



2016

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide permanent supportive housing and a safe and healthy community, fostering dignity, respect, and personal stability, and to advocate ending homelessness for women.



Dear Friends:



Every day as I arrive at the Downtown Women's Center and walk through the Day Center doors, I am inspired by our community's passion and tenacity. Seeing women overcoming barriers and engaging with our staff and volunteers, I feel fortunate to be part of an organization that is working each and every day to end homelessness for women.

Thanks to you, last year was full of exciting steps forward. From expansion of our programs to our advocacy successes at City Hall, your support, passion, and generosity made our work possible.

In 2016, we connected with more than 3,000 women across our programs — including our Day Center, permanent housing, Women's Health Center, and education and employment programs. We took a pivotal step in our advocacy work through the launch of a new Advocates Program, which puts the experiences of our residents and participants front and center. Working with women in our community, our advocacy efforts are creating real change as local and state officials recognize and address women's unique service needs.

Moving forward, DWC's board of directors and staff remain deeply committed to ending homelessness and ensuring women's voices are heard each step of the way. We greatly appreciate your support, and we are excited to stand with you for the empowerment of women in the year ahead.

Anne Miskey

CEO, Downtown Women's Center

Programs

DAY CENTER

Open seven days per week and serving approximately 200 women a day, DWC's Day Center provides a safe space for women in the community. Women who come through our doors have access to three nutritious, home-cooked meals; clean bathrooms and showers; changes of clothes; and a safe place to rest. In our Day Center, women can participate in one-on-one case management services to help link them to housing, health care, legal aid, transportation, education, and job training services, as well as work placements and other resources.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Women experiencing homelessness often face healthcare needs that are largely unmet by existing healthcare systems. Through DWC's Women's Health Center – the only woman-specific clinic in Skid Row – we provide primary care, STD and HIV testing, TB and cancer screenings, vaccinations, mammograms, and more. Through our Trauma Recovery Center, we offer psychiatric services as well as individual and group therapy. DWC also offers ongoing weekly education activities that empower women to change their lives in ways that help prevent chronic health problems.



“I found a place that treated me with compassion and provided the services I needed to get my life back. I received medical treatment for my mental illness and addiction. I went to therapy to work through the trauma I’d experienced. Today, I live in permanent housing, and I still make regular appointments with my therapist and case manager. Supportive services are what keep someone housed.”

– DENISE SMITH





PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Using the Housing First model, DWC provides 119 units of permanent supportive housing through two residences in the Skid Row area. Each woman has access to the individualized support she needs to thrive in housing and end her struggle with homelessness. In addition, our residents have opportunities to lead peer support groups and engage in regular social activities, fostering a strong sense of community.

COMMUNITY-BASED HOUSING

Through partnerships with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and private foundations, DWC also provides housing and supportive services in local communities. These services are available for female veterans and their families, women with severe physical and mental health concerns, and survivors of domestic violence. Our case managers work individually with women to connect them with housing and resources throughout Los Angeles County.



“I have my own key and my own door. For the first time in years, I have privacy, and I feel safe. Now that I have that, I want to make sure other people have it, too.”

– FRANCINE ANDRADE

EDUCATION & JOB READINESS

Through our job-readiness program, women learn skills that not only lead to income, but also to an increase in self-worth and overall well-being. We offer courses in résumé building, financial literacy, computer use, and more. We also provide a 12-week job-training program called SET to Work, and we place women in jobs through partnerships throughout Los Angeles County.

Through support from the LA:RISE program, a partnership with the Department of Labor, we also provide paid transitional employment through MADE by DWC, our social enterprise venture. MADE has two locations in Skid Row: MADE by DWC Cafe & Gift Boutique, and our MADE by DWC Resale Boutique. In 2016, women employed in our social enterprise made and sold products including candles, soaps, ornaments, gift cards, and jewelry. Items from our product line were also sold through business partners including Raven & Lily, Bloomingdales, Whole Foods Downtown, and others.





“I appreciate everything about DWC: being here with people I care about, knowing that there are lots of resources here, the hard work that goes into making the Center run every day. I’m glad that a place like this exists for LGBT people to come to.”

– ABIGAIL MALECKI

“By advocating and being educated, I get to implement everything I learned. I get to stand in front of people and be very confident and passionate about my beliefs, and share my story. For the most part, by sharing my story with other people and advocating, I have been able to heal from my own trauma, my own pain.”

– AMIYOKO SHABAZZ

Advocates Program

We believe the most effective way to advocate for change is to ensure the voices and lived experiences of DWC residents and participants are at the forefront of our work. With this in mind, we launched our first Advocates Program in 2016. The training series helps women who have experienced homelessness to become successful advocates. Examples of trainings include: Sharing your Story, Engaging in Lobby Visits, How Government Works, and more. Every woman who enrolled in the program has the opportunity to

participate in community events, including 2016 Lobby Day in Sacramento and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti’s 2016-2017 budget-signing ceremony. They were featured in 15 news stories, delivered six public comments at Los Angeles City and County government meetings, and attended 11 meetings with elected officials and their staff. All five became stronger advocates for themselves, DWC, and other women, fighting for social justice and helping to ensure women are never excluded from efforts to end homelessness.

