

I think Lissy place is a great place to live. I was homeless and had no where to go and Lissy place open their door to me. There is no other place like this for homeless girls and I think they should keep this place open. this program can help other homeless girls in the futher.

Lissy's Place



Lissy's Place is a haven for homeless/abused women. In the past eight years, more than 400 women have been helped.

Lissy's Place is in the former convent of St. Catherine's Catholic Church on Milwaukee's West Side.

The church allows the nonprofit My Home, Your Home Inc. to use the building for free. But My Home, Your Home Inc. is responsible for all utilities, repairs and maintenance, as well as for food, clothing, transportation, counseling, programming and a staff of nearly a dozen employees.

It costs about \$365,000 a year to operate Lissy's Place. Government aid covers only about half of that. The rest comes from local foundations and private donors. In fact, government contracts require that we raise substantial amounts from local sources.

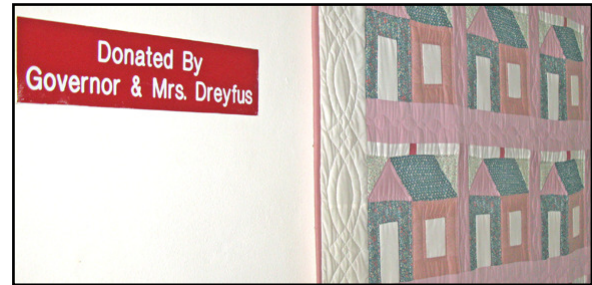
Our local supporters ensure that the door of Lissy's Place remains open for homeless/abused women.



Women find 'family' at Lissy's Place

Lissy's Place helps homeless/abused women to develop economic self-sufficiency and personal independence.

Many of the women who come to Lissy's Place have never experienced the caring of a real family. Lissy's Place gives them that experience. We help about 70 women annually. More than 400 have been assisted since Lissy's Place opened on Sept. 4, 2001. Capacity is 17 women at a time. We have a waiting list. Maximum stay is two years.



The late Governor Lee S. Dreyfus and his wife, Joyce, donated a decorative quilt.

Lissy's Place is unique for its open-door policy. Lissy's Place provides housing and services to homeless/abused women ages 18 to 29. Other homeless/abused programs have stringent requirements that a women have a severe alcohol/drug problem, or a serious mental illness, or have custody of children, or have other characteristics besides homelessness. Lissy's Place has no such entrance barriers.

According to our most recent report to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, about 80% of the women at Lissy's Place are black/African-American. About 40% are victims of domestic violence. Some have alcohol/drug problems, mental health issues or developmental disabilities. Forty percent came to Lissy's Place from a homeless shelter. More than half came from living with relatives/friends and had no other place to go. Others came from psychiatric facilities, substance-abuse facilities, jail or a domestic-abuse situation. They, too, had no other place to go.

About two-thirds of the women enter Lissy's Place having no income at all. The rest have meager incomes. Many had been released from foster care at 18, as required by law, even though they lacked basic employment skills. Before finding shelter at Lissy's Place, they were living as transients, or on the streets.

At Lissy's Place, each woman has her own room. She must engage in 30 hours of "productive work" each week, which includes medical appointments, schooling, job searches, workshops in self-sufficiency skills and employment.

Residents of Lissy's Place must get a job or enroll in a job-training program within 60 days of moving in. Once employed, a woman pays 10% of her income as a program participation fee and puts \$75 a month in her personal savings account.

A woman "graduates" from Lissy's Place by developing life skills, furthering her formal education, obtaining a job, growing a nest egg in a financial institution, and moving into her own apartment. If separated from her children, she may be reunited with them. The women have a high success rate!

To donate items for the women, please call Lissy's Place at (414) 445-2340.
To donate financial support, please visit www.MHYH.org or mail your donation to: My Home, Your Home Inc., 6200 W. Center St., Milwaukee WI 53210-2159.



Participant profiles

From our most recent annual report to HUD

Race

Black/African American	79%
White	15%
Multi-Ethnic	6%

Special Needs (A woman may have more than one special need.)

Domestic violence	36%
Mental illness	8%
Drug abuse	8%
Alcohol abuse	6%
Developmental disability	2%
Other	2%

Prior Living Situation. (Slept in these places in the week before admission.)

Living with relatives/friends; had no place else to go	51%
Emergency shelter	36%
Domestic violence situation	4%
Psychiatric facility	2%
Substance abuse treatment facility	2%
Jail/prison	2%
Other	2%

The staff of Lissy's Place welcomes every woman and helps her to move ahead in life.



Goals and achievements

From our most recent annual report to HUD

RESIDENTIAL STABILITY

► **Goal:** 60% who remain six months or more will move from Lissy's Place to permanent housing.

Goal achieved: 100% moved into permanent housing.

