



Sis' Place

IMPACT REPORT FY2026

When I began this organization in 2024, I was 21 years old and still in college. I wasn't really sure how it all was going to shake out. I only knew that I had the ability to do some good. And therefore I had the responsibility to see it through.

FOUNDER LETTER

Aletheia Woodford

It has not been an easy journey. I came to this work through personal experiences with homelessness and violence. Becoming someone who could do something about those problems has required a good deal of learning on the job. Today, I live in the shelter alongside our participants and walk with each of them. What has kept me going is the conviction that everyone deserves a safe place to call home.

When I first bought the building that would become our shelter, I inherited two leftover tenants from the previous owner. Everyone in my ear told me it would be easy to evict. They didn't have a formal lease. And we needed all of the square footage for the mission. My agent advised me not to talk to the tenants because they would sell me a sob story. So naturally, I sat down with them. It was a young woman and her elderly father who had lived in the building for years without a formal lease. They couldn't afford market-rate rentals on only one income and had nowhere else to go.

We worked out an arrangement between the three of us that allowed them enough time and resources to find a new place. Those tenants shared with me the old tricks of the home that only long-time residents would know. Like the old electrical wiring mess boarded up behind the far wall. And the way the thermostat got temperamental in certain weather. Having that knowledge up front saved me lots of money and headaches down the line. And when they moved out, they moved into a first-time home of their own.

My agent could not understand why I wouldn't just evict them, saying "The property is yours now. It belongs to you. Just give them the boot." But she was wrong. The property never belonged to me. It belonged to all those who would call it home.

In our little community at Sis' Place, we all know how quickly a life can be uprooted. How quickly safety can disappear. How difficult it is to get back on your feet in a world that likes to pretend safe housing is a privilege reserved for those living above the poverty line and not a basic human need.

While we are here at Sis' Place, this home belongs to each of us, and we belong to each other.

And while we go about our lives in the world, each of us must recognize that survival is not a solitary mission. It is a community project and always has been.

MISSION

Our mission is ensuring there is a home for all our sisters.

We exist to support the most vulnerable in our community, to work toward a future free of violence against women, and to bring about housing justice and stability for all.

WE PROVIDE

Safe housing

Our shelter provides transitional housing for women and children in need. We welcome you as you are.

Mental health support

Individual and group mental health support options are available for participants and community members. We honor your experience.

Community living

Residents of the shelter live in community with other survivors. We lean on each other.

Peer advocacy

Staff and volunteers provide support for all your next steps: housing, legal tasks, healthcare, and more. We've been there and we care.

OUR FIRST YEAR OF IMPACT

BY THE NUMBERS

15

participants
housed

9

women

6

children

6

private rooms
available

\$55,770

contributions
raised

115

volunteer hours
served



IMPACT STORIES

Participant “A”

FROM SHELTER TO A PLACE OF HER OWN

When Participant “A” arrived at Sis’ Place, she barely left her room for the first week. Being in a new place is hard. Living with strangers is hard. Especially when you have trauma and grief as roommates. Over the course of “A’s” stay with us, I got to know her very well. We would sit down together every Monday over coffee and coloring pencils and she’d tell me stories. I know way too much about her uncle. Don’t get me started on his failed DIY renovations career.

I also came to understand that “A” has spent her life as a wife and a mother pouring herself into her family. When violence, loss, and instability hit her family and she was forced to move away, she had to become reacquainted with who she was and what she wanted. When I helped “A” move into her new apartment, she told me that this would be her very first time living alone. She was nervous. But she was ready to begin her next chapter.



IMPACT STORIES

Participant “B”

RECLAIMING AGENCY

Participant “B” arrived at Sis’ Place in the winter. She had already been sleeping in her car for a week or two. She got here just before that first Nor’easter last winter. The first few weeks she spent here, everything set her nerves on edge. Construction outside? She was calling me to make sure everyone was okay. Loud cars passing? She was ducking behind the window. She was ducking behind the window.

The only thing that would calm her nerves was cleaning. The second floor was always spotless. Spot. Less. Sometimes I’d come upstairs at 9pm, dropping off groceries, only to find “B” kneeling on the floor dusting the baseboards. “B,” *darling, I’m gonna need you to step away from the mop bucket.* When agency and choice have been taken away from you, sometimes cleaning is all you can do to feel in control.

Over the months that she’s been here, she’s regained custody of her youngest. She’s been reunited with her other children. This spring she’s started a small garden patch out back. I still sometimes have to confiscate the rags, but watching her discover that life can be about more than survival has been a privilege.



IMPACT STORIES

Participant “C” & “C.5”

A PLACE TO BREATHE

Participant “C” and Participant “C.5” are a mother/daughter pair that first came to stay at Sis’ Place only after a long road of housing instability, violence, and medical challenges. Sometimes, like with this pair, when the road to stability is long and winding, it’s hard to recognize all the progress that’s been made. Sealed an eviction? There’s still a custody battle. Beat an addiction? Here’s a laundry list of medical boxes to check.

But progress is sneaky. It often arrives quietly. Sometimes progress rides a pink glitter bicycle and sometimes it crochets a scarf. My favorite moments with “C” and “C.5” have been coming home in the evenings and seeing their weekend routine, lying together on the back deck watching the stars.