Impact By the Numbers

In 2016, DWC continued to expand the programs and services that help women to regain stability and break the cycle of homelessness. The numbers demonstrate our impact over the last year and will serve as a benchmark to surpass in 2017!



1,078

Women's Health Center visits



103,854

meals served



55

job placements



10,827

one-on-one case management sessions



98%

housing retention rate in our Community-Based Housing



94%

housing retention rate at our Los Angeles and San Pedro Street locations



877

women participated in health education activities



262

women received mental health services



979

women accessed vocational education and job readiness services



44

veterans housed



207

women obtained permanent housing, a 146% increase from 2015



2016 Needs Assessment

Every three years since 2001, the Downtown Women's Action Coalition (DWAC), a coalition of community members working to improve conditions for homeless and low-income women in downtown Los Angeles, has conducted the Downtown Women's Needs Assessment. The needs assessment is a community-based research project assessing the needs, characteristics, and conditions facing homeless and extremely low-income women living in downtown Los Angeles. Our 2016 needs assessment report features data from 371 surveys as well as longitudinal analysis of past surveys, and is divided into five main sections: Demographics, Housing,

Healthcare, Violence Against Women, and Community Resources.

The report culminates with DWAC's Action Agenda for effectively addressing the needs of women experiencing homelessness. Some of the primary recommendations are ensuring that permanent supportive housing developments are appropriate to the needs of women, and requiring that government-funded service providers participate in trauma-informed care training. In 2017, we will work with our community to implement recommendations outlined in the report, as we continue our efforts to end women's homelessness for good.

To read the full report, visit
DowntownWomensCenter.com/NeedsAssessment.

How You Can Help

ADVOCATE

From the beginning, 2016 was a significant year for homelessness policy in Los Angeles. Both the City and County of Los Angeles each released comprehensive plans to address homelessness, and we were thrilled to see the unique service needs of women called out in the City's plan.

In 2017, we will be building on last year's important groundwork by advocating for more services, housing, and research on women. As our local, state, and federal governments continue steps to end homelessness, it remains important that the voices of women be heard and — together with supporters like you — we are ensuring that happens. Look for updates on our website and social media pages!

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram:
[@DWCWeb](#)

CELEBRATE

In 2016, our 19th annual Dinner With a Cause honored political activist Marylouise Oates and City National Bank. Thanks to phenomenal support from our sponsors, donors, host committee members, volunteers, and guests, we raised more than \$1.3 million to support our programs and services – a new Dinner With a Cause record! In particular, we would like to recognize Event Chairs, Shelli Herman and Elyse Klein. Mark your calendars for this year's event on October 13, 2017!

For information about how you can support this year's gala, please contact KatrinaV@DowntownWomensCenter.org or visit DowntownWomensCenter.org/Dinner.

DONATE

Our network of generous supporters makes the work we do each day possible. Your financial contributions ensure we can continue to provide a safe, supportive environment for women in Los Angeles. Donating regularly will provide critical assistance to women on their journey to stability.

Donate online at DowntownWomensCenter.org/Donate.

LEAD

We believe it takes leadership from all parts of the community to end homelessness. With this in mind, we launched the DWC Leadership Council in 2016 to provide opportunities for emerging leaders and professionals who want to make a difference in their community. The program's numerous benefits include participating in trainings for further professional development, networking with other local leaders, and becoming an expert on an important social issue.

Become a member at DowntownWomensCenter.org/LeadershipCouncil.

VOLUNTEER

More than 5,100 volunteers dedicated their time, passion, and skills to working with us last year. Volunteers take on numerous important roles at DWC, and our staff and the women we serve love the opportunity to develop bonds with caring members of our community.

To get started, visit DowntownWomensCenter.org/Volunteer.

Financials

We rely on your support to fulfill our mission, so we handle all resources provided to us with the utmost care and respect.

In recognition of this commitment, GuideStar has awarded us platinum status, and to further demonstrate our sound management and fiscal responsibility, we are happy to share our financial information.

EXPENSES \$9,146,748

80%
Program

10%
Management
& General

10%
Fundraising



REVENUE \$8,950,167

25%
Government Grants

23%
Foundations &
Corporate Grants

13%
Contributions

12%
Special Event
Income

11%
In-Kind Support

9%
Rental Income

4%
Social Enterprise
Income

1%
Other

2%
Investment Income



NET ASSETS \$17,489,376

\$7,681,133
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

\$9,808,243
Unrestricted Net Assets

Operating Expenses include \$838,117 in non-cash depreciation for DWC's three buildings.

Complete 2016 Audited Financial Statements and tax documents will be available at DowntownWomensCenter.org as of June 2017.

**Thank you to our generous community
of supporters. You make our work possible.**

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FAMILY SUPPORTERS**

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\$50,000 +

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