

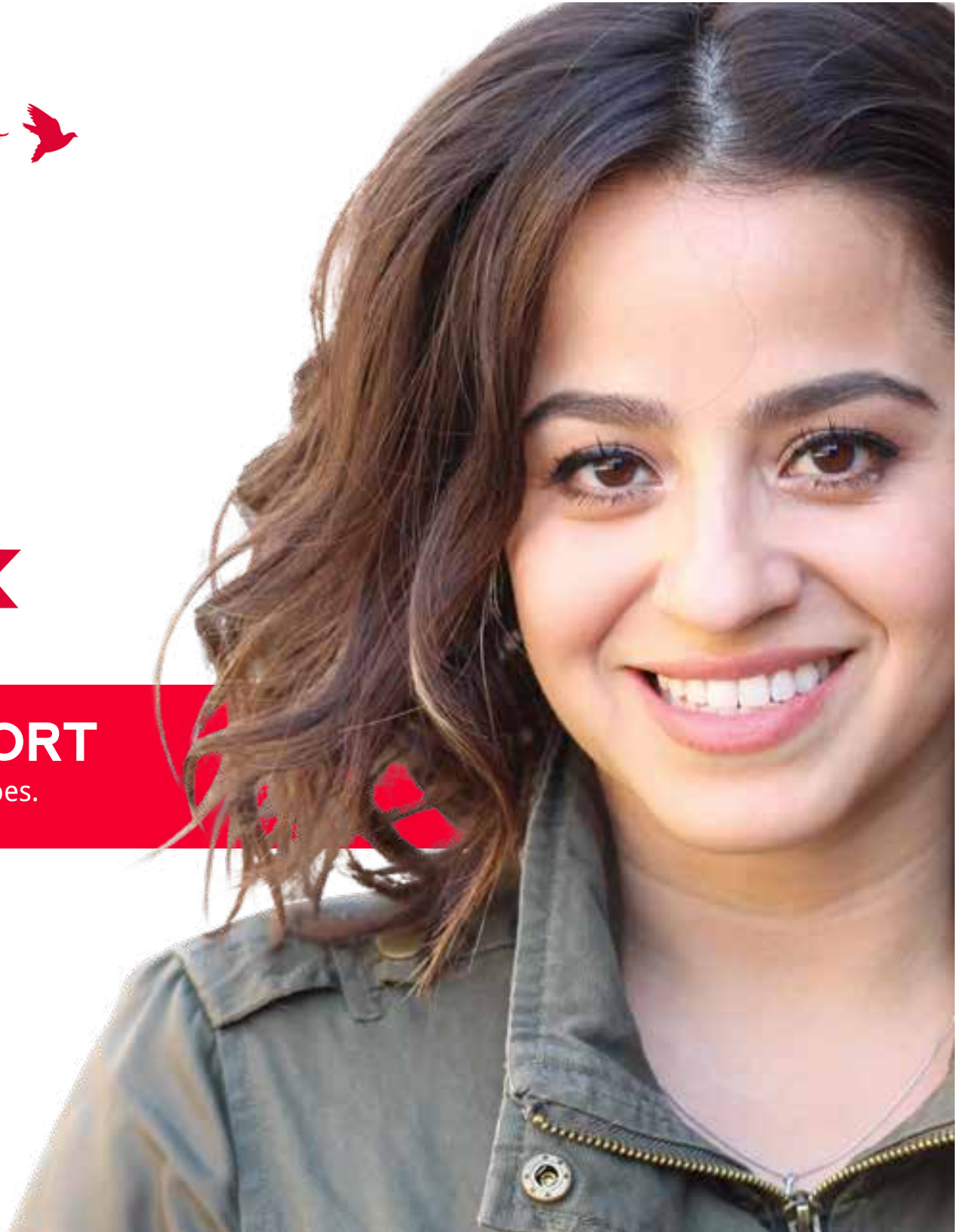


OUR FRIENDS PLACE

Celebrating 30 Years of Soaring Heroes

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 30 Years of Soaring Heroes.



ON DECEMBER 2, 1987, OUR FRIENDS PLACE OPENED THE DOORS TO OUR VERY FIRST CLIENT.

Throughout 2018, Our Friends Place (OFP) celebrated 30 years of serving girls and young women in Dallas...as well as celebrating all the heroes who have helped us along the way.

Our 30th Anniversary year was marked by our largest number of clients served so far! In 2018, OFP provided critical services to over 450 youth in Dallas to prevent homelessness or provide a stable home for young women.



"You are the hero that has changed the lives of young women for over 30 years"

Our Mission

To help young women break the generational cycles of abuse, neglect, poverty and homelessness through empowering self-reliance and independence.

