



A Message from our Chief Executive Officer

Thank you. Two small words utilizing just eight letters of the alphabet. Seemingly small and insignificant—and yet that couldn't be further from the truth. I think these two diminutive words convey a **power** beyond measure.

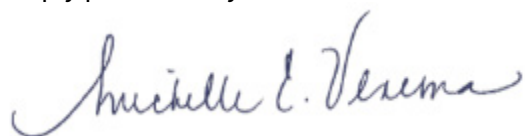
Thank you, is defined by Meriam-Webster as “a polite expression of one's gratitude”. Simple right? And yet, sometimes a simple thank you doesn't quite feel like enough, does it? When you feel **gratitude** deeply, you'll find that a kind thank you is enough, especially if you feel it, say it and share it every day.

Welcome to the 2022 Impact Report and the **Year of Gratitude** at Home of the Sparrow. We are so happy to be able to share with you, kind reader, two powerful success stories from our fiscal year. Inside you'll read about Tonia and Gail. Their stories are just two examples of the **life-changing** effect HOS programs have on women and children. These amazing ladies are thankful for being taught how to budget, and how to handle a sudden loss of income, and have discovered the power of perseverance. But mostly they are thankful for the steady support they received from us.

Here, at Home of the Sparrow, the staff and board are **thankful for you!** We thank you every day for the time, treasure, and talent that you share so generously with us year after year. Your generosity makes every solution we provide to vulnerable women and children possible. From backpacks to rental support and everything in between, all things are possible because of you and your financial commitment.

Never forget that **your gifts literally make lives better**, and your impact is **profound and lasting**.

Simply put? Thank you!



Michelle E. Venema
Chief Executive Officer





Our ability to say **yes** is a life-changing gift made possible by generous donors, just like you. Your gift allows us to say yes so often and for so many reasons. Things like:

- * Emergency payments to prevent a woman being evicted from her apartment? **YES!**
- * Payments to landlords to subsidize rent for a woman trying to get back onto her feet? **YES!**
- * Housing for senior women who are on a waiting list for a subsidized housing voucher? **YES!**
- * Trauma-informed case management services and financial literacy training? **YES!**
- * Individualized counseling to help justice-involved women make a fresh start? **YES!**
- * Connecting women to programs and services offered by other nonprofits in Chester County? **YES!**
- * Providing access to private pay mental health services? **YES!**
- * Making kids smile with new back-to-school supplies and holiday gifts? **YES!**

In this **Year of Gratitude** at Home of the Sparrow, we thank you for enabling us to say **YES** when a woman needs our help. Last year, we said yes to **896 women and children** in Chester County who were facing homelessness.



No woman or child should have to experience homelessness

Programs that make a difference



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, women must choose between fixing the car so she can stay employed or paying the rent. Any crisis puts her housing in jeopardy. When eviction is imminent, our Program Coordinators develop a plan to pay delinquent rent and assist women with budgeting to prepare for future emergencies.



Supportive Housing

Program Coordinators use holistic counselling practices to understand all the challenges a woman is facing. The result is a comprehensive plan that capitalizes on a woman's strengths while connecting her to available programs, services and training to put her on a viable path for long-term success and self-sufficiency. By subsidizing her rent, she is given the time to obtain skills and training to secure a higher paying job, to reduce expenses and learn how to budget to achieve independence.



Shared Housing

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. We conduct background checks and serve as a liaison connecting the two parties to ultimately make matches that are, in so many ways, a win-win.

Experience the trauma of homelessness.
Make a difference.



Pre-Senior Bridge Housing

Women of all ages are at risk of homelessness. Home of the Sparrow provides housing for up to 11 pre-senior women. We offer communal and apartment style living via properties in West Chester and Coatesville. Our residents pay modest program fees. We work with each woman to ensure her placement in the subsidized housing queue so she receives housing benefits when eligible. While in our program, we help women develop viable budgets that focus on reducing expenses, making the most of limited income.

WRAP

The Women's Re-Entry Assessment Program known as WRAP is a collaboration between the County's Adult Probation, Parole and Pretrial Office and Home of the Sparrow. 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 housing and financial future.

Graduate Outreach

Our long-term support network for our graduates provides services such as budgeting assistance, access to family-friendly events, donations from the community including back-to-school supplies, holiday gifts, and bags filled with products and supplies not covered by SNAP and other public benefits. We are proud that graduates often refer women to us with the hopes that they too will succeed.

“She has a heart of gold.”

This is how Matrie Johnson, Home of the Sparrow’s Director of Programs describes Tonia who came to HOS in 2008 with her little girl in tow. “I remember how much her daughter loved dressing up. I also remember how determined Tonia was to lead an independent life.”



While working with HOS, Tonia went back to school to advance her career in healthcare while holding down three jobs. Her hard work paid off – she was able to purchase her own home in 2017.

