



SOJOURNER  
HOUSE

# SOJOURNER HOUSE

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## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



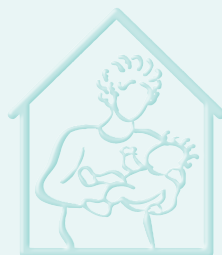
SOJOURNER  
HOUSE MOMS



## Dear friends of Sojourner House,

### OUR MISSION:

*“Offering compassionate, faith-based recovery services to mothers and their children.”*



Sojourner House has been in existence since 1991. Although much has changed since its inception, Sojourner House has lived by these words for nearly 30 years.

The year 2019 was certainly a year of change for Sojourner House, with long-time Sojourner House Executive Director Joann Cyganovich retiring in June, after 12 years in that role. In October, I became the fifth person to step into the Executive Director position. I am honored to be following in the footsteps of my accomplished, committed predecessors.

As you'll see in the pages ahead, this past year – as in the years before – our organization continued to help families trying to live healthy, independent and gratifying lives. As many Sojourner House supporters already know, my professional background is in the human service field in Pittsburgh, so I have been familiar with Sojourner House's mission for many years. Our services have been and will continue to be needed. Staff and volunteers are indispensable to any organization, but most especially to an organization such as ours that directly addresses the challenging emotional and social battles in the struggle against the disease of addiction. Thanks to our exemplary board of directors, staff, volunteers, donors, and other friends, well over 1,000 mothers and their children have been supported.



Thank you for your continuous support of our organization. We are honored to present you with the 2019 annual report.

**De'netta Benjamin-Miller**  
Executive Director



De'netta Benjamin-Miller joined Sojourner House in October 2019. Ms. Benjamin-Miller is a practicing clinician who most recently served as Director of Behavioral Health at Familylinks. She brings over 10 years of management experience and 18 years of experience as a behavioral health clinician to the role. A Homewood resident who grew up in the Lincoln-Larimer neighborhood, Ms. Benjamin-Miller's leadership ability and clinical experience will continue to strengthen the work our organizations do in the community.

## Sojourner House MOMS

### SUPPORTIVE

#### Housing Program

- 13** Adults received housing and supportive services from MOMS Supportive Housing Program.
- 18** Children received services from MOMS Supportive Housing Program.
- 78%** Families graduated.
- 228** Average length of stay (in days).
- 3** Parents attended school or worked.
- 92%** Parents who maintained legal custody.
- 4** Children reunified with parents.
- 11** Children participated in academic programs and attended school regularly.

#### DRUG OF CHOICE:

- Opioids / Heroin ..... **85%**
- Meth / Marijuana ..... **7.5%**
- Alcohol / Cocaine ..... **7.5%**



## Sojourner House MOMS

### PERMANENT

#### Housing Program

- 54** Adults received housing and supportive services provided by MOMS.
- 22** Adults received supportive services provided by outside sources.
- 89** Children received services by MOMS.
- 12** Children received services by outside sources.
- 16** Parents attended school or worked.
- 96%** Parents maintained legal custody.
- 3** Children reunified with their parents
- 45** Children participated in academic programming and attended school regularly.
- 20** Youths enjoyed MOMS Summer Camp.
- 40** Children made honor roll and were promoted to the next grade.

## SOJOURNER HOUSE

- Total number of women served:..... **58**
- Average age of women served:..... **31**
- Children served: ..... **20**
- Children reunified with their mothers:..... **2**

#### RACE OF WOMEN:

- African American ..... **21%**
- Caucasian..... **74%**
- Biracial ..... **3%**
- Hispanic ..... **2%**

Women that graduated:..... **17%**

Average stay: ..... **90 days**

Women who completed 90 days:..... **43%**

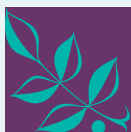
#### DRUG OF CHOICE:

- Opioids / Heroin ..... **67%**
- Cocaine ..... **9%**
- Methamphetamine ..... **7%**
- Crack Cocaine ..... **14%**
- Alcohol..... **3%**

