



# WELLSPRINGS VILLAGE 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

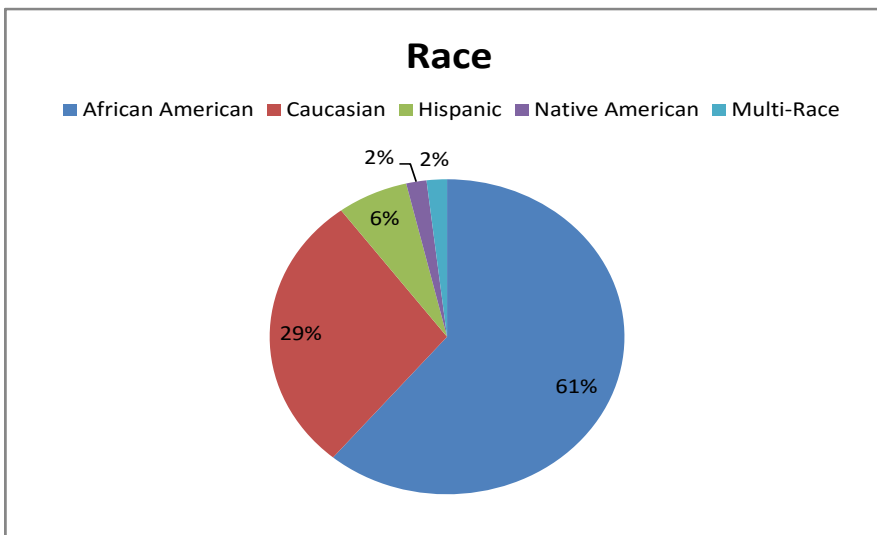
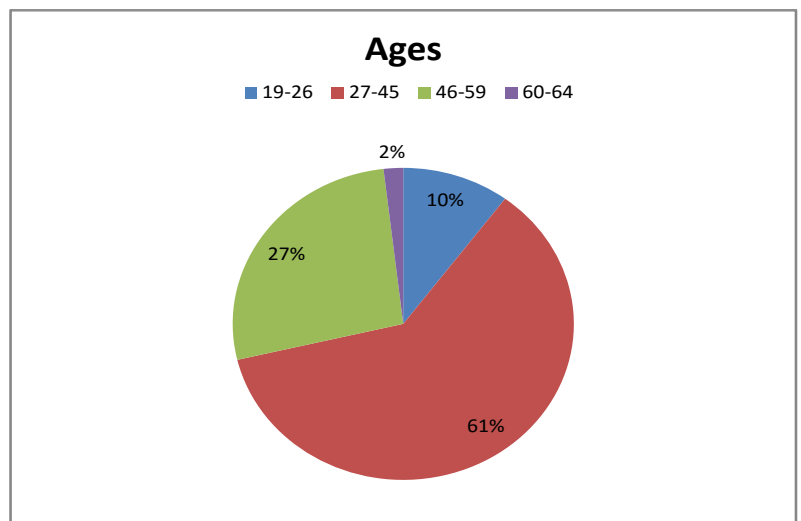
## THE BOARD

Wellsprings Village, Inc. has been blessed with members dedicated to our mission “To provide a safe, growthful environment for homeless and abused women.” Under the board’s leadership, we seek to empower disadvantaged females in becoming economically and emotionally and self-sustaining members of society. For 2015, the board’s membership consisted of the following: Most Reverend Joseph Fiorenza (Honorary), Sister Rita Owens (Emeritus), Carole Updyke (President), Virginia Kazmierczak (Vice President), William Rice (Treasurer), Stacie DeFreitas (Secretary), Donnica Blackful, Susan Clark, William Dominick, Mary Ann Geist, Sarah Austin-Morris. Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. at the Wellsprings Village location. Additionally, under the direction of the Wellsprings Board of Directors an Advisory Board was previously established to offer additional leadership and guidance.

The mailing address for Wellsprings Village, Inc. is Post Office Box 311017, Houston, Texas 77231.

## OUR CLIENTS

Wellsprings Village, Inc. served 108 homeless women between the ages of 25-50 that did not have children in their immediate care. Our target population includes women in recovery from substance abuse, women with mental health challenges and/or dual diagnosed, and women that have experienced domestic violence. Wellsprings client population was diverse in ethnicity, race, backgrounds, and culture. Most clients came to Wellsprings from drug treatment programs, emergency shelters, and from the street.



