



Wellsprings Village, Inc.

"Wellsprings provides a safe, nurturing environment for women who were homeless or abused, helping them to become independent, contributing members of our community."



A Publication of Wellsprings Village, Inc.

Annual Report Issue August 2020

We Miss You!

So many of our annual fundraising events have had to be postponed or cancelled this year. Our Founders Luncheon originally scheduled for April was rescheduled for August and now is again postponed. Our golf tournament was scheduled for March and eventually held in June with half the usual teams participating. Our very popular wine tasting party has not happened either. While we have reserved a date for the annual gala with Chateau Crystale for November 20 it is still up in the air as well.

As a result of all this our coffers are running dry. Please consider a donation in the amount you may have donated to attend any of these events. Thank you.

Our annual golf tournament was a great success thanks to the generous participants who attended this year. The tournament was held on June 8th at Quail Valley Golf Course. We had only 6 teams participate but all enjoyed the event. All distancing protocols were followed and golfers enjoyed a light breakfast and box lunch along with a fun hole, raffle and auction.



www.wellspringsvillage.org

From our Executive Director

This has truly been a challenging year for everyone! While we have managed to work through difficult circumstances both personally and professionally there is still an urgency to help those that are less fortunate. We've managed to maneuver through curfews and the Work Safe Stay Home order that was issued for our city and one thing that has remained constant is that homelessness continues to be an issue for our community. Emergency shelters are not taking any new admissions and there are only a few domestic violence shelters that are able to continue providing services to those experiencing domestic violence.



The pandemic has affected us all and as we continue to work towards staying healthy and safe, the responsibility to help women who are homeless continues to be a priority at Wellsprings Village. Safety measures have been implemented on campus in order to protect residents, staff, and new admissions. We are working diligently to revamp our service delivery methods for our residents. In-person classes were suspended in March, however individual counseling sessions were re-started in June and are being held in person, via Zoom or teleconference. Residents are also being linked to virtual 12 Step meetings, employment readiness classes, and financial education classes.

We have been extremely fortunate to receive donations of sanitizer, masks, and nonperishable food items from The Tzi Chi Foundation. Since we were unable to purchase disinfectant wipes, we were able to make them for the resident houses with the donations that the Tzi Chi's provided. While they have worked with residents and provided donations for several years, they continued to provide donations even though they were not able to meet with the women as they had in the past.

Kappa Kappa Gamma made a special donation to provide basic needs for residents during this difficult time. We are profoundly grateful for our supporters and their commitment to the mission and vision of Wellsprings Village.

Although these are trying times I am reminded of the tenacity of our founders, Sr. Justin and Sr. Rita. Their determination made Wellsprings a reality and their faith propelled them to move forward and trust God to provide what was needed for the organization to be successful. We are especially thankful for you and your support and it is our prayer that you will be safe and healthy!

Valerie Beckham

Wellsprings collaborated with Excel Billing to present a medical coding and billing class to residents that were interested in obtaining additional job skills training. The classes were held twice weekly on campus from June to November. Three residents and an additional student successfully completed the program and received a Certificate of Completion on November 21, 2019.

Staff, residents, along with their instructor, Yolanda Williams, celebrated their achievement and wished them well for the next phase of the program which would prepare them for the exam. The exam preparation class was scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2020 however due to the pandemic it was placed on hold. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide on campus job skills training that will help the residents earn higher wages as well as open doors for other opportunities.





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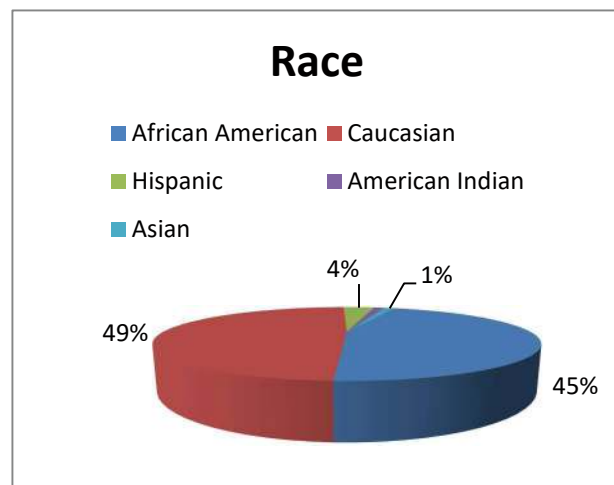
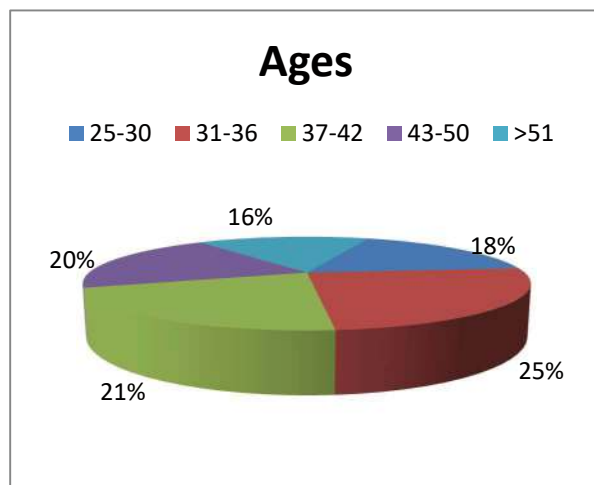
THE BOARD

