



Dear Friends of Sarah's Circle,

"How can I help?" This simple thought is often the start of our efforts to help, to find ways to connect with other people or organizations to create positive change.

At Sarah's Circle, we are able to serve hundreds of women each year in large part due to the connection so many of you feel to a greater community. Our Board, committee members, volunteers, and supporters find this connection with Sarah's Circle and the women we serve. By doing so, we are able to utilize the unique talents and resources of the greater community to provide vital services and end homelessness for hundreds of women every year.

As you read through our annual report, please take a moment to reflect on the stories of the people featured. The women served all have unique backgrounds and life circumstances that have led to homelessness. While their stories are different, they have all benefited from the range of services offered by a very capable staff and from the generosity of many supporters and volunteers.

The volunteers and donors highlighted in this report reflect the diversity of people who act on their compassion for the women we serve by rolling up their sleeves and helping Sarah's Circle. The report features our architect, who spent countless hours making sure the Daytime Support Center is inviting and comfortable yet efficient and easy to maintain. The report also includes a Board member who participates in the governance of Sarah's Circle and continually engages others in our mission. Additionally, the report introduces a volunteer who regularly shares her talents in the Interim Housing program and another who, along with a group of friends, regularly throws holiday parties for the women in our programs. Regardless of the role, our supporters are vital to the operations of Sarah's Circle.

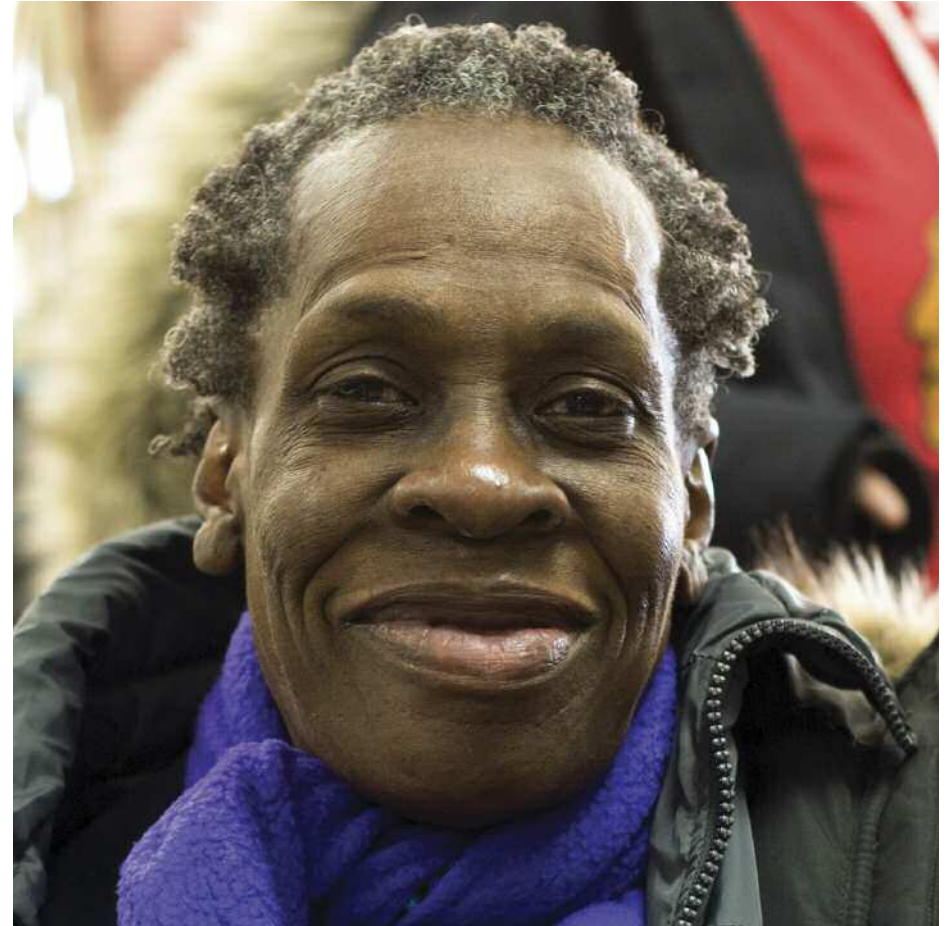
The supporters of Sarah's Circle all have special talents and resources but at the core share a deep commitment to those we serve. All of you are making an impact in the lives of Chicago's most vulnerable women. Thank you, and please keep at it! Consider helping us by connecting others to Sarah's Circle: bring a group of friends together to serve a meal, create a Winter Walk team, invite your colleagues to our Beer Fest, or let someone know about our Associates Board. All efforts help tremendously; together we can end homelessness for women in Chicago.



