



# THE PATH FORWARD

The Post-Pandemic Aging Environment



*“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.”*

– Frederick Douglass

2020 was a record year for Eliza Bryant Village. We celebrated our new Elder Justice Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house and we hosted our Crystal Ball Gala, raising more than \$100,000 to support seniors in need. We right-sized our capacity in our skilled nursing facility to better meet the demands of aging adults seeking long-term care. That strategic decision will help us reduce expenses while opening opportunities for new revenue streams to help us fill the gap in funding. The Village provides more than \$1 million in charity care each year to our primarily Medicaid-eligible skilled nursing residents. Our Adult Day Care program safely reopened, after a 7-month suspension of operations, to provide enjoyment to participants and relief for their caregivers. Throughout the pandemic, our independent housing program remained at nearly full occupancy.

Such accomplishments were not achieved without challenges, setbacks, and heartache. This past year, we lost residents, program participants, family members, and friends to the coronavirus. But we did not lose hope. We came together to find ways to navigate virtual visitations, provide hot meals to housing tenants, re-open our Adult Day Care program safely, and maintain communication with you, our supporters.

Our resilience is a testament to our history. For 125 years, we remained rooted in African American culture, respecting and caring for our elders, and serving our neighbors in one of Cleveland’s most impoverished neighborhoods. Our founder, Eliza Simmons Bryant, inspired us this past year as we made tough decisions and continuously adjusted our process. Throughout, our board and staff remained focused on the seniors we serve.



*Eliza Simmons Bryant,  
Founder*

We’ve asked more from you, our supporters, than we’ve ever had to before. The results of our collaborative efforts are indisputable – we are here, we are open, we are serving older adults in need. In short, we are **too essential** to fail.

Now, we must begin to look at The Path Forward. What is next?

Our vision is to continue to honor the legacy of the Village by providing solutions to problems that older adults and their families are experiencing. Achieving this vision is possible and we know we need your support to help us along the way.

So, we encourage you to join us as we create the path forward to determine what’s next at the Village. We are better together.

Sincerely,

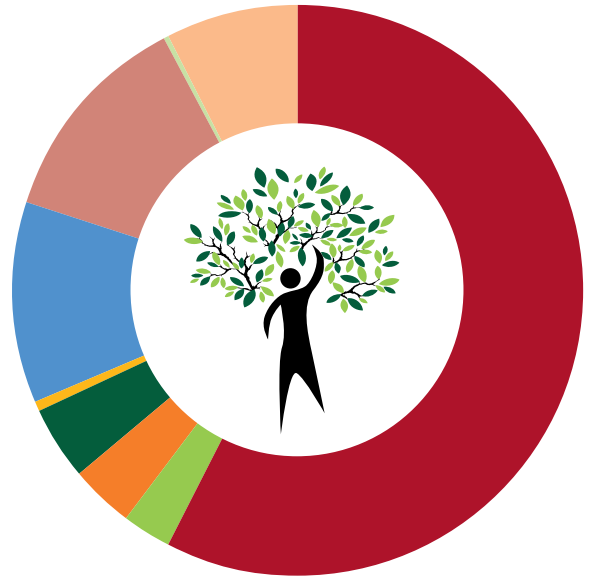
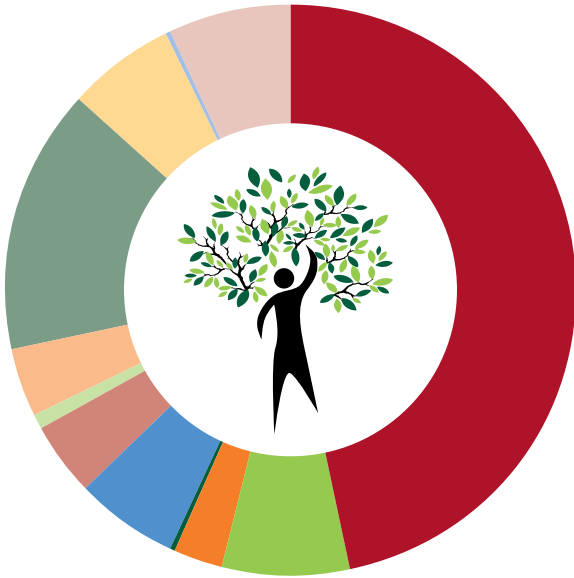


