

the gathering place



biannual report 2016–2017

October 1, 2015–September 30, 2017



The Gathering Place®
a refuge for rebuilding lives

the gathering place



The Gathering Place (TGP) is the only daytime drop-in center in Denver that serves women, children, and transgender individuals who are experiencing poverty, many of whom are also experiencing homelessness. TGP helps members help themselves by offering a wide array of services and programs that meet basic needs, foster personal growth, and build a community support system that is often lacking in the lives of those who come to us seeking assistance.

The daily struggles of poverty—*safety, food, shelter, clothing*—often limit an individual’s capacity to focus on self-sufficiency goals. Multiple national studies demonstrate that women and transgender individuals are more likely than men to live below the federal poverty guideline, and TGP members report an average annual income of \$6,500 (regardless of family size), which is well below the federal poverty level. According to the Census Bureau (2016), 55,000 women in Denver are experiencing poverty. The Colorado Department of Education reports that 2,519 students in Denver experienced homelessness during the 2015–2016 school year. U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that 554,054 Coloradans struggle with hunger.

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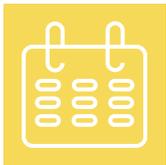
our beliefs

We are guided by our belief in hope as an important change agent and we hold that hope for everyone. We believe deeply in the power of community and continue working to develop it. Our key values include recognizing individual strengths, building respect and trust, and offering acceptance unconditionally. While we refer to those we serve as “members,” the generosity of our donors ensures that no fees are ever charged for our programs or services.

about our members



Forty-seven percent are between the **ages of 40 and 64**. During the years 2013 to 2017, we noted a 10 percent increase in those over the age of 65. Twenty-five percent are aged 15 and younger. Two percent (~109 members) identify as transgender.



One in every five members visits TGP more than 10 times a year; one in every 20 members visits more than **50 times a year**.



Forty-three percent receive **modest income** ranging from \$100 to \$800 a month. Twenty-five percent of our members receive disability benefits from the Social Security Administration.

Fifty-two percent are **experiencing homelessness**; of those, 34 percent rely on shelters or motel vouchers; 25 percent temporarily stay with friends or family; and, 20 percent make a home in their car.



Twenty-seven percent of our members have a **high school diploma or GED** and 16 percent have some sort of advanced training or Bachelor's degree.



The Gathering Place strives to create a **diverse community**. Thirty-nine percent identify as White; 33 percent as Black/African American; 24 percent as Hispanic; 13 percent as American Indian/Alaska Native; 2 percent as Asian; 1 percent as Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander; and, 3 percent as 'other'.



Forty-one percent of our members have a disability or other significant **health condition** that impacts their life day-to-day. Thirty-three percent of our members have experienced some form of abuse.

meeting basic needs

Resource Advocates on the **Community Access Team** respond to members' immediate needs with services that include showers, laundry, naps, mail service, locker storage, telephone access, and an extensive array of resources and referrals.

TGP's **Family Program** provides provisions and other assistance to families. Food boxes, diapers, formula, housing, support groups, computer access, education and employment support are common needs.

In our community dining room, the **Food Services Program** serves freshly prepared meals (breakfast, lunch, and early dinner) that include healthy and delicious options, which accommodate most dietary needs and preferences. For example, vegetarian options are available for all meals. Our **Food Pantries** provide healthy groceries, baby food/formula, toiletries, and diapers.

Bridget's Boutique, TGP's clothing bank, distributes clothing to members who have an emergency need for replacement clothes or need clothes for employment reasons.

bridget's boutique

In 2017, Bridget's Boutique provided 2,701 appointments to our members.

"Just to be able to wear something new and be able to my wash my clothes as well as take a shower... it just gives you that rejuvenation feeling for the day."

—Vanessa

2016

7,938

members visited
61,744 times

65,544

meals
served

17,060

diapers
distributed

2017

7,126

members visited
56,637 times

61,306

meals
served

16,240

diapers
distributed





family program

In 2016, TGP's Family Program served 1,952 youth through 5,642 visits, and 1,637 youth were served through 4,844 visits in 2017.

"My daughter has already asked me when we're coming back."

—TGP Member

fostering personal growth

Our members face numerous challenges that can make it nearly impossible to secure or maintain a job. *Unreliable transportation. Need for childcare. Legal issues. Mental and physical health issues. Living in shelter. Trauma.* Often, a member faces more than one of these issues at any given time and sometimes chronically.

TGP's **Education and Job Readiness Program** helps members reach their goals of advancing their education, improving their employment potential and increasing their income.

Educational opportunities for adult members at TGP include the High School Equivalency Program in collaboration with Community College of Denver, Skills Development Classes, Writers Group, Tutors, and Book Club.

