The Center for Women in Transition assists women in the criminal justice system because change is possible.
It is hard to believe that the Center for Women in Transition is about to celebrate 20 years of assisting women, and it is even harder to believe that I have been involved with the Center for half of its existence! Sister Rose McLarney introduced me to the agency in 2006, when she was the Executive Director and seeking an attorney to join the Board of Directors. Through mentoring and serving on multiple committees of the Board, I became passionate about the mission of the agency. I am not the only person who has been drawn to the mission and provided support in many different ways over the years — there are many legacy supporters to whom we extend our gratitude for helping to bring the Center to where it is today.

As the agency enters its 20th year, it is on strong footing and on a path to further strengthening its programs and evaluation. Because of the generosity of our supporters in fiscal year 2016, we were able to provide reentry services to 159 women, thereby strengthening women, families, and communities. Here are some highlights from this past year:

- The Center’s mentoring program continued to thrive, with 5 new mentors becoming trained and matched with Center clients.
- 100% of women enrolled in Center programs had safe and affordable housing, either in a Center-run apartment or in independent housing; 95.6% of women in the Center’s programs did not return to incarceration; and 75.4% obtained employment.
- The Center helped 22 women in their transitions from core Center programming to independence and family reunification through the newly launched Step Out program, which includes ongoing case management, rent support, and emergency financial assistance.
- The Center continued to make needed improvements to the Barbara Baker House, including installing metal controlled-entry front doors, new apartment locks, a back gate with an emergency exit, emergency pathway lighting, plumbing repairs, and security cameras. Residents, staff, and volunteers also beautified the outside landscaping and planted a garden. With a new roof on the building and safety issues addressed, our last step is to upgrade the interior of the apartments with fresh flooring, cabinets, and paint.
- The Center has continued to work with area collaborations and partnerships to improve the reentry success for all returning citizens in the St. Louis area. The Center is excited to be a part of the St. Louis County Safety and Justice Challenge, which received funding through the MacArthur Foundation to reduce over-reliance on jails and to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in jails.
- On the financial front, the generosity of Beautiful Transformations supporters allowed the Center to pay off all debt in 2016!

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of our funders, including individual donors, government agencies, religious foundations, and corporate, community, and family foundations. Also, individuals who believe in our mission volunteered hundreds of hours of their valuable time to help us accomplish our mission. Thank you to all of you!

We are excited to be entering our 20th year of helping women make change possible. We hope that you will get involved and help us make our 20th year the best year yet!

Thank you very much for your interest in and support of the mission of the Center for Women in Transition.

Sincerely,

Executive Director
The Center for Women in Transition’s first program, started in 1997, was the Mentoring and Advocacy program. It began with one part-time employee who matched women with volunteer mentors from the community. It grew over time to include transitional housing at the Baker House, provision of basic essentials, case management, life skills education, and restorative-justice based programs. Recently on-site counseling has become available to all Center clients. All these services provide our women with the space and support for change.

**Mentoring and Advocacy by the Numbers**

- Total clients served: **46**
- Percentage of women who had no relapse: **50%**
- Percentage of employable women who obtained employment: **62.5%**
- Percentage of women who remained out of prison/jail: **98%**
- Clients who came to the program as an alternative to incarceration: **21**

**Project Reconnect**

In 2007, the Center and area service providers came together to assist women and men leaving Missouri prisons without access to state and federal supports available to paroles — a population at high risk of homelessness. This collaboration formed again in 2007 and 2014, with the Center acting as administering agency.

*The Center served 24 women through Project Reconnect in FY 2016,* connecting them to housing, employment resources, medical and mental health resources. All have remained out of prison/jail.
“Schirmer House is a place where you know that people really care.”

- Schirmer Resident

The Center for Women in Transition opened Schirmer House in 2008, operated under contract with the Missouri Department of Corrections. Since opening, the Center has provided safe and supervised housing to approximately 600 women who are under Missouri DOC supervision and lack a suitable home plan. Not only do the women have safe housing, but also access to a wide variety of onsite services including case management, narcotics anonymous meetings, employment assistance, life skills education, and arts and crafts classes.

The Center is proud to report that 93% of the women at Schirmer House did not return to prison or jail while in the program last year. This is a testament to the caring dedication of the staff and volunteers who work at Schirmer House, as well as the culture of mutual support the women build.