Danielle Sydnor  
Board Chair



Danny R. Williams, JD, MNO, LNHA  
President & CEO

# 2020 Consolidated Financial Information



## REVENUE

Medicaid	\$6,341,506	46.8%
Medicare	985,095	7.3%
Hospice	365,687	2.7%
Veteran Administration	36,925	0.3%
Outpatient Therapy	1,821	0.0%
Private Pay	803,488	5.9%
Private Insurance	570,797	4.2%
County Fee-For-Service	87,724	0.6%
HUD	550,982	4.1%
Government Grants (inc COVID-19 funds)	2,013,961	14.9%
Foundation Grants & Contributions	806,016	6.0%
Investment Income	36,579	0.3%
Other Income	935,491	6.9%

**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$13,536,072**

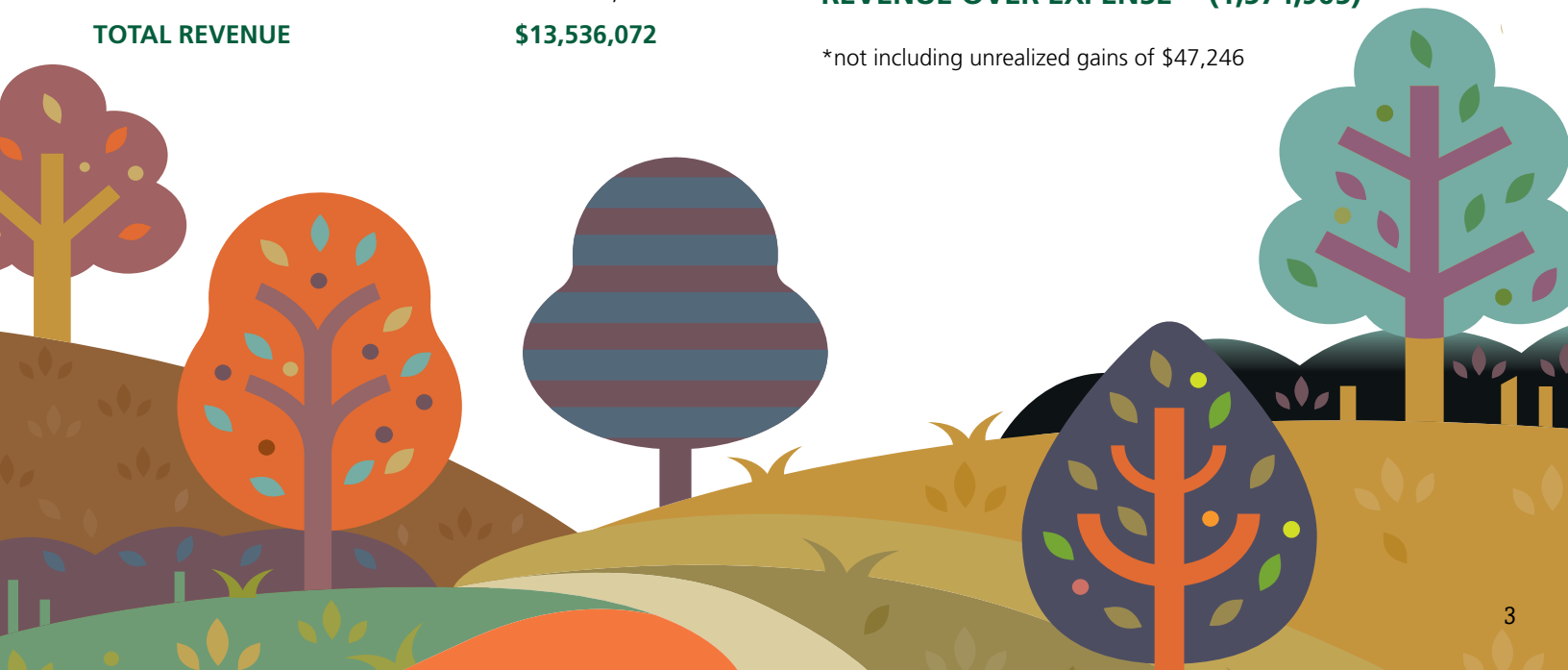
## EXPENSES

Wages & Benefits	8,720,718	57.7%
Dietary	427,241	2.8%
Therapy Expense	538,919	3.6%
Utilities	634,896	4.2%
Security	80,542	0.5%
Supplies & Indirect Expenses	1,690,559	11.2%
Occupancy Expenses	1,868,840	12.4%
Interest Expense	28,048	0.2%
Depreciation	1,121,214	7.4%

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$15,110,977**

**REVENUE OVER EXPENSE (1,574,905)**

\*not including unrealized gains of \$47,246





# Strengthening Community through Affordable Housing

During the pandemic, many have struggled with social isolation. However, tenants in our affordable housing community came together to become an even stronger support system for each other.

***"I moved here in 2009. Since I've been here at Eliza Bryant, I've gone to a lot of things: Amish Country, train rides, George Forbes camp, Landerhaven. I've gone to workshops on different topics. I have a full life – I have five grandchildren and am a first time great grandmother. My family comes to see me and I see them. I do a lot of things – I'm a go-getter and that's just who I am, but I haven't gone as many places since COVID. We would call each other, knock on each other's door, maybe take each other a snack. We do interact and call and check on each other."* – Housing Tenant**

In 2020, the Village began exploring HUD's new Rental Assistance Demonstration for Project Rental Assistance Contract (RAD for PRAC). The new RAD for PRAC program could help the Village expand to serve more seniors with quality, affordable housing through a three-phase process to renovate the three existing housing buildings that today provide housing to 149 seniors.

We offer one-bedroom apartments in three different buildings. Each building is equipped with a community room and laundry facilities, and offers a hot lunch program. Tenants have access to WIFI, an exercise room, a computer lab, and a social worker who helps navigate systems like securing a new cell phone or making an appointment with the Village's Community Transportation to take them to local appointments. When seniors come to the Village looking for housing, we provide not only a house, but a home.

