

SPRING 2020

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

There's No Place Like (a Safe) Home!



When Celia and her children came to The Dwelling Place, she immediately felt safe. “The staff listened to me, hugged me whenever I started to cry. I can tell they really care about me.” Over the months of being a part of the community here, she has many things for which she is grateful. You see, Celia came from a big, loving family of immigrants—the youngest child with three brothers and three sisters. She was well-loved by all and had a very special bond with her mom. When she was 21, she met and married a man who was quite a bit older and they had a child together. Sadly, he was emotionally and sexually abusive to her and endangered her safety.

On one occasion, he choked her and chased her. Her neighbor witnessed the event and called the police. Celia separated from him for six months but returned to try to make the relationship work. She really wanted her daughter to have a father. She stayed for another five months. His neglect, manipulation, and abuse continued, along with his addiction to pornography and promiscuity. Their marriage ended. The abuse cycle continued for Celia when she met another man who was very sweet, caring and romantic to her initially, making her feel wanted and loved. However, he became increasingly emotionally, verbally, and physically abusive toward her. Their relationship was a cycle of tension-building, abusive episodes, and honeymoon phases where he would vacillate between being ruthless and apologetically sweet. She felt trapped, confused, scared, and disoriented. His words made her think that she was worthless and deserved the abuse. She left and eventually found The Dwelling Place.

Celica shared “We have good and bad days in the process of rebuilding our shattered lives. Even when we are difficult to love, I notice how the staff loves us still. I feel so blessed. There is a community here to support me and I am not alone anymore. I have so many pictures of my children laughing and enjoying our new home. We are a family again.” Celia is in the process of finding housing, hoping to move to her own home in a few months. “I’m like a kid struggling with having to move away from her mother. My case manager has walked with me through high-stakes decisions in my custody battles. My kids are loved by the staff and they love everyone here. It’s hard to think about moving away.”

For Celia, home means safety, calm, laughter and family. It means being comfortable and at ease without fear. It means being able to be themselves and together as a family. Your caring support provided a safe home for Celia and her family in their time of need. Now, she wants to provide this same kind of safe, loving and joyful home environment when she transitions to her own home. *Supporters like you make this possible!*

Psalms 91:14-15 “The Lord says, “I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them.”

Upcoming Events: Save these Dates!

Updates regarding all events are provided on our website: www.thedwellingplacemn.org/events



Run Strong! 5K Virtual Race 2020

July 6-20, 2020

Virtual Event

Fundraising Goal: (at least) \$25,000

Our Race is On—Virtually! Over the span of two weeks, runners and walkers, individuals and teams, families and friends are invited to this race where YOU can make a difference by raising awareness and funds for The Dwelling Place! What can you do to help?

- Register to participate virtually wherever you are, create a team, and set a personal fundraising goal.
- Become a race sponsor for our virtual race!
- Post images through social media of your training, team, and race time.
- Do something you love, wherever you are, to make a life-changing difference through The Dwelling Place.

Questions? Contact us at race@thedwellingplaceshelter.org



2020 Gala & Silent Auction

Saturday, October 10, 2020

Details to follow

Our 22nd Annual Gala will feature our famous Silent Auction with mobile bidding, a delicious meal, ministry updates, stories, and testimonies, and the beautiful music of Redpath.

Registration information coming this summer.

Sponsorship opportunities are available with more information on the gala website.

www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org/2020gala

Volunteers Share God's Heartbeat for this place called "home"



Enthusiasm and care of volunteers from Grace Church, Roseville created welcome baskets with donated goods gathered by the church. Volunteers like this make it possible for us to welcome women and children into their new home and make it possible for them to settle in with needed items like towels, laundry detergent, and stuffed animals. God's love transforms lives through it all! We know we are "at home" when we are loved unconditionally and accepted as we are. It is what God does and we seek to follow His example.

Message from Linda Wiza, Executive Director

*Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him.
— Psalm 91:1-4*



Due to the growing concerns over COVID-19, we have implemented various measures to ensure the safety of the women and children we serve, our employees, and volunteers. We have instituted updated cleaning protocols, a no-visitor and no-on-site volunteer policy, and a remote work plan—providing limited, designated team members to be on-site at our homes and at our business office as needed to oversee essential tasks. We are also asking our residents to limit outside contact as much as possible to protect our entire community. Through your generous donations, we have provided food and supplies so residents will not need to go out for essential items. We also have an emergency plan in place, in case someone in our care becomes ill. **And, most importantly, we are praying for God's protection and claiming the promises of the scriptures (like Psalm 91).** All of us are impacted by this virus in some way—some of us personally through loss of employment and even illness. Please know that we are praying for you and your family and care deeply about our supporters and volunteers. Now, more than ever, we come together as a community and pray for the continued protection and provision of God in every way.

Aside from the virus, I believe 2020 marks a new season of life for The Dwelling Place Ministry. For the first year since 2017, the year began without home renovation work underway! The work on Esther's Place began in 2017 (completed in 2018) and Lydia's Place began in 2018 (completed in 2019). Each of our four homes are truly a gift from God! **There's no place like (a safe) home!**

Frequently, people ask me about our next building project. Where will it be? When will it begin? My response is this: **Until God leads us to add more spaces or acquire another home, our focus is to assimilate our new growth well, faithfully share the love of Christ, and diligently serve the many women and children currently living in the homes we have so they will experience the blessing of safety.**

Our commitment continues to encourage and support the successful transition of our alumni (women who have moved to homes of their own but remain connected through the new Alumni Program). We express our gratitude to God for each home He has provided and each woman and child who are breaking free from the horrible cycle of domestic abuse. **We inhabit our homes with praise to God because within the walls of each home, we are seeing lives transformed by the love of Christ!**

This is our first full year of operating all four homes (serving up to 57 women and children at one time). We need your strong prayer and financial support to sustain the homes and provide safety and services that help women and children thrive. **Your partnership helps them know there truly is "no place like (a safe) home."**

This year marks a new season for us in another way. After a period of prayer and discernment, I have decided to retire from my position as Executive Director at the end of this year, 2020. This has been the most exciting, fulfilling position I have ever held, and my love for The Dwelling Place is as strong as ever. **I am excited about what the Lord will do in the future of The Dwelling Place! Please join me (and our Board) in praying for the next leader of this ministry as we begin the search process.** I will be fully engaged in the transition with the new Executive Director. Please contact Scott Koester, Board Secretary and Search Committee Chair, at skoester@family.net with recommendations of any potential candidates.

Linda Wiza, Executive Director



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Spring Newsletter



Enhancing Trust

The Sacred Trust of Your Financial Support

We recognize how serious the COVID-19 health crisis is and that it has created a financial hardship for many. **We care for you and understand.** We appreciate every gift given from the heart. If you have the ability to financially support The Dwelling Place, **you provide more homes and beds** than ever before for women and children fleeing abuse. **You enable supportive staff** to come alongside more women and children with Christ's love, empowering them to move through barriers that have held them back from the lives God intends for them. **You open the door** to invite more families into a safe place to lay their head, have time to breathe, and have time to heal without anxiety. **You offer the opportunity** to help them learn who they are in Christ and gain the resources and tools they need to build strength as they move forward to live free of abuse. **You make a difference for each one because there's no place like home to experience a life that is transformed by Christ's love!**

Your gift is a sacred trust to us. We use what God provides as stewards of His incredible grace and daily care. We are deeply grateful for each giver and every gift. **Thank you!**

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