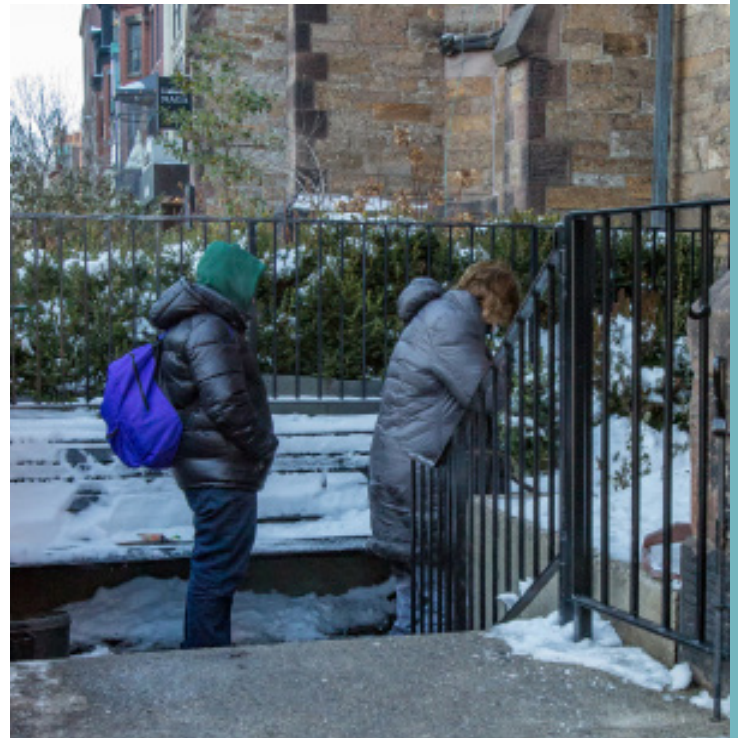
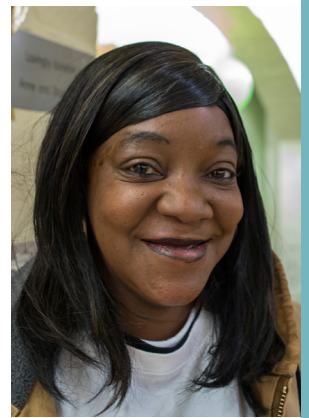


women's lunch place

Annual Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017



welcome letter



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Dear Friends of Women's Lunch Place,

Thank you for your commitment and generosity to our mission of providing dignity, healthy meals, critical services, and programs that offer women opportunities to improve their lives. We are a day shelter community for women experiencing poverty and homelessness. Six days a week, trained staff and volunteers work as a team to provide hundreds of women healing, hope, and dignity. We help over 225 women each day, a 50% increase since 2013.

Healing and joyful discovery happen every day in our Creative Expression program. Women participate in an array of classes from yoga, meditation, and writing to creative arts like drawing, painting, sewing and photography. Some women have been successful selling their creations online and at local art shows.

We are a safe refuge from the streets and the stresses of abuse, isolation, and loneliness that are the experience of too many women. Your generosity ensures that we continue to help heal women, restore their sense of belonging, and support them as they work to regain their confidence and rebuild their lives.

We are grateful for you and the difference your donation made in the lives of more than 1,400 women!

With much appreciation,

Elizabeth Keeley
Executive Director

Anthony Leonard
President, Board of Directors

year in review

In Fiscal Year 2017, your support made an impact at Women's Lunch Place in these ways:

2,490

advocacy meetings for help with housing, legal, financial, or abuse issues

89%

of guests reported that WLP made a difference in their lives

25,945 resource center visits
15,934 computer signups

595

women helped by advocacy

we served
104,625
meals

+17.04% over 2016

4,556
showers

3,928
naps

3,855
loads of laundry

425 attorney consultations

\$1,024,431

estimated value of in-kind donations

33,530+

volunteer & intern hours

3,172
medical visits

142 women were helped with funding, moving to, or keeping their homes.

