2018-2019 Impact Report
Transforming the lives of women and their children
DEAR FRIENDS,

Think back. Do you recall what were you doing in 1994? Did you visit the new website Amazon.com to buy a book? Did you pick up a PlayStation controller for the first time? Maybe you went to see the newly released blockbusters *Forrest Gump* or *The Lion King*. Perhaps 1994 was a memorable year because of a special milestone like a wedding, birth or graduation.

For a few Paoli residents, 1994 was the year they decided to help homeless women and children right here in Chester County. They saw a community need and chose to become part of the solution - and Home of the Sparrow was born.

A quarter of a century later, Home of the Sparrow remains laser focused on preventing homelessness for women and children in Chester County. It is still our dream that no woman or child ever experiences the trauma associated with having no place to call home. A promise that we will continue to fulfill every year for as long as it takes.

This year, we served 1,087 clients - 515 women and 572 children - the greatest number in a single year ever. For 25 years, our amazing donors, volunteers, friends, grant makers, corporate sponsors, and partners, have contributed everything we needed to help these families - everything.

That is why I am dedicating this year’s Impact Report to you. I hope when you read this report you will see the impact of your generosity and the significant difference you are making in the lives of women and their children right here in Chester County.

On behalf of all of us at Home of the Sparrow, I offer our most sincere gratitude for twenty-five years of changing lives ~ together.

Michelle E. Venema
Chief Executive Officer

Changing lives together.

01 | IMPACT REPORT 2018-2019
Volunteers Make it Happen!

Volunteers

720

Backpacks filled and given to our kids to start the school year off right

81

Hours Donated

8,863

Family-style meals cooked and shared with our families

525

Value

$218,738

Holiday presents purchased and gifted to our families

270

They do it all!

Gardening, painting, making home-cooked meals, building shelves, packing book bags, buying holiday gifts, sorting donations, building home goods supply bags, planning fundraising events, copying, scanning, filing, tutoring, and much more!
269 EVICTION PREVENTION

Despite working full-time, homelessness can be as close as one late rent payment. For the “working poor,” even a car repair can be a crisis because living paycheck to paycheck means there is no money set aside for emergencies. As a result, rent money is used for the repair to keep her job. When eviction is imminent, our Program Coordinators collaborate with over 50 nonprofit agencies and the County offices to coordinate the financial and support resources to get overdue rent paid. Then, we assist the client with budgeting to avoid a future emergency.

157 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Our team of Program Coordinators use holistic counseling practices to understand all the challenges a women is facing. The result is a comprehensive plan that capitalizes on a woman’s strengths while connecting her to the available programs, services, training, and counseling to put her on a viable path for long-term success and self-sufficiency. By subsidizing the participant’s rent, she is given breathing room to get additional education and training and to make the connections that lead to independence.

12 PRE-SENIOR BRIDGE HOUSING

Women of all ages are at risk of homelessness. For older women, the likelihood of increasing their income is low and whatever savings they have is spent quickly due to the high costs of living in Chester County. Home of the Sparrow provides housing for up to 11 senior women at a time who are at risk of becoming homeless. We offer communal and apartment living via a property in West Chester and another in Coatesville. Our residents live with us paying program fees which are well below market rents. We ensure their placement in the subsidized housing queue so when they turn 62, they receive housing benefits.
A brilliant and simple solution to the lack of affordable housing in our County. Unique to Home of the Sparrow, this innovative program brings together homeowners who have rooms to rent and may benefit from additional income with women seeking stable, interim housing solutions. We conduct background checks and serve as a liaison connecting the two participants to ultimately make matches that are, in so many ways, a win-win.

The Women's Re-Entry Assessment Program (WRAP) is a collaboration with the County's Adult Probation, Parole and Pretrial Office. The goal is to "wrap" each justice-involved woman with personalized services to meet her individual needs. Stable housing is a key to reducing recidivism rates. Our goal is to help women regain their dignity, re-enter the community, and create a path to a more stable future.

We provide a long-term support network for our graduates. We call our graduates to check in to measure their success, provide continued budgeting assistance, invite them to family-friendly events, and give them access to donations from the community including back-to-school supplies, holiday gifts, and shopping bags filled with products and supplies not covered by the food stamp program. Helping women defray monthly expenses is one way we continue to help.

