



Calvary  
Women's Services

# *In This Together*

2021 Annual Report



## In This Together



Kristine K. Thompson  
Chief Executive Officer



Serena Agaba Rwejuna  
President, Board of Directors

Dear friend of Calvary,

***It is with gratitude and pride that we share this annual report with you.***

Each year Calvary Women's Services looks back at what women have achieved through our programs and how our organization has continued to grow and develop. Looking at this year's report, we are humbled to know what a difference we have been able to make together with you and other supporters.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to impact all of us, women like those Calvary serves have been among the most vulnerable. Black women continue to be the hardest hit economically, experiencing job losses and unemployment at higher rates than many others. Increased incidences of domestic violence have put more women at risk. The number of single homeless adults, like the women who come to Calvary, has grown in DC.

Yet women continued to move forward at Calvary. As you will see in this report, Calvary's programs are meeting these needs, and

women are meeting their own goals for safe, stable housing, good health, and financial independence.

We are also excited to share with you that Calvary has continued to grow in order to address these increased community needs. At the end of 2021 we opened a new housing program for 25 women who are survivors of domestic violence – providing a safe home and new start.

Please read through this annual report and learn more about your impact on women's lives and on our community.

With half of our funding coming from philanthropy, we rely on friends like you to ensure that we can continue to meet the community's needs, to address inequity and injustice, and to support women who are transforming their lives.

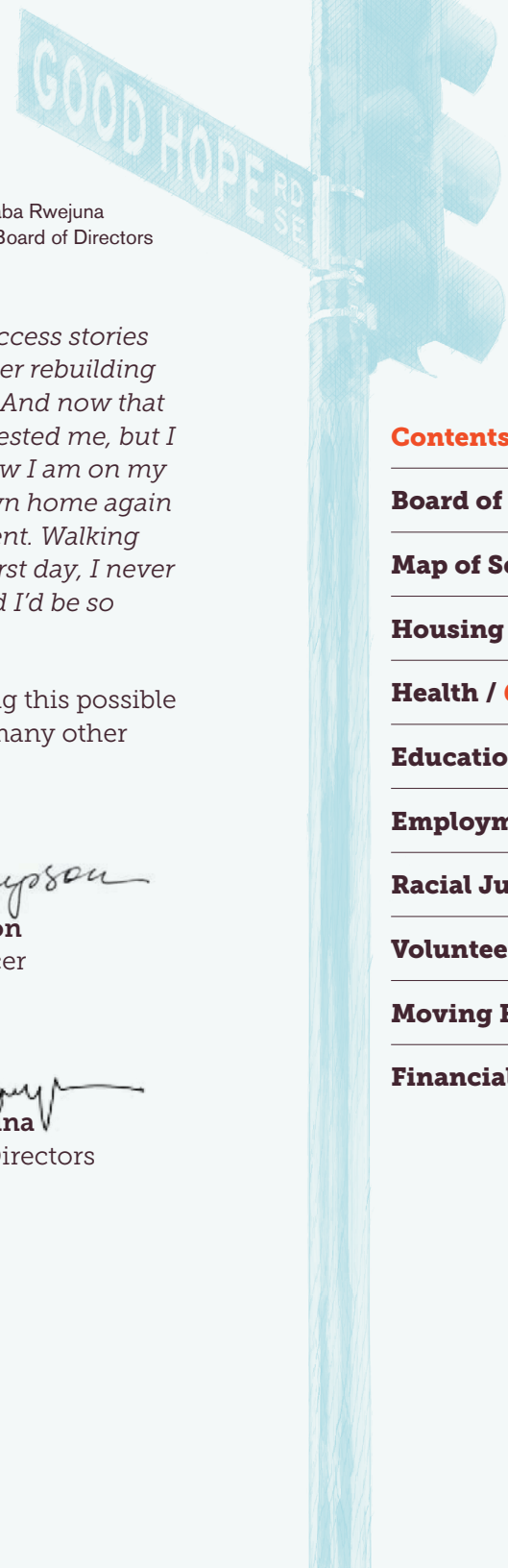
As always, the women we serve and their accomplishments are at the heart of what we do. Reflecting on her time at Calvary last year, Akeela said, "Calvary is the best.

