

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



The Better Way, Inc. Five Sisters Project

A 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION



TRACY MUHLENBECK

PRESIDENT &
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Grace And Peace

Dear Ministry Partners and Friends,

In my experience, growing a ministry has been a bit like raising a baby. When you begin, there is joy and wonder and a bit of finding your way with something you haven't done before. The health and well being of the "baby" are your focus and there are so many choices to be made about the best ways to steward such an amazing gift. Along the way, there are challenges and mistakes but there are also discoveries, achievements and remarkable adventures.

This has been an extraordinary year. Last year, as a part of looking back, we also looked ahead to see how we could meet greater goals. Temporary emergency housing for women and families in crisis is a desperate need. While we were making progress in our building project, it was not happening as fast as we had hoped. That is why, even though we did not stop working to meet the immediate physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our clients, we shifted our focus and worked to channel as many of our resources as possible toward completion of the housing projects.

This past fall, we completed the remodeling/construction of Phase-1. Our intention for this space was to provide emergency housing for up to 7 days. We are excited to say that we have been able to house three women since that time. Each situation was unique and we found that there needed to be some flexibility for our clients in the length of their stay. While this space provided a critical safe option for these women and their children, we became all the more aware of the urgency to complete our emergency housing intended for stays up to 30 days.

We are also blessed to be able to say that we are about 70% complete on Phase-2 of our project. We dream to have this space open in the Spring/early Summer.

As we look ahead to the future and completion of the housing, we also look to a new focus for 2020. In order to continue to fulfill our mission to offer help, healing and hope to women and families in crisis, our goal is to continue to develop a network of people who are equipped and passionate to get involved in our work. The need is great, so we need help.

"When he saw the crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'" Matthew 9:36-38

We believe the future of the Five Sisters Project is promising and we are so thankful for each of our partners who believed it was possible to "raise up" this wonderful ministry. Please consider the ways that you might be called to help us make this the best year yet by using your time, talent and treasure to support our work.

Here's to a blessed and prosperous year for the Kingdom!
In His mighty, matchless name.

Blessings,
Tracy Muhlenbeck
President & Executive Director

MEET OUR TEAM

THE AWESOME PEOPLE BEHIND THIS PROJECT



JAMES MUHLENBECK
VICE PRESIDENT



MARGE KUETH
TREASURER &
VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR



DAWN BUSCHOW
SECRETARY



BRANDON SAHR
BOARD MEMBER



BILL SCHUSTER
BOARD MEMBER



ETHEL ARANDA
ADMINISTRATIVE
COORDINATOR



OUR MISSION IN ACTION

Our approach at the Five Sisters Project is to lead people to the One who is able to provide a supernatural solution to their problems. That is our first priority. We also walk along with our clients to see what natural resources are available while building a relationship. However, time after time after time, the Lord has provided out of His storehouse for the things that are needed in ways that are often outside of our natural understanding.



Confidential comfort and critical care

We offer a support system of volunteers who can help equip and empower women to move forward through a difficult place. The most frequent physical need we encounter is the search for a safe place to be.



Spiritual Coaching

We must be AVAILABLE & SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES to use the gifts the Lord gave us to INTRODUCE people to Him. We have hosted three bible studies this past year and one on one coaching with our clients offering practical, biblical solutions to their situation.



Life Skills Training and Community Education

Education is an important part of what we do. If our community does not understand there is a problem, it cannot be addressed. While our focus this year did shift to prioritizing construction, we continued to take advantage of multidisciplinary opportunities to be educated and to educate.



Resources and Referrals

When we are unable to meet a need we observe, we lead people to a resource with a biblical perspective whenever possible for example pastoral/christian counselors, treatment centers, food shelves, churches, etc. We have developed relationships with area nonprofits and county services that complement our mission.

FIVE SISTER'S PROJECT MISSION



To meet the spiritual and physical needs of women & their families by providing temporary, safe housing for women in extreme danger and walking with them into spiritual healing.

Core Values

Prayer



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Phillipians 4:6

We have purposely placed this as our first core value. We believe that prayer changes things and we are determined, in spite of our natural inclination to try to solve problems in our own strength, to rely on the Lord for absolutely every need. We have a team of committed prayer partners who are interceding on our behalf for specific ministry needs.

Discipleship



"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19-20

We are committed to making every effort to develop relationships with our clients and our partners to teach people about the way the Lord created them with unique gifts and talents to do amazing things which will bring glory and honor to the Lord.