Schirmer House by the Numbers

Total clients served: **89**

Percentage of women who had no relapse: **69%**

Percentage of employable women who obtained employment: **79%**

Percentage of women who remained out of prison/jail: **93%**

Step Out Aftercare

The Center moved into providing post-program support in 2013. The Step Out program is designed to provide women with a softer landing when exiting core programing for independent housing. The program’s case manager provides emotional support and guidance; financial assistance is also available on an as needed basis.

Due to the program’s success and the demonstrated need for ongoing services, the Step Out program has been growing each year. In FY2016, the Center completed its first year of providing 6 month step-down rent assistance. 22 women were enrolled in Step Out, 17 of whom received rent assistance. Nineteen maintained stable living conditions, 17 maintained employment for 3 months or longer, and none returned to prison.
Wendy has a smile to light up a room, and if you’re lucky, you might be fortunate enough to see it. A St. Louis native who grew up in North County, with her mom working and her dad not around, Wendy had a lot of responsibility as the eldest of three.

Wendy joined the Center’s Mentoring and Advocacy program after serving part of a seven year sentence at Women’s Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center in Vandalia, MO. Looking back on the challenges she’s faced in prison and since release, Wendy wishes that others knew “they don’t have to shame us, because we shame ourselves more than they could,” and Wendy is working hard to prove other’s misconceptions wrong.

Wendy has earned her CNA license and will start CMT school in January. Since joining the program Wendy has obtained a full time job, and is grateful to her mentor, whom she talks to everyday. “It’s nice to relax and just talk about the good and bad about each day,” Wendy shared. Wendy believes she is successful in the program because “I have the freedom to do what I want, but still have the structure and support I need to stay focused.”

Kathy has been volunteering as a mentor with the Center for Women in Transition for the past 18 years. When asked to reflect on her experience with her many mentees over the years, Kathy shared that she is “often overwhelmed by the resilience and courage that the women have in terms of dealing with all they have to deal with in their lives.” She finds it to be energizing and inspiring, and feels it expands her world and therefore her worldview. Kathy boasts that Wendy is very self-directed and has concrete plans for her life. She enjoys the opportunity to affirm Wendy for what she is doing and encourage her in the next steps of her journey.

When asked what it’s like being a mentor, Kathy shared “it’s like walking the journey with them, at whatever stage they are at. You don’t have to have all the answers, it’s more about just being a person to be there, talk to, and be a positive person in their lives.” Kathy believes that people just need positive relationships and support in their lives. She believes the women want to be a positive force in their communities – to be respected and allowed to use their skills.

“I am often overwhelmed by the resilience and courage the women have.”
The Center had a strong year financially in FY 2016 and was able to pay off all debt!

Net income for the year was $78,145*

Total Revenue: $1,535,764
Total Expense: $1,457,619

Help us make 2017 the best year yet! Donate today to give women at CWIT a second chance. Visit our website or send a check to 7525 S. Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63111 to make a donation.

NAP Tax Credits

NAP credits allow qualified donors to reduce their MO tax liability by 50% of their contribution.

Examples of how tax credits can be applied:*  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your gift</th>
<th>$1,000</th>
<th>$2,500</th>
<th>$5,000</th>
<th>$10,000</th>
<th>$20,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal tax deduction assuming 35% tax bracket</td>
<td>-350</td>
<td>-875</td>
<td>-1,750</td>
<td>-3,500</td>
<td>-7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State tax deduction assuming 6% tax bracket</td>
<td>-60</td>
<td>-150</td>
<td>-300</td>
<td>-600</td>
<td>-1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State tax credit (50% of gift)</td>
<td>-500</td>
<td>-1,250</td>
<td>-2,500</td>
<td>-5,000</td>
<td>-10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional federal tax due to reduction of state tax (35% of $500 credit)</td>
<td>+175</td>
<td>+438</td>
<td>+875</td>
<td>+1,750</td>
<td>+3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total out of pocket cost to donor</td>
<td>$265</td>
<td>$663</td>
<td>$1,325</td>
<td>$2,650</td>
<td>$5,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Donations</th>
<th>Cash</th>
<th>Stocks</th>
<th>Bonds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Eligible Donors

Individuals with income from royalties or rental property
Sole proprietors
Corporations
S-corporations
Partnerships
Limited liability corporations
Farm operations

Credits may be used to offset individual income taxes, corporation franchise tax, tax on gross premium receipts of insurance companies, and financial institution tax.

