

Annual Report 2023-2024





Mission

Sarah's Circle provides a full continuum of services for women, including housing, life necessities, and supportive services to help them permanently end their homelessness.

Vision

Sarah's Circle envisions a safe and secure home for every woman in Chicago.



Dear friends,

As we reflect on this past year at Sarah's Circle, we are filled with gratitude and pride for the remarkable steps we have taken together. This year, we were honored to receive a \$2 million grant from Mackenzie Scott's Yield Giving Open Call, a transformative gift that will significantly advance our mission to end homelessness for women. This generous gift highlights the trust and belief in our work and fuels our continued commitment to creating lasting change.

In response to the city's ongoing housing crisis, we reaffirm our pledge to create affordable housing and expand our programs to meet the need. "We are thrilled to share that construction on our third building, Sarah's on Lakeside, is complete and it will open in fall of 2024. This new facility will provide 28 units of Permanent Supportive Housing, offering a stable home and supportive community for women in need. This will increase the number of Permanent Supportive Housing units we offer to 141, a crucial step toward ending homelessness for women. As this project ends, we are busy searching for space for our next building.

With your steadfast support we can create a future where every woman has a safe and secure place to call home. Thank you for being an essential part of our mission.

Sincerely,

Judy Krueger

President, Board of

Judy Krueger

Directors

Kathy Ragnar

Executive Director

Kathern Kagner

Daytime Support Center (DSC)

"Everybody that I came in contact with at Sarah's Circle was really a divine help for me. Encouraging me, you can make it and you know, at that time when you there, you need that. And so the staff was excellent."

—DAYTIME SUPPORT PARTICIPANT



Open to any woman experiencing homelessness, the Daytime Support Center is a drop-in center that provides a safe space, services to meet basic needs, and case management to help women find permanent housing and increase self-sufficiency. It is open five days a week and women can access basic necessities such as showers, laundry, two meals a day, and hygiene supplies. We also offer a computer lab, and general interest activities, workshops, and groups.

271
women

Interim Housing Program (IH)

The Interim Housing Program is a 50-bed shelter providing women who are homeless with 24/7 access to a safe space, supportive services, and case management until they can find permanent housing. The program is focused on helping women stabilize and find housing as quickly as possible.

268
women



"So grateful for this place right here - it's really for women."

-INTERIM HOUSING PARTICIPANT

Rapid Rehousing Program (RRH)

The Rapid Rehousing Program is designed to help women end their homelessness within 30 days. Each program participant is assigned a case manager who helps her find housing and then provides support to help her stabilize in her new home. The program lasts 12-24 months and is designed to help women return to stable housing.

Served **89** women



"You cannot give up on hope. There is always hope with Sarah's Circle."

-RAPID REHOUSING PARTICIPANT

Permanent Supportive Housing Program (PSH)

"I think the word I could give Sarah's Circle for this year-for what they've given to a lot of women-is stability. So, I have a stable step. I can climb that ladder of success for sure."

-PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PARTICIPANT



The Permanent Supportive Housing Program is designed for women who are homeless, many chronically, to become permanently housed. Sarah's Circle provides 141 units of Permanent Supportive Housing, offering women safe, private homes and ongoing supportive services to ensure housing retention, help to increase income, and improve health outcomes.

Served 88 women

Financials



37.6%	Government Contracts
29.4%	Grants
15.8%	Individual Contributions
6.2%	Investment Income
3.5%	Other Income
3.0%	In-Kind Donations
2.7%	Capital Contributions
1.8%	Special Events (net)

INCOME		
Government Contracts		3,969,380.00
Grants		3,105,238.00
Individual Contributions	\$	1,670,075.00
In-Kind Donations	\$	312,674.00
Special Events (net)	\$	189,257.00
Investment Income	\$	657,225.00
Other Income		375,622.00
Capital Contributions	\$	285,000.00
Total		10,564,471.00

EXPENSES	
Interim Housing	\$ 2,270,334.00
Daytime	\$ 609,117.00
PSH	\$ 1,847,113.00
Fundraising	\$ 364,351.00
Admin	\$ 334,390.00
Total	\$ 5,425,305.00
NET ASSETS	

\$ 43,724,434.00

\$ 49,356,939.00

\$ 5,632,505.00

Beginning of Year

Change in Net Assets

Fnd of Year

Sarah's Circle has ended the 2024 fiscal year with an increase in net assets. The surplus was created due to the tremendous support from Sarah's Circle donors, with a significant amount coming from Yield Giving and anonymous donors. Sarah's Circle maintains optimal reserves for the maintenance of properties and to ensure adequate funding for program operations. Additionally, Sarah's circle will utilize funds to create additional housing for women who are homeless, allowing us to further our mission.