*I've seen so many success stories of women leaving after rebuilding their lives at Calvary. And now that is me. This year has tested me, but I stayed strong and now I am on my way to having my own home again and being independent. Walking into Calvary on my first day, I never would have imagined I'd be so proud of myself."*

Thank you for making this possible – for Akeela and so many other women.

**Kristine K. Thompson**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Serena Agaba Rwejuna**  
President, Board of Directors



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## 2021 Board of Directors

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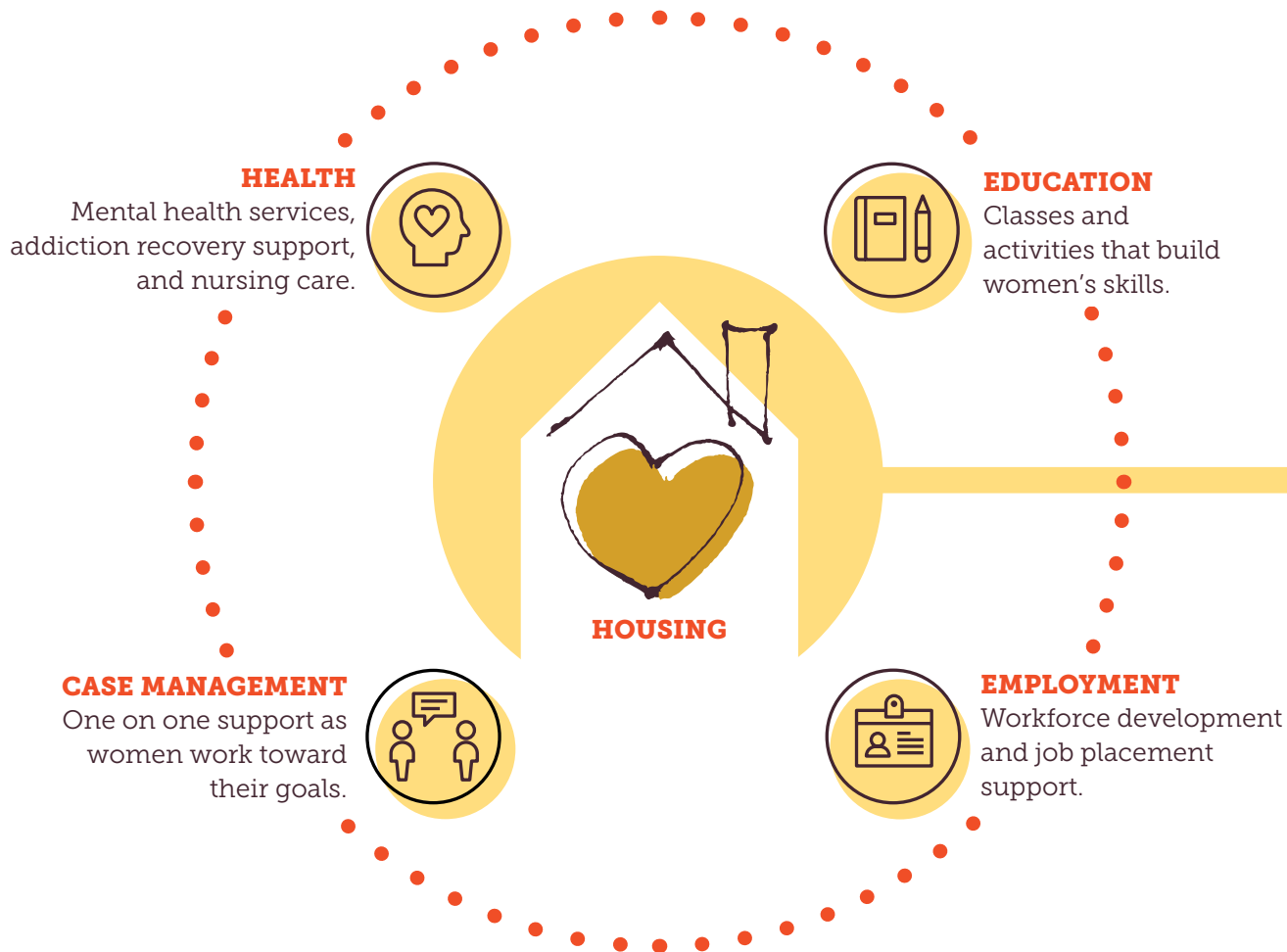
**Kristine Thompson**, *Chief Executive Officer*

**Tammy Wright**, *Chief Operations Officer*



# Map of Services

Calvary Women's Services offers housing, health, education and employment programs for women who are homeless and women who are survivors of domestic violence in DC. **Providing housing and wrap-around services together empowers women to transform their lives and end their homelessness for good.**



Each of Calvary's **housing programs** provides women a safe home while they work toward their goals and build stronger futures.