Judy Krueger
President, Board of Directors



Katherine Ragnar
Executive Director



Our Mission:

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.

Sharon is a resident of Interim Housing. She became homeless in her late 50s when her employer went out of business and she started experiencing health problems. Sharon will be moving into her new apartment soon and plans to begin her own cleaning business. Sharon shared her most meaningful memory at Sarah's Circle. "There was one night I was crying because I missed my sister, who had just passed; I wanted to talk to her. A staff member put her arm around me and said, 'You have sisters here, and we love you.' It helped me feel like I mattered to someone."



Carol is a volunteer at Interim Housing. Carol enjoys volunteering because "being here is something I've always wanted to do. I'm glad that the women know they can approach me and ask me for anything. I like helping in a setting where the women are working to help themselves."

Sarah's Circle's Impact

In 2016, Sarah's Circle provided services to 793 women and transitioned 116 women from homelessness to permanent housing. We welcome all women with safety, respect, and community to support growth in health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and self-determination to help each woman find her home.

Last year...

Over **62,000** meals were served

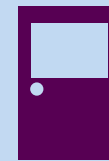
18,250 nights of shelter were provided

37 women were assisted in finding employment

Units of permanent supportive housing increased from 25 to **30**

116 women found their home

PROVIDING A CONTINUUM OF SERVICES TO ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS



DAYTIME SUPPORT CENTER

Open to any woman in need

Our longest-running program, the Daytime Support Center is a part of entry for any woman in need and provides a safe space, services to meet basic needs, educational and general-interest programming, and case management.



INTERIM HOUSING

For women who are currently homeless

The Interim Housing program is a 50-bed shelter for women who are homeless, providing 24-hour access to supportive services designed to transition women into permanent housing as quickly as possible.



PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

For women with a history of chronic homelessness

Sarah's Circle has expanded this program to provide 30 units of Permanent Supportive Housing. Some of the women served have been homeless for over a decade before finding their homes with Sarah's Circle.



CLINICAL SERVICES

Provided to address the issues that often contribute to housing instability

Clinical services are provided to address the trauma, domestic violence, mental illness, or substance abuse that often contribute to and/or are consequences of housing instability among the women served. Services include individual and group counseling and Art Therapy.

Adrienne visits the Daytime Support Center for Art Therapy services and to be part of the community. She lives in an apartment that Sarah's Circle helped her find. Adrienne says that now that she's housed, she has security and freedom... "Freedom you don't even realize when you have it. Freedom to handle responsibilities. When I first became homeless, I didn't know where the help was. I felt like an infant, not knowing and afraid. Sarah's Circle gave me the guidance and information to take things step by step."



Chris is an architect at Perkins + Will. He helped Sarah's Circle complete a new building in 2013 that includes the Daytime Support Center. Chris says he's inspired to be pulled out of his everyday life to be part of something that helps people. Working to support Sarah's Circle build housing for women has taught him lessons in perseverance. He's proud to be part of something that has made a positive and lasting impact.

Creating New Housing for Women

Sarah's Circle is in the process of developing a property at 4654 N. Sheridan Road, just two blocks from our Daytime Support Center. This new building will provide 38 women each with a home to call her own. The 38 units of permanent supportive housing will be for women with histories of chronic homelessness. The building will also contain an improved space for Sarah's Circle's existing 50-bed Interim Housing facility.

With the help of architects from Perkins + Will, Sarah's Circle is moving forward with an impressive design that will serve the needs of our programs while honoring the original building's historical value. This new building will increase Sarah's Circle's capacity while providing long-term sustainability for women facing homelessness.

