



TAKE A SIP AND LET'S SOAR

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

A note from our Executive Director,

Well, we made it! I think we all collectively held our breaths waiting for 2021 to arrive. While it's easy for all of us to discount 2020 as a lost year, we're thankful it gave us new partnerships, opportunities, and chances to adapt. Like all businesses, we put our plans on hold in March as COVID-19 swept the nation. What started as one week of closures stretched into long months and an uncertain future.

However, as unemployment soared and limited youth access to jobs and subsequently stable housing, we knew it wasn't the time to slow down. We focused on our online store and entered into two critical partnerships that altered Wildflyer Coffee's future. We feel grateful that when it would have been easy and understandable to look inward, community-minded businesses opened their arms and welcomed us in. It is due to their generosity that Wildflyer enjoyed the success it did.

And we did succeed. **Despite the hardships, there were also triumphs.** Thanks to our partnership with Butter Bakery, we doubled the number of youth employed in 2019. Of course, the most notable success we experienced in 2020 was opening our first coffee shop. We will now be able to triple the number of youth employed, help them cultivate personal and professional skills to prepare them for housing and steady employment, and break the cycle of homelessness for good.

We want to take a moment to celebrate not just this good news but also those who got us here. No one accomplishes anything alone, and this was nothing if not a massive group effort. We are so thankful for the support we have received, and more importantly, for what it means for our young people. This year, 20-25 youth will receive critical life and job training that will prepare them for steady employment and the opportunity to leave homelessness and soar.

With gratitude,



Carley Kammerer, LSW

Executive Director



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

3 . . . Our Program

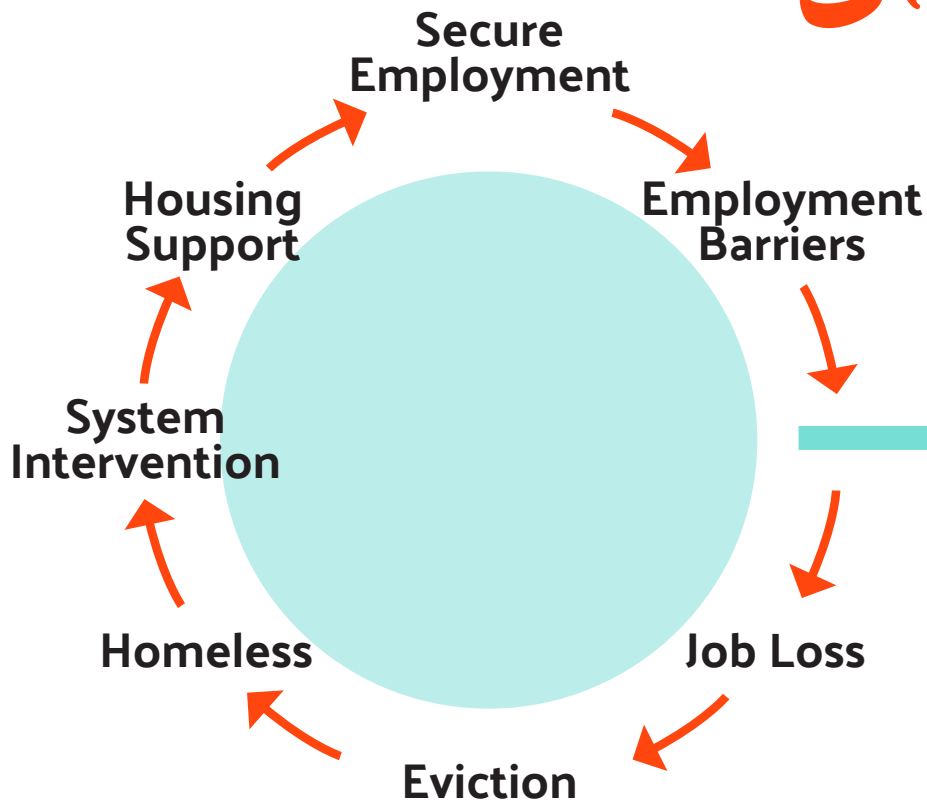
4 . . . 2020 Recap

10 . . Financials

11 . . Donors

OUR

Program



WILDFLYER PROGRAM

- 1 6-Months Paid Employment
- 2 Life Skills Cultivation
- 3 Mental Health Support
- 4 Professional Development
- 5 Career Readiness Coaching
- 6 Next Steps Planning

- Housing Stability
- Long-term Employment
- Career Growth

Watch them soar

PIPELINE TO

Employment

We planned to sign a lease when COVID-19 hit, changing the business landscape. Despite the uncertainty of the future, we felt compelled to press forward in our mission. We reached out to one of our earliest supporters—the owner of Butter Bakery, Dan, and made the bold ask that they let us employ our youth through their coffee shop. Dan, who has always used his café for good enthusiastically, said yes! We have since found our own home but continue to build our relationship with Butter. **In fact, they hired Lucy, one of our graduates, and became the first partner of our new Phase II Program.**

When Lucy was eleven, her dad died and her mom, struggling with drug and alcohol dependency, abandoned her the next day. She lived alone in her family’s home for six months, surviving off the food she’d get at friends’ houses. Eventually, when someone noticed and reported the situation, Lucy was placed in foster care but found it better to couch hop, which she did until she was eighteen. The instability made it difficult to keep up with high school and stick to a regular schedule. She mostly showed up for lunch just to eat something until she was suspended and eventually dropped out altogether.

