



The Dwelling Place

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH CHRIST'S LOVE

2016 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

I'm pleased to report that 2016 has been a year of incredible blessing and strengthening of the ministry! The board and leadership team completed strategic planning in the spring of 2016. This plan lays the foundation for The Dwelling Place for the next 5 years. Through this process our vision, mission, and purpose were re-articulated to create more clarity for our work. 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 positioned us well for sustainable growth in the future.

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.

Vision: Transforming Lives through Christ's Love

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

We also identified four core values and guiding principles to fulfilling our mission. These include being:

- Gospel-centered
- Collaborative
- Nurturing and motivating
- God-honoring through stewardship

I couldn't be more excited about all that God is doing at The Dwelling Place and am pleased to have a solid road map from which to continue to build our future together SO THAT we can serve more women and children who so desperately need our help. 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. It is evident that as the body of Christ works together in life giving ways, God receives the glory!

Vision for the Future

There continues to be high demand for the services of this ministry. In an effort to meet this demand to provide safe shelter and Christian programs, in 2017 we have embarked on a multi-phase capital project. Our new capital project is an intentional process to replace an existing shelter and add an expansion site. Phase 1 is the purchase of a duplex near our existing shelter in the north metro. This site replaced one we were leasing. Phase 2 will be to purchase or build a multi-use dwelling with spaces suitable for large and small group programming, one-on-one case management, safe living space for women and their children, and direct-care staff offices. The phase 2 site will focus on the first stages of trauma recovery when more intensive healing is needed. The three duplexes will then be used for more independent living while continuing to provide services and life skills to allow them to obtain education, jobs, and housing. This capital project will help us grow and expand our program and service delivery in a more specialized, focused manner to best meet the needs of the women and children we serve.

We are grateful for all the blessings we received in 2016 and will continue to seek the Lord's guidance and direction as we continue to expand to address the need.

Linda Wiza
Executive Director
The Dwelling Place
(651) 221-0405

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. Our trauma-informed care consists of two primary healing principles—safety and empowerment. We work to help residents become empowered through intensive case management with individualized care plans that recognize and build upon their strengths, as well as provide detailed solution-focused strategies to address their areas for growth and future goals.

Domestic abuse 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. 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. Without the services of The Dwelling Place, more women and children will be trapped in abusive situations at home.

Core Program Overview:

- Case Management/ Advocacy
- House Meetings
- Support Groups
- Domestic Violence Education Courses
- Additional Classes in Financial Education/ Counseling, Life Skills Groups, Codependency, Parenting Skills, Personal Safety, Health Care, and Home Care
- Community Involvement
- Children's Programming
- Other In-house Services: Bible Study, Transportation, Child Care, and Savings Match Program
- Other Out-sourced Services: Licensed Therapy, Mental Health Support Groups, Chemical Dependency Treatment, Legal Advocacy, Medical/ Dental Services, and Partnerships with Churches for worship, support and mentorship.

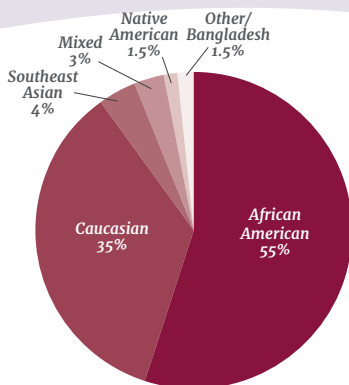
2016 SERVICE STATISTICS

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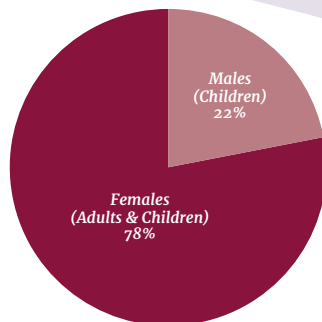
women and children (ages 3 months to 15 years) were served.

100%

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



RACE & ETHNICITY



GENDER

2016 SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2016, we significantly strengthened our infrastructure focusing on strategic planning, analyzing and improving our Women's Program, developing a new Children's Program, creating new critical staff positions, and increasing our development activities to sustain the incredible growth we have experienced. To better meet the needs of the children living in our shelter, we have been updating and bringing in additional curricula and best practices in healing for the children and families. We hired a Program Manager dedicated to the Children's Programming and are repurposing existing space in our shelters to have dedicated children's areas.