47
women

went on outings including trips to the New England Aquarium, the Museum of Science, and apple-picking at Shelburne Farm.

what we do



Women's Lunch Place serves each woman's needs, with dignity and respect. Our breadth of programs, strong community partnerships, and well-trained, dedicated staff and volunteers allows us to tailor our services to meet the individual needs of each woman.

meals program

Combined with stress and fatigue, insufficient nutrition increases a woman's susceptibility to illness and poor health. At Women's Lunch Place (WLP), we look to better our guests' quality of life. The meals program, which includes breakfast and lunch, strives to improve the physical and emotional well-being of our guests. Wholesome, nutritious food is a luxury that most women in our community cannot afford. For many guests, Women's Lunch Place is not only their primary source of food, but their only source of true nutrition. Breakfast and lunch are served six days a week; food preferences are accommodated, with vegetarian alternatives at every meal. Women gain self-confidence and a sense of normalcy as meals are served restaurant-style in accordance with 'trauma-informed' care principles to minimize the trauma associated with food insecurity.

advocacy

Women experiencing homelessness and poverty face a myriad of barriers on a daily basis. Our staff assist guests in breaking down those barriers. Skilled advocates provide individualized help with a wide range of complex issues such as shelter and housing, employment, substance abuse, domestic violence, medical care, mental health, and resources for legal challenges. Volunteer lawyers assist with legal problems and questions. Advocates provide emotional support, advice, and encouragement to empower women to make healthy decisions.

"Advocates journey with guests, from the joy of hard-won victories to being there when things fall apart. What makes this program special is that we fill in the cracks, going where other services can't, so that women don't slip through. We are especially good at providing both the emotional and practical support to help women navigate complex systems." — *Tara, WLP Advocacy Manager*

creative expressions

Our Creative Expressions program offers classes in painting, drawing, creative writing, photography, jewelry-making, sewing, knitting, crocheting, quilting, yoga, and much more. Guests who have experienced trauma find healing, confidence, and empowerment while discovering their artistic talent. Guests display their artwork at local shows and events at the shelter. For some, the items they make with Creative Expressions have become a source of income.

guest services

There are a variety of basic needs that every woman has, no matter her situation. Women's Lunch Place offers services with no questions asked: showers, laundry, toiletries, emergency clothing, and much more. Guests have access to a nap room for resting and medical services provided by Health Care Without Walls. Birthdays are celebrated each month, honoring those women born in that month with a special birthday gift and birthday cake for all. Holidays are celebrated throughout the year with a special focus on Mother's Day.

resource center and library

The State Street Resource Center allows for self-advocacy, as women use the computers to search for jobs and housing, write resumes and cover letters, and stay in touch with family and friends. Many guests use 67 Newbury Street as their home address to receive mail. This is especially important when applying for jobs and housing. Guests can send and receive faxes, make phone calls, and use resource guides created specifically for Women's Lunch Place. The Susannah Waldo Wood Reading Room is a quiet place to sit and read a book. Guests have the opportunity to attend classes on a variety of topics including literacy, computer skills, housing and legal issues, employment, financial literacy, nutrition, and stress reduction.



“If this place didn’t exist I would be lonely and have no friends.”

–GUEST



“We are always ladies in their sight, nothing less.”

–GUEST

“Volunteering at WLP for 10 years has profoundly enhanced and changed my life. I have learned so much by getting to know the guests and have a much deeper understanding of mental illness, food insecurity, and the complexities of homelessness. Yes, I give my time but I have gotten so much more from this life changing experience.”

