




# 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

**"IT WAS A SPACE LIKE WHERE I FELT I HAD JUST STEPPED INTO A CLEARING, AND I COULD BE WHOEVER I'D BE. I'M ALRIGHT WITH YOU GUYS, YOU KNOW? I'M VALID. I'M 'PART OF.' I'M WORTHY OF BEING 'PART OF'...."**

***-GUEST RECORDED IN 2015***



**“COMING TO THE GATHERING REMINDS ME THAT THERE IS A COMMUNITY AND I’M NOT ALONE AND... I CAN BE IN GOOD COMPANY AND BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT. AND THAT I’M STILL *HUMAN*.”**

***-GUEST RECORDED IN 2017***

## **ABOUT GATHERING FOR WOMEN**

Along the pathway out of homelessness, Gathering for Women provides the care, the support, and the dignity a woman needs to remain safe and healthy as she seeks affordable housing and a more sustainable and secure future.

We provide hot, nutritious meals, clothing, showers, comprehensive case management support, limited emergency assistance, education to promote a woman’s health and safety, job training, access to free basic health care, and connection to other community services and providers.

# AN OASIS IN A DESERT

The Monterey Peninsula has recently been described as a “service desert” by the Coalition of Homeless Service Providers, who note that the vast majority of services available to the homeless population are located in Salinas and South County, with only a few providers available in Seaside and Marina.

Gathering for Women is the only homeless service provider within the city of Monterey that addresses the daytime needs of the community’s homeless and housing-insecure women. We provide a safe space for women and families to meet their basic needs. We also provide the knowledge they are not alone, that someone is looking out for them, that someone cares. As Program Facilitator, Anjanette Love, recently said: “Our main job as case managers is to convince them they are a person. They matter. They are worth the effort it’s going to take to get back on their feet. And we are going to be there with them for as long as they need.” We provide dignity, respect, and most importantly, hope.

We see hope every day at Gathering for Women. There is hope for \*Hannah who has recently escaped domestic violence. There is hope for \*Bridget who has started a new job. There is hope for \*Penny who is now celebrating 18 months of sobriety.

***“OUR MAIN JOB AS CASE MANAGERS IS TO CONVINCING THEM THEY ARE A PERSON. THEY MATTER.”***  
***ANJANETTE LOVE, PROGRAM FACILITATOR***

Over the past 10 years, GFW has served over 1,800 guests providing more than 90,000 meals, 10,000 showers, 7,000 hours of Next Step case management services, and housed over 100 guests. One of our volunteers said it best “These women looked dazed and broken when I first met them, and in a couple of months, I have seen real transformation... they are radiant with hope and love and what feels like a new excitement about life.” We are grateful to the dedicated staff, volunteers, and community members who make this possible.

\*Names have been changed for privacy

# GFW's Timeline

## The Gathering Place

First meetings for organizing weekly hot lunches for homeless women

FALL  
2013

## Feb 2014 First Volunteer Orientation

Over 100 community members attend

## Official Launch

Gathering For Women starts as a weekly Luncheon.

APR 1  
2014

## May 2015 GFW Incorporates

## Service Center

GFW opens our first Service Center near downtown Monterey 3 days a week.

MAR 1  
2017

## Dec 2015 Tax Exempt Status Granted

Tuesday Luncheons continued from 2014 through June 2018

## The Day Center

GFW opens our first Day Center down the street from the former Service Center

JUL 12  
2018

## Apr 2018 UWMC Nominates GFW for Community Service Awards

## Oct 2020 GFW Wins California Nonprofit of the Year

## Casa de Noche Buena

GFW opens it's first shelter in partnership with CHS.

JAN  
2021

GFW does not close for a single day during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

## 141 El Dorado

GFW purchases the neighboring property

FEB  
2024

## GFW Celebrates 10 Years!

APR  
2024

# LOOKING BACK ON 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

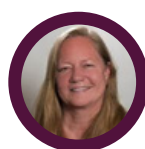
Gathering for Women started with an incredible cohort of volunteers. Five women – Carol Greenwald, Kathleen Baker, Mary Eileen Kiniry, Flo Miller, and Catherine Metz – led the charge but many others quickly joined them. These early volunteers committed themselves to providing critical services to homeless women. Initial efforts focused on creating a warm and engaging place where homeless women would be treated with the respect they deserve, and find hope for a better future. The volunteers started by sharing a weekly hot lunch with homeless women. Early on, other needs were recognized, so clothing, help with navigating social services, and extra food were added to the weekly lunches. Volunteers who prepared the food, did the setup and clean up, and collected and dispensed clothing wherever the weekly lunch was happening. There were 4 different sites over the first 3 years.

