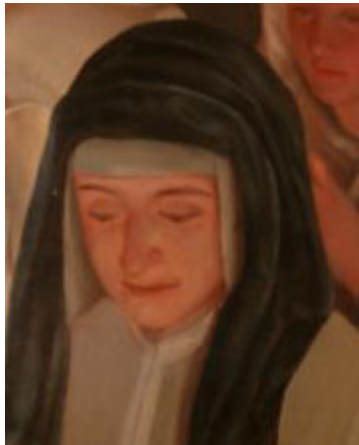




SAINT LOUISE HOUSE

Build. Believe. Become.

Saint Louise House Born of a Great Tradition of Service



Saint Louise de Marillac

On January 4, 2000, a date when the Catholic Church commemorates the first American-born canonized Saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, eight members of a small faith community gathered for a breakfast meeting at Trudy's in Austin. The small faith community began first meeting in 1997 under the name "Vincentian." The group was founded under the inspiration of Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac and Elizabeth Ann Seton. These three great Saints of the Church spent their lives organizing lay groups and religious communities for the specific purpose of serving the most poor and vulnerable. On that morning of January 4th, this group of eight individuals prepared to launch a new program serving single mothers and their children. The spirit of Saint Louise House was born.

The first order of business was to secure operational funding for the foundation of Saint Louise House. The Daughters of Charity of the US West Central Province issued a two-to-one challenge grant and in one year and a half, three years of operational funding was raised to begin the project. Saint Louise House opened its doors to five families in rented space in October of 2001.

One decade later, Saint Louise House is home to 31 families. Tremendous growth has been achieved with the support of a dedicated Board of Directors and staff, as well as hundreds of volunteers and donors from the community. Fundraising coupled with two awards granted from the Austin Finance Housing Corporation enabled Saint Louise House to purchase two apartment complexes with the capacity to house 46 women-led families.

Saint Louise House has overcome many challenges throughout its existence, very much like the families that call Saint Louise House home. The challenge the organization faces today is to meet and then sustain our capacity of 46 units of supportive housing. The Saints Vincent, Louise and Elizabeth Ann looked for support in their communities to serve the most vulnerable; Saint Louise House needs the support of the Austin community to do the same. Please join in celebrating a decade of service and supporting the next decade to come.

Sister Sharon Groetsch, DC

Sister Sharon Groetsch, DC
Saint Louise House Founding Board Member

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Volunteer Spotlight

Helen Havelka

How did you hear about Saint Louise House (SLH)?

I learned about Saint Louise House after reading a story in "The Catholic Spirit," the Austin Diocese's newsletter. The first SLH newsletter came, and I discovered a good friend, Katy Bohuslav, was involved. I have known and respected Katy for many years in our work at the Texas Department of Transportation, so I immediately thought that SLH must be special.

What motivated you to begin volunteering with SLH?

After I retired from state service, I finally had time to devote to volunteering. Katy introduced me to Karen Ranus at a SLH reception. I was excited about getting more involved when Karen said she had a project with which she felt I could help.



What do your volunteer activities entail?

SLH is blessed to receive donations for our apartments, and I help organize these items in our storage units so we can easily determine what we have and get to these items quickly.

And, what is the most rewarding aspect of your volunteer time?

The most rewarding aspect is knowing I have a small part in helping a family get a fresh start in life.



When do you volunteer and how does your volunteer time fit in with the rest of your schedule?

I volunteer about 6 hours a month – 3 hours every other Wednesday. Since I travel from another county, I set aside a block of time for volunteering here, and it fits perfectly into the rest of my schedule.

What kind of insight would you share with someone thinking of volunteering with SLH?

Initially, SLH's mission impressed me, but, after spending time with the folks who handle the day-to-day tasks of this organization, I have seen the passion they have to make a real difference in families' lives.

SAINT LOUISE HOUSE SUCCESSSES

As of June 2011, more than **120** families have been served at Saint Louise House

As of June 2011, **31** families are currently living at Saint Louise House, with the capacity to house a total of **46**

In 2010, Saint Louise House introduced on-site programming for children

In 2010, **36** families, including **73** children & **2** grandmothers, received deeply affordable housing & supportive services

In 2010, **8 out of 9** families exiting the program secured safe & stable housing

In 2010, 50% of families were Hispanic, 29% of families were White, 20% of families were African-American and 1% was Asian

In 2010, **45%** of women were enrolled in an educational program; **over half** were enrolled in a degree-seeking program

