



# Annual Report 2018

My Sister's Place  
1436 U Street, NW Suite 303  
Washington, DC 20009

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# From Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As we reflect back on the year, I am in awe of what we have achieved with your support. In this report, we share the accomplishments of our small but mighty MSP team and the tenacious, courageous survivors we serve.

These are my favorite highlights, because each number represents the heroic survivors we've supported this year, and their individual transformational journeys:

\*108 women and children were provided with safe, secure shelter for an average of 90 days

\*763 case management and counseling sessions were provided, including 153 psycho-education workshops

\*145 women and children transitioned to transitional or permanent housing

\*321 safety plans developed with Domestic Violence survivors

We celebrate these successes because behind each number is the inspiring story of a survivor of domestic violence who was able to get the life-saving support needed to transform their future. There are still too many survivors who are not getting the essential help they so desperately need. With your continued support – I know we will be able to help them.

MSP demonstrated this year just how impactful specialized trauma-informed services are in effectively combating domestic violence in our communities. Thank you for empowering our mission to remain a safe resource for the victims of domestic violence who come to us for help.

Please take a moment to read more about our life-saving work and be inspired by the amazingly resilient and brave survivors we serve. We hope that you will translate that inspiration into action by continuing to support our work and mission.

Thank you,

Mercedes Lemp  
Executive Director  
My Sister's Place

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Board Co-Chair

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Board Treasurer

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Ex Officio  
Executive Director



## Our Mission

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

For over 40 years, MSP has been an innovator in changing lives by providing DC's first hotline and first domestic violence shelter, and now by taking a public health approach to the epidemic of domestic violence. 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, and our impact on DC's community remains as strong as ever.

MSP is unique in offering a full continuum of care from emergency shelter through transitional-to-permanent housing. Our experienced team of case managers and residential counselors provides 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. Our goal is to end domestic violence, and empower everyone to build healthy lives and relationships.

# Our Impact

## Survivor Perspective

Thank you to our amazing staff for making this work possible

“

I remember that first day I called and spoke to Ms. Barbara. She was my first sight of light - but then it took too long for me to be placed. I was about to give up and continue living in my unhappy and abusive marriage, but then Ms. Abby called. My second sign of light. The love and support has permanently lit the light which I was seeing from a distance. I almost lost hope, and MSP restored and brought my hope back.”

- Jessica

“

The Family Care Coordinator taught me that I can do anything I put my mind to. I learned that I can trust others, and there are a lot of people in my corner. My mom doesn't seem to worry so much. I am happy that my little sister and mom are safe. I'm really happy that I don't have to hide under my bed anymore.”

-Kareem

“

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. I don't know what I would do without the support of MSP.

-Diane”

Joviah Ndahayo  
Grants & Finance Manager

Chandra Robinson, LICSW  
Director of Programs

Renae Erichsen-Teal  
Development Manager

Toshica Jones  
Volunteer & Operations  
Coordinator

Lorin Kleinman  
Admin & HR Director

Toshira Monroe  
Shelter Program Manager

Lisa Scaglione, LMSW  
Community Programs and RISE  
Supervisor

Gabriela DeLeon  
Outreach Coordinator/  
Latino Liaison

Abby Singh, MSW, LGSW  
Children's Programs Specialist  
& Social Worker

Manga Omasombo, MSW,  
LGSW  
Social Worker

Elizabeth Horrigan, LICSW  
Clinical Social Worker

Crismeily Maloney  
Family Care Coordinator

Avril Palton  
Sr. Residential Counselor

LyKeyia Lucas  
Evening Residential Counselor

Zenobia Proctor  
Evening Residential Counselor

Barbara Matthews  
Overnight Residential  
Counselor

Laverne Brown  
Chef/Kitchen Manager

# 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 provides a safe haven for survivors of domestic violence and their children. 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 innovative transitional-to-permanent housing program helps families fleeing from domestic violence move from crisis and homelessness to safety and stability. Our staff provide case management and other supportive resources aimed to empower RISE participants. Rental payments are subsidized by MSP for one year. Families have the option to remain in the homes they have made for themselves, promoting long-term self-sufficiency and freedom from abuse.



**Community Outreach and Education:** eradicating domestic violence requires a coordinated community response that embraces prevention and intervention. My Sister's Place collaborates with district partners and community members to ensure that service providers and community members are equipped to appropriately respond to victims' needs.



**Aftercare:** upon exiting our residential and non-residential programs, survivors are provided ongoing contact with case-management staff to support them in their independence. Services include counseling, referrals to community-based services, and advocacy as needed. Our goal is to assist clients in building long-term supportive systems within their communities, to reduce the likelihood of future victimization.

# Program Impact

...October 2017 - September 2018

Survivors are provided holistic care under the direction of licensed case managers. Our combination of clinical care and a survivor-centered approach to domestic violence allows us to create a continuum of care that leads to empowerment and independence.



763 case management and counseling sessions were provided, including 153 psycho-education workshops



262 mental health service sessions empowered survivors to recover and thrive



145 women and children transitioned to transitional or permanent housing



321 safety plans developed with Domestic Violence survivors



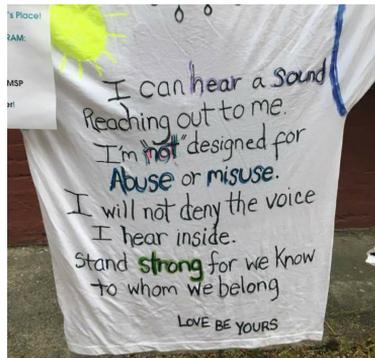
94 women and children received aftercare services, including continued case management



261 community members received DV-101 & Bystander Intervention training to educate them in supporting DV Survivors

# Community Outreach & Events

Eradicating domestic violence requires a coordinated community response that embraces prevention and intervention. MSP partners with law enforcement, the legal community, clergy, and others to ensure that service providers and community members are equipped to appropriately respond to victims' needs. MSP raises awareness about domestic violence, in English and Spanish, with a focus on prevention and intervention through the distribution of literature, dissemination of information at events, and innovative projects. Additionally, in collaboration with the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project and DASH, weekly walk-in clinics in the community to provide legal and other support to survivors seeking help.



