

Sister José Women's Center

Center Chat

Summer 2019



A Message from our Executive Director

Sister José Hobday, a fierce advocate of the poor and our Center's namesake, passed away in April 2009. In the fall of the same year, we began our first winter shelter in her name. Throughout the past ten years we have seen tremendous growth in both our services and the number of women we serve. I am proud to say that Sister José is still our guardian angel and her spirituality, compassion, and love for the poor remains our focus.

Ten years later, our mission, vision and values remain true to Sr. José's compassion, service, and love for the poor. We've come a long way since those early days, when we were just a small cadre of volunteers sleeping on the floor of a church. Back then, we served 12 to 15 women each night during the winter months. Last year, we served approximately 1,000 individual women year-round. The growth we've experienced along the way was made possible through gifts: the gift of time from volunteers, and the gifts of mentoring and financial support from our donors. I am grateful for each and every one of you. We could not serve our guests without you.

I have great admiration for our guests, and for all who serve. When we care for one another, we are working towards a community built on respect, where the right to safety and dignity is realized for everyone. When we listen to our guests, we come closer to understanding the tremendous barriers that many homeless women face each day, and we come closer to bringing those barriers down.

You're a crucial part of that work. Your support has made Sr. José's a safe harbor for those who need it most. With your support, they are able to begin the journey toward a sustainable life.

I consider myself blessed. I get to open the doors of the Center each morning, welcoming volunteers and guests to a new day of community. I get to hug those in distress and watch our volunteers reach out to serve. I get to watch the happy dance when a woman finds a home, begins training for work, or takes a class. I get to watch women begin to reach out to one another in friendship, ready to share their stories.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you. Thank you for caring and sharing. Thank you for being part of a community that comes together to help one another.

Blessings, Jean Fedigan



Sisters Helping Sisters

SAVE THE DATE: October 26th, 2019

ANNUAL FALL DINNER

Held at Saint Francis de Sales Parish
1375 S. Camino Seco, Tucson, Arizona 85710

*Join us as we honor Jeannette Clifton for her
dedication to Sister José Women's Center*

For sponsorship, table sales and advertisement
opportunities call 520-808-8558 or email:
jdawson@sisterjose.org



How We Make a Difference



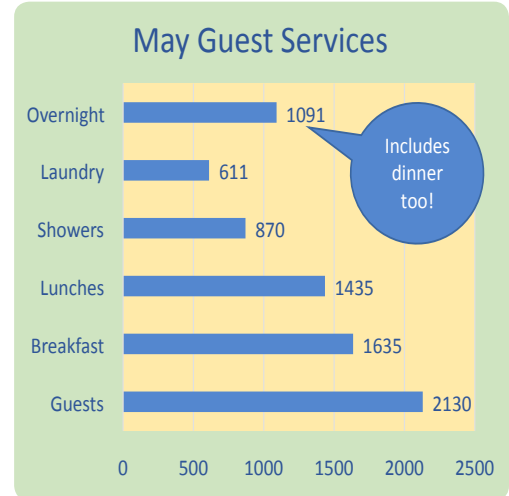
Penny Buckley
Program Director

Sister José's has a huge impact on the lives of women experiencing homelessness in our community. Our programs are interconnected and assist women in many ways. When you support SJWC, you offer relief and hope.

The daytime program has daily visits of up to 120 women seeking relief from hunger and the dangers of living outside. Here women share meals, find clothing and hygiene items, and rest in safety. In May there were more than 2100 visits to the day center. Our staff of volunteers make the services provided possible every day.

SJWC provided safe sleep and a hot dinner for 1091 overnight stays in May! Women seek safety at night and those who do not find it are exhausted in the day. Nighttime is especially dangerous for women who often choose to stay awake all night by riding the bus, moving from place to place, or finding an all-night business that will allow them to stay. So far this year, 200 individual women have spent the night at Sister José's and 60% of those accepted into the Extended Stay program have been housed. Our volunteers spend the night and cook a delicious dinner for 36 women 365 nights a year.

Women who are ready to commit themselves to a program of personal growth and skills acquisition apply for a coveted space in the CREATE Program. New teams are enrolled every two months for the 24-week program. Results are in: 83% of CREATE graduates are housed and 72% found employment! Your support assists women in taking charge of their lives.



Water – The Stuff of Life



While many Tucson residents are able to travel during this time of the year to escape the summer heat, there are greater numbers who are left to fend for themselves in the relentless desert sun.

Tucson summers bring a unique set of health and safety challenges for those women experiencing homelessness. Extreme dehydration, exposure to the relentless sun and a lack of protection from the hot pavement due to inadequate footwear is a daily struggle.

SJWC is eternally grateful to everyone who supports our work. We are often asked what kinds of items are most needed during the summer. With that in mind, we have listed the greatest needs during the summer months.

- Volunteers (needed to cover spots when winter visitors leave during summer season)
- Bottles of Water
- Sunscreen
- Umbrellas
- Lip Balm
- Sun Hats
- Sturdy walking shoes

For more information on volunteer opportunities, (we provide the training) please contact: Laura Lynn at 909-3905.

Donations are gratefully accepted at the Center
1050 S. Park Ave., Tucson, AZ 85719
Monday – Friday from 9am to 5pm

Volunteer Strong



Laura Lynn
Volunteer Coordinator

The Sister José Volunteer Program is over 200 volunteers strong, built of women dedicated to helping other women experiencing homelessness. SJWC Volunteers come to the Center from many backgrounds and cultures themselves, and together weave a blanket of respect, dignity, and compassion to embrace, warm, and support their sisters.

SJWC Volunteers are women who have reached places in their lives, professionally or personally, that spark the desire to give back, to build, to learn more, and to engage with others. From new mothers to experienced great-grandmothers, from PCC and UA students to teachers and professors, from journal-keepers to published authors, from doodlers to professional artists, from boobo-kissers to nurses and physicians, these Volunteers push their sleeves up and lean in to improve the quality of life for their sisters and all women.

And the work? Each Volunteer offers 3 hours per week or 12 hours per month to providing women safety off of the streets, hearty nutrition, hot showers, clean laundry, fresh clothes, personal care items, classes, listening, laughter, encouragement, hugs, and tissues to their sisters, easing their way through this difficult chapter of their lives.

If you too have reached a place in your life that sparks the desire to learn more about volunteering with Sister José's, it's time to make that happen. Your sisters are waiting.



Sister José Women's Center
Qualifying Charitable Organization
(QCO) Code is: 20826

The Sister José Women's Center is dedicated to the care and nurture of homeless women in a welcoming environment.

We are a 501(C)(3) organization. Support SJWC by donating online at: www.sisterjose.org OR mail a check to: PO Box 1028 Tucson, AZ 85702