To redeem, please request tax credits at the time of your donation. Credits are not transferable or refundable.

For more information, contact Kellie Roberts at (314) 771-5207 or by email at kellieroberts@cwitstl.org.

*Please consult your financial advisor for the tax treatment of your donation. The Center cannot provide tax advice.
Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2016 Beautiful Transformations Gala the most successful yet! Thanks to your generosity, the Center raised $173,000 to help women reentering society after incarceration. This money provides women with the support they need to be successful in their transition back to their families and communities.

Mark your calendars for the 2017 Beautiful Transformations Gala, which will take place April 22, 2017!

We would like to acknowledge the 2016 honorees:

Mary Bruemmer, long-time mentor of women and supporter of the Center was awarded with the Community Partnership Award.

Brett Begemann and Monsanto were awarded the Corporate Partnership Award for their generous support of the Center and the St. Louis region.

Sheila Sweeny, Mentor of the Year, and Anne Laux, Mentee of the Year, are a testament to the change that is possible when women are provided the support and resources they need.
Grant Funders
ASC Foundation
Affordable Housing Commission
Ameren Foundation
Joan and John Vatterott Family Foundation
Lutheran Foundation
Missouri Dept. of Corrections
Sisters of Mercy
Sisters of St. Joseph, Carondelet
St. Louis Philanthropic
Tegna Foundation
United Way

Partners of the Mission
($10,000 and up)
American Direct
Marketing Resources
Archdiocese of St. Louis
Monsanto
Trudy Busch Valentine

Founders Circle
($5,000-$9,999)
Brett Begemann
Carol Kohfeld and John Sprague
Emerson Charitable Trust
K and Paul Wentzien
Mercy Health

President’s Circle
($2,500-$4,999)
Ascension Health
Barbara and James Gehringer
Centene Management Company
Kelly and Gus Gast
Kim and Bob Brown
Lathrop & Gage
Nancy and Robert Klepper
Phillip and Eileen Pheiffer
Stephen & Carolyn Golden
Ted Green
Virginia Heagney & James Tobin

Director’s Circle
($1,000-$2,499)
Barb and Matt Sapienza
Brian and Lisa Safarian
Capt. Robert Catlett
Cassandra Sanford
Clara Apartments
Cynthia Mercer
Danette Silva
David Walker
Drury Development Corporation
Fran Glass
Harry and Karen Rosenbluth
Herbert and Carole Bernsen
Husch Blackwell LLP
Jacqueline & Theron Peterson
Jon Fogle
Juan and Helena Ferreira
Karolyn Terpstra
Kenneth and Jennifer Avery
Kirberg Company
Kreilick Family Foundation Inc.
Kyle Baxter and Alan Ratchford
Mark Eggert
Marshall and Kay Turner
Mary, Mother of the Church
Michael & Kathleen Jennings
Michelle Clardy-Dobbs
Nancy Green
Nancy McCarthy
Nicole Zellweger and James Bass
One West Associates, Inc.
Pamela Caraffa
Richard Pizzo
Rosemary Fairhead
Ruth & Frank Stroble
Charitable Foundation
Sherri and Jim Tichenor
Sisters of Mercy - South Central Community
Terry and Marilyn Bader
Tiffany Davis
Tom and Colleen Wilson
Vatterott Foundation
Wendi Alper-Pressman

Legacy Club
($250-$499)
Abigail Willie
Amanda Goldsmith
Antoinette Watson
Ayanna Baldwin
Carolyn Bethe Frick
Carolyn Henry
Carondelet Community Betterment Federation
Cynthia Price
Diana Daugherty
Dr. Donna Almond
Eileen and Terry Dalhoff
Gary McWilliams
Gene and Caryn Watson
Gerald and Linda Davey
Gerald and Pamela Clark
Glenn Guenther
Hugh Whaley
Irene and Eugene Schmidt
Jack and Maryann Marincel