## Clothesline Project 2018

MSP's Annual Clothesline Project empowered survivors to tell their stories on their own terms, in their own unique way - breaking through the shroud of silence that has surrounded their experience, through art-work on t-shirts that represent their journey. Members of the community walked away with an increased knowledge of the plight of survivors and education on how best to support them.

# Partners

My Sister's Place relies on community partners to provide comprehensive care to our clients. The success of our programs and events relies on the dedication of our volunteers, service partners, and donors.

## Thank You:

Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence  
Resource Project (DVRP)  
Ayuda  
Bread for the City  
Cake Brigade  
Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)  
Child and Family Services (CFSA)  
Community Family Life Services  
Dance Institute of Washington (DIW)  
DC Metropolitan Police Department  
DC Safe  
DC Volunteer Lawyers Project (DCVLP)  
Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)  
Department of Health (DOH)  
Help Me Grow  
Department of Human Services (DHS)



District Alliance – Safe Housing (DASH)  
District of Columbia Coalition Against Domestic  
Violence (DCCADV)  
Eloqui  
FBI Community Outreach  
House of Ruth  
Institute for Women's Policy Research  
Love By The Handles  
Mary's Center  
National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)  
Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG)  
Street Law, Inc.  
The Family Place  
The Rosemount Center  
U.S. Dept. of Justice  
Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)  
University of Maryland

# FINANCIALS

## 4-STAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR

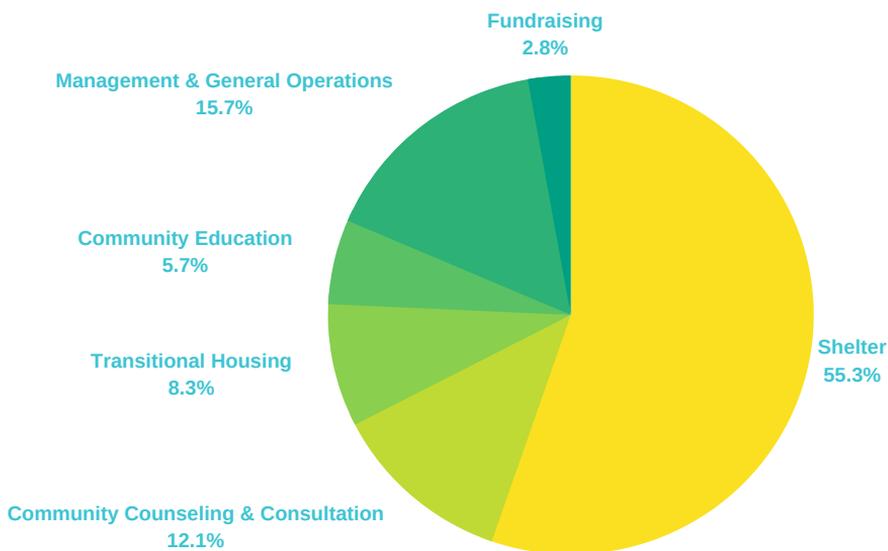


Charity Navigator is America's premier independent charity evaluator. They help charitable givers make intelligent giving decisions by providing in-depth, objective ratings and analysis of the financial health and accountability & transparency of America's largest charities. Charity Navigator awarded My Sister's Place four out of a possible four stars. This indicates that My Sister's Place adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities, and that My Sister's Place consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way.

## Statement of Activities FY18

<u>Revenue and Support:</u>	<u>\$ in actuals</u>	<u>% of revenue</u>
<b>Grants</b>	1,388,065.00	74.25%
Other Contributions	327,222.00	17.50%
Child & Family Services	59,841.00	3.20%
United Way/CFC	23,756.00	1.27%
In-Kind Services	56,572.00	3.03%
Program Fees	-	0.00%
Special events	7,768.00	0.42%
Interest and dividend income	528.00	0.03%
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	143.00	0.01%
Other Income	5,669.00	0.30%
<b>Total unrestricted Revenue and Support</b>	<b>1,869,564.00</b>	
 <b>Expenses:</b>		
Program Services:		
Shelter Services	1,069,286.00	55.28%
Community Education	110,653.00	5.72%
Community Counseling and Consultation	234,750.00	12.14%
Transitional housing	160,503.00	8.30%
Total Program services	1,575,192.00	
Supporting services:		
Management and general	304,077.00	15.72%
Fundraising	55,007.00	2.84%
Total supporting services	359,084.00	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,934,276.00</b>	

# FY18 Expenses



## Thank You

Thank you for caring. Thank you for believing.  
Thank you for being a part of our amazing work.

Everything we do is powered by you, our community - passionate supporters, donors, fundraisers, influencers, and partners. Thank you to all of the compassionate individuals, companies, grantors and foundations who heard our call and partnered with us, in pursuit of our mission to end domestic violence and empower survivors to live healthy, independent lives free from violence.





ENDING VIOLENCE EMPOWERING LIVES

my sister's place

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

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