

# Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2023



women's lunch place

## Letter from the President

Dear Supporters of Women's Lunch Place,

When I assumed the role of Board President, I was filled with enthusiasm and a profound sense of responsibility for the vital work we do together for women who rely on our critical, lifesaving services. Despite a challenging housing situation, heightened food insecurity, and a significant mental health decline among our guests, we came together to achieve new levels of productivity and service excellence.

I am inspired by our extraordinary achievements. Last year, we served over 2,000 women, a record for WLP and a stark reminder of the pressing need in our community. We renovated an existing storage space into our Resource & Empowerment Center, hired new staff members including a full-time Attorney, and expanded our substance use disorder recovery programming, now available six days a week at WLP.

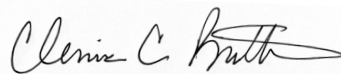
Additionally, our Healthy Meals team prepared and served 113,430 nutritious breakfasts, lunches, and takeaway dinners—again a record for our organization. Our dedicated Advocates found housing for or prevented the eviction of 250 women. These remarkable accomplishments are a testament to our responsiveness and ability to provide services that allow women to heal and rebuild their lives.

Our future is filled with promise, thanks to the impact of our valued supporters, friends, and neighbors, to whom we are immensely grateful. Together, we will continue to create a more compassionate, just, and equitable society for vulnerable women.

With a hopeful outlook to the future and a keen awareness of the challenges ahead, it is my pleasure to present our 2023 Annual Report.



Sincerely,



Clemia C. Brittenum  
President, FY24 Board of Directors

## Fiscal Year 2023 Leadership

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Jennifer Hanlon Wigon

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Roberta Weiner \*

\*Ex Officio



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# Need + Challenges

The Boston Foundation’s 2022 Housing Report Card revealed the following details that illustrate the ongoing housing crisis:

*Almost half of Greater Boston renters pay more than a third of their household income toward housing costs—and for many, rent extracts more than half their income.*

*Greater Boston remains segregated by race and income.*

*Households of color are much more likely to face eviction proceedings against them and are disproportionately affected by the extreme lack of subsidized housing.*

This is a critical moment in time—shelter capacity for women has decreased as the census shows the number of homeless women is increasing. As you read on, you will learn how WLP’s organizational changes were made with these harrowing trends in mind. Our program investments were intended to clear a pathway through systemic oppression and break the cycle of homelessness for our guests.

With a minimum wage job in Boston requiring 104 hours per week to afford a fair market studio apartment, the need for affordable rental units has never been higher. However, the National Low Income Housing Coalition reports that there is a deficit of 140,000 affordable units in Metro Boston alone.

Bureaucracies surrounding affordable and subsidized units are complex, and competition is fierce. Although we are successful in finding housing for our guests, they face an uphill battle to remain stable. **Yet Boston has notably few options for safe, low-threshold drop-in spaces, shelters, or housing that are directly supportive of women.**

Gender-specific housing is necessary because women experiencing

homelessness have unique needs. Research shows that they have higher rates of diagnosed mental health issues, suicidal thoughts and attempts, and adverse childhood trauma than their male counterparts.<sup>1</sup> Women also tend to have less access to resources, including education, employment, and finances.<sup>2</sup>

Research confirms that gender-specific services not only help women meet their personal goals but also reduce human, material, and economic demands on state services such as the police, prison, housing, and healthcare sectors.<sup>3</sup> **Gender-specific services are more successful** at engaging women in addiction treatment than those that do not take gender into account<sup>4</sup> and “better [than nonspecific services] at addressing a history of trauma and mental health issues in combination with substance misuse.”<sup>5</sup> Despite these results, past and existing solutions often ignore gender-specific criteria in favor of a one-size-fits-all approach.

Women’s Lunch Place centers the unique needs of women in our programming and provides a women-only space where our guests can find pathways to stability and enhanced well-being.

