SARAH’S CIRCLE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

We Are Home

Sarah’s Circle
Ending Homelessness for Women
**Mission:**
Sarah’s Circle provides a full continuum of services for women, including housing, life necessities, and supportive services to help them permanently end their homelessness.

**Vision:**
Sarah’s Circle envisions a safe and secure home for every woman in Chicago.

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Dear Friends,

The past few months of the COVID-19 crisis have affected us all, resulting in upheavals in our support systems, unforeseen challenges, and oftentimes, fear. These realities are nothing new for women experiencing homelessness, and many of our clients have lived in a state of crisis for most of their lives. We are proud to say that despite the unimaginable challenges that these women are facing, they are still able to call Sarah’s Circle home.

Homelessness can make even the most basic preventative measures inaccessible. How, for example, can you abide by a stay-at-home order when you do not have a home? Thanks to the heroic efforts of our staff, volunteers and donors, Sarah’s Circle’s doors have remained open throughout this pandemic; we continue to serve Chicago’s most vulnerable women; we continue to be their refuge, their safety net, their home. Over the last 41 years, Sarah’s Circle has been home to thousands of women, no matter what events were happening in the world around us, and our response to the COVID-19 outbreak demonstrates our unwavering commitment to those we serve.

While the core tenet of Sarah’s Circle’s efforts remains unchanged — to provide resources for women who are homeless — we are moving ahead with an updated mission statement that emphasizes the need to provide a safe and secure home to every woman in Chicago. With the current public health crisis, this goal is more important than ever.

The resources and support we provide 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, could not happen without the steadfast support of our donors and volunteers. Our supporters play a key role in providing the meals, community support, and life necessities that make Sarah’s Circle a home for hundreds of women throughout the year. It is with your help that we will end homelessness for women in Chicago.

Sincerely,

Judy Krueger
President, Board of Directors

Katherine Ragnar
Executive Director
The Daytime Support Center is a comprehensive drop-in center that offers life necessities such as showers, laundry services, toiletries, meals, access to phones and computers, as well as workshops and case management. For many women, it is both their first introduction to our services and a safe space for them to build community and access essential resources in their journey to secure permanent housing. The staff and volunteers who are onsite every day ensure the center functions as a supportive environment, critical to the success of our clients.

In 2019 …

100% of Sarah’s Circle clients had low or no income and faced a shortage of affordable housing

78% of Sarah’s Circle clients were women of color

37% of Sarah’s Circle clients were survivors of domestic violence

33% of Sarah’s Circle clients struggled with a mental health issue

33% of Sarah’s Circle clients were chronically homeless

27% of Sarah’s Circle clients were living on the street or in a place not meant for human habitation

Sarah’s Circle made me feel like a person. I cannot emphasize how important that is. Being without sanctuary, family, job . . . being without can really do some damage. Being homeless, you feel like you are a throwaway. If I didn’t have this place, I don’t know if I would have had the emotional support to keep hustling.”
The Interim Housing Program is a 50-bed overnight facility that gives women experiencing homelessness a temporary home with Sarah’s Circle. Here, supported by weekly volunteers, meal service groups, and staff, we are able to provide clients with a safe space, intensive case management, basic support services, as well as three meals a day seven days a week. While temporarily calling Sarah’s Circle home, women living here are actively seeking permanent housing.

In 2019 …

Collectively, volunteers logged an average of 279 hours of service per month across all programs

Volunteer groups provided an average of 27 meals per month, with each meal serving at least 50 clients

Sarah’s Circle had an average of 52 active volunteers per month, across all programs

Sarah’s Circle onboarded an average of 6 new volunteers per month

SARAH’S CIRCLE INTERIM HOUSING CLIENT:
“There couldn’t be someone more grateful than I am. I am so aware of how good this place is. I can see how hard they try. The little improvements . . . you can see that they try to make things better for you. We talk about how nice it is [at Interim Housing] . . . It feels good to be listened to.”
The Permanent Supportive Housing Program provides 30 units of affordable housing to women who have been chronically homeless. Clients are identified and referred to Sarah’s Circle through the City of Chicago’s Coordinated Entry System, ensuring that the most vulnerable women get housing first. This program provides a permanent home for women where they can enjoy an apartment of their own, giving each client a safe and secure space to call home.

