



#### MISSION

**My Sister's Place (MSP) seeks to end domestic violence and empower survivors to live healthy, independent lives free from violence.**

#### HISTORY

For over 40 years, **MSP has been an innovator** in changing lives by providing DC's first hotline, first domestic violence shelter, and most recently, first Batterer Intervention group. As **DC's oldest domestic violence shelter**, we have served as a cornerstone of the District's response to this pressing public health issue since 1979.

#### PROGRAMS & SERVICES

MSP is unique in *offering a continuum of care from emergency shelter through transitional-to-permanent housing*. Our experienced team of case managers and residential counselors provide clinical counseling, case management, and comprehensive services to empower survivors to recover and thrive. MSP also provides training, case consultation, and advocacy *to engage communities to prevent violence and abuse*.

**Sanctuary Plus** - our 90-day emergency shelter for women feeling domestic violence and their children. Home to 15 families, Sanctuary Plus provides residents with counseling, case management, daily coaching and referrals to enable them to successfully transition to permanent housing and independence.

**Reaching Independence through Survivor Empowerment (RISE)** - our 1-year transitional-to-permanent housing program where staff provides case management and financial literacy resources aimed to empower participants. Rental payments are subsidized by MSP for the year. Families have the option to remain in the homes they have built for themselves after exiting the program.

**Aftercare** - clients exiting our housing programs receive up to 90 days of aftercare with case-management staff, who provide ongoing support and referrals as needed.

**Outreach & Education** - our programs include regular community trainings and educational events to service providers and community members, as well as a Latino Outreach Program, which provides resources to DC's Spanish speaking residents.

**Batterer Intervention Group** - a 24-week intensive program that provides fathers who are batterers with tools to address their abusive behaviour.

#### IMPACT for FY17:

- **43 women and 80 children** were provided with emergency shelter and transitional housing
- **1000 case management and counseling sessions** were provided to victims of domestic violence
- **103 women and children** received aftercare services
- **34 families** transitioned from MSP's programs into transitional or permanent housing placements
- **20,383 pieces of literature** raising awareness about domestic violence were distributed to the community

*"Over 20 years ago, I was so desperate to escape my abuser, I picked up everything I had, and fled in the middle of the night with all four of my children. I found shelter and community at My Sister's Place. Their staff helped me find transitional housing, employment, and job training. I ended up receiving my certification in information technology, which has allowed me to remain employed and independent to this day.*

*But the story doesn't end there. Last year, my daughter called me saying she needed help. As painful as it is for a mother to hear her daughter is experiencing the same abuse I escaped so many years ago, I immediately directed her to My Sister's Place, because I knew they would take care of her. She is now safe in transitional housing with my grandchildren. I have My Sister's Place to thank for taking care of my whole family. "*

- LaToya\*, MSP client and survivor

\*Names and identifying details changed to protect client confidentiality

**Interested in learning more? View our 2017 Annual Report on our website.**