2016 Annual Report
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.
**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

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**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 port 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.
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

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.

Financials

Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Contracts</td>
<td>$889,511</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$622,284</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Contributions</td>
<td>$457,125</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Kind Donations</td>
<td>$305,712</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events (Net)</td>
<td>$75,711</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Income</td>
<td>$35,569</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$1,875</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,387,788</strong></td>
<td>1%</td>
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Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interim Housing</td>
<td>$976,061</td>
<td>49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daytime Services</td>
<td>$370,618</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanent Supportive Housing</td>
<td>$245,987</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Services</td>
<td>$155,640</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$129,307</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>$121,259</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,998,872</strong></td>
<td>6%</td>
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Net Assets

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of Year</td>
<td>$4,551,478</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of Year</td>
<td>$4,940,393</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td><strong>$388,915</strong></td>
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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.

For more information, visit our web page www.sarahs-circle.org or call 773.728.1014.
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. Housby Foundation  
The Knight Family Foundation  

$10,000-$19,999  
Anonymous  
Better Health Through Housing  
CMF 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. Brummer Foundation  
George M. Eisenberg Foundation  
For Charities  
Mazza Foundation  
Peoples Gas  
Roundy’s Foundation  
Sara & Tivo C-Dogs Foundation  
The Gallop Family Foundation  
The Owens Foundation  
TXJ Foundation  

$1,000-$4,999  
Calmoseptine  
The Devan 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  
Winnietta 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  
Sisinnawa Dominicans  
Sisters of Charity BVM  
Chicago Chapter  
Sixers of St. Joseph of La Grange  
St. James Parish  
The Church Of The Atonement  
The 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  

Leadership Circle

$10,000+  
Anonymous  
Nancy Burgermeister  
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 Donna Robbins Cohen  
William and Marta Krug*  
Margaret Egan and Mike Lawler  
Scott and Cynthia Paradise  
Michael and Susan Wasserman  

$1,000-$4,999  
Carey Alosa  
Kevin Ambrose  
Georgia Beatty*  
Frank and Prue Beidler  
Stephanie Blatt  
Joan Bransfield  
Barbara Burrell  
Scott and Emily Clifford  
Jill Corcoran  
Chris Cordes  
Robert Delaney*  
Eileen Dordek and Chris Landgraf*  
Matthew Dougherty  
Gail Gorlitzz and Cris Smith  
Tim Gray  
Carolyn Grossinger  
Oliver Gugenheim  
Rose Houston*  
John and Laura Howard*  
Carol Johnson  
Laura Kaufman  
Kara Krueger and Brian Sichi  
Mani and Aruna Kumar  
Lauren Leive  
Betty Mack  
John and Denise Noel  
Dawne and Don Pafford  
Barbara and Robert Perkaus*  
Kathryn Ragn  
Jack Rajchenbach  
Aida Ralat  
Jordan and Denise Raw  
Emily Sachs Wong  
Luxury Chicago  
Real Estate  
Itex  
J. Jill Compassion Fund  
Flexus Group  
Summit Design + Build LLC  
The Private Bank  
Vedder Price  

Individuals

$500-$999  
Anonymous  
Thomas Witt and Consuelo Bedoya-Witt  
Lisa Bertagnoli*  
Lisa Black  
Ken and Julie Brown  
Anthony and Carly Cape  
Elizabeth Ester and Michael Brody*  
Sharon and William Feather  
Debra and Jim Flynn*  
Karen Jarek  

$100-$249  
Melissa Aguirre  
Robert and Geraldine Albers  
Thomas Allison and Sherry Holland  
Yasmin Amegaza  
Eleni Angelopoulos  
Rose Marie and Silvio Anichini  
Joanna Anos*  
Michelle Bariot  
Sivasankari Balasundaram  
Gladiola and John Ball  
Carl and Lori Barkow  
Catherine Battin  

$100-$249  
Melissa Aguirre  
Robert and Geraldine Albers  
Thomas Allison and Sherry Holland  
Yasmin Amegaza  
Eleni Angelopoulos  
Rose Marie and Silvio Anichini  
Joanna Anos*  
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Catherine Battin