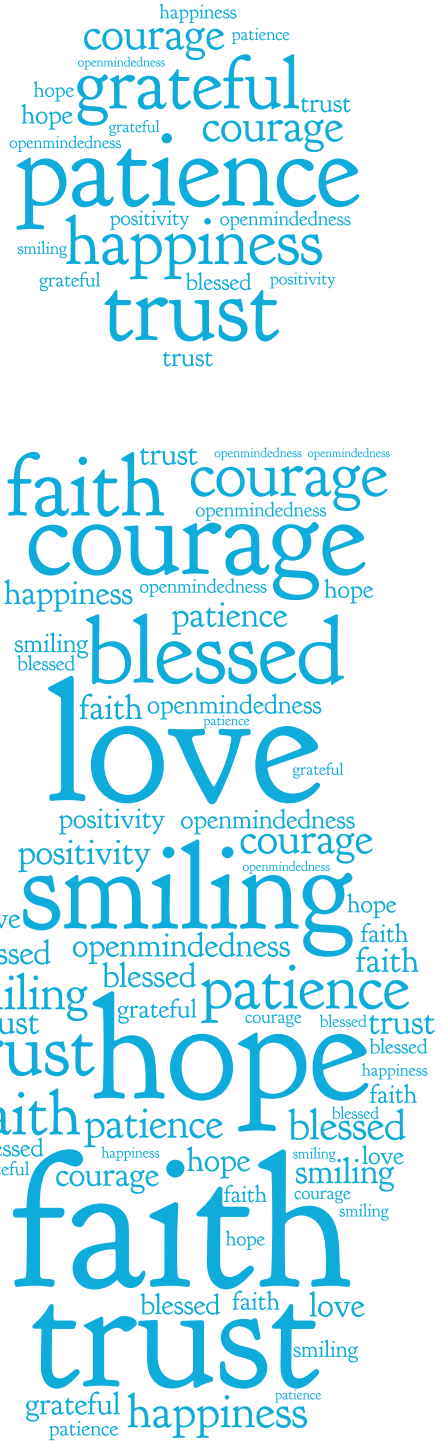




# Sarah's Circle

Helping Women Rebuild Their Lives

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



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

\*In 2014 the Board of Directors voted to update the list of services in the second sentence of the mission statement to represent the housing, clinical and social services that are already a part of our services. The core of our mission remains the same.

## Dear Friends of Sarah's Circle,

Sarah's Circle has been providing support for women who are homeless or in need for several decades. We have been able to serve thousands of women by building on their incredible strengths such as resilience and fortitude. A strength-based approach to programming is both evidence-based and consistent with the core philosophy of our mission.

This year's annual report focuses on the strengths of the women we serve, and to depict their strengths, we generated a "word cloud" from the words women used in an art therapy session to describe themselves. Words that were identified most often appear larger in the image. Hope, faith, and the ability to trust and love even after experiencing so much hardship were characteristics that women believed were their most important strengths.

This report starts with an overview of the strengths of the women served, and then discusses the challenges, solutions, and impact of our programming. We hope you'll notice in the section on solutions that our work relies on a foundation of community support from donors and volunteers. Your gifts of time and money make the programming possible, and the section on impact is a result of your contributions.

Thank you again for your support.

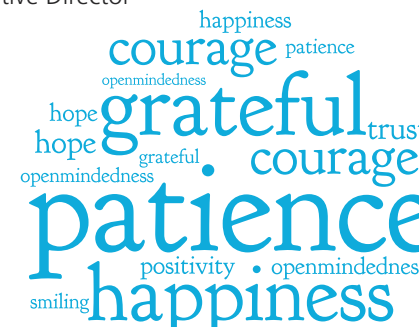
Sincerely,



Judy Krueger  
President, Board of Directors



Katherine Ragnar  
Executive Director



# Strengths



**W**omen come to Sarah's Circle with incredible strength and resilience. Most have shown deep fortitude and resourcefulness to survive desperate circumstances. They have also demonstrated a willingness to ask for help and work to rebuild even after so many people in their lives have turned them away.