- 
1. BMC Public Health.
  2. Evidence Search & Summary Service.
  3. The New Economics Foundation, Scottish Executive Justice Department, DMSS Research.
  4. Indian Journal of Psychiatry.
  5. Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services.



# ***FY2023 Achievements***

## ***Women's Lunch Place***

**2,000+**

women served annually

## ***Healthy Meals***

**113,430**

meals served with fresh fruit, vegetables, and lean protein

## ***Direct Care***

**3,553**

hot showers

**2,827**

loads of laundry

## ***Wellness***

**833**

recovery group participations

**1,264**

therapy group participations

## ***Advocacy***

**7,026**

appointments with guests to help with issues such as fleeing domestic violence, immigration status, housing, and increasing income

**875**

individual guests received one-on-one case management

**250**

women secured housing or preserved their tenancy

## ***Volunteers***

**16,292**

volunteer hours

## ***Health Care***

**3,362**

appointments for ongoing, emergent, and preventative care

**1,076**

unique patients served

# *Program Investments: People Make the Difference*



We are welcoming more guests than we have in years. Over 2,000 women benefitted from our programs and services last fiscal year, a record for our organization.

WLP has risen to the challenge and hired talented and dedicated new staff members, building capacity in each program area. We thoughtfully embedded Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into our recruiting and hired staff who mirror the ethnic makeup of our population. Our Advocacy department doubled in size, adding staff who are fluent in Portuguese, Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Mandarin. Regular training exercises have ensured that our teams are educated on trauma-informed care, harm reduction, motivational interviewing, and safety protocols. The results have been tremendous.



# Housing & Stabilization Through a Clinical Lens

Since the inception of our Housing & Stabilization program, 97% of the women who were housed from homelessness and enrolled in stabilization services have remained in their homes. This program provides the material, emotional, and psychological support a woman needs to remain stable in her new home. It centers on trust and relationship-building—our guests often receive stabilization services from the same Advocate who helped them find their housing.

Stabilization supports like ours have been shown to result in “higher housing stability,

autonomy and lower use of hospital services” over long-term periods.<sup>1</sup> From our initial results, we learned that the six women who did not remain in their housing all presented with severe mental health issues. Last year, we also saw a precipitous rise in counseling visits scheduled by our guests, reflecting the worsening mental health of our community.

We identified a corresponding gap in mental health services available for homeless and indigent women in Greater Boston—our partners at Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) quoted wait times of at least three months for psychiatric attention in their network.

In response to this need, WLP developed a creative solution by contracting with BHCHP to hire a dedicated Behavioral Health and Stabilization Clinician. The person in this role

coordinates services according to our integrated model of care, helping vulnerable women gain access to housing, mental health services, addiction treatment, and other critical services. This clinician evaluates behavioral health needs, issues ongoing assessments and evaluations, provides individual and group therapy, and conducts episodic crisis stabilization services.

Our commitment to filling the mental health services gap did not stop there. WLP embedded significant clinical expertise including a clinical psychiatrist who creates relationships with our guests, conducts soft assessments, and crafts individualized treatment plans. Another clinician who has over 30 years of experience with vulnerable populations leads regular therapy groups that are developed by and for women of color who have experienced trauma.

1. National Center for Biotechnology Information.

**554**

*guests*

**2,767**

*visits with Advocates*

**205**

*women who received emergency financial assistance*



*We identified a corresponding gap in mental health services available for homeless and indigent women in Greater Boston—our partners at Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program quoted wait times of at least three months for psychiatric attention in their network.*



*Working with our team of Advocates, a dedicated lawyer now handles cases on behalf of our guests.*

## ***Legal Services – Equitable Justice***

This past fiscal year, we witnessed a sharp increase in requests for legal help made by our guests. Many of these requests revolved around existing or pending threats of eviction. In Massachusetts, people facing eviction have legal representation only 8.3% of the time, while landlords have representation in 83% of cases.<sup>1</sup> There were 32,797 statewide eviction filings in 2022. As the American Civil Liberties Union has documented, **renters with representation are far more likely to avoid eviction than those without.**

In order to ensure equitable justice for our guests and to help with complicated legal issues involving not only eviction, but domestic violence, benefits, divorce, child custody, immigration referral, and employment, we contracted with Greater Boston Legal Services to provide a full-time Attorney who now handles cases on behalf of our guests.