***"I love it here. It has helped me a lot by being around other people. The staff is really good when I need to talk or if I am upset or I need something."* – Housing Tenant**

***"Eliza Bryant Village is a beautiful place to live. The other tenants are very friendly and the apartments are well maintained. It has allowed me to work on myself and afforded me the opportunity to find gainful employment. I also get to work more closely with my church members at the church I attend."* – Housing Tenant**





*The Elder Justice Center hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony in March*



*Village staff celebrated the Elder Justice Center at the Crystal Ball Gala*



*Adult Day Care participant displays her creation from Art Therapy*



*Participant enjoys getting back to Adult Day Care safely*



*Skilled nursing resident enjoys receiving hand-made cards from the community*



*The atrium provides socialization in The Lodge independent housing complex*



*The Manor provides affordable housing for seniors*



*Staff assist seniors into our Community Transportation Program buses*



*Adult Day Care participant enjoys the programs*



*Skilled nursing resident celebrates Valentine's Day*

# Donor Honor Roll

## Thank You!

With your continued support, Eliza Bryant Village will remain a premier provider of outstanding healthcare, programs, and services along the continuum of care.

*The Development Department has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the donor honor roll. Please let us know of any errors or omissions by calling (216) 361-6141, ext. 880.*

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 Victims of Crime Advocacy Agency

# Decreasing Nursing Home Size to Increase Possibilities

As the oldest operating African American-founded long term care facility in the United States, we remain committed to serving some of the most vulnerable members of our community. However, changing preferences have required that we adapt.

In 1858, Eliza Bryant came to Cleveland, Ohio with her mother and brother and they became known for providing poor Black folks with food, shelter, clothing, and guidance. Several decades later, Eliza, concerned that African Americans were not permitted in nursing homes, began working in the community on behalf of the elderly. She opened her home to provide care before opening a new 19-bed facility in 1914, followed by a move to a larger facility with the ability to care for 47 seniors. In 1999, the nursing home expanded to 100 beds. In 2003, the Village's skilled nursing facility expanded from 100 beds to 175 beds after acquiring the former Madonna Hall Nursing Home.

