Sarah’s Circle is a refuge for women who are homeless or in need of a safe space. By providing housing assistance, case management, referral services, and life necessities, we encourage women to empower themselves by rebuilding emotionally and physically; realizing their unique potential.

Sarah’s Circle typically uses pseudonyms for clients featured in our materials to protect their privacy, but Jennifer (pictured here) prefers to be referred to by her real name. Jennifer feels she has been silenced throughout too much of her life. She was silenced through child abuse, human trafficking, and many years of homelessness. Despite all this, Jennifer is firm that she was never a “damsel in distress”; she used her own strength to escape and survive. She is now a resident of Sarah’s Circle’s permanent supportive housing program. In addition to maintaining her apartment, seeing a psychiatrist regularly, and addressing chronic, debilitating back pain, Jennifer is pursuing a long-time dream of creating a line of natural skin care products. She has been researching production methods, experimenting on a small scale with lotions and astringents, and developing a business plan. While Jennifer is still in the early stages of starting a business, she feels empowered, explaining, “I’ve finally become more of who I am”.

Dear Friends of Sarah’s Circle,

Thank you! You have helped Sarah’s Circle make amazing progress in 2013! Our greatest accomplishment of the year was completing construction on our new building at 4838 North Sheridan Road. The building is home to ten new units of permanent supportive housing, administrative offices, and an improved Daytime Support Center.

Once our new building was complete, we renovated our old home to create a 24-hour interim housing facility more consistent with best practices in the field and the respect we have for the women served. The renovation was completed in December when a group of volunteers, both old and new, gave up one weekend to paint the walls, construct the beds, and build a safe space for our women.

Many of you have seen our transformed spaces at our ribbon cutting event in October, the Winter Walk in February, or when coming by to volunteer or donate. Whether or not you’ve seen the facilities first hand, we hope this annual report highlights those improvements and the possibilities for programming in our new spaces.

At the same time as our facilities were under construction and programs were moving between locations, staff and volunteers continued to provide needed services and support to help women rebuild their lives. The individual successes of the ladies at Sarah’s Circle are why we are here, and we look forward to helping even more women in the coming year.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Judy Krueger
President, Board of Directors

Katherine Ragnar
Executive Director
Our new Daytime Support Center (above) continues to provide an open milieu setting for women to come together in a safe community, participate in educational programming, and obtain basic necessities: food, restrooms, showers, hygiene products, laundry, and more. The facility improves on the design of our old home with a larger space, improved quality of the bathrooms and kitchen, and small meeting rooms for women to work with case managers helping them with their goals.

Our longest running program, the Daytime Support Center provides a safe space, physical services, community, educational programming, and case management to any woman in need.

Women who are street homeless, doubled up with friends or family, housed but at risk of homelessness, or formerly homeless may all participate.

“Kate” is in her early 20s. She aged out of foster care and has struggled with housing instability ever since. Kate was usually able to stay with a cousin around her age, but when conflicts arose, Kate had to sleep somewhere else, which was often in a homeless shelter. Because of the unique openness of the Daytime Support Center, it didn’t matter where Kate happened to be sleeping; she could come to Sarah’s Circle during the day for services. Kate wants to work, but with a low education level and instability in her personal life, she has had difficulty keeping a job.

Kate had just begun case management when she realized she was pregnant. Kate’s case manager helped her connect with prenatal care while researching and applying to programs designed specifically for young moms and their children. Kate was accepted into one of those programs and now she has her own apartment, is enrolled in school, and is preparing for her baby. Kate is committed to giving her child more security, stability, and opportunity than she had growing up.
Clinical Services

Clinical Services, including art therapy, have been an important part of Sarah’s Circle’s programming since 2008. Before the new building, art therapy took place in a corner of the milieu or in a repurposed storage room. The group room (above) was designed for small groups and art therapy. There is a sink, counters, and cupboards for art supplies; comfortable chairs; and lightweight tables that can easily be folded up depending on the needs of each group.

Clinical Services are provided at the Daytime Support Center to address the trauma, domestic violence, mental illness, and substance abuse which are contributors to and often a consequence of housing instability among the women served.

