



# Annual Report 2019

Center for Women in Transition





# from laura's desk



## 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

# year in review

117

women  
served in  
transitional  
housing

29

women  
served in the  
community

100%

had access to  
**safe housing**



100%

received  
**individualized**  
case management



100%

received food and  
transportation  
assistance



75%

maintained  
sobriety

83%

of eligible  
women obtained  
**employment**



last year, only

5.1%

of the  
Center's clients  
returned to  
incarceration

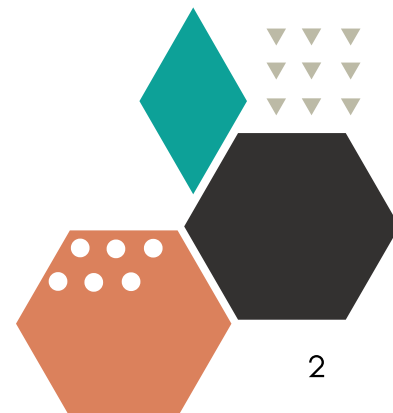
## our services

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

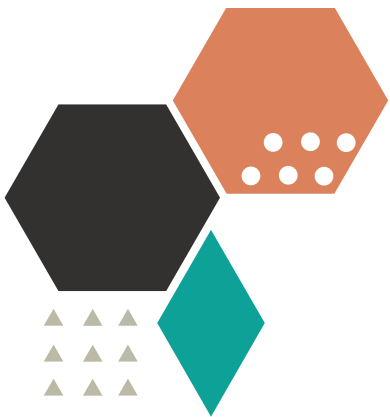
- Safe transitional housing and rent support
- Basic needs, including food, clothing, toiletries, rent assistance, health care, and transportation costs
- Case management
- Vocational support
- Life skills education
- Behavioral health services, including trauma counseling
- Mentor partnerships
- Court 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!







## our clients

"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



"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



"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



90% of clients have experienced trauma



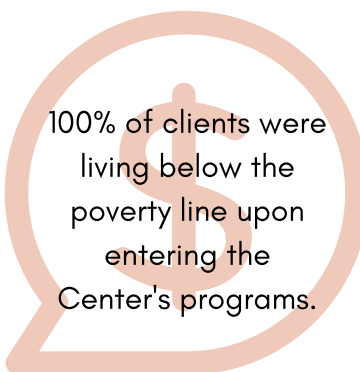
85% of clients have substance use disorders



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

**689**

legal restrictions in housing, employment, and access to social services.





# it takes all of us

## thank you to our donors\*

July 2018 - June 2019

### Grant Funders

Altrusa International  
 Ameren  
 ASC Foundation  
 Boeing  
 Lutheran Foundation  
 Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals  
 Missouri Foundation for Health  
 Regional Business Council  
 Sisters of Mercy,  
 South Central Community  
 Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet  
 US Bank  
 Vatterott Foundation  
 Wells Fargo  
 Women's Foundation  
 of Greater St. Louis

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

### Corporations and Foundations

#### Partners of the Mission

\$10,000 and up

American Direct Marketing Resources  
 Bayer  
 Emerson Charitable Trust  
 Kirberg Company  
 Trudy Busch Valentine Family Foundation

#### Founders' Circle

\$5,000-\$9,999

Mercy Health  
 US Bank Foundation

#### President's Circle

\$2,000-\$4,999

Ascension Health  
 Clark-Fox Family Foundation  
 Drury Development Corporation  
 Kreilick Family Foundation