Job readiness opportunities include twice weekly Job Search Assistance, monthly on-site Job Fairs, and Private Appointments with the Job Readiness Program Manager provide members a chance to discuss their job or education related needs and get referrals, assistance, and advice.

TGP's **Computer Lab** provides access to computers and printers that are well maintained and regularly updated. Volunteers run the lab and are available to help members learn computer software and programs.

The **Physical and Mental Health Program** promotes wellness, growth, and hope by increasing access to health care information, services, and referrals, as well as providing assistance to pay for prescriptions, minor medical supplies, and over the counter medications.

The **Arts Program** is a broad category of creative programming that includes: The Card Project, knitting and crocheting, open art, a creative writing group, and a music group. These activities can provide psycho-social benefits such as increased self-esteem, the opportunity to be part of an active artistic community, the chance to engage in creative expression, and a path to generate income. For example, The Card Project provides opportunities to showcase and sell artists' creations through TGP's social enterprise—Art Restart.

our drop-in model

Members have access to resources, professional advice, and are free to make their own choices about life and career.

“The people at The Gathering Place care every time I’ve come here for whatever I need. There are people who can direct you in the path you need to go.”

—Dorita



fostering personal growth

564

medical screenings,
263 counseling sessions and one
health fair were provided on-site

1,165

members visited the
Computer Lab 6,156 times

527

members participated in
job readiness programs
776 times

112

members attended our
education program 790 times

707

medical screenings and
195 counseling sessions

985

members visited the
Computer Lab 5,187 times

401

members participated in
job readiness programs
804 times

132

members attended our
education program 1,279 times

2016

2017

creating social enterprise



As a social enterprise of The Gathering Place, **Art Restart** gives women experiencing poverty a chance to express themselves artistically while working toward self-sufficiency. Lives are transformed through the purchase of greeting cards, scarves, desk calendars, postcards, wedding invitations, custom prints and commissioned originals.



2016

\$25,000

generated income for
92 participating artists

2017

\$26,127

generated income for
96 participating artists



shop art restart

To shop, visit www.artrestart.org.

“I never considered myself an artist. I guess the terminology applies to anyone who creates, so feeling (like) an artist is an upgrade from feeling useless.”

—Corazon

building community



Building our community is governed through the **Member Engagement Steering Committee**. This group is a working partnership among members who receive services, Board members, volunteers and staff. Governance, program decision-making, and daily activities are explored. Building community also involves providing trauma-informed care trainings to ensure greater understanding of our commonalities, TGP's philosophy, and our approach to creating a safe community.

power of community

Our community focuses on strengths, offers choice, and partners with our members in making decisions about the organization, as well as their own lives.

“We believe deeply in the power of community and we are continually trying to improve it.”

—Leslie Foster

building community



Volunteers are our partners in care, advocacy, and community building. Our volunteers remind us that there are people in the larger community who care deeply about issues of equity, poverty, and homelessness. We offer educational opportunities, long-term placements, student internships, and off-site options for both individuals and groups.

volunteers

Each week, about 135 individuals volunteer their time in service to The Gathering Place, ultimately contributing over 20,000 hours each year.

“This is the first volunteer work I’ve really done and helping women and children was a good place to start. In the back of my mind I thought someday I might need help. You never know. And I thought I should start out helping.”

—Wendy

governance

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: FY 2016

LEADERSHIP

Leslie Foster, *President*
Geoffrey Bateman, *Board Chair*
Britta Evans Miles, *Immediate Past Board Chair and Board Secretary*
Christina Saunders, *Board Chair Elect*
Sue Engle, *Board Treasurer*

COMMITTEES

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Genevieve Laca
Christina Saunders
Renise Walker
Leslie Weems

FINANCE AND AUDIT

Sue Engle, *Chair*
Bob Alder, *Endowment Oversight Chair*
Kathy Daly
Britta Evans Miles
Sandra Storey

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT STEERING

Rebecca Kisner
Kendall Lindenbaum
Britta Evans Miles

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Sandra Storey, *Chair*
Tracy Birts
Kendall Lindenbaum
Chirag Patel
Theresa Wardon

ADVOCACY

Geoffrey Bateman, *Co-Chair*
Lindsey Feitz, *Co-Chair*
Susan Rodger

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Rebecca Kisner

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Kathy Daly
Kendall Lindenbaum
Michelle Murray
Allison Panter