**Our Attorney meets face-to-face with guests to work on a myriad of issues to ensure each person’s rights are protected.** In addition, she holds bi-weekly case management meetings with our team of Advocates and provides invaluable advice and feedback. Advocates often check in with her throughout the week with legal questions surrounding the issues they are navigating with and on behalf of their clients.

The program has been particularly successful in helping women access emergency shelters—which has prevented multiple families from being separated—as well as in preparing Advocates and their clients for victories in eviction cases.

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1. Massachusetts Landlords.





# Substance Use Disorder Recovery – Creating Pathways to Healing

Persistent drug use at Mass. and Cass has been well-documented by city officials, who have emphasized the importance of decentralizing recovery services from the area. We are collaborating with the city as a part of their Recovery Route, where they transport women from the Mass. and Cass area to our shelter for services. As a result, we saw a significant increase in the number of WLP guests with a substance use disorder. While our staff estimate that over half of our guests are struggling with addiction, only 32% reported having a substance use disorder in our most recent survey.

WLP was able to address this identified need for recovery programming. We utilized evidence-based research to determine the approaches that work best for our women-only community. Studies have shown that “treatment for women's addictions is apt to be ineffective unless it acknowledges the realities of women's lives, which include the high prevalence of violence and other types of abuse.”<sup>1</sup>

To give our guests the best chance to access safe recovery services, Women’s Lunch Place expanded our suite of programs and now hosts at least one addiction support group per day, six days a week, in collaboration with partners including the Department of Mental Health and Boston Medical Center. The groups are peer-led, which leads to greater retention and reduced relapse rates.<sup>2</sup>

Our programs are also gender-specific, which creates a more welcoming environment for women. In a women-only recovery space, a guest can safely attend a class without being in the same building as her male dealer or abuser.

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1. Journal of Psychoactive Drugs.  
2. Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation.

## 833

*participations in recovery groups*

## 1,264

*participations in therapy groups*



*Studies have shown that “treatment for women's addictions is apt to be ineffective unless it acknowledges the realities of women's lives, which include the high prevalence of violence and other types of abuse.”*

# Resource & Empowerment Center – The Road to Economic Independence



*Last fiscal year, we renovated a room in our shelter to create an Empowerment Classroom, reflecting WLP's commitment to improving the basic life skills of guests so they can take the steps needed to reenter the workforce.*

Since 2016, when Massachusetts passed bipartisan equal pay legislation, the wage gap between women and men has persisted. The Boston Globe reports that women on average are paid 79 cents for every dollar a man earns. "Black and Latina women fare the worst, making less than half what white men do."

Last fiscal year, we renovated a room in our shelter to create an Empowerment Classroom, reflecting WLP's commitment to improving the basic life skills of guests so they can take the steps needed to reenter the workforce. The new space includes state-of-the-art technology, modular furniture, and a window into the community area to encourage pre-contemplative guests to take part in our programming.

In the classroom, guests will learn English, technological literacy,

interviewing tactics, and job skills. We will collaborate with members of our Corporate Partnership Program to provide tailored classes in resume building, financial independence, and more. For guests who are ready to take the next step, we make warm handoffs to formal workforce training programs.

The reality at Women's Lunch Place is that—for some of our guests—trauma histories, mental illness, and physical disabilities have limited their capacity to apply for and hold a standard job. Nevertheless, these guests can receive one-on-one assistance at WLP that empowers them to have more autonomy in their lives. They may learn how to write an email to estranged family members, use their cellphone to pay a bill, or search for community resources in their neighborhood.