In order to address these issues, Sarah’s Circle provides individual and group clinical counseling, including art therapy, to women in the housing and daytime programs.

When “Flora” was released from jail in 2013, she knew alcohol abuse had caused many of her problems and was determined to change, but didn’t know where to start. Homeless and without anyone to turn to for help, Flora was relieved when a stranger pointed her to Sarah’s Circle. Through art therapy and individual counseling, she realized why dealing with her drinking problem had always been such a challenge. She had started using alcohol to cope with childhood trauma and continued using it as an escape from the pain of domestic violence, losing custody of her children, and homelessness. Flora was able to gain a better understanding of her own reasons for using and find more constructive ways of dealing with emotional challenges. With newfound strength, Flora worked with her case manager to find a transitional housing program that would best support her personal goal of sobriety.
Interim Housing

When Sarah’s Circle took on the Interim Housing Program in November 2011, we assumed the lease for the overnight shelter in a local church basement, where women slept on simple cots (right). Once our new building was complete, we renovated our old Daytime Support Center to create a 24-hour interim housing space with real beds, dividers for privacy, and supportive services at the same location to facilitate program flexibility and greater participation in case management.

Our Interim Housing Program is a 50-bed shelter for women who are homeless. The program provides 24-hour shelter and supportive services designed to move women directly into permanent housing as quickly as possible.

The target for length of stay is 120 days; however, Sarah’s Circle operates from a harm reduction philosophy, taking in all unaccompanied women in need of shelter and continuing to work with them until they achieve their goals.

“Michelle” had struggled with housing instability and severe chronic physical health problems for several years. In the past Michelle had been in and out of healthcare and housing programs she felt didn’t respect her privacy or autonomy, so she was in poor health and pessimistic about case management when she first entered our program.

Michelle’s relationship with her case manager at Sarah’s Circle was different. The case manager used motivational interviewing, which respects the autonomy of the client, builds on the client’s strengths, evokes motivation for change from the client herself, and acknowledges a variety of options for change. After building a relationship and exploring Michelle’s ambivalence, Michelle and her case manager identified a permanent housing program that would provide her with autonomy and privacy while meeting her extensive medical needs. Today Michelle is permanently housed in the program, and her health continues to improve.
In the top two floors of the new building, Sarah’s Circle created ten new units of permanent supportive housing for women who have disabilities and have been chronically homeless. Each unit has its own bathroom, kitchen, and living area. For the women who moved into the apartments, years of homelessness had ended, and a new beginning started. For the city as a whole, we’ve increased the amount of affordable housing available, helping address the need for more affordable housing.

Sarah’s Circle provides 21 units of permanent supportive housing to women who have a disability and have been chronically homeless.

Each woman in this program also participates in intensive case management with a Housing Coordinator at a 15:1 ratio and receives other supportive services tailored to her individualized service plan. Permanent supportive housing has been proven to improve outcomes for the most difficult to serve individuals and reduce public costs on jails, emergency rooms, and other crisis services.

“Tiffany” struggled with severe anxiety and had been homeless for years, usually spending nights in a broken down car, vulnerable to the elements. Tiffany could not believe her relief when she was given her own apartment through Sarah’s Circle’s permanent supportive housing program.

With housing stability, Tiffany was finally able to consistently work on goals beyond daily survival. One of Tiffany’s first goals was to work with mental health professionals to get symptoms of anxiety under control. Without overwhelming anxiety, even more possibilities seemed to open up. Tiffany recently completed a job training program, and once she passes her food handler’s licensing exam, Tiffany is thrilled to start a new job.
Sarah’s Circle Community

Participants and supporters of Sarah’s Circle have been walking together in our Annual Winter Walk for 23 years. Many individuals and groups, such as the local Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary have been participating in the walk every year. The event raises funds for Sarah’s Circle, raises awareness of the issues around women’s homelessness, and brings us together as a community working to help women rebuild their lives.

Since our founding in 1979, Sarah’s Circle has been an organization with deep roots in the community. Supporters share their time, skills, financial resources, and social capital with Sarah’s Circle to work towards our mission.