Women also have unique individual strengths. An important part of the case management process involves conducting an assessment to determine each woman's individual strengths and challenges. Service plans are then tailored to the circumstances and goals of each woman. If a woman has skills and interest in food service, the case manager might try to connect her to an employment program focused on that sector. If a woman struggles with a mental illness but has a strength of being able to connect with others, a group therapy setting might be a good fit.

An important component of Clinical Services is often helping women recognize their own strengths. Homelessness can contribute to depression and a loss of a sense of positive self worth. By coming to appreciate their own strengths, women improve their self-esteem and ability to use those strengths to rebuild their lives. In addition to generating the words used in the "word cloud" on the cover, women in an art therapy group created the collage at right to illustrate their strengths. While women listed many specific strengths, there is an overarching theme of hope, faith, and the ability to stay positive despite so much adversity.

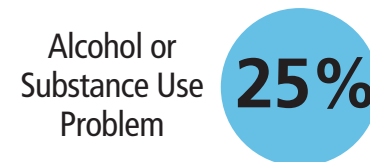
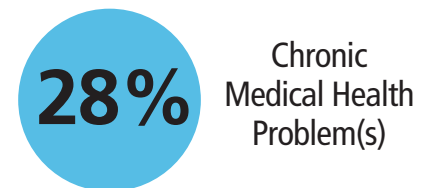
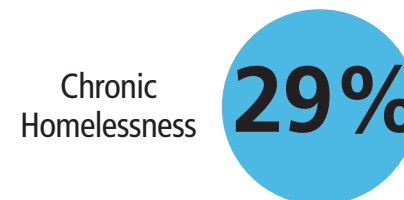
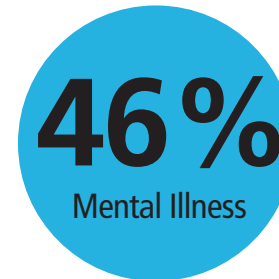
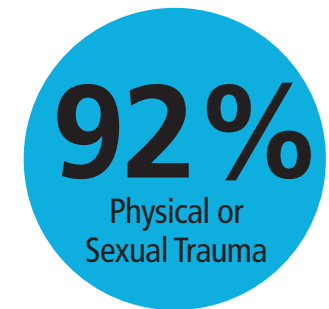
# Strengths

# Challenges

**W**hile women come to Sarah's Circle with great strengths, they also face many challenges. Structurally, Chicago has a shortage of affordable housing. Women who become homeless have also typically struggled with multiple challenges simultaneously. It is not only the shortage of affordable housing and limited income that lead to homelessness, but also outdated job skills, physical health problems, and the long-lasting impact of trauma.

An in-depth research study conducted in Massachusetts confirmed what Sarah's Circle has learned through experience, that approximately 92% of women who are homeless have experienced severe physical or sexual assault at some point in their lifetime. Whether these assaults were child abuse early in life, recent domestic violence, or random acts of violence, these traumas often have long-lasting effects. A history of trauma has been linked to physical health problems, mental illness, and substance use disorders.

These issues are major challenges for women, but can also be understood and addressed more effectively through a strength-based lens. For example, hyper-vigilance, the trait of constantly being on guard for possible threats, is a common symptom of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. Yet, for women who have experienced severe assaults, being on guard for possible threats may be a way they have adapted to avoid future trauma. Other women may use alcohol or other substances to self-medicate when they do not have access to treatment. Sarah's Circle's effective Clinical Services programming helps women learn new coping strategies, while understanding the strength they have shown in finding other ways to cope when they did not have sufficient supports.



# Challenges

# Solutions



Permanent Supportive Housing

Interim Housing

Daytime Support Center

Compassionate Staff

Volunteers and Donors

*S*arah's Circle has always started with a strong foundation of volunteers, donors, and community support to help women address challenges. Volunteers help throughout the organization, including board and committee members, professionals providing services pro bono to the organization, and direct service volunteers who deliver essential basic services and educational programming. Building on that foundation, compassionate and well-trained staff provide essential services throughout the programs.

