

# Deborah's Place

Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report

### Dear Friends,

FY19 was a year of growth and change at Deborah's Place. Year two of our strategic plan saw positive growth in each of our three focus areas: our housing portfolio, private donations, and board and staff development. As a result, we moved closer than ever to our over-arching strategic goal of serving 600 women per year.

Through the hard work of our dedicated staff, 62 residents moved on from Deborah's Place housing programs in FY19, and 68 women moved from street or shelter into our interim or permanent supportive housing. These were both increases over our FY18 numbers. We participated in the city's Flexible Housing Pool pilot project, adding a case manager and another 20 units to our community-based housing program. And as a result of the Marah's Program transition in FY18 to community-based housing, we were able to add units to that program as well.

Deborah's Place has always been a forward-thinking organization committed to meeting the changing needs of the women we serve. We are approaching our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020, and while we have served thousands of women over the years, we know that our work is not done because there are thousands more who need our help. We hope you will join us in celebrating all of the women we have helped through the years, as well as the people who made Deborah's Place the organization it is today.

We are still here after 35 years because of your support. You understand the impact of giving in your local community. You know the experience of being transformed by sharing the journey of healing and hope with our participants. You believe that everyone deserves a second chance. With your continued investment, we hope that every woman in Chicago will have affordable housing, and the support she needs to lead a safe, healthy and empowered life.

With Gratitude.

Audrey Thomas
Chief Executive Office

July 1

Janel Saar President, Board of Directors



Deborah's Place opens doors of opportunity for women who are homeless in Chicago. Supportive housing and services offer women their key to healing, achieving their goals and moving on from the experience of homelessness.



## FY 2019 Highlights

68,655

Services Provided (Education, Counseling, Coaching, and more)





100%

of Marah's Residents moved to Project-based Housing or Communitybased Housing



New Units through Flexible Housing Pool







Four Star Charity on Charity Navigator



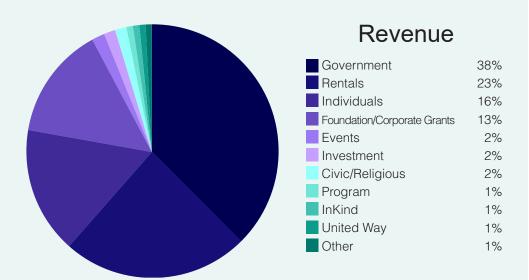


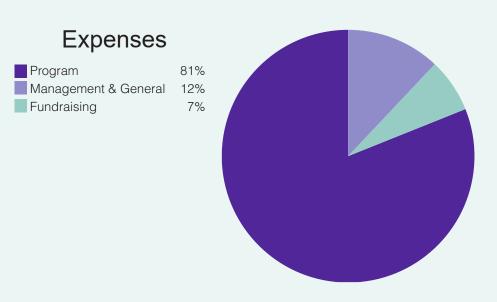
Platinum Rating on Guidestar

388 Women Served

## Funder Spotlight

## SAMMONS FINANCIAL GROUPS





Sammons® Financial Group (SFG) is committed to making a positive change in its local communities. Each year, SFG supports local nonprofits and charities through volunteerism, charitable donations, and gift matching. SFG has been a generous supporter of Deborah's Place for over five years. Volunteers from SFG spend their time with residents designing vision boards, working on crafts, cleaning, and gardening. Their support makes a difference in the lives of the women we serve.

SFG also makes significant investments in the future of Deborah's Place and the wellbeing of our residents through funding for large capital projects and program support. In FY19,

SFG donated \$95,000 to fund renovating our Community Center – a central place where our residents convene for tenant meetings, support groups, health fairs, art and music performances, and other events. This gift will have a lasting impact on the Deborah's Place community.

SFG is comprised of three member companies: Midland National® Life Insurance Company, which includes Sammons® Corporate Markets; North American Company for Life and Health Insurance®; and Sammons Institutional Group<sup>SM</sup>, which consists of Midland Retirement Distributors<sup>SM</sup> and Sammons Retirement Solutions®, Inc.



## Flexible Housing Pool

#### Housing More Women

At any given time, more than 1,500 unaccompanied women are homeless in Chicago, living on the streets and in shelters. If we count the number of women doubling up – staying with family or friends or couch-surfing – then that number can be 10 times as high.

Without Deborah's Place, thousands of women over the years would not have a safe place to sleep, food to eat or a caring community to help them recover from the trauma of homelessness. Deborah's Place adapts our services and works with our community partners to meet the ever-changing needs of this population.

In FY19, Deborah's Place accepted an offer to be a service provider in a new program called the *Flexible Housing Pool* (FHP), to provide 50 new affordable housing units in Chicago to people who are high users of emergency health services in the Cook County Health System.

As a service provider, we are responsible for providing case management and other supportive services for 20 of these new units, which means 20 more women will be off the street and into their own homes. We housed some of these new residents in FY19 and are continuing to fill the remaining open units.

The FHP is an extension of the Better Health Through Housing (BHH) pilot program in which Deborah's Place also participated. The BHH program identified high users of emergency health services and got them into housing with substantial supportive services in an effort to reduce the cost of serving people experiencing homelessness who use emergency rooms as their primary service providers. The belief was that the cost of housing people is actually lower than providing emergency services, and that has proven to be true. As a result, the City of Chicago wants to expand the program, and the FHP is another stage in the process.

Deborah's Place was selected as a service provider for the FHP because of our stellar reputation working with this population. Abbie See, from the Center for Housing and Health, says "we see the high quality and level of services Deborah's Place provides and trust that we can give the highest level of support needed for the people in this program."

Deborah's Place is proud to stand with our community partners to serve those experiencing homelessness through the Flexible Housing Pool.



### Leave Your Legacy

Deborah's Place has been able to sustain and grow our programs and services to meet the ever changing needs of the women we serve because of the steadfast commitment of our loyal donors. The following people have provided ongoing support to us, leaving a lasting legacy that impacts hundreds of women each year. We celebrate these legacy donors and thank them for their continued commitment to our mission.

Wendy Mausolf, former board member and long-time donor, about why she and her husband Sean Flynn support Deborah's Place:

"We love that Deborah's Place believes in self-determination – for the women to determine the right path for themselves. Every time we see the number of women served go up we are excited for that success, both for the organization and for the women."

In order to reach our goal of serving 600 women every year, we need the support of donors like you.

Create your own legacy of support for Deborah's Place with a lasting financial commitment.

**You** understand the impact of giving in your local community.

**You** know the experience of being transformed by sharing the journey of healing and hope with our participants.

**You** believe that everyone deserves a second chance.

## Support Deborah's Place and leave your legacy in the fight to end homelessness.

A complete list of our 2019 donors will be in our Spring 2020 newsletter.

## **Consecutive Years** 25 - 35 Years

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There are many ways to provide support to Deborah's Place. For more information about giving opportunities, please contact the Development Director at 773.638.6537.



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