That social capital has been crucial in gaining community approval for zoning changes needed for our facilities, increasing online fundraising from new donors for our Winter Walk, and spreading awareness about the complex causes of homelessness in our community.

Our significant growth and tremendous success in completing capital projects in the past several years was only possible with your support. With this growth, we have more staff and expanded services, but community support continues to be critical to accomplishing our mission. Private donations support our essential programs, ensure the Daytime Support Center is open to any woman in need, and help us provide services tailored to the specific needs of women. Individual volunteers present workshops, staff our front desk, serve on committees, and lead on our board. Groups as diverse as the Diversey Yacht Club, Edgebrook Lutheran Church, and Robert Morris University Volleyball team have served meals, assembled beds, painted walls, hosted program events, and raised funds. Our community is expanding with our programs, but the mission remains the same. Together we help women rebuild their lives.
### Financials

**Fiscal Year 2013**  
**July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013**

#### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contributions</td>
<td>$2,330,940</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Donations</td>
<td>$608,691</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events (Net)</td>
<td>$14,243</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest and Dividends</td>
<td>$828</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrealized Gain on Investments</td>
<td>$791</td>
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**Total Income** $2,955,493

#### Expenses

**Program Services:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subcategory</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$793,671</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daytime Services</td>
<td>$202,535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Services</td>
<td>$158,839</td>
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**Total Program Services** $1,155,045

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>$62,120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$69,746</td>
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**Total Functional Expenses** $1,286,911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>$1,668,582</td>
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</table>

#### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of Year</td>
<td>$1,706,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Year</td>
<td>$3,374,870</td>
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</table>

Note: Agency financials from FY13 reflect a significant increase in assets.

The reported surplus is primarily due to a significant agency expansion consisting of a new facility and renovated interim housing facility. These capital projects required a substantial influx of resources, cash as well as in-kind. These resources have been capitalized and will depreciate over time according to U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

In addition to cash required for the new facility, the agency received several large, one-time gifts and bequests. Surplus resources were targeted for agency reserves, required to manage cash flows and maintain financial stability, given recent growth and increased government contracts. The agency continues to operate with prudent fiscal policies. Please contact Sarah’s Circle with further questions regarding our financial statements.

### Donors

#### Government Contracts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services</td>
<td>$497,421</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development</td>
<td>$182,212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois Housing Development Authority</td>
<td>$38,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Emergency Management</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services</td>
<td>$10,200</td>
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#### Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Donor Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50,000+</td>
<td>Anonymous</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Michael and Nancy Burgermeister Family Fund at the Chicago Community Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Holiday Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>$20,000-$49,999</td>
<td>The Crown Family</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Higher Path Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Polk Bros. Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Field Foundation of Illinois</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VNA Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>$10,000-$19,999</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Avon Products Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CME Group Community Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frechette Family Foundation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gallop Family Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Helen Brach Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J.Jill Compassion Fund</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John R. Houlsby Foundation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Washington Square Health Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>$5,000-$9,999</td>
<td>Full Circle Foundation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>George M. Eisenberg Foundation For Charities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kluth Family Foundation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Peoples Gas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Roundy's Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sara &amp; Two C-Dogs Foundation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thorek Memorial Foundation</td>
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<td>U.S. Bank Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,000-$4,999</td>
<td>The Dewan Foundation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rothman Family Foundation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sulzer Family Foundation</td>
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#### Religious Grants and Organizations

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<th>Amount</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,000-$20,000</td>
<td>First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest</td>
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<td></td>
<td>First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kenilworth Union Church</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North Shore Baptist Church and the Wilbur Warner Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Racine Dominican Mission Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Winnetka Congregational Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,000-$4,999</td>
<td>Fourth Presbyterian Church</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northminster Presbyterian Church</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presbytey of Chicago</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Paul’s United Church of Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yorkfield Presbyterian Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>$500-$999</td>
<td>Missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. James Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50-$499</td>
<td>Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ravenswood Presbyterian Church</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sinsinawa Dominicans</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sisters of Charity, BVM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WELCA of Edgebrook Lutheran Church</td>
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</table>