# Sojourner House & Sojourner House MOMS 2019 at-a-Glance



**N**UMEROUS CHURCHES throughout the region once again charitably supported Sojourner House. A highlight in 2019 was **Shadyside Presbyterian Annual Retreat** for the residents and their children. As the children enjoyed a morning of fun in the church's daycare room, new board member **Ron Szwarc** and regular SoHo speaker **Patty Jasko** shared their stories of recovery with the residents. The day also included a panel discussion with new board member **Nishauna Ball**, who was a resident as a child, graduate **Shayne Castrucci**, and **Sheryl St. Germain**, who founded Chatham University's **Words Without Walls** Program (a treasured part of Sojourner House's weekly resident schedule for seven years). Other church support included **Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church's Harvest Fair**, **Southminster Presbyterian Church** funding for the recently launched Sojourner House MOMS early supportive housing, and **Shadyside Presbyterian Church's Strawberry Festival**.



RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM: A yoga instructor guided participants at Shadyside Presbyterian Church's October retreat for Sojourner House and MOMS residents • Presbyterian Church retreat planning committee Barbara Ernsberger, Caroline Sterling, Bea Jones, Susan Wood, Jennifer Paty, Mimi Datt, Lisa Iadicicco, and Charlotte Beukema • Sojourner House volunteers Emily Wasel, left, and Reed McManigle, supported Sojourner staff member Lindsey Hayakawa collect in-kind donations at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church's Harvest Fair, in September • Shadyside Presbyterian Church's June Strawberry Festival proceeds benefited Sojourner House.







ABOVE: Sojourner House and MOMS children enjoyed such activities as academic programming, and field trips to the Pittsburgh Zoo and the Carnegie Science Center during Summer 2019.

**T**HE SOJOURNER HOUSE MOMS summer camps are a vital and fun aspect of the Sojourner House mission to support mothers and their children as they transition to a healthy and substance-free life together. This past summer – just like every summer – children of Sojourner House MOMS clients were given an opportunity to learn and grow while enjoying all that summer in Pittsburgh has to offer. Four days each week in July and August, the children participated in academic programs, physical activity, artistic projects, and a weekly field trip. Sponsored by the **Homeless Children's Education Fund (HCEF)**, the summer camp was staffed by community volunteers and teachers from the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Favorite activities of the campers were trips to the **Pittsburgh Zoo** and the **Carnegie Science Center**, cooling off at the spray park, and creating masterpieces with the **Citiparks Roving Art Cart**.



## words without walls

in partnership with Chatham University's MFA in Creative Writing Program



Sojourner House residents participate in a reading at the end of each "Words Without Walls" semester. The Spring semester reading took place at Creative Nonfiction, in Bloomfield.



**T**HE 15TH ANNUAL VICTORIAN TEA presented by Sojourner House moved to a new location, the elegant Omni William Penn Hotel, and honored East Liberty Development Inc. **Executive Director Maelene Myers**, who served as MOMS board president for an unprecedented 10 years. **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Executive Director Harris Ferris**, and his wife, former Sojourner House staffer **Janet Ferris**, served as honorary co-chairs. More than 300 guests attended the event, including representatives from Presenting Sponsor UPMC/UPMC Health Plan. The event raised \$60,000.

TOP ROW: Sojourner House's 15th Victorian Tea took place in a new home in 2019 – the Omni William Penn Hotel • Honorary co-chair Janet Ferris and Pearl of Hope honoree Maelene Myers • Honorary co-chair Harris Ferris.

BOTTOM ROW: Former Sojourner House executive directors Norma Raiff and Joann Cyganovich congratulated 2019 Pearl of Hope honoree Maelene Myers, who served as MOMS board president for 10 years • 2019 Victorian Tea Committee: L-R: Sarah Mayer, Liz Harrington, Joann Cyganovich, Nancy Davis, Susan Orr, Christie Smith, Lindsey Hayakawa, Lisa Iadicicco, Daniel Pushcarich



Former Executive Director Joann Cyganovich and WESA-FM "Confluence" Editor/Producer Megan Harris



**WESA-FM "Confluence"** interviewed retired Executive Director **Joann Cyganovich** immediately following the PA Supreme Court's ruling that women who use drugs during pregnancy are not guilty of child abuse. Ms. Cyganovich said she hoped that "this ruling will encourage more women to seek out similar programs."



