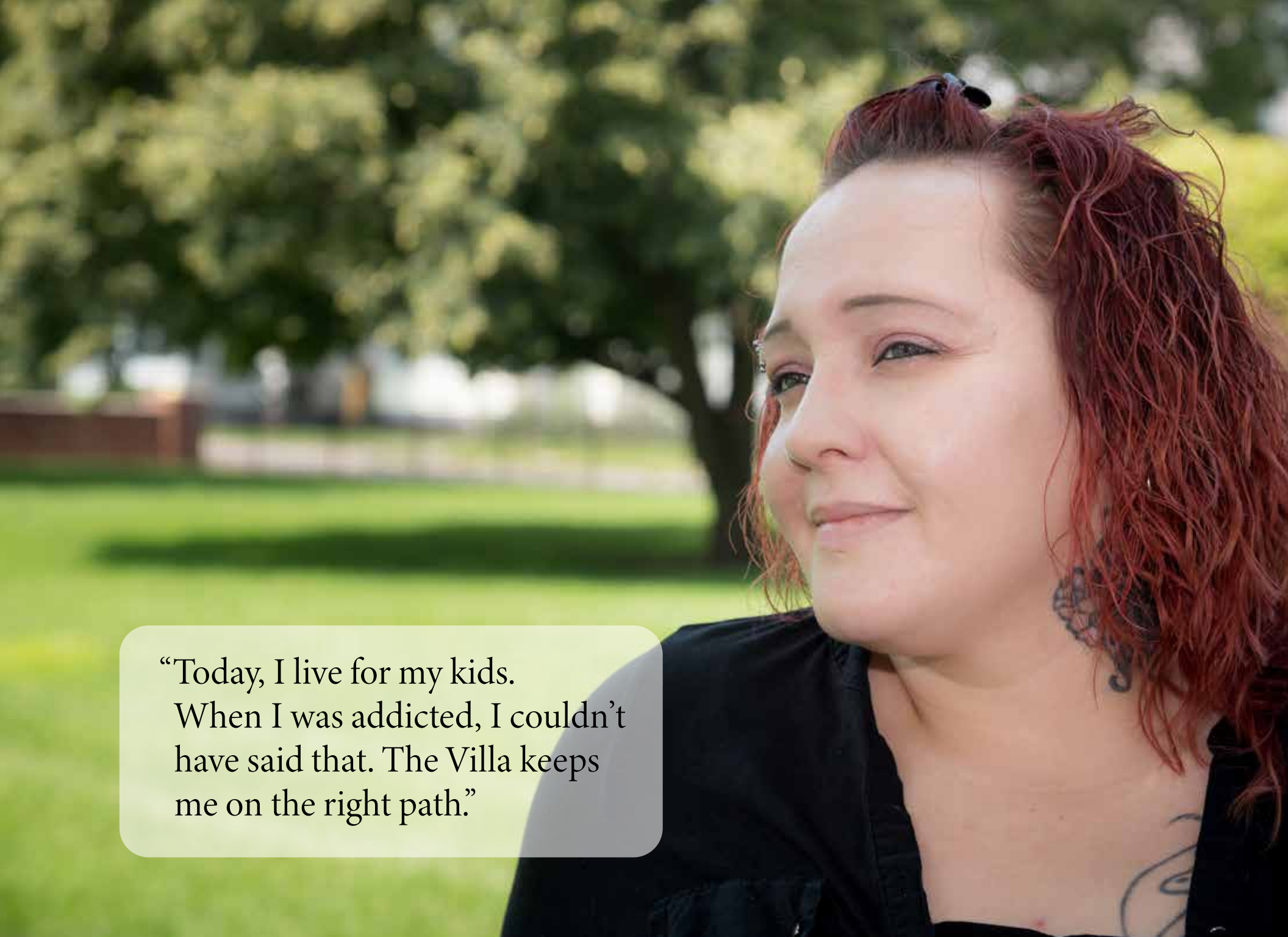




I found
hope.

2 0 2 1 R E P O R T T O O U R C O M M U N I T Y





“Today, I live for my kids. When I was addicted, I couldn’t have said that. The Villa keeps me on the right path.”

A Message from Villa leadership

I found hope.

You may have seen our “I found hope” campaign online and in print during the last year, as we have brought news of the Villa’s past and present successes to our community. The Villa has forged new pathways in our community in Workforce Development, Care Coordination, Educational opportunities, and Behavioral Health, bringing hope to thousands.

As well, we have shared the excitement of **Groundbreaking Recovery**, as we broke ground on our new expanded mental health and substance use disorder clinic on the Dewey Avenue campus, as well as our much anticipated Living Hope Detox Center. Both fill a desperate community need. In 2017, 32% percent (1,700 people) of county residents seeking detox services had to travel outside of Monroe County due to a lack of bed availability. Our Detox Center will serve patients in Monroe County who are struggling with addiction and who have previously had to seek treatment outside of the county. Our clinic, and other Villa programs, will provide valuable post-detox services, built upon a peer support model.

