

ANNUAL IMPACT



REPORT

WORDS FROM OUR LEADER

When I reflect on 2023 I am full of gratitude and joy. This community has shown Wooden It Be Lovely (WIBL) so much support and generosity. I believe WIBL has been successful because the community loves seeing people working hard to change their lives. WIBL is about being a hand up, not a hand out. The women participate fully in their healing and support each other as they strive for a new life. Deep friendships are made, often for the first time ever. WIBL women work towards a healthy future and strive to let go of past mistakes. WIBL tries to keep the environment and mood positive, colorful, and bright.



**Rev. Margaret Ann Jessup, Founder
Executive Director/Pastor**

If you follow WIBL you know that our brand and products are very much colorful and bright. This is important because drug recovery and healing from deep hurts is often dark and mucky. Healing from addiction and abuse is so difficult, often full of heartaches. The respect I have for the women in our program is huge. They are both strong and tender, and this work is both lovely and messy. We usually only share the lovely, but there are hard days too. It is in those times we cling to our faith and we remember all of you. Knowing the support of this community empowers WIBL to move forward with more love and hope. Together we are all better. Thank you.

Spring Highlights

In May WIBL hosted a wonderful graduation celebration. Five women completed milestones to graduate the program. Some graduates are on staff, and others found fulfilling employment in the community. The celebration was so full of joy and love.

Fall Highlight

WIBL was honored to be the recipient of the Asian Indian Women's Organization (AIWO) Gala. The huge profits of this event will allow WIBL to enhance the program in new ways. We made some wonderful friends working with women from the AIWO. We are so grateful.

Summer Highlight

In July WIBL hosted our 20th Showcase Furniture Sale, and it was one of our best yet. The skill and artistry of the women gets better each year. We continue to be amazed at the community support and the customers that come out and support the work of women survivors.

Winter Highlights

The Holiday season was extremely good to WIBL. Holiday sales at the Be Lovely Boutique broke all our records. Thank you to our shoppers. We also received so much holiday generosity for WIBL women and their children, and many had their best Christmas ever!

MEANINGFUL METRICS



348

Hours of on-site education/ recovery support

Includes financial management, trauma counseling, sexualized violence therapy, work skills

Education and support are cornerstones of the program and a part of their paid work day.

1304

Safe sleeps in our housing program

Women in the house save 70% of their income

Women can not heal and thrive without a safe place to live.

1020

Volunteer hours logged

Volunteers, who work along side the women, are the heart of the program.

Volunteers participate in the recovery circle, make friends, and provide great support and mentoring.

78 +

Number of program applications in 2023

WIBL continues to grow but we were only able to hire approximately 20% of applicants.

The need for employment and housing for those in recovery in is huge.

Program Staff

Megan (Staff Supervisor), Margaret Ann (Executive Director/Pastor), Libby (Business and Product Development), Emma (Case Coordinator), Maggie (Recovery Coach- not pictured)



WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR SUCCESSES AND OUTCOMES



100% of women in the program are recovering from substance abuse

80% of women employed in 2023 maintain sobriety!

66% of women in residential program are succeeding

7- Women transitioned to employment in the community

7- Women completed inpatient/outpatient rehab

10- Women opened a bank and/ or savings account

2- Women regained custody of child(ren)

4- Women completed parenting classes

1- Woman obtained GED & 2 others working towards

2- Women started college classes

1- Woman completing cosmetology school

3- Graduates purchased a house this year



WOODEN IT BE LOVELY FINANCIAL STABILITY



INCOME SOURCES

Donations- \$364,000

(includes AIWO Gala)

Fundraising- \$170,000

Sales- \$184,000

Grants- \$36,000



GROWTH IN SALES

2021 sales- \$63,000

2022 sales- \$122,000

2023 sales- \$184,000



GROWTH IN MISSION PAYROLL BY YEAR



Women are employed to paint home decor items...



pour candles...

2021- \$146,000
2022- \$170,000
2023- \$201,000



sew products and coordinate the sales process...



refurbish furniture and much more!

