



**SAINT LOUISE HOUSE**

Build. Believe. Become.



**OUR MISSION:** To empower women with children to overcome homelessness in Central Texas.



*Before moving into Saint Louise House, I wasn't sure where I would end up in life. Now I have hope that I will be successful not only by the standards of society but also by my own.*

## NOW I HAVE HOPE: *Overcoming Homelessness with My Family*

### A Saint Louise House Teenager's Story

A mother's love for her children can drive her to do anything necessary to ensure their safety. In some cases, like my own, it means leaving an abusive situation completely. For her life and the lives of her children my mother left everything she knew and fought for a life without fear or abuse. Fortunately there are people that care about those children and their mothers. People that look past the scars of pain inflicted upon oneself and look into the heart of the ones so badly hurt. Hope is a powerful part of our complex and large world, a part that is given to few but appreciated by many. Saint Louise House is on the giving side. They help give hope to the lives of many families that would otherwise not have any before. The staff at Saint Louise House gives hope to the mothers with no prior education, helping them gain an education. Saint Louise House gives

hope to the children, showing them that there is a life outside what they already know. Saint Louise House gives hope to the community showing everyone that so long as there are people to help, they will be there to help.

Before moving into Saint Louise House I wasn't sure where I would end up in life, now I have hope that I will be successful not only by the standards of society but also by my own. I just finished high school and will be going to college for a double major in Linguistics and Law. My mother has just received her certification and is now able to get a job she went to school for. My younger brother and sister are able to live young hopeful lives without having to look over their shoulders.

*—Janet\*, Age 17*

**Saint Louise House transforms the lives of two generations at once.**

Since our founding, we have served 144 families and 292 children.

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Thanks to the commitment of our board, staff, donors and volunteers, Saint Louise House is “home” for single mothers and children overcoming homelessness. The passion people have for Saint Louise House helps families redirect their lives

and chart a new course towards a healthy, self-sufficient future.

It’s no surprise that Saint Louise House has flourished in its 14 years in Austin. The spirit of this organization reflects the spirit of our great city – open, genuine, tenacious. Just as Austin provides fertile ground for our neighbors, companies and ideas to grow – so Saint Louise House serves as a safe haven and launching pad for mothers and children who have big dreams for their futures.

And, just like Austin, Saint Louise House is only as good as its dynamic community. That means everyone... Founders, volunteers and board members who wrap their support around moms and children who would otherwise be homeless. Staff members who bring vast skills, education and language fluencies to work side-by-side with moms as they meet their goals. The community of mothers like Jessica (page 2) who have the courage to ask for help, and children like Janet (page 1) who keep their eyes trained on college. And supporters like Kristin (page 3), who lend their voices and resources so families can achieve their full potential.

Still, for every success story, there are hundreds more who struggle. Rents continue to climb, and homeless families slip into the background, barely hanging on. We all need to step up to the occasion and ensure that all of our neighbors, adults and children, have an opportunity to live healthy, safe and productive lives.

Let’s continue to join together; to meet the need in our fast-growing city — and to help our families write even more success stories like the ones you’ll read about here. Together, we can light the way for generations to come.

*Laura Ward*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## *The Opportunity of a Lifetime*

### **A Saint Louise House Mother’s Story**

**More than 2,000 individuals experience homelessness on any given night in Austin. Jessica never thought that she would be one of them.**

“Nobody ever does,” said Jessica, who was a mother of a 4-year-old daughter at the time. Jessica had devoted all of her time and energy to care for her daughter since she found out she was pregnant at age 19. She and her daughter Sami were living with her mom. She worked part-time, attended community college part-time, and took Sami to childcare daily.

Unfortunately, Jessica’s world was about to change. Her grandmother became ill and needed help, prompting Jessica’s mother to end her apartment lease and leave the state to care for her. Jessica and her young daughter began their struggle with homelessness.

Jessica no longer had a place to stay. Fortunately, she found a cousin with a spare bedroom for Sami and her to sleep. The arrangement was temporary, uncomfortable and unpredictable, but she had no other options. Sami slept on a small couch. Jessica now slept on the floor. Her new home, albeit temporary, also meant new, longer bus routes, tallying more than 3 hours of commuting a day.

“I was proud that I didn’t drop the ball on anything, but I was always exhausted. I didn’t know how long I could go on like that. I worried constantly about what would happen if my cousin moved or changed her

mind about us staying.” Jessica was close to reaching a breaking point when she found out about Saint Louise House. She applied and began calling monthly to keep her application active on the waiting list.

“Everyone always answered the phone, and [the admissions specialist] knew me by name,” recalls Jessica, who qualified to move in after paying off an outstanding Austin Energy bill. When an apartment opened up, Jessica was next on the waiting list. “That phone call was amazing, I had tears of joy! I did nothing but cry that day.”

Move-in day was even more emotional. “I told Sami, ‘We’re going to go home today. You’re going to have your own room.’ She just held onto my leg as we walked around our new home. And, there was food in the refrigerator!” Since move-in day, Jessica has obtained an associate’s degree, is gaining

professional experience as an administrative assistant, has improved her credit and has built a thriving network at her church. Jessica is also taking care of her health and completed her first 5K in December. “I can actually take care of me and set a good example for my daughter.”

