


# Newsletter



“I don't know where I'd be if I didn't have The Dwelling Place!”

KATE, *current resident*

This is one of **many** transformations happening at The Dwelling Place. Take a look inside to learn more.

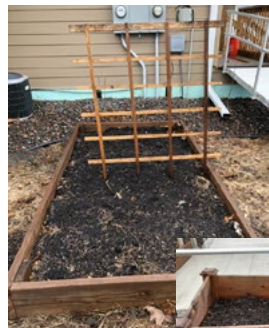


# News & Updates

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Is this true? Is this lovely? Is this pure and honorable? Kind? Gracious? Does it have virtue? These are the questions we need to ask as our thoughts are pulled in many different directions. It actually takes quite a determined mindset and discipline to stay off the fray of negativity currently in our culture. This is at the forefront of our minds as we offer a respite for the women and children who are making the decision to leave abuse behind and start again. These women have the opportunity to break the cycle of abuse and achieve a new beginning, not only for themselves, but also for their children. In order to do that, our priority is for them to feel safe, supported and seen as an individuals with unique needs.



When we are successful in the above, our residents will be much more open to what we believe to be most important for their future and that is an acceptance of a loving connection to their heavenly Father through a personal decision to follow Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. God tells us clearly in His word that it is His kindness that leads us to repentance. For me, it was when I discovered how much He loved me through the safe people and a safe community (my church) he brought into my life when I desperately needed help. Our goal is to duplicate a safe community for our residents.

Spring is a season of new birth, new beginnings, planting seeds for the hope of a good harvest and many more analogies that could likely apply to our residents. Our program staff are excited to share the principles of these promises with our residents. We are so grateful for the ways this season allows for practical ways for our partners and volunteers to engage in our mission.



Last year, through a grant from SHPS Anoka County and Five Oaks Church we were able to start our garden project and install raised gardens at our facilities. This year, Five Oaks Church is partnering with us again to literally plant seeds and for our residents to watch grow. They will be able to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables all summer long.

As we move into the summer months, we will be discovering our local parks with our women to do many fun outdoor activities that many have not experienced before. Recreation can be an amazing gift to our women in self-regulation and navigating stress. A local ministry has helped us get bikes for the women and children, we visit the local pools, libraries, scenic hikes and more.

Our program includes domestic violence education, a support group, life skills class, parenting and Bible Study as well. These additional life skills of recreation such as gardening, hiking, biking and utilizing community resources are also important to prepare our residents for a joy-filled life well beyond their time at The Dwelling Place.

We look with anticipation for all the Lord has in store for the upcoming months and the growth happening everyday in the lives of the women and children at The Dwelling Place.



## Ways to pray for The Dwelling Place:

- Successful integration of new residents into our TDP family
- Prayers for peace and healthy boundaries for mothers as their children transition from school structure to living in community
- The right volunteer mentors for each woman in our program
- Successful transition of new TDP program graduates into independent living

  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Events & Opportunities

## RunStrong 5k

Race dates are June 24 - July 5.

This Dwelling Place Race is family-friendly run, walk or skip event that can be completed anywhere in the world! Registration for this FREE virtual event is now open. A RunStrong race shirt is including with each registration

Fundraising is encouraged and awards will be given for most funds raised by a team & individual.

Easy sign up with the QR code →



## 24th Annual Gala

October 15, 2022

Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center

The 24th Annual Gala brings together old friends and new for a time to gather, eat good food, and learn more about the lives being changed through the ministry of The Dwelling Place.

You'll hear stories of reformation and hope.

Stay up to date on info at [thedwellingplacemn.org/gala](https://thedwellingplacemn.org/gala)



## Summer Volunteering

Interested in volunteering at TDP?

We have a variety of volunteer opportunities and we are currently looking for more to help us with renovations and lawn care (weekly or one-time) at the homes this summer.

Renovations are beginning on June 4!

Sign up to be contacted about volunteer opportunities at [thedwellingplacemn.org/volunteer](https://thedwellingplacemn.org/volunteer).



*"In volunteering you will be blessed to receive so much more than you give. It's a joy to serve the delightful women at The Dwelling Place and be a part of their growth and new journey."*

*Arla Frigstad, volunteer*

# Q&A

## WITH AN EXPERT

A conversation with Meagan Struck, TDP Development Director and Jacqueline Skog, MA of Peace & Safety Counseling.



I love to tell stories of transformation. I believe one of the reasons the Lord led me to The Dwelling Place (TDP) was because there are stories to be told. In the short time that I have gotten to know Jacquie, I have realized **she is a catalyst for growth in the lives of the women at TDP**. She is a witness to the renewal taking place in many different ways, whether it is here at TDP, through her clients, and her own story. I was eager to learn more, and I wanted to share with you some of the insight and passion she brings to our mission every day. I hope you are as encouraged as I was when you read her words.

**MEAGAN: How long have you been involved with TDP? What ways have you served over the years?**

**JACQUIE:** I've been involved in the TDP ministry since 2006 as a board member, board chair, support group leader, alumni group leader, intercessory prayer team member, and professional Counselor for the residents.

