



MISSION: My Sister's Place (MSP) shelters, supports, and empowers survivors of domestic violence and their children, while providing leadership and education to build a supportive community.

HISTORY: For over 40 years, MSP has been an innovator in changing lives by providing care through hotlines, domestic violence shelters, and continued aftercare to help survivors build independent lives. As one of DC's oldest domestic violence shelters, we have served as a cornerstone of the District's response to this pressing public health issue since 1979.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES: MSP is unique in offering a continuum of care from emergency shelter through transitional-to-permanent housing and beyond. Our experienced team of case managers and residential counselors provide clinical counseling, case management, and comprehensive services to empower survivors to recover and thrive. MSP also provides training, case consultation, and advocacy to engage communities in proactively preventing violence and abuse.

Sanctuary Plus – Sanctuary Plus is our emergency shelter for survivors fleeing domestic violence and their children. Home to 15 families, or up to 45 residents, at a time, Sanctuary Plus provides residents with counseling, case management, daily coaching, and referrals to enable them to successfully move to permanent housing and independence.

Sanctuary II – Sanctuary II, which opened in September 2022, is My Sister's Place's second shelter for domestic violence survivors. Sanctuary II expanded our emergency shelter bed capacity by nearly 50% and provides an additional 18-20 survivors/survivor families a year safe shelter they urgently need. The building is newly renovated and accessible to community resources, good schools, and pertinent social services.

Transitional-to-Permanent Housing - Our innovative housing programs help families fleeing from domestic violence move from crisis and homelessness to safety and stability. Our staff provide case management and other supportive resources aimed at empowering participants. Rental payments are subsidized by MSP for one or two years. Families have the option to remain in the homes they have made for themselves, promoting long-term self-sufficiency and freedom from abuse.

RISE Trust - Among our most recent achievements is our newly launched emergency cash transfer program, RISE Trust. The program, which launched in January 2023, provides survivors with monthly payments and helps survivors set and meet financial goals that support long-term self-sufficiency and independence. While there have been several cash transfer programs across the country, none are specifically targeted to domestic violence survivors. Because financial limitations are often the reason that survivors stay in abusive relationships, a cash transfer program supports their well-being and helps ensure that survivors do not return to an abuser out of financial necessity.

Move-In Program - Our Move-In program collects gently used furniture and other household items so that when a survivor moves out of the shelter into transitional housing, they can move into a fully furnished and well stocked place they can truly settle into and call home.

Fresh Start Fund - The Fund has helped many families with one-time payments, such as items clients need for their homes, car repairs, educational opportunities, job certifications, child related expenses, and more. The Fresh Start Fund ensures that a small financial setback does not undermine all the progress a client has achieved.

Aftercare - Clients exiting our housing programs receive ongoing contact with case-management staff to support them in their independence, including counseling, referrals to community-based services, and advocacy. Our goal is to provide active outreach and assist clients in building long-term supportive systems within their communities, to reduce the likelihood of future victimization.

Children's Program - MSP provides specialized programs to support the children who come to us with their parents. We are proud to be one of The Homeless Children's Playtime Project sites and to be a part of the National Children's Museum Community Membership Program. These, and other partnerships, add to the comprehensive support we offer children suffering from their unique experience with domestic violence.

Outreach & Education - Our programs include regular community training and educational events for service providers and community members. We also have a Latino Outreach Program, which provides specialized resources to DC's Spanish speaking residents.

2022 IMPACT

MSP served a total of 146 survivors and 201 children throughout all programs
89 survivors were provided with safe secure emergency shelter
4738 case management and counseling sessions were provided to adults and children
131 survivors transitioned from shelter, or other crisis locations, to transitional housing

"When I came to My Sister's Place I was scared, I was broken, and my self-esteem was shattered. I was homeless. Being a victim of domestic violence breaks your spirit, your mental health, and any sense of hope. But I'm here to let someone know that there's hope...regardless of your situation, you can surpass anything that you put your mind to. I believe in miracles because I went from substance-abuse caused by a domestic violence situation to becoming an independent and self-motivated business owner. Thank you!"

T.P.*, MSP client and survivor

*Names and identifying details changed to protect client confidentiality



Interested in learning more? Visit www.mysistersplacedc.org

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