

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

TRANSFORMING LIVES
THROUGH CHRIST'S LOVE.



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

— ISAIAH 32:18

The Dwelling Place



“I have come to know Christ and myself and what it means to be a healthy mom. This program has helped me find God’s plan.”

*- Woman currently residing with her family at
The Dwelling Place*

EVERY STORY BEGINS SOMEWHERE

This is what we learn more and more each day as we journey with the women and children in our program. What we discover, as women begin to feel safe, is the history of fear is often longer than any of us had known. The legacy of abuse, studies have found, can live in our muscle tissue and our DNA. It not only passes on through behaviors but through deeply seeded histories.

The women in our healing program begin to unpack this history as they find a safe Dwelling Place. They often discover that they are remembering adverse childhood events that have been buried for years. They often feel old feelings and begin to name old fears that have been living in

the recesses of their memory.

The power of God, however, is the ongoing biblical promise that claims healing for all of life’s pain. This is a promise of restoration: that no matter how difficult or frightening our stories may be, we have a God that promises to restore our lives to sanity and hope. We have the opportunity to see hope ‘alive and well’ as babies arrive. Some babies are literally ‘being born into our program.’

As infants grow within our community and become toddlers we are both surprised and overjoyed to see that they show no signs of trauma. These little ones that learn to walk in our midst remind us that, no matter

how unlikely this movement may seem, God does create us all to stand on our feet and move forward. Every story begins somewhere. For these little ones, their story begins here, with us. For their mothers, a story of healing is being written.

“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” 1 Peter 5:10 (ESV)

**By Kristen
Nelson
Director of
Programs**



VOLUNTEER FEATURE

“We love because He first loved us.” – 1 John 4:19.

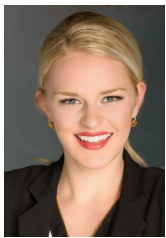
Through working with volunteers I have the joy of seeing first-hand the love of Jesus being poured out onto the women and children and the difference it makes!

The love of Jesus can be hard to grasp for someone who knows little about Jesus. As staff we talk with the women about Jesus’ love for them and ways He shows His love. After a few volunteers came to help lead a class for the women and tutor the kids a resident’s eyes got wide and said, “I get what you mean by seeing Jesus’ love poured out for you and His love in action. I see it through these volunteers giving of themselves to show us love, Jesus’ love!”

By Julia Dembeck



VOLUNTEER STORIES:



After experiencing a vivid dream of starting an organization that provided pro bono financial planning to survivors, I began volunteering at TDP. Over the past month, we’ve discussed building good credit, creating a budget, and honoring God with our money. After our meeting, one woman said, “I’m starting to cry, because I never thought my goals were within reach. Knowledge is power, and I’m so grateful I have everything I need to create a new life for myself and my daughter.”
-- Kailee O.



I visited the TDP website many times before stepping out in faith to serve. I feared being out of my comfort zone, the time commitment, and that I may fail. The amazing staff encouraged me and prayed for me. God replaced my fear with joy. I am truly blessed by working with the children. I must seek and depend on the Lord to serve them well. I see how important it is to love and “show up” for the children, without expectations. Through the real emotions the children express, I have gained insights about my own adult children. When the children challenge me I realize, “I act exactly like that toward my Father in Heaven, and He loves me unconditionally!”

The Lord is looking for ordinary people like you and me to accomplish extraordinary things, and in the process, change us for His purposes. – Miss Sarah



The Dwelling Place

*Thank You,
Five Oaks Volunteers!*



Our children’s area in St. Paul received a beautiful transformation through this wonderful team of volunteers from Five Oaks Church in Woodbury on February 12. Thank you so much!



Look for The Dwelling Place at Joyful Noise , June 10th at the Blaine Sports Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GALA ANNOUNCEMENT SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 7th

BUSINESS AND CIVIC LEADERS BREAKFAST

Tuesday,
April 4
7:00 a.m.
FREE EVENT



Faith Christian Reformed Church
in New Brighton

REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Contact us at 651-221-0405 or
register online through our website:
[www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org/
events](http://www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org/events)

19TH ANNUAL GALA

Earle Brown Heritage Center

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"You have made known to me
the paths of life; you will fill me
with joy in your presence."
- Acts 2:28

Featured
Entertainment:
Point of Grace



Gala Sponsorship Information is
provided on our website:
[www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org/
Gala2017](http://www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org/Gala2017) or by calling:
651-221-0405.

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Tickets for Gala (Early Rate): July 1

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Spring always brings to mind new beginnings and it's very easy for me to see new beginnings all around me at The Dwelling Place as we have women and children entering our program hoping and praying for a new beginning in their lives. And, we get to see women and children launch into a new life outside of The Dwelling Place as they find healing, new life skills, transportation, jobs, and housing to allow them to live into their gifts and talents in the way God designed them.

We thank all of you who are engaged as volunteers, partners in funding this ministry, and partners in providing tools and resources to our women and children. This is YOUR ministry and you are truly making an impact. I invite those of you who might be on the fringe, dipping your toe into giving or serving, to make this spring a new beginning to commit even more to being Christ's hands and feet to the hurting so that they can have a new and better life. As I have experienced, in so doing, your life becomes exponentially more joyous.



Linda J. Wigo

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YOUR DONATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL AND VERY MUCH APPRECIATED

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. We fulfill our mission together!

Your gift can make a difference in the lives of many women and children by giving securely online with a recurring or one-time donation by credit card or by mailing a check in the enclosed envelope. To learn more about other ways to support The Dwelling Place, please visit our website or contact us for further information.

Thank you!



QUICK GIVING QR CODE
FOR SMARTPHONES



THE DWELLING PLACE

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

INSIDE: **STORIES, EVENTS,
& MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS**

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.

Women (with their children) may stay 12-18 months to receive healing and acquire skills necessary to achieve independent housing, a sustaining income, and abuse-free living.

Women take part in:

- School, work and/or volunteering
- Case management
- Domestic abuse support and education group
- Bible studies, and life skills classes

- Referral-based support: counseling, medical and legal advocacy, job training, housing assistance
- Parenting support

The Children's Program promotes healing from trauma and opportunities for growth in social, emotional, and cognitive skills. We are in the process of enhancing and expanding our children's programming to better meet our families' needs.

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

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

www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org |  @safedwelling  dwellingplaceshelter