The Daytime Support Center is Sarah's Circle's core program, providing daily essentials, community space, educational and general interest programming, case management, and clinical services to women in need. Any woman in need may participate in the Daytime Support Center, so women who may be street homeless, doubled up with friends or family, or at risk of homelessness all receive support.

Sarah's Circle's 50-bed Interim Housing Program provides 24-hour shelter and intensive supportive services to help women who are currently homeless move on to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Sarah's Circle's program is the largest of its type in the City of Chicago and is open to any woman who is homeless.

Sarah's Circle's 22-unit Permanent Supportive Housing Program is essential to helping the most vulnerable women end their homelessness. Women with disabling conditions who have been homeless for years are placed in housing and provided with intensive supportive services to help address the issues that have contributed to their long-term homelessness.

# Solutions

# Impact

*In 2014 Sarah's Circle made significant progress both in expanding programmatic capacity and helping women meet their goals.* One of our most important measures of success is the number of women placed into permanent housing. Despite dramatic reductions in affordable housing available in the community, Sarah's Circle helped 92 women move into permanent housing in 2014. Most of these placements came from our Interim Housing Program, which increased the rate of placing women into permanent housing by approximately 30%. The women achieved their goals faster and opened more space in the program to provide shelter and supportive services to other women in need.

Programmatic capacity was expanded in the Daytime Program by extending hours until 7pm on Thursday evenings for supper. The new meal fills a gap in food availability in the community and provides extra time for engagement and case management with women in need of help who may have other obligations during the workday. Staff also helped women achieve hundreds of goals in addition to housing placements, such as gaining employment, securing benefits, and completing therapy to address past trauma.

The Permanent Supportive Housing Program helped 100% of the women living in our permanent supportive housing to maintain their housing or to move on to other permanent housing in the community when they no longer needed such a high level of support. Additionally, Sarah's Circle was able to expand one of the grants for the program to include one additional unit for a total of 22 units, ending homelessness for one more woman in need.



# Impact



# Donors

## Government Contracts

### \$100,000+

City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services  
City of Chicago Small Business Improvement Fund  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

### \$10,000-\$99,999

Federal Emergency Management Administration  
Illinois Department of Human Services  
Illinois Housing Development Authority  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (in collaboration with AIDS Foundation of Chicago)

## Grants

### \$50,000+

The Michael and Nancy Burgermeister Family Fund at The Chicago Community Trust  
Polk Bros. Foundation

### \$20,000-\$49,999

Anonymous  
The Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation  
The Chicago Community Trust  
The Crown Family  
The Field Foundation of Illinois  
Frechette Family Foundation  
John R. Houlsby Foundation

### \$10,000-\$19,999

Anonymous  
CME Group Community Foundation  
Gallop Family Foundation  
Helen Brach Foundation  
Henrietta Lange Burk Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee  
Higher Path Foundation  
J. Jill Compassion Fund  
The Owens Foundation  
The Pierce Family Charitable Foundation  
Thorek Memorial Foundation  
W.P. & H.B. White Foundation

### \$5,000-\$9,999

Chicago Foundation for Women  
George M. Eisenberg Foundation For Charities  
Full Circle Foundation  
McGraw Foundation  
The Patrick & Anna M. Cudahy Fund  
Peoples Gas  
Roundy's Foundation  
Sara & Two C-Dogs Foundation  
U.S. Bank Foundation

### \$1,000-\$4,999

The Dewan Foundation  
Rothman Family Foundation  
Sulzer Family Foundation

## Religious Grants and Organizations

### \$5,000-\$20,000

First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest  
Kenilworth Union Church  
Racine Dominican Mission Fund  
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Winnetka Congregational Church