## *Security – A Safe and Supportive Space*

Safety and security have always been prioritized at Women’s Lunch Place. Our gender-specific environment is one where women can find support and recover from threats of violence. However, the unfortunate reality is that the level of mental illness caused by trauma in some of our guests’ lives leads to difficult behaviors. Some are so broken and abused that they have lost the ability to regulate their emotions. Our staff is trained to respond with compassion and lead with de-escalation, however, last year’s survey results revealed that our guests were feeling less emotionally and physically safe at WLP than in years prior.

In response, we built additional clinical layers and mental health supports into our programming. Importantly, some of these

supports begin on the ground floor, with medical professionals casually engaging our guests in our community dining area and building comfortable, trusting relationships.

We also launched a series of trauma-informed training sessions. Our staff-led Safety & Security Committee organized training modules on basic safety, fire safety, active assailants, self-defense, and de-escalation. Additionally, the committee collaborated with consultants from Liberty Mutual and underwent a security audit with the help of local security experts. After a thorough vetting process, WLP hired a best-in-class security firm that has provided WLP with security personnel who are trained in trauma-informed care and nonviolent de-escalation.



# Guest Story

Veronica\* is 28 years old, tall, with a penchant for wearing bright colors. She stands out in a crowd, but her personality is low-key. She is sweet, but shy and quiet when meeting new people.

When she first came to Women’s Lunch Place, Veronica had been experiencing homelessness for two years. She didn’t sleep outside, instead moving from shelter to shelter with occasional stints on a friend’s couch. **She was homeless because a traumatic assault by her ex-boyfriend had unraveled her mental health and caused her to lose her job.**

In 2021, Veronica was staying at a temporary homeless shelter where Women’s Lunch Place provided Advocacy services. With her new Advocate’s help, Veronica took advantage of Emergency Rapid Rehousing—a pandemic-era program that would provide a subsidized apartment for two years, with the hope that she would find gainful employment and permanent housing before its expiration.

With stable—albeit temporary—housing, **Veronica began to rebuild her life.** She went to individual and group therapy sessions at Women’s Lunch Place. She began eating our nutritious meals and practicing mindfulness in our Wellness classes. With the help of our Resource & Empowerment Center, she found a job at a local healthcare provider.

Veronica also met with her Advocate every week to go over housing waitlists, submit applications, and plan for the future. Despite their steadfast efforts, to this date, nothing has come through.

The deadline is approaching, and Veronica is anxious. She feels physically ill at the thought of losing her apartment and becoming homeless again.

Veronica’s Advocate provides a space where she can vent about her frustrations. They have built trust and a rapport. Together, they go over the available options.



She has one month to find a new place to live.

Veronica’s job has a salary of \$40,000 per year. **This renders her ineligible for most types of assistance and forces her into market-rate housing.** After taxes, she earns \$2,655 per month.

She could find a studio apartment for around \$2,000, which would leave \$655 for utilities, food, transportation, and every other expense in her life—untenable.

Veronica could quit her job or move to part-time to qualify for assistance, but that would trap her in a cycle of poverty. She could try to find roommates for a market-rate apartment, but she would still be pressed financially.

**The reality is that, as far as Veronica has come, there is still a steep, uphill climb to secure stable and permanent housing and a job that can support market rent.** She won’t do it alone. Through it all, her Advocate will be there, helping her navigate the bureaucracies that obscure stability and self-sufficiency.

**Your support enables this critical, individualized work.** A gift to Women’s Lunch Place also provides women like Veronica with healthy nutrition to relieve the burden of food costs, laundry services, free mental and physical health care, community, and a sense of belonging.

We find success even in the most difficult situations. There is still hope.

Thank you for standing with us.