What had been an effort by a small band of caring volunteers providing once-a-week food and care evolved into a grander vision of having a Day Center that would consolidate on-site meals, clothing, and other activities. The vision quickly became a real, near-term option as the

community responded to the fundraising efforts of GFW, and in less than 2 years, GFW had sufficient funds to renovate a building into our current Day Center.

Today, we offer homeless and housing-insecure women and families, a safe and secure place during the day. They can get a hot breakfast, lunch, or bag lunch to go; clothes and personal items; showers; help navigating the various social services and benefits they might be eligible for; and participate in workshops that range from painting classes to meditation sessions to writing and poetry classes and even Yoga.

Driven by a strong commitment to its core values of Hope, Empowerment, Advocacy, Respect, and Transparency (H.E.A.R.T.), and to remaining an organization dominated and led by volunteers, GFW has evolved from a conversation between five women to the dream of a larger grassroots community to finally a dynamic, viable non-profit organization with strong community ties.



**Staci Alziebler-Perkins**  
Executive Director

## OUR FIRST LUNCH

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A group of five women - Carol Greenwald, Kathleen Baker, Mary Eileen Kiniry, Flo Miller, and Catherine Metz - were joined by a large cohort of volunteers to provide weekly lunches at different churches in Monterey. On April 1st, 2014, GFW served its first lunch.



## THE RESOURCE CENTER

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In March of 2017, GFW was able to rent an office space near downtown Monterey 3 days a week. It was in this space that the Case Next Step Case Management Program flourished.



## NEXT STEP

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The Next Step Case Management program is a vital part of GFW's service offerings. It is through this program that the most vulnerable guests access the resource navigation and support they need to take their "Next Step" on their pathway out of homelessness.

# THE DAY CENTER

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In 2018, Gathering for Women acquired 2 buildings and opened a Day Center in our current location at 147 El Dorado St. The space includes a commercial kitchen and a dedicated space for the Clothes Closet, so guests can access services every weekday.



# WHAT NEXT?

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In February of 2024, with the help of the Community Foundation for Monterey County, GFW purchased the property directly adjacent to the Day Center. This new space will expand the campus to focus on our guests' physical and emotional well-being. This expansion of services is only possible through immense community support!



**"GATHERING OPENED THIS PLACE AND I WAS ABLE TO GET BREAKFAST AND LUNCH. AND I GOT COUNSELLING, GAS CARDS, REFERRALS, THEY HELPED ME GET ON WAIT LISTS FOR HOUSING... THE GATHERING HELPED ME GET THERE, I GOT A PLACE NOW."**

***-GUEST RECORDED AND HOUSED IN 2021***

# GFW BY THE NUMBERS

On average, GFW serves 400 women and their children per year. Over the years we have helped over 100 women and families get housed!

