



*The Dwelling Place*

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH CHRIST'S LOVE

# 2017 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***

In 2016, we completed our strategic planning which laid out the foundation for The Dwelling Place for the next five years. Actionable goals were identified and incredible progress has been made laying a solid foundation from which to provide trauma-informed care based on best practices in working with abused women and children. This has not only improved our programming but has also has positioned us well for sustainable growth in the future.

The Lord truly blessed us in 2017 with an opportunity for growth which absolutely fit into our vision for the future. In the spring of 2017, through the generosity of several supporters, we purchased a duplex near our existing two homes in the North Metro. We began renovations in October and the Lord provided in so many ways through many volunteers and donated materials. With great joy, we opened in May of 2018 with the capacity to serve up to 14 additional women and children at one time.

We couldn't be more excited about all that God is doing at The Dwelling Place. We are incredibly grateful for all of the many churches, businesses, individuals and family foundations that make it possible for many women and children to find a path to a brighter future. This is truly the body of Christ working together to serve the needs of His children, for His glory.

### ***Vision for the Future***

The trauma of domestic abuse continues to create high demand for the services of our ministry. In an effort to meet this demand to provide safe shelter and Christian programming, in 2018, we will begin the next phase of our expansion. Again, through the generosity of several supportive organizations and families, we have purchased a 4th duplex and have begun renovations. This expansion will serve as a multi-use building with spaces suitable for large group women's programming, large and small group children's programming, one-on-one case management, and safe living space for an additional 12 women and their children. We hope to open this home in the fall of 2018. This will effectively double our capacity from our previous levels to 54 women and children.

We are grateful for all the blessings we received in 2017 and will continue to seek the Lord's guidance and direction as we continue to serve many more women and children in need.

Linda Wiza  
*Executive Director*  
The Dwelling Place  
(651) 221-0405  
[\*\*\*linda.wiza@thedwellingplaceshelter.org\*\*\*](mailto:linda.wiza@thedwellingplaceshelter.org)

## OUR PROGRAM

The Dwelling Place provides safe transitional housing and trauma-informed Christian programs for women and their children escaping abuse.

### *Intensive Case Management & Supportive Services*

Our trauma-informed care consists of two primary healing principles: safety and empowerment. Women and children recovering from the trauma of domestic violence need to be (and feel) safe and become empowered to change their own future. We have 20 years of experience in providing safe dwelling space and services to victims of domestic abuse. We combine best practices with a strong Christian environment. We were founded on the understanding that in order to help victims of domestic abuse heal from their emotional wounds our programs must be Christ-centered and comprehensively designed to address the whole person.

### *Core Program Overview:*

- Case Management/ Advocacy
- House Meetings
- Support Groups
- Domestic Violence Education Courses
- Individualized Therapy
- Life Skills Education
- Financial Education & Counseling
- Education around Jobs & Housing
- Bible Study & Prayer Ministry
- Children's Programming
- Other In-house Services: Transportation, Child Care, and Savings Match Program
- Other Out-sourced Services: Licensed Therapy, Chemical Dependency Treatment, Legal Advocacy, Medical/ Dental Services, and Partnerships with Churches for worship, support and mentorship

## 2017 SERVICE STATISTICS



62

women and their children were served (19 of the women were mothers).



100%

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



203

volunteers contributing 2,513 hours of service

## 2017 SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017, we continued our focus on strengthening our Women's program. We implemented a first 30-day program which improved the on-boarding and assessment phases of our program. This increased the stability of our families and allowed for more education on the dynamics of abuse and on sharing the message of Jesus's love and healing power. More specialization of staff roles was implemented which created a more consistent level of supportive services in all phases of our programming.

