



# We've postponed our Black & White Gala

Save the **NEW** Date: April 23, 2021



We are so grateful for our volunteers and we are looking forward to working with you again!



Volunteers from Vanguard. Thank you for participating in our fall cleanup. Our property in West Chester, serving our pre-senior population, never looked better!



Partnering with women facing homelessness to secure housing, achieve long-term stability, and chart new paths for their futures.

## Home of the Sparrow Board of Directors

Kelly Besack, SPHR  
Tobey Chadsey  
Mark Delowery, DO, MPH  
Karen C. DiVincenzo  
Barbara Dougherty  
David Harrison  
Elizabeth G. Hodgson, Esq.  
Frank McKee, Jr.  
Deborah R. Pierce, Esq., SPHR  
Christopher Reed  
Stacy Sempier  
Mary Lou Sterge  
Sue Wilson

Spring 2020

#SparrowStrong



## Dear Friends,

No other hashtag or sentiment could more aptly describe these past few weeks as we have worked to take care of our clients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to donors, volunteers, friends, grantmakers and our partners we've not missed a beat. All of our programs and services have continued without interruption and at pre-pandemic levels. I'm so proud of the team. They seamlessly transitioned to serving our women from in person meetings to utilizing our technology platform to meet one-on-one in a confidential and secure virtual environment. The safety and health of our staff and our clients is of paramount importance as we work together to thrive during this uncertain time. Tasks that could only be completed from the office continue thanks to a staff member who literally "holds down the fort" every day.

We are preparing for the inevitable increase in the number of women who will seek our help in the months ahead. We continue to plan for the future confidently, even though our immediate one does not include the \$160,000 in net revenue anticipated from our June Gala, now rescheduled to April 23, 2021. However, I'm pleased to report that once again, donors are coming forward to help in a myriad of amazing ways. For example, an anonymous donor family has generously pledged their support by issuing a challenge grant. They will match all donations received through June 30, 2020 – dollar for dollar – up to \$25,000! If you are in a position to make a gift at this time, your contribution will be doubled. Wow! Thank you in advance for your support.

I am encouraged and amazed by our client's accomplishments, successes and progress that occurs every day - even during these unprecedented times. I see and admire their strength and resiliency. Like them, Home of the Sparrow will be here to face the many challenges ahead of all of us. For over twenty-five years, we've been here for the community and have provided support for the most vulnerable amongst us - women and children facing homelessness. Thankfully, we are financially strong, our infrastructure is solid, and the dedication of our staff is unwavering. Our mission and resolve is as strong as it has ever been. We. Are. Strong. #SparrowStrong.



Michelle E. Venema  
Chief Executive Officer

## Helping Our Clients: Sometimes, the little things make all the difference

### Margaret

As a new employee in the restaurant industry, Margaret, was one of the first to lose her job when the virus hit. With the help of HOS, she applied for and received food and health benefits along with referrals for a new job.

### Karen

Karen was laid off due to the pandemic and quickly secured a new job, but not before her rent was due. HOS was able to provide her with donated food, household supplies, and gas cards to help her fill the gap between paychecks.

### Emma

Emma is part of our program for justice-involved women. During COVID-19, Emma's 4-week-old son was diagnosed with congenital heart disease and underwent surgery. Home of the Sparrow worked quickly to secure housing. When her son is well enough, he'll join his mom in their new apartment.

## Teamwork

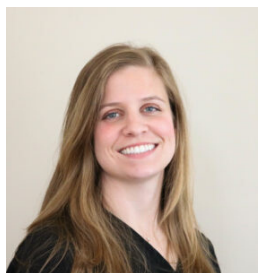
Although we are apart, we continue to work together in solidarity against homelessness with our partners in the Chester County community. Because of our partnerships we are able to work in #SparrowSolidarity.

#SparrowSolidarity



# Serving Women: Virus or no Virus

"In this time of uncertainty, it is nice to have various technology platforms on hand to communicate with clients so they feel supported and to let them know we are there for them. I am texting clients daily to check in on their mental, emotional, and financial needs."



**Jessica Prendergast**  
Assistant Director of Programs

"Since I cannot perform my outreach duties in person, I stay in touch with my current clients by phone and remind them that our partnerships and collaborations are intact even when face-to-face meetings can't take place. I continue to work with my women on budgeting while allowing them to share their thoughts and concerns during this difficult time."



**Kristen Jagers**  
Program Coordinator

"Sometimes, you need to think creatively. Since my client does not have a computer, we used screen shots and text messages to complete her application for a stimulus check. I noticed she accidentally checked a box, that if not corrected, would have made her ineligible. She received an email a few hours after submitting and learned she'd been approved."



**Alejandra Colin**  
Bilingual Program Coordinator



## Winter-White-Out Supplies Were Invaluable!

Were we ever grateful to have a garage full of paper and cleaning products when the virus arrived. Thanks to donations received during December's "Giving Tuesday," our annual Winter-White-Out Drive, we had ample supplies to distribute to our women and families in need.

A special global Giving Tuesday is being planned for May 5<sup>th</sup> in response to COVID-19. If you are able to donate any of the items listed, we could restock our garage and distribute more to our clients until our Winter-White-Out Giving Tuesday comes around again in December.

If you'd rather skip the store, please consider a monetary donation and/or organize a peer-to-peer giving campaign benefiting Home of the Sparrow on social media.

## Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> #GivingGarage

Hand Soap	Bleach
Toilet Paper	Dish Soap
Paper Towels	Body Wash
Disinfectant Wipes	Toothpaste
Laundry Detergent	Lysol Spray
13-Gallon Trash Bags	30-Gallon Trash Bags
Large Reusable Shopping Bags	

Gift cards to:  
Wal-Mart, Target, Giant, Wawa for fuel

If you are able to donate any of these items, please contact:  
Djnutter@HomeoftheSparrow.org  
610-647-4940

## Thank you!

## A Tribute to our Friend, Betty Moran



Elizabeth "Betty" Ranney Moran passed away peacefully on January 23, 2020

Our annual gala usually held in June, now moved to April 23, 2021, used to be called "Jazz at Brushwood". For years, our generous friend, donor and Board Emerita, Betty Moran, graciously hosted our event on her beautiful property. Brushwood Farm was an amazing venue that people far and wide clamored to see helping to make our event the party of the summer. We will always be grateful to Betty for her hospitality, charitable contributions, dedication to our mission and concern not only for our families but for the entire Chester County community. Her generosity helped us grow Home of the Sparrow into the organization it is today - a strong and caring community nonprofit with the tools and resources to prevent homelessness for women in Chester County. Thank you Betty. You will always be fondly remembered by all of us at Home of the Sparrow.

## Double Your Donation

Will you help us turn \$25,000 into \$50,000?

Thanks to an anonymous donor, every dollar you give to Home of the Sparrow through June 30, 2020 will be doubled up to \$25,000. If you are in a position to make a gift at this time, please visit our secure giving page or use the enclosed giving envelope. Never before has your gift meant so much to so many!

[HomeoftheSparrow.org/giving](https://homeofthesparrow.org/giving)



## New Tax Incentives

Significant Incentives to Fuel Continued Giving

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act can reduce your taxable income in 2021. We encourage you to contact your financial advisor or accountant for more information but here's a synopsis:

- For individuals who itemize, the Act eliminates the 60% AGI cap on annual contributions in 2020.
- For individuals who do not usually itemize, the ACT provides a \$300 above-the-line deduction for charitable contributions made in 2020 (you can still claim the standard deduction).

## Every gift matters!