A year of growth & change

Dear CWIT supporter,

In fiscal year 2019, we continued to provide critical reentry services to women, while experiencing positive growth and change. The Center for Women in Transition provided 146 women with a supportive environment in which to transform their lives. I hope you read the report to find out more about their many successes!

This past year our organization grew in significant ways. We added 6 key positions and restructured several others, which has allowed the Center to expand the services offered to women leaving prison and jail. This past year, the Center:

• Created two Behavioral Health positions to provide on- and off-site trauma-informed counseling as part of our continued efforts to provide trauma-informed services, thanks to a generous grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health.

• Expanded its community-based services to reach more women who want or need to live in independent housing.

• Grew its pre-release services. The Center now has staff devoted to meeting with women pre-release to begin assessments and case planning as a means of promoting a smoother transition to the community.

• Added a certified peer support specialist who provides group and individual support for women in recovery from substance use!

The Center celebrated two important anniversaries this year: Barbara Baker, Advocacy Director, celebrated her 20th year as an employee, and House Monitor Supervisor, Barbara Hoskins, celebrated her 10th work anniversary. Both of these employees have helped change the lives of so many women reentering the St. Louis community from incarceration, and continue to do so daily. Just this year, Barbara Baker received her Peer Specialist Certification to further empower clients. Supporters like you allow employees like Barbara Baker and Barbara Hoskins to continue their inspiring efforts to provide women with opportunities for lasting change.

Thank you for supporting our goal of advocating for and assisting women in the criminal justice system! The growth we experienced is only possible because of our dedicated community of supporters. With your support, we will continue to see women successfully transition to their families and communities.

Sincerely,

Laura Toledo
Executive Director
our services

The Center offers comprehensive, wrap around services to women leaving incarceration, including:

- Safe transitional housing and rent support
- Basic needs, including food, clothing, toiletries, rent assistance, health care, and transportation costs
- Case management
- Vocational support
- Life skills education
- Behavioral health services, including trauma counseling
- Mentor partnerships
- Court advocacy
- Peer support for those in recovery from substance use disorders

32 women were diverted to CWIT programs instead of going to jail or prison!
"Coming here was a process of healing. I learned a lot about trauma and how to deal with it. Getting my own apartment where there's no chaos and abuse is everything to me. It's been a battle, and I'm feeling better every day. I feel more confident."  – Vicki

"While I'm here I want to become more self-reliant and more sure of myself. I'm going through counseling and that's helped me deal with a lot of my issues from my whole life. If I wasn't here, I'd be homeless. I thank God that my parole officer helped me get into Schirmer House so that I could get back on my feet."  – Dawn

"I was in jail for over 2 years for drinking and driving, and I hurt somebody. I went into treatment, and I learned a lot about myself. I called Ms. Baker, and I came to CWIT. They gave me a warm welcome. They gave me a nice place to live. They gave me food, clothes, bus passes. It's really a new beginning here when I thought I was lost. My goal is to get a place and to get my son back."  – Nora

"One day, I had a stroke. It messed me up very bad. I was kind of isolated. I had dope, cigarettes, weed, and all that. But then, there was this one day I said no, I don't want it anymore. I'm so happy that God put me at CWIT. I want to get a house, a job, a Master's degree. I want to save my money, and keep saying no to drugs."  – Robin

90% of clients have experienced trauma
85% of clients have substance use disorders
80% of clients have mental health challenges

100% of clients were living below the poverty line upon entering the Center’s programs.

Around 300 women are released from state prisons into the St. Louis community annually.

Upon release, Missourians with criminal convictions face legal restrictions in housing, employment, and access to social services.
it takes all of us
thank you to our donors*
July 2018 - June 2019

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* A list of individual donors and family foundations who gave $2,000 and over can be found on our website.

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427 donors invested
$283,474 in the lives of justice-involved women last fiscal year.

fiscal year 2019 financials

*Investments, in-kind donations, and miscellaneous income each represented <1% of revenue

total revenue: $2,180,110  total expense: $1,420,690
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2019 Honorees

Thank you for joining us at our annual gala and auction! With your help, we raised $171,200

beautiful transformations gala

Join us on April 18, 2020 for our annual gala!

Visit cwitstl.org/events for more information and to register!
Executive Director
Laura Toledo

Advocacy Director
Barbara Baker

Director of Programs
April Foster

Development Director
Brittany Campbell

Facility Director, Schirmer House
SJ Stephens

Baker House & Community Program Manager
Maggie Burke

Case Managers
Sarah Fieser
Mary Kate Junget
Carly Smale
Ronda Smith Branch

House Monitor Supervisor
Barbara Hoskins

Life Skills Specialist
Paige Henry

Behavioral Health Specialists
Tracie Striebel
Candace Finan

Community Engagement Coordinator
Deborah Ogunti

Vocational Specialist
Erica Rogers

Development Associate
Laura Miller

Administrative Support Volunteers
Jan Moellering
Dorothy Crahan

House Monitors
Jacqueline Brooks
Ashley Brown
Robbie Burgett
Debra JoAnn Carruth
Pamela Crawford
Juanita Davis
Jamacia Harris
Chris Hudson
Dawn Moore-Lockett
Danielle Pierson
Linda Smith
Stacey Woodson
Airmia Word

155 community members provided the Center with over 670 hours of volunteer service!

Mentors
Marilyn Bader
Sharon Bertram
Catherine Bradford
Sashane Chin
Diana Daugherty
Tracy Jones
Brittani Nelson
Kathy McGinnis
Jennifer Wilson
Patricia Zerega

Mentor, Brittani Nelson
Thank you for supporting our mission to advocate for and assist women in the criminal justice system to support their successful transition to family and community!


Learn more at www.cwitstl.org.

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