



“
For the first time,
I didn't have to think
about where he was.
I didn't have to think
about anything, just
me and my girls.”

MEET:

Jenna Perez

Q & A with Our New Executive Director

Jenna formerly served as the Director of Programs for The Dwelling Place (TDP) and steps into the Executive Director position in October, 2023.

Q: What led you to The Dwelling Place in 2022?

A: When I first heard about TDP through a former staff member, I immediately loved the mission and vision of this ministry. I knew I wanted to be a part of seeing the Lord heal and restore these women and children who have experienced so much trauma in their lives. After serving as a missionary to traumatized children, it aligned with my life's mission to help people find healing, freedom, and their identity in the Lord.

Q: What has been the most impactful part of working at TDP so far?

A: I love so many things about TDP! I love my team of incredible women who serve our residents and the Lord with their whole heart. I love the residents and their resilience and strength to overcome so many obstacles. Many of my favorite experiences at TDP are the graduation ceremonies. I love seeing the transformation in the women and children's lives, from who they were when they arrived, to who they are when they leave. It's a miracle! **They find their true identity in Christ, and it is transformational.** My first graduation was of a young mom and her two kids. When she first came to TDP, she had experienced so much abuse and trauma that she couldn't even look anyone in the eye. She struggled with depression and PTSD. Her children had many behavioral issues and were incredibly difficult to handle in our programming. Fast forward to the woman I watched graduate two years later! She was confident, she looked everyone in the eye, gave a speech (even said she would be willing to share at our gala), and looked like a different person! She had a full-time job, found a nice apartment, and her kids were in school and daycare without issues. She had a thriving relationship with the Lord, was involved in her local church, had a mentor, and was active in our alumni program. Praise the Lord! That is what TDP is all about and why I love working for this incredibly ministry. What a privilege to call this my job and watch these incredible women and children find healing and restoration in Jesus.



Q: How have you felt called to the Executive Director position?

A: Mentors in my life asked me to consider applying for the role. I had to seek the Lord to be sure it's what He wanted. I felt such incredible peace about it, and I knew I needed to be obedient to Him. As I stepped out in faith and applied, the Lord used two different people to confirm to me through incredible ways that this is indeed what God is calling me to do. I know He will guide and direct me as I rely on His Spirit. My life motto to the Lord has always been: "Wherever, whenever, whatever" and He has never failed me! I continue to follow and He amazes me!

Q: What is most important to you as you step into this leadership role?

A: I want to see us continue to do the incredible work we are doing! We have the strategic plan for the next three years already mapped out, and I cannot wait to step into this role and work on getting the strategic goals realized. This is the Lord's ministry, and He will continue to provide the resources, volunteers, and miracles in our women and children that we get to see every day at TDP. I truly believe our best years are yet to come!

Q: How do you enjoy spending your time outside of The Dwelling Place?

A: I love spending time with my husband, José, and our three kids: Vida, Luna, and Nico! I enjoy family bike rides, going on walks, having friends over, game nights, and whatever spontaneous idea my family comes up with! We have a rich church community, and I am blessed with an incredible extended family in the area. I am so blessed!

25TH ANNIVERSARY

Gala

RECAP

25 years ago, Diane Stores was creating a list of resources for women leaving abuse and couldn't find any that provided hope through the love of Jesus. She felt the Lord calling her to change that. Soon after, one little blue house became The Dwelling Place. On August 17th, 2023, we had the opportunity to gather nearly 400 friends, staff, volunteers, residents, and alumni to celebrate all that the Lord has done each moment since.

The celebration involved a photo booth, raffle drawings, volunteer awards, and performances by Christian music artist, Jason Gray! Some of the most powerful moments of the evening were the stories shared by our residents and alumni.

Jason Gray said, "My favorite moment of the night was when one of the residents talked about how much it meant to her that one of the staff left a birthday cake in the refrigerator for her. She said it was the first birthday in 30 years that somebody had done something like that for her. It made me think about how the tide turns in a person's life over such modest things as this. It doesn't take much to make a person feel like God sees them."

The outpouring of support for the families at The Dwelling Place was amazing. Over 45 individuals and families gave to The Dwelling Place for the first time! We are so grateful to have a faithful group of supporters that sacrificially give to help women and their children dare to hope again.

CURRENT

Volunteer

OPPORTUNITIES

- ♥ Help us move back into homes after renovations are complete
- ♥ Clean houses to create peaceful atmospheres
- ♥ Join the prayer team to surround TDP with support



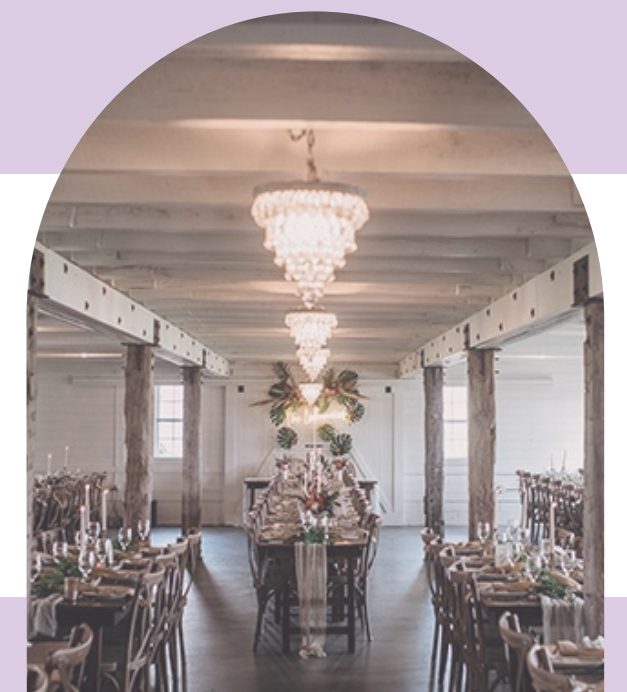
FILL OUT OUR VOLUNTEER FORM TO GET CONNECTED!



