Values in Action
2018 & 2019
Mission

Saint Louise House is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the success of women and children moving from homelessness to healthy, independent lives.

We strive to empower women and children to overcome homelessness for generations to come.

Values

Empowerment
Strengths
Simplicity
Humility
Effectiveness
Thank you for all you do to support the families living at Saint Louise House. Together we are providing pathways out of poverty to mothers and children who need more time and support than emergency shelters can provide. With your help, we are providing families with safe, stable housing and highly individualized on-site support. Our program fosters education, financial stability, and healthy living for two generations so that both mothers and children can lead healthy, independent lives.

The Board of Directors of Saint Louise House recently completed a yearlong strategic planning process with valuable participation by staff, volunteers, donors and other stakeholders. One result was deep understanding and clear articulation of our work.

“Saint Louise House provides a successful approach to overcoming homelessness that is fueled by the values of Empowerment, Strengths, Simplicity, Humility and Effectiveness.”

Values are powerful tools and critical to the long term growth of our organization. These values describe our desired culture and approach to problem solving; they act as a compass for the people who work and volunteer at Saint Louise House. Knowing and understanding our values is not enough, we also have high expectations of ourselves to behave in accordance with those values.

As we look back over the past year and a half, you’ll see the presence of these values clearly in our work; and as we look forward to a future of continued growth, these values will guide us.

- Laura Ward, Executive Director
On the way to the Austin Bouldering Project for a teen field trip, all were nervous and claimed they would watch or sit out. The teens slowly started trying to climb the wall. Eventually, all became extremely engaged, and each made it to the top!
Empowerment

Saint Louise House strives to empower mothers and their children by providing them the stability, information, tools, and resources they need to have faith in themselves and effect change in their own lives.

Empowerment Partners are licensed social workers who work hand-in-hand with families every step of the way.

Empowerment In Action

1,690 Meetings between Saint Louise House mothers and their Empowerment Partners
“I am strong. I am insightful and creative. I am a proud and safe mom.”
Strengths

Saint Louise House believes that all individuals have strengths that can be used to improve the quality of people’s lives.

With the security of stable housing and support provided through our wraparound services, mothers and children alike are able to discover and build upon their own strengths.

Strengths In Action

100% Of mothers dedicated to working or pursuing additional education
“I cried when I saw the four beds because when you have lived in shelters, and you have lived on pallets and on people’s floors, a simple thing such as a bed can make a huge difference.”
Simplicity

We strive to empower families by supporting them in translating their goals into the smallest, simplest actions possible, believing that small changes lead to major changes and the simplest gestures from our community of support have a big impact.

Simplicity In Action

18 Apartments homes fully furnished and lovingly decorated by volunteers
Achieving Goals

- Education
- Financial Literacy
- Parenting
- Legal Resolutions
- Employment
- Self Care
- Health
- Life Skills

“I was consistently encouraged and supported in completing my goals and reaching milestones towards life transformation.”
Humility

The value of humility encourages us to make no assumptions about individuals or groups. Families are recognized as the experts on their own lives and lead the way in setting goals and finding solutions to challenges.

Humility in Action

1,042 Weekly goals achieved
“Saint Louise House is a stepping stone to get you where you need to be on your own.”

Career Paths of Graduating Moms

Art Coordinator  Lawyer
Box Truck Driver  Music Teacher
Child Care  Nurse
Debt Collector  Recreational Therapist
Food Service  Social Worker
Home Healthcare  Student Health Assistant
House Cleaner  Teacher
IRS Data Collection  Tech Support
Effectiveness

Our highly-individualized program of support for families recognizes that what is effective for one family may not work for others. We strive for effectiveness, seeking ways to measure progress and demonstrate a willingness to learn, adapt and evolve our service to families.

