



*The Dwelling Place*

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH CHRIST'S LOVE

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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

— ISAIAH 32:18

[www.thedwellingplacemn.org](http://www.thedwellingplacemn.org)

## ***Annual Report Message from Executive Director***



**Linda Wiza**  
Executive Director  
The Dwelling Place

2019 was another year of growth in our capacity to serve more women and children who have been harmed by abuse. We now have four homes and have added resources to fulfill our vision of transforming lives through Christ's love. Together, with the Lord's leading, we walk alongside women and children, helping them to feel known and understood, listening to their stories and believing them. Every day we see the miraculous power of God changing women's lives by restoring hope, affirming value and worth, restoring strength and dignity, and giving them a strong foundation upon which to build their lives.

We give thanks for the Lord's mighty provision through generous supporters and amazing volunteers. In April of 2019, we opened our fourth home, Lydia's Place. With the addition of this home, we increased capacity to serve up to 57 women and children at one time!

### ***Lydia's Place provides:***

- An accessibility suite to accommodate physical needs.
- Much needed 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 that 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. Each home provides safe spaces where women and children can experience strength and dignity. The first tangible aspect of providing strength and dignity to women and their children is to provide the safety and stability of a safe place to sleep. A safe place to live. A safe place to "be" as they begin to heal and gain skills to move forward to live free from abuse.

In September of 2019, we launched 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 blessings we received in 2019. 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 endeavor to fulfill our core-value to honor God through stewardship and to seek His guidance and direction as we continue to serve many women and children in the future.

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

Now more than ever before we understand that our future is in the Sovereign hands our God, our Creator and Sustainer. The COVID-19 pandemic changed our landscape considerably and the need for our ministry and services has never been greater. We established new protocols to ensure the safety of women/families, staff members, and volunteers. We will do all we can to provide rooms and beds and programs to those in desperate need. We know that domestic abuse increases during times of crisis and economic hardship and we continually work to find funding sources to help us maintain full capacity during this time when many other organizations, businesses and ministries have had pull back on their services. We are now looking at creative ways to conduct our fundraising events and connect with partners and other service providers in a way that is safe for all. Please join me in prayers for the Lord's covering of protection from the virus for all of the families and staff under our roofs. We pray for you and those you love, your health and unique circumstances that arise. Together we lean upon the Lord to help us weather this new reality with His grace, strength, and peace.



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

***[linda.wiza@thedwellingplacemn.org](mailto:linda.wiza@thedwellingplacemn.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 22 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

## 2019 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.



184

volunteers contributing 4,307 hours of service

## 2019 SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, we successfully housed and served **29 women** and **43 children** (23 of the women are **mothers**).

- We received calls for help from 414 women with 299 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.
- 72 women and children received 10,717 nights of safety; with the average stay of 10 months. (Average length of stay of those graduating in 2019 was 13 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.
- 87% of mothers improved their parenting skills to break the generational cycle of abuse through parenting consultation, classes and daily parenting guidance from staff.
- 80% 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

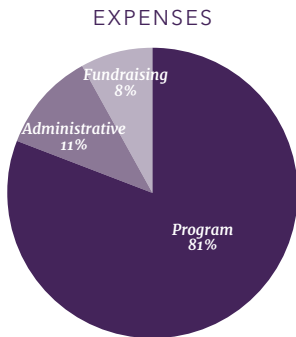
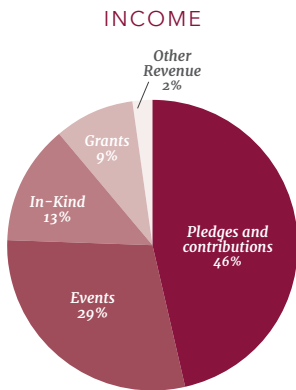
Our ministry is fully funded by the generous gifts of individuals, churches, foundations and corporations. We rely on these donations to pay for operating and program expenses. Your monetary gift makes a difference in the lives of many women and children. **Thank you** to our many donors and supporters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

### Financial Position

Assets	\$1,393,491
Liabilities	\$ 49,657
Net Assets	\$1,343,835

### Foundations & Grants

Aldi, Inc.  
 American Endowment Foundation  
 Barnabas Foundation  
 Benevity Community Impact Fund, The Best Buy Employee Giving Program  
 Branches Foundation  
 Charities Aid Foundation of America  
 Edina Realty Foundation  
 Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
 Frauenshuh, Inc.  
 Great River Energy  
 Ham Lake Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation  
 InFaith Community Foundation  
 LWML-MN South District  
 March Family Foundation  
 National Christian Foundation  
 National Philanthropic Trust  
 North Heights Lutheran Church  
 Open Your Heart to the Hungry & Homeless  
 Peace-Shalom Foundation  
 Schwab Charitable  
 The American Gift Fund  
 The Make Sense Foundation  
 The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation  
 The Westerman Foundation  
 Thrivent  
 Truist  
 Twin Cities United Way



### Events Sponsorship

ACR Homes Inc.  
 Focus Financial  
 Jerry and Marilyn Halseth  
 Kempis, LLC.  
 Joe and Tara Meyers  
 Northeast Bank  
 Tanis Aircraft  
 Slumberland  
 Victory Auto  
 Journey Well Financial Partners  
 Jam Hops  
 HealthMax Chiropractic  
 Crest View Lutheran Home  
 Brunson's Pub

### Churches (\$1,000 or more)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
 Christ Lutheran Church  
 Eagle Brook Church  
 Faith Christian Reformed Church  
 Living Christ Lutheran Church  
 Messiah Lutheran Church -LWML  
 Redeemer Bible Church  
 Redeeming Love Church  
 Rockpoint Church  
 Sabbath Christian Fellowship  
 Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
 Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church  
 The Church of St Patrick of Cedar Creek  
 Trinity City Church  
 Women of Eternal Hope Lutheran Church

## THE DWELLING PLACE STAFF AND BOARD



Back Row (L-R): Carol Shuler, Brianna Matychuk, Monica Groves, Jenifer Swanson, Anne Reineck, Cindy Hall, Kassie Cossette. Front Row (L-R): Christine Chow, Grace Eller, Linda Wiza, Karla Brown, Jessica Fritz

### Leadership Staff

**Linda Wiza**, Executive Director  
**Monica Groves**, Mission Advancement Director  
**Jenifer Swanson**, Finance and Accounting Manager  
**Anne Reineck**, Office Manager



Top Row: Gretchen Stevenson, Scott Koester, Paul Leverentz, Roy Anderson  
 Bottom Row: Linda Wiza, Chris Chell, Heidi Hoium, Rhonda Sivarajah  
 Connie Meyer not shown

### Board

#### Roy Anderson, Board Chair

Vice President of Finance at Medtronic

#### Connie Meyers, Treasurer

VP of Administration, Retired  
 Storage Investment Management, Inc.

#### Chris Chell, BSW, MBA, Vice Chair

Disaster Preparedness Coordinator  
 Hennepin County Medical Center

#### Scott Koester, Secretary

Retired, Operations Planning  
 Anderson Corporation

#### Heidi Hoium, Member

Consultant and Owner  
 Ironworks Consulting

#### Paul Leverentz, Member

School Administrator, Retired

#### Gretchen Stevenson, Member

Pastor of Women's Ministry  
 Rockpoint Church

#### Rhonda Sivarajah, Member

County Administrator  
 Anoka County

#### Linda Wiza, Non-voting Member

Executive Director  
 The Dwelling Place  
 Former Board Member