



Dear Sujata,

At this time (7 pm), exactly [twelve years ago](#), we welcomed a woman into The Sophia's Way's overnight shelter at First Congregational Church. She was offered a hot dinner and a warm night's sleep. A few months later, her case manager helped her move into her own home. In the years since, the organization has provided **shelter, safety, and stability to more than 5,000 women**. At the start, we employed five individuals, and today we have 35 employees carrying out the mission and supporting women. Next year's budget was approved for nearly \$3.5 million! **The need has grown, and we've grown too!**

2020 has certainly not been what we were planning for a year ago, but today we celebrate that —

- [Helen's Place](#), the new shelter in Kirkland, serves 40 women 24/7
- [Sophia's Place](#), the extended-stay shelter, houses 21 women 24/7
- [The Day Center](#) provides walk-in day services for dozens of women living in their cars, tents, and on the streets
- We will triple the number of [meals](#) served from 2019 by year-end
- At this point in time (*knock wood*) no one in the shelters has tested COVID-positive

Keeping safe and healthy during the pandemic is our number one priority and is not easy.

I am incredibly proud of the entire team's work and deeply grateful for the community's generosity in coming to aid women without homes during these trying times. It takes a village and this year, **each one of you has helped** ensure that women have a safe, warm place to rest and rebuild their lives.

Soon we will have a vaccine in place and begin the arduous process of protecting everyone from COVID-19. Until that time, we miss having loyal and generous volunteers working in the shelters or the office. Until that day, the only way to see our new shelter is by a [virtual tour](#). Until we are all safe, we **continue to work tirelessly to protect woman** who are in need of shelter and stability to stay strong, especially through the pandemic and the cold

winter months ahead. And, we **look forward to a new tomorrow** when our community, nation, and the world can once again feel safe.

On behalf of the board of directors, staff, and the women we serve, **we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support and compassion** which provides the women with hope and joy.

Wishing you good health and happy holidays,



Alisa Chatinsky
Executive Director

P.S. Take a walk down memory lane and [view the highlights](#) of The Sophia Way's journey.



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