► **Goal:** 40% will remain at Lissy's Place for at least three months, interrupting a pattern of transience and enabling them to focus on establishing self-sufficiency. **Goal progress:** 35% remained in the program for at least three months.

► **Goal:** 90% who move to permanent housing and request follow-up will receive services within 30 days of program exit to reinforce their success. **Goal achieved:** 100% received follow-up services as requested.

INCREASED SKILLS AND INCOME

► **Goal:** 80% who remain two months or more will increase income through employment or mainstream resources at program exit. **Goal progress:** 77% increased income.

► **Goal:** 80% who remain three months or more who define an educational goal will achieve that goal or demonstrate action steps necessary for goal achievement by program exit. **Goal achieved:** 83% achieved goal or demonstrated action steps necessary for goal achievement.

► **Goal:** 80% of employable participants who remain three months or more will be employed or enrolled in job training by program exit. **Goal achieved:** 95% became employed or enrolled in job training.

GREATER SELF-DETERMINATION

► **Goal:** 80% who remain three months or more will address physical and/or mental health needs as defined in goal plan by program exit. **Goal achieved:** 100% addressed physical and/or mental health needs.

► **Goal:** 80% who remain three months or more will increase knowledge in independent living skills as defined in goal plan by program exit. **Goal achieved:** 100% increased knowledge in independent living skills.

Lissy's Place is named for Calise "Lissy" Palmer Wynne (right), a granddaughter of our agency's founder, Irma Walker.



Lissy's Place is highly rated

A recent comparison of Lissy's Place with 20 other "transitional" housing programs in Milwaukee shows that we have one of the very highest success rates in ensuring that the residents move to permanent housing. We also have one of the very highest success rates in helping the women to find employment.



The women, in their own words

(Women's names used with their permission)

Hello my name is Melissa Ellis and I have resided here at Lissy Place since Dec 29 2008. I first heard of Lissy Place about a month ago before I was evicted from my 2 bed home. My sister and myself lived there together. So I called to see what were the requirements for us to move in.

I talked to the sweetest Lady by the name of Carolyn but I call her Ms. Carolyn, she told me that I do qualify, not only did I qualify to stay at Lissy Place my sister qualified too. I

I am thankful my sister and me have a place to stay where we close. Lissy Place mean so much to me. I know when I get to where I'm going I can look back and not regret the day I stepped into Lissy Place. I pray for more places like Lissy Place this way all women who need a chance will be able to get one.



What does Lissy Place mean to me?

To me (Brandie Womack) Lissy Place means a second chance at life. Even though life gets tough Lissy Place makes this 80% better. I found myself without a plan & no place to go. But when my good friends ~~that~~ told me about Lissy Place & what they could offer me I couldn't wait to get in. Once I got here the staff was nice, the place was clean, & the girls were all trying to make it. At first I didn't think the state of Wisconsin cared about young girls like me. I had moved back home, lost my job & I felt like there was no help. Now I have a roof over my head, hot running water, & a new friend. I give all my thanks to God because I would have not made it without him.



A bedroom at Lissy's Place



Supporters of Lissy's Place include:

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

American Postal Workers Union
Apostle Presbyterian Church
Aurora Psychiatric Hospital
Helen Bader Foundation
Badger Mutual Insurance
Bayshore Community Foundation
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wisconsin
The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation
Brew City Bruisers
Brown Deer Women's Golf Club
Elizabeth A. Brinn Foundation
Barbara J. Carson
Christ King Parish
Columbia St. Mary's Hospital
Davis & Kuelthau
Delta Dental
Delta Memorial Endowment Fund
Educators Credit Union
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation
General Federation of Women's Clubs (Wis. 4th Dist.)
Gesu Parish Endowment
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Greater Milw Foundation, Bright Futures Milw Fund
Greater Milw Foundation, Fohr Family Fund
Green Bay Packers Foundation
HGA Architects and Engineers
Daniel Hoan Foundation
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Woman's Club of Wisconsin Foundation
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Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee
Word of Hope Ministries
Joseph and Vera Zilber Family Foundation

*Our donors include
many other caring
and generous people!*

GOODS AND SERVICES

Aeropostale clothing stores
Alpha Women's Center
American Postal Workers Union
Apostle Presbyterian Church
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Cardinal Stritch University
Governor and Mrs. Lee Dreyfus
Godfrey & Kahn (employees)
Green Bay Packers Foundation
HGA Architects and Engineers
Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church
Koss Corporation
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Milwaukee Bucks
Milwaukee Urban League Young Professionals
Mount Mary College Interior Design Club
Private Industry Council
PyraMax Bank
St. Catherine Parish
Salvation Army
Scheibel Halaska
Steinhafels Furniture
Teens for Jeans
WJMR-FM Jammin' 98.3
Zion United Church of Christ



Many organizations and individuals have helped create an inviting atmosphere at Lissy's Place.