**M: What changes have you seen during this time?**

**J:** The growth of the mission and ministry of TDP has been progressively more effective, compassionate, and responsive to the needs of the residents and their children. Since 2006 when I first joined the board, the facilities have grown from 2 homes in a crime ridden neighborhood with a capacity of 4-6 women and their children to 5 homes equipped to serve 57 women and their children. In 2006, there were 3 dedicated employees and several volunteers who ran the ministry. Today, we have over 20

professional and passionate staff and consultants, and over 100 volunteers to collaborate care with the Christ-centered, in-depth programming.

**M: What makes TDP unique from other transitional housing for Domestic Violence?**

**J:** TDP is unique in that we proclaim Christ and teach Biblical truths about every woman's identity in Christ as the primary goal for all phases of the TDP program. All programs are designed to provide compassionate care by responding to the needs of each woman and her family according to their expressed desires.

Our staff is equipped to identify symptoms of trauma and give trauma-informed care to address anxiety, anger, depression, post-traumatic stress flashbacks, chemical dependency, and other negative life-controlling behaviors that interfere with the stability of the residents and their children. The Intercessory Prayer Team specifically prays for the needs of our residents and their children, staff, volunteers, board members, as

well as our donors and their families. The team meets monthly and publishes a prayer list several times each month. The team is comprised of dedicated believers in Christ who share the belief that faith in Christ plus education in a safe environment are the answers for the healing of the lives of those caught in the web of enemy and abuse.

The Alumni Support Program engages the residents after they have graduated from the TDP program and are out on their own. The response from former residents has been encouraging. At each alumni gathering, a family of volunteers provides and serves a meal to the women and their children. After dinner, the volunteers engage the children in active play in the safety of our meeting space. While the children are at play, their mother's meet with staff to discuss a specific topic in which they are encouraged to share their thoughts and experiences. Sharing has been rich with past, present, and future implications for each woman.

**M: What trends in domestic violence are you seeing in your private practice since 2020 and into 2022?**

**J:** Although the calls for help decreased somewhat across the nation, the incidents of DV did not change. In my practice, there has been a **twenty percent increase** in client's reporting that the isolation made things more difficult at home. Fear, anxiety, and depression were more troublesome in marriage relationships which interfered with the ability to maintain stable parenting methods and regulate intense emotions. The stress that parents and children felt from the worry and fears about the pandemic contributed to a loss of safety in the families seeking help from counseling professionals.

**M: What would you say to a donor who is curious about the value of their giving?**

**J:** There is no dollar value that can be placed on **a life and legacy that's transformed from near death experiences to a life that has found freedom from abuse in Christ's sacrifice**. We want our donors to know that **their generous contributions are the lifeline for continuing our mission to free women and children from abuse so that they can reclaim their rightful**

**legacy, mission, and purpose in Christ**. We honor them before the Lord during the monthly Intercessory Prayer Team meetings. The Team prays specifically for donors and their families, for their needs to be met and their lives to be blessed with abundance.

To simply say "Thank you" seems inadequate for expressing the deep gratitude we have for every donor. The value of their contributions is seen in the transformation of the women we serve. In my work with

One resident recently shared that she will be pursuing a ministry degree to become equipped for helping other women caught in the cycle of abuse. She's currently applying to be accepted in a seminary program while taking care of her small children, working a part-time job, and attending the programming at TDP. Her life is full of anticipation with hopes and dreams for the future she plans to provide for her children, yet she also worries about her husband who is soon to be released from prison.

*We are humbly aware that each donor is our partner in Christ to end the cycle of abuse.*

the women at TDP, I see first-hand the growth of their beauty, confidence, and faith in Christ during their stay in our homes. A visible change in their physical appearance together with a boldness of faith shines through them as they acquire the knowledge and skills needed to live a life free from abuse.

**M: Is there a particular story you would like to share?**

**J:** The transforming power of Christ's sacrifice is inherent in all we do and becomes apparent as each resident graduates our program to pursue life outside of TDP.

Since my first day on staff in February, I have heard so many wonderful things about Jacquie and how she has immeasurably blessed The Dwelling Place for over 15 years. As I continue to learn more about this ministry, I am eager to continue getting to know Jacquie.

*Meagan Struck*  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

*Will you give today?*

**Our donors and volunteers are pivotal to the mission of freeing women and children from abuse in order to reclaim their identity in Christ.** If you feel led to invest in the ongoing transformation of women and children at TDP, please consider a gift today. You can **give online** at [thedwellingplacemn.org/give](https://thedwellingplacemn.org/give) or by filling out the enclosed envelope using any of these options:

One-Time Gift  
Recurring Monthly Gift  
Pledge Gift  
Donor Advised Funds

Stock Gift  
Thrivent Choice Dollars  
Employer Charitable Gift Matches  
Legacy Gifts

**Will you help us meet our \$20k match!**

When you give a gift before June 30, your dollars will have double the impact!





I'm making a new life for  
me and my children



*The Dwelling Place*

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