Through 3 program areas, the Center provides comprehensive, wrap around reentry services for women returning to the St. Louis area. Restorative justice informs our programming, promoting healing of self and community.
Greetings,

Thank you for making last year yet another remarkable year for the Center for Women in Transition! As we embarked on our 20th year, our dedicated staff, committed board and mentors, generous donors, and invested community partners helped us to make the year one of expanding outreach while strengthening programs and services.

Amid the national opioid crisis, the breadth of mass incarceration, and a shifting political climate, the Center continued its critical services of assisting women transitioning from the criminal justice system, providing stability and helping them to develop plans for the future. The Center has also continued to work toward becoming a trauma informed organization, so that we can better respond to the effects of traumatic experiences on the lives of our program participants, staff, and others.

Once again, we helped make positive change in the lives of the 158 women we served last year. I hope you will read ahead to learn about their stories and achievements. We are grateful for the community partnerships we expanded this year: As part of enhancing the Center’s trauma responsiveness, we partnered with Mercy Professional Services to provide 6 clients with 39 hours of free on-site counseling. We also launched services as a collaborative partner in the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge grant awarded to St. Louis County, allowing 19 women to enter the Mentoring and Advocacy program from St. Louis County Jail, providing them the opportunity to enroll in drug treatment, obtain employment, and be paired with a community mentor.

Our ongoing goal is to reduce recidivism in the St. Louis region while providing opportunities for lasting change in our clients, and you truly make this possible! The Center is stronger than ever due to our expanding community of supporters who comes together to donate time, resources, and talent in support of our important mission.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Executive Director

Center services include transitional housing, case management, provision of basic needs, and referrals to community partners for drug treatment and medical, mental, and dental health care.

Over 90% of our clients have experienced trauma.
women were served and received individualized case management

158

women moved into independent housing

75

8.8% recidivism rate: less than half of state average*

ninetys-eight mental health appointments were subsidized

Schirmer House

After spending three decades caught in a cycle of incarceration, Diane decided to make a change and rebuild her life. With nowhere else to go, she moved into Schirmer House, where she began her journey to recovery.

Since coming to the Center two years ago, Diane has maintained sobriety, successfully moved out of Schirmer House and into independent housing, and has made amends with herself, her two children, and her grandchildren. She says that committing to herself and to Center programming is the best thing she has ever done.

57 women participated in substance abuse treatment

"I want to spend what years I have left making memories with my family - making good ones."

94 clients resided at Schirmer House

"In Missouri, approximately 23% of women leaving prison recidivate, or return to incarceration, within one year after release."
Mentoring & Advocacy

A mother of two, April came to the Center in December 2016. Since then, she has graduated from substance abuse treatment, maintained stable employment, and met all court and community service requirements, all while caring for her young daughters. This August, April celebrated one year of sobriety. She has an immense passion and determination to create a new life for herself.

"April uses her past to inspire her to work harder now and make a better future for her and her family."

Sarah, April’s Mentor

43 clients participated in the M&A program

Thank you to our mentors, who continue to donate countless hours of support to justice-involved women

Aftercare

Rosalind came to the Center with next to nothing. A series of criminal charges made it hard for her to get a job, because, as she describes, "people did not want to trust that change is possible." Less than a year later, she now has an apartment, a car, a job that she loves, and the support of people who believe in her.

"It was hard to get people to trust that change is possible."

After 3 months in her current job, Rosalind is eligible for a promotion. She hopes to go back to school to study psychology, so she can use her experiences to help other people.

100% of Aftercare clients maintained stable living conditions

77% maintained employment for 3 months or longer

85% of eligible clients obtained employment
Beautiful Transformations

Our Time to Soar...

With your help, we raised $196,761 to improve the lives of women in transition.

2017 Honorees

Raziyah Wallace
Client of the Year

Kathy McGinnis
Mentor of the Year

A special thank you to Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and Mercy Health. These Legacy Award Honorees continue to foster healing and growth for the women of St. Louis. The past 20 years would not have been possible without their support and generosity.

Save the Date!
Beautiful Transformations: The Strength to Rise
May 5, 2018
Thank you to our donors!

Grant Funders
ASC Foundation
Affordable Housing Commission
Commerce Bancshares Foundation
Employees Community Fund of Boeing
Enterprise Holdings
Joan and John Vatterott Family Foundation
Lutheran Foundation
Missouri Department of Corrections
Missouri Housing Trust Fund
Sisters of Mercy, South Central Community
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
St. Louis Philanthropic Organization
Strengthen Thy Sister
United Way

Founders' Circle
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Mary, Mother of the Church
Michael & Kathleen Jennings
Nicole Zellweger & James Bass
Phillip & Eileen Pheiffer
Sisters of Mercy, South Central Community
St. Louis Community Foundation
Stephen & Carolyn Golden
Ted Green

Partners of the Mission
($10,000 and up)
American Direct Marketing Resources
Centene Management Company
Kirberg Company
Miken Technologies, Inc.
Monsanto Fund
The Bruce G. & Mary A. Robert Foundation, Inc.
Trudy Busch Valentine Family Foundation
Weiss Insurance Company

454 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 diversion?

**Diversion (n.):**
1. An instance of turning something aside from its course.
2. An alternative to incarceration; the act of diverting people involved in the criminal justice system from jail and prison.

**The Benefits**

Diversion allows a person to remain connected to her community and family, while addressing the underlying issues that led to unlawful activity, decreasing the likelihood of recidivism. In the community, she may receive substance abuse treatment, find employment, pursue education, and more. Diversion is a cost-effective alternative to incarceration; not only does it save taxpayer dollars by avoiding the high costs of incarceration, diversion allows justice-involved individuals to contribute to their communities’ economies.

21 women participated in CWIT diversion programs this year

saving Missouri taxpayers $438,821.25*

"Diversion gives people the second chance they deserve. It not only addresses the crime, but the underlying causation. We have seen great success in many of the women who have come to us through diversion."

*Missouri Department of Corrections spends $20,896.25 to incarcerate one person for one year.

Barbara Baker
Advocate Director
In FY17, donors contributed $303,106 allowing the Center to support an additional 40 women.
Our Leadership

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Glendale Police Dept.

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Kelly Gast
Carolyn Golden

As always, we are grateful to our founders: Sharon Schmitz, RSM (Historian of the Center), Eugenio Pastorik, RSM, Judy Pannett, and Sarah Barnes.
Staff

Executive Director
Laura Toledo

Director of Restorative Programming
Sarah Gyorog

Advocate Director
Barbara Baker

Development Director
Kellie Roberts

Facility Director: Schirmer House
Jewell Donald

Client Services Director
Robin Davis

Case Managers
Sarah Fieser
Lori McKinney
Stefanie Moore

Employment and Life Skills Specialists
Tracie Striebel
Vicki Torrence

House Manager Supervisor:
Schirmer House
Mark Parker

House Managers
Loretta Anderson
Marilyn Brown
Debra JoAnn Carruth
Pamela Crawford
Brooke Carren
Julie Hobbs
Janette Holeman
Barbara Hoskins
Christine Hudson
Debbie James
Dawn Moore-Lockett
Linda Smith

Volunteers

288 community members contributed to the Center through volunteer service

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

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