We received calls for help from **335 women with 291 children**—all victims of domestic abuse.



The Dwelling Place successfully housed and provided services to **30 women and 39 children** (20 of the 30 women were mothers).



100% of the women and children were given opportunities to grow in their faith through daily spiritual discipleship and Bible studies.



100% of the women in the program attended at least 10 hours of classes or programming each week and learned about the dynamics and effects of domestic abuse as well as other important life and parenting skills.



100% of the children ages 4 and older were provided with 1½ hours per week of support group programming to help them process their trauma.



100% of the school-aged children were provided with 1½ hours of tutoring per week to bridge their learning gap.



100% of our children ages 4 and over received "Good Touch/Bad Touch" awareness education.



8 community education opportunities/presentations were made to raise awareness on the issue of domestic violence.



The Dwelling Place is one of only three transitional housing programs in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area for victims of domestic abuse.

FINANCIALS

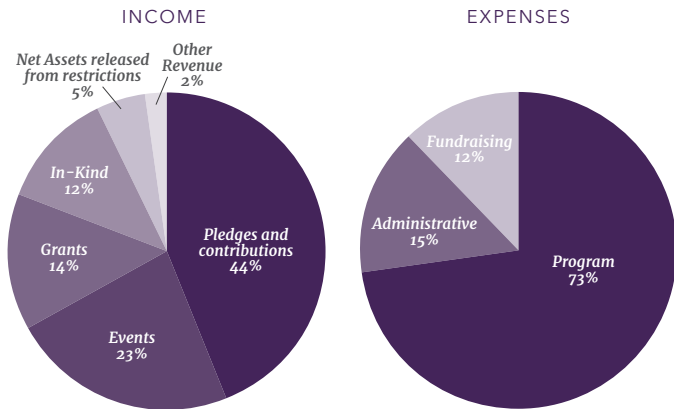
Our ministry is fully funded by the generous gifts of individuals, churches, foundations and corporations. We rely on these donations to pay for operating and program expenses. Your monetary gift makes a difference in the lives of many women and children. **Thank you** to our many donors and supporters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

Foundations

Branches Foundation
 Covenant Foundation
 Edina Realty - Blaine
 Edina Realty - Champlin
 Elim Foundation
 Great River Energy Corporate Contributions Program
 Hansen Family Foundation
 Hearts4Charity
 Jarden Consumer Solutions Community Fund
 Lutheran Women's Missionary League
 March Family Foundation
 MAXIMUS Charitable Foundation
 Otto Bremer Foundation
 Peace Shalom Foundation
 Pentair Foundation
 Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
 SpartanNash Foundation

Financial Position

Assets \$785,307
 Liabilities \$175,707
 Net Assets \$609,600



Average Family Size	2017 Expense Table for The Dwelling Place (based on 40 beds available)			
Type	Day	Week	Month	Annual
Single Woman	\$51	\$358	\$1,551	\$18,616
Mother and 2 children	\$153	\$1,073	\$4,654	\$55,848

LEADERSHIP & BOARD



Leadership Staff

Linda Wiza, Executive Director
 Kristen Nelson, Director of Programs
 Jenifer Swanson, Business Manager
 Monica Groves, Mission Advancement Director
 Julie Sexson, Children's Program Manager
 Julia Dembeck, Educational Ministries Manager

Board

Roy Anderson, Board Chair
 Vice President of Finance at Medtronic
 Tim Hubers, Treasurer
 Controller, Retired
 Chris Chell, BSW, MBA, Member
 Disaster Preparedness Coordinator at Hennepin County Medical Center
 Blake Huffman, Member
 Ramsey County Commissioner, Founder of Journey Home
 Tom Swanner, Member
 Electrician, Retired
 Jeanne Kildow (not pictured)
 Attorney at Law at Borene Law Firm, P.A.

A NEW CHANCE FOR LIFE

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.

When Tara and her children came to The Dwelling Place, they were fleeing from a life of domestic violence and financial instability. Tara, struggling with a traumatic brain injury inflicted by her abuser, had little hope for their future. However, after living within the safe, healing environment of The Dwelling Place and engaging in the daily programs offered for her and her children, Tara and her children began to recover. Tara engaged in daily prayer and spiritual support from the Christian ministry of The Dwelling Place. Through this trauma-informed program, intentional case management and advocacy, Tara was able to find a wonderful job and just moved into a new townhome and she is discovering her path to new life. *Name changed for confidential purposes*