Since then, Lucy has made her own family and found a sense of stability, enough to re-enroll in high school and start saving for her own apartment. Lucy works hard, and her work ethic won out in the end. She graduated from our program and was hired by our partner, Butter Bakery, a transition she reported as a supportive and positive experience.

What’s next for Lucy? She’s not sure, but one thing she does know is that for the first time in a long time, she is **“excited for the future, for new possibilities.”**



THE *Shop*

The most exciting part of 2020 was opening our first coffee shop! After a tumultuous year with many unknowns, we found our forever home at the former Peace Coffee shop located at 3262 Minnehaha Ave. The chance to grow our mission immediately while benefiting from Peace's coffee knowledge, general operating support, and loyal customer base felt too good to be true. We couldn't think of a better place and partner to kick off this next chapter of Wildflyer's future.

We can now employ 20-25 youth each year, giving them the critical personal and professional skills needed to leave homelessness for good. The shop also increases our earned-income, providing a solid foundation for expansion and more employment opportunities. This shop represents just the start of Wildflyer, and we, like our youth, have a bright future ahead of us

We are honored to partner with Wildflyer to give the business a stable home and to help it pursue its mission of employing homeless youth—especially as homelessness in this very vulnerable population continues to rise during the pandemic.

- Lee Wallace, CEO of Peace Coffee



Homelessness for Val started at age 18 and continued off and on over the last five years. She says her anger management issues were what led to her being kicked out of her home. After she was forced to leave home, Val spent time in multiple states, but it was when Val was living in downtown Minneapolis that she wrote her poem, "City Lights."

Inspired by the city's unrelenting fluorescent and chaotic glow, no matter where Val tried to sleep, she couldn't escape them. "We didn't have tents, so we'd sleep downtown wherever we could find a place, and we'd get whatever sleep we could before the cops would tell us to move on. If we were lucky, we could take cover in an abandoned building, but most often I'd wake up on city benches or at the metro transit area where we'd always have the city lights beaming down on us. Everywhere we went, there they were."

But now things are looking up for Val. She's been employed with Wildflyer Coffee for several months, and has secured safe, stable housing.

And how does she feel about those city lights now? "When I'm walking downtown, I don't hate them. I'm grateful that I don't have to worry about the glare of the city lights anymore."

City Lights

Sitting at the bus stop
 Shivering from the cold
 As I slowly drift off
 The city lights
 Shining in my eyes
 Hungry and tired
 I glare at passing strangers
 Wishing I had somewhere to go
 As a tear slips down my cheek
 Dreaming about my future
 and place to call home
 Loneliness seeps into my bones
 Like a cold finger
 Curling into my lungs makes
 it hard to breathe
 I get up and wander
 down the street
 Choking back tears
 I think about what my home
 would look like
 And things I will have
 I smile thinking about the future
 But for now the city lights
 keep me company

-Vee McKenzie



PROGRAM STAFF

Wildflyer is more than a job! We work with each youth as an individual, see their potential and help them achieve their hopes and dreams. With the shop up and running, we turn our attention towards our training program by a Program Manager this year so no youth slips between the cracks.

HOLISTIC SERVICES

Ending youth homelessness is a complex problem that requires a holistic approach. We can't do it alone, which is why we launched a partnership with MoveFwd to provide our youth with free mental health counseling to minimize another barrier to youths' success - especially in the workforce. This partnership teaches employees new skills and coping mechanisms, allowing them to find stability at work and in their personal lives. We will continue to grow our network to ensure we're connecting our youth with the services they need to be successful.

PHASE II

Wildflyer is just the start! This year our primary focus is creating a pipeline from Wildflyer to new jobs with growth potential and upward mobility. This program allows our youth to transition into mainstream employment while still receiving support from Wildflyer staff. Our success in building a Phase II relationship with Butter Bakery is an excellent example of this model, and we plan to add many more partners to our network this year.

**My motivation in life is to find laughter, love & happiness.
When you work at Wildflyer, that's what you get.**

- Laila, Wildflyer Employee



GET

Involvement



VISIT THE SHOP

We'd love to see you! Come visit at **3262 Minnehaha Ave.**



PURCHASE COFFEE

Visit wildflyercoffee.com/shop to purchase our coffee and merch!



SOAR CIRCLE

Join our team of committed supporters who make monthly gifts to Wildflyer, providing a truly sustainable base for our young people.



HIRE OUR YOUTH

Interested in hiring our graduates? Reach out to carley@wildflyercoffee.com for more information.



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ASSETS

Total Checking	\$192,882
Inventory	\$1,114
Other Current Assets	\$163
Other Non-Current Assets	\$22,073
Total Current Assets	\$194,159
TOTAL ASSETS	\$216,232

LIABILITIES

Total Current Liabilities	\$883
Total Non-Current Liabilities	\$6,200
Total Liabilities	\$7,083
Total Net Assets	\$209,149
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$216,232

REVENUE & SUPPORT

Donations	\$75,492
Capital Donations	\$115,000
Earned Income	\$62,102
Interest Income	\$858
TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	\$253,452

EXPENSES

Cost of Goods Sold	\$55,466
Payroll	\$58,470
All Other Expenses	\$35,620
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$149,556



THANK

You

Your support means the world to us and we're lucky to have you on our team.

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\$501-\$1,000

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