True North



"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

We believe that Jesus is the source for everything we need and He is the only one able to redeem, restore and renew broken hearts and lives. He is our True North. Our vision for the ministry is to be like a compass to our community. We thoughtfully consider each and every outreach, event, stewardship, relationship, and action as a means to point people in His direction.

Integrity



"To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice." Proverbs 21:3
We believe it is critical for our clients and our supporters to trust that we will do what we say we will do and that we will deal with them in an ethical way.

Compassion



"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40
We meet people where they are and treat them with kindness and empathy and do whatever we can to provide for their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

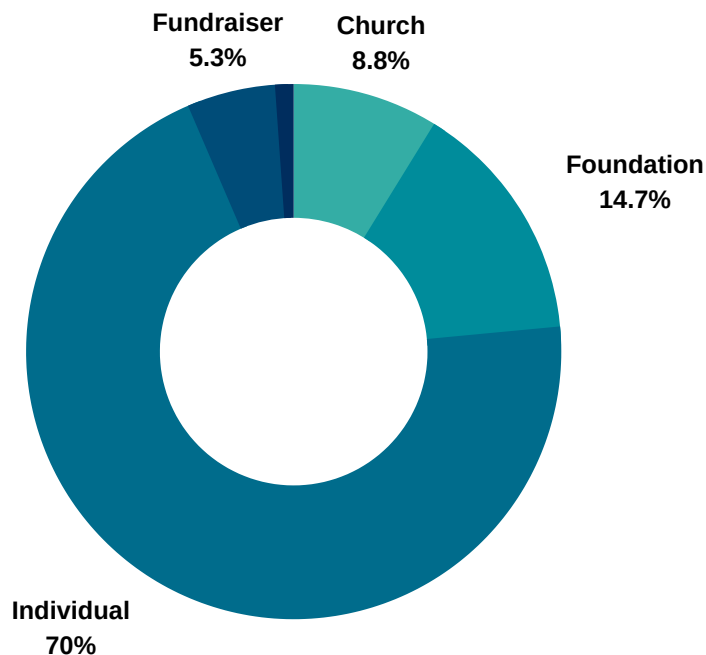
"FOR EVERY BEAST OF THE FOREST IS MINE, THE CATTLE
ON A THOUSAND HILLS." -PSALM 50:10

We rely on the Lord for our resources both physical and financial.

Total Donations

77,757.07

↑ 40% from 2018



Expense for 2019

Program Expense	17615.04
Utilities & Maintenance	5629.05
Payroll	10150.06
Administration	4755.66
Total Expense	38149.81
Total Building Investment to date	49656

If you want a more details, access to nonprofit 990 tax forms are free on Guidestar.com or
email info.thebetterway@gmail.com.

OUR 2019 GOALS

What we have accomplished:

1 Continuing Construction on Temporary, Safe Housing

"Unless the Lord builds a house,
the buildings labor in vain." Psalm 127:1

Phase 1

Emergency temporary safe housing for a few nights.



Phase 2

Apartment style housing for multiple families for temporary living while in transition.



We finished Phase 1 and had 3 clients stay there. We have completed the rough in electrical and plumbing as well as heating. This was a huge accomplishment....We also Paid off building loan, and had a Safety Consultant come.

2 Expand Our Team

Our goal was to expand our team to include a volunteer coordinator to help build our base of volunteers for the opening of Phase 2.



We welcomed Marge Kuethe as the volunteer coordinator. What we love about Marge is her amazing skill set and experience . We have started hosting a monthly Become a Difference Maker volunteer event. We also welcomed Juliann Wiersma as an intern.



OUR 2020 GOALS

Our next steps towards growth:

1

Complete Phase 2

What we have left:

Insulation, dry wall, fixtures, furniture, cabinetry

2

Recruit and Train a Care Team

Our care team would be responsible for working with the clients we have in our housing.

3

Expand our Network of Partners

To develop a relationship with faith based organizations that leads to trained teams to create a support system for our clients.

4

Launch of Monthly Women's Support Group

Soul Sisters would be for women to meet regularly to offer support for all women. It would bring awareness to what we are doing, help those who need help, and engage those who need to be involved.



Become a Difference Maker-tour of Phase 2



FIVE SISTERS PROJECT

Help, Healing & Hope for Women In Crisis

IT'S TIME TO GET INVOLVED



A BIG PROJECT INVOLVES A
LOT OF MOVING PARTS,
WHAT'S YOUR ROLE?

Join the team as a volunteer or donor.

FOR EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE
RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN VARIOUS FORMS
1 PETER 4:10

Visit our website
www.fivesistersproject.com
and become a participating partner today!



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