



Sarah's Circle
Helping Women Rebuild Their Lives

2011 Annual Report



Sarah's Circle is a refuge for women who are homeless or in need of a safe space. By providing housing assistance, case management, referral services, and life necessities, we encourage women to empower themselves by rebuilding both emotionally and physically; realizing their unique potential.



Dear Friends of Sarah's Circle,



Thank you for all your support of Sarah's Circle. Because of donors like you, our organization has evolved from a daytime drop-in center only to a multi-faceted agency with comprehensive case management, clinical services, and permanent supportive housing. The increased capacity of Sarah's Circle is evident with the latest addition to our programs.

On November 1, 2011, Sarah's Circle stepped up to operate the largest women's interim housing program in the City of Chicago. Interim Housing is a shelter program with 24-hour access and wrap-around supportive services to help individuals quickly regain permanent housing. The 50-bed program, formerly operated by another agency in the area, was in the process of closing permanently. Rather than lose the beds in the community, Sarah's Circle assumed operations on short notice, leveraging existing services to make immediate and seamless implementation a reality. While the transition took place suddenly, the program is at the heart of our mission, and the extremely vulnerable women in the program took priority.

Sarah's Circle is committed to delivering excellent, comprehensive services to all women in the community who need them. We work towards ending homelessness by providing comprehensive services throughout the entire cycle of homelessness. This includes providing for immediate shelter and case management via interim housing, placement in permanent housing, and multiple housing retention services for women who are housing vulnerable or formerly homeless. This seamless provision of services will rapidly house a woman, and ultimately keep her housed – ending her homelessness.

The need for comprehensive services is driven by the complexity of homelessness. Issues such as mental illness, domestic violence, trauma, extreme poverty, and substance abuse are often intertwined. As our annual report illustrates, this complexity calls for a breadth and depth of services tailored to the individual, so that each woman is supported and empowered on her path to a permanent home.

As a partner with Sarah's Circle, we value your commitment to ending homelessness for women. Together, we can grow in our capacity to help Chicago's most vulnerable women rebuild their lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Krueger". The script is fluid and cursive.

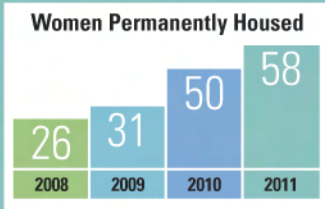
Judy Krueger
President, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Ragnar". The script is fluid and cursive.

Katherine Ragnar
Executive Director

Year in Review

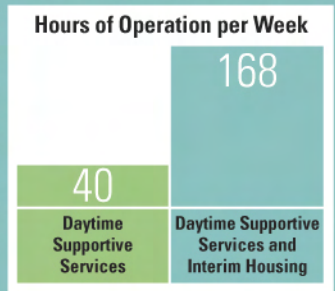
In 2011 Sarah's Circle worked with increasing efficiency and effectiveness to help women rebuild their lives. Through basic services, case management, and clinical services, women improved their quality of life and achieved goals to increase their self-sufficiency. The most important goal for a woman who is homeless is to find a permanent home. Sarah's Circle placed 58 women in permanent housing this



year. These women worked intensively with case managers and the housing coordinator to determine appropriate and available housing options, increase income, gather necessary documentation, visit sites, complete applications, and ultimately enter housing with a move-in

kit of essential household items. Sarah's Circle also continued to successfully house women with disabilities who had been homeless for years in our eleven units of permanent supportive housing.

In the fall of 2011, Sarah's Circle responded to an unanticipated challenge. A partnering agency in the area, which had been providing shelter and supportive services for over 100 homeless individuals, including 50 women, was in the process of closing permanently. After meeting with City officials and other service providers in the area, Sarah's Circle determined that our agency had the greatest capacity to take on the women's program and transform it into an efficient and effective Interim Housing Program. The process from contract award to full project implementation was incredibly fast. With your support, Sarah's Circle was able to start the program and surpass our goal for housing placement in the first 120 days.



Timeline of Sarah's Circle's Interim Housing Program

Receive request for proposal from City of Chicago	Meet with representatives from City and other service providers	Submit proposal	Receive contract	Interim Housing Program officially begins	Sarah's Circle houses first woman from the Program	Tenth woman from Program is housed	→
September 7	September 14	September 22	October 13	November 1	December 8	February 15	

2011

2012

Building Project

Another important accomplishment in 2011 was securing the remaining funding needed to purchase and renovate our new building. The commitment of private funders and government agencies was crucial to achieving this goal. Sarah's Circle is closing on the building and beginning construction in early 2012 with plans to move into the building by early 2013. With your support, we are creating ten units of permanent supportive housing, program space, and administrative offices that will empower Chicago's most vulnerable women for years to come. The facility will improve all aspects of our operations because it has been designed specifically for our purposes. The ten units will increase our total number of permanent supportive housing units to 21. The building will also house more program offices for individualized case management and clinical services, multipurpose rooms for group and art therapy, and streamlined administrative space to improve organizational efficiency. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project.

Donors

\$30,000+

A. Montgomery Ward Foundation,
John A. Hutchings, Richard W. Oloffson,
and Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
The Chicago Community Trust
John R. Houlsey Foundation
Bert and Judy Krueger
Ruth E. Mack

\$15,000 - \$29,999

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Jessie V. Ewing
First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest
Christine Shaw

\$10,000-\$14,999

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Frechette Family Foundation
Helen Brach Foundation
Higher Path Foundation
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Dana Krueger

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John and Denise Noell
Joshua Reitman and Landi Day
Cheryle Williamson
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Robert and Mary Warren



Future Plans

While we are proud of the progress we have made in the past year, Sarah's Circle continues to look to improving and expanding our programming in the future to better help women in need.