In 2019 …

Maintained housing for 30 women in Permanent Supportive Housing apartments

Helped a total of 110 women transition into permanent, stable housing

Served a total of 796 women across all three programs

Provided case management to 582 women

Served 189 women through Art Therapy
Chicago is facing a significant affordable housing crisis, especially in our Uptown community. Since 2012, the supply of affordable housing units in Chicago has declined by 15%, which exasperates the issue of women’s homelessness.

In an effort to provide homes for even more women, we are constructing a new building, Sarah’s on Sheridan, to be completed in the fall of 2020. This space will expand our Permanent Supportive Housing Program by providing 38 affordable housing units. It will also serve as the new and improved home for our Interim Housing Program.

We truly thank our neighbors, public officials and constituents who have spoken out in support of our mission and our new building. Special thanks to the Sarah’s Circle Building Committee and Board of Directors, as well as our local partners: Perkins and Will, Mayer Brown LLP, Richard Logan, and Alderman Cappleman for working alongside us to make this project a reality.
Ways to Get Involved

Volunteer

Donate funds

Donate in-kind items

Become a monthly donor

Join a board
Associates Board • Impact Board

Sign up for our newsletter

Attend our events:
Beer Fest, Winter Walk,
Sweaters for Sarah’s Circle,
and Hot Summer Night

Financials
Fiscal Year 2019   July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Contracts</td>
<td>$1,300,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>974,863</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Contributions</td>
<td>864,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Kind Donations</td>
<td>421,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events (net)</td>
<td>175,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Income</td>
<td>20,458</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>225,668</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Contributions</td>
<td>241,830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Contributions</td>
<td>213,100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,438,098</strong></td>
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### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interim Housing Program</td>
<td>$1,253,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daytime Support Center</td>
<td>569,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Supportive Housing</td>
<td>762,527</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>208,876</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>179,782</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,974,424</strong></td>
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### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of Year</td>
<td>$20,489,406</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of Year</td>
<td>$21,976,617</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>$1,487,211</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* During 2019 Sarah’s Circle was the recipient of substantial community support, including foundations, individuals, and corporations, with a significant portion of these gifts donated anonymously. These unexpected funds were not included in the 2019 forecast, leading us to have a larger than expected surplus. Because Sarah’s Circle is unaware of the identities of anonymous donors, we are unable to cultivate future gifts from these supporters, and as such, we do not include anonymous gift amounts in our on-going annual budgeting forecasts. Separately, the increased surplus also reflects capital contributions for Sarah’s on Sheridan. The surplus will be used to ensure that Sarah’s Circle remains financially strong, with long-term sustainability and the ability to develop additional housing projects.
Board of Directors
Judy Krueger, Board President
Margaret Egan, Board Secretary
Josh Reitman, Board Treasurer
Kathy Ragnar, Executive Director
Georgia Beatty
Shira Bernstein
Mary Hayes
Heather McGuire
June Merritt
Robin Lee Roberts
Aimee St. Pierre
Peter Stutz
Robert Turner
Mandy Zaransky-Hurst

Impact Board
Stephanie Blatt, Chair
Judy Krueger, President, Board of Directors
Robin Lee Roberts, Liaison, Board of Directors
Tim Bresnahan
Lorri Detrick
Lori Gray Faversham
Meredith Friedman
Kim Larson
Kristen Litgen
Tasha Neumeister
Marie Osadjan
Erin Paas
Meg Roberts
Katherine Rojahn
Regina Shasha
Whitney Trumble
Stephanie Zosak

Associates Board Executive Committee
Devon Ritter, President
Nick Douglas, VP Events & Fundraising
Becca Lopes, VP Events & Fundraising
Hoan Hyunh, VP Membership & Recruitment
Melissa Pierce, VP Membership & Recruitment

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