Leader’s Club
($500-$999)
Aimee Wehmeier
Altrusa International
Ameren Missouri
Beth Conway
Beverly Meyers
Calea Stovall-Reid
Chris Oswald
Chris and Julie Morris
Dan Leibson
Dan and Katherine Mauzy
Dave Sadler
Doug and Sue Warden
Frank Vatterott
Gary and Beth Growe
Glenn and Gerri Seitz
Hammond and Shinners

Loyalty Club
($100-$249)
Alicia and Barry Haith
American Association of University Women
Amy Russell
Amy Scherer
Andrew Lind
Angela Grady
Annee Laux
Barbara Baumgartner
Barbara Walker
Carol H Aucamp
Cathy Krueger
Cheryl Throgmorton

Thank you to our donors!
Mary Ellen Cotsworth
Mary & Daniel Leopold
Marilyn Koncen
Margo Parks
Margie Steck
Malou Perez-Nievera
Mary & Daniel Leopold
Mary Ellen Cotsworth
Mary Ellen & Rich Bruenderman
Mary Katy Dowd
Mary Lindmark
Mary Louise Gunther
Mary and Gary Kemp
Mary and Geoffrey Curtis
Matt Weiss
Matthew Riggins
Mercy Neighborhood Ministry
Miriam Switching Post
Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Kathy
Archambeault
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Schmitz
Nathalie Williams
Patricia Cornell
Patricia and Thomas Bradshaw
Paula Horan
Paula McGrath
Phyllis Benton
Rebecca Perez
Rita McShea
Robert Kaemmerlen
Virginia Mayeux
William and Lucy Vatterott

Supporters
(S$1-$99)
AI Jessica Hejlek
Cheryl Lockos
Elizabeth & Timothy Hampton
Evelyn Smith
Jams Mitchell
Jeanne Melton
Kathy Reichbach
Kathy and James McGinnis
Kerri Brewer
Libby Swanger
Pauline Oakes RSM
Ralph & Susan Zamora
Rebecca Tucker
Robin Davis
Romarilyn Ralston
Spirit of St. Louis Lodge 157
Unity Church of Peace

Friends
(Gifts up to $50)
Advance Finance
Albert Sprehe
Angelo and Joanna Maltagliati
Ann Dalton
Ann S. Phelan
Annie B Harper
Bart Sapienza
Bernice Heavilin
Carol Friedich
Carol Keller and Frederick
Michaelis
Carol Layton
Carolyn McWatters
Carrie Coats
Charlese McBride
Cheryl Wittenauer
Christina Russel
Christine Rohloff
Cindy Sullivan
Claude & Kathleen Martin
Claytonia Terrace Residents
Association
Conner Ash PC
David and Linda M. Liebna
David or Mary Ann Shepard
Debbie Culley
Donna and Gary May
Doris Poholsky

Elizabeth Beall
Ellen Heitz
Erln Greer
Franciscan Sisters of Mary
Fred and Kathie Waldrop
Gene Del Incorporated
Greg Campbell
Harold and Debbie Tzinberg
Heather and Allan Cancanindin
James and Lynette Stelzer
Jason and Rachel Robison
Jaynes Dearing
Jean Caton
Jeanette Noonan, RSM
Jeannine Potter
Joan Billings
Joan Dieckmann
Joanne Bland
John Molitor
John and Karen Koepel
Julia Winters
Katherine Nowak
Kathleen & Raymond Migneco
Kathleen and Gene Petuss
Kathy and Dave Waser
Kecia Licausi
Kriste D. Herzberg
Kristine Wentzien
Mae Peters
Margaret Boveri
Maria V. Pamaran
Marian Bauer
Marilyn Ancier
Martha Klotz
Mary Ellen Mooney
Mary Ginger Fearheliey
Mary John Haddad
Mary Krieg
Mary Lou Peters
Mikeal Johnson
Mitchell James Salon
Nancy Helms
Pal Caraffa
Patricia Freeman
Renee and Charles Gravois
Ronald & Janet Nimer
Ronald and Susan Miller
Ruth Murray
Sally Bakula
Sandy Krebeck
Sr. Annette Seymour
Sr. Thelma Mitchell
Stinson Leonard Street
Susan Gyorog
Tom Villa
United Way of Greater Atlanta
Virginia B Carter
Walter Knoll Florist
William & Nancy Heinbecker
Barb Sapienza

With over 20 years’ experience in administrative management, anyone who knows Barb Sapienza knows that she is the person to turn to when you need things done quickly and accurately. But you might no know that she organized a comedy club of toastmasters that has put on seven shows. While political puns might lighten a room, Barb knows that the inequities that women leaving the criminal justice system face are no laughing matter. Barb believes that everyone deserves a second chance, and that the Center for Women in Transition provides just that. With the tools and opportunities offered through CWIT, women CAN change their lives.