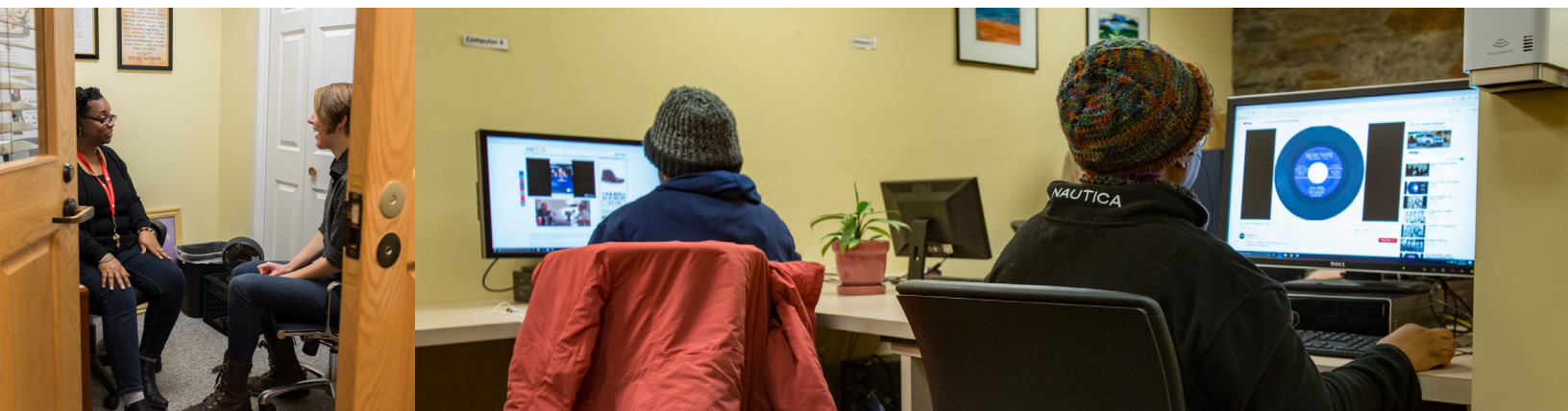
–LINDA, VOLUNTEER

“As WLP staff we feel fortunate to have the chance to make a difference in the lives of the women who come to us for help. We comfort, we advise and we listen. We help build a community of dignity and respect so each woman has the tools to reach her personal pathway towards self-sufficiency.”

–ANN, STAFF

“Overall this place has been like a blessing. WLP, you have made a difference in my life. Thank God for Women’s Lunch Place.”

–GUEST



stories

FIND YOUR HOME

Joan, WLP guest

Joan was facing eviction in court for non-payment of \$2,400 in rent. She had \$300 and hoped WLP could help save her home. Other agencies said no and referred her to WLP. Advocates met with her to find a sustainable solution. Joan faced losing her apartment many times over 10 years because her low fixed income, the responsibilities of caring for an adult son, and a poor memory. Was Joan willing and able to live on budget that would allow her to stay in her home?

Joan agreed to a budget and enroll in an automatic rent payment program. A review of the court documents with a volunteer attorney determined that the landlord had not followed the law on security deposits. This defense was made on Joan's behalf, and the Judge agreed and ordered triple damages.

This award paid all the back rent owed, and the eviction case was dismissed. Joan is most grateful for the assistance from WLP, and by working together, Joan is now secure and stable in her home.

Kate, WLP donor



Kate Ebbott first volunteered with King's Chapel church group; she has championed the mission of Women's Lunch Place ever since. Over the years, she increased her hours helping in the shelter working in the kitchen and then the Resource Center. Kate helped guests with resumes, housing forms, and office supplies. Over the years, she donated tons of supplies, reading glasses, earbuds, and memory sticks. "I was a super shy person, so I started out washing dishes and then moved to serving the guests. There is a place for everyone to help, from organizing the toiletry closet, running the marathon, or collecting toiletries for the guests. I remember a time when a guest told a school group about her journey to WLP. Their compassionate response was truly genuine."

In 2011, Kate was honored by Robert Kraft as a Patriots Difference Maker. Kate is also a very generous supporter and had a positive impact on thousands of women over the 17 years she served WLP. Kate and her family relocated to Chicago in 2017, and we all miss her very much!

