



# PASSAGES

WOMEN'S TRANSITIONAL LIVING



## 2019 Annual Report

The above photo was taken during the 2019 Annual Celebration for the women at Passages. We celebrated their success in the program, thus far. While some have setbacks, celebrations like this remind them and us that we all can experience God's grace when we accept His help and the support of others during the journey.



## **Staff**

Dr. Marge Beam, Director

## **Board Members**

Don Van Etten, Chairman

Jim Parry, Vice-Chairman

Judy Allen, Secretary

Janyce Hockenbary, Treasurer

Carol Black

Robyn Buckingham

Debra Watson

Debbie Ketel Speas

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# Dear Supporter of Passages

## From the Director:

Serving as the director of Passages is a position to which God called me and for which I am grateful. Every day, He offers me the opportunity to extend grace, hope and direction to hurting women at a critical time in their lives. I see the power of the Spirit at work as women overcome addictions, heal from former abuse and violence, learn new skills, build healthy relationships and gain confidence. It is a transformational experience and I count it an honor to play a role in the process.

As I reflect on the year, I note that the need for Passages' services just keeps growing. The women's issues are more serious and challenging. Thus, the volunteers, the women's coaches and I must be more tenacious than ever to support and guide the women out of bondage and on to freedom. As such, the backing of the board, the assistance of the volunteers and the fervent prayers of Passages' supporters is a constant source of reassurance and inspiration.

In a word, Passages offers hope! I desire my direction for the program to reflect that hope and lead to genuine joy—at the house and in the lives of the women.

**Humbly,**  
**Marge Beam, Ed.D.**

## From the Board:

On behalf of the board, I wish to affirm our commitment to the mission and ongoing work of Passages. We count it a privilege and responsibility to serve the women who come through our doors with loving care, clear expectations and essential supports for empowering them on their journeys to rebuild their lives. We know a key to their life change is embracing the Savior as Lord and discovering the power of the Spirit for moving forward positively with day-to-day living. Thus, we're seeing lives changed with eternal impacts for the women as well as others around them.

Just as the women are led by the Spirit, so are we as the board. It is our prayer that our decisions and the work of Passages reflect God's love and brings glory to His Name. A key to our vision for Passages is expanding our capacity to serve more women with transitional living services. We wait on God for his timing and the funds to launch construction of a new house in coming months.

Clearly, the impact of Passages is possible because of the dedication of staff, many volunteers, contributions from many donors and faithful prayers of many champions of this work. We are humbled and grateful for the devotion of so many "teammates." The support is a continual source of encouragement and blessing to the women, staff, board and volunteers. We offer a heartfelt thank you.

**Respectfully,**  
**Don Van Etten, M.D.**



## About Passages

Based on a need in the greater Black Hills community and modeled after a successful transitional program in Idaho, a core group of Rapid City citizens came together to initiate Passages Women's Transition Living a decade ago. Established as a 501(c)3, Passages housed its first participants beginning in 2013. Passages provides transitional living for women who have been addicted to alcohol or drugs. Most of them come from the women's prison. They are empty, lost, hopeless, broke, broken, abandoned, lack self-confidence and have lost parental rights. Our goal is to help them rebuild their lives. We have gained six years of experience and have served 140 women.

Our residential re-entry program guides and supports the women as they transition in positive, sustainable life patterns which will enable them to be self-sufficient, contributing citizens. They begin the process in prison by working through our workbook which introduces them to our program. When they are ready for parole, they are interviewed by our director who explains program participation and carefully assesses whether they are ready to commit to the hard work it will take to complete successfully. We work very closely with their parole or probation officer and ensure that they make it to their appointments. Some of them come to us knowing that if they quit they will return to prison. In fact, a couple of them have come wearing their "ankle bracelet" monitors.

Within 6-12 weeks, the women are employed and paying program fees (\$250/month as a subsidy

toward the costs of housing, food, and program materials), parole fees, fines, and restitution and are building trust with staff.