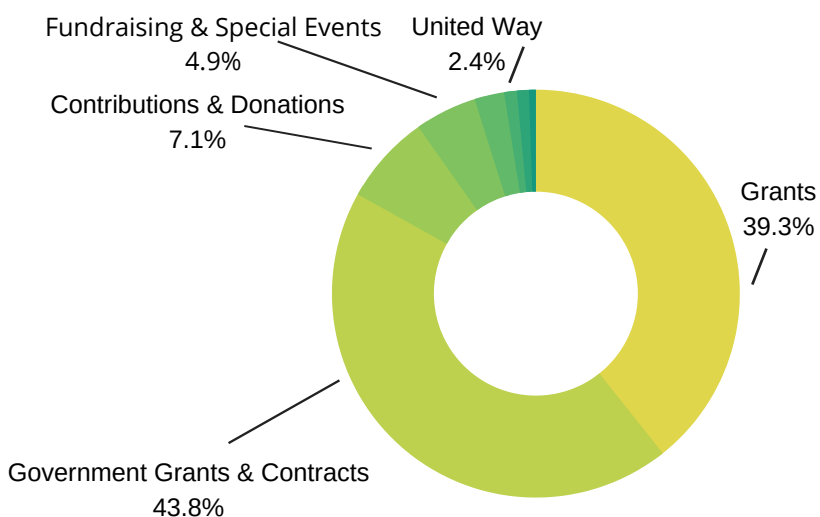
427

donors  
invested

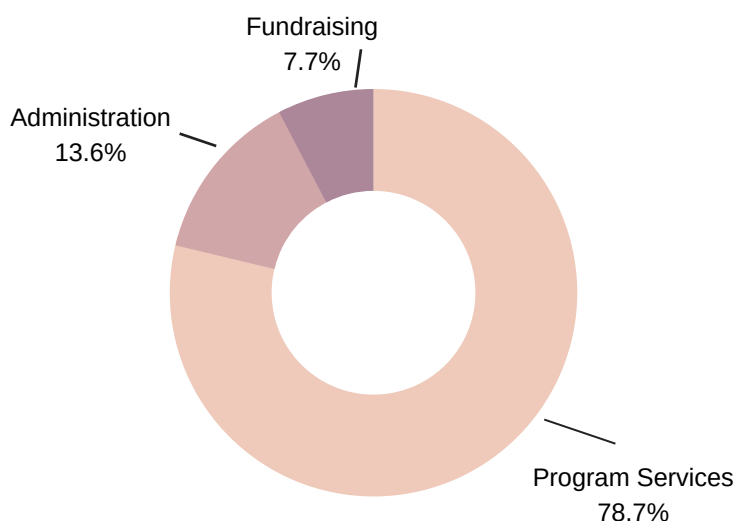
\$283,474

in the lives  
of justice-  
involved  
women last  
fiscal year.

## fiscal year 2019 financials

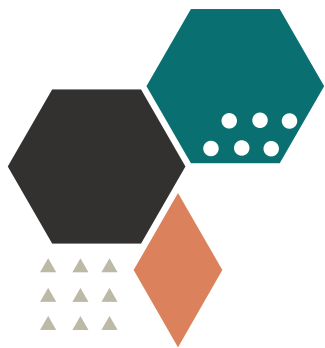


\*Investments, in-kind donations, and miscellaneous income each represented <1% of revenue



total revenue: \$2,180,110

total expense: \$1,420,690



# who we are

## Board of Directors

### President

Michelle Clardy Dobbs, Esq.  
Conduct Risk Officer  
Wells Fargo

### Vice President

Nathan Wamser  
Assistant Vice President,  
Senior Business Development Associate  
Affordable Housing  
US Bank CDC

### Secretary

Kyle Baxter  
Global HR Partner  
Elsevier

### Treasurer

Karen Frick  
Accounting Supervisor  
St. Louis Art Museum

Michael Bock  
Controller  
Kirberg Roofing Company

Alexandria Boyer, PhD  
Licensed Professional Counselor  
Foundations for Change, LLC

Mark Byrne, Esq.  
Partner  
Law Office of Fischer & Byrne

Sr. Kathleen Crowley, CSJ  
LCSW, Retired

Oscar Florendo, MD  
Physician

Amanda Goldsmith  
Director of Advancement  
Gateway Arch Park Foundation

Tracy Jones  
Financial Analyst  
Integrated Finance and Accounting  
Solutions, Inc.

Stacey Lannert, Esq.  
Trial Attorney  
Missouri State Public Defender

Erica McKeon  
Senior HR Director  
Bayer

Emily Perez Estepp, Esq.  
Partner  
Hammond and Shinnors, PC

Shri Ramachandran  
Chief Information Officer  
Mallinckrodt

Danny Smith  
Senior Vice President,  
Financial Products  
Wells Fargo Advisors

Tracy Stanton  
Facilitator, Institute for  
Peace and Justice  
Saint Louis University  
CWIT program graduate

Adam Tappella  
Management Consultant  
A.T. Kearney

Sr. Suzanne Wesley, CSJ  
Retired

Emeritus:  
Kelly Gast  
Hon. Nicole S. Zellweger

### 2019 Honorees



Client Awards: Tracey, Sheri, and Adrian  
Corporate Award: Kirberg Roofing  
Community Award: Clark-Fox Family Foundation

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

# \$171,200

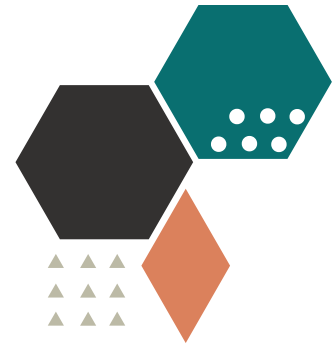
## beautiful transformations gala



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

Visit [cwitstl.org/events](http://cwitstl.org/events) for more information and to register!

# Staff



**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



Barbara Baker,  
20th anniversary



Barbara Hoskins,  
10th anniversary

**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

# Volunteers



**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!

**Volunteer.**



**Give.**



**Share.**



*Learn more at [www.cwitstl.org](http://www.cwitstl.org).*

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Website: [www.cwitstl.org](http://www.cwitstl.org)

Proud member of



United Way  
of Greater St. Louis



[stlouis.bbb.org](http://stlouis.bbb.org)

