

SOJOURNER HOUSE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT





DEAR FRIENDS OF SOJOURNER HOUSE

ONMARCH 17, 2020, I was just four months and three days into my new role as Executive Director of Sojourner House and Sojourner House MOMS. I thought I had hit the ground running the previous October. Enter a global pandemic.

On March 17, 2020, the Sojourner House and Sojourner House MOMS family had our last day of normalcy. Since that day, our little world has mirrored what has been happening throughout the rest of the world, due to COVID-19. When this annual report arrives in your mailboxes, chances are that our little world will be following the same guidelines it has since March 2020: masks, hand sanitizers, cleaning supplies, and COVID tests.

To say this past year has been a challenge has been an understatement. However, to say our staff, residents and you, our supporters, have risen to the occasion is also an understatement. Teamwork. Kindness. Generosity. Support. These are just a handful of words that come to mind when I think about how my new work family and our wonderful network of friends have helped keep our residents healthy and on their recovery journey.

This year's annual report highlights a small sampling of our wonderful friends. Sojourner House opened in 1991. For 30 years, we have known what kindness is. This past year has been the true epitome of what we have known for three decades. Thank you for your continued kindness, your continued support and your continued friendship. Stay safe. Stay healthy.

In peace and gratitude,

De'netta Benjamin-Miller

Executive Director



This annual report was created by the Development Department at Sojourner House:

Susan Orr, Director of Development

Lindsey Hayakawa, Development + Communications Coordinator

SOJOURNER HOUSE DATA

Total number of women served: 55		
Average age of women served: 31		
Race of Women (in percentages):		
African American	22%	
Caucasian	70%	
Biracial	4%	
Hispanic	4%	
Average Length of Stay (in days):	93 days	
Women who completed 90 days:	66%	
Women that graduated:	35%	
Children served:	39	
Children legally reunified with their mothers: 1 *		

Drug of Choice (in percentages):

Alcohol	15%
Cocaine/Crack	27%
Marijuana	2%
Methamphetamine	5%
Opiates/Heroin	51%

* Most are still working on the process and receive visits from their mothers.

SOJOURNER HOUSE MOMS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM

18	Adults who received housing and supportive	
	services	
23	Children who received services provided by	
	MOMS Supportive Housing Program	
6	Families who graduated	
125 Average length of stay (in days)		
3	Parents who attended school or worked	
1	Parents who maintained legal custody	
1	Children reunified with their parents	
8	Children who participated in academic	
	programming and attended school regularly	
Percentages of drug of choice for the women in		
program:		
6%	Alcohol	
11%	Cocaine	
11%	Crack cocaine	

- 6% Marijuana
- **11%** Methamphetamine
- 56% Opiates/Heroin

SOJOURNER HOUSE MOMS PERMANENT HOUSING PROGRAM

- **127** Adults who received housing and supportive services provided by MOMS:
- **47** Adults who received supportive services provided by outside sources:
- 80 Children who received services provided by MOMS
- **38** Children who received services provided by outside sources:
- **16** Parents who attended school or worked:
- **98%** Parents who maintained legal custody
- 2 Children reunified with their parents
- **55** Children who participated in academic programming and attended school regularly
- **55** Children who made honor roll and were promoted to the next grade
- NOTE: MOMS Summer Camp cancelled due to COVID

FY 2019/2020 AUDITED FINANCIALS

REVENUE

Government grants:	\$1,085,586
Program:	1,599,910
Other grants & public support:	408,662
Special events & investments:	37,013

EXPENSES

Program:	\$2,645,520
G&A:	360,237
Fundraising:	148,319

APRIL 2020

Christie Smith, Sojourner House Board President, donated activities for the children at Sojourner House in April 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the families of Sojourner House were in need of indoor activities for the children. **Emily Wasel**, Sojourner House volunteer, with the face masks she made for the families of Sojourner House in April 2020. Emily Wasel, Sojourner House volunteer and supporter, sewed face masks for the families of Sojourner House when she found out that we were in need during the pandemic.

MAY 2020

Scott Harris delivered two gallons of hand soap to Sojourner House in May 2020.

Treasure House Founder and Owner, **Sally Power**, showing off donations that were given to our families on Mother's Day.





Christina Lynch pictured with the diapers she donated to Sojourner House MOMS Supportive Housing Program in May 2020.

JUNE 2020

Peggy Reding, Founder and longtime supporter of Sojourner House, pictured with the toothbrushes she donated to our families. **Jeaneen Zappa**, Sojourner House supporter, donated jewelry to the families of Sojourner House.

JULY 2020

Sarah Shotland, Program Director of Chatham University's Words Without Walls Creative Writing Program, teaching a class. The program has been teaching creative writing to the women of Sojourner House since 2013. At the end of each semester, the women's writing is compiled into a published book featuring each writer's portrait. In July, residents were able to reconvene meeting with Sarah! **Murrysville Bible Study Group**

(MBSG) brought a special lunch for the staff and residents of Sojourner House in July 2020. Since the start of the pandemic, MBSG has been unable to provide Bible Study, due to social distancing precautions, so instead, the group provided a special lunch for the residents and staff.