Effectiveness in Action

- **52** Mothers served
- **91%** Of mothers increased self-sufficiency
- **14** Families graduated to stable housing
- **137** Children served
- **100%** Of school-aged children graduated to the next grade level
Stable Housing
+
Wraparound Services
+
Family Strengths
=
Pathways to Healthy, Independent Lives
Stable Housing

Stable Housing is the key to economic security. Saint Louise House provides 40 families fully-furnished, two-bedroom apartments with rents starting at $50 a month. Families graduate from Saint Louise House taking everything in the apartment with them.

Wraparound Services

Wraparound Services support families on their journeys toward self-sufficiency. Saint Louise House provides case management, life skills workshops, children’s activities supporting social and emotional development, and direct support such as a food pantry, bus passes and flexible funds.

Family Strengths

Family Strengths guide goals and achievements. Saint Louise House focuses on each family’s strengths and builds on them so that mothers and children can reach their full potential.

The combination of stable housing, wraparound services, and family strengths provides mothers and children with pathways to healthy, independent lives.
Strengthening Families

Children Thriving
Saint Louise House strives to make the most of every day children are with us and to give mothers the support and information they need to promote their children’s healthy development.

**Friday Fun Days for Middle School and High School Youth**
Friday Fun Days for Teens provide opportunities for building self-esteem, confidence, and a sense of community.

**StarKids!**
StarKids! is a weekly workshop that supports the social and emotional development of elementary school-aged children.

**Mommy and Me Groups**
Mommy and Me Groups give moms a chance to build support networks while learning how to interact with their babies through song, reading, and simple games.
Volunteers

250+ volunteers

- 18 apartments furnished and decorated
- 300 meals delivered and shared
- 275 hours of shopping & administrative support
- 30 evenings of childcare provided

6,500+ hours of service to Saint Louise House families
Executive Director Laura Ward, Guest Speaker Dr. Donna Beegle, Board Chair Molly Trexler, and Legacy Circle Co-leader Jack Gullahorn at 2018 Legacy Circle Event

Through generous annual financial commitments of $1,000 or more, Legacy Circle donors give Saint Louise House the financial stability needed to give opportunity to mothers who are ready to build new legacies for themselves and their children.
Legacy Circle Members

Greg and Cindy Abell
Julianne and Adrian Acevedo
Micaela Aleman
Kristin Armstrong
Gustavo Artaza
Don Atkins
Gene Attal
Gene and Sharlene Austin
Stella Avera
Helen and Nils Bagge
Renee Bain
Charles and Carol Barnett
Sherah Bassard
Janet Bates
Mary Bell and Jerry Bell, Jr.
David and Ellen Berman
Caren and Ron Betz
Steve Beuerlein
Victoria Beynon
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Sharon and David Bieser
Katy and Thomas Bohuslav
Thomas and Carmel Borders
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Berenice and Jason Craig
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Ana Hunt
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Meta Butler Hunt
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United Way for Greater Austin
Women’s Fund at the Austin Community Foundation

Local Governments
Austin Public Health
Travis County

Faith-based and Community Groups
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Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Congregation of Holy Cross, Moreau Province
CREW Austin
Emmanus Catholic Church
Knights of Columbus Councils 8156, 9796, 10776
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Ladies of Charity – Lake Travis
LCRA
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Pacesetters
Pan American Round Table of Austin
Phi Chi Theta
Roman Catholic Diocese of Austin Bishop McCarthy Memorial Fund
St. Austin Catholic Church
St. Austin Catholic School
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St. Theresa Catholic Church
Texas Spirits
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Travis County Medical Alliance
University Catholic Center
Westminster Presbyterian Church of Austin

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FT Cares Foundation
HEB
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Seton Healthcare Family

Special thanks to St. David’s Foundation
To strengthen self-sufficiency and gain economic security, families served need more than a roof over their heads. They need stable housing paired with wraparound services.

**Financials**

89% of our total budget went directly to programs in 2018 benefiting those we serve.

All numbers are based on independently audited financials for fiscal year 2018. Operating expenses totaled $1,465,627 and revenue totaled $1,622,080. Financial statements audited by Reynolds & Franke, PC, who expressed an unqualified opinion.
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Empowering Women and their Children to Overcome Homelessness for Generations to Come