### \$1,000-\$4,999

First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette  
Fourth Presbyterian Church  
Missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit  
Northminster Presbyterian Church  
Presbytery of Chicago  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Yorkfield Presbyterian Church

### \$500-\$999

WELCA of Edgebrook Lutheran Church

### \$50-\$499

Chicago Metro Baptist Association  
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church  
Missio Dei Chicago  
North Shore Baptist Church  
Ravenswood Presbyterian Church  
Sinsinawa Dominicans  
Sisters of St. Joseph of La Grange  
St. James Parish  
Unity In Chicago

## Businesses and Other Group Contributions

### \$1,000-\$4,999

Bridgeview Bank Group  
Calmoseptine  
JP Morgan Chase Foundation  
KPMG LLP  
The PrivateBank  
Village Bank & Trust  
West Monroe Partners

### \$500-\$999

Employees of Mercer  
Jaffee Family Foundation  
JBT Corporation  
Zonta Club of Evanston

### \$100-\$499

Allstate Giving Campaign  
American Express Charitable Fund  
Boeing Company Employee Match  
Boiko & Osimani, P.C.  
The Chicago Outfit Roller Derby  
Exelon  
Feminist Forum of Loyola University  
HHL Foundation  
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
Margate Park Block Club  
Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School  
Motorola Solutions Foundation  
Northern Trust

## Winter Walk Sponsors

Albany Bank & Trust Co.  
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J. Jill Compassion Fund  
McHenry Insurance Services, Inc.  
Motorola Mobility Foundation  
The Plexus Groupe, LLC  
The Roscoe Company  
Staples, Inc.  
Summit Design + Build, LLC  
Vienna Beef  
Wintrust Commercial Banking

## Leadership Circle

### \$10,000+

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Michael and Nancy Burgermeister  
Jessie Ewing\*  
Bert and Judy Krueger  
Abra Prentice  
Wendy Predescu  
Edward Goings  
Oliver Gugenheim  
Edward and Kathleen Halloran  
William and Marta Krug\*

### \$5,000-\$9,999

Scott and Cynthia Paradise  
Dr. John J. Tracy

### \$1,000-\$4,999

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Norma Bennett\*  
David and Janet Bergman  
Lisa Bertagnoli\*  
Stephanie Blatt  
Lesley and Spencer Bloch\*  
Maree Bullock

Barbara Burrell  
Howard and Dona Robbins Cohen  
Martha Corcoran  
Charlotte and James Delaney\*  
Robert Delaney\*  
Eileen Dordek and Chris Landgraff\*  
Margaret Egan and Mike Lawler  
Sidney Epstein and Sondra Berman Epstein  
Debra and Jim Flynn  
Meredith George\*  
Anna Glazer  
Dr. Paula Gorlitz and Steven Zuckerman\*  
James and Betty Hodges  
Rose Houston\*  
Margaret Ann Jordan and Margaret Bausch  
Laura Kaufman  
Martha Knorre\*  
Kara Krueger and Brian Sichi  
Christopher Krueger  
Dana Krueger  
Mani Kumar  
Laurence Leive  
Kristen Litgen  
Betty Mack\*  
Andrew Mann and Frank Paul  
David Marienthal  
Dawne and Don Pafford  
Barbara and Robert Perkaus\*  
Katherine Ragnar  
Katherine K. Ragnar  
Joshua Reitman  
Reginald Richardson  
Kathleen and Louis Stauber\*  
The Honorable Heather Steans  
Anthony and Kathleen Terrulli  
Laurence Weiner and Nancia Shawver  
Jane Western  
Mandy Zaransky-Hurst and  
Matthew Hurst



# June

- Hobby: writing poetry
- Something that inspires her: life, being better
- Her favorite part about Sarah's Circle: it provides a safe space and gives her something to look forward to