More than just a slogan, “I found hope” represents lives saved in our community. For Megan and Daniel, who so generously share their story in the following pages, it has meant freedom from addiction, getting clean, staying clean, and being present for their children. In instances like these, the Villa has been able to provide support to both children and adults, and help save an entire family.

Many have found hope with the Villa. You’ve helped make it happen. You are the partners who will help to sustain our life-changing, life-saving services into the future. Youth, adults and families struggling with chemical dependency, mental health concerns, or recovering from trauma, now have new avenues to receive support from the Villa, extending beyond youth, and throughout their lives.

Thank you for helping our community find HOPE. **Thank you!**



Christopher Bell, MS, MBA
Board Chair



Christina M. Gullo, MSW, MBA
President/CEO



Parents, Daniel and Megan, along with their three children, all have found hope with Villa of Hope services.

“The Villa has been a remarkable place to help not just me, but also my children with therapy and medication management ... to really be their best.”

For the love of her children

Megan will tell you that her journey with the Villa began with her Villa Care Manager, Sandy, who showed her the path forward. But it continues today with her all-encompassing love for her children.

Sandy had been working to help Megan access medical and mental health services in the community, but after they had gotten to know each other, Megan opened up to Sandy that she had been – and still was – struggling to break free from addiction. “She could have closed my case because I hadn’t been honest with her,” Megan said, “But she stuck with me. She showed me how to move forward.”

Megan’s story is, unfortunately, a familiar one. Due to a medical problem and pain, she had been prescribed opioids; and then she continued down an unexpected path to addiction. In her case, a person she trusted tried to assist her after she ran out of her prescription, by introducing her to heroin.

It would then be an excruciating six years before she would finally be able to get clean.

She describes being numb, and not realizing that heroin was ruining her health during those years. She is a young woman who will never, she acknowledges, get back to where she once was, in terms of health and wellness. “I am young, but physically I feel so old because of what I put my body through,” she says.

Remembering her days of addiction, she recalls that she was selfish, and though she was careful that her children never saw her using drugs, she knows they were affected. She was unable to be out and about; unable to be active with them. Interaction with law enforcement and CPS became regular occurrences and she did lose custody of her kids for a period of time. She uses the words “hopeless,” “helpless,” and “worthless” to describe how she felt during those years. She did not see herself ever beating addiction, and she could not envision a future for herself. There were times that nothing mattered to her more than the drug.

She and her children were struggling just to hold it all together, on the day that her fiancé, Daniel, overdosed and she had to act quickly to save his life. “From the outside looking in that day,” she says, “I felt like someday soon that was going to be me.” That day marked the beginning of her road to recovery.



Megan’s fiancé walks with their son in the background, as Megan recalls her journey with the Villa.

continued on page 7

For the love of her children *continued*

Daniel became a client with our Behavioral Health Clinic, got clean, began to receive treatment for his mental health condition, and jump-started his life. Megan got clean, and sees her own self-care and mental health as an ongoing responsibility today – with the Villa’s help. “My children need me. But they need me whole, not broken up into pieces,” Megan says. And Daniel adds, “They really take care of you here.”

Megan’s two older children receive mental health services, therapy, and medication management assistance from Villa behavioral health clinic staff. “Kim Sadwick [Senior Director of Health Services and Chief Medical Officer] and Meredith Kahl [Outpatient Clinic Program Manager] are absolutely amazing,” says Megan. “They don’t just provide help with meds; they are truly physically there for my kids, available to listen to them, always. They always have good advice. It works for us, and they’ve helped my kids to really be their best.”

And now Megan and Daniel have a beautiful son together, who Daniel says, “changed my life. It motivated me to get a place, get a job, get a car ... it’s wonderful to be a Dad.”

Megan sums up their success today. “My kids are my rock and my strength, and they keep me going. I dedicate my life to my kids, and anyone else who needs someone to care for them, be there for them, listen to them. My life today has changed for the better in so many different ways. The Villa has been exactly what we all needed – me, my fiancé, my kids – it made all the difference.

“I used to live for the drug; now I live for my kids. And all I have to do is keep moving forward. ***That’s what the Villa helps me do.***” 🍀



“The Villa helps me stay on the path to continued recovery. I will not go back. The staff, to me, represent courage, strength, and dedication.”



In April of 2021, the Villa launched **Groundbreaking Recovery** – a virtual groundbreaking ceremony to kick off the building of our Living Hope Detox Center, and our new expanded mental health and substance use disorder clinic.

The Living Hope Detox Center, pictured above, will be an 18-bed medically supervised withdrawal and stabilization treatment home, the first community agency-run inpatient center of its kind in Monroe County to treat adolescents (age 16 and up) as well as adults. The Living Hope Detox Center is set to open at the beginning of December, 2021.