**Good Hope Transitional Housing** — 45 beds of short-term housing for women experiencing homelessness

**Reach Up Transitional Housing** — 31 beds of short-term housing for women, including 15 beds designated for women fleeing domestic violence

**Reach Up Rental Assistance Program** — 9 units of short-term rental assistance subsidies, supporting women in their own leases

**Sister Circle** — 16 beds of permanent supportive housing for women in scattered site apartments

**Sisters Rise** — 25 units of permanent supportive housing for survivors of domestic violence in their own apartments

# Housing

Women who come to Calvary's housing programs may be survivors of violence, living with mental illness, struggling with substance use disorders, or facing any number of other challenges.

**Calvary's transitional and permanent housing programs provide a safe home and basic needs.**

In addition, we offer women a community of peer support as they work to overcome the causes of their homelessness and build new lives.

More than  
**30,000**  
nights of  
safe housing

**117**  
in short-term  
housing  
programs



## 2021 at a Glance

- Calvary provided more than 30,000 nights of safe housing
- 117 women lived in our short-term housing programs and **24 in our permanent housing programs**
- All of the women in Calvary's permanent housing remained stably housed

## A look ahead

- We prepared to welcome **25 more women into their own apartment homes** in late 2021

*“Calvary was my turning point. It was almost immediate relief. Don't get me wrong, I had a lot of things to work through, but I could breathe again and knew that I could close my eyes at night and I would be okay.”*

Nadia, former resident

# Health

**Calvary provides behavioral health and wellness services to women in all of our housing programs.** Services include individual and group therapy, medical assessment and support by our nurse practitioner, and daily addiction recovery groups that focus on relapse prevention. This year our program included a special emphasis on education and access to healthcare related to COVID-19.

More than  
**630**  
therapy  
sessions

Held over  
**120**  
one-on-one  
sessions



## 2021 at a Glance

- Calvary provided **more than 630 therapy sessions**, supporting women with increased anxiety and depression related to the pandemic
- More than one-third of women at Calvary **participated in Relapse Prevention Groups** to maintain their sobriety
- Calvary's nurse practitioner held over 120 one-on-one sessions with women **to address their individual questions and concerns about healthcare, medications, and more**

## A look ahead

- Calvary **recently added another therapist which will help us better serve women who have experienced trauma** and those struggling with the effects of the pandemic

*“Calvary has given me a safe home and now I can focus on myself for the first time in a very long time.”*

Mary, former Calvary resident

# Education

**Calvary's Life Skills, Education,** and **Arts Program (LEAP)** supports women as they build new skills, prepare for employment, and re-envision their futures. As Calvary has grown to serve more women, LEAP now offers classes at two locations on topics including job readiness, literacy, health and wellness, and the arts.

Nearly  
**300**  
hours of  
classes

## 2021 at a Glance

- Calvary offered nearly 300 hours of **volunteer-led educational classes**
- One-third of women at Calvary engaged in education programs to build new skills
- Among the most popular classes were personal finance, writing skills, mediation, yoga, play-reading, watercolor painting, history of R&B music, negotiation skills, and goal-setting

## A look ahead

- Though classes remained virtual through most of 2021, we have resumed in-person learning and community events in 2022



***“LEAP classes have helped me learn skills, like how to negotiate and compromise, and have helped me feel good about myself.”***

Sue, Calvary resident

# Employment

**Step Up DC provides workforce development opportunities for women experiencing homelessness.** This critical program supports women through the job search and application process, empowering them to quickly secure jobs and a stable source of income.