## Individuals \$1-\$999

### \$500-\$999

Anonymous  
Ken, Rachel, Hamilton and  
Harper Dunn  
William Dunn  
Janice Engle  
Elizabeth Ester and  
Michael Brody\*  
Tony Gawron  
Seth Goodchild  
Inez Holmberg  
John and Laura Howard  
Dr. Brian Kaplan and  
Dr. Sandra Solomon  
Jamie and Debra Kost  
Janet Krueger  
Andrew Krueger  
Lois Lindquist  
Susan Lucari  
Bill and Kilby MacFadden  
Joshua Metnick  
Fred and Michele Montgomery  
Janet Murphy  
Lisa Palmleaf  
Gary Pollack and  
Lisa Klein-Pollack  
Jennifer Roche and  
John Svolos\*  
Diane Roche  
Christine and Paul Vogel\*  
Clifford and Linda Williams\*  
Dr. Thomas Witt and  
Consuelo Bedoya-Witt  
Kate Zarish

### \$250-\$499

Pete Agrawal  
Iker Chocarro Aguirrebengoa  
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Georgia Beatty\*  
Bradley Beile  
Kristin Berg and Randy Schmidt  
Elizabeth Black  
Mary and Mark Bookman  
Nancy B. Buik and  
Jeffrey Wegerson\*  
Casey Byrne  
Robert Byrnes  
Margaret Corwin  
John and Teresa Culver  
Dennis Fontagneres\*  
Peter Frisbee and  
Virginia Lasmanis  
Susan Garrett  
Gail Russell and Gerri Mead\*  
Perry and Margaret Goldberg  
Meg Guttman\*  
Mary Hayes  
John and Mary Head\*  
Michael James  
Mark and Laurie Jolicoeur  
Barbara and Edward Kuske\*  
Jen and Jon Loboda  
Jim and Fran Lucari  
Lorraine Maloy  
Mary and William McKenna  
Milton and Joann Meigs  
Mary Lou Muench  
Isobel Neal  
Susan Ragnar  
LaTonya Saqiid  
Edna Schade\*  
Eunice and Rev. Gerald Schalk\*

Jura and Charles Silverman  
Jill Spooner  
David Stringer  
Jim and Kathy Stutz  
Dr. Shirley Hurst Susman  
Nathan Wagner  
Anastasia Wehrenberg and  
Paul Parsons

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Joanna Anos\*  
Virginia Austern  
Aaron Barnes  
Wilma Bell  
Jeff Berg  
Doris Bern\*  
Norm Bilow  
Margaret Blair  
Nancie Blatt  
Leslie Bloom  
Rhonda and Jim Bodman  
Janel Booker  
Joanne Bookstein  
Lucy Bowers-Wildblood  
Dean and Stephanie Bravos  
Suzette Broome  
Patricia Broughton  
Adam C. Buresh  
Jeannine Burgdorf  
Sarah Cammarata  
Maura Cawley  
Rebecca Cohen  
Kimberly Coleman  
Daniel and Elizabeth Conlon  
Barbara Conti\*  
Kathryn Conway  
Kathleen Conway, BVM  
Marilyn Corbett

Brian and Sue Corry  
John Cosgrove  
Fran Daly  
Marilyn Darnall  
Joel and Judy Day  
Gilbert Delgado  
Janie Dikkeboom\*  
Ke Ding  
Marsha Dowd\*  
Scott and Barbara Downing  
Tom Drew  
Juanita Ebert\*  
Loraine Ellison  
Martha Farley\*  
Archibald Fletcher and  
Kathleen Moeller  
Gerry and Rolly Ford  
Roger Friz and  
Joanne Bittmann-Friz  
Sharon Frydman  
John Gavin  
Mary Giustini  
Dr. Arnold and  
Constance Goldberg\*  
Ilise Goldberg\*  
Michael Golden  
Judi Gorske  
Catherine Graettinger  
Camille Grejczyk  
Mary Grover  
Randi and Charles Gurian  
Carolyn Haack  
Laurie and Roderick Hackler  
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Bianka Hardin and Andrew Frye  
Donna Harkema  
Susan Hed  
Robin and Edrene Heiss  
Marianne Heyden  
John Hoffman  
Sherry Holson  
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Melanie Kido  
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Michael and Shawn Klupchak\*  
Arthur Koegel  
John Koutoupis  
Lynmarie Lane  
Jessica Langsen