*\* Veronica’s name has been changed to protect her privacy.*



# Financials

## consolidated statement of activities

revenue and support FY 2023

Annual Signature Events	\$886,292
Contributions and Grants	\$4,651,141
Other Income	\$418,420

TOTAL INCOME \$5,955,853

*plus*

In-Kind Donations \$832,265

**TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT** \$6,788,118

expenses

Program Services	\$4,885,164
Administration and General	\$214,674
Fundraising	\$818,225

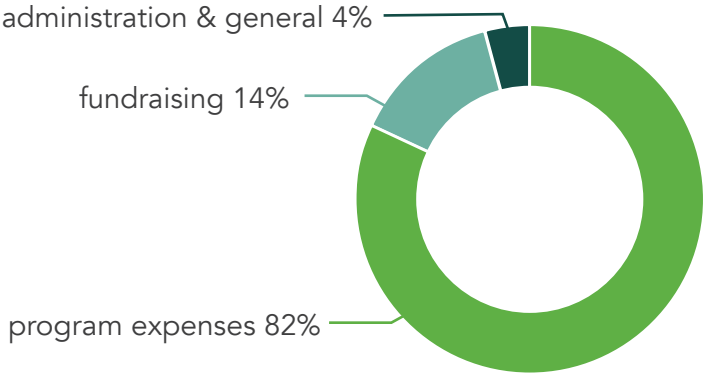
**TOTAL EXPENSES** \$5,918,063

increase (decrease) in net assets \$870,055

net assets beginning of the year \$7,121,436

net assets end of the year \$7,991,491

### expenses breakdown





# *Collaborations & Support*

## *Boston CoC's Housing Assistance Network*

Women's Lunch Place is proud to be a member of Boston's Continuum of Care (CoC) Housing Assistance Network, the regional planning body that coordinates homeless services including housing-related services like outreach, intake and assessment, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. Our Executive Director, Jennifer Hanlon Wigon, is on the Executive Leadership Board of the CoC. The Board develops and implements policies and procedures designed to make homelessness brief, non-repeating, and rare. Jennifer, together with Senior Director of Operations and Programs, Nancy Armstrong, also serves on strategic CoC committees regarding project funding and prioritization as well as policy and activism, including the Coordinated Entry Governance Committee, Workforce Employment Resource Collaborative, and States' Shelter Coalition.

Additionally, WLP's Housing & Stabilization Manager, Doris Romero, sits on Landlord Engagement and Case Management panels for the CoC's Housing & Stabilization efforts. These citywide initiatives bring together case managers who brainstorm and implement ways to introduce landlords to vulnerable clients and help chronically homeless individuals connect to housing and service opportunities.

## *National Women's Shelter Network*

In FY23, Women's Lunch Place Executive Director Jennifer Hanlon Wigon continued her work as a member of the Steering Committee of the National Women's Shelter Network (NWSN) to grow membership over this past year from 54 shelters to 170 nationwide in June 2023. The NWSN was established to advance the status of women and children experiencing homelessness in the U.S., and WLP recognizes the value of collaborating with other women-serving shelters to leverage our collective expertise, experience, and leadership.

The NWSN aims to codify best practices and innovation, conduct and share research, offer training and capacity building, develop informed public and social policies, raise public awareness and education, and advance solutions to end and prevent homelessness. Jennifer works with other members of the leadership team to progress the NWSN strategic plan with the goal of strengthening the individual and collective impact of its members.



# In the News

## The Boston Globe

The Globe published a feature article detailing our individualized services. In it, two formerly homeless guests who worked with WLP describe the process of our Advocacy team and their progress since escaping homelessness.



Boston Public Radio interviewed Executive Director Jennifer Hanlon Wigon and Music for Food Founder Kim Kashkashian about their collaborative efforts to fight food insecurity in Boston. Kashkashian and her colleagues performed live from the Boston Public Library's Newsfeed Cafe.

## wbur

Reporter Lynn Jolicoeur profiled WLP's growth and detailed our Holiday Card campaign. In this piece, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu called Women's Lunch Place "a treasured organization dedicated to supporting women experiencing homelessness, hunger and poverty."