#### Businesses and Other Group Contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,000+</td>
<td>CBS Radio - WXRT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000-$4,999</td>
<td>Bridgeview Bank Group Caimoseptine</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chicago, I Love You Festival and Pylit Design Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Covers for Cover and Mia Park</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>JP Morgan Chase Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KPMG, LLP</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local Independent Charities of America</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Milt’s BBQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United Airlines Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vienna Beef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500-$999</td>
<td>Ariel Investments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employees of Mercer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greater Chicago Food Depository</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LiveOps</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Summit Design + Build, LLC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Today’s Chicago Woman Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Village Bank &amp; Trust</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Women of the Western Suburbs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zonta Club Of Evanston</td>
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</table>
$100-$499
Albany Bank & Trust Company
Babes With Blades Theater Company
CSG Systems
Financial Strategy Network, LLC
Fortune Brands Home & Security
Lockton Companies
Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School
Mozart and Merlot Concert at Unity
Lutheran Church
New Trier High School
Urbs In Horto Communications

$250-$499
Iker Chocarro Aguirrebergoa
John and Artemis Anos
Georgia Beatty
Bradley Beiler
Anna Blackburn
Patrick Condon
John and Teresa Culver
Marilyn Darnall
Mike and Karen DeFilippis
Julian and Molly D’Esposito
Frank Dugan
Ken, Rachel, Hamilton, and Harper Dunn
Elizabeth K. Estor and Michael Brody
Ilise Goldberg
Meg Guttmann
Launie and Roderick Hackler
Henry James
Susan Khan
Michael and Shawn Klupchak
Andrew Krueger
Barbara and Edward Kuske
Jen and Jon Loboda
Lourdes Malapirala
Milton and Joann Meigs
Gale Morgan-Williams
Gloria Panama
Joan and William Passolt
Jennifer Roche and John Svolsos
Ted and Lynn Rojahn
Brittany Rosinski
LaTanya Saqid
Eunice and Rev. Gerald Schalk
James Stanley
Christine and Paul Vogel
Anastasia Wehenrebng
Jane Western
Evelyn Whitehead
Alice White-Zarow
Clifford and Linda Williams

$1,000-$9,999
Estate of Amy Brakarsh
Barbara Burrell
Robert Delaney
Charlotte and James Delaney
Margaret Egan and Mike Lawler
Dr. Paula Gorlitz and Steven Zuckerman
Edward and Kathleen Halloran
Dr. Elise Harnois
Rose Houston
Margaret Bausch and Margaret Ann Jordan
Martha Knorre
Kara Krueger and Brian Sichi
William and Marta Krug
Kristen Litgen
Susan Lucari
Betty Mack
Susan Noyes
Dawne and Don Pafford
Wendy Predescu
Joshua Reitman
Reginald Richardson
Kathleen and Louis Stauber

$500-$999
Consuelo Bedoya-Witt
Norma Bennett
Lisa Black
Lesley and Spencer Bloch
Debra and Jim Flynn
Meredith George
Ellen Glassmeyer and Kenneth Green
Helene Gordon
Nina Holly
John and Laura Howard
Jaffee Family Foundation
Dr. Brian Kaplan and Dr. Sandra Solomon
Laura Kaufman
Dana Krueger
Christopher Krueger
Isobel Neal
David and Rebecca Northcutt
Lisa Palmleaf
Gary Pollack and Lisa Klein-Pollack
Katherine Ragnar
Carmen Ramirez
Gail Russell
Edna Schade
Melody Sinclair
Anita and Rick Thies
Kate Zarish

Individuals

10,000+
Anonymous
Jessie Ewing
Bert and Judy Krueger
The Crown Goodman Family
Estate of Kathleen Weaver

$1-$99
Johanna M. Zimmerman
Mandy Zaransky-Hurst and Matthew Hurst
Liz Winchester
Cynthia White
Liz Winchester
Jill Wine-Banks and Michael Banks
Mandy Zaransky-Hurst and Matthew Hurst
Johanna M. Zimmerman

$100-$249
Pete Agrawal
Joanna Anos
Gladiola and John Ball
Sandra Barnett-White and James White
Carol Beaty
Vilma Bell
Janet and David Bergman
Doris Bernt
Dianne Bersh
Margaret Blair
Patricia Bombard, BVM
Janel Booker
Paul Boyd and Kathleen Dunne
Suzan Bramson
Jessica and Marshall Brown
Nancy B. Buik and Jeffrey Wegerson
Jeanine and Jeffrey Burgdorf
K.C. Byrne
Harry Carstens
Maura Cawley

