



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

CENTER FOR WOMEN
IN TRANSITION



Proud member of



United Way
of Greater St. Louis

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	GREETINGS
3	YEAR IN REVIEW
5	BEAUTIFUL TRANSFORMATIONS
6	DONORS
7	WHAT IS DIVERSION?
8	FINANCIALS
9	OUR LEADERSHIP



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.

From the Executive Director

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,

Jaera Toledo
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

year in review

women were served
and received
individualized
case management

158

75

women moved into
independent housing



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



ninety-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.

94

clients resided
at Schirmer
House

57 women
participated in
substance abuse
treatment

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

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

year in review

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.



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

*"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

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.



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.

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



100%

of Aftercare clients maintained
stable living conditions

85% of eligible clients
obtained employment

77%
maintained
employment
for 3 months
or longer

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

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
Family Foundation, Inc.
Trudy Busch Valentine Family
Foundation
Weiss Insurance Company

Founders' Circle

(\$5,000-\$9,999)

Drury Development Corporation
Emerson Charitable Trust
K & Paul Wentzien
Lee S. Streett
Mercy Health
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

President's Circle

(\$2,000-\$4,999)

Ascension Health	Kim & Bob Brown
Barbara Sapienza	Lathrop & Gage LLP
Barbara & James Gehringer	Mary Hastings
Captain Robert Catlett	Mary, Mother of the Church
Carol W. Kohfeld & John D. Sprague	Michael & Kathleen Jennings
Chris Deason	Nicole Zellweger & James Bass
Danette Silva	Phillip & Eileen Pheiffer
Genny Boehmer	Sisters of Mercy, South Central Community
Jacqueline & Theron Peterson	St. Louis Community Foundation
Virginia Heagney & James Tobin	Stephen & Carolyn Golden
Jon Fogle	Ted Green

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*

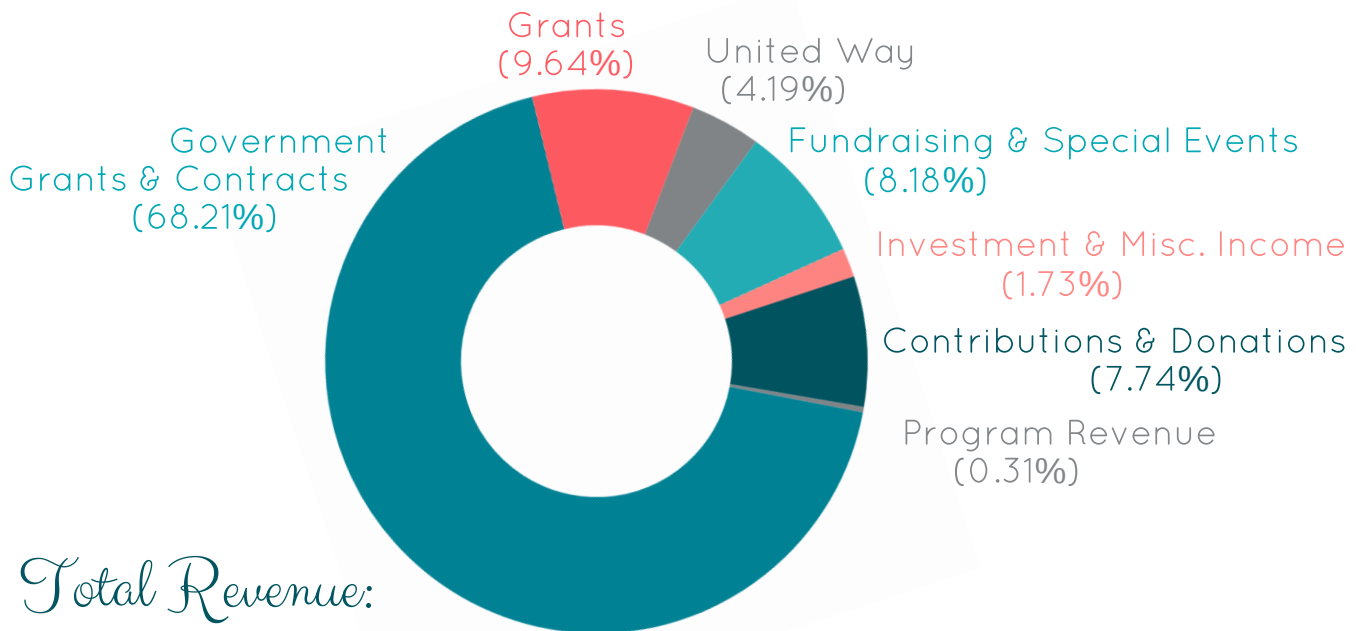
"Diversion gives people the second chance they deserve. It not only addresses the crime, but the underlying causation. We have seen great success in many of the women who have come to us through diversion."



