Dear Friends,
At the Downtown Women’s Center, the spirit and determination of the women we serve inspire us every day. We work tirelessly to elevate their voices, and to ensure they are a central part of the dialogue focused on solving the crisis of homelessness. Like never before, our city, county, state and nation are taking notice.

Homelessness numbers in Los Angeles continued their increase in 2017, signaling the need for sustained work to be done. From improving access to bridge and permanent supportive housing, to strengthening vital support services – we won’t rest until every woman in Los Angeles is housed and on a path to personal stability.

As we advocate for systemic change, we are reaching women in record numbers beyond Skid Row with your critical support. In 2017, DWC programs served more than 4,000 women, and 210 women acquired permanent housing. Our Day Center provided 110,400 healthy meals, 1,000 women received services in our health clinic, and our case managers provided 15,100 sessions.

2018 marks the 40th Anniversary of DWC’s founding and promises continued success as we respond to the dynamic and changing needs of the women we serve. Whether you support with your time, talent or financial contributions, we could not do this work without you.

Thank you for being a part of the DWC family.

Sincerely,

Heather Rim, President, Board of Directors

Lisa Watson, Interim CEO, Downtown Women’s Center
Vision

We envision a Los Angeles with every woman housed and on a path to personal stability.

Mission

Our mission is to end women’s homelessness in greater Los Angeles through housing, employment, wellness, and advocacy.

Values

Downtown Women’s Center’s values are community, woman-centered, equity, respect, and sustainability.
At DWC I found a place that treated me with compassion and provided the services I needed to get my life back on track.

This program improved my self-esteem. I'm less ashamed of who I am and what I went through.

I'd always wanted to be artistic. No one ever knew that dream I had until I came to DWC and it was realized. Women can take a step forward in their lives here.

Working with DWC helped me realize I didn't have to give up on the dreams I had for the life I wanted to live.

By sharing my story with other people and advocating, I have been able to heal from my own trauma, my own pain.
Permanent Supportive Housing Program

Using the Housing First model, DWC provides 119 units of permanent supportive housing for single unaccompanied women across our two residences in downtown Los Angeles. Our housing model has successfully ended homelessness for hundreds since we pioneered permanent supportive housing for women in 1986. Permanent supportive housing is comfortable, safe, and affordable housing without time limits and access to on-site services.
Community-Based Housing Program

Our Community-Based Housing Program connects single unaccompanied women and women with children to permanent housing and supportive services throughout Los Angeles County. Community-Based Housing case managers provide each woman with the individualized support she needs to regain personal stability and our services include rapid re-housing assistance for women escaping domestic violence and support for women veterans.
Health and Wellness Program

Our drop-in Day Center is the entry point for our women-centered services and the hub of our healthy community. It provides a safe space for women in the heart of the Skid Row neighborhood. Women who come through our doors have access to three nutritious meals daily, clean bathrooms and showers, changes of clothes, a mailing address to receive mail, a safe place to rest and socialize with other women, and one-on-one case management to secure housing and other services. In partnership with JWCH, at our Women’s Health Clinic—the only women-specific health clinic in Skid Row—we provide primary care, STD and HIV testing, tuberculosis and cancer screenings, vaccinations, mammograms, and physical as well as mental health assessments.
Workforce Development Program

DWC’s education and job training services are designed to meet every woman’s current needs, regardless of her background and level of experience. We offer paid job training opportunities and employment counseling.

MADE by DWC is our social enterprise created to generate economic and social capital for women in the Skid Row community. Our signature line of gifts is made by women transitioning out of homelessness and sold at the MADE by DWC Café and Gift Boutique, MADE by DWC Resale Boutique, and online at MADEbyDWC.org. Proceeds from MADE by DWC fund programs and services at Downtown Women’s Center.
Advocates Program

We believe the most effective way to advocate for systems change is to ensure the voices and lived experiences of DWC residents and participants are at the forefront of our work. The DWC Advocates Program empowers formerly homeless women to become successful advocates for themselves and for other women experiencing homelessness through a series of training sessions. DWC Advocates participate in press interviews, public policy meetings, fundraising events, and press conferences.
DOWNTOWN WOMEN’S CENTER

2017 IMPACT

4,150 WOMEN WERE SERVED

210 WOMEN WERE HOUSED

15,100 CASE MANAGEMENT SESSIONS

1,300 COUNSELING SESSIONS

800 WOMEN ACCESSED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

90 ADVOCACY ACTIONS TAKEN TO DRIVE SYSTEMIC CHANGE

1,000 WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC VISITS

110,400 MEALS SERVED
FINANCIALS

**Expenses**
$10,077,289

- Fundraising: 10%
- Management and General: 10%
- Program Services: 80%

**Revenue**
$9,134,390

- Government Grants: 30%
- Contributions: 13%
- Foundations and Corporate Grants: 19%
- In-Kind Support: 12%
- Rental Income: 9%
- Social Enterprise Income: 3%
- Investment Income: 5%
- Special Event Income: 6%
- Other: 2%

**Net Assets**
$16,546,477
- Temporarily Restricted Net Assets $6,094,876
- Unrestricted Net Assets $10,451,601

Complete 2017 audited financial statements and tax documents are available at DowntownWomensCenter.org.
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Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)

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