Sami, now 7, is described by her mom as confident, curious, and active. She loves playing volleyball and does well in school, but her favorite thing to do is to spend time with her mom. “I can’t imagine where we would be without Saint Louise House,” said Jessica. “This has been the opportunity of a lifetime.”

*“I can actually take care of me and set a good example for my daughter.”*

Volunteers gave more than 7,400 hours to our families in 2013.



## *Be a Blessing, Not a Bystander*

### Letter from a Saint Louise House Volunteer

I am a single mom with three kids. Like every mother, I juggle work deadlines, kid schedules, homework, sports, church, and driving all over the place in traffic. And like every *single* mother, I do it myself.

It's not easy. But let's get real honest real quick. I have a house to live in, cozy and comfortable. I have a safe car to drive. I can buy gas. I can go to HEB and buy groceries with my debit card. I can take my kids to the doctor and the orthodontist, and we have enough to spare to allow the kids to do sports and activities, and get tutoring when they need it.

Life isn't perfect, but we are, by all accounts—blessed. **But the point of blessed is to be a blessing – not a bystander.**

I can look at other single moms struggle in abuse and poverty and be shamed into inertia by my blessings, thinking what can I possibly do to make a dent in all that struggle? I can feel guilty, shut my eyes, and stay quietly in my comfortable little bubble. My blessings can cause me to shrink back.

Or my blessings can elicit a deep reverence, a profound gratitude to God. The response to that gratitude is overflow, abundance, generosity, and involvement — not shrinking back but opening up. Our blessings are meant to bless, that's why we have them at all!

I love the Bible story about the loaves and fishes. It carries a universal message about generosity and abundance regardless of faith background. In the story, Jesus is talking to a

crowd of thousands of hungry people. They are ready for lunch but uh-oh, oversight, no one planned the catering. The disciples are at a total loss.

A little boy walks up and offers his loaf of bread and his fish. Instead of hoarding his blessing and saying, "Oh, thank God my mom remembered to pack my lunch," he gives his blessing to Jesus, who blesses his blessing. And—voila!—out of freaking nowhere there is enough food to feed thousands of people. And the best part? There was not just enough. There was abundance.

See how that works? In this story, the little boy wasn't ashamed of his provision; he didn't shrink back and hide or hoard his lunch, feeling bad. He walked straight into the impossible — the thing we say all the time — the need is too great, what can little old me possibly do about it? — and he just did something. And that something started something else and next thing you know, change occurred. Stomachs were filled. Miracles happened. Faith grew. We're still talking about it 2,000 years later!

Miracles can still happen today. That's why my heart burns for the Saint Louise House, because a donation of time or money can change lives.

Join me and use your blessings to bless.

*With love,  
Kristin Armstrong*



Kristin Armstrong with Saint Louise House Board Member and Founding Executive Director Sharon Bieser

*“Our blessings are meant to bless. That's why we have them at all!”*



**Get Involved!**

Contact 512-302-0027, or fill out an application online at [saintlouiseshouse.org](http://saintlouiseshouse.org).

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*“Saint Louise House is quite simply the most meaningful social effort with which I have ever been involved.”* – Bishop John McCarthy, Off the Cuff & Over the Collar, released in 2013

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Terri Duncan  
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Pat Reid

Russell and Sharon Oliver  
Annette Finney  
Anonymous

## Memorial Dedications

### IN MEMORY OF

Adela Mercado and  
Mattie B. Baylor  
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B. Romano and others  
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Carmen Molina  
Catherine Barnes  
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Dolores Batiste Fleming

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Saradee Waxler  
Peter and Letty Landa

### IN MEMORY OF

Dolores Batiste Fleming

Dr. Joe Zacarias  
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Michael and Jean Haggerty

### IN MEMORY OF

Marge Gorman  
Marilyn Groetsch  
Nicholas J. Ferrara  
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Stanley Havelka  
Stanley Havelka  
Sybil Montgomery  
Virginia Sikorski  
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### DONOR

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Anonymous  
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Rose Marie Ponsati Sauer  
Diane Northam  
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Mindy Montgomery  
Bennie Sikorski  
Louis Reilly

**Include Saint Louise House as a Beneficiary of Your Estate.** Planned gifts, such as bequests, gifts of stock or other securities help us plan for the future while providing significant tax savings to you or your estate.