Vito and Nancy Coletto
Daniel and Elizabeth Conlon
Barbara Conti
Kathryn Conway
Brian and Sue Corry
Margaret Corwin
Fran Daly
Paul Damian
Joel and Judy Day
Judy Diaz
Janie Dikeboom
Marsha Dowd
Peter Felitti and Ann Kuta
Joan Fitzsimmons
Dennis Fontageneres
Sharon Fryman
Kathy and David Gemperle
Karl Gibbs-Novy
Amada Giordano
Judi Gorskse
Lark Gray
Patricia Groh
Mary Grover
Frances and Edwin
Blanka Hardin and Andrew Frye
Ellen Harris
Kenneth and Julianna Harris
John and Mary Head
Robin and Edrene Heiss
Inez Holmberg
Annie Holmberg
Betsy Hutchison
Kathryn Huth
John Jenkins
La Vonne Johnson
Katherine A. Juda and Paul Marcus
Pamela Kagan
Adrienne Kalyna
Josh Kaminsky
Jennifer Keller
Michael Kim
Basilio and Margaret King
Margaret Klein
 Deb Krupinski and Paul Zanke
Joseph Kunze
Joanne and Mitchell Kushner
Mary Larsen
Anne Leighton and Sarah Hoagland
Anne Leighty
Joan Lence
Paul LeRoux
Frances Leverenz
Lois Lindquist
Diane Link
Carolyn Loboda
Jim and Fran Lucari
Roseann Mark
Jill Matthews
Susan McConnell
Margaret McGinn, BVM
Nan McMillen
Carrie C. McNally and Claude Maechling
Geri Mead
Walter Meyers
Archibald Fletcher and Kathleen Moeller
Anne Morris
Kathleen and Ken Morrison
Mary Lou Muench

Danny Nelson
Dianne Nichols
James and Linda Nowak
Beth O’Neil
Helen Palmer
Thomas and Virginia Paulick
Canyle and Robert Pietman
Richard Peterson and Rev. Wayne T. Bradley
Elaine Pochiro
Nancy Rohn
Steve Ross
Judith Roth
Walter and Marie Roth
Hope Salminoff
Maxine Salon
Michael and Rita Schnell
Andrew and Pam Scrip
Pamela Seino
Regina Shasha and family
Jeannette Shelton
Leslie and Stuart Shulruff
Jura and Charles Silverman
Fran Snow
Nancy Stachnik
Alexandra Stanczyk
Joanne Stewart
Gregory Stewert and Robert Turner
Jim and Kathy Stutz
Allison Thiel
Jane Toal
Robert and Marcy Twardak
Tom Verdun
Michael Wagner
Barbara Weaver
Cynthia White
Liz Winchester
Jill Wine-Banks and Michael Banks
Mandy Zaransky-Hurst and Matthew Hurst
Johanna M. Zimmerman

$1-$99
Mary Lou Adamek
Omane Adu-Brako
Martina Alvarez
Rose Marie and Silvio Anichini
Anonymous
Judith Asher
Barbara Ann Ashley
Kim Augustyn
Frank C. Baldwin and Barbara Elson
Gail and Morris Barazani
Norma Barnes
Sherry Barnett
Paula Bash
Eve Becker
Naomi Bell
Joan Bellagamba
Karen Berenson
Ross Berman
Roger Friz and Joanne Bittmann-Friz
Stephanie Blatt
Delia Bleahu
Thomas Blow
Mary and Mark Bookman
Betty Bowen, BVM
Mary Lou and Charles Boyd
Fr. Michael Bradley
Sheila and R. Brand

Sarah's Circle
4838 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60640-3704

Administration Office
773.728.1014

Program Office
773.728.1991

Website
www.sarahs-circle.org

Email
kragnar@sarahs-circle.org

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Bianka Hardin, Psy. D.
Joyce J. Johnson
Dawne Pafford
Wendy Predescu
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