**C**OLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES throughout the region also were great supporters in 2019. Example: **Point Park University's Honors Student Organization** chose Sojourner House as its 2019 Donation Drive recipient. Approximately 120 students brought their donations to the organization's August 19 Welcome Dinner. The huge amount of donations included cleaning supplies, toiletries, hygiene products, paper towels, and other household supplies.

Sojourner House Director of Development Susan Orr and Point Park University Honors Student Organization members filled her car with donations following the organization's Welcome Dinner.

**F**RIENDS OF SOJOURNER HOUSE including community leaders celebrated new Executive Director **De'netta Benjamin-Miller's** arrival, at a meet-and-greet on Oct. 29 at Hotel Indigo. A practicing behavioral health clinician for nearly 20 years, Ms. Benjamin-Miller emphasized her passion for the missions of Sojourner House and MOMS, at the event.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Sojourner House board president Christie Smith, Anthony Dolan of Alphabet City Development, and former board members Lynne Chadwick and Mary Bockovich • Executive Director De'netta Benjamin-Miller and her husband, Pittsburgh architect Marvin Miller • Staff members Lindsey Hayakawa, Dominic Zappa, Kyona White, Kholsen Hightower, Rita Hill, and Rochelle Gaines





Christie Smith



Liz Harrington



Nancy Davis



Serina Green



Tom Klemmer



Kimberley Miller



Col. Ronald Szwarc



Dr. Staci Flint



Gary Cirrincione, RA



Nishauna Ball, LSW

2019 NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS:

Sojourner House:

Christie Smith, President
Liz Harrington, Vice President
Kelly M. Dane, Treasurer
Nancy D. Davis, Secretary
Nishauna Ball, LSW
Serina Green
Tom Klemmer
Kimberley A. Miller, CPA
Ret. Col. Ronald Szwarc

Sojourner House MOMS:

Dr. Staci Flint, President
Gary J. Cirrincione, RA, Vice President
Nishauna Ball, LSW

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 FINANCIALS

REVENUE:



Table with 2 columns: Revenue Category, Amount. Rows: Government grants (\$1,227,133), Program (\$1,305,318), Other grants & public support (\$341,637), Special events & investments (\$46,155).



EXPENSES:

Table with 2 columns: Expense Category, Amount. Rows: Program (\$2,642,548), General and Administrative (\$475,194), Fundraising (\$109,311).

## SOJOURNER HOUSE

De'netta Benjamin-Miller, LCSW  
Executive Director

### Administration Team

Meghan Briggs, MA, Program Director  
Tessa Eline, Administrative Assistant  
Lindsey Hayakawa, Development +  
Communications Coordinator  
Kholsen Hightower, Human Resources Director  
Matt Lewis, CPA, Director of Finance +  
Operations  
Susan Orr, Director of Development  
Steven Renfro, Property Maintenance Director  
Dominic Zappa, Assistant Director of Finance +  
Operations

### Sojourner House Team

Cydney Anderson, Child Development Specialist  
Shanee Chambers, Recovery Support Specialist  
Christina Culley, Service Coordinator  
Tamika Davis, Lead Recovery Support Specialist  
Chastity Everett, Service Coordinator  
Jennifer Huber, Therapist  
Latina Jenkins, Recovery Support Specialist  
Barbara Jones, Recovery Support Specialist  
Rhonda Little, Therapist  
Dolores Mitchell, Program Manager  
Stephanie Pauling, Intake Assessment Specialist  
Erin Ramsey, Clinical Supervisor  
Heather Spencer, Recovery Support Specialist  
Jan Stacey Taylor, Recovery Support Specialist  
Elizabeth Wasel, Volunteer Coordinator  
Tracey Ann White, Recovery Support Specialist

### Sojourner House Board

Christie Smith, President  
Liz Harrington, Vice President  
Kelly M. Dane, Treasurer  
Nancy D. Davis, Secretary  
Judge Cheryl Allen  
Nishauna Ball, LSW  
Yodit Betru, DSW, LCSW  
Serina Green  
Lisa Iadicicco  
Tom Klemmer  
Lauren E. Marzullo  
Kimberley A. Miller, CPA  
Ret. Col. Ronald Szwarc

