

SAINT LOUISE HOUSE



A community dedicated to helping single mothers and their children overcome homelessness.

Build. Believe. Become.

OUR MISSION:

To empower women with children to overcome homelessness in Central Texas.

Saint Louise House is empowering generations to overcome homelessness and end the cycle of poverty one family at a time.

A Letter From the Executive Director, Laura Ward



The hours that I spend in my office on the Saint Louise House property are among the most reflective and gentle hours in my day. Don't get me wrong, things can get a little crazy. Last year, Saint Louise House was home to 34 families, including 73 children. Homes aren't always quiet. Visitors come and go. Doors sometimes

slam. Appliances whirr. Children laugh and play and infants sometimes cry. But, in and among the occasional chaos of a home and office setting, I feel gratitude.

I feel gratitude for the families living at Saint Louise House. The mothers, determined to overcome poverty and homelessness through education and employment, inspire their children. The children, safely housed, focus on family, friends, school and play. I am grateful for these strong, resilient, women-led families.

I feel gratitude for our staff. Our small staff does BIG work alongside our families each day. They work together on conquering goals large and small, but the end goal is always the same – a permanent, safe home outside of Saint Louise

House and the life skills to manage setbacks and challenges. I am grateful for the skill and compassion of our staff.

I feel gratitude for our volunteers and donors. Your names fill the pages of this annual report. The print might be tiny, but there is heart and compassion attached to each name. In the last 15 years, as the number of Saint Louise House families has grown, the number of volunteer and donor partners has grown, too. At Saint Louise House, we are buoyed by your steadfast commitment to our resident families. Your service and generosity is treasured and so very essential to our mission. I am grateful for our loyal and generous volunteers and donors.

It has always been our hope that as long as there are women and children in our city who need our unique services and safe, affordable housing, there will be a home for them at Saint Louise House. That takes the time, talent and treasure of many partners. We are blessed that you are our partner, committed to growth and to serving families who need us.

Please accept this note as a "handwritten," heartfelt and MOST sincere thank you from my "home" at Saint Louise House to yours.

-Laura Ward, Executive Director



A Saint Louise House Mother Gives Thanks

To the organization that covered my daughter and me for several years I say thank you. To the employees and volunteers who have spent countless hours brainstorming, organizing, making phone calls, and putting their feet to the pavement for us, I say thank you, thank you.

Saturday, October 31 is a day I will never forget; it was move in day. When I dropped off my daughter (3 years old) at day care that day I told her that when I picked her up at the end of the day she would be going home, to our new home and that she would have her own room. The light in her eyes and smile on her face told me that we shared the same excitement. I hadn't seen that light in her eyes and smile on her face in 4 months.

The move in committee is nothing short of super heroes, they thought of everything. There was furniture in the living room, a table in the dining room, dishes in the cabinets, and food in the refrigerator! Our rooms were furnished, curtains were hung, all the apartment needed was its occupants and we were home. My daughter's room was decorated so well, it was her first room and she was so proud of it from the start. There were toys for her to play with and her first twin size bed. After a quick walk around the neighborhood and trip to the store it was time to prepare for bed and she happily crawled in her new "big girl" bed and drifted soundly off to sleep. At that time my heart was at peace, there were tears but tears of joy.

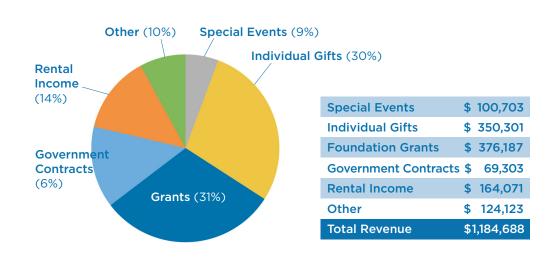
There are a great many words that come to mind when I think of Saint Louise House, I will only use two, and those are eternally grateful. Our children need roofs over their heads and clothes on their backs, but they need us to be present. Among so many other things, thank you for allowing me to be present!

-With love, admiration, and respect, "Jenny"

BUILD, BELIEVE, BECOME

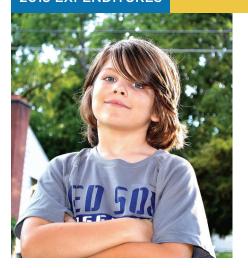
- Saint Louise House currently serves 34 families and over 70 children through an approach anchored by these words: **BUILD**, **BELIEVE**, **AND BECOME**.
- Women and their children BUILD their capabilities as they receive access to income based, deeply affordable housing combined with direct, intense in-home support services that improve employability skills, financial competencies, parenting skills, and self-esteem by building on their strengths and setting goals for growth.
- Families learn to **BELIEVE** in themselves, their capabilities, and the promise of their own futures, and they change the trajectory of their own lives.
- As a family they **BECOME** transformed ready, willing, and able to leave Saint Louise House and move on to lead successful lives.
- For a total of over 39,000 nights, single women with children previously experiencing homelessness had a place to call home. **SAINT LOUISE HOUSE**.

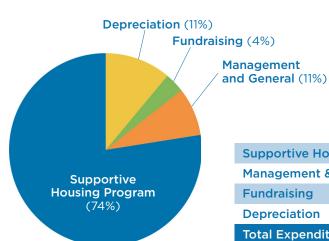
2015 REVENUES





2015 EXPENDITURES





Supportive Housing Program	\$ 900,000
Management & General	\$ 138,089
Fundraising	\$ 44,140
Depreciation	\$ 135,783
Total Expenditures	\$1,218,012

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SaintLouiseHouse.org

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Saint Louise House

P.O. Box 150637 Austin, TX 78715

Saint Louise House was founded in 2000 to provide affordable and supportive housing for extremely low income homeless women and their children with the goal of helping families develop long-term stability.