



Mission Statement

Sarah's Circle is a refuge for women who are homeless or in need of a safe space. By providing life necessities, housing, case management, clinical and social services, we encourage women to empower themselves by rebuilding both emotionally and physically; realizing their unique potential.

DAYTIME SUPPORT CENTER

Open to any woman in need

Our longest-running program, the Daytime Support Center is a port of entry for any woman in need. It provides a safe space, services to meet basic needs, educational and general-interest programming, and case management.



INTERIM HOUSING

For women who are currently homeless

The Interim Housing program is a 50-bed shelter for women who are homeless, providing 24-hour access to supportive services designed to transition women into permanent housing as quickly as possible.



PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

For women with a history of chronic homelessness

Sarah's Circle provides 30 units of Permanent Supportive Housing. Some of the women served have been homeless for over a decade before finding their homes with Sarah's Circle.



CLINICAL SERVICES

Provided to address the issues that often contribute to housing instability

Clinical services are provided to address the trauma, domestic violence, mental illness, or substance use that often contribute to and/or are consequences of housing instability among the women served. Services include individual and group counseling and Art Therapy.



Dear Friends,

The women at Sarah's Circle usually become homeless due to a complex, interwoven series of circumstances. It might be a mental illness that has severely impacted her capacity to keep a job or abuse that drives her out of her home and separates her from her family.

The inherent complexity of homelessness requires multiple strategies and tremendous resources to help a woman regain and maintain her housing stability. The services we provide to permanently end a woman's homelessness can be classified into four categories: health, income & employment, community, and housing acquisition. A woman needs a safe place to call home, a source of income to maintain it, good health and access to healthcare, and a supportive community to enjoy it.

The effort involved in coordinating the resources and services to end a woman's homelessness is often arduous. The staff are continually connecting with other providers, developing new relationships to increase housing options, and providing support for women once housed. Each year, Sarah's Circle administers client satisfaction surveys to collect feedback and ensure that everyone's voices are being heard. You will see some results from our last survey throughout this report. As you read through our Annual Report, we hope you gain a deeper understanding of the barriers to reclaiming a home, and the resources needed to maintain it.

Your support of our efforts is crucial. Last year, Sarah's Circle transitioned 116 women out of homelessness and into a home of their own. We accomplished this thanks to tremendous financial support, volunteers, and community members participating on our Boards and its Committees. Thank you – together we can end homelessness for women in Chicago.

Judy Krueger
President, Board of Directors

Katherine Ragnar
Executive Director



It is difficult to take care of yourself at even the most basic level when you're homeless. This is why Sarah's Circle provides essential support such as nutritious meals, showers, laundry facilities, and a safe place to spend time out of the elements.

When basic needs have been met, there are a variety of art therapy groups available to help address the stress and trauma many women experience.

Partnerships with local agencies allow case managers to connect clients with the physical and psychiatric care they need to increase their self-sufficiency.

In 2017, Sarah's Circle:

- Provided over 73,000 healthy meals
- Began offering drop-in visits with a Nurse Practitioner from The Night Ministry
- Expanded the art therapy program to include music, movement, and drama therapy



"Staff help meet my basic daily needs"
had an average score of 2.74/3.0



In order to afford housing in Chicago, women need income to secure and maintain an apartment. For some women, this income comes from Social Security or other government programs. While 47% of the women enter our programs without any income, Fair Market Rent for an apartment in Chicago is \$905/month.

In 2017, only 15% of women at Sarah's Circle entered our programs with employment. Multiple barriers keep women from becoming employed, including inadequate education, inadequate job training resources, physically demanding jobs, a mismatch between skills and job requirements, and lack of work experience.

At Sarah's Circle during 2017:

- 26 women became employed
- 12 women utilized our new drop-in employment services to develop their resumes and look for work
- 87% of the women that utilized our case management services at the Daytime Support Center maintained or increased their income



"Staff treat me with respect"
had an average score of 2.86/3.0



Experiencing homelessness can lead to a sense of isolation. Sarah's Circle offers a welcoming community for women experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or housed but in need of a support network. We offer activities and groups throughout the week where women can learn, connect with each other, and build their support system.