## Sojourner House MOMS Team

Rita Hill, Lead Family Support Specialist  
Stephenia Leavy, Family Support Specialist  
Dena Naughton, Certified Recovery Specialist  
Karen Upsher-Williams, Family Housing Manager  
Kyona White, Program Manager  
Gwendolyn Williams, Family Support Specialist

## Sojourner House MOMS Board

Dr. Staci Flint, President  
Gary J. Cirrincione, RA, Vice President  
Christie Smith, Treasurer  
Nishauna Ball, LSW  
Karla Barham  
Yodit Betru, DSW, LCSW  
Gloria Brown  
Demi Kolke  
Norma Raiff, Ph.D., LSW



## SOJOURNER HOUSE

5907 Penn Avenue, Suite 220  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
412-441-7783  
SojournerHousePA.org  
United Way Contributor Choice #4286



## Foundations & Community Organizations

### \$20,000 +

FISA Foundation  
Southminster Presbyterian Church

### \$10,000 - \$19,999

PNC Charitable Trust  
Shadyside Presbyterian Church  
UPMC/UPMC Health Plan

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church  
JFS Wealth Advisors  
Lamar Advertising Company  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Allegheny Health Network  
Bethany Presbyterian Church  
Charles Burke  
CentiMark Corporation  
Chatham University  
First Presbyterian Church  
Hamilton Presbyterian Church

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield  
John McMillan Presbyterian Church  
Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation  
Sitko Bruno, LLC

### \$500 - \$999

East Liberty Presbyterian Church  
Eat'N Park  
HBK CPAs & Consultants  
Hefren-Tillotson, Inc.  
Legume Bistro/Butterjoint  
LG Realty Advisors  
Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church  
Omni William Penn Hotel  
Parkwood Presbyterian Church  
Sherrard German & Kelly, P.C.  
Signature Financial Planning  
The Mosites Company  
Trinity Tower United Methodist Church  
Walnut Capital Management



## KEY BENEFACTORS

### \$2,500

Ann Brooks  
Clifton & Patricia Callaway  
Michele Dominick  
Catherine Hayes  
Lauren & John Marzullo  
Millicent Novic

## MAJOR SUPPORTERS

### \$1,000 - \$2,499

Stephanie Bozic  
Marion Bragdon  
Laura Burke  
Lynne Chadwick  
Nancy Davis  
Michael Donahoe  
Barbara Ernsberger  
Sarah Mayer  
Dennis Popovec  
Margaret Reding  
William Schrader

Noreen Begg  
Cynthia Brooks  
Gloria Brown  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
Joann Cyganovich  
George Garrison  
Sue Golier  
Wendy Harrington  
Chris Hendrickson  
Hotel Indigo Pittsburgh East Liberty  
N. Thomas Klemmer  
Joanne LaRose  
Natasha Lightner  
Mary Katherine Marshall  
Michelle McCreery  
Matthew Metosky  
Jean Miewald  
Lee Ann Munger  
Susan Orr  
Primanti Brothers  
Fredrick Redmond  
Dianne Seibert  
St. Thomas Anglican Church  
Wagner Agency  
Peter Watt-Morse  
Allison White McKinley