“I am so grateful for Home of the Sparrow. As a young parent, you taught me so much. From the strict budgeting to how to be a good parent myself. These were things that no one had taught me before.”

Recently, Tonia has been paying it forward by allowing one of our former program participants to stay in her home rent free while she gets back on her feet. “I really want to help people and to give back.”

This past year was a struggle for Tonia because she was laid off. But she says she was prepared to take on the challenge because of what she learned from HOS.

“I can honestly say everything I learned from Home of the Sparrow prepared me for THIS year. When hard times hit, I was able to bounce back and take care of myself and my daughter.”

Tonia has started two new jobs and continues to provide a stable home for her daughter.

Matrice adds, “I LOVE the humanity that Tonia has shown, the sisterhood and support. She rarely reaches out to HOS for support, but always keeps in touch. I am so PROUD of the woman she has become.”

“A remarkable woman!”

Ale Colin, an HOS program coordinator, has a lot of respect for Gail and her perseverance.



“Ms. Gail has always been a hard worker and a responsible person and her dream of having her own home has never wavered despite chronic health issues and many setbacks.”

When Gail came to HOS in 2019, her goal was to save money, pay off debts, and get on the waiting list for a senior subsidized housing voucher. “I had a good job at a pharmaceutical company. But when COVID hit, we were forced to close and eventually, I lost my job. I was just a few hours away from needing to live in my car.” HOS enrolled Gail in our Pre-Senior Bridge Housing Program and she moved into one of our units.

Gail has a new part-time job doing data entry for a medical office and was approved for Social Security benefits. Her new income helps her balance her finances while she focuses on improving her health. Gail has reduced her debt, created substantial savings, and next month she will move into her own apartment utilizing the public senior housing program, thereby achieving her goal of financial and housing stability. “I’m very excited to have my own place and to invite friends over for dinner!”

Gail expresses gratitude, for not only the services provided and skills learned during her time in the Pre-Senior Bridge Housing Program, but also for the respect she was given.

“From the first phone call until now, I have always been treated with respect and kindness. I appreciate the way I was guided and supported while getting back on my feet. Everyone believed in me.”

Supporters, donors and volunteers, our sincere gratitude!

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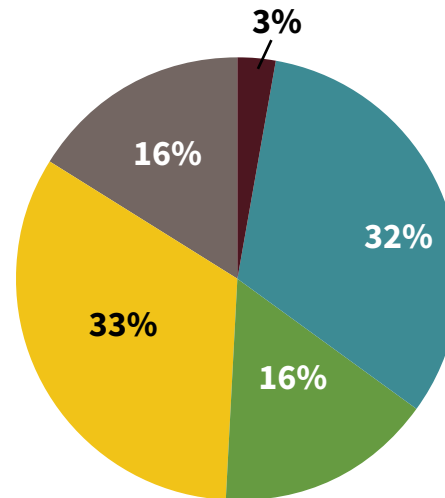
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Financial Performance

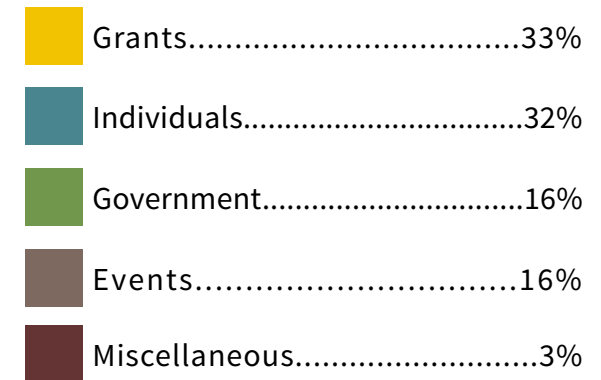
Total Assets \$2,264,192

Total Liabilities \$5,155

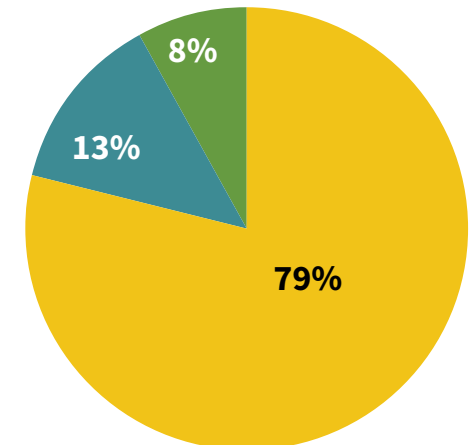
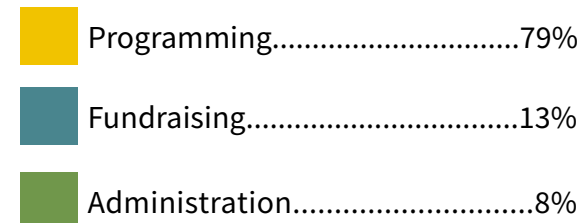
Total Unrestricted Net Assets \$1,751,846



Income by Type



Expenditures



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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.