Starting wage of  
**\$16**  
an hour



## 2021 at a Glance

- Women who secured employment through SUDC had an average starting wage of over \$16 an hour, **earning an average of \$571 each week**
- Job placements were in industries including health care, food & beverage, retail, transportation, and social services
- **Step Up DC hosted eight virtual career workshops** with seven partner organizations

## A look ahead

- Calvary has received funding to expand this critical program in 2022, **connecting more women to living wage employment**

*“The career workshop was very informative and helpful, and it was a great chance to hear directly from an employer about the hiring process and interview tips. As a result, I have a better understanding of the current positions available and am thankful for their encouragement.”*

Donna, Calvary resident



# Racial Justice

The majority of women who come to Calvary are Black and face the staggering consequences of racism, sexism, and intergenerational poverty as they work to overcome homelessness. **Calvary strives to ensure safety for all who come to our doors and to create a space where each person is seen, heard, supported, and welcomed for who she is.**

Calvary Women's Services stands with those raising their voices across the country and in our city to oppose systemic and institutional racism and acts of injustice against Black Americans. We remain committed to doing everything in our power to build an equitable society.

In 2022 Calvary will continue to focus on issues of racial justice and strengthen our community through a thorough, interactive and broad-reaching organizational evaluation of our diversity, equity & inclusion in partnership with skilled consultants. Through this project we will develop a detailed action plan with next steps and initiatives we can take as organization to ensure we live out our values.



# Volunteers

## Volunteers provide invaluable services and support to women who come to Calvary.

These dedicated individuals and groups serve home-cooked meals, teach classes, and host special events and activities. Through sharing their time and talents, they let women at Calvary know they are cared for.

**133**  
volunteers =  
1,800 hours  
of service

In This  
Together  
raised over  
**\$25,000**



## 2021 at a Glance

- Our family of 133 volunteers provided over 1,800 hours of service
- The **value of volunteer services was over \$135,000**
- Volunteers **provided meals for all of the women in Calvary's short-term housing** programs every weekend of the year
- **14 teams and more than 80 individuals participated in the In This Together Virtual 5K** – running, walking and biking over 260 miles and raising more than \$25,000

## A look ahead

- Though many of our volunteer activities remained remote in 2021, we look forward to welcoming more volunteers onsite in 2022

*“I didn’t realize how alone I was. I have felt like a new person since walking into Calvary. Now I know what it’s like to have a support system and how important that is. For the first time in so long, I know I am going to be successful.”*

Janice, Calvary resident

# Moving Forward

Recognizing that both Calvary Women's Services and the community we serve are at critical junctures, in 2021 Calvary adopted a new strategic plan that will lead our work through 2024. **We are uniquely positioned to take action on pressing challenges, including a lack of affordable housing, rising incidences of domestic violence, and the ongoing economic impacts of the pandemic on our community.**

In alignment with our mission and core values, over the next three years Calvary will grow our capabilities and housing options and become a more vocal advocate for the women we serve.

We will achieve our vision of ending homelessness for women and creating equity in our community by moving aggressively in three strategic directions:

- **Creating More Housing.** Expanding the housing opportunities available for women and continuing to pair housing with comprehensive, trauma-informed and personalized support services.
- **Strengthening Our Leadership.** Advancing our organizational leadership to ensure a strong foundation for

current and future organizational growth and amplifying women's voices, particularly those of Black women and women of color.