SAVE THE DATE:

Women's Gathering

MAY 16, 2024 - REDEEMED FARM



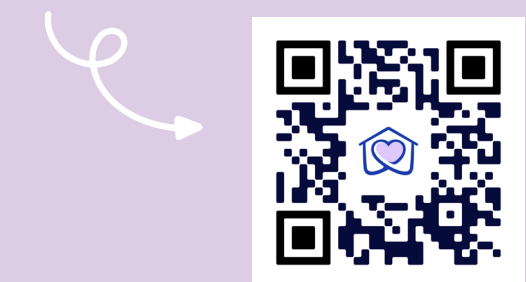
Hannah's Story

As the white, foamy waves brush up on the shore, a young Kenyan girl pays them a visit. She came to relax, to enjoy the sunshine. "You don't even have to decide where to go, there's beaches everywhere in Kenya," said Hannah, now sitting in Minnesota recounting her childhood. "It was like summer every night." Hannah, the only child of a technician and secretary, dreamt of becoming a nurse to help others. "It came down to my heart and how I see people," she said. At the age of 21, Hannah came to the United States for her uncle's graduation ceremony and decided to stay. She was pregnant. She gave birth to a daughter and raised her while living with her aunt and uncle. Her daughter was three when she met the man who would become her husband, Aaron. Hannah met Aaron through a mutual friend. "Anything you say, he would do it," remembered Hannah. "But what drew me most to him was that he showed love to my daughter." After a few months, Aaron suggested they move in together. He would pay their bills and put Hannah's daughter in a private school. Hannah was 23 when she agreed to move in, and they were married two years later. Aaron changed. He became more violent and argumentative. He yelled and threatened to make Hannah's life difficult, ensuring that she would suffer and never have independence. "Since I was in love with him, I was willing to forgive him and work things out so that we can be a happy family. I ignored all the signs of his anger, rage, and aggressiveness." Hannah attempted to leave multiple times with her daughters, as her and Aaron now had a daughter

together. However, she said, "I thought I was not capable of supporting my family alone, so I always went back to him." One night, Aaron became angry about paying for her daughter's education. Hannah tried to calm him down, protecting her two daughters in the room. He assaulted Hannah, who later needed two abdominal surgeries to repair the wounds. Aaron threatened Hannah not to tell the police officers what happened because if he went to jail, the children would suffer. Hannah told the officers everything, and Aaron was arrested that night. Hannah and her daughters moved into a shelter, and it was there that she learned about The Dwelling Place. Hannah arrived and was shocked to find a living room, kitchen, and bedrooms for her and her daughters. "For the first time, I didn't have to think about Aaron and where he was," she said. "I didn't have to think about anything, just me and my girls." Hannah became a CNA. She was able to save money of her own. She found an apartment. But when asked what she learned the most at The Dwelling Place, she said, "Always pray. I did that, and I thank God for just being able to help me. Just look at the fact that I can even laugh and be happy." In her new apartment building, Hannah befriended one of her neighbors. "She started telling me the same kind of story I went through," said Hannah. "I told her 'Don't worry, I have a book.'" Hannah gave her neighbor the book she was given on her first day at The Dwelling Place. A book that lays out what domestic abuse is, what its effects are, and what the Bible has to say about it.

You can help end abuse and provide hope to women like Hannah today.

GO TO [TDPMN.ORG/GIVE](https://tdpmn.org/give)
SCAN THE QR CODE
OR CALL (651) 221-0405



Wondering how your donation helps?

- \$5,000** provides six months of room and board for a family.
- \$1,000** provides a month of specialty classes for the women.
- \$500** provides a month of transportation for women to go grocery shopping and take children to school or daycare.
- \$250** provides our women with a week of Bible study, support group, domestic violence awareness, and life skills classes.
- \$100** provides a month of basic household supplies for one family.
- \$50** gives a welcome basket to each new family.



place to call home.
should have a safe
Everyone

FALL 2023



5 Key Questions for Domestic Violence Awareness Month



1 What is domestic violence?
Domestic abuse—or domestic violence—is a pattern of behavior used to cause fear and gain control over another person.

2 What can it look like?

Emotional
ridicule, blaming, lying, threats, yelling, controlling behaviors

Physical
slapping, kicking, destroying property, reckless driving, rape

3 How does it affect my community?



50% of all homeless women and children living in America are fleeing domestic abuse.

1 in 3 women will be a victim of domestic abuse in her lifetime.



Financial
denying freedom to work, making secret financial decisions

Spiritual
denying right to attend church, using words like "submit" for control

4 Where can someone get help?
Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233

5 How can I be a part of the solution?



Scan the QR code or visit tdpmn.org/how-to-help

Donate
needed items

Join
the prayer team

Volunteer
your time

Give
a one-time or monthly gift