The women we serve are facing more than just homelessness. They are vulnerable for any number and combination of reasons. Because every woman's situation is unique, our Program Coordinators take the time to build the trust that leads to in-depth conversations allowing us to understand her circumstances. We learn about their mental and physical health and past experiences with homelessness and trauma. We learn what skills or training are needed to increase income and who in their lives is a positive source of support. We have partnerships with over 50 nonprofit agencies and the County to connect women with the services and programs to help them develop self-confidence and achieve financial and housing stability.
FINANCIALS
JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

Overview
Total Assets $1,545,011
Total Liabilities $ 500
Total Unrestricted Net Assets $1,544,511

Expenditures by Function
- Programming 80%
- Fundraising 12%
- Administrative 8%

Income by Type
- Gifts from Individuals 58%
- Grants 15%
- Government 17%
- Events 10%

A Snap Shot of Our Recent Work Supporting Women and Children in Chester County

Number of Participants Served
- WRAP 2017 - 61, 2018 - 214, 2019 - 331
- Graduate Outreach 2017 - 81, 2018 - 267, 2019 - 278
- Eviction Prevention 2017 - 122, 2018 - 157, 2019 - 269
- Supportive Housing 2017 - 36, 2018 - 33, 2019 - 40
- Shared Housing 2017 - 10, 2018 - 12, 2019 - 11
- Bridge Housing 2017 - 0, 2018 - 0, 2019 - 0
Thank you to our supporters, donors, and volunteers!

2018-2019
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Samuel & Margaret Bauer
Susan Baxter
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Joanne Bean
Cheri Beard
Karen & Jon Bearde
Beaver Creek Elementary
Louis Beccaria
Peter & Kristin Beck
Jeffrey & Karen Becker
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Tim & Judi Bell
Bella Bella
Bella Salon & Spa
Michele Bellay
Margaret Bellew
Cathy Benach
Thecla Bene
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Rachel Benway
Susan Bernini & Denise Kinney
Bertucci's Restaurants
Bertywn United Methodist
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Brandywine Grace Church
Brandywine Health Foundation
Brandywine River Museum
Bridge Street Chocolate
Brinton Lane Dermatology
Broad Run Golfer's Club
Kathy Brodthag
Hazel Brook
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Chester County Community Foundation
Chester County Day Tour
Chester County Dept of Community Development
Chester County Food Bank
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Chester County Hospital
Chester County Women's Commission
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Heather Chivinski
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JH & JW Christie
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Church Farm School
Church of the Holy Trinity
Hollee Citerone
Clare Foundation
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Kelly Cleborne
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Covenant Presbyterian Church
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Rosalind Cozanti
Perry & Anna Cozzone
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Barbara Cresswell
Keith Critchley
Laura Crump
CTDI
Vera Cuff
Currie Salon
Crowded Castle
Ginny Cullinan
Philonema Curry
Denise Cyhan
My program coordinator has been there more than anybody. She answers when I call, even when I just need to talk. Also, she put me in contact with a donation program in Paoli for a bed for my son after his major surgery. I'm forever grateful for Home of the Sparrow and their employees.
This program is amazing. I get the support I need and a peace of mind, which means the world to me. I don't know how I would pull it off as a single mom without the ladies from the Home of the Sparrow!
I’m very thankful for everything this program has done for my family and me. It has helped me provide for my girls, their needs, to keep a roof over their heads and for other little special things. I’m also grateful that it helps financially, emotionally and makes it less stressful. Thank you for everything.
Donations received in honor of the following individuals and/or events:

Robert Broadway’s birthday, Eleanor Canniff’s birthday, Marguerite de Wet & Tim Connolly, Alex Del Viscio, Thomas & Leslie Elicker, Bernadette Farrell for Mother’s Day, Bruce Field, John Fuhr’s 75th birthday, Matrie Johnson, Pat McDonald’s birthday, Marty & Wayne for Father’s Day, Lisa Schiel, Christopher Simcox, Lynn Shealy and Tammy Virnig.

Donations received in memory of the following individuals:

Sandy Babel, Charlotte Bartlett, Mari Louise Hagerty, Karen Hiller, Caroline Kelly and Joanne Tunnell.

Every effort has been made to ensure the completeness and accuracy of this donor and volunteer list. We regret any errors or omissions and encourage you to contact us so that we may correct our records.

Thank You!

Moved to do More?

Gift cards are a wonderful and easy way to help our families reduce monthly expenses.

In addition to your generous annual donation, please consider donating a gift card ~ Giant, Target, Walmart or Wawa/gas stations are great choices for families to use this holiday season and beyond!
2020 GALA
Save the Date!
FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH
at
Drexelbrook Catering
DREXEL HILL, PENNSYLVANIA
It's a New Location. It's a Friday Night. It's a Benefit to End Homelessness.

Additional Ways to Support Home of the Sparrow!

Make a Donation

Online
www.homeofthesparrow.org/donate

Mail
Home of the Sparrow
969 East Swedesford Road, Exton, PA 19341

Ways to Maximize Your Generosity

Matching Gifts from your Employer
Accessing Donor Advised Funds
Including us in your Estate Plans
Designating Memorial and Birthday Gifts
Donating Required Minimum Distributions

Your contact is Kathleen Sanger
ksanger@homeofthesparrow.org
610-647-4940

Volunteer

Individual and Group Opportunities:

Event Support
Skills-Based Volunteering
Office Assistance
Home Maintenance
Preparing Family-Style Frozen Meals
Host a Giving Drive
Host a Fundraiser
Adopt a Family

For more information and to apply
www.homeofthesparrow.org/volunteer

Your contact is Ashley Smith
asmith@homeofthesparrow.org
610-647-4940

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