**Nursing home occupancy rates have since dipped to historically low levels, with some as low as 56%, according to SkilledNursingNews.com. The American Health Care Association and the National Center for Assisted Living reported in 2021 two-thirds of nursing home providers stated they won't make it another year under current conditions and that 65% of nursing homes are operating at a loss.**

In response, the Village Board and staff leadership made a challenging decision during 2020 to sell and retire a total of 58 beds, leaving us with a 100-bed capacity. This reduction will result in significant annual savings in both fees and expenses. We plan to repurpose this space to create opportunities for responsive, revenue-generating programming to bring valuable services to residents and elders in our community.

COVID-19 has put immense strain on frontline workers and healthcare organizations like long-term care facilities. But for seniors like Mr. Brown, Eliza Bryant Village remained the safe, supporting environment he needed throughout the pandemic. Mr. Brown, a long-term care resident at the Village, recovered from COVID-19 with the care of Village staff and is grateful to the Village.

*Hello,*

*My name is Mr. Brown. I currently live at Eliza Bryant Village in the skilled nursing facility with my sister. I've been here for a few months and I stay just a few doors down from her. Every morning, I wake up, dress myself and do my exercises. I'm working to stay strong and healthy together with my sister. Life at Eliza Bryant Village has changed because of COVID. I bet your life has changed too. To keep us safe, visitors aren't allowed here right now. I'm really lucky to be so close to my sister. We help each other a lot. And, we get help from the staff. They work really hard to cheer us up. They make up fun projects and help us talk with family over video. Recently, I wasn't feeling well when I was receiving my dialysis treatment. I told the team of nurses at Eliza Bryant Village and they helped to find out what the problem was. It turns out*

*that I was diagnosed with COVID-19.*

*I wasn't feeling at my best. I felt weak and tired. I do exercises every day so when I was sick, I missed them. I didn't like not feeling good. But, I'm feeling much better now. I was able to*

*be cared for and recover*

*from COVID-19. Today,*

*I'm still here at Eliza*

*Bryant Village. I'm*

*back near my sister*

*and we still work*

*on getting better*

*and stronger.*

*I'm glad to be*

*at Eliza Bryant*

*Village. I'm*

*glad the*

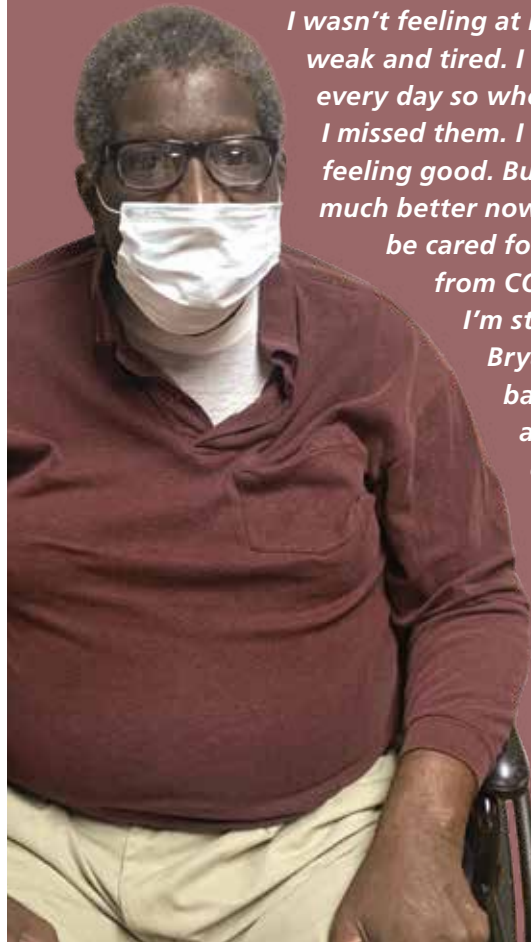
*Village is here*

*to help families*

*like me and my*

*sister.*

*– Mr. Brown*







# Adult Day Care Reopening, Reuniting, Rejoicing

When our Adult Day Care temporarily closed during the pandemic, the caregiving duties our team so critically provided fell back on the families. Staff from Adult Day were redeployed to various departments throughout the Village. We are proud our team wanted to remain on campus, to care for the seniors at the Village during such challenging times. We are equally pleased that, throughout the pandemic, the Village did not have to furlough any of our employees.

