

2021-2022
IMPACT
REPORT



Unity & Collaboration



SOJOURNER
HOUSE

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SOJOURNER HOUSE MISSION

Offering compassionate, faith-based recovery services to women and their children.

SOJOURNER HOUSE MOMS MISSION

Sheltering people in recovery and their children to confidently transition into the community.

Thoughts from the Executive Director



One of the things I love most about Sojourner House is that I am constantly encouraged by what I see every day on our campus.

I see the resolve of mothers dedicated to improving their lives for today, for the future, and the future of their children.

I see their children growing and learning in a safe and secure environment of their own.

I see the strength and resilience of our staff, who give so much to improve lives. And I see the generosity of our volunteers and donors, who are so dedicated to the recovery community.

After the celebration of our 30th anniversary, we were primed to build upon and further our mission, and worked together as a community to build and grow spaces of recovery.

Community and Connection: We are so proud that our renovated MOMS Green space has opened to the Sojourner House community. This gorgeous space gives our moms and their kids a warm and inviting space to heal, connect, and play.

Respect and Inclusion: In order to ensure that we foster a healthy and empowering environment for both our families and staff, we began building on our long history of inclusion by formalizing our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Initiative and Trainings.

Celebrating The Recovery Community: This year, we were excited to reconnect in person with our friends and partners.

In this report I am proud to share with you stories and highlights of hard work and dedication of our families and staff as we build brighter futures.

With hope and gratitude,

De'netta Benjamin-Miller
Executive Director,
Sojourner House &
Sojourner House MOMS

FURTHERING THE MISSION

A New & Improved MOMS Green

As far back as 2011, Sojourner House recognized the need for a dedicated and functional outdoor space for our families to play in and spend quality time together.

All those years ago, we built and opened MOMS Green—an outdoor play yard that became a favorite spot for our families to meet, play, and socialize. It offered a charming space and safe environment for families in recovery to connect and rebuild together.



MOMS Green quickly became a favorite spot over the years, taking on an even more significant role during the COVID-19 pandemic, when our community needed a space to connect at a healthy distance.

After 11 years of regular use—and after seeing firsthand the growing value of having an accessible outdoor space—we knew it was time for MOMS Green to receive some enhancements. We went to our long-time community partner, Homeless Children’s Education Fund (HCEF), to create a plan to rebuild and refurbish the beautiful and healing outdoor space. Notably, HCEF was our partner when MOMS Green was first built.

Starting with a generous foundational mini-grant from HCEF of \$15,000, and further supported by in-kind donations, we raised the additional funds to carry the project from start to finish. Time and labor donated by volunteers also ensured that this vision became a reality.

On November 10, 2022, we cut the ribbon on the updated space. This fall and winter our families, friends, and MOMS community have enjoyed gathering together in this space, sharing meals, and even building a few snowmen. In the coming months, this space will be used for kids to participate in HCEF’s after-school, cultural, and STEM programs. We’re also excited to see families use the space to plant a sensory garden together.

These MOMS Green improvements represent what creativity and resourcefulness can do. We are grateful to our project partner, the Homeless Children’s Education Fund, and to all who gave gifts to support this project.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND MAJOR SUPPORTERS FOR MAKING THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE



FURTHERING THE MISSION

Recovery Month

For more than 30 years, September has been designated as Recovery Month, a national observance to promote treatment and recovery practices, recognize service providers, and celebrate those in recovery.

This year, Sojourner House celebrated Recovery Month in several different ways, including participating in multiple local events in an effort to increase our visibility in the Pittsburgh community.





SEPTEMBER 10
Wilksburg Health & Wellness Fair

Sojourner House was present at the September 10th Wilksburg Health & Wellness Fair. We provided recovery information for moms and families attending the event, and encouraged attendees to take advantage of health screenings available at the fair.



SEPTEMBER 17
Pittsburgh Recovery Walk

On September 17th, we participated in the Pittsburgh Recovery Walk, which celebrates the many different roads people travel from addiction to recovery. At the event, the Pittsburgh recovery community celebrated Pittsburgh Recovery Award Winners, as well as honored advocates, caregivers, and recovery supporters. Walkers enjoyed activities for kids, speakers and storytellers, food trucks, and a post-walk dance party!



SEPTEMBER 23
Yoga in the Street

Sojourner House hosted Yoga in the Streets on September 23rd on Kelly Street in Homewood. Outdoor yoga was led by Felicia Savage Friedman, Founder and CEO of YogaRoots On Location, and included a resource fair. The mind and body connection is so important to recovery. "The disease of addiction is biological, psychological, and social. Yoga helps to bring balance and understanding to those three areas. Yoga teaches us to be kind to ourselves, so we can be kind to others, which reinforces that we all have a story that we are healing from," said executive director De'netta Benjamin-Miller.



SEPTEMBER 24-25
Za'Kiyah House

We wrapped up Recovery Month on the 24th and 25th at Za'Kiyah House. We attended their Recovery on Frankstown event, which included a resource fair, food, and games and activities for kids. We also celebrated this recently licensed recovery house at their 2nd annual fundraiser, where Sojourner House was a sponsor. De'netta was featured as the keynote speaker providing inspiration from her own experience.