In order to seamlessly take on the Interim Housing Program, Sarah's Circle assumed the previous agency's lease for the overnight component in a local church while moving daytime programming to Sarah's Circle's space at 4750 North Sheridan Road. We have made modest improvements to the accommodations at the church; however the overnight component is in the basement, and there are limits to the space. Each woman has a bin for storage and sleeps on a cot pulled out of the closet each night with less than an arm's length between her and the woman beside her. These are satisfactory arrangements for a few nights, but they are unacceptable for a true Interim Housing Program where individuals stay for several months while working towards a permanent home. Sarah's Circle is working to secure a long-term lease in the neighborhood to provide one comprehensive location for Interim Housing, which will be more conducive to programmatic success.

Once women move from interim housing into permanent housing, they often need additional support in order to maintain their housing. Sarah's Circle has just begun a pilot program, called Health Access for Formerly Homeless Women, which will provide targeted, time-limited services to women who are placed in permanent housing. The pilot is intended to improve long-term housing stability by providing additional support during the critical transition time and by proactively addressing issues that may lead to loss of housing. For many, if not most women, physical and mental health are major factors in housing instability. This program will give women additional support in these areas while they transition, and connect women to neighborhood health centers, ensuring their long-term health and housing stability.

With appropriate housing placement and supportive services, most women who come to Sarah's Circle are able to live independently. Yet a small number of women with severe mental illness or developmental disabilities are better suited to and prefer a group living environment with a higher level of care and supervision. Agencies provide this in a model called a "safe haven", but there are not enough beds of this kind for women in Chicago. Sarah's Circle is pursuing opportunities to create our own safe haven, which would allow us to finally house our most vulnerable and longest served program participants.

With all of our efforts, Sarah's Circle is working to help women who are homeless or in need of a safe space rebuild their lives, ending their homelessness permanently.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Thank you to the following individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations who contributed so generously to our efforts from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

Government Contracts

U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development

\$128,962

City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services

\$29,250

Federal Emergency Management Agency

\$5,000

Chicago Department of Housing

\$3,171

Grants

\$10,000-\$30,000

Anonymous (2)

The Crown Family

Frechette Family Foundation

Henrietta Lange Burk Fund

John R. Houlsby Foundation

Polk Bros. Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois

George M. Eisenberg Foundation For Charities

Sara & Two C-Dogs Foundation

The Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation

U.S. Bancorp Foundation

\$1,000-\$4,999

The Dewan Foundation

Gallop Family Foundation

Higher Path Foundation

Rothman Family Foundation

Sulzer Family Foundation

Religious Grants and Organizations:

\$5,000-\$20,000

First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest

Kenilworth Union Church

Sisters Of Charity Of The Blessed

Virgin Mary

Winnetka Congregational Church

\$1,000-\$4,999

Community United Church

First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette

Fourth Presbyterian Church

Northminster Presbyterian Church

Presbytery of Chicago

\$500-\$999

Missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit

Sacred Heart Schools Students

WELCA of Edgebrook Lutheran Church

Yorkfield Presbyterian Church

\$50-\$499

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church

North Shore Baptist Church

Presbyterian Church Of Western Springs

Ravenswood Fellowship United

Methodist Church

Ravenswood Presbyterian Church

The Sisters of St. Joseph of LaGrange

Business and Other Group Contributions

\$1,000-\$5,000

Kathleen Ryan and John Peters III

Wedding Charity Gift Registry

Lake Forest Woman's Club

Local Independent Charities Of America

Peets Coffee & Tea

\$500-\$999

Bridgeview Bank Group

Employees of Mercer

Employees of McGraw Hill

National Hotel Sales

\$100-\$499

Albany Bank & Trust Co.

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Individuals:

3,000+

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Bert and Judy Krueger

\$1,000-\$2,999

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Paula Gorlitz and Steven Zuckerman

Rose M. Houston

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Marta R. Krug

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Robinson Lopez and Joaquin Torres

Darren Mast

Nick and Susan Noyes

Joan Passolt

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Naushin Vahora
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Amy Wilson
Stephen Wlodkowski
Felise Zollman

It is possible we may have misspelled a name or printed the name of someone who wished to remain anonymous. It is also possible we may have inadvertently omitted a name of a donor. Please notify us and accept our apology for the error.

Financials

Fiscal Year 2011: July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Income

Grants and Contributions	\$738,081
In-Kind Donations	462,980
Full Circle Consignment Store (Net)	23,801
Special Events (Net)	18,749
Interest and Dividends	1,775
Unrealized Gain on Investments	899

Total Income	\$1,246,285
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Functional Expenses

Program Services:	
Physical Services/General Education	249,635
Case Management Services	106,298
Full Circle Consignment Store	79,595
Housing	75,857
Clinical Services/Trauma Program	36,390
Total Program Services	\$547,775
Management and General	72,312
Fundraising	40,206

Total Functional Expenses	\$660,293
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Change in Net Assets	585,992
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Net assets

Beginning of year	\$277,469
End of year	\$863,461

Note: Sarah's Circle is in the process of accumulating significant capital for our new building. After accounting for new building activity, the agency had a net income of \$65,541 for FY11.

Sarah's Circle

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Suite 220
Chicago, IL 60640-7512

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773.728.1991

Administration Office
773.728.1014

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kragnar@sarahs-circle.org

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Photography

Caroline Aiken (Building Project bottom 4 photos)
Jason Feldman

Graphic Design

Jason Feldman, Luzazul Design, Ltd.