



## WELLSPRINGS VILLAGE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

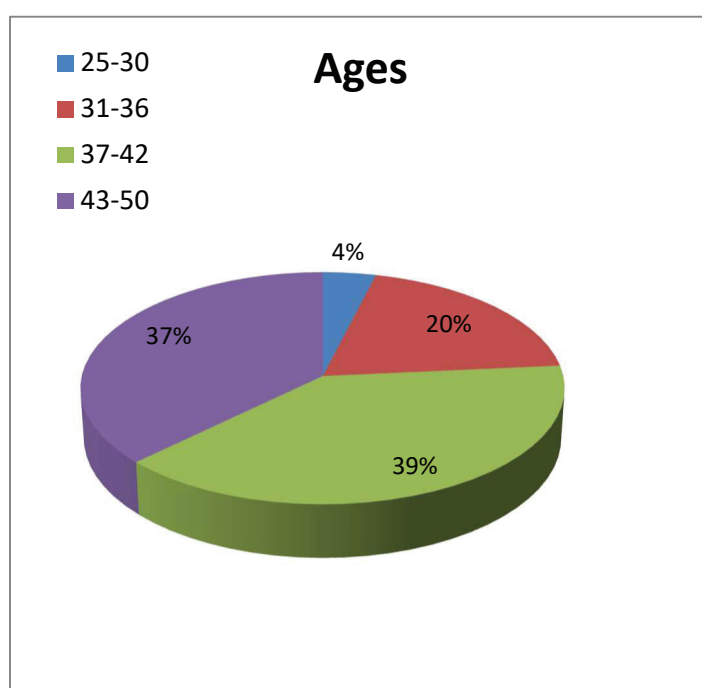
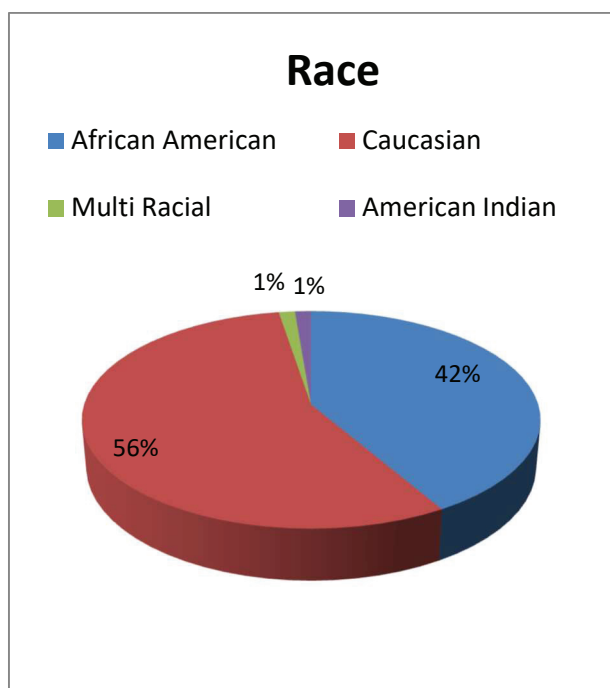
### THE BOARD

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 2020, 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. In 2020, board meetings were held in person for the months of January and February. From March forward meetings were held via conference call and/or Zoom. Meetings were held on the third Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m.

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: American Indian, African American, Multi-Racial and Caucasian.



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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 housing and supportive services for women experiencing homelessness who 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 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. Participation in our programs 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
- Counseling (individual & group)
- Employment readiness
- Job skills training
- Life skills education classes
- Crisis intervention.

Upon entering Wellsprings, each resident is assigned to an advocate who works in tandem with them to formulate a service plan and link them to services needed to accomplish the goals identified in their service plan. 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 specific to their needs which directly addresses the root causes of the self-destructive behavior that has led to their homelessness, whether it be domestic violence, substance abuse, poverty, or a combination of these reasons.

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All residents participate in the development and implementation of service plan goals and objectives that target education & employment, personal growth & development and locating permanent housing. 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 life skills that emphasize 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.

**Wellsprings Village can provide housing and supportive services for 40 – 48 women experiencing homelessness.**

### 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2020, Wellsprings provided 9,931 bed nights to 77 women who were experiencing homelessness. While the pandemic had its share of challenges, we were extremely excited to have 97% of our residents successfully exit the program and transition into permanent housing! This was an 11% increase from the previous year and the highest number of successful graduates in five years. 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.

Although Metro allowed free bus rides for several months during the pandemic, Wellsprings provided over 947 bus rides to program residents. The bus passes 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 2,867 van rides to take the residents to and from bus stops and other locations. Wellsprings provided \$5,012 of personal supplies and household items to the residents and \$2,867 of in-kind donations that were 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 2020, the following full-time employees included: Valerie Beckham (Executive Director), Nirra Lockhart (Program Liaison), Carmen Wright (Client Advocate), Monique Douglas (Lead Resident Technician), Evelyn Brass (Resident Technician), and Aaron Blake (Security). The following part-time employees during 2020 included: Alicia Allen (Resident Technician), Toshia Alexander (Resident Technician), Julie Brown, (Financial Administrator), Latrice Kelley (Resident Technician), Cheryl Pratts (Resident Coordinator, and Paterra Warren, (Resident Technician).

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## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteerism looked different during 2020 because of the pandemic. In person activities were cancelled on multiple occasions during the operating year. Despite the health crisis, volunteers spent quite a bit of time gathering critically needed supplies for the residents and the staff. Masks, sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, sprays and other items were donated by volunteers and distributed as needed by staff. Wellsprings had 70 unduplicated volunteers that contributed over 1100 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 2020 was \$389,918 and total expenses were \$481,140. The ending net assets for 2020 totaled \$1,621,744.