In 2010, **75%** of women were employed

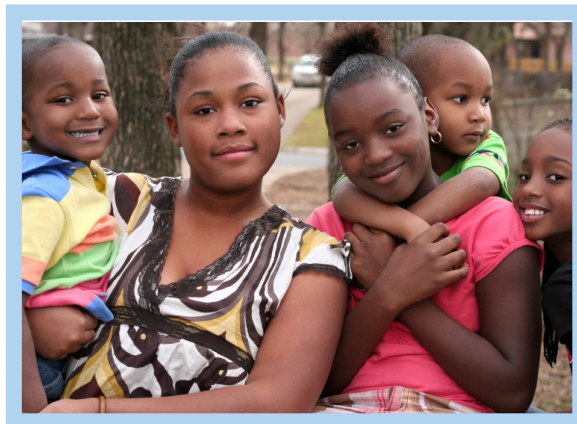
In 2010, women had the opportunity to access either Spanish and/or English on-site workshops including a financial literacy series & weekly classes focused on physical, mental and emotional well-being



Growing Up Homeless, One Teenager's Story

I was thirteen years old when my mom and I lost our apartment. My parents got a divorce, which sent my mom into crisis. With no job or steady income, we were forced to move from shelter to shelter and to 15 different homes of family and friends. Once we even slept in the car for several nights. As crazy as it might seem, during that time, I showered at school in the mornings and went about my day as usual.

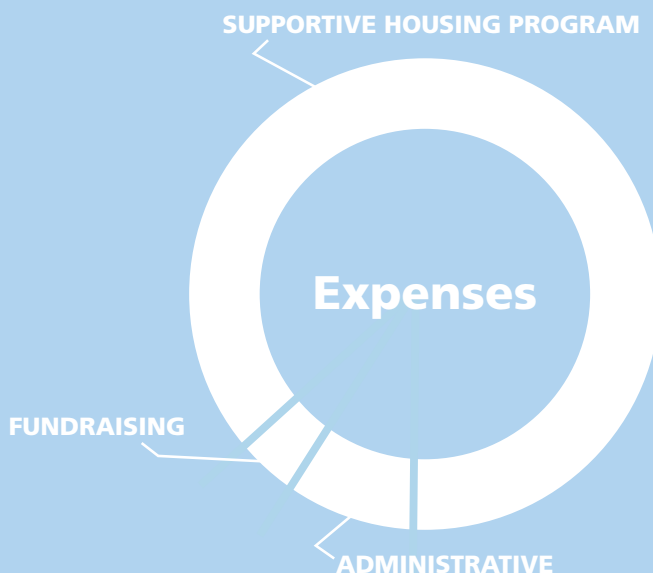
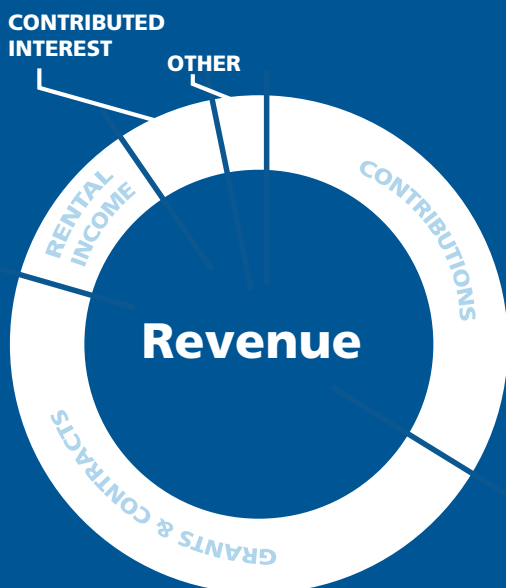
My mom was determined to find shelter for us, and she soon found SafePlace. It was rough. I played basketball and my school was 30 minutes away. I caught the bus at 6am and was finally dropped off at school at 8am. I was ashamed of my situation, so I made sure to dress well and acted as if nothing in my life was wrong. Three months passed, and Saint Louise House became our new home. As a sophomore, I had to switch schools to be closer to our new home. The move was the best thing that happened. My grades went up, my mom went back to school, my sister was able to go to daycare and after 3 1/2 years of moving around, we were finally in our own home.



Saint Louise House staff helped me live comfortably, apply for college, assisted with necessities and introduced me to other teens in the community who experienced many of the same struggles. I graduated from high school and now am enrolled at Texas State University. I don't know how I would have made it without the help and peace of mind of Saint Louise House. My relationship with my mom has gotten stronger. I'm more focused and believe in myself. My family is once again a unit. I can't thank Saint Louise House enough for all their hard work and impacting my life in so many positive ways.

2010 Financials

Contributions	\$364,641
Grants and Contracts	\$511,776
Rental Income	\$136,459
Contributed Interest	\$81,632
Other	\$28,061
TOTAL	\$1,122,569



Supportive Housing Program	\$886,978
Administrative	\$97,414
Fundraising	\$41,016
TOTAL	\$1,025,408

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