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Carmen Ramirez  
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Christine Chakoian  
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Lisa Bassett  
Carol Beatty  
Sheryl Becker  
Amy Behal  
Gabrielle Bejma  
Alyssa Bell  
Joan Bellagamba  
Karen Berenson



# Janice

- Hobbies: listening to music, watching good movies
- Something that inspires her: Sarah's Circle
- Favorite part about Sarah's Circle: Everything, but especially the opportunity for any woman to relax without being bothered by the outside world



Ross Berman  
Philip and Susan Bernstein  
Katie Bishop  
Jackie and Jon Blake  
Edward Blank and  
Lynne Mangan  
Lauren Blatt  
Dominick Bliznick  
Maggie Blondis  
Loretta Blumberg-Williams  
Jim and Lyric Bogdanor  
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Marianne Gaul  
Ava Gelling  
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Chelsea Meyers  
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Polina Milman  
Jean Mohr  
Barbara and Joseph Moore  
Demetrios and  
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Joanna Muehlstein  
Erna and Enrico Mugnaini  
Mignon Muirhead  
Maureen Murnane  
Cathy Murray  
Allyson Murray  
Swetha Narayanan

Nicole Stamper Nenaber  
Marianne Nesler  
Julie Newfeld  
Pamela K. Niesluchowski  
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Ellen O'Reilly-Garcia  
Meleokalani Ortiz  
Kara Osborn  
Donna Oswald  
Jane Ott  
Dottie Palombo  
Bethany Parnell  
Vivian Paul  
Camille and Donald Pavlis  
Ewelina Pawlowska  
Dave and Lisa Payne  
Barbara Peloquin  
Elissa Pelts  
Lina Peon  
Kathy Perkowitz  
Brek Peterson  
Virginia Piecuch  
Judith and Wayne Pier  
Joan Pine  
Maellen Pittman  
Jenna Plakut  
Constance Porteous  
Denise Powers  
Tracy Poyser  
Ronald and Kathy Preston  
Sean Prislinger  
Nick and Beth Ranucci  
Andrew and Terry Ratoff  
Robert Reichel  
Mary Reilly  
Anita Remijas  
Noma Richardson  
Courtney Richardson  
Jonathan Riddle



# Suzanne

- Hobbies: playing cards, listening to the radio
- Something that inspires her: staying clean
- Favorite part about Sarah's Circle: companions and community

Hannah Rodriguez  
 Jennifer Rogers  
 Ella Rolander  
 Mary Rosic  
 Barbara Rossi  
 Sally Roth  
 Mary Beth Rotkovich  
 Suzanne Rovner  
 Courtney Ryan  
 Arlene Sadberry  
 Stephanie Saia  
 Daphne Sajous-Brady  
 Elizabeth Sala  
 Maria-Paz Salas  
 Sara Sanchez  
 Martie Sanders  
 Dena Saper  
 Simrath Saran  
 Pam Schilling  
 Carol Schmidt  
 Elizabeth Schmidt  
 Kathleen Schmitz\*  
 Michael and Rita Schnell  
 Elizabeth Schwartz\*  
 Deborah Schwartz  
 Gloria Seabrook  
 Pamela Seino  
 Paulina Sempertegui  
 Raymond Sendejas and  
 Erika Poethig  
 Sally Sharp  
 Regina Shasha\*  
 Carl Shearer  
 Nancy Shillady  
 David Shiner  
 Anna Shustitzky  
 Barb Silnes  
 Ruth Simmons