***"I have always appreciated the services that the Eliza Bryant Adult Day Care has provided my mom and our family through the years. But, over the past three months, my appreciation has grown. Because of COVID-19, I am currently working from home and, with the center being closed, I also am caring for mom 24/7. It truly takes a special hearted individual to care for the elderly. Through the years, mom and I have developed our routine that helps me take care of her: physical care, administering her medicine, etc. But I have noticed a decline in my mother's health since the Stay-At-Home Rule. Having a routine is especially important for people with dementia/ Alzheimer's. And, since mom's routine has been broken, she has become more of an introvert. I have gone as far as to try and duplicate some of the center's activities: physical therapy, music session, arts, and crafts and, when she feels up to it, we'll go for a short walk or car ride. It feels like I have two full-time jobs. Although mom has memory loss,***

***sometimes she asks, 'am I going to the center today?' So, until the time is right, I will continue to operate my version of EBV. But we look forward to when we can get back to our normal routine – spending time with the Eliza Bryant Adult Day Care Super Team."***

**– Caregiver of Adult Day Care participant**

Unique to the Village is our Medical-Model Adult Day Care Program that allows us to provide dedicated care to seniors' medical conditions associated with chronic illnesses or cognitive impairment. We create a "home away from home" environment with our compassionate team and culturally-competent programs, such as chair yoga, a relaxation room with massage chairs, spiritual hour, music and art therapy, as well as a nail spa and bingo. The Village is now re-opened, at a smaller capacity, so we can safely enjoy each other's company once again!

***"What I enjoy most about working with the seniors is when I get to entertain them. They call me the dancing nurse. They enjoy when I dance for them or with them. I sing sometimes along with a song that may be playing and, even though I can't carry a tune, they enjoy it and laugh, clap and we just have a good time. Laughter is good medicine. I also enjoy my co-workers. We have a great team in Adult Day."*** – Denise Mitchell, RN, Senior Outreach Nurse



# Elder Justice, Hope, and Safety

Seniors experiencing abuse, violence, trauma, or criminal victimization have a new path to safety – the Elder Justice Center at Eliza Bryant Village. After more than a year of construction and community planning, we opened our new program to expand upon our mission to provide quality services, outreach programs, and a dignified, compassionate, and secure living environment for seniors.

***“I came to Eliza Bryant a broken woman. And I left here with a home. I left here feeling stronger about myself. My goals and outlook for myself became phenomenal. The staff here is perfect. They got us counseling. We had arts and craft therapy. We had music therapy. They made you feel like ‘I can do better.’ They always gave you that push to do better. I’m ever so grateful.” – Former Guest of the Elder Justice Center***

The Elder Justice Center at Eliza Bryant Village hosted a formal ribbon-cutting and open house March 2, 2020. A week later on March 7, at what was likely many of our last time gathering together before the coronavirus pandemic, we hosted a Crystal Ball Gala where we raised more than \$100,000 from supporters like you to benefit the Elder Justice Center.

***“This was the best place that I could have been at that time. I was struggling with a lot of issues outside of being homeless and they helped me in a great way. I love that I came here. It gave me a chance to find myself, to get my self-esteem back, because I was in such a low place. They helped me with utilities. They helped me with furniture. They helped me with basic things that I needed – when I entered here, I only had the clothes on my back. I miss being here but it let me get my mind back right and feel good about myself.” – Former Guest of the Elder Justice Center***



The Village has rescued 13 seniors in just our first year and we’ve helped connect more than 30 seniors to helpful resources in the community. Three of our guests chose to make their new home right here at the Village in our affordable housing program. Unique to the Elder Justice Center is our team of compassionate staff who work closely with each guest to identify solutions to various challenges, such as legal assistance, transportation to medical appointments, financial assistance to secure a new, safe home, and individual and group counseling.