## Boston MAGAZINE

Attendees of our 40th Anniversary Celebration at the annual Spaghetti Dinner gala were photographed and featured in the "City Life" section, sharing the page with British royalty, David Beckham, and Annie Lennox, among others.

## THE BAY STATE Banner

Journalist Avery Bleichfeld interviewed Nancy Armstrong, Senior Director of Operations and Programs at Women's Lunch Place, for an article about the opioid crisis. The piece highlighted an anti-racism grant from RIZE which will enable WLP to hire a full-time Recovery Navigator.

*For more press features, visit:*

<https://womenslunchplace.org/press-features>



# Fundraising

Over the past five years, philanthropy in the United States has fluctuated dramatically. During the height of the pandemic, the U.S. saw a wave of new giving across all non-profit sectors, resulting in a 24% and 12% increase in 2020 and 2021, respectively. Studies revealed that much of this new giving was from first-time donors who have since not repeated their giving. As a result, non-profits have seen donor counts fall in five out of the last six quarters.

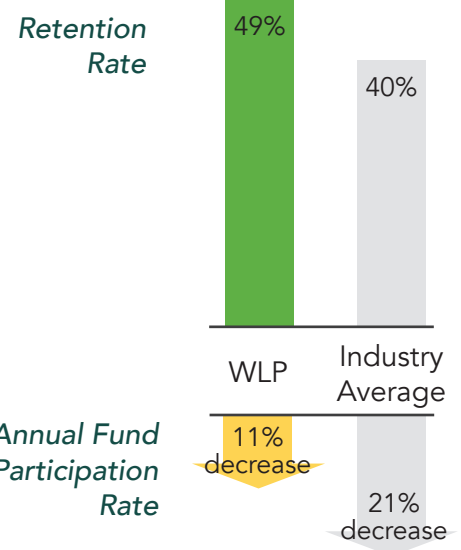
According to the Fundraising Effectiveness Project's latest quarterly data, the decrease in donors was also accompanied by a decrease in the average gift amount.

Despite these trends, Women's Lunch Place has remained fiscally strong by demonstrating continued success across all program areas and responding to the needs of our community by expanding services and adding innovative new programs.

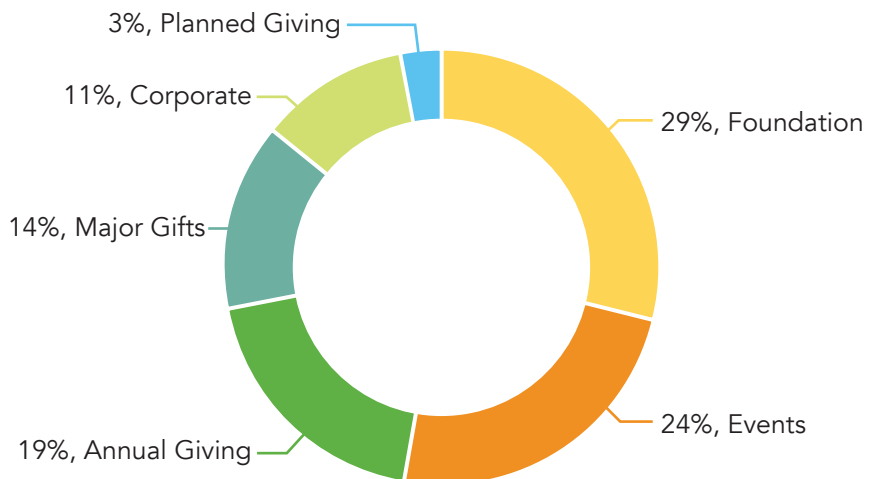
In FY23, 27% of foundations reported decreases in giving. By thoughtfully informing funders about both the escalating needs in our community and the record-high output of WLP programs, we were able to increase foundation investment by 59% over the last three years.

Thanks to unwavering support from our donors, in FY23, Women's Lunch Place received a total of \$5,537,433 in charitable giving, holding fundraising income steady from the last fiscal year. The commitment we received from our funders has allowed us to expand our programming during a time of rising inflation and lack of affordable housing in Boston.