Barbara Baker
Advocate Director

Financials

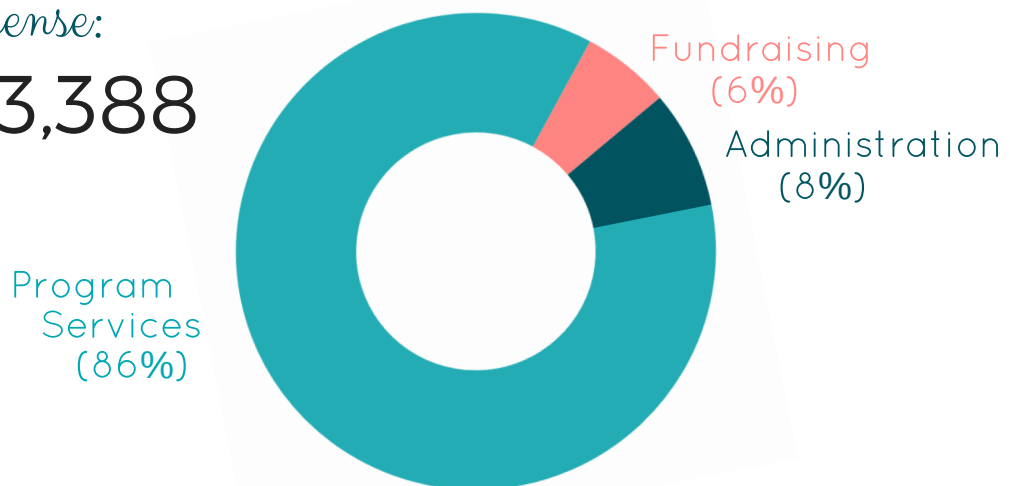
Revenue



Total Revenue:
\$1,611,668

Expense

Total Expense:
\$1,403,388



Certain project costs have been underwritten by the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Neighborhood Assistance Program. To learn more about NAP Tax Credit eligibility requirements, contact Kellie Roberts at kellieroberts@cwitstl.org.

In FY17, donors contributed

\$303,106 allowing the Center to support

an
additional
40
women

Our Leadership

Board of Directors

President

Capt. Robert Catlett Jr.
Assistant Chief of Police
Glendale Police Dept.

Emily Perez Estepp, Esq.
Associate Attorney
Hammond & Shinnors

President Elect

Jon T. Fogle
Vice President of Real Estate
Mercy Health

Shrikant Ramachandran
CIO
Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals

Vice President

Barbara Sapienza
Chief of Staff to the Dean
Saint Louis University Medical School

Susan Rollins
Executive Director
St. Louis County Housing Authority

Secretary

Kyle Baxter
Global Human Resource Partner
Elsevier

Judge Calea Stovall-Reid
Associate Circuit Court Judge
22nd Judicial Court

Treasurer

Karen Frick
Accounting Supervisor
St. Louis Art Museum

Danette Silva, Esq.
Corporate Counsel
Centene Corporation

Nathan Wamser
Associate
US Bank CDC

Alex Boyer

Licensed Professional Counselor
Foundations for Change, LLC

Suzanne Wesley, CSJ
CEO
Cardinal Ritter Senior Services

Michelle Clardy-Dobbs, Esq.
Shareholder
Polsinelli

Nicole S. Zellweger, Esq.
Partner
Stinson Leonard Street

Jillian Conrad

Student, Washington University
Olin Board Fellow

Emeritus Board Members

Kathleen Crowley, CSJ
LCSW, Retired

Joan Carter
Sherri Coleman, FSM
Kelly Gast
Carolyn Golden

Oscar Florendo, MD

Physician
Osbec Medical School of Southern Illinois

Kathy Harris

Deputy Juvenile Officer
Family Court of St. Louis County

D Narain

Vice President and Treasurer
Monsanto

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 Gyrog

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 Garren

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!



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No.
4773



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

7525 S Broadway · St. Louis, MO 63111

p (314) 771-5207 · f (314) 771-0066

www.cwitstl.org

Proud member of



United Way
of Greater St. Louis

