

2020 Annual Report

A YEAR OF PERSEVERANCE AND PATIENCE





WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR MISSION IS RADICAL HOSPITALITY, BUT A GLOBAL PANDEMIC FORCES YOU TO CLOSE YOUR DOORS?

As it turns out, quite a lot.

Family Reconciliation Center's mission is to connect families with their loved ones in prison—to provide a free place to stay for the moms, dads, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends who come to Nashville for prison visitation.

When the pandemic halted visitation, we took stock of what needed to be done, and realized that the quiet at the guest house had created an ideal time to make much-needed improvements across the property.

IMPACT NASHVILLE

Thanks to a generous grant we received from Impact Nashville, we were able to complete some important projects, like **shoring**

up our foundation, replacing our roof, painting, fixing and replacing our windows, and improving our property's drainage.

Impact Nashville is a women's philanthropy group that granted us \$25,500 to make these improvements, and our **board member Mike Hudson**, a retired contractor, did a stellar job managing all of these improvement projects.

We also had the privilege of partnering with **Eagle Scout Nissa Berle** and her team from **Crew 87** on the drainage improvements, a project that goes a long way toward protecting our property for years to come. We're grateful to them.

APART, BUT STILL COMMUNITY

At the beginning of 2020, we were expecting a record year for visitors. From January to March of 2020, the number of room nights booked was up 64% over the same period a year earlier. The pandemic changed all of that, but even though we were apart, we worked to maintain community.

We kept in contact with our regular clients through phone calls, cards, and letters. **We want them to know we miss them, and we cannot wait to welcome them back as soon as prison visitation resumes.** Impact Nashville played a role in that, also: part of their grant funded an outreach campaign to our families and their loved ones.

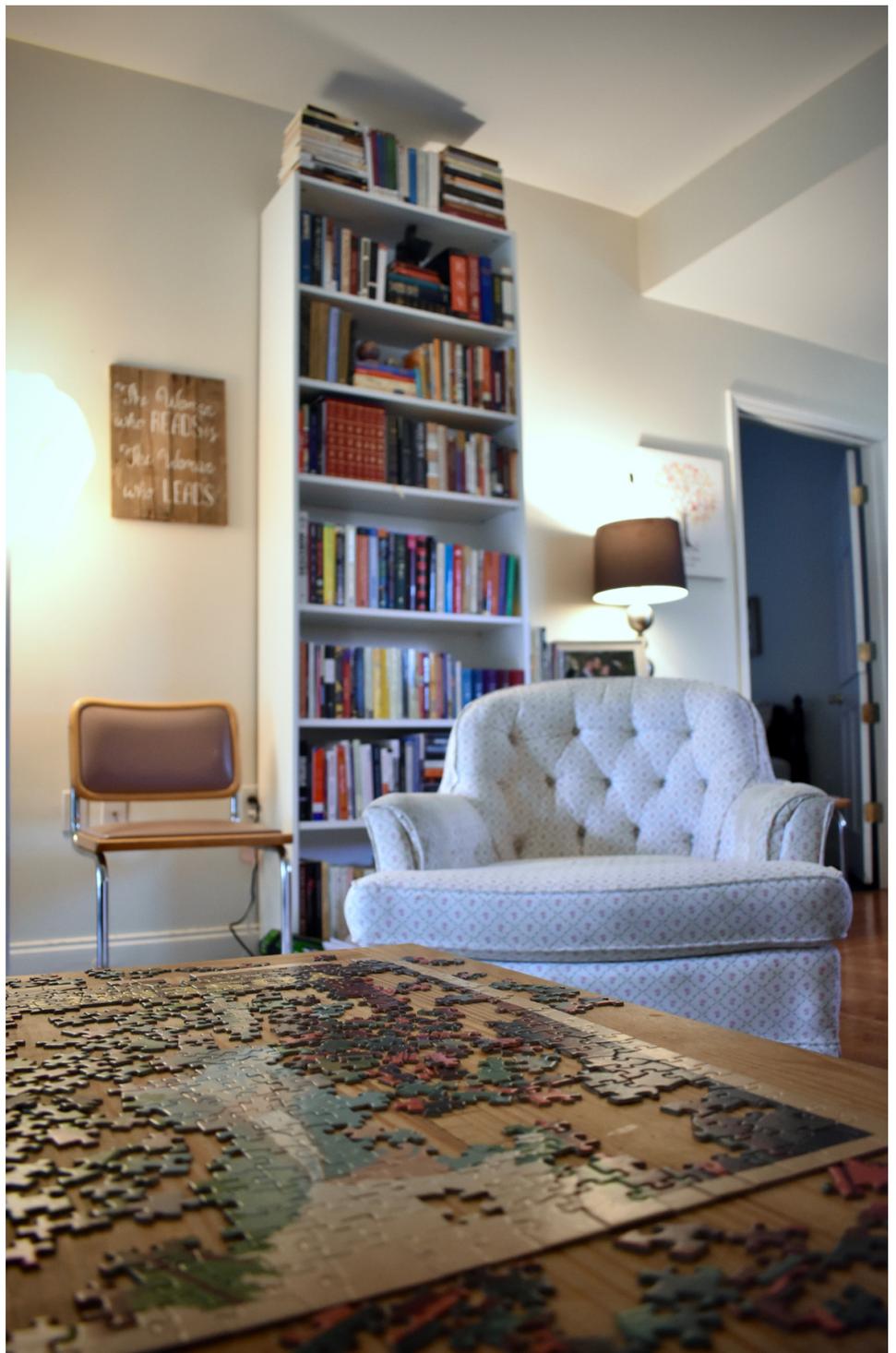
Even though most guest rooms were empty in 2020, we hosted several families in our guest cottage, which is offset in our backyard. These visitors came to pick up family members who were paroled, so we shared in their celebration, albeit from afar.

One of these guests was a long-time client of Family Reconciliation, so the good-bye was bittersweet. "It is extremely disheartening to have a loved one incarcerated," she wrote in a recent letter. "Family Reconciliation surrounds those families with love, encouragement, and hospitality."

"I often looked forward to conversing with the house managers and surrounding myself with other families similar to my situation. It allowed me to know I was not alone on this exhausting journey."

A VILLAGE OF SUPPORT

Thanks to the leadership of our committed board of directors, and the generosity of our incredible donors, we ended 2020 in a strong financial position. **Faith-based**



giving was up 20 percent and individual giving was up 30 percent from 2019 to 2020. View our full financial reports at <https://givingmatters.civcore.com/familyreconciliation>.

It also takes a village of volunteers to keep the Family Reconciliation Center running. Most are waiting patiently for the day when operations resume so that they, too, can get back to the community. "I miss sharing meals

and conversations with the guests, and very much hope to return to doing that," says Barbara Ball, who prepares and serves Saturday night dinner once a month. "I hope that families will soon be able to see their loved ones again."

We are all eager to welcome back old friends and meet new families. When that day comes, we'll be ready to greet them with open arms and all the comforts of home.