

Permanent Supportive Housing Program

Permanent supportive housing is comfortable, safe, and affordable housing without time limits. At DWC, it includes access to on-site services like healthcare, education, job readiness training, and a variety of community-building activities like yoga workshops, jewelry pop-ups, and even water aerobics classes.

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.



OUR 2020 IMPACT amidst COVID-19



458 women provided
with housing navigation



119 units
of housing



99% housing
retention rate

SUCCESS STORY

“I was homeless, living behind the old library in Santa Monica.

I am schizophrenic and hadn't been taking my medication for over four and half years. At the time I didn't know how to get out of this situation of being homeless. Now I live at the Downtown Women's Center on Los Angeles Street. There I receive medical help, therapeutic help, social normality ... There's really no way that I know how to explain how it feels to not live life but to exist in it, and to suddenly have the opportunity to live in it. DWC gave that to

me, with an apartment key—a home, support, and a family and the friends whom I live with.

We need more buildings just like the building I live in. We need apartment keys just like mine to change lives forever and to stop homelessness completely.”

— VIKKI, A PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING RESIDENT

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Our flagship San Pedro Street residences, opened in 2010, were designed to include an outdoor patio on the second floor in response to participants' desire for a safe, outdoor space where they could socialize, read, take a phone call, or just soak up the LA sun. The 2,064-square foot patio has become a special place for staff and residents alike, many of whom have not felt safe outdoors since first entering homelessness. Lined with flowering citrus trees, the patio also features several vertical hydroponic gardens donated by Urban Gardens, where women can grow lettuces, kale, and seasonal vegetables; they are especially beloved by our older residents who use walkers and/or experience body pains. Our patio hosts various activities and events for staff and residents all year long, including July 4th celebrations, gardening clubs, special lunches, and exercise classes.



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