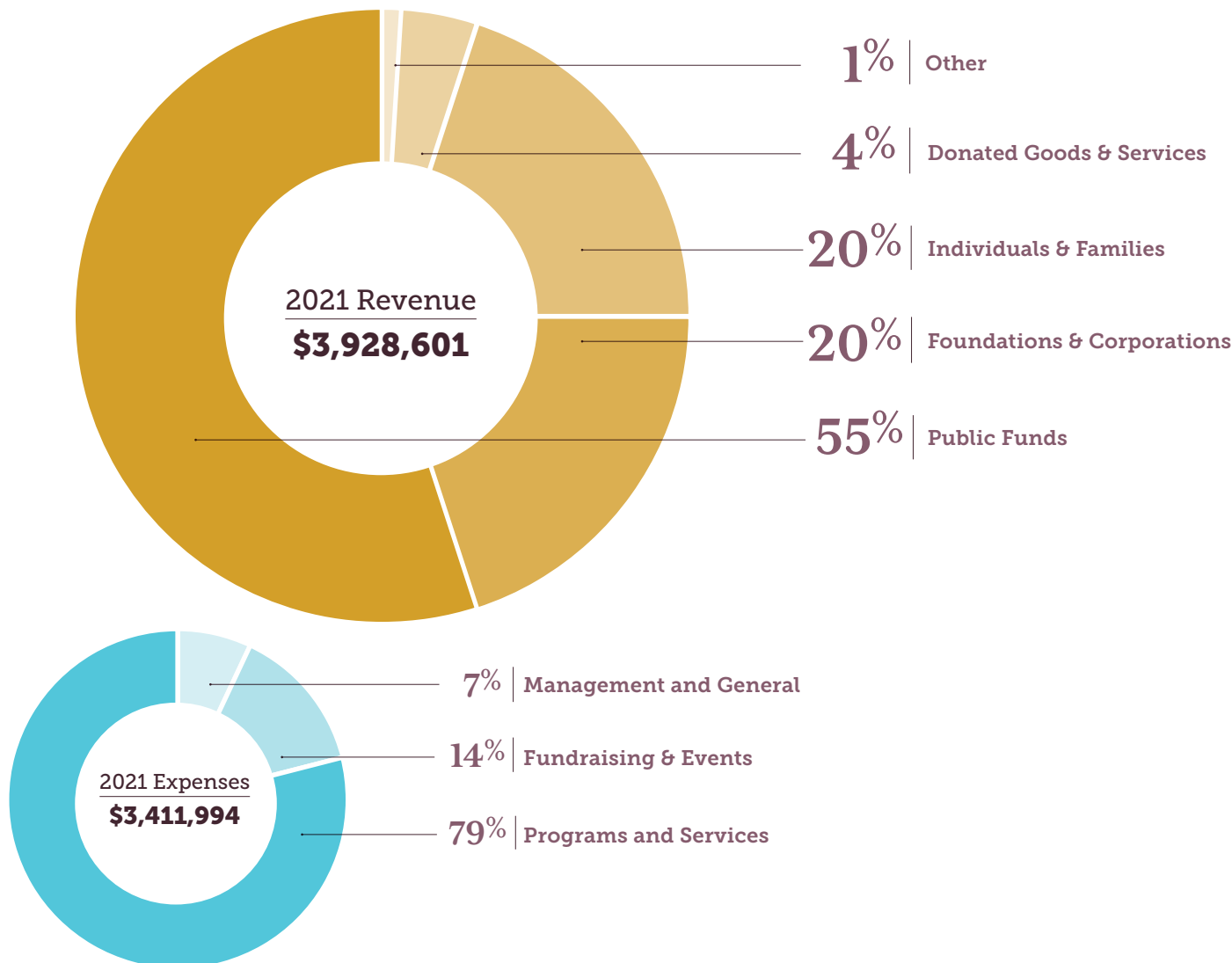
- **Telling Our Story.** Building Calvary's brand by promoting its successful model, advocating for policy and funding in support of women's housing and issues, and positioning Calvary for even greater impact in the community.

During 2021 we made great progress against these goals, as evidenced in this annual report. Through new and continued partnerships, strategic pursuit of growth opportunities, and keeping our mission and values at the center of our efforts, Calvary will play a critical role in our city's goal of ending homelessness.

## Financials

Strategically pairing public and private funds ensures financial stability for our programs. Calvary Women’s Services has been able to leverage public grants with private philanthropy to create a strong financial position

and grow our programs to better meet community needs. Calvary is committed to being good stewards of all of these investments and takes care to use funds wisely.



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*“Calvary doesn’t provide band-aid solutions for the challenges women face– they help women tackle the root of their challenges by providing them with the tools, skills, and support they need to rebuild and improve their lives. I know that the money I’m able to contribute is well-spent on resources that make a lasting impact on the lives of so many women.”*

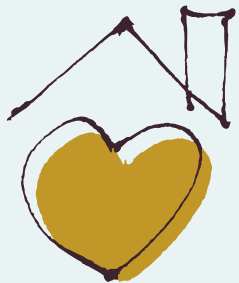
Rashika, donor

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Complete audited financial statements are available on our website at [calvaryservices.org/about/financials](https://calvaryservices.org/about/financials)

A full list of our foundation & corporate partners can be found at [calvaryservices.org/about/corporate](https://calvaryservices.org/about/corporate)

*In This Together*



# Calvary Women's Services

*Ending homelessness. Inspiring hope. Transforming lives.*

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*Learn more, including  
how you can get involved.*

**[www.calvaryservices.org](http://www.calvaryservices.org)**

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