OUR IMPACT

Sojourner House



TOTAL NUMBER OF WOMEN SERVED

78

AVERAGE AGE OF WOMEN SERVED

25.4

77.75

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN DAYS

61

NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED

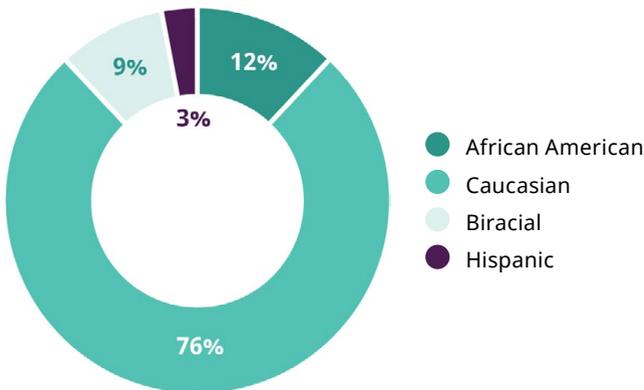
41.03%

WOMEN WHO COMPLETED 90 DAYS

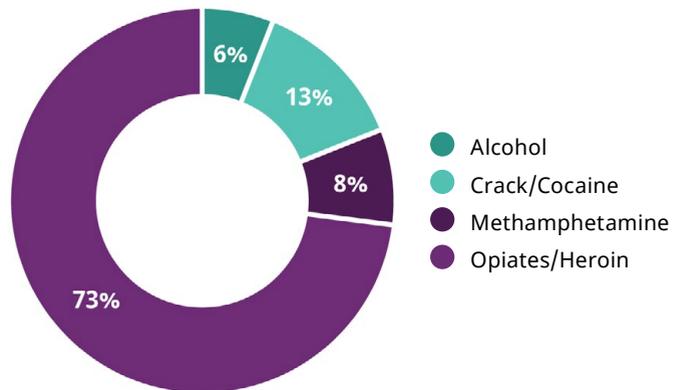
29.49%

WOMEN THAT GRADUATED

RACE OF WOMEN



DRUG OF CHOICE



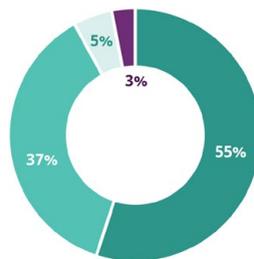
OUR IMPACT

Sojourner House MOMS

PERMANENT HOUSING

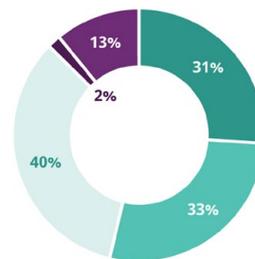


RACE OF WOMEN



- African American
- Caucasian
- Biracial
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

DRUG OF CHOICE



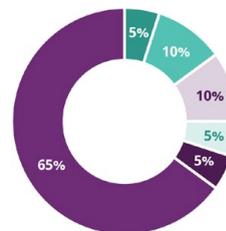
- Alcohol
- Crack/Cocaine
- Marijuana
- Methamphetamine
- Opiates/Heroin



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



DRUG OF CHOICE



- Alcohol
- Cocaine
- Crack Cocaine
- Marijuana
- Methamphetamine
- Opiates/Heroin

Building and Improving Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative



At Sojourner House, our mission is to serve some of the most vulnerable populations. We recognize that to ensure we're successfully carrying out our mission, we are responsible for examining and removing barriers that prevent or restrict access to care. This includes obstacles related to racial inequality that lead to disparities, particularly in the areas of healthcare and behavioral health.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is not a one-time initiative. It requires ongoing attention and needs to be incorporated into an organization's mission and principles. This is why Sojourner House and Sojourner MOMS DEI Initiative and Training is a critical part of our organization, and has been since our founding.

It's also not enough to create a safe, welcoming, respectful, and equitable environment for those we serve. Our employees deserve a space that meets these criteria, too. We cannot expect our team to provide quality care to those who turn to Sojourner House for help and hope unless they are also welcomed with resources and care. Therefore our DEI initiative embodies a culture where all clients and employees are welcomed and supported, regardless of ethnic or racial heritage, sexual orientation or gender identity, intellectual or physical disability, English language proficiency, or life experiences.

We also take pride in the fact that our team actively builds on existing DEI training year after year. In the last two years, Sojourner House employees, Sojourner House MOMS staff, and executive staff have participated in the following trainings:

- Anti-racism cohort with YogaRoots facilitating
- Dignity & Respect and Micro-aggressions
- Education about minority mental health needs
- LGBTQ101
- CLAS Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training
- Antiracist workshops

This work has already proved insightful, and we are excited by the discussions and opportunities this work fosters. We look forward to building on our existing training and resources, ensuring that diversity, equity, and inclusion are foundational aspects of Sojourner House's work today and in the future.

Audited Financials

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

REVENUE

Program	\$3,057,641
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Grants & Public Support	\$449,774
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Special Events	\$51,996
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Investments	\$165,667
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EXPENSES

Program	\$2,742,094
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General & Administrative	\$484,345
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Fundraising	\$176,715
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Board of Directors & Staff

De'netta Benjamin-Miller, LCSW
Executive Director

SOJOURNER HOUSE

ADMINISTRATION

Matt Lewis, CPA
Director of Finance + Operations

Steven Renfro
Property Maintenance Manager

Elizabeth Wasel
Volunteer Coordinator

Latresa Zak, MSW
Director of Clinical Services

Dominic Zappa
Assistant Director of Finance + Operations

TEAM

Cydney Anderson
Child Care Specialist

Michael Goodlin
Drug & Alcohol Therapist

Susan Moore
Service Coordinator

Monica Philippone, MSW
Clinical Supervisor

Ciera Powe
Service Coordinator

Andrea Richardson
Operations Supervisor

Maria Robinson-Bockus, MA, NCC
Drug & Alcohol Therapist

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SOJOURNER HOUSE MOMS

In addition to these individuals, Sojourner House relies on a team of Recovery Support Specialists who provide 24/7, round-the-clock care to our families.

TEAM

Enjolique Garland
Family Support Specialist

Rita Hill
Family Support Specialist

Stephenia Leavy
Family Support Specialist

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 CMU Counterpoint
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