Construction is projected to begin in 2018.



The rendering pictured above shows the proposed building from the northern side, facing Leland Ave.

Jessica has faced housing instability since her mother attacked her when she was only six. Today, Jessica is writing her second book and plans to enroll in college to finish her degree in communications. Jessica's case manager helped her find housing, and she continues to receive counseling services. Jessica says, "I don't want what's happened in my past to hold me back. There are things that I need to deal with, and those are why I'm coming here for counseling. I don't want these issues to get in my way of moving forward."



La Tasha has volunteered at Sarah's Circle with a group of her friends who have thrown holiday celebrations for the women. La Tasha was inspired to volunteer because of her cousin who experienced homelessness. La Tasha and her group of friends volunteer at Sarah's Circle to share community and look forward to hosting more inspiring activities for the women.

1 in 4 adults who are homeless in the United States are single women...

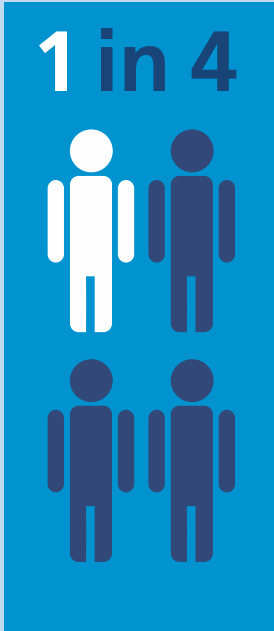
Yet even with such a sizable number, there is a lack of research and data, an absence of targeted policies, and disproportionately low funding for this population.

To address this issue and engage additional resources, Sarah's Circle has established a **1 in 4** Initiative in Chicago. This Initiative is a national effort built on regional partnerships with a purpose of creating dialogue, conducting research, formulating policies, and advocating for funding for single women who are homeless.

To date, Sarah's Circle has established a leadership team composed of government, providers, and advocates, and has formed a partnership with the University of Chicago's Urban Labs to complete a needs assessment

of women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Once the data from the needs assessment has been analyzed, Chicago's Leadership Team will utilize it for advocacy and policy planning, as well as add to the growing research in this field to help women nationwide.

Sarah's Circle looks forward to sharing what we have learned through Chicago's first needs assessment of single women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.



The magnitude of this number warrants dedicated research and resources for this population.

Zeon became homeless after her family was evicted. She recently graduated from cosmetology school and has found a job as a nail technician. Zeon has been residing at Interim Housing until she can save enough money for her own apartment. Despite her housing instability, Zeon volunteers as a dance instructor and is pursuing her phlebotomy certification as part of community health work to help the LGBTQ community.



Georgia is a Sarah's Circle Board Member, long-time donor, and neighbor to our Daytime Support Program. Georgia heard about Sarah's Circle through a flyer at her church and has been involved since 1998, the year Zeon was born. Georgia is motivated to stay involved because of "the great need. The need never goes away. I'm always trying to put Sarah's Circle in touch with other people who can help."

Make It Home

After two years in operation, Sarah's Circle's Make It Home Fund has helped 130 women move from homelessness to permanent housing. Oftentimes when a woman has been homeless, any savings she had will be depleted. The Make It Home Fund provides one-time financial assistance up to \$500 per woman to cover the cost of an application fee, move-in fee, security deposit, first month's rent, or other moving expense that would otherwise act as a financial barrier to securing housing.

In 2016 alone, the Make It Home Fund was used by 88% (102) of the 116 women who Sarah's Circle helped find housing. The average amount of Make It Home Funds needed to help a woman escape homelessness is only \$382.

102 USED THE MAKE IT HOME FUND IN 2016

29 used funds for first month's rent



41 paid for move-in fees or security deposits



28 bought essential furniture



4 afforded physical moving costs



LIVING SITUATION AT PROGRAM ENTRY

40% Street Homeless

9% Temp Living (family/friends)

9% Other (motel/safe haven/hospitals/treatment facility/etc.)

