



## THE DWELLING PLACE

940-44th Ave NE, Unit # 21307  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

INSIDE: **STORIES, EVENTS,  
& MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS**

FALL/WINTER 2017

TRANSFORMING LIVES  
THROUGH CHRIST'S LOVE.



*My people will live in peaceful dwelling places,  
in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.*  
— ISAIAH 32:18

# The Dwelling Place



## THE NEED IS GREAT

**MISSION:** 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.

**PURPOSE:** 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.

Women (with their children) may stay 12-18 months to receive healing and acquire skills necessary to achieve independent housing, a sustaining income, and abuse-free living.

Women take part in:

- School, work and/or volunteering
- Case management
- Domestic abuse support and education group
- Bible studies, and life skills classes

- Referral-based support: counseling, medical and legal advocacy, job training, housing assistance
- Parenting support

The Children's Program promotes healing from trauma and opportunities for growth in social, emotional, and cognitive skills. We are in the process of enhancing and expanding our children's programming to better meet our families' needs.

*"When I arrived I was so broken and had lost hope. Every day I would break down crying. I was so thankful I could talk to staff and found a lot of help through the classes. After a few weeks I began to see how Jesus did not leave me and my boys and that He would continue to provide and carry us through the unknowns. I have hope again and give thanks to God every day for The Dwelling Place. This is truly a place to find healing and a new life again!" - Resident woman*

### IMPORTANT REALITY CHECK

Domestic violence is the immediate cause of homelessness for many women. **Survivors of domestic violence are often isolated from support networks and financial resources by their abusers, which puts them at risk of becoming homeless.**

Domestic violence can both undermine financial stability and increase barriers to safety for women. Often, perpetrators use abuse to keep victims economically dependent and vulnerable. As a result, they may lack steady income, employment history, credit history, and landlord references. They also often suffer from anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, major depression, and substance abuse. Studies reveal that more than 80% of mothers with children experiencing homelessness had previously experienced domestic violence.

The need for safe housing and the economic resources to maintain safe housing are two of the most pressing concerns among abused women who are planning to or have recently left their abuser.

### HOW WE ADDRESS THE NEED

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 19 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. We work to help residents become empowered through intensive case management with individualized

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Business Office: (651) 221-0405 | Housing Office: (651) 776-4805

[www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org](http://www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org) | @safedwelling dwellingplaceshelter



care plans that recognize and build upon their strengths, as well as provide solution-focused strategies to address their areas for growth and future goals.

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*"When I came to The Dwelling Place I didn't know how to share my opinion and stand up for myself. After years of hearing that what I had to say didn't matter, I believed it. But since being at The Dwelling Place I've learned my voice does matter and God has given me gifts to be able to help others. I love being able to encourage others, express how I am feeling and simply be me!"*

- Resident woman

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*"A recent breakthrough I've had was when I had to face my abuser at court. I struggled a lot with anger toward my abuser and forgiving him. Through talking with the staff and the classes I've begun to work through my hurt and am learning how much Jesus has forgiven me and that I can forgive him. When I saw my abuser at court I was surprised I didn't have anger rise up but was able to stand firm as a survivor and even pray for him."*

- Resident woman

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Access our complete Case Statement at [www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org](http://www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org)

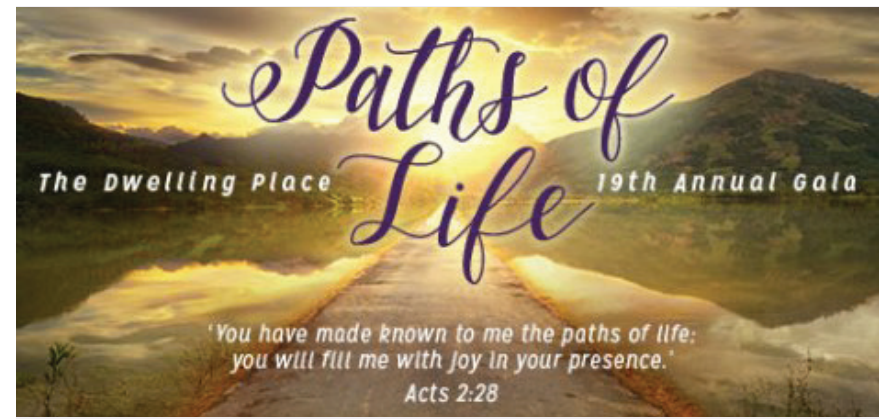
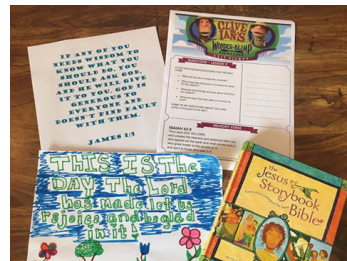
## WHAT IS HAPPENING FOR CHILDREN?