At Sarah's Circle during 2017:

- 841 women received our supportive services, which is a 6% increase from 2016
- 260 women participated in Community Art Studio
- More than 400 volunteers connected with the women at Sarah's Circle and contributed over 4,000 hours of service



"I have the opportunity to connect with others at Sarah's Circle"
had an average score of 2.63/3.0



Housing stability plays a large role in overall well-being. According to Chicago's Database to End Homelessness, 2,064 single women are currently experiencing homelessness. Gentrification and a lack of affordable housing make finding and maintaining a safe, reasonably-priced apartment challenging. Case managers at Sarah's Circle help women find and retain permanent housing.

In response to the shortage of affordable housing in Chicago, Sarah's Circle is developing a new facility to include 38 units of Permanent Supportive Housing and an improved space for the 50-bed Interim Housing Program.

In 2017, Sarah's Circle:

- Transitioned 116 women from homelessness into permanent housing
- Provided 18,250 nights of shelter in our Interim Housing Program
- Maintained an 88% retention rate for women housed for at least one year



"People's cultural backgrounds are respected by Sarah's Circle staff and community members" had an average score of 2.76/3.0



Ways to Help

Your support provides quality services to women in need. We have many ways that you and your family or friends can get involved!



Make a gift of cash or annuities



Donate essential items for women in need



Attend our annual fundraising events, such as the Winter Walk and Beer Fest



Volunteer individually or with a group to support our daily operations



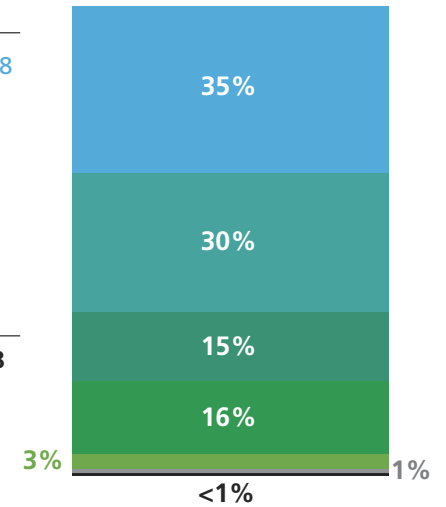
Join our Associates Board of young professionals

Financials

Fiscal Year 2017
July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017

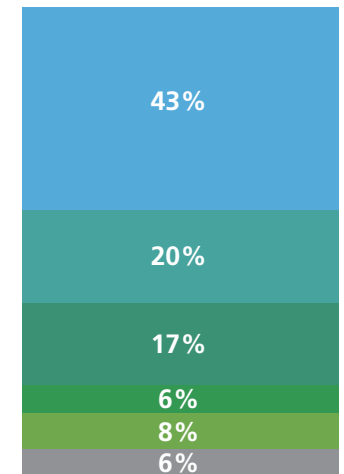
INCOME

Government Contracts	\$1,166,398
Grants	\$899,559
Individual Contributions	\$501,271
In-Kind Donations	\$517,359
Special Events (Net)	\$97,045
Rental Income	\$30,191
Investment Income	\$3,395
Total Income	\$3,215,218



EXPENSES

Interim Housing	\$1,071,293
Daytime Support Center	\$479,830
Permanent Supportive Housing	\$430,454
Clinical Services	\$150,885
Fundraising	\$187,431
Management and General	\$145,263
Total Expenses	\$2,465,156



NET ASSETS

Beginning of Year	\$4,940,393
End of Year	\$5,690,455
Change in Net Assets	\$750,062

Sarah's Circle has ended the 2017 fiscal year with an increase in net assets. The surplus is utilized to create financial reserves to maintain financial strength in light of public funding issues. Additionally, reserves are required for optimal maintenance of our facilities.

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Government Contracts

\$100,000+

City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

\$10,000 - \$99,000

City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development
Federal Emergency Management Administration
Illinois Department of Human Services

Grants

\$50,000+

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