Yield Giving

In March 2023, Yield Giving launched an Open Call for community-led, community-focused organizations whose explicit purpose is to enable individuals and families to achieve substantive improvement in their well-being through foundational resources. 6,353 applications were submitted, and Sarah's Circle was one of the 361 awardees. Initially intended to award \$1 million grants, Yield Giving ended up giving the highest scoring applicants \$2 million.

"Sarah's Circle is thrilled with this \$2 million award and the belief Yield Giving and Lever for Change have in Sarah's Circle and the commitment to the women we serve," said Kathy Ragnar, Sarah's Circle's Executive Director. "Our organization will use this money to permanently end homelessness for women, and the Board is already making plans to utilize these funds as quickly as possible to develop more affordable housing for women."

The transformative gift is being used to develop more permanent housing for Chicago's most vulnerable women. We look forward to sharing more information about our next building soon.

\$2 million dollar award

"Our organization will use this money to permanently end homelessness for women, and the Board is already making plans to utilize these funds as quickly as possible to develop more affordable housing for women."

—KATHY RAGNAR, SARAH'S CIRCLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



There is a severe shortage of affordable housing in Chicago. The basic needs of women all over the city are not being met, resulting in more than 2,000 women sleeping on the streets on any given night. To help end homelessness for women, Sarah's Circle is dedicated to developing new buildings that offer more affordable Permanent Supportive Housing opportunities to women in need. We broke ground on our third building, Sarah's on Lakeside, in the summer of 2023, and it will be ready to welcome 28 women home in the fall of 2024.

In addition to providing 28 fully furnished studio apartments, Sarah's on Lakeside will provide more program space such as a demonstration kitchen and case management offices.

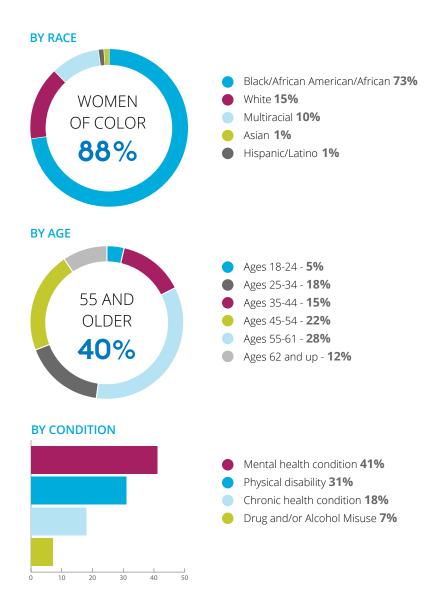
Recognizing the importance of public art in our Uptown neighborhood, we collaborated with local artist Sandra Antongiorgi to create a custom mural installation for Sarah's on Lakeside. This piece will not only beautify and reflect the vibrant, diverse culture of our neighborhood, it will honor and celebrate the stories and struggles of this building's residents.

"To have my own place where I can cook, bathe, and wash my clothes is so important. With what I've been through, I take nothing for granted," said June Merritt, Board Member at Sarah's Circle who has overcome homelessness. "It's been amazing to see the progress we've made."

By the Numbers

158 women housed

100% of the women we serve need affordable housing



Donors

INDIVIDUALS

Leadership Circle \$50,000 and up

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\$10,000 to \$49,999

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\$2,500 to \$4,999

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Ways to Help Sarah's Circle



ASSOCIATES BOARD

The Associates Board of Sarah's Circle is for young professionals eager to make a meaningful impact in the community. Through volunteerism and fundraising, Associates Board members connect to the mission of Sarah's Circle and help end homelessness for Chicago's women.

IMPACT BOARD

The Impact Board of Sarah's Circle advocates and raise awareness of the issue of women's homelessness and to help raise funds. The Impact Board is composed of an informed and passionate group of established professionals, working to increase the visibility of Sarah's Circle. The Impact Board supports Sarah's Circle in ending homelessness for women in Chicago.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers have been critical to Sarah's Circle's operations since our founding. Volunteers support the mission of Sarah's Circle by efficiently completing a variety of tasks while maintaining a respectful, compassionate, and nonjudgmental attitude. They help to expand the resources and services available to the women we serve beyond the limits of our budget. Volunteers also gain a deeper knowledge of the work of the organization and the women served, often becoming our best advocates in the community. Sarah's Circle volunteers help women rebuild their lives.



4838 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago IL 60640 • donations@sarahs-circle.org (773) 728-1014 • Executive Director: Kathy Ragnar sarahs-circle.org