Dear OFP Family,

Thank you for your long-term support of Our Friends Place as we move into our next 30 years of helping young women break the generational cycles of abuse, neglect, poverty, and homelessness. You are the hero that has changed the lives of young women for 30 years. With your help, look at what we have accomplished!

This annual report reflects the extraordinary impact that can only happen with your help. Your contributions have enabled Our Friends Place to empower the most vulnerable young women in Dallas with the skills to become successfully independent.

With your support, we have grown Our Friends Place's reach beyond our award-winning transitional living centers to critical points in our community. We have helped hundreds of youth Soar to Success by providing life skills to young women before they ever become homeless.

Our future remains full of possibilities, thanks to the heroes that want to see young women thrive, not just survive. Our young women are given endless opportunities to build their own futures when you are here to help them!

Thank you for changing lives.

Sincerely,

G. David Montemayor
2018 Board President

Sue Thiers Hesselstine
Executive Director



BREAKING GENERATIONAL CYCLES

KATRINA'S STORY

"THIS IS YOUR HOME AND IT'S
WHAT YOU MAKE IT."

When asked to paint a picture of her childhood, Katrina doesn't reminisce about family dinners or riding bikes with neighborhood friends. She recalls instead the constant moves, she and her siblings fending for themselves in motel rooms while their single mother battled with drug addiction. At the age of 9, her mother left them with a friend and called Katrina's grandfather to declare she could no longer care for them. Suddenly the three children found themselves in a shelter followed by a slew of foster homes.

While the homes provided some stability, Katrina was haunted by feelings of abandonment, anger and low self-esteem. "It was really hard for me to get past the fact that because of my mom's poor decisions, I had to move every year. I was being penalized. In my mind, as a kid, she moves on with her life, but I'm sitting here dealing with not being loved, not being wanted," she explained. After years of failed foster homes and with her options running out, she was eventually placed at Our Friends Place. She still remembers OFP telling her, "this is your home and it's what you make it." No longer would she have to compromise herself to fit into other people's families.

At OFP, Katrina was empowered to take charge of her own life. "OFP helped me by changing my mind frame of being the victim to having more power and making my life what I wanted it to be. The world's not going to care so much what you've been through so what are you going to make it and what are you going to do because you have the power," she explained.



**"OFP HELPED ME BY CHANGING MY MIND
FRAME FROM BEING THE VICTIM TO HAVING
MORE POWER AND MAKING MY LIFE WHAT I
WANTED IT TO BE."**

OFP offered her the support and love she had been lacking. Most importantly, she found people willing to commit to her, even through the tough times. With their support, she gradually came to see her own potential. "It seemed like there was a day that the light bulb just came on and when it did, I just started doing all of these amazing things that honestly, people said I would never do. I amazed myself," she said.

Today, Katrina has a successful biomedical research career at UT Southwestern, where she is one of their youngest managers. She went back to school and will soon have a degree in Animal Science. She reconnected with a high school boyfriend, got married and recently had her first child. As a new mom, she relies regularly on the lessons and structure she learned at Our Friends Place. Most people take for granted what they learn by emulating their parents, but she says, "What happens when no one raises you? I think OFP taught me how to live healthily, how to love, how to be balanced, how to be patient, and how to recognize and change when I know I'm not doing what I'm supposed to be doing." Katrina hopes to pass on these same lessons to others through her role as a manager and through her continued involvement with Our Friends Place. "I've been through a lot, she said, "But I don't think I would change anything. It's made me who I am. It's made me a very strong young woman."

OVERCOMING THE ODDS

AUTUMN'S STORY

“Before I lived at Our Friends Place, I was in an abusive foster home. I always felt in danger. I never knew when I was going to be woken up from the bed I had to share and thrown outside on the porch. My foster family didn’t treat me the same as the other kids. I hated holidays because my foster family would play cruel jokes on me instead of treating me with love.

When I finally came to Our Friends Place, all that changed. Our Friends Place made me feel like I was one of their own. I finally had a place that loved and accepted me. With Our Friends Place, I had a new beginning. Our Friends Place always made sure I had everything I needed to succeed in school. I was able to join the pom squad and the kickline at my school because someone cared enough to donate the money to buy my uniform.

Besides pushing me to graduate high school, Our Friends Place taught me valuable skills I needed to live on my own. I learned how to clean my clothes and how to write a resume. I was grateful to sit down and eat dinner with my OFP family. Our Friends Place changed my life. More young women like me deserve a chance.

My life would have been very different if Our Friends Place had not given me a home and the skills I needed to be self-sufficient when I left. Without Our Friends Place, I wouldn’t have had my school supplies, I wouldn’t have had a real meal, and I wouldn’t have had a safe place to grow. I am proof that young women can break those barriers and chains, and that incarceration is not the only way to live, if they are given the chance to succeed.”



