

St. Catherine Residence
Annual Report
2009-2010



**A Community of Aspiring Women
Since 1894**

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

St. Catherine Residence is dedicated to cultivating the natural independence in all women by creating a supportive, vibrant, and integrated community. The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas founded St. Catherine Residence (SCR) in Milwaukee in 1894 and it was incorporated in 1913. SCR has a lay member Board of Directors that includes representatives of the Sisters of Mercy religious order. We are recognized as having separate 501©3 standing under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church. The SCR housing services and support programs do not discriminate in regard to race, color, national origin, handicap, age, religious affiliation or not.

The mission of St. Catherine's is to ensure safe, affordable and supportive housing to women with limited income who have diverse talents and needs and aspire to maximize their personal growth and employment opportunities.

The SCR vision is to be the best supportive and enriching community for women desiring to renew, heal and grow toward a full and independent life. SCR's philosophies are: women desire to optimize their skills and competencies; safe, affordable housing is central to a woman's ability to grow; a supportive "can do" environment develops self-confidence; contributing as well as receiving is important; education, employment and community are important to personal development; responsible proactive change and growth by SCR ensures (our) the future of serving women.

We serve women facing diverse life experience and opportunities.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING for women in the midst of change. We provide a safe place to build skills, self confidence and in many cases to master the challenges presented by mental illness, abuse, physical illness and other life issues.

INDEPENDENT LIVING for women seventeen years of age and preparing to leave the foster care system. These young women are court ordered to stay at St. Catherine's until they turn eighteen and complete high school.

RIGHT START for pregnant, single women over the age of eighteen. The mothers work or go to school as their babies move through the first year's development stages, often delighting the entire house. These mothers participate in nutritional, parenting, household management and budgeting instruction.

NEXT STEP for homeless women who are in treatment for an addiction or have a behavioral health diagnosis. After completing the initial treatment phase they move to St. Catherine's for their continuing recovery. Each year some forty women are helped through this program.



First shift, Monday through Friday, all who come through SCR's front door are greeted by Kathy's welcoming smile. Kathy is our full time receptionist and knows first hand how important it is to feel welcomed. You might say her smile is a way she pays forward what she has received from SCR.

For many years she was a victim of domestic violence, abused physically and mentally. The cycle kept repeating -- escape to a shelter, move from friend to friend, be drawn back. In 2001 the cycle was broken when Milwaukee Women's Center recommended SCR and paid her first month's rent and deposit. During her 14 month stay in SCR's she had the chance to end the violence and stalking, live in safety, and able to "catch my breath". She made new friends, applied for and was offered the receptionist position, moved to an apartment and got married.

Luvenia was born with poetry in her heart. Today you can catch her between sessions at MATC and on September 16th you can see her in a poetry and drama presentation at Repairers of the Breach. However, her road to SCR was one most rocky and tortuous.

She lived on a farm in Memphis, TN with her grandparents and mother until she ran away around age 12. When they found her she was given the option of "farm school" (translation prison) or Job Core. She chose Job Core and that is where she refined her love of writing poetry. That is also where she found herself pregnant.

For the next several years her life was chaotic and unstable, moving from state to state, from one unsavory situation to another, sleeping in her car and fleeing to shelters to escape abuse. Homeless and living in an abandoned house, Luvenia had a stroke in 2006 while babysitting 2 of her grandchildren. After a stint at St. Joe's, including therapy, she was back on the street, spending her nights at Friendship House and her days at Repairers of the Breach. In May of 2009 she came to SCR and continues with speech therapy and writing poetry.



Donna is passionate about cleanliness and volunteering. When a common area needs to be tidied up or the community kitchen needs a little "wipe up", that is where you will find Donna. She is first in line to volunteer, especially with SCR mailings, and also assists the elderly at the Milwaukee Center for Independence.

Abandoned on the curb at age 3, Donna was raised by her father and fastidious Italian grandmother who set a high cleanliness standard. In 1989 she found herself divorced with 3 sons to raise. Doing what she knew best, she supplemented her public aide with 3 cleaning jobs. A move to Milwaukee led to a permanent job that carried her to retirement.

Once again she found herself on the curb when living with relatives didn't work out. Moving from shelter to shelter, 4 in 2 ½ months, she was steered to SCR in October of 2008. Donna is proud to call SCR "home"; her pride in her room tells the story.

Tyanna move to St. Catherine's two months ago and eight days later gave birth to a baby girl. Tyanna is determined to turn her life around and has been clean and sober for 14 months. She loves the safe environment, friendly and caring staff and residents have helped her to grow spiritually and in many other ways. The SCR, Right Start Program assists Tyanna with setting goals, putting resources together and planning for the future. She is learning parenting skills and looks forward to teaching her daughter to read.



"I have become more open and trusting of other people. It is a great blessing to be here at St. Catherine's. I appreciate everyone here so much," says Tyanna and continues, "people here want you to succeed and prosper."

Her early childhood experiences included parent abuse and neglect, sexual exploitation, running away at 10 years old, and eventually foster care placement. Tyanna has been diagnosed with schizophrenic bipolar disorder. She recently graduated from the Meta House resident program and is now in day treatment.