- We received calls for help from **372** women with **258** children—all victims of domestic abuse.
- We successfully housed and served **25** women and **37** children (**19** of the women are mothers).
- All women left domestic violence successfully and detached from their abusers. The women and children found safety and remained safe within our program.
- **62** women and children received **7,883** nights of safety; with the average stay of **8** months.
- All women attended at least **9** hours of classes each week and learned about the dynamics and effects of domestic abuse.
- All women attended at least **2** hours per week of life skills training in budgeting, cooking, nutrition, health and wellness, etc.
- All women and children participated in daily Christian spiritual discipleship and Bible studies with the intent to grow in their faith.
- **96%** mothers improved parenting skills to break the generational cycle of abuse through parenting consultation, classes and daily parenting guidance from staff.
- **92%** of women received advocacy and support for overcoming barriers through transportation, job skills, legal, educational and housing assistance.
- **85%** women established new life goals and skills to better manage emotional health.
- Moms of school age children learned to advocate for their children within the schools for improved behavior plans as needed.
- All children ages 4 and over received "Good Touch/Bad Touch" awareness education.
- All school-aged children were provided with **1.5** hours per week of support group programming to help them process their trauma.
- All school-aged children were provided with **1.5** hours of tutoring per week to bridge their learning gap.
- All children participated in **8** hours per week of large motor skills development activities, critical for healing from trauma.



## 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.

### Financial Position

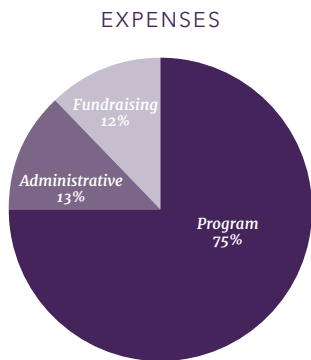
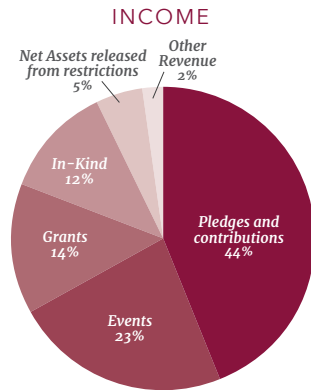
Assets	\$1,125,953
Liabilities	\$ 169,131
Net Assets	\$ 956,822

### Foundations & Grants

Barnabas Foundation  
 American Endowment Foundation  
 Branches Foundation  
 Peace-Shalom Foundation  
 Pentair Foundation  
 Schwabe Charitable  
 National Christian Foundation  
 Edina Realty Foundation  
 Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation  
 Casey Albert T. O'Neil Foundation  
 Otto Bremer Foundation  
 The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation  
 March Family Foundation  
 Riverway Foundation  
 Bess Spiva Timmons Foundation  
 Maximus Foundation  
 Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
 Lutheran Women's Missionary League - South District  
 North Heights Lutheran Church  
 Elim Lutheran Church Foundation

### Gala Sponsorship

The Larson Foundation  
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 Rise and Shine  
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 Hoiium, Heidi  
 ACR Homes, Inc.  
 Victory Auto  
 Calvin Christian School  
 Glanzer, Darin & Julia



## A NEW CHANCE FOR LIFE

We are blessed daily to experience the amazing life transformation that takes place at The Dwelling Place. Following is just one story from one of our residents from 2017.

*Lynnette\* had to escape for fear of her life and that of her daughter and unborn baby. She found The Dwelling Place and her sweet baby girl was born healthy two months after she arrived. Here, she and her oldest daughter learned about Jesus and gave their life to him. Trusting in God, she obtained her GED, and a car was donated to her that enabled her to get a job and begin classes at a local college. She is so grateful for the staff and volunteers who lovingly helped point her to healing through Christ and a path to a brighter future. \*Name changed for confidential purposes*

## LEADERSHIP & BOARD



Top row left to right: Julie Sexson, Jenifer Swanson, Kassie Cossette, Monica Groves, Cindy Hall; Bottom row left to right: is Jessica Fritz, Grace Eller, Linda Wiza, Karla Brown

### Leadership Staff

Linda Wiza, Executive Director  
 Monica Groves, Mission Advancement Director  
 Jenifer Swanson, Business Manager  
 Julie Sexson, Children's Program Manager



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#### Linda Wiza, Non-voting Member

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