

## 2021 REPORT TO INDIANA-MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

### MHS Mission Statement

*Anchored in Anabaptist values, MHS inspires and strengthens health and human service ministries to fulfill their missions.*

### MHS Vision Statement

*MHS is the go-to leader for integrating faith and work in health and human services.*

The following members have ties to Indiana-Michigan Conference:

- Anabaptist Disabilities Network (Elkhart, IN)
- Bridge of Hope (Exton, PA / Mishawaka, IN)
- Center for Healing and Hope (Goshen, IN)
- Greencroft Communities (Greencroft Goshen and Greencroft Middlebury, IN)
- Oaklawn (Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties, IN)
- Thurston Woods Village (Sturgis, MI)

### Activities

- Our 2020 Mennonite Health Assembly had to be cancelled due to the pandemic and our 2021 Mennonite Health Assembly was held online from Tuesday, March 9 – Thursday, March 11. Sessions were from noon to 3:00 p.m. daily. Keynote speakers included Laura van Dernoot Lipsky, founder and director of The Trauma Stewardship Institute and author of *Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others*, Ted Swartz, playwright and actor, and Philip Gulley, a Quaker pastor, writer and speaker.
- The pandemic has been a disruptive force for everyone, but our member organizations have been hit particularly hard. They have faced increased costs for personal protective equipment, testing and changes in staffing. They have also faced challenges in staff retention and recruitment as well as the stress of constant vigilance. In some places, they've faced cases of COVID including deaths of residents and/or staff.
- In 2020, MHS added a strategic initiative to advance diversity, equity and inclusion.
- MHS Consulting continues to serve MHS members and nonmembers in the health and human services arena; primarily providing resources in governance, executive search, executive coaching, interim placement, strategic planning and positioning and operational, financial and market assessments.
- MHS provides monthly webinars on a variety of topics primarily focused on leadership, governance and the integration of faith into work practices. These webinars are free and open to anyone that is interested [in the topic](#). Pastors and chaplains from the IN-MI conference have attended some webinars.
- MHS hosts a number of Network Groups for our member organizations. One of these groups is the Midwest Chaplains Network Group. Chaplains that work for area MHS member and non-MHS member organizations participate in this group that meets quarterly. Attendees share knowledge, best practices and support one another through community. Sharon Witmer Yoder frequently attends as a conference representative.
- In 2020, MHS began a monthly video podcast *on Leading*, and added a monthly emailed periodical called *The Brief* which provides resources for professional development.

## **For Thanksgiving and Prayer**

- Continued prayer for staffing retention and recruitment in the pandemic environment. Finding and keeping qualified and compassionate employees is a significant concern for MHS member organizations and the vulnerable populations they serve across the country.
- Safety and health for staff, residents and participants at all of MHS member ministries.
- We are grateful for the financial gifts, gifts in kind, prayer and volunteer support of community members who have supported our member organizations during this incredibly challenging time of pandemic.

Submitted by Karen Lehman, President/CEO

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