Wellsprings Village, Inc. has been fortunate to have board members that are committed and dedicated to our mission to serve the homeless women in our community. During 2019, the board's membership consisted of the following members: Most Reverend Joseph Fiorenza (Honorary), Carole Updyke (President), Virginia Kazmierczak (Vice President/Secretary), William K. Rice (Treasurer), Charles Carmouche, Veril Hughes, Mary Ann Geist, Mark Janik, Sarah Austin-Morris, and Cindy Stowell. Board meetings were held on the third Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m., at Wellsprings Village.

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

OUR RESIDENTS

Our resident population was diverse in background, culture, age and race: African American, American Indian Asian, Caucasian, and Hispanic.



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OUR LEGACY

Over three decades ago, in 1988, Sister Rita Owens, O.P. and Sister Justin Farinella, O.P., birthed the vision of Wellsprings in response to the need for stable, long term housing and supportive services for women experiencing homelessness that did not have children in their immediate care. Their goal was to create a safe place where women could take the time needed to work on issues and problems that plagued their lives and subsequently caused them to become homeless. These two courageous Dominican Sisters founded Wellsprings and established its mission:

“Wellsprings provides a safe, nurturing environment for women who were homeless or abused, helping them to become independent, contributing members of our community.”

THE WELLSPRINGS SOLUTION

Through the provision of stable housing and supportive services our transitional housing program gives homeless women the chance to rebuild their lives, become economically and emotionally equipped to achieve their true potential - lives of independence, self-respect and freedom from the bondage of addictions. Participation in our program and services allows the women to gain strength, education, support and hope.

Wellsprings offers the following services for its residents:

- Safe, stable housing in six four-bedroom homes
- Comprehensive case management
- Transportation in the form of bus passes and agency van rides
- Food, clothing, personal supplies, & household items
- Individual & group counseling
- Employment readiness and employment search assistance
- Life skills education classes
- Crisis intervention sessions

Upon entering Wellsprings, a woman is assigned to a case manager who completes a needs assessment, service plan and links them to the services that they need. Residents participate in the development and implementation of service plan goals and objectives that target three key areas: education & employment, personal growth & development and locating permanent housing. Case management is a critical component that provides continuous contact, support, and motivation to the resident while monitoring their progress in achieving their service plan goals. Each resident's situation requires a plan of action that is specific to their needs and directly addresses the root causes of the self-destructive behavior that led to their homelessness.

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Residents attend individual and/or group counseling sessions to address the root causes of their self-destructive behaviors and encourage new coping skills. Additionally, the residents learn important life skills with an emphasis on time and financial management so that they can responsibly manage their daily lives. Wellsprings conducts periodic Resident Evaluation Surveys to assess the advantages of program services from the resident's perspective. Their feedback is instrumental in making changes or revisions relative to programmatic issues as well as to determine the benefit of the services that are offered to them.

At capacity, 40 women can receive housing and supportive services at Wellsprings Village.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2019, Wellsprings provided 9,331 bed nights to 84 women who were experiencing homelessness.

Wellsprings considers a resident's departure a "successful exit" when they have obtained and maintained employment that pays a livable wage, have established a savings account, and learned to apply new life skills that would allow them to live independently. It was extremely rewarding to witness forty four (44) women successfully exit the program during the operating year; this represented 87% of the women that exited during the year. Their success was evidenced by continued gainful employment, an established savings, and their move to permanent housing.

During the year, Wellsprings provided over 1,870 bus rides to program residents. The bus passes provided allowed them to search for employment, go to work, medical appointments, and to take care of other important personal business matters. In addition to bus passes, agency vehicles provided over 3,450 rides to take the residents to and from bus stops and other locations. Wellsprings provided over \$8,270 of personal supplies and household items to the residents, of which \$3,000 were in-kind donations received from our generous supporters.