Barb, who is currently the Director of the President’s office at Saint Louis University, is excited to see the Center build an evidence-based reputation in the coming years, and with experience in hospitals, healthcare, and higher education, she is an excellent addition to help propel the Center to do just that! Since joining the board, Barb has stepped into the role of Chair of the Development Committee and also serves on the strategic planning committee. The Center is lucky to have Barb’s skills on Board!

Board of Directors

President
Capt. Robert Catlett
Vice President
Jon T. Fogle
Past President
Sr. Suzanne Wesley, CSJ
Treasurer
Karen Frick
Secretary
Kyle Baxter
Kim Brown, Esq.
Michelle Clardy-Dobbs, Esq.
Kathy Harris
Andrew Lind
D Narain
Emily Perez Estepp, Esq.
Linda Pizzo

Susan Rollins
Barbara Sapienza
Danette Silva, Esq.
Judge Calea Stovall-Reid
K Wentzien
Nicole S. Zellweger, Esq.

Emeritus Members
Dr. Pamela Caraffa
Joan Carter
Sherri Coleman, FSM
Carolyn Golden
Kelly Gast

Founders
Sharon Schmitz, RSM
Eugenio Pastorik, RSM
Judy Pannett
Sarah Barnes

Karen Frick

With Karen’s joy in providing actionable information so organizational objectives can be achieved, it’s no surprise that she is looking forward to the Center accomplishing its strategic plan over the next three years. Karen’s dossier includes working as a CPA at such notable organizations as Elsevier and Corizon Health, and she has recently joined the St. Louis Art Museum as accounting supervisor. She naturally stepped up to help develop the Center’s new strategic plan and has taken over as Treasurer of the Board.

Having sold antiques for a few years and holding a degree in interior design, Karen has an eye for seeing things of value. Karen recognizes that the Center fills a gap in the community that is necessary in order to reduce recidivism, as well as giving women the opportunity to make changes in their lives and reconnect to family. It’s clear that with Karen’s skills in finance and her belief in the Center’s mission, she is an amazing asset to the board, and her skills will be put to good use.

10
Staff and Mentors

Staff

Executive Director
Laura Toledo, Esq.

Director of Restorative Programming
Sarah Gyorog

Advocacy Director
Barbara Baker

Development Director
Kellie Roberts

Client Services Director
Robin Davis

Case Managers
Stefanie Moore, M.S.
Sarah Fieser, L.M.S.W.

Employment and Life Skills Specialists
Vicki Torrence
Tracie Striebel, M.A., C.R.C.

Program Assistant
Romarilyn Ralston, M.L.A.
Kristina Vidovic, B.S.S.W.

Director of Schirmer House
Jewell Donald

Schirmer House Manager Supervisor
Mark Parker

House Managers
Rowena Wright, Schirmer House
Debbie James, Schirmer House
Linda Smith, Schirmer House
Barbara Hoskins, Schirmer House
Debra Carruth, Schirmer House
Molly Price, Schirmer House
Laura Smart, Schirmer House
Pamela Crawford, Schirmer House
Josephine Lofton, Schirmer House
Janette Holemon, Baker House
Julie Hobbs, Baker House
Christine Hudson, Baker House

Mentors

Thank you to our mentors and the many years they have devoted to our clients!

Cynthia Rook (2016)           Edith Graeff (2016)
Center for Women in Transition

The Center assists women in the criminal justice system because change is possible.

7525 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63111

www.cwitstl.org
cwit@cwitstl.org
314-771-5207

Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

Please check our website for upcoming events!

Certain project costs have been underwritten by the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Neighborhood Assistance Program.