who we are

The Gathering Place, founded in 1986, is a community of safety and hope where positive relationships, choice, and essential resources transform the lives of women, children, and transgender individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness. We refer to those we serve as “members” and our generous donors ensure that our programs and services are provided free of charge.

We believe deeply in the power of our community and continually work to make it stronger. Our key values include recognizing individual strengths, building respect and trust, and offering unconditional acceptance. We are not just a service organization; we are committed advocates for those we serve.

who we serve

Our members face a mix of challenges that can make it nearly impossible to meet vital survival needs, let alone find economic stability. Hunger. Safety. Unreliable transportation. No childcare. 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.
The Gathering Place offers comprehensive services and programs during the day when shelters are closed. Our programs utilize trauma-informed care practices; have essentially no barriers to service; and are responsive to crisis situations.

Our goal is to give our members opportunities to meet basic needs, foster personal growth, promote social enterprise, and build a community support system that is often lacking in their lives.

**Resource Advocates on the Community Access Team (CAT)** 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.

Like the CAT response, the **Family Program** provides support for families. The team cares for children while mothers/guardians participate in other services and programs.

Our **Food Services Program** provides meals (breakfast, lunch, and early dinner) which include healthy and delicious options that accommodate most dietary needs and preferences. Our Food Pantries (Betsy’s Cupboard and Family Program) provide healthy groceries (including baby food and formula), toiletries, and diapers.

“The Gathering Place is extremely helpful because right now, I am homeless and I am in dire need. This place is a haven, I would say, for those in need.”

- ROTASHA, MEMBER

**what we do**

- **6,348** individuals visited
- **2,117** toiletry bags distributed
- **1,395** children visited
- **19,592** diapers distributed
- **56,611** meals served to **50,020** pounds of food distributed from Betsy’s Cupboard
- **3,635** individuals

**meeting basic needs**

- **51,342** times
- **3,596** times
- **50,020** pounds of food
Our Education and Job Readiness Program helps members advance their education and improve their employment potential.

New this year, the program implemented the PAIRIN system of assessments and coaching. This program is designed to help individuals develop their “soft skills.” For our members, these underdeveloped skills are often one of the most significant barriers to employment. By implementing PAIRIN, we have strengthened our job readiness training by performing assessments and leading members in intense coaching that not only improves our member’s ability to get a job, but perhaps more importantly, to keep one.

During the six-month pilot, three staff members trained in the PAIRIN system, and 25 members took the assessment and participated in coaching appointments 30 times.

This year also introduced our Peer Navigator Program. Peer Navigators are individuals with lived experience similar to that which our members face, but who are now experiencing stability and can help others navigate systems and processes. During the pilot program, the Wellness Peer Navigators supported 594 members.

In the Computer Lab, members can utilize computers, access the Internet, and print documents. The lab is staffed by volunteers who are available to help members develop their computer literacy in an increasingly technology-driven world.
The **Physical and Mental Health Program** helps members access health care information, services, and referrals. The program regularly brings partner agencies and pro bono health professionals on site to serve members, thereby overcoming various barriers to care (e.g., transportation).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On-Site Health Fair</th>
<th>Counseling Sessions</th>
<th>Medical Screenings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>579</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The **Arts Program** provides a variety of creative outlets such as making greeting cards, knitting and crocheting, open art, and creative writing and music groups. These endeavors have intangible benefits such as increased self-esteem, being part of a caring community, and the opportunity to engage in creative expression.

**Bridget’s Boutique**, our clothing bank, distributes clothing to members who have an emergency need for replacement clothes or need clothes for employment reasons. Professional stylists also provide free haircuts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boutique Appointments</th>
<th>Haircuts</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,796</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**278 members participated in the arts program 1,776 times**
We aim to provide periodic trauma-informed care trainings for staff, Board, volunteers, and members to create a safe community. These initiatives are advanced by two agency committees: the Trauma-Informed Care team and Team Inclusion, our diversity and inclusion committee.

Leadership opportunities for members include participation in the Member Engagement Steering Committee, which gives members a voice in our governance. We also offer meaningful volunteer opportunities that promote direct involvement in providing services, such as running Bridget’s Boutique or the Computer Lab.

Members dedicated 3,000 hours serving on committees, in governance, and by volunteering with the agency.

Art Restart was launched in 2014 as a social enterprise to diversify and expand our revenue sources while giving members the opportunity to earn supplemental income from their artistic talents. Art Restart provides members with the support and supplies they need to create their own art. Select pieces are then turned into custom merchandise from which the artists receive a royalty on every purchase made.

We also host a robust Volunteer Program. Various opportunities are available throughout the agency. For example, there are volunteer roles with the welcome desk, kitchen, The Card Project, family programs, and our High School Equivalency program.

Volunteer hours:
- 17,000

Money raised:
- $17,028

Shopping Art Restart products is an incredible way to donate to The Gathering Place while also receiving unique, handmade products. See the full collection at artrestart.org.
“We know that The Gathering Place is magical. That's why we all commit our time, outside of our otherwise busy lives with family, friends, careers, and other pursuits to be a part of it all.”

– SANDRA STOREY, PREVIOUS BOARD CHAIR

TOTAL EXPENSES
$3,177,290

63% Meet Basic Needs

Foster Personal Growth

11% Social Enterprise

TOTAL REVENUE
$3,189,662

Individual and Major Gifts 1,457,691 (46%)
Foundation Grants 621,060 (19%)
Donated Good and Services 544,581 (17%)
Donor-Advised Funds 164,569 (5%)
Government Contracts & Grants 102,999 (3%)
Art Restart (Social Enterprise) 52,729 (2%)
Workplace Giving 71,051 (2%)
Business/Religious/Organization Donations 168,836 (5%)
Other 6,146 (0%)
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- **Maya Wilbourn**  
  COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER / IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY

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“There is a lot of kindness in the world, and I appreciate seeing so much of that kindness here at The Gathering Place.”

– JOAN, VOLUNTEER