Glenn, WLP volunteer



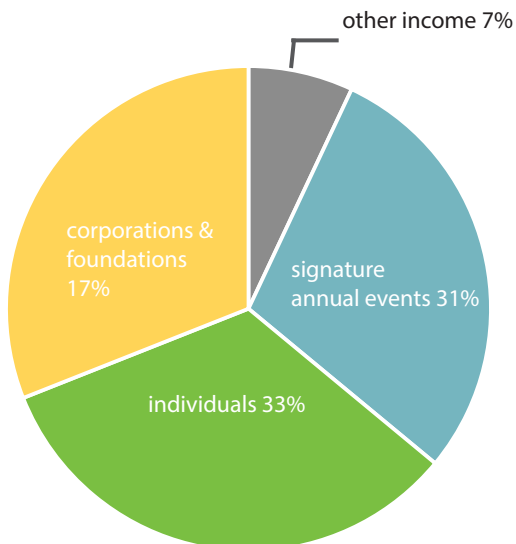
For many years, Glenn Quirion has honored his mother's love for Women's Lunch Place by being an extraordinary volunteer. Glenn's enthusiasm and energy are contagious. He owns Sweet Tooth Bakery in South Boston, and every month he generously donates a beautifully decorated birthday cake to celebrate guests' birthdays in the shelter. Glenn is an Advisory Committee member and serves on event committees for the spring and fall fundraisers. Glenn introduces friends and business clients to help us with auctions, and his contribution of ideas make our fundraisers fun and successful. The multi-tiered event cakes that he designs are centerpieces at every Spaghetti Dinner! Glenn puts his heart and soul into all he does for WLP and the women we serve.

We are grateful and most fortunate to have Glenn as a supporter and volunteer.

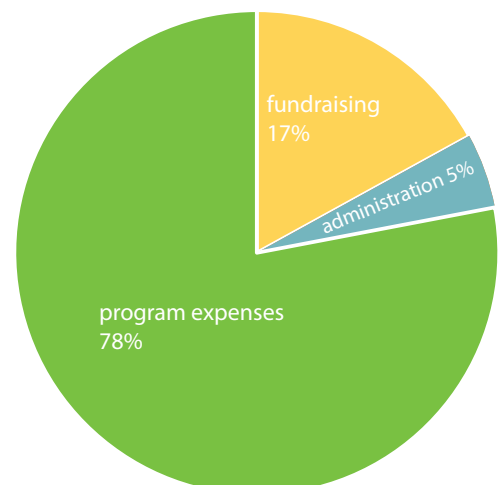
consolidated statement of activities

revenue and support	FY 2017
Signature Annual Events	\$860,509
Individuals	\$908,631
Corporations and Foundations	\$806,455
Other Income	\$208,673
<hr/>	
Total Income	\$2,784,268
plus	
In-Kind Donations	\$1,024,431
<hr/>	
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$3,808,699
expenses	
Program Expenses	\$2,893,029
Administration and General	\$189,498
Fundraising	\$626,635
<hr/>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,709,162
increase (decrease) in net assets	\$99,537
net assets beginning of the year	\$4,027,724
net assets end of the year	\$4,127,261

revenue and support



expenses



donors

It is with deep gratitude that we recognize the people, organizations, and foundations that have supported the work of Women's Lunch Place between July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017, our Fiscal Year 2017. Listed below are all donors who contributed a total of \$500 or more during Fiscal Year 2017.

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Judith & Albert Zabin
Sarah & Chris Zibailo

get involved!



donate

Women's Lunch Place relies solely on the generosity of individual donors, corporations, and foundations. Here are a few ways you can support our mission:

- Sponsor a lunch or breakfast
- Support our annual events: Spaghetti Dinner, eat LUNCH give, and Mother's Day cards
- Celebrate a loved one by making a gift in their honor
- Mark a special occasion with a donation in lieu of gifts
- Host an event to benefit the WLP
- Help our guests through monthly/annual giving, corporate matching, and legacy gifts

in-kind donations

Toiletries, birthday gifts, and emergency and seasonal clothing are always needed by our guests. Visit our website for a current list of needs.

volunteer

We welcome individuals and groups to volunteer in food preparation, serving meals, assisting in the Welcome Center, Resource Center, and more.

partner with us

Host a collection drive of items for our guests, sponsor a meal in honor of a loved one or celebration, or help us sell and write Mother's Day cards for our Mother's Day Campaign, to name just a few.

To learn more about getting involved with Women's Lunch Place, please email us at info@womenslunchplace.org.

We have made every effort to list donors with the utmost accuracy. If we have made any error or omission, please help us correct our records by contacting Lorraine Levine, Director of Development, at Lorraine@womenslunchplace.org or 617-449-7190.

Women's Lunch Place is a safe, welcoming daytime shelter for women experiencing poverty or homelessness. We offer a supportive community, healthy meals and individualized services to empower women to make positive changes in their lives. Vulnerable women will be treated with dignity and empowered to pursue their dreams.

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 tailor 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.