## SUPPORTERS

### \$100 - \$249

Judith Albert  
Jeffrey Anderson  
Nishauna Ball  
Elizabeth Barlow  
Adam Barnett  
Jay Barrett  
Charles Bemm  
Bethlehem Baptist Church  
Bidwell Presbyterian Church  
Mary Bockovich  
Tom Bohman  
Cynthia Bradley-King  
Betty Braxter  
Marianna Breffleilh  
Walter Bunt  
Carol Whitehead Custom Framing  
Angela Catchen  
Gregory Cherpes  
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh  
Gary Cirrincione  
ConnecTel Wireless, Inc.  
Robert Cranmer  
Anne Crawford  
Mary Cummings  
Roger Cunningham  
Paula Dahm  
Jim Delbianco  
Bonnie DiCarlo  
Dovecote  
Rev. D. Jane Duffield  
Barbara Eichelberger  
Gina Evans  
Dennis Fair  
Martha Federowicz  
Margaret Forbes  
Forest Hills Presbyterian Church  
LuAnn George  
Barbara Gray  
Janet Gray  
Roberta Green  
Katie Gretz  
Sharon Grivna  
Sarah Haas  
Katherine Hancock  
Mary Hanna  
Keri Harmicar  
Kelley Harrington  
Joan Heckel  
Y. Patricia Helvy  
Kimberly Henderson  
Maureen Hill  
Howard Hofer  
Stephanie Hoogendoorn  
Emma Hughey  
Melissa Hunter  
Idlewild  
Carolyn Jones  
Christopher Kobrzycki  
Laurie's Total Salon, LLC  
Joanie Madalinsky  
Sarah Manspeaker  
Craig Marcus  
Ludovina Marcus  
Betsy Martinelli  
Kathleen McBarron  
Susan Miele  
Kimberley Miller  
Kent Morford  
Eunice Nasri  
Jennifer Neiswonger  
Lisa Newcomb  
Robert O'Gara  
Evan Ogradnik  
Onala Recovery Center  
Doris Orr  
Susan Panos  
Hearne Pardee  
Natasha Parekh  
M. Agnes Peebles  
Virginia Peet  
Patricia Pelino

## BENEFACTORS

### \$500 - \$999

Elizabeth Ballard  
Julie Battle  
Laura Judith  
Yodit Betru  
David Blair  
John Cetorelli  
Maureen DiLettuso  
Anthony Dolan  
Debbie Dorsey  
Janet Ferris  
Serina Green  
Liz Harrington  
John Marzullo  
Dennis Molnar  
Steven Renfro  
Kristy Storms  
Alan Waggoner

## FRIENDS

### \$250 - \$499

Donna Ernsberger  
Lee Ann Antol  
Baldwin Community United Methodist Women

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre  
 Pittsburgh Children's  
 Dentistry  
 Pittsburgh Opera  
 Pittsburgh Penguins  
 Foundation  
 Pittsburgh Public Theater  
 Pittsburgh Steelers  
 Pittsburgh Symphony  
 Orchestra  
 Jamie Radocay  
 Michelle Reese  
 Chad Restori  
 Dean Rhodes  
 Suzanne Robinson  
 Carol Roth  
 Ann Ruszkowski  
 Sabika Jewelry  
 Suzanne Salo  
 Sharon Schneider  
 Robert Schulz  
 Seven Springs Mountain  
 Resort  
 Larry Slagle  
 Judith Smith  
 Claire Smyth  
 Lisa Snead  
 Crystal St. Omer Roy  
 Mary Ann Strachan  
 Mary Ann Stuart-Templeton  
 Lisa Susalla  
 Rosemarie Sweeney  
 Joseph Szwarc  
 Grace Tan  
 Jennifer Thoma  
 Tammy Thompson  
 Jenna Vanden Brink  
 Victoria Wellstead

## CONTRIBUTORS

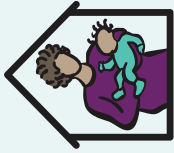
### \$1-\$99

AARP East Liberty Chapter  
 #2612  
 Phyllis Adkins  
 Jo Ann Alexander  
 Mary Alexander  
 Andy Warhol Museum  
 ASCEND  
 Jennifer Ashburn  
 Aspinwall Beans 'n' Cream  
 Terri Babyak  
 Harry Back  
 Diane Balcom  
 Louise Bancroft  
 Sasha Barrett  
 Marcy Bernson  
 Sharon Bernstein  
 Lynne Bingham

Gwendolyn Blount  
 Theresa Boguslawski  
 Donald Boyd  
 Maureen Brant  
 Courtney Brennan  
 Meghan Briggs  
 Mark Bronowski  
 Nancy Bryant  
 Keri Burgwin  
 Morris Buskirk  
 Vernetta Byrd  
 Camp Bow Wow North  
 Rosemary Coffey  
 Suzanne Colvin  
 Monica Cooney  
 Jeni Cooper  
 Denise Cooper  
 Cornerstone Restaurant  
 & Bar  
 Albert Cornman  
 Patrick Corr  
 Cranberry Women's Group  
 Chris Crytzer  
 Suzanne Curran  
 Samantha Dempsey  
 Debra Dennison  
 Mary Dickinson  
 Marcie Divosevic  
 Cathy Droz  
 Marilyn Dunlay  
 Margaret Epley  
 Patricia Ergas  
 Beth Exton  
 George Ezykowsky  
 Lisa Falenski  
 Helen Fallon  
 Paul Filiak  
 Finn Chiropractic  
 Marilyn Fitzsimmons  
 Judith Focareta  
 Franjo Construction  
 Nancy Frantz  
 Stacey Freeman-Pistella  
 Dorothy Fukas  
 Rebecca Fussnecker  
 Erica Givner  
 Susan Gorham  
 Deborah Graver  
 Karen Gray  
 Sharon Greene  
 Drena Greenwood  
 Ann Haines  
 Sarah Halvonik  
 Patricia Halvonik  
 Faith Harfield  
 Michael Harrington  
 Veronica Harris  
 Linda Harrison

