



TALBOT INTERFAITH SHELTER

More Than a Shelter...

SHELTER ■ STABILITY ■ SUPPORT ■ SUCCESS

2024 - 2025 *Annual Report*

Talbot Interfaith Shelter is dedicated to fighting homelessness on the Mid-Shore of Maryland by providing Shelter, Stability, Support, and a path to Success for local families and individuals in need.

A message from our Executive Director...

To our wonderful TIS supporters,

This year has been a whirlwind of activity at Talbot Interfaith Shelter. We have experienced both triumphs and challenges, but through it all, your support has inspired us to forge ahead in our mission to help our neighbors overcome homelessness.

The lack of affordable housing coupled with an ongoing cost of living increase have resulted in a worsening of the homelessness crisis in our Mid-Shore community. Seeing so many of our neighbors in need of our assistance is incredibly *heartbreaking*. At the same time, watching the way you and your fellow members of Team TIS continually step up to make sure they have the resources they need to get back on their feet is amazingly *heartwarming*.

With your help, we were able to grow our Transitional Housing Program to include 18 apartments this year. These apartments are crucial for giving those of our guests who need additional time and support the best chance at building lasting self-sufficiency.

This Spring, thanks to your overwhelming support, our 9th annual Lip Sync Battle was our most successful fundraiser to date, raising nearly 10% of our annual operating budget! We already can't wait for LSB 10 in April of 2026!

Over the winter, we purchased a property on Vine Street in Easton. The space currently houses our Development and Maintenance Departments, and hosts many of our life skills classes and meetings. However, as you will read about later on in this report, this property may be the key to the next phase of our TIS-story, allowing us to expand once again to help even more families and individuals in need.

Read on to learn more about what you made possible during our 2024-2025 fiscal year, and the incredible impact you have made on our community!

With warmest thanks,



Julie Lowe, Executive Director



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2024 - 2025

Peter Woicke
BOARD CHAIR

Ross Benincasa
VICE CHAIR

Lawrence Nevaizer
TREASURER

Ben Jenson
SECRETARY

Jim Reed
Ann Davis

Meghann Rauch
Debra Kamsheh

Michele Dappert
Rudy Reyes-Delcid
Charlene DeShields
Craig Postlewait
Sharon VanEmburch



KEY STAFF 2024 - 2025

Julie Lowe
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lisa Niles
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Laura Richeson
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING

DeWayne Camper
CASE MANAGER

Kirstie Kingston
CASE MANAGER

What You Made Possible This Year..

THE NEIGHBORS YOU HELPED

82	TOTAL GUESTS IN THE S4 PROGRAM
24	SINGLE MEN AND WOMEN
27	PARENTS OF MINOR CHILDREN
31	CHILDREN
NEWBORN	YOUNGEST GUEST
72	OLDEST GUEST



GUEST SUCCESSES!



- 1** **FAMILY GRADUATED FROM
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING**
- 1** **SINGLE INDIVIDUAL GRADUATED
FROM TRANSITIONAL HOUSING**
- 8** **GRADUATED FROM SHELTERS
TO THEIR OWN HOUSING**
- 7** **MOVED FROM SHELTERS TO
TIS TRANSITIONAL HOUSING**

- 27** **SECURED EMPLOYMENT**
- 41** **ENROLLED IN HEALTH,
DENTAL, & MENTAL HEALTH**
- 2** **ENROLLED IN SOCIAL
SECURITY BENEFITS**
- 3** **PURCHASED
TRANSPORTATION**



THE S4 PROGRAM

S4 (Shelter, Stability, Support, Success) is an innovative, long term, comprehensive program designed to guide guests step-by-step from homelessness to self-sufficiency. This is accomplished by providing safe shelter, rigorous case management, life skills training, connection to necessary services, and transitional housing.

Case managers work closely with guests and partner with local service providers to help them with:

- **OBTAINING LOST DOCUMENTATION**
- **SECURING EMPLOYMENT**
- **MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT**
- **FOOD STAMPS**
- **TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE**
- **RENTAL AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE**
- **CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS**
- **SSI DISABILITY APPLICATIONS**
- **RECORD EXPUNGEMENT**
- **....AND MUCH MORE!**



CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

LIFE SKILLS TRAINING HELPS ENSURE SUCCESS!