## Faith-Based & Community Group Donors

Berkeley United Methodist Church  
Catholic Daughters of  
the Americas  
Congregation of Holy Cross,  
Moreau Province  
Emmaus Catholic Parish  
Fischeteen  
Gotta Have Sole Foundation

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Saint Catherine of Siena  
Council 8156  
Knights of Columbus Saint  
Theresa Council 9796  
Knights of Columbus Saint  
Austin Council 10776  
Korean Baptist Church of Austin  
Ladies of Charity - Austin

Ladies of Charity - Lake Travis  
Lake Travis United  
Methodist Women  
Mu Epsilon Theta  
Rotary Club of Austin-Westlake  
Society of St Vincent De Paul,  
DCA, St. Elizabeth Conference  
St. Catherine of Siena  
Catholic Church

St. Monica Catholic Church  
St. Paul Chong Hasang Church  
St. Theresa Catholic Parish  
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
St. Vincent De Paul Conference  
of St. John Neumann  
Catholic Church  
St. Thomas More  
Catholic Church

Tarrytown United Methodist Church  
Texas Spirits  
Tikkun Austin Giving Circle  
Unity Church of Austin  
University Catholic Center  
Wheaton Academy Students

## Foundations

Ascension Health  
Women's Fund of the  
Austin Community Foundation  
Charles H. Phipps Family Foundation  
Charles Schwab Foundation  
The Creekmore and  
Adele Fath Charitable Foundation  
Donald D. Hammill Foundation  
Lind Family Foundation  
Mission & Ministry, Inc.

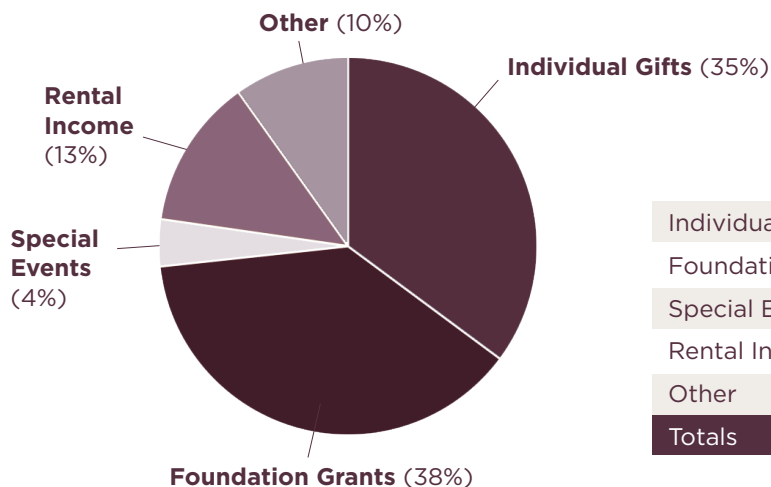
Pacey Family Foundation  
Paver Family Foundation  
Pellets Foundation  
Perkins-Prothro Foundation  
Religious Coalition  
to Assist the Homeless  
Shield-Ayres Foundation  
Sieh Family Charity Trust  
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Ben Vaughan Foundation  
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Travis County Medical Alliance



## 2013 Financial Report

### REVENUES

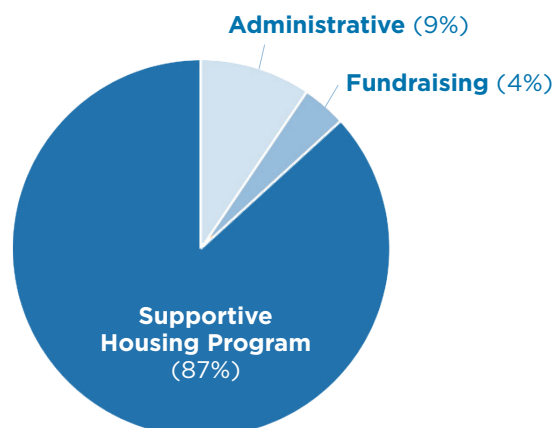


Individual Gifts	\$349,686
Foundation Grants	\$379,313
Special Events	\$39,742
Rental Income	\$128,128
Other	\$97,865
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$994,734</b>



### EXPENDITURES

Supportive Housing Program	\$912,907
Administrative	\$99,281
Fundraising	\$39,822
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,052,010</b>



#### DID YOU KNOW?

*The average cost of supporting a Saint Louise House resident is \$170 per person, per week.*

## SAINT LOUISE HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### CHAIR

**Charles Gembinski,**  
LCSW Emeritus

### PAST CHAIR

**Letty Landa**  
Community Volunteer

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Consultant, Seton  
Healthcare Family

### Sherri Fleming

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### Deanna Manford - Schobey

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Dell Children's Medical  
Center

### Tony Weber

Regional Director of  
Development,  
Catholic Extension  
of America

## SAINT LOUISE HOUSE STAFF

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### Jim Boyle

Facilities Maintenance  
Manager

### Krissy Dunn

Director of  
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Development

### Mindy Heredia

Volunteer Coordinator

### Jack Hooper

Facilities Maintenance  
Worker

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### Veronica Panduro, LBSW

Case Manager/  
Admissions Specialist

### Anoosheh Razian, LMSW

Case Manager/Counselor

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Program Director

### Rachel Tamer, LMSW

Case Manager/Counselor

### Judi Venuto, SPHR

Director of Operations

### Carla Bradford

Accountant/Bookkeeper

### Kiki McGuinn

Case Manager/  
Group Facilitator

## SaintLouiseHouse.org

Phone: (512) 302-0027



facebook.com/saintlouiselhouse

Fax: (512) 326-2290



@StLouiseHouse



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**SAINT LOUISE HOUSE**

Build. Believe. Become.

### Saint Louise House

P.O. Box 150637  
Austin, TX 78715

*Please note our mailing address has changed.*

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.

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