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BUILDING A COMMUNITY TO HELP YOUNG WOMEN

SOAR TO SUCCESS

In 2018, Our Friends Place's newest program took off in several sites across Dallas. At ten sites, SOAR to Success mentored 421 housing-insecure and at-risk youth.

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Dallas

Essie's Girls

Thomas Jefferson High School

Judge Barefoot Sanders Law Magnet

Richland College

The Bella House

J Leslie Patton Jr Academic Center

Woodrow Wilson High School

Innovation, Design, and
Entrepreneurship Academy (IDEA)

North Dallas High School



KEY

- DART Rail & Stations
- Tollways
- Trinity Railway Express (TRE) and Station - to Irving, DFW Airport and Fort Worth

DISTANCE

- Dallas to Fort Worth: 31 miles
- Downtown Dallas to DFW: 20 miles
- Downtown Dallas to Love Field: 6 miles

Map of Our Friends Place SOAR to Success sites 2018
 Modified from Greater Dallas Area Map on VisitDallas.com

OFF CONTINUUM OF CARE

SOAR TO SUCCESS is a mentoring program that teaches critical life skills to youth ages 12-24 to prevent homelessness. The SOAR to Success program helps young women build their individual Strengths, Opportunities, Allies, and Resiliency so they can have a stable future free from homelessness. SOAR to Success is offered at sites around the metroplex, including DISD campuses, Dallas Community Colleges, and partnering agencies.

2018 IMPACT

649
HOURS

increasing college readiness, building resources in college, and building supportive social capital.

343
HOURS

learning financial literacy, budgeting, and banking systems.

220
HOURS

gaining skills for time management, stress management, and mental health.

154
HOURS

gaining skills for employment, conflict resolution, integrity and trust, healthy boundaries and relationships, and communication skills.

91

hours setting goals, solving problems creatively, and planning for their future.



TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTERS

Our Friends Place operates our Transitional Living Center (TLC) program for young women ages 18-24 at two sites: Beazley House TLC and Pauline's Place TLC. Both program sites are in Old East Dallas and close to public DART stops. Our TLCs welcome a resident to a shared apartment with her own bedroom. Site managers live in each home to provide extensive case management and a weekly meeting with each young woman.

72% decreased their debt

76% increased their savings

59% increased their hourly wage

80% were actively employed at least part-time

97% did not become pregnant while in the program

99% increased job skills to improve employability

80% enrolled in educational/vocational classes

80% successfully completed or are still in the TLC program



OUR FRIENDS PLACE ALUMNI GROUP

Alumni from Our Friends Place's 30 years of programming meet regularly at our office. Alumni offer unique guidance for current clients because they can relate to our young women like no one else can. Alumni also meet to catch up, learn from their own advanced life-skill lessons, and plan their next group outing together.

Thank YOU

Your generosity in 2018 enabled 459 youth to be empowered with the skills to break the generational cycles of abuse, neglect, poverty and homelessness - this is the largest number served in one year during our 30-year history!

If you would like to help empower more vulnerable Dallas youth with critical life skills, please contact Caitlin at (214) 520-6268 or caitlin.doepfner@ourfriendsplace.org

Our Friends Place financial statements were audited by independent auditors Sutton Frost Cary LLP who expressed an unqualified opinion. Our Friends Place financial statements are available at our administrative offices upon request.

INCOME

Foundations, 45%

Corporations, 13%

Community Organizations, 5%

Religious Organizations, 3%

Individuals, 35%



EXPENSES

Program Services
72%

General Administration
12%

Fundraising
16%



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CELEBRATING OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY DONORS

We gratefully acknowledge the following friends whose generous contributions in 2018 have helped our young women soar to success. While we wish we could name every friend for their support, space limits our listing.

\$100,000+

Anonymous

\$50,000-\$99,999

The David M. Crowley Foundation

\$25,000-\$49,999

Ben E. Keith Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Peter R. Fenner

Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation

Anonymous

Junior League of Dallas, Inc.

Texas Women's Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Mr. and Mrs. George J. Damiris

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Mr. and Mrs. G. David Montemayor

Anonymous

The Dallas Foundation

W.P. & Bulah Luse Foundation

Women of St. Michael and All Angels

Zonta Club of Dallas

\$5,000-\$9,999

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The Sister Fund
Vinson & Elkins, LLP

\$2,500-\$4,999

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Dr. and Mrs. Berge Tasian
Anonymous
Ms. Julia Heidenreich and Mr. Richard Voliva
Lauryn Williams and Beatrise Williams
Ms. Jefflyn Williams

**Thank
YOU**

In 2018, your support helped

459

youth living in homelessness or unstable housing in North Texas.



Our Friends Place

214.520.6268

6500 Greenville Avenue, Suite 620, Dallas TX 75206

OurFriendsPlace.org



[@ourfriendsplace](https://www.instagram.com/ourfriendsplace)