Guests are required to participate in a variety of life skills programs, including:

GETTING AHEAD IN A JUST GETTIN' BY WORLD

Understanding poverty, utilizing resources to lift out of poverty, and maintaining independence.

CHARACTER COUNTS FOR ADULTS

A deep dive into the 6 Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

TIS CORE VALUES

Created by a TIS Case Manager. Addresses basic life skills and the challenges guests face during their time in the S4 Program.

MONEY MANAGEMENT

A 2-part Money Fundamentals Course, plus Financial Literacy with local bank partners.

ANGER MANAGEMENT

JOB READINESS

UNTANGLING RELATIONSHIPS

PARENTING WORKSHOP

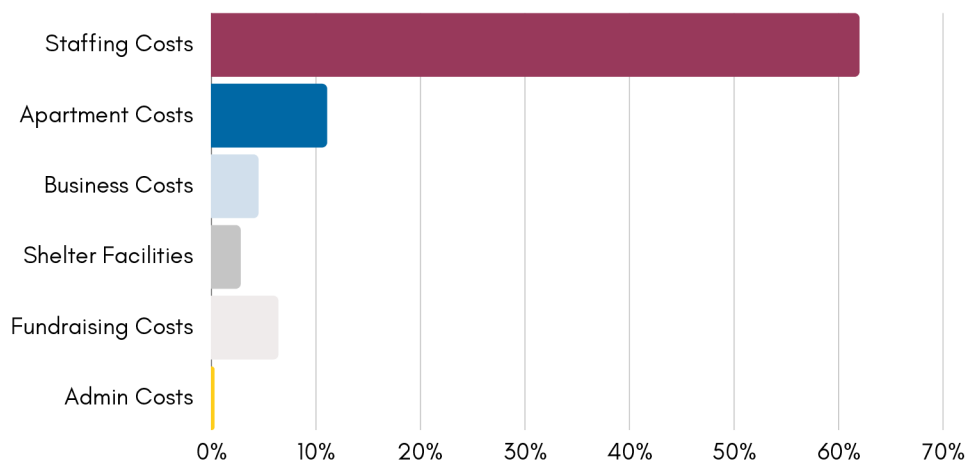
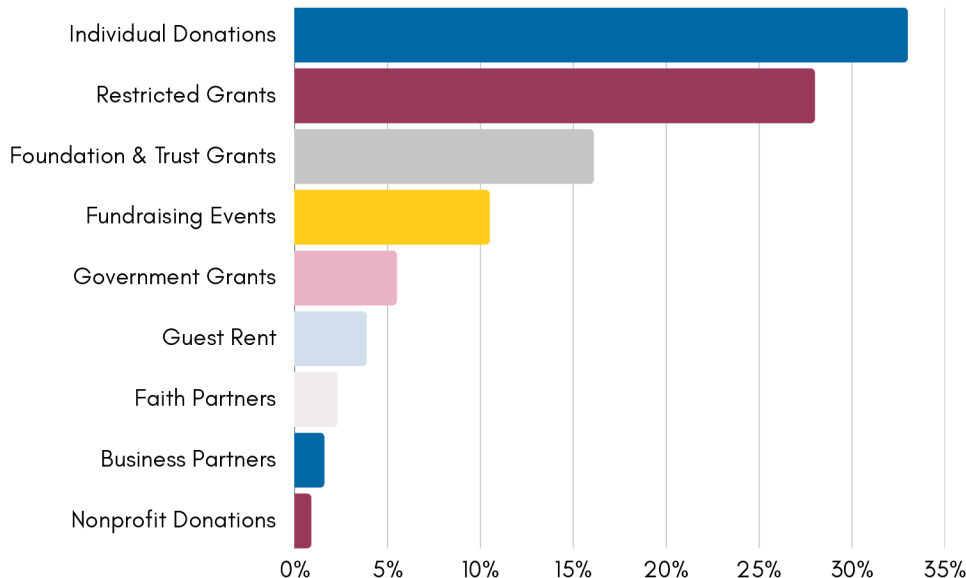
MENTAL HEALTH 101