42% Shelters

Ways to Help

\$ Give Donations of Cash or Securities



Donate essential items for the women at Sarah's Circle
We regularly accept items to help us meet women's immediate needs. These include seasonal clothing and personal hygiene products.



Attend our annual fundraising events, Winter Walk and Beer Fest!



Become a Volunteer

Volunteers at Sarah's Circle are critical to our daily operations and provide a tremendous amount of support. We have opportunities every day of the week for groups and individuals.



Join Our Associates Board

Sarah's Circle has created an Associates Board to engage with young professionals interested in getting involved in the community. The group focuses on supporting our mission of serving women who are homeless or in need of a safe space.



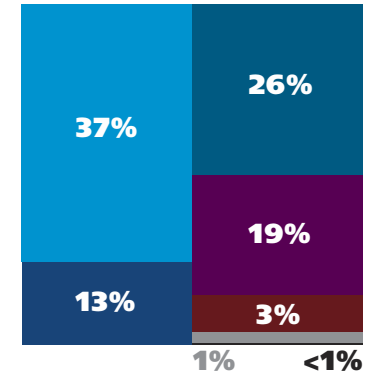
For more information, visit our web page
www.sarahs-circle.org or call 773.728.1014.

Financials

Fiscal Year 2016
July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

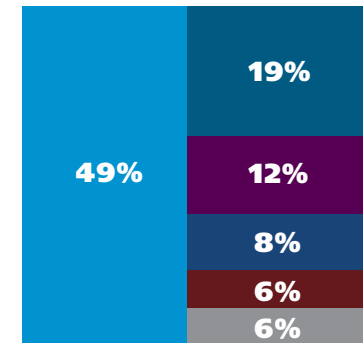
Income

Government Contracts	\$889,511
Grants	\$622,284
Individual Contributions	\$457,125
In-Kind Donations	\$305,712
Special Events (Net)	\$75,711
Rental Income	\$35,569
Investment Income	\$1,875
Total Income	\$2,387,788



Expenses

Interim Housing	\$976,061
Daytime Services	\$370,618
Permanent Supportive Housing	\$245,987
Clinical Services	\$155,640
Fundraising	\$129,307
Management and General	\$121,259
Total Expenses	\$1,998,872



Net Assets

Beginning of Year	\$4,551,478
End of Year	\$4,940,393
Change in Net Assets	\$388,915

Note: Sarah's Circle ended the 2016 fiscal year with an increase in net assets. The surplus is due to the strategic initiative directed by the Board of Directors to create financial reserves to maintain fiscal strength in light of public funding issues. Additionally, reserves are required for optimal maintenance of our facilities.

2016 DONORS

Government Contracts

\$100,000+

City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

\$10,000-\$99,000

City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development
Federal Emergency Management Administration
Illinois Department of Human Services

Grants

\$50,000+

Polk Bros. Foundation
Chicago Community Trust
Conant Family Foundation

\$20,000-\$49,999

A. Montgomery Ward Foundation
Anonymous
Crown Family Philanthropies
Frechette Family Foundation
J. Jill Compassion Fund
Albert Pick, Jr. Fund
Pierce Family Charitable Foundation
Reva and David Logan Foundation
The John R. Houlby Foundation
The Knight Family Foundation

\$10,000-\$19,999

Anonymous
Better Health Through Housing
CME Group Community Foundation
Hendrickson Family Foundation
Higher Path Foundation
Leo S. Guthman Fund
The Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund
W.P. & H.B. White Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Ameriprise Financial, Inc
Andrew and Alice Fischer Charitable Trust
Chicago Association of REALTORS
Fred J. Brunner Foundation
George M. Eisenberg Foundation For Charities
Mazza Foundation
Peoples Gas

Roundy's Foundation
Sara & Two C-Dogs Foundation
The Gallop Family Foundation
The Owens Foundation
TJX Foundation

\$1,000-\$4,999

Calmoseptine
The Dewan Foundation
Kebok Foundation
Maximus Foundation
Sulzer Family Foundation
Wells Fargo