**ST. CATHERINE RESIDENCE
2009-2010
THE YEAR IN DETAIL**

Number of women who received services 242
Ages 17 to 80 years
Average length of residency 2.5 years
Average cost of services per resident \$1762 per year

Source of residents' incomes

Wages 58%
SSI/SSD (disability assistance) 42%

Ethnic diversity of residents

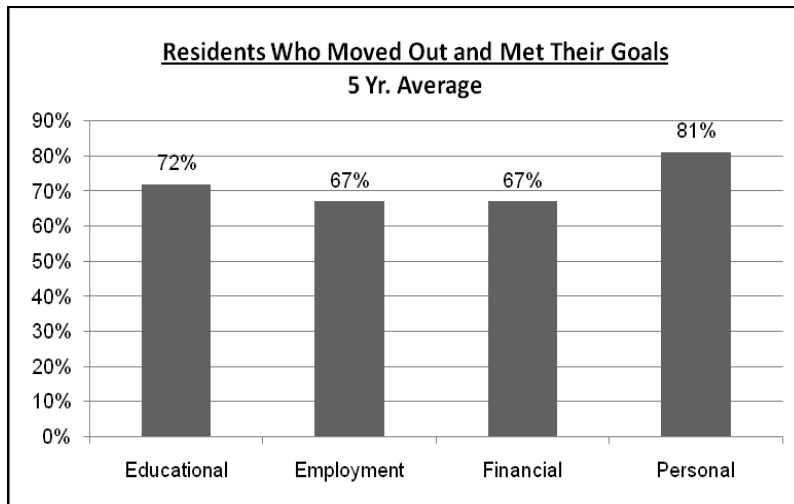
Caucasian 52%
African American 37%
Asian 4%
Hispanic/Native American 5%
Other 2%

Range of residents incomes

Below \$10,000 57%
\$10,000-\$15,000 31%
\$15,000-\$19,999 6%
\$20,000 & above 6%

Range of education

Advance degree 4%
College graduate 9%
Some college 30%
High school 46%
Less than high school 11%



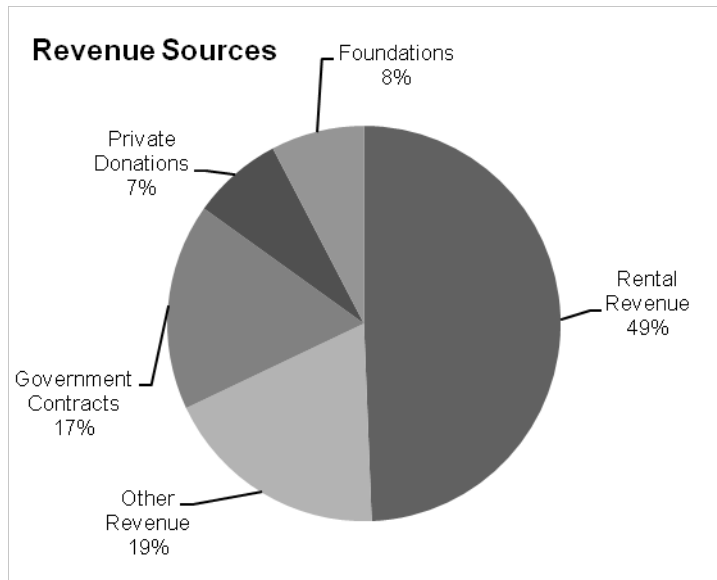
Individual Challenges

Safety	33%
Behavioral Health Recovery	21%
Homelessness	17%
Education	8%
Pregnancy	9%
Addiction Recovery	5%
Disability	4%

Consolidated Income Statement for the Year Ending June 30, 2010

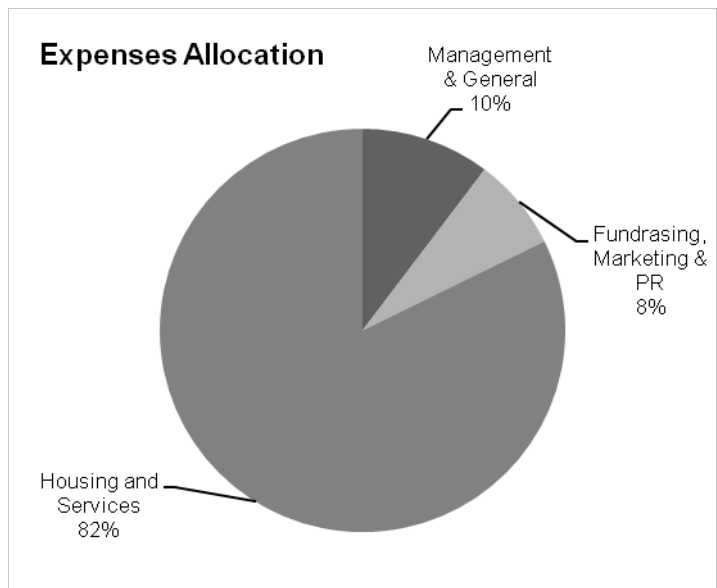
Revenue

Rental Revenue	\$573,737
Other Revenue	\$215,818
Government Contracts	\$197,153
Private Donations	\$86,522
Foundations	\$88,804
Total	\$1,162,034



Expenses

Management & General	\$112,535
Fundraising, Marketing & PR	\$80,965
Housing and Services	\$898,300
Total	\$1,091,800
 Net Income Over Expenses	 \$70,234



2009-2010

Capital Revenue	\$299,960
Capital Expenditures	\$264,979

Result of Capital Campaign

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Most importantly, we thank all of you who have contributed your time and expertise: SCR Board of Directors, Friends Board of Directors, Elm Grove Junior Guild, Esser Design Services, Giles Engineering, Managed Health Services, Milwaukee County Social Development Commission and many more.

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