STAYING QUIT



TOTAL INCOME

\$1,402,387



TOTAL EXPENSE

\$1,338,597

THE 5TH “S” - SUSTAINABILITY

In January of 2009, we opened as a cold weather shelter, serving up to 5 guests at one time as we transported cots and supplies between faith communities. Thanks to your unwavering generosity and compassion, we now have 2 shelter homes and 18 off-site transitional apartments, allowing us to house more than 60 neighbors at once, from newborn to senior citizen. Each of these guests is working hard in our S4 Program, with case managers guiding them step-by-step from homeless to self-sufficiency. We have been growing steadily since the opening of our first permanent shelter home, Easton's Promise. Of course, with this continued, necessary growth comes a corresponding increase in our operating budget.

In the 2025-2026 fiscal year, we anticipate that our budget will reach \$1.6 million.

We have come so far in the past 16 years, and yet we still have so far to go. A 2025 point-in-time survey uncovered that homelessness in the Mid-Shore region has increased by 50% since 2024. With your support, we continue to expand and look for ways to help our neighbors back on their feet.

As the only shelter in Talbot County, one of only a handful of Mid-Shore shelters that operates year-round, and one of only 3 that serves families with children, our community needs us. And we need our community just as much. As you can see from the income chart above, we rely on the generosity of local individuals, foundations, businesses, and faith communities to keep us largely independent of the uncertainties and restrictions that come with government funding. There are many ways in which TIS supporters can help us sustain our mission well into the future. Our goal for the next fiscal year is to grow our recurring giving program, which provides predictable, steady income to ensure uninterrupted services for our guests. In addition, we encourage TIS supporters to consider contributing to our quasi-endowment or speak with their attorneys about adding TIS to their estate plans.

Your Support Changes Lives...

If you attended our 2025 Lip Sync Battle fundraiser, you may have heard the story of Israel, a recent S4 Program graduate. Israel is a prime example of what can happen when a guest fully embraces the S4 Program and all of the resources TIS has to offer. He started out at Evelyn's place, working hard from the very start. For example, while he came into the program with employment, he took job readiness training anyway so that he could learn new skills and improve.

After approximately one year, Israel moved into our transitional housing program, and continued working just as hard to get ahead. In June, he graduated and moved to Severn, Maryland.

Israel will be living close to his mother, who has health issues, and attending trade school to be a mechanic. We are so proud of this young man and all he achieved during his time at TIS. Scan the QR Code to hear from Israel, in his own words, how you changed his life for the better.



ISRAEL, PROGRAM GRADUATE



TIFFANY, MOTHER

"My stay at the shelter has been remarkable. It was a comfortable and safe space where my child and I were able to flourish. It's impossible not to be successful with the help of TIS. Anyone who doesn't succeed simply wasn't ready to make real change in their lives. The program works if you work it!"

"The stability a roof and meal brings is unmatched. This program gave me peace of mind, direction, and encouragement when I was unable to show up for my child and myself. I was able to gather my thoughts, work on my mental, physical, and emotional health until I was again capable of making a life for my family."

"I would like to say Thank You for helping me find myself again and set my life back on track for myself and my child."

-TIFFANY, EASTON'S PROMISE GUEST, IN HER OWN WORDS

MORE FROM OUR GUESTS ON HOW YOUR SUPPORT CHANGED THEIR LIVES

"TIS has given me a home, a schedule, a powerful and positive mindset, a higher level of motivation, and a different perspective to life." - **JAMIE, EVELYN'S PLACE GUEST**

"This program has helped me decompress from trauma and has helped me grow independently. I am beyond grateful for [the donors'] consideration... I have had happier days because of their generosity." - **MARY, A NEW MOTHER IN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING**

"I want to thank you for taking a chance on me and my daughter - for not only providing us with resources, but for seeing us as people who matter... Thank you for supporting me, not just out of duty, but out of choice. That alone has meant everything. Thank you for helping me with becoming." - **JASMINE, A MOTHER IN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING**