Making the best use of spaces in our homes requires creativity and flexibility. Julie Sexson and Karla Brown have been creating new children's space that will include two more rooms: one for younger children (preschool and toddlers) and one room for use for tutoring and 'chill space' for children to curl up in comfy chairs, read, and feel safe. This space will be used also for tutoring.

Children's spaces incorporate bright colors. Decorative signs accompany the new curriculum we are using that explores **15 Big Questions** kids have about God: Who created the universe? How old is God? Is God as powerful as a superhero? Can I count on God? What should I do when I'm afraid? Does God love me when I do bad things? Does God tell the truth? Does God know what will happen in my future? How do I love and respect God? How do we show respect to God through prayer? How do we show respect to God through praise? How do we show respect to God through listening? How do we show respect to God through our words? How do we show respect to God through our actions?

As children work through these questions they do fun activities, dig into the Bible to learn the answers, commit verses to memory, and have time for prayer. Children love to draw and we enjoy displaying their artwork!

Every child receives a Bible when they arrive at The Dwelling Place and we share God's Word in different ways to help them become familiar with it, understand it, and rely upon it.



GALA ANNOUNCEMENT  
**Saturday,  
October 7th**

Please join us for this very special event at the Earle Brown Heritage Center.

Registration through September 24 at [www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org/gala2017](http://www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org/gala2017)

Questions? 651-221-0405



Emcee:  
**Keith Stevens**  
(KTIS)



In Concert:  
**Point of Grace**

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

### WHEN WILL MORE SPACES BE AVAILABLE?

Sharing Wonderful News!

God is always leading us in life-giving ways! I have very exciting news to share with you because God has been preparing and providing for this ministry in beautiful ways. This past spring, through a series of steps, He directed us to move in a new direction for ministry expansion. By shifting our focus to one main location we have become stronger and can provide for the various needs of the women and children in new ways.

We had the opportunity to provide more housing in one location as a piece of property came on the market that was nearby our existing homes. This property would enable us to make the most effective use of staff and resources. Through the incredible generosity of several supporters, we were able to purchase another duplex. Renovations will begin on this duplex during the fall and early winter months so that we can move families in early next year.

We will need volunteers to assist us to make this happen on time and on budget. Please contact us through our website or by emailing ([info@thedwellingplaceshelter.org](mailto:info@thedwellingplaceshelter.org)) if you are able to volunteer. Please share this opportunity with your church group, friends and family, or work team. My wise mentor has told me, "Find out where God is working, and join Him!" This is a great opportunity for you to truly make a difference in providing a safe place to call home for women and their children who are in desperate need of a new path forward and caring people who will help them in the process.



LINDA WIZA

**YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL AND VERY MUCH APPRECIATED**

*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. We fulfill our mission together!*

*Your gift can make a difference in the lives of many women and children by giving securely online with a recurring or one-time donation by credit card or by mailing a check in the enclosed envelope. To learn more about other ways to support The Dwelling Place, please visit our website or contact us for further information.*

**Thank you!**



QUICK GIVING QR CODE FOR SMARTPHONES



We extend a heartfelt thank you to the Five Oaks Church Children's Ministry (and leaders Cindy and Heather pictured here)!

Children attending Vacation Bible School worked hard to raise money (on their own time...doing chores, etc.) for our women and kids. The Five Oaks children donated fourteen \$75 gifts cards. These funds will help moms and children prepare for the school year and will provide seasonal clothing as the weather changes.

We are so touched by the big hearts of care these children have and what a difference they are making in people's lives at such a young age!