



THE DWELLING PLACE

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

INSIDE: **IMPACT STORIES, UPDATES,
AND 2018 GALA**

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.

Long-term transitional housing is provided with comprehensive programming for 12 months (longer if needed).

Supportive services allow women and children to heal from trauma, focus on personal and professional development, and access resources that equip and empower them for the future.

Women take part in:

- School, work, volunteering
- Support group, bible studies and life skills classes

- Referral based support of counseling, medical and legal advocacy
- Job training
- Parental support and housing assistance

Our Children's Program seeks to eliminate the generational cycle of abuse through education and by showing children they are loved and have value.

The goal is to promote healing from trauma and opportunities for growth in social, emotional, and cognitive skills.

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

www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org  [@safedwelling](https://twitter.com/safedwelling)  [dwellingplaceshelter](https://www.facebook.com/dwellingplaceshelter)

SPRING/SUMMER 2018



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

— ISAIAH 32:18

TRANSFORMING LIVES
THROUGH CHRIST'S LOVE.

The Dwelling Place

IMAGINE THE IMPACT OF GOD'S LOVE!

The Dwelling Place marked its **20th Anniversary** in February. That's 20 years of providing safety, healing, and hope through our transitional housing and supportive programs to just a portion of women and children who were fleeing from abuse in this community.

Could our founders have ever imagined the impact this ministry would have on **the many lives of women and children served**, or on the volunteers, and on **supporters and partners** like many of you, not to mention our staff, who have poured out their hearts and walked alongside each precious and fragile life?

Here is what we know...

- Countless women and children have experienced the love of Jesus Christ through the staff and volunteers. Many have given their lives to Jesus, claiming His redeeming power and hope for their once broken lives.
- We also know, generations in the future will be changed because of the help we have been able to provide to the children so that they don't have to repeat the same pattern of abuse that their parents experienced.

Here is what we see...

- Women and children who have been broken by abuse and loss in ways that most of us can't even imagine, find a new identity in Christ that allows them the faith and confidence to move forward through many barriers, to lives free of abuse.
- We have a front row seat to so many breakthroughs...like seeing a woman be baptized, or the joy of a mom letting staff know that her daughter accepted Christ as her Savior, or the relief and pride of a woman passing her GED test or her driver's test...the excitement of a child pinning his honor roll recognition to the refrigerator... or the jubilation of women when she is accepted for an apartment or awarded a school scholarship.

As a result, here is what we believe...

- Our God is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us. To Him be all glory and honor and praise. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

GOD IS NOT DONE!

Upon the solid foundation that God has established over the past 20 years, **new growth is rising to meet the needs** that domestic abuse creates in our communities.

Esther's Place, our third home, opens in May 2018 with a capacity for 14 women and children. Soon, this safe dwelling will be full.

Because there is such great need, we are excited to announce how the Lord has blessed us with a **fourth home** AND completely funded its purchase! This house will permit us to serve 12 more women and children, AND will provide much needed large group spaces for our women's and children's programs. **Praise God!** Volunteers will renovate this home during the summer months.

By fall of 2018, God will increase our capacity to serve 54 women and children at one time. Just imagine the impact these four homes will have in the lives of women and children who need safety, healing, and support.

Glory to God for new life that comes through the powerful love and grace of Jesus Christ!

Imagine the Impact

Ephesians 3:20-21

**SAVE THE DATE: October 6th
20th Anniversary Gala**

Celebrating 20 years of impact!

Earl Brown Heritage Center

Early registration begins July 1

www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org/gala2018

Questions? 651-221-0405

ONE WOMAN'S STORY OF IMPACT

I was raised Catholic and always believed in Jesus, but in November 1998 I knew that I needed to know more of Him. I had just turned 29 and remember sitting on my bed talking to my sister as she helped me receive Jesus Christ as my Savior.



In 2016, after my marriage of ten years had ended, I began walking the wide road as opposed to the narrow road of following Jesus. I was listening to what the world told me: I deserved to be happy and should do whatever I wanted to achieve that, believing there would be no consequences. I immersed myself into drinking, smoking pot, and sexually immoral behavior.