TONY, SENIOR GUEST

Lip Sync Battle 2025

Our 9th annual Lip Sync Battle took place on Saturday, April 26, 2025 at the Waterfowl Building in Easton. LSB 2025 was another record-breaking event, thanks to our planning team, performers, sponsors, volunteers, and donors. The love and positive energy in the room were palpable as hundreds of our neighbors joined us in person, hundreds more watched online, and the wonderful folks at Eastern Shore Brewing hosted a fabulous Watch Party for us! The teams in both our Live and Video Competitions all gave incredible performances, wowing the audience and judges alike. When all was said and done, we raised

\$126,000+

in support of our mission! Special thanks go out to our Presenting Sponsor, Jim Vanderzon of Sun Management Rising Technologies, for his inspiring speech and 11th hour match challenge that helped spur us on to victory! This year's winners were:

Best Live Performance:

Live Teams Most Money Raised:

Best Video Performance:

Video Most Money Raised:

Black Wizard

Black Wizard

Father Nash

Team TIS



BIG HAIR HEARTS 80's NIGHT!



It was a totally tubular night when TIS supporters gathered to dance through the decades at our Big Hair, Big Hearts 80's Party on November 23, 2024 at the Elks Club in Easton. All the dude and dudettes danced the night away to the bodacious sounds of Not Enough Credit, featuring our Maintenance Director, Will! Attendees enjoyed games, an auction, photo booth fun, and so much more. Altogether, the evening raised more than \$13,000... Totally rad!

We are incredibly fortunate to partner with many local businesses and organizations, who host events on our behalf. Some of the wonderful events held during our 2024-2025 fiscal year include:

FATHER NASH GUEST BARTENDING AT DOC'S SUNSET GRILL

DOC'S & LEGAL ASSETS NOVEMBER COMMUNITY DAYS

SIP & SUPPORT AT WINDON DISTILLING

PIT BEEF FUNDRAISERS WITH JAMIE PETRIDES

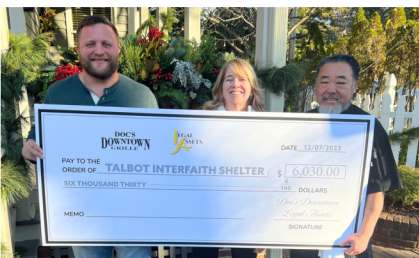
CASEY FAMILY SOCK DRIVE

COUNTRY SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE & COIN WAR

SUPPLY & DONATION COLLECTIONS AT BUSINESSES

THROUGHOUT TALBOT COUNTY

COMMUNITY HOSTED EVENTS



Three Cheers for Team TIS!

"Team TIS" is the name we have given to the thousands of incredible volunteers, donors, and supporters who wrap their arms around our neighbors in need and help lift them up out of poverty and homelessness. Our mission is not possible without every single member of Team TIS. Whether you give of your time, talent, treasure, or TLC, you help change lives every single day.



TIS has the best volunteers around. Some have even been with us since our very first day in January of 2009! Hundreds of volunteers annually perform a variety of tasks that help keep our operations running smoothly. Whether housesitting, providing daily dinners for our shelter guests, helping with events, moving furniture, or many other important activities, we are so grateful to each and every member of our volunteer corps!

Other members of Team TIS help provide the funds we need to help our neighbors back on their feet. Many make personal financial donations or help raise money in support of our mission by hosting a fundraiser or participating in our annual Lip Sync Battle event. Others help us save thousands of dollars each year by providing much-needed household supplies, adopting our families for Christmas, purchasing school supplies for our children, or donating furnishings and other important items for our transitional apartments.



BUSINESS & SERVICE PARTNERS

We are incredibly fortunate to work with many wonderful local businesses and community partners who help us fulfill our mission each year. Meet this year's featured partners!

FEATURED SERVICE PARTNERS

Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center – Assisted with a Guatemalan family in the S4 Program.

Neighborhood Service Center – Provides rental assistance for the guests in our Transitional Housing.

Fello. (formerly The Arc/Chesapeake Neighbors) – Partners with us on Transitional Housing opportunities.