\$250-\$999

Max Goldenberg Foundation
Zonta Club of Evanston

Religious Grants and Organizations

\$5,000-\$20,000

First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest
Kenilworth Union Church
Racine Dominican Mission Fund
Winnetka Congregational Church

\$100-\$4,999

First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette
Fourth Presbyterian Church
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
Missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit
North Shore Baptist Church
Northminster Presbyterian Church
Ravenswood Presbyterian Church
Sherman United Methodist Church
Sinsinawa Dominicans
Sisters of Charity BVM, Chicago Chapter
Sisters of St. Joseph of La Grange
St. James Parish
The Church Of The Atonement
Wellington Avenue UCC
Yorkfield Presbyterian Church

Businesses and Other Group Contributions

\$5,000+

Belvedere Trading

\$1,000-\$4,999

Boeing Employee Match
Chicago Lakeshore Hospital
Embellish Boutique Chicago
Mercer
Peet's Coffee & Tea
Roscoe Company
StarKid Productions

\$500-\$999

Crossing Tavern
Eileen Fisher
Euromonitor International
Exelon
Forefront
L.K. Bennett
Loyola Press
Profiles Theatre

\$100-\$499

3 Girls Smiling
Alexis Bittar, Inc
Association Management Center
Canadian Women's Club Of Chicago
CCH a Wolters Kluwer Business
Google Inc.
Kurt Beecken
The Flower Flatt, LLC
The Retirement Research Foundation
The Roc Group, Inc.

Corporate Sponsors

Corporate Partner \$11,500

Waterton Associates

Corporate Supporter \$6,390

Bridgeview Bank Group
Brinshore Development, LLC
Wintrust Financial

Corporate Friend \$3,600

Albany Bank & Trust Company
BMO Harris Bank
Emily Sachs Wong Luxury Chicago Real Estate
Itext
J. Jill Compassion Fund
Plexus Groupe
Summit Design + Build LLC
The PrivateBank
Vedder Price

Leadership Circle

\$10,000+

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Jessie Ewing*
Meredith George*
Edward Goings
Edward and Kathleen Halloran
Bert and Judy Krueger
Wendy Predescu
Abra Prentice

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous
Howard and Dona Robbins Cohen
William and Marta Krug*
Margaret Egan and Mike Lawler
Scott and Cynthia Paradise
Michael and Susan Wasserman

\$1,000-\$4,999

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Robert Turner and Gregory Stewart
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Jane Western
Gloria Yu
Mandy Zaransky-Hurst and Matthew Hurst

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John and Artemis Anos*
Lucy Ascoli
Judith Barr
Kevin Batson
Suzan Bramson
Nancy Buik and Jeffrey Wegerson*
Alexandra Burrell
Jason Burrell
Bonita Burrell
Nicholas and Carrie Camino
Gloria Ceccarelli
Marilyn Corbett
John and Teresa Culver
Marilyn Darnall
Scott Downing
Joyce and Timothy Dugan
Andrew and Michelle Dupre
Roberta Feldman
Jennifer Finkl
Peter Frisbee and Virginia Lasmanis
Michael and Joan Garner
Mary Giustini
Perry and Margaret Goldberg
Arnold and Constance Goldberg*
Cristina Gonzalez and Kevin Kelcourse
David and Beth Grimshaw
Mary Grover*
Meg Guttman*
Julianna and Kenneth Harris
Pat and Philip Hartung
Robert Haskell
Bridget Havey
Karen Jared

Individuals

\$500-\$999

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Lisa Black

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Guinevere Moore
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Graham Murphy
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Lennine Occhino
Lisa Palmleaf
Linda and Michael Paradise
Sarah Priest
Fran Snow
Abe and Susan Stern
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Margaret Sullivan
Nikhil Vijaykar
Frank Ward
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**Sarah's Circle**

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Executive Director

Katherine Ragnar

Staff

Sarah's Circle has a dedicated staff of 28 full-time and part-time employees. They provide case management, 24/7 program and facility coverage, clinical services, administration, and support.

Volunteers

We are grateful to our more than 350 volunteers who staff our front desk, provide meals, host celebrations, sort donations, provide professional services, and socialize with the women of Sarah's Circle.

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