Ninus Simonzadeh  
 Thomas Simpson  
 Jordan Skarr  
 Eleanor and Louis Skydell  
 Diane Smason  
 Birdie Soti  
 Mary Sova  
 Alvin and Catherine Spector  
 Carol Spiegel  
 Cheryl Stanton  
 Laura Stempien  
 Terry Stevenson  
 Christie Stiehl  
 Daniel Streicher  
 Peter Stutz  
 Thomas and Patricia Sullivan  
 Mary Sullivan, BVM  
 Bob Sutter  
 Emily Sutton  
 Terry Swarthout  
 Scott Tafelski  
 Emily Tedrowe  
 Mary Theis  
 Richard and Joanne Thompson  
 Phebe Tinker  
 Megan Tompkins  
 Judith Traut  
 Meri Tucker  
 Penelope Turk  
 Judith Turner  
 Laurel Tyler  
 Ruth Uchtman\*  
 Constance Uselman  
 David VanWinkle  
 Elizabeth and Thomas Ventura  
 Karen Viater  
 Andrea Wald  
 Grace Walters

Patrick Walton  
 Melissa Watson  
 Mary Watt  
 Kathy Weber  
 Marjorie Weiss  
 Paul Werstler  
 Bill Westervelt  
 Sandra Barnett-White and  
 James White  
 William and Ann Whitney  
 Matthew Wilcox  
 Eileen Will  
 Sandra Wineinger  
 Greg Wissmach  
 Stephen Wlodkowski\*  
 Elizabeth Wood  
 Amy Wood  
 John and Linda Wright  
 Mimi Yoon  
 Randy Sue Young\*  
 Belle Zaccari  
 Teffani Zadeh  
 Dr. Barry and Rosalie Zaransky  
 Claudia Zavala-Calderon  
 Dr. Felise Zollman  
 Norbert and Kathy Zook  
 Margie and Eric Zucker

\*Legacy Donors, supporters  
 who have contributed to Sarah's  
 Circle for 15 years or more.

## Financials

Fiscal Year 2014

July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014

### Income

Grants and Contributions	\$2,028,259
In-Kind Donations	\$331,673
Special Events (Net)	\$31,796
Rental Income	\$2,413
Investment Income	\$1,260
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,395,401</b>

### Expenses

Program Services:	
Interim Housing	\$735,426
Permanent Supportive Housing	\$240,291
Daytime Services	\$344,228
Clinical Services	\$154,412
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$1,474,357</b>
Management and General	\$108,926
Fundraising	\$124,383
<b>Total Functional Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,707,666</b>
Change in Net Assets	\$687,735

### Net Assets

Beginning of Year	\$3,374,870
End of Year	\$4,062,605

Note: Agency financials from FY14 reflect a significant increase in net 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 pro bono resources. These resources have been capitalized and will depreciate over time according to U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Please contact Sarah's Circle with further questions regarding our financial statements.

# Doreen



- Hobbies: music (playing piano), bike riding, looking at the stars
- Something that inspires her: listening to gospel music in the morning
- Favorite part about Sarah's Circle: educational programming, toiletries and supplies

### **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](http://www.sarahs-circle.org)

### **Email**

[kragnar@sarahs-circle.org](mailto:kragnar@sarahs-circle.org)

### **Executive Director**

Katherine Ragnar

### **Board of Directors**

Judy Krueger  
Carolyn Anderson  
Georgia A. Beatty  
Margaret C. Egan  
Joyce J. Johnson  
Dawne Pafford  
Linda Paradise, CPA  
Katherine Ragnar  
Joshua Reitman  
Reginald Richardson, PhD,  
ACSW, LCSW  
Robert Turner, PhD  
Mandy Zaransky-Hurst

### **Board Emeritus**

Barbara Burrell  
Eileen Dordek  
Joyce Dugan  
Jessie Ewing  
Debra Flynn  
Bianka Hardin  
Wendy Predescu  
J. Breezer Rickey  
Paul Vogel

### **Photography**

Sarah Stark

### **Graphic Design**

Jason Feldman, Luzazul Design, Ltd



# **Sarah's Circle**