



The Dwelling Place

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH CHRIST'S LOVE

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



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

— ISAIAH 32:18

www.thedwellingplacemn.org

Message from Executive Director



Linda Wiza
Executive Director
The Dwelling Place

For the past several years, I have shared about how The Dwelling Place has been building a solid foundation for growth. **Our solid foundation is Christ alone!** Every aspect of our ministry has been subject to His leading. Our highly skilled, godly staff are dedicated to our programs—each staff member and every aspect of our program points women and children to Christ as their Source of Strength and their Solid Foundation. **Through reliance on Him, dreams and hopes once lost (because of the control and impact of abuse) are now possible and being achieved.** We have seen the stories of so many families redeemed! These families are now living lives free of abuse and discovering the joy of using their gifts and talents to provide for their needs in productive, God honoring ways.

Through Christ and His mighty power, we are able to fulfill our mission. Together, with you, we are building strength as partners in this mission. We can't thank you enough for answering the call to walk alongside us at this amazing time in our history. Through you, we renovated and opened Esther's Place in May of 2018 with the capacity to service up to 14 additional women and children at one time, bringing total capacity in 2018 to 42. God is using simple homes, the gifts of time and safety, and the community of support and care provided every day to change lives and write new stories for women, children, and the future. As God leads us, He also enables us to help women and children build upon the strong foundation of Christ and stand firm, because they are well established.

Vision for the Future

We are seeing even more growth emerge thanks to the Lord's mighty provision through generous supporters and amazing volunteers. One way this growth is apparent is with the increase in the number of homes we have to use for ministry purposes. **We opened our fourth home, Lydia's Place in April 2019. With this addition we have the capacity to serve up to 57 women and children at one time!** In the span of one year, (Esther's Place opened in May of 2018, Lydia's Place opened in April, 2019) we have doubled in size! Lydia's Place provides:

- An accessibility suite to accommodate physical needs.
- Large group meeting space for women to use for bible study/prayer, training sessions, educational programs, and life skills development.
- The Phyllis Rose Children's Center provides for the needs of children, all ages.
- Efficient use of space for program staff offices.

Because God led the way, all homes are **debt free**. The transformation of each home is a beautiful mirror of the transformation that takes place in the lives of the women and children's who come to experience safe and supportive dwelling places.

Alumni Program

In September of 2019, we will launch a new Alumni program to ensure sustained freedom from abuse and to track the long-term outcomes of residents who have transitioned from The Dwelling Place. We are excited to offer a higher level of intentional support through mentorship, monthly case management, monthly support group, and quarterly activities.

We are so grateful for all the blessing we received in 2018. We rely upon a wide variety of churches, individuals, foundations, and businesses, so that we can share the message of Christ's love and healing power. We will continue to fulfill our value of being God-honoring through stewardship and to seek the Lord's guidance and direction as we continue to serve many more women and children in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Wiza". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Linda Wiza
Executive Director
The Dwelling Place
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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 21 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 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.

Core Program Overview:

- Case Management/ Advocacy
- Support Groups
- Domestic Violence Education Courses
- Individualized Therapy
- Life Skills Education
- Financial Education & Counseling
- Education, 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

2018 SERVICE STATISTICS



45

women and their children were served (16 of the women were mothers).



100%

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



179

volunteers contributing 3,594 hours of service

2018 SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2018, we successfully housed and served **20 women** and **25 children** (16 of the women are **mothers**). While our number served is lower in 2018 than 2017, it reflects a trend of women staying longer and furthering their healing, education and skill-building from our programs. We improved our initial intake process to better assess individuals who would benefit from our programming. We have also put considerable time and resources into improving our program and evaluation design. Typically, we were at 100% of our capacity.

- Successfully housed and served 20 women and 25 children (16 of the women are mothers).
- We received calls for help from 385 women with 379 children—all victims of domestic abuse.
- All women left domestic violence successfully and detached from their abusers. The women and children found safety and remained safe within our program.
- 45 women and children received 6,097 nights of safety; with the average stay of 9 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, and other related topics.
- All women and children participated in daily Christian spiritual discipleship and Bible studies with the intent to grow in their faith.
- 85% of mothers improved their parenting skills to break the generational cycle of abuse through parenting consultation, classes and daily parenting guidance from staff.
- 90% of women received advocacy and support for overcoming barriers through transportation, job skills, legal, educational and housing assistance.
- 80% of women established new life goals and skills to better manage emotional health.
- All mothers of school-age children learned to advocate for their children within the schools for improved behavior plans as needed.
- All school-age children were provided with 1.5 hours per week of support group programming to help them process their trauma.
- All school-age children were provided with 1.5 hours of tutoring per week to bridge their learning gap.
- All toddlers participated in 5 hours per week of large motor skills development activities, critical for healing from trauma. School-aged children participated during the summer.

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	\$1,347,471
Liabilities	\$ 37,992
Net Assets	\$1,309,479

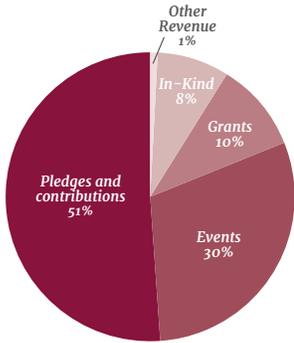
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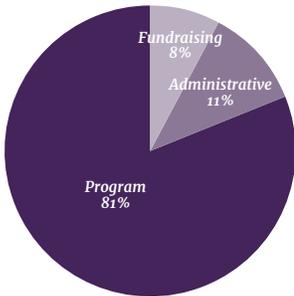
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 Jerry and Marilyn Halseth
 Joe and Tara Meyers
 Victory Auto

INCOME



EXPENSES



A NEW CHANCE FOR LIFE

We are blessed daily to experience the amazing life transformation that takes place at The Dwelling Place. Following is a quote from one of our residents from 2018.

“We are so grateful for TDP! It truly is a place of healing and the impact is far reaching. Thank you for believing in this ministry and the firm foundation you have helped us build. We are so in awe of God and His goodness! Thank you for touching our hearts and giving us so many useful tools and for the love and support during our darkest hours. We love you all!” —B. AND CHILDREN

LEADERSHIP & BOARD



Top row left to right: Jenifer Swanson, Julie Sexson, Cindy Hall, Kassie Cossette, Monica Groves. Bottom row left to right: Anne Reineck, Linda Wiza, Grace Eller, Karla Brown, Jessica Fritz (Carol Shuler not pictured)

Leadership Staff

Linda Wiza, Executive Director
 Monica Groves, Mission Advancement Director
 Jenifer Swanson, Business Manager

Board

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Chris Chell, BSW, MBA, Vice Chair
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 Hennepin County Medical Center

Linda Wiza, Non-voting Member
 Executive Director
 The Dwelling Place
 Former Board Member

Tara Meyers, Member
 Director of Experiential & Content
 Production
 SixSpeed



Part of the large group meeting space in Phyllis Rose Children's Center in Lydia's Place