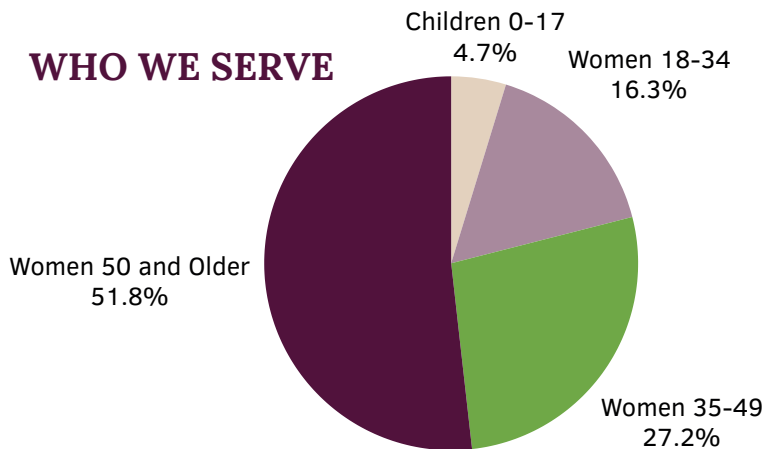


## 3 YEARS

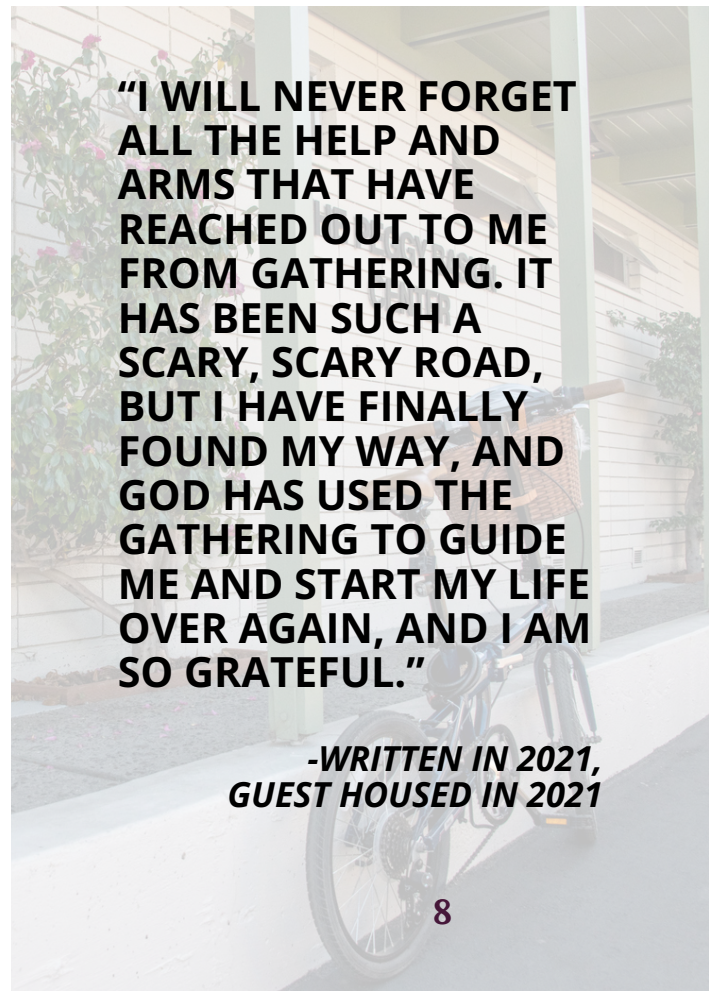
On average our guests are homeless for 3 years before finding permanent housing, though some guests have been homeless for much longer.

- 93,828 Meals**
- 12,770 Clothing Ensembles**
- 10,905 Showers**
- 7,139 Hours with a Case Manager**
- 3,352 Gas and Bus Vouchers**
- 1,217 Referrals to Resources**
- 298 Nights in Temporary Shelter**
- 1,826 Guests Served**
- 102 Guests Housed**

## WHO WE SERVE



The vast majority of our guests have been over 50 years old. However, in the last 3 years, GFW has begun seeing a large increase in young, female heads of household who also need assistance.



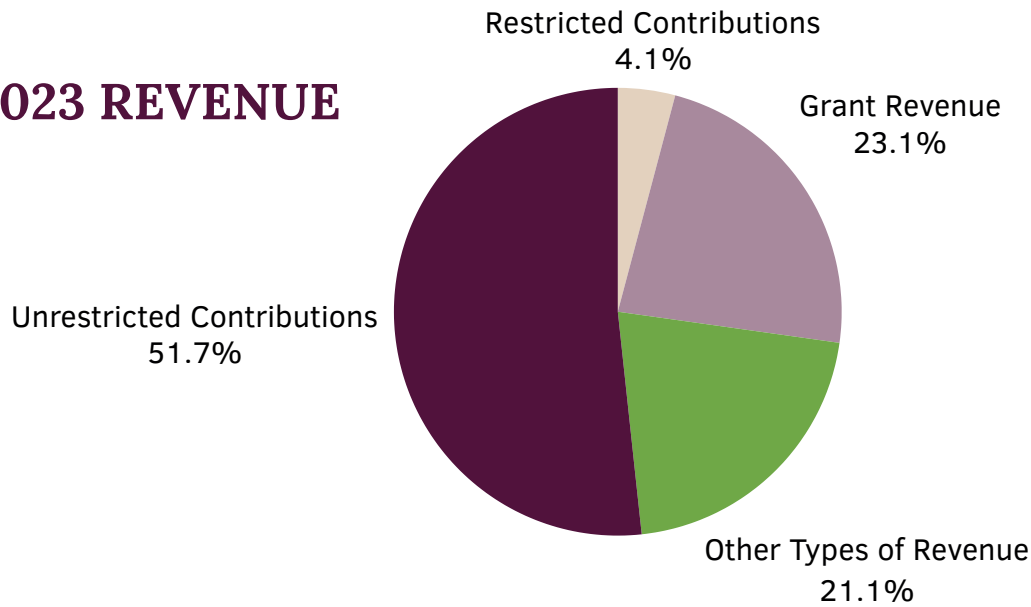
**"I WILL NEVER FORGET ALL THE HELP AND ARMS THAT HAVE REACHED OUT TO ME FROM GATHERING. IT HAS BEEN SUCH A SCARY, SCARY ROAD, BUT I HAVE FINALLY FOUND MY WAY, AND GOD HAS USED THE GATHERING TO GUIDE ME AND START MY LIFE OVER AGAIN, AND I AM SO GRATEFUL."**