FEATURED BUSINESS PARTNERS



THE FUTURE OF TIS: VINE STREET



In the Winter of 2024, we purchased a property on Vine Street in Easton. The existing building currently houses our Development and Maintenance Departments, much of our furniture and supply storage, and our conference room. Guests now attend life skills classes in this space, and we look forward to hosting offerings such as yoga, meditation, and art therapy to help our guests cope with their trauma.

The property at Vine Street also offers a host of possibilities that may allow us to further expand our services so that we can continue growing to assist even more of our most vulnerable neighbors. This potential additional growth has also spurred us to focus much more on the sustainability of our mission.

We need the continued support of our community to ensure that local families and individuals have access to the Shelter, Stability, and Support they need to achieve lasting Success!



LEAVING A LEGACY: JIM AND CINDY REED

Jim and Cindy Reed have been TIS supporters since 2018. Our mission spoke to their hearts, and it brought them great joy to know that they were able to help our neighbors get back on their feet. Both Jim and Cindy have gone far beyond donating, becoming fervent ambassadors for our mission. Jim's energy and passion for TIS led to his joining our Board of Directors in 2024.

Now, the Reeds have chosen to take their support to another level by making Talbot Interfaith Shelter part of their estate plans. A planned gift leaves a legacy that changes lives for many years to come. This process can be as simple as adding TIS to your will, or making us a beneficiary of your IRA or annuity.

Thank you to the Reeds, and to all of our supporters who have chosen to help ensure the sustainability of our program through a planned gift. Scan the QR Code below to learn more about Legacy Giving.

"WE'RE IMMENSELY PROUD OF OUR ASSOCIATION WITH TALBOT INTERFAITH SHELTER, AND ARE COMMITTED TO USHERING IT INTO ITS BRIGHT AND VIBRANT FUTURE AS BEST WE CAN."

- Jim and Cindy Reed



When we were awarded a permit to open our first permanent shelter at Easton's Promise, we made a vow to our community that TIS would provide a safe and stable environment for our guests, and that they would have access to the time, knowledge, resources, and tools they need to achieve lasting self-sufficiency. **The TIS Promise Keepers were established to help fulfill that important promise.**

Promise Keepers are those donors at every giving level who choose to establish monthly or quarterly recurring donations in support of our mission. When individuals and families face homelessness, they need more than just a temporary solution, they need stability, guidance, and the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

Monthly donations provide the steady foundation that allows us to offer comprehensive support, including safe housing, nutritious meals, case management, life skills training, and job readiness programs. Unlike one-time gifts, monthly contributions give us the ability to plan ahead, ensuring that essential services are always available for those who need them. Knowing we have reliable funding allows us to focus on long-term solutions rather than short-term fixes.

We are so very grateful to our Promise Keepers for helping us not only keep our vow to our community, but to continuously expand our programming to help as many neighbors as we possibly can to overcome homelessness and get back on their feet!



SEDLACK SOCIETY



The Sedlack Society was launched in 2022 to celebrate those extraordinary Talbot Interfaith Shelter donors who generously give \$1,000 or more annually in support of our mission to provide Shelter, Stability, Support, and a path to Success for local families and individuals in need. The Society was named in honor of our Founder, Evelyn Sedlack, whose tenacity and compassion were the driving forces behind the formation and early history of Talbot Interfaith Shelter. Evelyn served as an inspiration to subsequent TIS leaders, who took up her mantle and made her vision a reality, with the support of our generous donors.

On December 5th, we hosted our annual Sedlack Society Celebration. The venue and delicious food were donated by the Tidewater Inn. Attendees enjoyed a fabulous performance by the Allegro! Trio and photo booth fun courtesy of Foto Berry. Staff and leadership then shared a special update on what the Sedlack Society members help make possible for the families and individuals we serve.

Thank you to each and every member of our Sedlack Society. You are instrumental in our continued growth, making it possible for our neighbors to get the help they need to achieve Success!

THANK YOU SEDLACK SOCIETY MEMBERS!