OUR TEAM

Wellsprings Village has a dedicated team who are committed to serving the homeless women that are admitted to the program. During 2019, the following full-time employees were: Valerie Beckham (Executive Director), Julie Brown, (Financial Administrator), Nirra Lockhart (Resident Advocate), Carmen Wright (Resident Advocate), Monique Douglas (Lead Resident Technician), Evelyn Brass (Resident Technician), and Aaron Blake (Security). The following part-time employees during 2019 were: Alicia Allen (Resident Technician), Terri Harris (Resident Technician), Latrice Kelley (Resident Technician), Erica Lohse (Resident Technician), Kimberley Teter (Resident Technician), Darlene Williams (Resident Technician), Cheryl Pratts (Resident Coordinator), and Seba Suber (Financial Administrator).

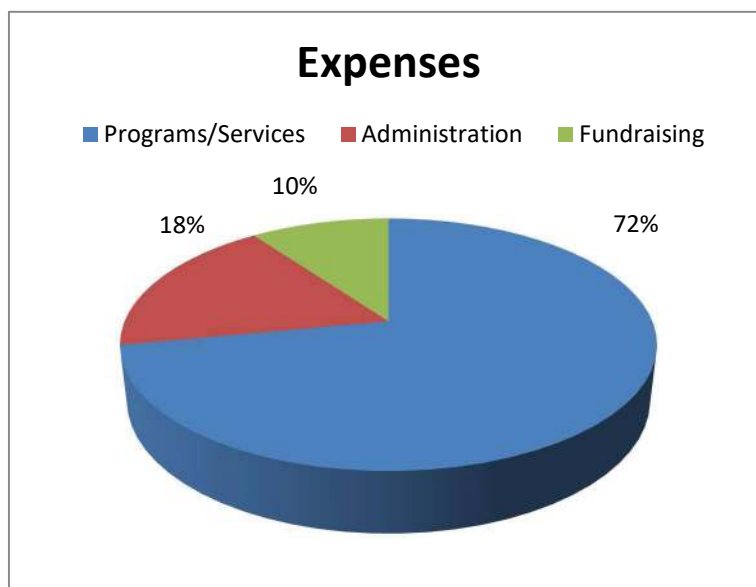
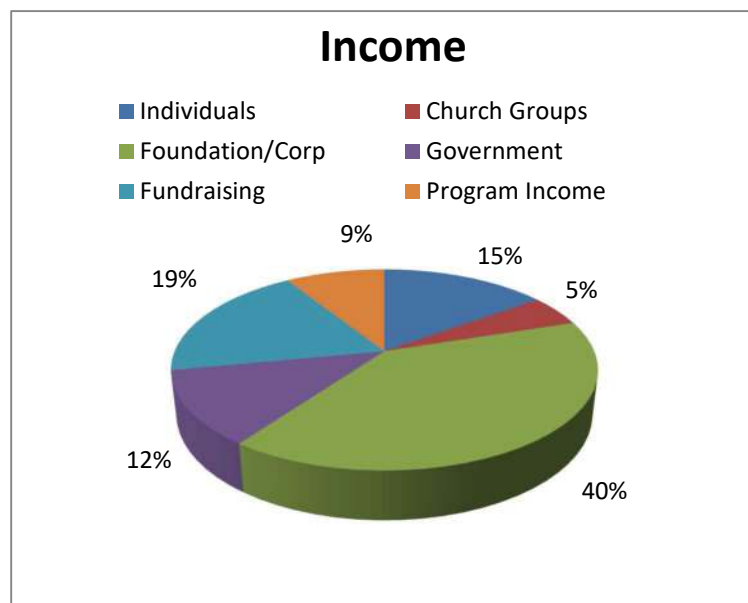
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VOLUNTEERS

During the 2019 operating year Wellsprings had 125 unduplicated volunteers that contributed over 2850 hours of service. These volunteers and community members committed their time and talents to the mission of Wellsprings by providing pro bono services, in-kind donations, leadership, fund raising and organizing special events and projects to benefit the program and its residents.

FUNDING

Wellsprings Village, Inc. was fortunate to receive funding from a variety of supporters who believe in our mission. Support was received from the following sources: Individual Donors, Foundations, Fund-raising Events, Emergency Food & Shelter Program, Churches, Groups & Corporations, and Government Grants. Wellsprings total income for 2019 was \$447,185 and total expenses were \$555,470. The ending net assets for 2019 totaled \$1,710,864.



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Save the Date

Wellsprings Village Annual Gala

Friday, November 20, 2020

Chateau Crystale, Houston

(COVID-19 permitting)



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Wellsprings Village, Inc.

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