ADVOCACY

Lindsey Feitz, *Chair*
Jacquie Koewler
Susan Rodger
Maya Wilbourn

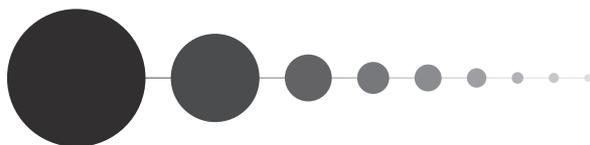


financials

2016

■ Individual & Major Gifts	\$947,936 (37%)
■ Foundation Grants	\$612,958 (24%)
■ In-Kind Contributions	\$323,550 (12%)
■ Special Events	\$223,651 (9%)
■ Government Contracts & Grants	\$203,311 (8%)
■ Business, Religious, & Organization Donations	\$94,808 (4%)
■ Art Restart (Social Enterprise)	\$70,539 (3%)
■ Workplace Giving	\$64,262 (2%)
■ Other	\$50,425 (2%)

TOTAL REVENUE \$2,591,439

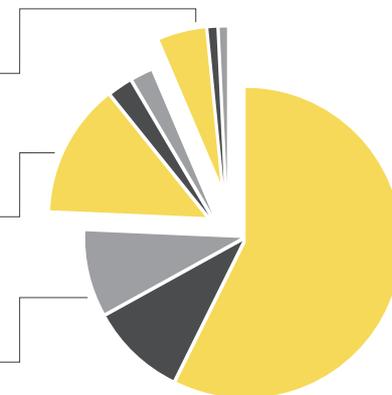


■ Program Costs	\$134,291
■ Fundraising	\$22,966
■ Administrative	\$20,849
Social Enterprise	\$178,105 (6%)

■ Program Costs	\$378,357
■ Fundraising	\$63,553
■ Administrative	\$57,694
Foster Personal Growth	\$499,604 (18%)

■ Program Costs	\$1,598,171
■ Fundraising	\$268,470
■ Administrative	\$243,723
Meet Basic Needs	\$2,110,364 (76%)

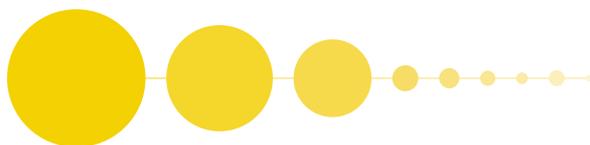
TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,788,073



2017

■ Individual & Major Gifts	\$889,948 (35%)
■ Foundation Grants	\$678,921 (27%)
■ In-Kind Contributions	\$484,330 (19%)
■ Special Events	\$137,631 (5%)
■ Government Contracts & Grants	\$91,072 (4%)
■ Business, Religious, & Organization Donations	\$73,523 (3%)
■ Art Restart (Social Enterprise)	\$74,255 (3%)
■ Workplace Giving	\$91,102 (4%)
■ Other	\$19,819 (1%)

TOTAL REVENUE \$2,540,601



■ Program Costs	\$212,671
■ Fundraising	\$24,943
■ Administrative	\$19,079
Social Enterprise	\$256,693 (9%)

■ Program Costs	\$548,876
■ Fundraising	\$96,208
■ Administrative	\$73,592
Foster Personal Growth	\$718,676 (26%)

■ Program Costs	\$1,409,076
■ Fundraising	\$235,175
■ Administrative	\$179,892
Meet Basic Needs	\$1,824,143 (65%)

TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,799,512



30 years and counting

For over 30 years, The Gathering Place has built a reputation as one of the leading social service agencies in Denver. We embrace, articulate and implement our philosophy of radical acceptance, ensuring physical and emotional safety. We approach our work from the perspective of *power with* rather than *power over*.

To that end, we target energy and resources to implement the personal and systemic solutions to the many issues faced by those we serve. We are encouraged by your support and that which we have already accomplished:

- **Leslie Foster**, president of The Gathering Place, was inducted into the **Colorado Women's Hall of Fame** on March 24, 2018.
- The Gathering Place Collaborative Model was first publicly recognized in Richard Stekel's 1997 book, *In Search of America's Best Nonprofits*.
- Locally, we are known as one of the first organizations to embrace the **Trauma-informed Care** approach to services.
- Increasingly, we are taking a unique and business-oriented approach to jointly serving our members, and funding the organization. We participated in the first graduating class of the **Social Enterprise Cohort** (2014), and now we have an on-going enterprise: ours is **Art Restart**. Shop at www.artrestart.org.
- We are a founding member of the **Denver Women's Collaborative**.
- Our many volunteers, and our staff have won numerous awards over the years, in areas such as **diversity and leadership**.



thank you



“My sisters have often said to me that there is nothing like The Gathering Place where they live and they could really use this type of help sometimes. Hearing that makes me extra grateful for all that TGP has done for me and my daughter.”

—Sonja



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