SEDLACK SOCIETY

Akridge Family Foundation
Gloria Paul and Bob Atlas
The Baxter Family
John and Bonnie Bidwell
Chelsea and Ross Benincasa
Mr. Davis Bobrow and Ms. Gail Benjamin
The Reverend Sue and Mr. Bill Browning
Ms. Alex Burleson
The Burleson Family Charitable Fund
Christ Church Easton
Christ Church St. Michaels
Church of the Holy Trinity
Dalton Family Foundation
Ann and Jack Davis
Madge Henning and Warren Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Denton
Mr. and Mrs. James Devine
Mark and Elyse Devries
Doc's Downtown Grille, LLC
Doc's Sunset Grille
Joni and Wally Doolin
Richard and Barbara Doughty
Chris and Jeff Dresher
Brenda Early
Easton Church of the Brethren
Chris and Mike Ference
Clayton and Patty Fisher
Dr. Michael and Karen Fisher
Patricia A. Flynn
Frank and Shirley Foster
Belinda Frankel and Karl Begley
Dr. Paul Gilmore and Dr. Lynne Fahey McGrath
William and Carol Gordean
Judy and Mark Gross
Mr. Joseph Guerra and Ms. Patricia Burda
Guilford & Company
John and Nancy Hargrove

Jack and Judy Harrauld
Steve and Gigi Hershey
Cathy and Tom Hill
Ann Holladay
Ben and Tiffany Jensen
Emilie and Maulik Joshi
Kay Family Foundation
Laurie and Brendan Keegan
The Michael and Nancy Klein Foundation
Judy Knight
Debbie and Thomas Lawrence
Legal Assets
Mariana and Pete Leshner
Simma and Ron Liebman
Trish and John Malin
Richard Marks and Amy Haines
Pamela and Jim McCloud
Margo and Mike McConnel
Kathleen McDermott
Dana McGrath
Russ McNair and Rex Wright
Alison Merow
Mid Shore Community Foundation
Debbie and Gary Molchan
Peggy and Larry Neviassar
O'Shaughnessy Family Charitable Fund
Chloe L. Pitard
Paul Popick and Joan Muzzillo
Debbie and Mike Potter
Putnam Family Foundation
Julie and Bill Quick
Drs. Margaret Quimby and Charles McDonald
Susan C. Rabenhorst
Stanley Reed and Richard Lynch
Jim and Cindy Reed
Harriett Riter
Ken and Pat Rogers

Monica Roll
William F. Ryan and Dr. Joan T. Richtsmeier
St. Marks United Methodist Church
Rev. Nancy Sajda
Mary Ann Schindler
Schulman Foundation
Sheila and Jim Scott
Evelyn S. Sedlack
Edward Simonoff
W. Rembert Simpson
Lindsley Smilth
Susan and Howard Snyder
Motoko Aizawa and Mark Sommers
Sun Management Rising Technologies
Sun Communities Operating LP
Sherry R. Sutton, Ed. D
Talbot Alice Emergency Fund
The Eysymontt Family Fund
The Lyric Foundation
The Meoli Companies
The Van Strum Foundation
The Watson Stone Family Foundation
The Weinberg Family Charitable Fund
Stephen M. Wolf
Norma and John Trax
Truist Foundation
The F. Stanley & Mary Ridgeway
Charitable Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Van Fossan Jr.
VFW E.E. Streets Memorial Post #5118
Rich Watts
Frances and Barry Wildstein
Linda and Mike Wilt
Hanna and Peter Woicke
Women & Girls Fund of the Mid-Shore
Holly and Charlie Yokum
Louisa and Harvey Zendt

THANK YOU FEATURED EVENT SPONSORS!



EWING, DIETZ,
FOUNTAIN & KALUDIS, P.A.



Rising Technologies



WILLOW
CONSTRUCTION
INTEGRITY, QUALITY & SERVICE





For more information about our mission and
how you can help our neighbors in need, visit:

TALBOTINTERFAITHSHELTER.ORG

or contact:

LAURA RICHESON

Director of Development & Marketing

443-786-6962

lauraricheson@talbotinterfaithshelter.org



TALBOT INTERFAITH SHELTER

More Than a Shelter...

SHELTER ■ STABILITY ■ SUPPORT ■ SUCCESS

TIS
Talbot Interfaith Shelter
Shelter • Stability • Support • Success
www.talbotinterfaithshelter.org