The National Center on Elder Abuse reports that one in ten seniors are victims of elder abuse. The majority of the guests we served suffered abuse from either a family member (55%) or a known, trusted person (25%). The Elder Justice Center is accepting guests and donations today.

Life for many of the seniors we serve has not always been easy. Their sacrifices helped open access to healthcare and economic opportunities many of us enjoy. It is now our responsibility to ensure they get the care and respect they have earned.



DID YOU KNOW?

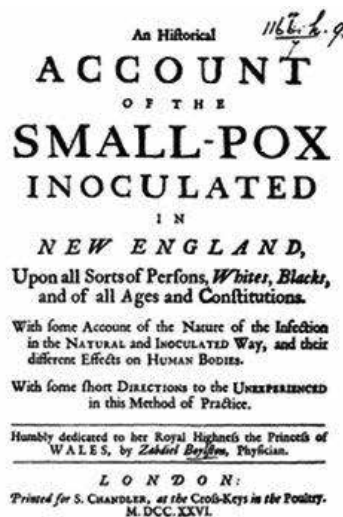
# African Slaves Introduced Vaccinations to North America

Greg Hall, MD – Medical Director, Eliza Bryant Village

Back in 1721, during a smallpox epidemic in Boston, Massachusetts, a slave named Onesimus, in the household of the white puritan minister Cotton Mather, spoke of being given in Africa “something of the smallpox that would forever preserve him from it and whoever had the courage to use it was forever free of the fear of contagion.” The procedure Onesimus referred to was the rubbing of pus from an infected person in an open wound on the arm. That small exposure provoked an immune response that “forever” protected the person from a deadly, full-blown infection.

Like many contributions by African Americans to modern science and technology, this too, gets precious little exposure. Yet the history is undisputed and the contribution, profound. Onesimus did not create this process . . . he merely reported what had been commonplace in Africa for centuries.

As many people shun vaccinations and the “science” behind it, we are reminded that the people in Boston back in 1721 were also very skeptical of an African slave’s story of how they had long conquered this devastating disease. Follow a slave’s advice? . . . not likely. As you would imagine, the slave owners “tried” the approach on their slaves first and, sure enough, it worked! They got immunity and the rest is history. The physicians stole



and then “refined” the approach and a world-wide cure for many deadly diseases was “discovered.”

If you are hesitant about vaccinations and the science behind them, know that the science isn’t new, and dates back to the cradle of civilization, Africa and its African tribal medicines. By embracing our African roots and the science they developed many centuries ago, we are taking full advantage of the incredible intellect and contributions of our African forefathers.

## Volunteers Carry On with Vigilance

Volunteers were a critical component to the success of our Crystal Ball Gala in March 2020. This past year did not include three of our most enjoyable Village traditions: Auxiliary I hosting an annual High Tea Luncheon, Auxiliary II presenting a Holiday Fashion Show, and Auxiliary III celebrating with a Music Festival. In a collaborative effort to support the Village and the launch of our new Elder Justice Center, our Auxiliaries united to make generous donations to support the new program and our successful gala. And, volunteers served on committees to help plan the gala, secure donation baskets, make decorations, and sell tickets and sponsorships.

As COVID-19 crept into our worlds and we slowly began to shut down, our volunteers did not quit.

Donations of funds and basic needs, hand-made cards, messages of support, and pizza parties are just a few ways volunteers have remained connected to the Village during the challenging year of 2020. We are blessed with a powerhouse of volunteers who keep the Village moving forward with their dedication, creativity, and sincere compassion for the seniors we serve. In a year like we’ve never seen before, our volunteers stepped up to the (virtual) plate to help bring our seniors joy during the pandemic.





## Eliza Bryant Village

A Community of Care. Rooted in Tradition.  
Embracing the Future.

7201 Wade Park Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44103

Phone: 216.361.6141  
Fax: 216.361.2207

[www.elizabryant.org](http://www.elizabryant.org)

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