



Impact Report 2022-2023



A Message from our Chief Executive Officer



On the eve of our 30th anniversary, I find myself thinking about purpose. Here at Home of the Sparrow, **our purpose is deeply rooted in partnering with women** in the community who are facing homelessness to secure housing, achieve long-term stability, and chart new paths for their futures. I am grateful that our profound purpose is shared by you and thousands of other donors, volunteers and friends.

This Impact Report illustrates the power of a shared purpose - what is possible when we work together. And **together, we are transforming the lives of women and children in Chester County.**

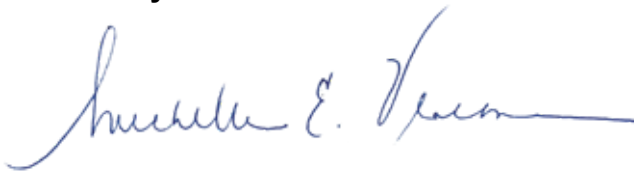
It begins with our trauma-informed case management services that recognize the importance of meeting women “where they are.” Reaching the brink of homelessness is traumatic and the path towards self-sufficiency is as unique as each woman. We aim to create individualized plans to address a woman’s housing and other critical needs so that she sees her own path towards financial independence where she’s in control of her future.

When we work with a woman, we are looking at the whole person and most importantly, we aim to support her until she has reached her personal goals. The most common goal is to secure safe, affordable housing. Many of our women also seek a higher paying job, reunification with their children, purchasing a car, addressing a physical or mental health concern, or attaining higher education. Our program coordinators continue to encourage and counsel program participants until their unique goals are met.

In 1994, Home of the Sparrow put down roots in Chester County with a single purpose - **to prevent women and children from experiencing the trauma of homelessness. We believe that our mission is still a shared one** because well over 2,000 of you donated time, financial resources, and gifts-in-kind during this fiscal year.

The strength of our connection, deeply rooted in our shared purpose, is not only truly remarkable, but it is also sincerely appreciated.

Thank you.



Michelle E. Venema
Chief Executive Officer



Sarah's Story

Sarah never imagined that she'd meet and fall in love with an American and leave her birth country of Germany. However, soon she was married and living in a rental home in Chester County.

Sarah and her husband held full-time jobs and together, earned just enough money to pay their rent on time and cover all other expenses. When they welcomed their daughter, Sarah was grateful that she could enroll her at the daycare center where she worked. Their expenses increased with the addition of a baby but Sarah's husband, who managed their finances, made sure their budget was balanced every month.

Sadly, Sarah's husband passed away after a brief illness when their daughter was only four years old. Being in their 30's, the young couple never thought about buying life insurance and their incomes did not allow for a robust savings plan. Soon, she found herself in financial difficulties. Fortunately, her co-workers were familiar with Home of the Sparrow and recommended she call for help.

Sarah was quickly enrolled in the Supportive Housing Program. While subsidizing her rent, Home of the Sparrow's staff taught Sarah how to balance her budget. In addition to rental subsidies, HOS also provided to-go-bags, back-to-school supplies, warm coats and holiday gifts. These items were and continue to be a huge help to Sarah. "HOS treated me like family and every time I walked in, we felt welcomed." said Sarah.

Sarah is now an HOS Graduate and continues to meet all her expenses every month. She still relies on the gifts HOS receives from the community to provide for her daughter. "This really helps to offset other costs that I have as a single mother raising a little girl by myself."

When we met Sarah, she was traumatized. But, as she worked through the program process, we saw her blossom. She really started to realize she could be self-sufficient. "Today, she is a confident woman who is adept at financially managing her household," noted Matrie Johnson, HOS Director of Programs.

With your continued support, we can help Sarah and women like her reach their personal goals and take control of their financial futures.

Program Overview



Donor support enables us to provide temporary gap funding between a woman's expenses and her income.

Eviction Prevention

Despite working full time, homelessness can be as close as one late rent payment. For the working poor, an unexpected expense can turn into a crisis because living paycheck to paycheck means no savings account to turn to in case of emergency. When there is a car repair, for example, a woman must choose between fixing the car so she can stay employed or paying the rent. When eviction is imminent, our Program Coordinators develop a plan to pay delinquent rent and identify the additional services a woman needs.

Supportive Housing

The Supportive Housing Program provides rental assistance and supportive services for up to 24 months. Eligible participants have a lease in their name, and steady income but are in danger of becoming homeless because the rent takes too much of their income often times 80% or more.

During their tenure in the program, our women work hard to improve their job skills and increase their income. Because our goal is to help women become self-sufficient, we gradually decrease their rental subsidy to zero so that a woman knows she can afford rent on her own.

Graduate Outreach

At Home of the Sparrow, we continue to be a safety net for our program participants after they have successfully graduated from our programs.

Our long-term support network continues to provide budgeting assistance, and access to family friendly events. Graduates may still access school supplies, holiday gifts, and bags of supplies the contents of which are not covered by SNAP or other public benefits.

Our graduates can often be found mentoring other women currently in our programs.

WRAP

The **Women's Re-Entry Assessment Program (WRAP)**, is a collaboration with the Chester County's Adult Probation, Parole and Pretrial Services Office and Home of the Sparrow.