When you keep showing up, like Participant “C” and her daughter have, one day you look back to where you started and realize how far you’ve come. Months later, both mother and daughter have the medical care, educational resources, and mental health support systems they needed. They recently got approved for their own apartment. Participant “C” told me “this is the nicest place I’ve ever lived. My daughter says she’s going to be so sad to leave when we get our permanent housing.”



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Alianza DV Services

Referral partnership and coordinated survivor support



Amherst College

Student volunteers and donated supplies



United Way Pioneer Valley

Food distribution for residents and volunteer engagement



PeoplesBank

Financial sponsorship and community investment



Rotary Club

Volunteer service and community connection



OUR JOURNEY TO 1 YEAR OF IMPACT

LATE 2024	Acquired the building that would become Sis' Place
NOVEMBER 2024	Renovated building; installed safety systems
MARCH 2025	Welcomed our first participant
APRIL 2025	Completed renovations on all floors
MAY 2025	Partnered with UMass grad student for grant writing materials
JUNE 2025	Partnered with Amherst College Sustainability Office to provide appliances
JUNE 2025	First family moves out into permanent housing
JULY 2025	501(c)(3) status approved
AUGUST 2025	Held volunteer day: built out office space
SEPTEMBER 2025	Partnered with Amherst College Health center for clothing donations
OCTOBER 2025	Held volunteer day: decorated the space
DECEMBER 2025	Received Christmas/winter donations for residents
DECEMBER 2025	Founder graduates from Amherst College
FEBRUARY 2026	Began our public fundraising campaign
MARCH 2026	Built relationships with local orgs; strengthened referral networks
APRIL 2026	Established partnership with PeoplesBank
MAY 2026	Volunteer Day of Service with Rotary Club
MAY 2026	Began community garden
JUNE 2026	Established partnership with United Way for food distribution



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

FY2026

**CONTRIBUTIONS
RECEIVED**

\$55,770

**TOTAL
EXPENSES**

\$48,000

**ENDING
RESERVES**

\$51,000

Year-end reserves include funds carried forward from previous fiscal year

FY2027

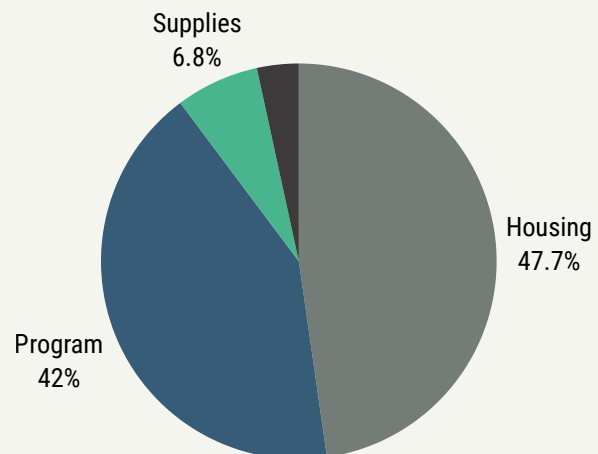
**PROJECTED
OPERATING BUDGET**

\$88,000

FY27 budget reflects planned investment in staffing and organizational capacity

COST BREAKDOWN

- \$42,000 - HOUSING
- \$37,000- PROGRAM
- \$6,000 - SUPPLIES
- \$3,000 - ADMIN



FY2027 GAP

\$37,000

BUILDING WHAT'S NEXT

SHORT-TERM PRIORITIES

- hire our first housing stability advocate
- build a sustainable staffing model
- strengthen our data tracking capabilities
- expand our community partnerships

LONG-TERM VISION

- lay the groundwork for a permanently affordable housing program

THANK YOU

Board Members

Thank you to Micah Owino and Ludmila Ferrari for all their support, guidance, and advice over the past two years. Your belief in this mission means everything.



Donors

Thank you to all the donors who have contributed to Sis' Place. Your gifts and generosity have made 'home for all our sisters' a possibility.



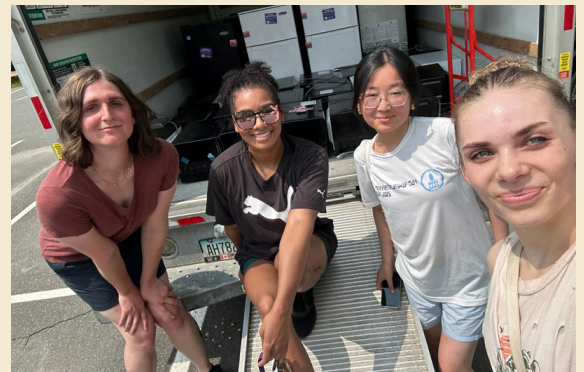
Community Partners

Thank you to all the local businesses, organizations, and community groups who have lent their time, talent, and elbow grease to the cause. Special shoutout to our colleagues at Alianza DV. We are grateful to be standing alongside you in this work.



Volunteers

Thank you to all the volunteers who keep showing up. Your labor and care has made this shelter feel like home for our residents. Special thanks to Jiaqi Huang, our dedicated volunteer Director of Marketing for leading our communications efforts.



Thank you for helping build a community where all our sisters have a place to call home. I look forward to continuing the work together in FY27.