Our new 24-hour facility will offer short-term (5-7 days) medical inpatient treatment focused on physically stabilizing patients who are stopping the use of alcohol and/or other drugs. The home will also provide structured, round-the-clock treatment programs under the watchful care of physicians, nurse practitioners, psychiatrists and licensed therapists. After completing withdrawal, patients will be able to continue treatment in other programs such as the Villa of Hope Outpatient Clinic and/or residential and group home programs.



VILLA of HOPE HOPE PLACE

is the Villa's psychiatric diversion program; a walk-in, peer-run Living Room Program, staffed by our own Certified Peer Support Specialists. It has become a hub for referrals to other Villa programs. Since opening in 2020, Hope Place has served

1273 individuals
and provided
2881 total services.

These services included

1142 referrals:

- 1091** people to basic needs support
- 12** people for substance use treatment
- 38** referrals to mental health
- 1** referral to a physical medical provider

Additional referrals included
housing (15), TASC (8), employment services (2),
children's health homes (8),
and adult health homes (32).

*In the past year, there were only 3 instances of referrals
to the emergency room.*

Thank you to our donors (from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021)

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* = Champion of Hope Society Members

You are invited to join the Champion of Hope Society, to change the very foundations of our community. Members make a commitment to a recurring pledge over three consecutive years. For more information, please contact Catherine Amico Orlandini at catherine.orlandini@villaofohope.org



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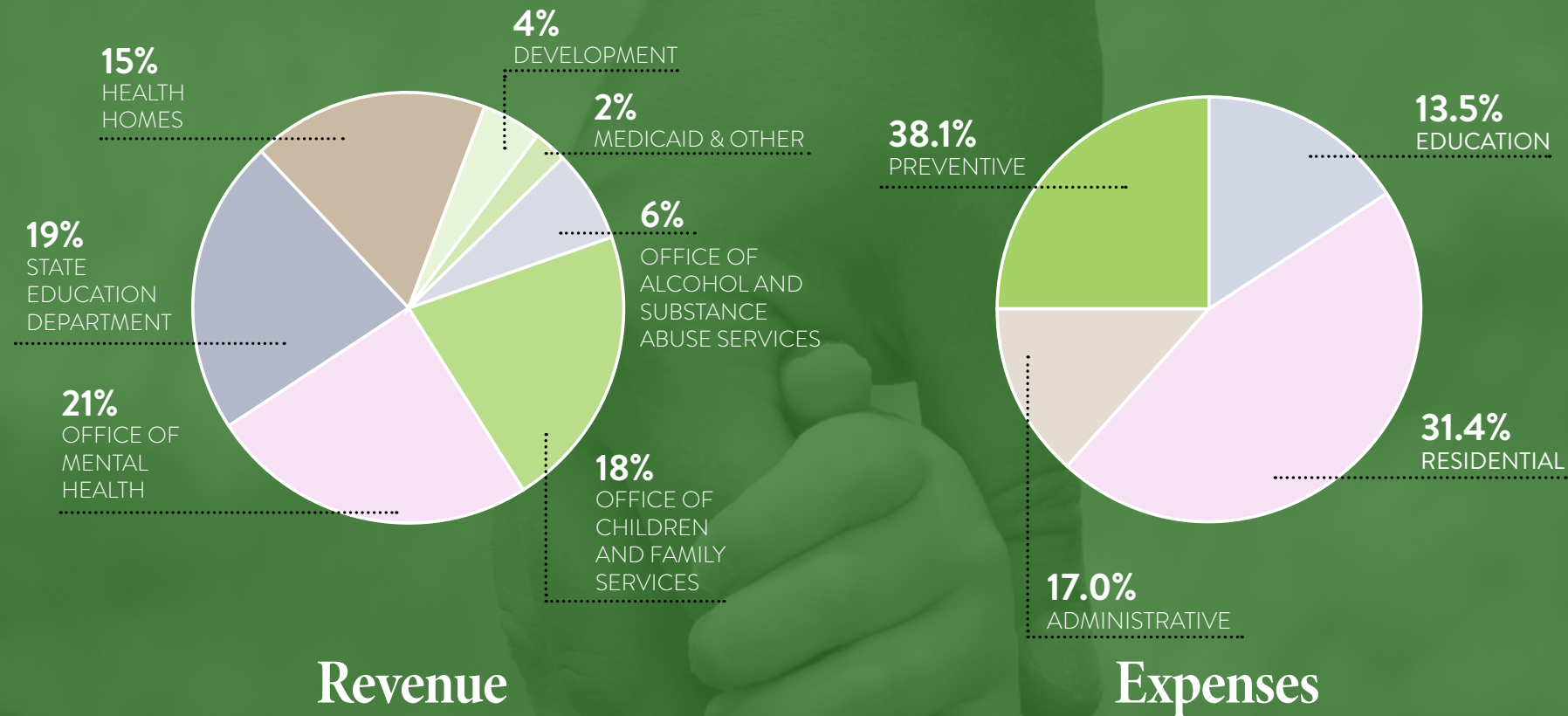
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1. Federal PPP/ERC dollars are not included
2. Based on financial statements provided for the audit (in progress)

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