



The Dwelling Place

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH CHRIST'S LOVE

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



*My people will live in peaceful dwelling places,
in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.*

— ISAIAH 32:18



Linda Wiza
Executive Director
The Dwelling Place

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The past year (2015) brought incredible blessings from the Lord for this ministry. It was a year of assimilating the growth from the expansion and laying a firm foundation for continued growth. We were able to make connections with many new partners and supporters and deepen relationships with existing supporters. This was my first year as Executive Director and the Lord showed me the power of the body of Christ at work by putting together a fabulous team of staff, volunteers, board members and supporters to accomplish His work of transforming lives through Christ's love. So many foundations, businesses, churches, families and individuals are ambassadors of healing and hope to the women and children we serve.

The stories of brokenness when the women enter our doors are no match for the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit to bring life and joy and peace. Wounds begin to heal, sorrows turn to joy, and despair turns to hope all because of your generous support. God has called those of us who are rich in blessings in this current world to reach out to come alongside those who need help, and to do it in a manner that preserves dignity.

At The Dwelling Place, we empower and walk alongside women and children by equipping them first to understand their amazing value and worth in God's eyes, and second, to learn to use their God given gifts and talents to make a better life for themselves and their children. Thanks for being a part of these new journeys in 2015.

Linda Wiza
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MISSION & PURPOSE

The Dwelling Place is a Christian ministry providing healing and hope to victims of domestic abuse through supportive services and a safe place to call home.

The Dwelling Place exists to break the generational cycle of abuse by equipping and empowering women through the love of Jesus Christ so they can experience lasting freedom.

OUR PROGRAM

The Dwelling Place provides transitional housing and wrap-around supportive services for up to 16 women and their 28 children (44 beds total capacity). Families stay for 12-18 months, the minimum time needed to develop sustainable living skills. Core Program Services include:

CASE MANAGEMENT/ADVOCACY / Staff provide one-on-one case management for the residents and support services for their children. Each resident creates an individualized goal plan with progress monitored, documented and celebrated.

HOUSE MEETINGS / House meetings, led by staff, assist the women in practicing good communication skills, mutual encouragement, negotiation techniques, group problem solving, and conflict resolution. The goal is to enjoy mature, supportive relationships and be able to replicate this dynamic when living independently.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT & EDUCATION GROUP / We provide education, time and support for healing and teach the qualities of healthy relationships.

INDIVIDUALIZED PROGRAMMING / This component is unique for each resident and includes outside activities and support groups and psychotherapy, as needed.

CLASSES / We offer Financial Education and Counseling, Life Skills Groups, Parenting Skills, Personal Safety, and Home Care.

20 HOURS A WEEK OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT / School, work or volunteering.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM / Children at the shelter are provided individualized and small group programming, after-school tutoring, bible studies, and age appropriate activities for toddlers through teens. The goal is to promote healing from trauma and opportunities for growth in social, emotional, and cognitive skills.

OTHER IN-HOUSE SERVICES INCLUDE / Bible Study, Transportation, Child Care, and Savings Match Program.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We envision eliminating the generational cycle of abuse through education and by showing women and children they are loved and have value. As we have trusted the Lord with every part of this ministry, we have been in awe of His blessing and favor over our homes. We know that the need is great and there are still more women and children who need to be touched by His presence and mercy.

When we expanded from 16 beds to 44 beds, we immediately recognized the need to expand Children's Programming. We have received some seed money in 2015 to begin this process, purchase technology items to improve programming, promote cognitive building, and parent participation. This program also includes assisting parents to promote and model healthy relationships and improve parenting skills with their children. We plan to continue to expand our Children's programming in 2016 and beyond.

We are grateful for these new seeds of growth in this ministry and we will continue to seek His guidance and direction as we prayerfully consider additional expansion of our facilities and programs in the years to come.



LIFE TRANSFORMATION

We are blessed daily to experience the amazing life transformation that takes place at The Dwelling Place. The following testimony is from one of our residents.

*"My first night at TDP was the first night I slept well in months. I locked my bedroom door and felt safe. I finally didn't have to worry where my daughter and I were going to escape to next and how long we could stay. We were at hotels and family member's houses time and time again, but now we have a safe place to be. The Dwelling Place is now our home. My daughter is happy and beginning to thrive again. I am able to work again and care for her. I am building a relationship with Christ and learning to love myself again and see myself the way God sees me." —RESIDENT TAHLIA**

*Names changed for confidential purposes



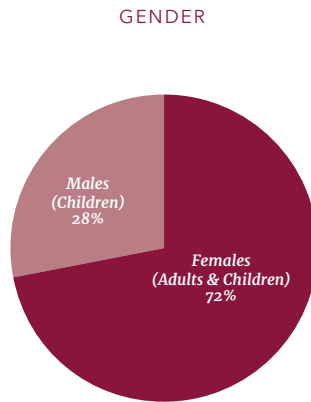
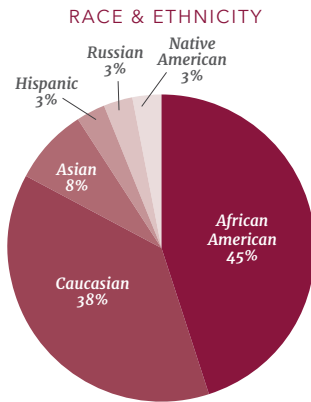
2015 SERVICE STATISTICS

53

women and children (ages 3 months to 15 years) were served.

100%

below the poverty line and considered homeless by the state of Minnesota.



2015 SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



Successfully housed and provided services to 21 women and 32 children (15 mothers, 6 single women). All 15 mothers were helped with parenting skills to break the generational cycle of domestic violence.



100% of the women attended at least 5 hours of classes or programming each week and learned about the dynamics and effects of domestic violence as well as other important life and parenting skills.



100% participated in at least 20 hours of work, volunteering, or school each week.



100% were given opportunities to grow in their faith through spiritual discipleship and Bible studies.



We received calls for help from 317 women with 341 children, all victims of domestic abuse. The majority of the women and children who called seeking help were in desperate need of transitional housing.



4 women with 6 children successfully moved to permanent housing and are living free from their abusers.

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Thank you to our Board of Directors and dedicated volunteers who have contributed hundreds of hours and faithful prayer and services to our programs. May God continue to bless you and your families.

Linda Wiza, Former Board Member
Current Executive Director

Roy Anderson, Board Chair
Vice President of Finance at Medtronic

Tim Hubers, Treasurer
Controller, Retired

Tom Swanner, Member
Electrician, retired

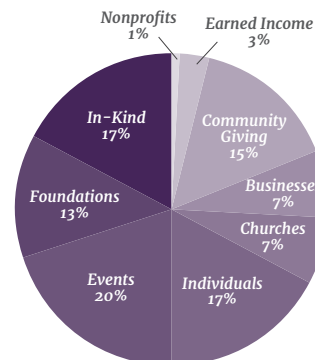
Chris Chell, BSW, MBA, Member
Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, Hennepin County
Medical Center

Blake Huffman, Member
Ramsey County Commissioner /
Founder, Executive Director of Journey Home Minnesota

FINANCIALS

Our ministry is fully funded by the generous gifts of individuals, churches, foundations and corporations. We rely on these donations to pay for operating and program expenses. Your monetary gift makes a difference in the lives of many women and children. Thank you to our many donors and supporters who make this ministry possible.

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE



TOTAL EXPENSES