FINANCES



Wooden It Be Lovely

Statement of Financial Position (Unaudited) As of December 31, 2023

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 138,044
Accounts Receivable	5,000
Certificates of Deposit	623,943
Property and Equipment, net	295,506
Other Assets - Savings for residents	10,067
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,072,560
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	5,415
Deferred Revenue	15,000
Accrued wages and payroll taxes	16,352
Accrued resident savings	9,377
TOTAL LIABILITIES	46,144
Net Assets, unrestricted	1,026,416
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 1,072,560

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Fundraising (net of event expenses)	\$ 170,759
Grants/Foundations	35,706
Donations	364,294
Product Sales	184,407
Miscellaneous income	154
Investment income	2,501
\$ 757,821	
EXPENSES	
Mission Employees: Work Program Expenses	233,601
Mission: Program Staff	23,208
256,809	
Administration Compensation/Taxes and benefits	79,529
General Business Expenses	49,535
Facility and Insurance	44,973
Manufacturing/ Product Cost of Goods Sold	79,631
Housing Expenses (offset by Capital Campaign transfe	35,597
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 546,074
NET INCREASE IN ASSETS	\$ 211,747

PROGRAM AWARDS

IN 2023



WIBL Founder,
Rev. Margaret Ann Jessup,
was named the
Woman of the Year for Illinois
by USA Today.



WIBL Graduate,
Staff Supervisor and Designer,
Megan Murray, was named a
40 under 40 Leader by the
Springfield Business Journal.



Governor J.B. Pritzker inducted
Wooden It Be Lovely into the
Illinois Made Program for their
beautiful hand made products.



Wooden It Be Lovely was
recognized by the
Springfield Business Journal
as one of the 15 outstanding
businesses with less than
15 full time employees.



The Wooden It Be Lovely housing program,
The Be Lovely Home, was presented with a
good neighbor award by the Springfield Inner
City Older Neighborhoods organization.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DeDe Murphy, Co-Chair- Carrollton Bank, Community Networking

Jen DeJong, Co-Chair- Sicilian Encounters, Community Advocate

Julie Krehbiel- Sikich *

Linda Harrod- United Methodist Clergy

Ann Burton- Community Advocate *

Michelle Norris- CASA (Child Appointed Special Advocates)

Cindy Davis- Resource One

Jane Locascio- The Real Estate Group

Diane Rutledge- Education Consultant, MHS

Kathy Germeraad- Community Advocate

Jill Lowery- Community Advocate, 4 the Kids

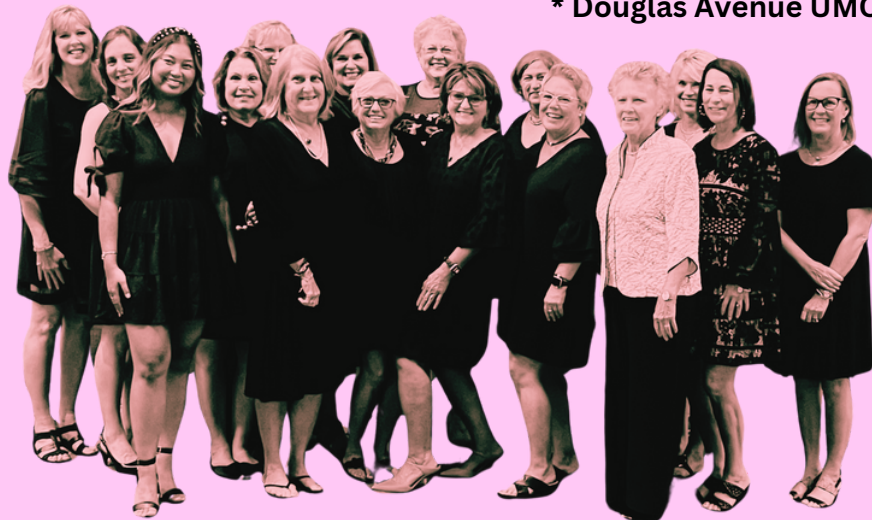
Beth O'Shea- Community Advocate

Connie Sims- Community Advocate *

Jamie Stout- Memorial Health System

Timara Pflug- Springfield Police Department

* Douglas Avenue UMC Member



**A Special thanks to
Douglas Avenue
United Methodist Church**

We would not be us, without you.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS,
SUPPORTERS, SHOPPERS,
SPONSORS, AND VOLUNTEERS
INCLUDING:**

**ASIAN INDIAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION (AIWO)
UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL IL
THE TRACY FOUNDATION
UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION/
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS- IGRC UMC
MIKE AND BETH O'SHEA, O'SHEA BUILDERS**

A list of many other generous individual donors, church supporters, and business partners available upon request