

SPRING 2019

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

God is Building Strength in The Dwelling Place



BUILDING STRENGTH WITHIN OUR WALLS

Women who live at The Dwelling Place gain strength in many ways. Often they gain strength from one another as they heal and move forward. They share a common experience and desire a common goal: to live free of abuse. As they learn together, there is a powerful process that scripture describes as “iron sharpening iron” (Proverbs 27:17). This refining process produces an internal strength that comes as God’s Word meets the needs and desires of hurting hearts within the safety of a supportive community of faith and friends.

“I felt welcomed. I felt loved. I felt safe. I didn’t feel alone and I didn’t feel like I was unimportant. I knew I was important and that I mattered and that I was at the right place.”

“It’s good to be around those other ladies and share their stories. It makes me stronger and it makes me feel like I am not alone.”

Recently, during support group, each woman was asked to share her story of how she found The Dwelling Place. The facilitator shared, *“The miracle work of the Holy Spirit was present in every story as we heard of the pain and suffering that led them to seek refuge with The Dwelling Place. A clear indication that the Lord has directed the paths of each resident to the doorstep of the homes.”*

Strength grows through the exercise of faith, stepping out to do the important work of healing, understanding the cycles of abuse and the impact of it, learning new skills and practicing them. **Strength grows** as the Word of Christ produces life from seeds planted into established roots of truth that yields healing and produces the fruit of the Spirit. **Strength grows** when life is filled with Christ’s love and power. Strength and hope join together making it possible to seek after the job, eliminate the debt, abandon past practices that were not helpful and embrace new ways that bring good results.

“I have peace, now. I have hope and confidence. I have a home. Nothing is more important than a home.”

This is what it means to “dwell” in this space God has given. With the help of volunteers, partners, staff, and supporters, women and children who dwell in Sandy’s Place, Ruth’s Place, Esther’s Place and Lydia’s Place **will gain strength** this year. They will experience Christ’s love. They will have the opportunity to live free of abuse.

Ephesians 6:10 “Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.”

Building Strength Upon Our Solid Foundation: Jesus Christ



For the past several years, I have shared about how The Dwelling Place has been building a solid foundation for growth.

We are now seeing that 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 will open our fourth home, Lydia's Place, by late April. With this addition, we will 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 opening in April of 2019), we have doubled in size!

In God's word it says:

"I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundations on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built." — Luke 6:47, 48

Lydia's Place also 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 designed to meet needs of children of all ages.
- Efficient use of space for program staff offices.

How is this even possible?

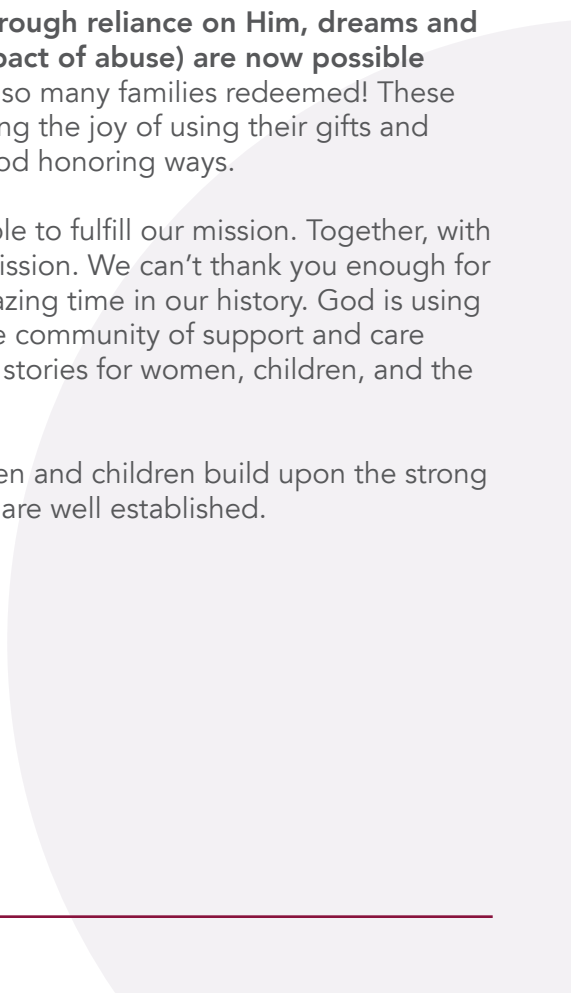
Our solid foundation is Christ alone! Every aspect of our ministry is subject to His leading. Our highly skilled, godly staff are dedicated to our programs—each staff member and every aspect of our program points women and children to Christ as their Source of Strength and their Solid Foundation. **Through 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 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. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda A. Wiza". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Wiza, Executive Director



Strengthened with Love: A Volunteer Gathering



We gathered with current and future volunteers on Saturday, Feb. 16 at Grace Church in Roseville (a new church partner) who hosted this event. Volunteers who assist with a wide variety of areas attended the event. A panel of volunteers shared how they became involved, why volunteering matters so much to them, and their experience as a volunteer: Bob Vining (home building), Heidi Hoium (development committee and gala silent auction coordinator), Chris Chell (board member and Run Strong! 5K race director), Sue Bro (home maintenance), and Eric Muras (program, tutoring).

Grace Eller, volunteer coordinator, affirmed the value of volunteers and explained how volunteers make a difference in the effectiveness of our programs, for the women and children we serve, and for our staff. We thank God for volunteers who share their time, talent, and treasure to join in the mission and strengthen our homes/program/lives in each of these ways:

- Homes (with renovation, maintenance, and exterior care)
- Program (through child care, tutoring, life skills, mentoring)
- Events (assisting with a variety of tasks and details)
- Committees
- Networking
- Fundraising

God is building strength in The Dwelling Place through each one of them—with love!



Financial Focus

This year, through your financial support for The Dwelling Place, **you are providing more homes and beds** than ever before for women and children fleeing abuse. **You enable supportive staff** to come alongside each woman and child with Christ's love, empowering them to move through barriers that have held them back from the lives God intends for them. **You open the door** to invite families into a safe place to lay their head, have time to breathe and heal without anxiety. **You offer the opportunity** to help them learn who they are in Christ and gain the resources and tools they need to build strength as they move forward to live free of abuse. **You make a difference** for each one because lives are stronger when they are transformed by Christ's love!

Your gift is a sacred trust to us. We use what God provides as stewards of His incredible grace and daily care. We are deeply grateful for each giver and every gift. All funds are used responsibly and carefully to fulfill the mission of providing a safe place to call home and support services for women and children who are homeless and traumatized because of domestic abuse. Thank you!



In 2018, we served 20 women (16 of these were mothers) and 25 children (15 girls/10 boys).

Upcoming Events



Run Strong!
The Dwelling Place 2019 5K Race

Register Now: The Dwelling Place Race 2019 Run Strong! 5K & 1 Mile

June 9, 2019
9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Central Park, Roseville, MN

Features:

- 5K & 1 Mile Race
- Praise in the Park
- Food and fun with friends and family!

Information provided at:

www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org/2019-5k-race

Save the Date: The Dwelling Place 21st Annual Gala & Silent Auction

October 5, 2019
5:30 p.m.
Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center, MN

Features:

- Silent Auction with mobile bidding
- Dinner
- Updates and stories
- Music with Aaron Shust

Registration begins July 1.

Information on becoming a sponsor, table host, or volunteer is available at the 2019 Gala website:

www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org/gala-2019



A complete list of events is provided on our website.

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.

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