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## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

### OUR LEGACY

In 1988, Sister Rita Owens, O.P. and Sister Justin Farinella, O.P., responded to the need for stable, long term housing and services for homeless women that did not have children in their immediate care. These two courageous Dominican Sisters founded Wellsprings and established its mission:

**“To provide a safe growthful environment for homeless and abused women. We seek to empower them to become economically, self-sustaining, contributing members of society.”**

While they understood that emergency shelters met the immediate needs of homeless women, short term shelters stays did not provide an adequate amount of time for them to overcome the destructive cycles of domestic violence, substance abuse and poverty. Returning to destructive lifestyles often became the destination for women that left emergency shelters with nowhere to go leaving them trapped in the cycle of homelessness. Wellsprings Village was birthed to address the need for long-term stable housing with supportive services.

**Wellsprings has served over 2,500 women since their doors opened in 1988.**

### THE WELLSPRINGS SOLUTION

Wellsprings Village provides stable housing and structured supportive services to homeless women that will give them the opportunity to make significant positive lifestyle changes that will allow them to rise from the ashes of despair and hopelessness to a life of productivity and self worth.

In addition to housing, Wellsprings offers the following services for their clients:

- Comprehensive case management;
- Employment readiness & employment search assistance
- Transportation in the form of bus passes and in agency vehicles;
- Personal supplies, household items, supplemental food and clothing;
- Counseling (individual & group), recovery coaching, and crisis intervention;
- Life skills education to encourage personal growth & development.

Wellsprings considers a resident's departure successful when they have obtained and maintained full time employment, learned to apply new life skills, and have established a savings account. Wellsprings conducts periodic Client Evaluation Surveys to assess the advantages of program services as well as to gain feedback from the resident regarding the services offered and what is most beneficial in order for them to complete the program successfully.

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### PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Wellsprings Village is a multi-faceted transitional housing facility that has eight four bedroom houses constructed on a three acre tract of land in Houston, Harris County, Texas. Wellsprings utilizes six of the houses for transitional housing; one house is used for administrative/program offices and the remaining house is used for weekly meetings and classes; it also houses the computer lab, resident library, clothes closet and counselor's office. This location provides a safe, nurturing environment for the homeless women who have multiple barriers that have precipitated their homelessness.

Upon entering Wellsprings, each resident is assigned to a Client Advocate who provides comprehensive case management which includes linkage to community based resources, follow-up meetings to monitor progress in accomplishing service plan goals as well as providing encouragement and motivation. Each resident's situation requires individualized care that directly addresses the root causes of her homelessness; whether it is domestic violence, substance abuse, poverty, or combinations of these issues.

Clients share living quarters and household chores in a secure and safe environment that is monitored by staff during the day and overnight. Within a structured environment the women engage in employment readiness and employment search activities, attend life skills education with an emphasis on time management and financial literacy so that they will be able to obtain and maintain gainful employment. After successfully maintaining employment the clients establish a savings account that will assist them with their transition to independent living when they exit the program. Discharge planning is also a part of the case management process and the clients are provided with referrals to housing resources that will fit within their income range.

**At maximum capacity 44 women can be served in the Transitional Housing Program.**

### OUR TEAM

Wellsprings Village has a dedicated team that is committed to the mission and provides the services needed to the clients that are being served. The staff consist of: Valerie Beckham (Executive Director), Cheryl Pratts (Resident Coordinator), Nirra Lockhart (Full Time Client Advocate), Carmen Wright (Part-Time Client Advocate), Monique Douglas (Full Time Lead Technician), Jameka Dunn (Part-Time Technician) Donna Lucas (Part-Time Technician), Charlotte Hypolite (Part-Time Technician), Donna Knox (Part-Time Technician), Arlene Montgomery (Part-time Technician), Juanicia Lee (Part-time Technician), Cheryl McTear (Part-Time Technician) and Cheryl Rivers (Part-Time Financial Administrator).

### VOLUNTEERS

125 unduplicated volunteers contributed an average of 1429 hours of service. These community members were dedicated and committed to the mission of Wellsprings by providing leadership, conducting fund raising activities, organizing special events, and providing in-kind donations (supplies & services) to residents.

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## Funding

Wellsprings Village, Inc. was fortunate to receive funding from a variety of sources during 2015 to support program services. The total amount of contributed support for the year was \$438,052. Support was received from the following sources: Individuals, Churches, Foundations, Corporations, Government Grants, Program Income, Fundraisers, Wellsprings Guild, and the United Way of Greater Houston. Government grant funds included Emergency Food & Shelter, Child Care Council of Greater Houston, and STAR Drug Court.