We could not do our work without the support of our generous donors. Thank you for your help.



## FY2023 Funding Source Breakdown







## In-kind

Thousands of necessary items that keep our guests' dignity and stability intact are donated each year. \$832,265 worth of food, clothing, volunteer and professional services, and other supplies were donated in FY23.



## Community Fundraisers

Our thanks go out to our unwavering supporters and friends in the community including lead fundraising organizations: Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay, Women In Insurance New England, and Real Estate Bar Association for Massachusetts.

## Volunteering

Throughout the year, we hosted regular online orientations for new volunteers. WLP relies on members of the community to supplement the incredible amount of work done at the shelter each year. In FY23, we hosted 358 individuals and 40 groups who collectively contributed 16,292 hours of service.



# Partnerships

WLP has continued to assemble and cultivate a wide range of partners, including non-profit, private, and public agencies, and for-profit businesses. Our partners hold a commitment to supporting women who are living at the margins of society, and WLP's long-standing obligation to establish innovative, effective partnerships has resulted in our organization becoming a center of collaboration, supporting our integrated model of care.

## Emergency Shelters

Amal Women's Shelter  
Bristol Lodge  
DOVE  
Eliot Community Center's Safe Haven Program  
Green Street Shelter  
Pine Street Inn  
Queen of Peace Shelter  
St. Patrick's Shelter  
Woods Mullen Shelter

## Finance

CAPIC payee program  
ETHOS  
Rent Secure  
Urban Edge Credit Counseling

## Healthy Meals Program

Area farms and restaurants  
Cambridge School of Culinary Arts  
Community Servings  
Fenway Victory Gardens  
Food Project  
Gaining Ground  
Spoonfuls (previously known as Lovin' Spoonfuls)  
Meals on Wheels  
Northeastern University  
Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline  
Rescuing Leftover Cuisine  
The Greater Boston Food Bank

## Housing

Affordable Movers  
Beacon Communities  
Boston Housing Authority  
Boston Public Health Commission  
Boston's Metrolist  
Brookline Housing Authority  
Cambridge Housing Authority  
Caritas Communities  
Clarendon Residences  
Commonwealth Land Trust  
CSI Co-ops  
East Boston Community Development Corporation  
Elders Living at Home Program  
Everett Housing Authority  
Heading Home  
Hearth  
HomeStart  
Malden Housing Authority  
Metro Housing Boston  
New Lease for Homeless Families  
Newton Housing Authority  
Peabody Properties  
Pine Street Inn  
Quincy Housing Authority  
Revere Housing Authority  
Somerville Housing Authority  
St. Francis House  
Villa Victoria

## Job Readiness

Boston Career Link  
Community Work Services  
Dress for Success Boston  
Found in Translation  
Jewish Vocational Services  
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission  
New England Center for Arts & Technology  
New England Center for Homeless Veterans  
Project Hope  
Project Place  
SPAN Inc.  
Tech Goes Home  
Training Inc.  
Women@Work Plus

## Legal

Boston Homeless Court  
Choate Hall & Stewart LLP  
Greater Boston Legal Services  
Holland & Knight  
Lawyers Clearinghouse  
Mayor Immigration Clinic  
Moriarty Troyer & Malloy LLC  
Pine Street Inn's Homeless Court Program  
Project Citizenship  
Rian Immigrant Center  
Ropes & Gray LLP  
Second Step/Access to Justice Program

## Material Assistance

Bob's Discount Furniture's Charitable Giving Program  
Boston Share Network  
Dignity Matters  
Dignity U Wear  
Household Good Recycling of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless  
Mission of Deeds  
New Life Furniture Bank  
One Roof Program and A Bed for Every Child

## Medical

Barbara McInnis House  
Boston Health Care for the Homeless  
Boston Medical Center  
Fenway Community Health Center  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Network Health  
South End Community Health Center