Mary Harwick  
 Nancy Heastings  
 Mary Hester  
 Jacquelyn Hill  
 Darlene Hoffman  
 Homewood A.M.E. Zion  
 Church  
 Arabella Hunt  
 Marguerite Iole  
 Corey Jac-Lak  
 Janet Jai  
 Patty Jasko  
 Jewish Federation of  
 Greater Pittsburgh  
 Mary Josefoski  
 Therese Joseph  
 Jennifer Junilius  
 Emily Keane  
 Anne Kelli  
 Elizabeth Kelly  
 Ken Mawr United  
 Presbyterian Church  
 Nichole Kindred  
 Dale Kirkpatrick  
 Janice Koziel  
 Ricky LaVaughn  
 Michelle Lee  
 Robert Levine  
 Matt Lewis  
 Light of Life Rescue  
 Mission  
 Denyse Littles-Cullens  
 Sally Loughran  
 Rachel Mariano  
 Christina Marzullo  
 Dina Marzullo  
 Ellen Mazo  
 Christina McLachlan  
 Scott McLane  
 Reed McManigle  
 Rachel Meigs  
 Nichole Merz  
 Hope Metzger  
 ModCloth  
 Rosemary Moriarty  
 Doug Neubauer  
 Kathy Nimmo  
 Jean Novak  
 Richard Novotny  
 Oakmont Bakery  
 One Brilliant Boutique  
 Lee Ann O'Neil  
 John O'Rourke  
 Anne Page  
 Painting with a Twist  
 Melanie Pallone  
 James Parise  
 Mary Anne Paul

Penn-Zion's Lutheran  
 Church  
 Eileen Pickle  
 Diane Pickle  
 Pittsburgh Pirates  
 Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG  
 Aquarium  
 Point Park University  
 Joan Porac  
 Johno Prascak  
 Norma Raiff  
 Richard Raiff  
 Kwajalein Ratliff  
 Michelle Regan  
 Jane Reimers  
 Anne Roach  
 McKay Roberts  
 Deborah Robinson  
 Debbie Roth  
 Mary Rykaceski  
 Elizabeth Sanford  
 Hilda Schwillie  
 Jan Sciulli  
 Deborah Seng Bosco  
 William Seran  
 Karen Shastri  
 Anne Shearon  
 Kathleen Shissler  
 Jean Simmonds  
 Nicole Sinclair  
 SisterFriend, Inc.  
 Christine Smith  
 Marla Smith  
 Janera Solomon  
 Sarah Stein  
 Tracey Swain  
 Kim Swidarski  
 Eloise Tacik  
 Ronald Tekely  
 Ten Thousand Villages  
 The Body Bar  
 Trader Joe's  
 Tri-State Signs &  
 Reprographics, Inc.  
 Unity Presbyterian Church  
 P.J. Veri  
 Judith Vukovcan  
 Dorsey Wheeler  
 Cynthia Wheeler  
 Rosaleen Wiker  
 Jeffrey Workman  
 Michael Yahr  
 Yoga Flow  
 Angela York  
 Young Lawyers Division of  
 the Allegheny County Bar  
 Association  
 Cynthia Zurchin



# SOJOURNER HOUSE

5907 Penn Avenue, Suite 220  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
[www.sojournerhousepa.org](http://www.sojournerhousepa.org)



*At Sojourner House, we believe women can shatter  
the chains of addiction and hopelessness when  
surrounded by what means most to them...  
their children.*