We “wrap” each justice-involved woman with individualized services to meet her personal needs. We know, that stable housing is a key to reducing recidivism rates.

We help women regain their dignity, re-enter the community, and create a path towards a more stable housing and financial future.

Shared Housing

Shared Housing is between a home owner and a woman seeking an affordable housing solution. The Shared Housing Staff facilitates matches to create “win-win” arrangements that provide additional income, security and companionship to older homeowners.



Pre-Senior Bridge Housing

The Pre-Senior Bridge Housing program serves as a transitional home for women 55–62 years old with limited income who are in need of safe and affordable housing. We have a house in West Chester that offers a communal type setting, and a house in Coatesville that offers private apartment living.

While residing in our houses, our women partner with us to meet goals of financial security and independent living. They transition to a place of their own after the program. Often times this permanent home is senior subsidized housing. Program coordinators assist with the senior subsidized housing application process to get them added to the three-year wait list. During this program, women will meet with a program coordinator to improve budgeting skills, with a focus on reducing expenses.

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*Your support of our unique and effective programs
helped hundreds of women take a step closer towards
financial and housing stability.*

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We regret any errors or omissions and encourage you to contact us so that we may correct our records.

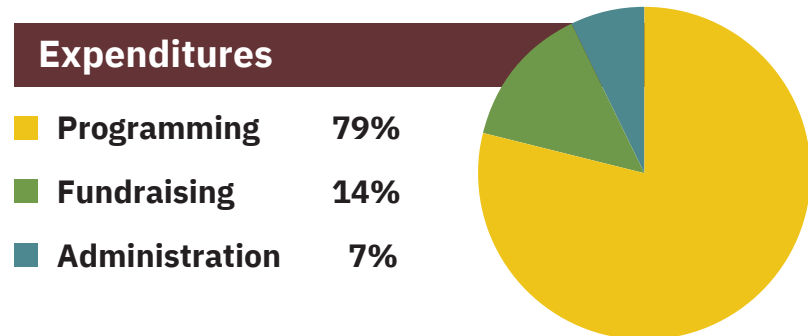
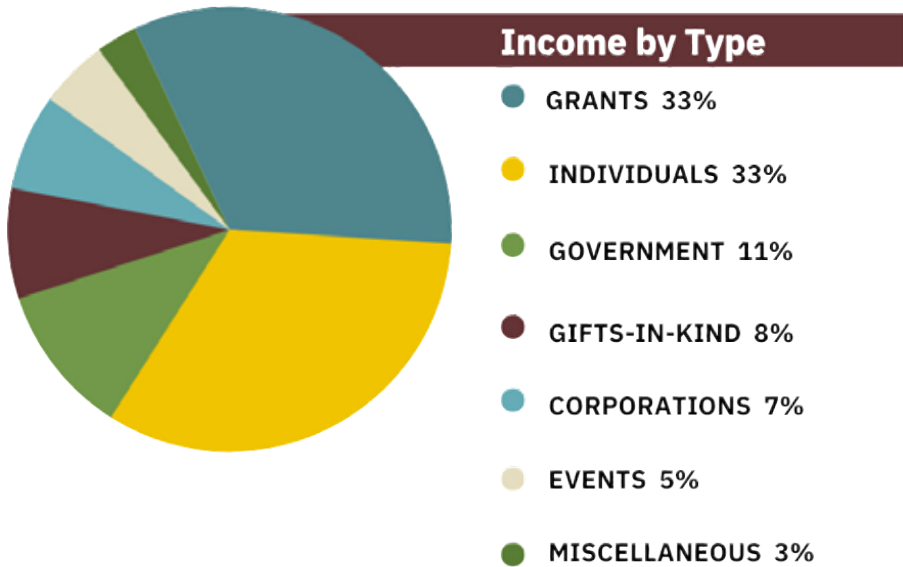
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Financial Performance

Total Assets \$2,379,415

Total Liabilities \$158,856

Total Unrestricted Net Assets \$1,726,012



Your Impact...



902 Women and children served



205 Women and children saved from eviction



281 Women and children received rental assistance



120 Children received back-to-school supplies



248 Women and children received holiday gifts



1,238 Donors and volunteers

Thank you!



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Call 610-647-4940 to donate.

By mail:

Check Payable to Home of the Sparrow

Home of the Sparrow
969 E Swedesford Rd
Exton, PA 19341

For more information, contact
Kathleen Sanger at:
ksanger@homeofthesparrow.org
tel: 610.647.4940



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Our Mission

Home of the Sparrow's mission is to partner with women facing homelessness to secure housing, achieve long-term stability, and chart new paths for their futures.

Our Vision

Home of the Sparrow has been dedicated to preventing women and children from experiencing the trauma of homelessness since 1994. With comprehensive case management and financial assistance, we help women maintain their current housing while learning valuable budgeting skills and providing access to the ancillary services they need to take control of their lives and achieve self-sufficiency.

Volunteer Opportunities

For more information and to apply:

www.homeofthesparrow.org/volunteer

Geisa O'Reilly Corbitt
gcorbitt@homeofthesparrow.org
610.647.4940



Volunteer!

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