**-WRITTEN IN 2021,  
GUEST HOUSED IN 2021**

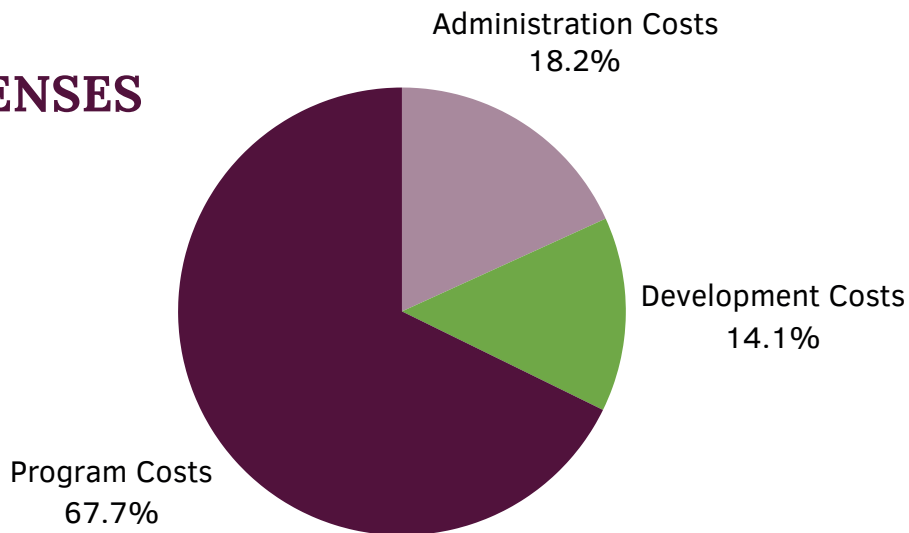
# FINANCIALS

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## 2023 REVENUE



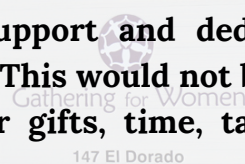
## 2023 EXPENSES



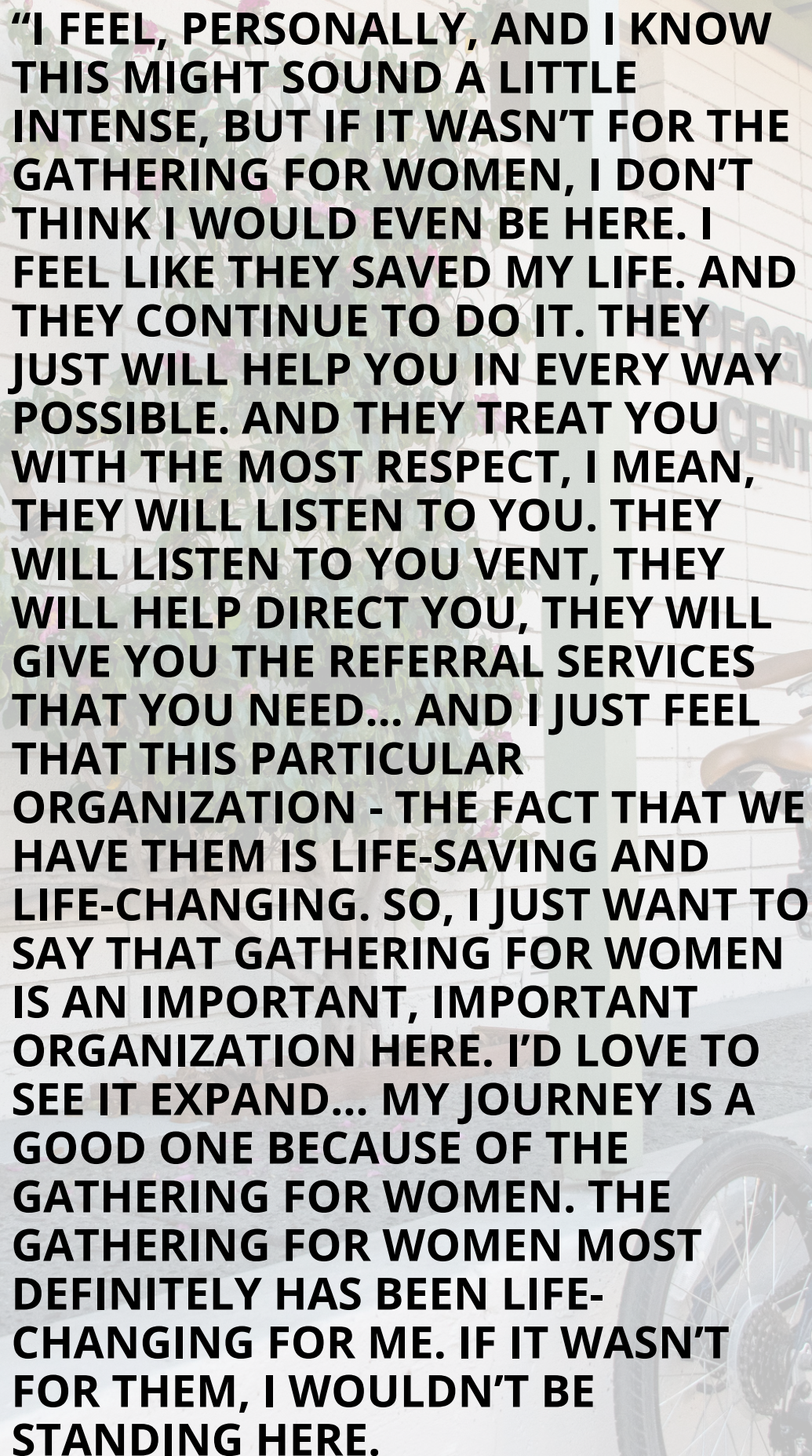
## THANK YOU



**GFW has made a difference in the lives of countless women these past 10 years all because of community support. We want to thank our donors, community partners, and volunteers for their continued support and dedication to our mission. This would not be possible without your gifts, time, talents, and efforts.**







**"I FEEL, PERSONALLY, AND I KNOW THIS MIGHT SOUND A LITTLE INTENSE, BUT IF IT WASN'T FOR THE GATHERING FOR WOMEN, I DON'T THINK I WOULD EVEN BE HERE. I FEEL LIKE THEY SAVED MY LIFE. AND THEY CONTINUE TO DO IT. THEY JUST WILL HELP YOU IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE. AND THEY TREAT YOU WITH THE MOST RESPECT, I MEAN, THEY WILL LISTEN TO YOU. THEY WILL LISTEN TO YOU VENT, THEY WILL HELP DIRECT YOU, THEY WILL GIVE YOU THE REFERRAL SERVICES THAT YOU NEED... AND I JUST FEEL THAT THIS PARTICULAR ORGANIZATION - THE FACT THAT WE HAVE THEM IS LIFE-SAVING AND LIFE-CHANGING. SO, I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT GATHERING FOR WOMEN IS AN IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT ORGANIZATION HERE. I'D LOVE TO SEE IT EXPAND... MY JOURNEY IS A GOOD ONE BECAUSE OF THE GATHERING FOR WOMEN. THE GATHERING FOR WOMEN MOST DEFINITELY HAS BEEN LIFE-CHANGING FOR ME. IF IT WASN'T FOR THEM, I WOULDN'T BE STANDING HERE.**

*-GUEST RECORDED IN 2023*



## **GET IN TOUCH**

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**Monterey, CA 93942**

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**[gatheringforwomen.org/events](http://gatheringforwomen.org/events)**

## **VOLUNTEER**

**[volunteer@gatheringforwomen.org](mailto:volunteer@gatheringforwomen.org)**