## Specific Elder Services

Elders Living at Home  
Executive Office of Elder Affairs  
Executive Office of Health & Human Services  
Hearth  
S.W.A.N. Society  
The Sarah A. W. Devens Trust

## Substance Use & Mental Health Treatment

Bay Cove Human Services  
Boston Emergency Services Team (BEST)  
Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program  
Boston Public Health Commission  
Freedom Trail Clinic  
Ignatian Spirituality Project  
MGH Hope Clinic  
Mom's Project/MORE Program  
PAATHS  
Pine Street Outreach Team  
Project Respect  
The Department of Mental Health's Outreach Team  
Victory Programs  
Vinfen

## Transitional Housing

Betty's Place

## Urgent Needs

Action for Boston Community Development  
Barrier Busters  
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center  
Boston BullPen  
Department of Transitional Assistance  
Family Aid  
Howard Benevolent Society  
Lend A Hand Society  
Myra Kraft  
Safelink Domestic Violence Hotline  
Salvation Army  
St. Anthony's Shrine Food Pantry  
S.W.A.N. Society  
The Sarah A. W. Devens Trust



# Get Involved

There are many ways you and your network can get involved and support the critical mission of WLP. We are looking forward to working with you and customizing a fun, informative, and impactful engagement activity for you and your coworkers, friends, or family!

## Donate

- Support our guests with gifts to our Annual Fund
- Provide nutrition and comfort to our guests by sponsoring a day of meals
- Purchase guest-designed cards for the holidays or Mother's Day
- Remember us with a legacy gift in your estate plan
- Apply for employee matching gifts

## WLP Events

- Become a sponsor or purchase a ticket to a WLP Fundraiser
- Donate unique items or experiences for our event auctions
- Join an event committee to support the event planning process
- Participate in community events like Ride for Food, Winter Walk Boston, or by running for WLP in the Boston Marathon!

## In-Kind

- Host a collection drive for essential items for our guests such as toiletries, gift cards, or emergency items
- Donate supplies to our Resource and Empowerment Center or Therapeutic Expressions program

## Volunteer

- Assist with food preparation in our kitchen, help deliver meals to community partners, or assist guests in the Welcome Center or Resource Center
- Use your skills to help the guests with resumes, finances, or art creation

## Engage

- Involve your company with WLP through philanthropy, community support, and volunteerism. WLP will work with you to develop the most beneficial experience for your team!
- Join the WLP Young Professionals group for networking and volunteering
- Become a Mother's Day Card Ambassador by selling cards, spreading the word, or purchasing cards for your network
- Lunch and Learn - bring a group to visit the shelter for a tour and lunch

## Host a Fundraiser

- Host an event with your group or co-workers to spread the word and raise critical funds for WLP!

Possibilities include:

- Social media campaign or Facebook fundraiser
- Book club - we can recommend a book and members can donate in-kind items
- Charity fitness class - ask friends to sponsor you in a spin-a-thon or yoga retreat
- Cocktail hour - invite some friends and we will provide a WLP Host Kit with materials

## Mission

Women's Lunch Place inspires hope and supports the development of self-sustaining skills for women experiencing hunger, homelessness, and poverty. We create a safe, welcoming day shelter community in which we respect the dignity of our guests. We build trusting relationships to provide individualized, integrated services focused on nutrition, health, housing, and economic empowerment.

## Vision

In the effort to eradicate hunger, homelessness, and poverty among women, Women's Lunch Place is a visionary, collaborative leader and partner in Greater Boston. With a unique, relationship-driven service model, we provide women with a path to self-sufficiency, improved health, housing, and financial stability.

## Core Values

- We believe that no individual should have to be hungry or homeless.
- We believe all human beings should be treated with dignity and respect.
- We meet each woman where she is, and we base and adjust our services according to her needs.
- We offer our services in a gracious, comfortable, and safe environment, offering both physical and emotional sustenance.
- We create a community of understanding and acceptance among guests, staff, volunteers, and board members.



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