The following spring, I met my abuser online. Later, he moved into my apartment and shortly after,

he began abusing me mentally, physically, spiritually, and financially. I felt held hostage as he would not let me out of his sight. He cut me off from others, held my ID, debit and credit cards, cell phone, and even forced me to withdraw funds from my 401(k). He took everything I had for himself.

I was isolated and helpless. The isolation continued as he moved us to Colorado. We were there for three weeks before I had an opportunity to escape. With help from the police, I left him. This was all God's doing. Not knowing what the way forward would look like, I told my sister-in-law that I could not believe I was starting over at the age of 47. She reminded me that I could be dead.

A family member helped me find The Dwelling Place, and I was able to move in October of 2017.

I love walking and began using this time to listen to sermons online. I came to see the roles I played to get to where I was. As Pastor Andy Stanley said, "You can't pray your way out of a mess that you behaved your way into...you can follow your way out through Jesus though!"

I was beginning to see how far back my sinful patterns went. At

the same time, I was learning about the beauty in Jesus dying for my sin and how the moment I repented and asked for forgiveness, it was wiped away. To quote Pastor Jason Strand, "My starting line just moved to right now and it's about finishing the race well."

"I'm so very grateful to have had this time to 'be still.'"

I am so very grateful to have had this time to "be still." I am growing in my faith and trust in God, and believing that He has provided me with all that I need. The habits that I've broken and created during my time at The Dwelling Place have been life-saving. I attend church weekly and have my "Jesus Time" every morning. I feel like I'm still me, just a better version.



The Dwelling Place

BUILDING IMPACT: ESTHER'S PLACE VOLUNTEERS

House renovation projects require volunteers—and God bought willing and gifted volunteers to renovate “Esther’s Place.” Sue Bro and Jim Day are great examples of volunteers making an impact.

“I learned about the upcoming renovation of the newly acquired Esther’s Place at The Dwelling Place Gala in October. I was looking for an opportunity to volunteer somewhere this winter and jumped at the chance to be involved,” recalls Sue Bro. When demolition began on October 21, Sue stepped forward with great enthusiasm and energy along with several other volunteers who began taking down walls in the basement.



Jim heard a presentation at Eagle Brook Church in Spring Lake Park and offered his services as a retired contractor. Jim was motivated by knowing that this home would provide help and hope for women and children in need. For Sue, it was in knowing that building this home meant countless lives of women and children would be set on a new trajectory.

Renovation is not an easy process. When asked about the challenges she faced, Sue recalled, “Sometimes the work is quite hard and I am very tired and even hurting when I go home—and some days,

progress seems slow. But I find myself coming back the next time, anticipating how much we will get done that day.”

What impact have they felt by volunteering? Jim said, “It has added a meaningful purpose to my life.” For Sue, “I want to make a difference in the lives of those who are hurting and are without hope. This renovation has given me the opportunity to do that.”



Through volunteering, Jim learned “the help being offered is not a short one-time quick assist; but rather a sustained investment in a person for a successful future.” Sue observed, “There are more women and children caught in the cycle of domestic abuse than I ever imagined. These women want a different life for themselves and their children, but need support and guidance to break the damaging cycle they are in. And they need to know Jesus loves them. They find all that and more at The Dwelling Place.”



What message would Sue write on the wall of Esther’s Place? **“He cares for you.”**



Imagine the impact your support will make with the addition of two more Dwelling Place homes!

This ministry is fully funded by the generous gifts of individuals, churches, foundations, and corporations. We rely on these donations to cover all expenses. Every contribution is significant in God’s amazing plan to meet needs, encourage hearts, and change lives. Will you make an impact decision to support this work? So many lives have been changed forever over the past 20 years. We can only imagine how many more lives God will transform for all eternity as Christ’s love fills the homes of The Dwelling Place and impacts the lives of women and children.



Enhancing Trust



Give by mail or online: www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org/donate

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