Annual Report
2018
CENTER FOR WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Change is Possible
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Because of partners like YOU, transformation happens here.
Greetings,

As I settle in to the chilly, short days of winter, I often find myself driving past the Barbara Baker House on my way home from the office. I am comforted by the lights in the windows and the house manager’s car outside. I imagine the women inside cooking dinner, chatting with the house manager, pulling out a book from our makeshift library and curling up on a couch. With these simple comforts of a home, stress begins to decrease, and change can begin. This would not be possible without the Center’s dedicated staff, board members, mentors, generous donors, and invested community partners.

Last year, the Center was able to provide safe and affordable housing, as well as extensive supportive services, to all 126 women served. I hope you will read ahead to learn about their stories and achievements.

This past year, the Center saw phenomenal results across the board with employment. The overall employment rate was 83%, with 75% maintaining employment for 3 months or more. Of women in the Step Out aftercare program, the employment retention rate was an impressive 89%!

We are proud to have celebrated 10 years of operating Schimper House in partnership with the Missouri Department of Corrections. Also, recognizing the prevalence of drug addiction – and in particular opioid addiction – among the women we serve, last year the Center’s Barbara Baker House became a NARR accredited recovery home. This accreditation ensures that we are following best practices for providing an environment that is supportive of recovery.

We have continued our partnership with the St. Louis County Justice Center and the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge, and we have continued to make strides towards embedding trauma responsiveness into all aspects of programming, including offering groups focused on trauma and working to bring one-on-one trauma counseling onsite.

Our ongoing goal is to provide opportunities for lasting change in our clients, and you make this possible. The Center is stronger than ever due to our expanding community of supporters who come together to donate time, resources, and talent in support of our important mission.

Thank You!

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Executive Director
Schirmer House
Schirmer House provides transitional housing and supportive services to 28 women at any given time.

A recent Schirmer House resident is Jana, who came to the Center in June of 2017. Jana was incarcerated for 8 years throughout her adult life. She experienced a series of emotionally traumatic events, including assault and losing someone close to her. While at Schirmer House she spent a lot of time reflecting on her life and completing necessary treatment programs. Jana recently moved out of Schirmer House into her own apartment. She is employed, independent, and makes healthy life choices. When asked how the Center has made an impact on her life, Jana said that the Center allowed her to start a new beginning. She says that without the Center, she wouldn’t have been able to be successful. Jana hopes that other justice involved women know there is still time to start a new life –

"There is always tomorrow."

Congratulations on 10 years of operations at Schirmer House!
Mentoring & Advocacy

In the Mentoring & Advocacy program, women are provided safe housing, supportive services, and are partnered one-on-one with a mentor for one year.

After serving 6 years in prison, Stephany was ready to turn her life around and make changes for the better. She found the Center and was accepted into the Mentoring & Advocacy program, where she was provided a furnished apartment, financial assistance, case management, and a mentor to help her with her transformation. Fast forward to today, Stephany has been clean and sober for 7 years and 7 months, she has a job and money in savings, and she is excited for her future.

32 clients participated the in M&A program

Aftercare

The Step Out program is designed to provide women with a softer landing when exiting core programming for independent housing.

Sheila gave up 13 years of her life to drug addiction. 13 years away from her daughter, away from her aging mother and family. In that time, Sheila went to prison three times, and during her last incarceration something clicked in her: she wanted a better life, not only for herself but for her daughter. That's when Sheila came to the Center. Since enrolling in the Step Out program, Sheila has maintained her sobriety and has kept the same full-time job. She has regained custody of her daughter, and they are working on rebuilding a healthy relationship. Sheila credits the Center and the Step Out aftercare program with helping her get her life back on track and giving her a second chance.

92% of eligible Aftercare clients obtained stable employment, and 89% maintained employment for 3 months or more
Beautiful Transformations

With your help, at our annual gala we raised a record $201,500 to improve the lives of women in transition.

2018 Honorees
Lacy D’Amico
Client of the Year
Drury Hotels
Corporate Partnership Award

The Strength to Rise

Join us for our annual Beautiful Transformations Gala in Spring 2019
Thank you to our donors!

Grant Funders
Adorers of the Precious Blood Employees Community Fund of Boeing
Joan and John Vatterott Family Foundation
Lutheran Foundation
Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
Missouri Department of Corrections
Regional Business Council
Sign of the Arrow
Sisters of Mercy, South Central Community
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
St. Louis County United Way
Wells Fargo

Founders’ Circle
($5,000-$9,999)
Carol W. Kohfeld & John D. Sprague
Emerson Charitable Trust
K & Paul Wentzien
Mercy Health
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

President’s Circle
($2,000-$4,999)
Ascension Health
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Saint Louis University
David Scobee
Francine Glass
Glenn Guenther
Herbert & Carole Bernsen
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Kyle Baxter & Alan Ratchford
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Michelle & Jay Dobbs
Nathan Wamser
Ruth & Frank Stroble Charitable Foundation
Newmark Grubb Levy Strange Beffort
Stephen & Carolyn Golden
Susan Rollins
Virginia Heagney & James Tobin

Partners of the Mission
($10,000 and up)
American Direct Marketing Resources
Drury Development Corporation
Jaymes Dearing
Kirberg Company
Monsanto Fund
Miken Technologies Inc.
Trudy Busch Valentine Family Foundation

444 donors invested in the lives of justice-involved women this year.*

* A list of all donors can be found at www.cwitstl.org/donors
What is recidivism?

Recidivism (n.):
1. a tendency to relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior
2. relapse into criminal behavior

The Center's Definition: return to incarceration as a result of a probation/parole violation or conviction for a new crime

What Causes Recidivism?

Women who are released from incarceration face numerous challenges that can lead them to recidivate. These include the lack of availability of affordable housing, lack of access to services such as drug and medical treatment, food and transportation insecurity, struggles with employment, and lack of encouragement with little to no support systems.

What is the Center Doing to Help?

The Center is currently the only provider dedicated to comprehensive wrap around reentry services for women in the St. Louis area. Since its inception, the Center has expanded its services, now including:
- Transitional housing for up to 40 women at a time
- Case management
- Referrals to community resources for medical, mental health, and substance abuse treatment
- Provision of basic necessities, including food, transportation, and clothing
- Rental assistance
- Life skills education
- Help finding jobs and job readiness trainings
- Family reunification services
- Mentoring
- Restorative justice talking circles
- Trauma groups

94% of women did not recidivate while in the program.

For every year a woman does not return to prison Missouri taxpayers save $20,896.25* just in Missouri DOC direct costs.

*Missouri Department of Corrections 2016 Annual Report
In FY18, donors contributed $324,644 allowing the Center to support 28 women.
Our Leadership

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Mercy Health System

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Assistant Chief of Police
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Pamela Crawford
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Sharron Matkins
Linda Smith
Tiara Weaver

AmeriCorps VISTA & Vincentian Mission Corps Workers
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Sarah Ruiz
Tess Sanders

Mentors
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Vrette Boozer
Diana Daugherty
Kathy Hicks
Tracy Jones
Lauren Lickwar
Janet Mannhard
Janine Martin
Kathy McGinnis
Christine Peanick
Trenay Wallace
Jennifer Wilson
Patricia Zerega

Volunteers

208 community members contributed to the Center through volunteer service

Thank you to our mentors, who continually support our women!

thank you!
Assisting women in the criminal justice system because change is possible.

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