A Message from our Founder

The past few months have been difficult and strange as we all tried to stay healthy and safe. Even through all the hard times, you have been supportive of Sister Jose Women’s Center and the guests we serve. We welcome our Guests into a safe environment and try our best to treat everyone with compassion and understanding.

While we cannot serve as many as we did before the pandemic, we are serving as many as we safely can following the CDC Guidelines. Our night program serves 21 Guests each night under the watchful eyes of our new Night Monitors. We hope to be able to return to more normal activities in early summer and serving more women but until then, we serve as many as we can.

Image if you have no home and no way to shelter from the cold weather or from the violence on the streets. This morning, we served fresh fruit with breakfast and I watched someone enjoy every bite she took. I was caught by the look of joy on her face. We take for granted the small joys in life and to be able to help someone else have that small enjoyment is worth all the hard times. We often are struck by the situations our Guests have to endure and admire their strength and courage.

Your help and your willingness to share is extraordinary. Your support allows us to continue serving to those in need. While you can’t see the small joys that we see, you are the reason for all of those moments. On behalf of our Guests and staff, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Development Update

On behalf of all of us at Sister Jose Women’s Center and the women we serve we would like to express our continual gratitude for your gracious generosity. You are a community of givers- givers of your time, talents, resources, compassion and prayers. You are saving lives for those very deserving of support. This work would not be possible without you.

Matching Funds Grant Opportunity

We are overjoyed to announce that an anonymous donor has awarded a $200,000 challenge gift to Sister Jose Women’s Center through the Connie Hillman Family Foundation. With these funds, Sister Jose will implement a new gift-matching campaign, with a $1.00 match for every $2.00 donated from all new donors. Additionally, any existing donors who choose to increase their contributions over the previous year will be matched at the same rate on the portion that reflects the increased amount.

“This challenge also represents a significant opportunity for the Center and its guests, at a time when donor support is especially vital,” said Jean Fedigan, Founder and Executive Director. “We’re keenly aware of the additional pressures that many women experiencing homelessness face during the winter months. The generosity from the anonymous donor coming via the Connie Hillman Family Foundation will leave a lasting imprint on each of our guests’ lives. We are honored to be selected for this opportunity, and look forward to continuing this partnership.”

If you would like to be a part of this challenge grant and watch your donation multiply, contact Julee Dawson, Director of Development and Marketing, by calling (520) 808-8558 or via e-mail to jdawson@sisterjose.org. To give online, visit our website at www.sisterjose.org/donate.
All Hands on Deck at SJWC!

You are invited to join us immediately in serving women experiencing the struggles of homelessness as a Sister Jose Women’s Center 2021 Volunteer. Give us a hand with providing socially-distant, masked, yet caring services to our Guests to help with their daily survival needs. Many services and organizations have been curtailed or closed to homeless women, leaving them with nowhere to turn for food, clothes, hot showers, laundry, or a safe, warm nap. That’s where SJWC Volunteers come in, who are truly “Sisters Helping Sisters.”

All hands on deck! During your weekly shift, you will see dynamic and committed women from every walk of life and responsibility level – volunteers, custodians, and administrators – all leaning in to help the women who come to our doors. And we would love for you to join us! You might be passing out food, making hygiene bags, selecting clothing, answering the phone, monitoring the laundry room, serving supper, making soup – you will be trained in every aspect of delivering our services to our Guests.

Sound compassionate? It is. Sound challenging? It is. Sound meaningful? It is.

Weekly shifts begin at 8:30 am and end by 12:30 pm, Mondays through Saturdays. Ready for your journey to begin? Contact the SJWC Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Lynn, at 520-909-3905, to arrange for a personal tour and receive a New Volunteer Orientation Packet to begin your new journey of providing direct service to vulnerable women in your community.

Volunteer Spotlight

“I joined the volunteer team in October following the opening of the new facility. I had recently retired and wanted to find a place to support and “give back” for my good fortune. I had donated at the little house, so, knew of Sister José’s mission.

I have truly enjoyed my time with Jean, her staff, my fellow volunteers and the women who come to the very safe space made for them. They are all my “sisters”.

The women who come to Sister José’s come for many reasons, regardless of their reason, all are treated with respect, friendship, and care. This all begins with Jean and her team as role models for everyone.

I am in awe of this organization. While I may be moving out of state, I will continue to support Sister José’s in spirit as well as through donations.

I will miss you all, stay safe and well. All the best...."

ARIZONA CHARITABLE TAX CREDIT

Qualified Charitable Organizations
Donate up to $400 for individuals, up to $800 for a married couple filing jointly.

Qualified Foster Care Organizations
Donate up to $500 for individuals, up to $1,000 for a married couple filing jointly.

Check with your tax professional.

Put Your State Tax Dollars to Work in Our Community
For more information, please visit: GiveLocalKeepLocal.org
Adjust and adapt! That was the lesson learned in 2020. Like everyone else, Sister José Women’s Center was stopped in its tracks back in March and quickly had to re-think how to do business. For some organizations it was to work remotely, for others to close their doors. Not at Sister José’s! We kept our doors open to show that our commitment to serving women experiencing homelessness was greater than our fear. It was a decision we made as a team, that we would continue to serve as many women as possible while keeping ourselves, our volunteers, and our guests safe. It was an opportunity to really “walk our talk!”

We experimented and tried new things. One surprise came when we decided to offer hot meals at our door as a mid-day meal. This change had an unanticipated positive effect of increasing the number of hot meals Sister Jose’s provided to women. Prior to COVID hot meals were offered only to those women who stayed in the overnight program, limiting hot meals to only 36. With the program change, we were suddenly providing 50, 60, or even 70 hot meals every day to women in need!

As the summer progressed, we continued to ask ourselves the big question, “Are we doing everything we can to meet our mission of providing a safe haven and nurturing environment?” Is there anything more we can do given these circumstances? If there was, we did it. If we were at the threshold of what was safe to do, we would make the toughest decision of all, to limit services. And so it went, through fall and winter. In January as I compiled the annual statistics it became clear that we had done a fabulous job and exceeded all expectations for the worst year most of us have ever experienced. Without your support it would not have been possible! We are all so grateful and hope the new year will bring us all together again in safety and loving community.

January Guest Services

Like so many organizations serving the public, we experienced 2 cases of positive Covid cases. As a result, we immediately responded by safely isolating our current overnight guests and as a safety precaution temporarily suspended adding new guests to the overnight program. This is reflected in the drop off of numbers you see reflected for January. We are still providing food and clothing to women in our day program with reduced access to the building. All guests in our overnight program are receiving in-house Covid testing to insure safety and to reduce the spread. We look forward to the increase in vaccination availability to increase protection of our guests and volunteers. We are pleased to announce the hiring of a case aid to assist our guests with completing tasks while working towards greater independence and quality of life.

2019 & 2020 Comparison of Services
Sisters Helping Sisters

Save the Date!

Join us May 2nd 2021 for a virtual event honoring mothers and strong women. Donations and proceeds go to providing assistance to women experiencing homelessness in Tucson. We are asking for help with donations of gifts, services or activities for our silent auction. More information will be available through our communications and website as we move closer to the event.

For sponsorship, advertising or tribute opportunities, please call Julee Dawson at (520) 808-8558.

For any questions regarding the silent auction please email Brenda Druke at bdruke@sisiterjose.org.