AUGUST 2020

Sojourner House MOMS Supportive Housing residents dressed up to watch the virtual **16th Annual Victorian Tea** on August 16, 2020. The tea took place virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Honorary Chair was **Leah Lizarondo**, Co-Founder and CEO of 412 Food Rescue. Chatham University's **Words Without Walls** creative writing program was the Pearl of Hope Awardee. The pre-tea time featured music by Brazilian jazz singer, Kenia, and photos of events from earlier that year.





words without walls



Victorian Tea registrants submitted photos wearing tea hats for a chance to win one of 18 baskets. Above is basket winner, **Terri Rose-Jertson**. Emcee and award-winning journalist, **Brian Cook**, hosted the one-hour program which highlighted the award-winning work of Sojourner House and Sojourner House MOMS.

SEPTEMBER 2020 0

As part of the 2020 Pittsburgh **Recovery Walk**, Sojourner House walked around Highland Park on Sept. 16, with staff, residents, volunteers and board members.

OCTOBER 2020

Waverly Presbyterian Church **Pastor Caitlin Werth** connected with Sojourner House in October to discuss ways to support our mission. After watching our recently unveiled "elevator pitch" video, the congregation graciously raised funds during Advent!



NOVEMBER 2020

The residents had a wonderful **Thanksgiving catered by**

Giant Eagle. "We wanted to do something special for the ladies and their children given the fact that they could not visit with their families, we wanted to make it as home-like as possible." said Sojourner House Clinical Supervisor Pam Wood

DECEMBER 2020

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

donated Christmas gifts for the families at Sojourner House this holiday season.

Sabika Jewelry generously donated jewelry and snacks so that the children could give their mothers beautiful jewelry for Christmas. Before COVID-19, Sabika Jewelry provided a Santa's Workshop for the children to pick jewelry to give to their mothers.

Luciana Brussi and about a dozen friends of Sojourner House supporter **Kenia Ashby** collected toys for Sojourner House's children to be distributed on Christmas. The donations dropped off on Dec. 14 were **in honor of Kenia**, a loyal friend of Sojourner House. Luciana and her prayer group named *A arte de Orar* (The art of praying) chose to support Sojourner House.

Familylinks generously **donated 70 winter coats**, along with diapers and wipes, to residents of Sojourner House and MOMS. Nina Morse from the Mission Committee at Bethany Presbyterian Church generously donated five 'Welcome Home' baskets to our graduating families. The baskets contain items such as bedding, dishes, pots and pans, cleaning supplies, towels, kitchen utensils, and other essentials. The baskets were created for families so they feel more prepared as they enter or transition out of our programs. On Dec. 22 our Playcare volunteer **Claudia Bohman** lent a helping hand at our annual "Christmas Wrap" day, which includes preparing gifts from our wonderful donors for our wonderful residents!



SOJOURNER HOUSE STAFF & BOARD

De'netta Benjamin-Miller, LCSW Executive Director

ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Meghan Briggs, MA, Director of Programs Tessa Eline, Executive Administrative Assistant Lindsey Hayakawa, Development + Communications Coordinator

Kholsen Hightower, Human Resources Director Matt Lewis, CPA, Director of Finance + Operations Steven Renfro, Property Maintenance Director Susan Orr, Director of Development Dominic Zappa, Assistant Director of Finance + Operations

SOJOURNER HOUSE TEAM

Cydney Anderson, Child Development Specialist Loretta Beck, MS, Lead Clinical Therapist + Assistant Supervisor

Shanee Chambers, Recovery Support Specialist Nicole Fulmore, Recovery Support Specialist Jaimaya Jackson, Recovery Support Specialist Latina Jenkins, Recovery Support Specialist Barbara Jones, Recovery Support Specialist Rhonda Little, MA, Therapist Dolores Mitchell, Program Manager Stephanie Pauling, Service Coordinator Shardae Rose, Recovery Support Specialist Krysten Sadler, Recovery Support Specialist Heather Spencer, Intake Assessment Specialist Jan Stacey Taylor, Recovery Support Specialist Elizabeth Wasel, Volunteer Coordinator Tracey Ann White, Recovery Support Specialist Pamela Wood, NCC, CAADC, CCTP, Clinical Supervisor

SOJOURNER HOUSE MOMS TEAM

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

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New Sojourner House

Coordinator at National Church Residences, and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Demi Kolke is Senior Program Manager of Corridor Revitalization at Neighborhood Allies.

Norma Raiff, Ph.D., LSW, was Executive Director of Sojourner House for 12 years and is now Adjunct Professor of the Division of Business and Entrepreneurship at Chatham University.

2020 Annual Report – Donor List

Thank you to all of the donors who wish to remain anonymous.

FOUNDATIONS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

\$20,000+

Eden Hall Foundation Richard King Mellon Foundation Staunton Farm Foundation

\$10,000 - \$19,999 Heinz Endowments Lamar Advertising Company

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church McElhattan Foundation PNC Foundation Shadyside Presbyterian Church Unity Presbyterian Church UPMC/UPMC HealthPlan

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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



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