Within 6-18 months, they are becoming positive models and mentors to new incoming women and well on their way toward becoming productive members of society. They are giving back, doing work for Passages and other non-profits. They are preparing to move out of the Passages house and get their own place. The residential program includes Life Skills classes, recovery meetings, Truthought Criminal Thinking workbooks and book studies, such as *Safe People*, *Boundaries*, *Making Wise Decisions*. They meet weekly with a transition coach to review their Change Books and learn good habits such as time management and goal setting. Accountability, curfews and random drug and alcohol testing are part of the program. Passages collaborates with governmental agencies and community service providers, as appropriate, to ensure a wholistic, effective and efficient approach to meeting the needs of the women.







## Testimonials

### Katie

From addiction to academics, Katie experienced a dramatic change in the direction of her life. She arrived broken but determined to rebuild her life in response to the leading of the Spirit. With the support of the Passages' environment, her coach and her family, she's reconnecting to life and living her faith with an energy and enthusiasm which is contagious. Now in her own place as the caregiver for her son, Katie continues with Passages as a non-resident participant. Notably, she is the first Passages participant to enroll in college! She gives God the glory for her recovery and credits Passages as the "hands" God used to touch her life with loving care and guidance just when she needed it.



### Melissa

Repeating led Melissa to discover the power of a truly repentant heart. Melissa was a Passages resident two years ago and participated in the program on her own power. Not recognizing her vulnerability, she exited the program only to find that she could not make it on her own. Melissa was given a second chance. This time, her faith commitment was genuine and heartfelt. An assessment of "thinking processes" for Passages participants indicates the dramatic, positive change in Melissa's capability to "think through" situations and circumstances with healthier outcomes. She credits her personal commitment to Jesus as her Savior for changing her thinking, experiencing freedom anew and giving hope for the future. Melissa is extremely grateful for the second chance offered by Passages.





# Impacts & Accomplishments

## Program

PROGRAM Impacts were compelling and encouraging:

- The average length of stay for women exiting the program was 234 days, exceeding the goal of at least 180 days or six months. Research confirms that a minimum of six months is essential for major life changes such as those faced by the women at Passages. In particular, the increase in stay is credited to policy changes which require the women to make an initial six-month commitment, including more support and structure during their first 30 days of residence.
- Recidivism was less than half of the 67% reported nationally for women exiting prison. Given factors such as confidentiality, it is challenging to track every woman exiting Passages. However, anecdotal data from sources connected with the women would support a noteworthy recidivism rate lower than 30%.

## New Housing

This initiative gained more momentum. Half of the \$1.2 million project of constructing a new residence for housing 14 women has been secured in the form of donations or pledges of funds, land, materials and services.

## Marketing

The awareness of Passages across the Black Hills community increased significantly as a result of MARKETING efforts:

- An updated brochure and 3 quarterly newsletters,
- 7 television stories or articles in print publications,
- 9 presentations at local venues,
- Participation at 7 community events,
- 17 contacts with local churches, and
- An active presence with social media.

## Financial Support

The FINANCIAL SUPPORT for operations expanded as indicated by:

- 36% increase in the database of donors,
- 19% increase in general revenue, and the
- Conduction of 3 successful fund-raising events.

## Events

To provide FINANCIAL SUPPORT and COMMUNITY AWARENESS for Passages, the following events were held:

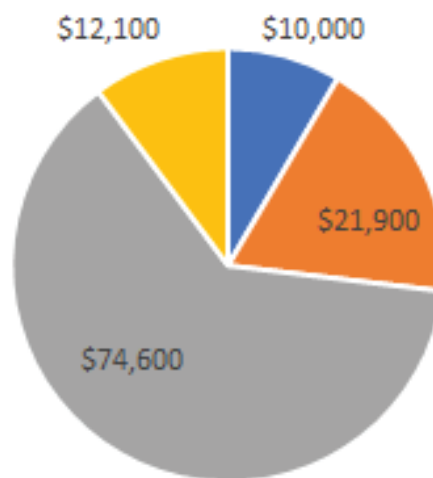
- **Annual Celebration** in May to celebrate the successes of the women at Passages. Over 50 attended.
- **Splash of Color 5K Walk/Run** with over 100 attendees, more than doubling attendance from prior year.
- **Pies Plus** in October with speakers Al & Teresa Peratt.



## Financials

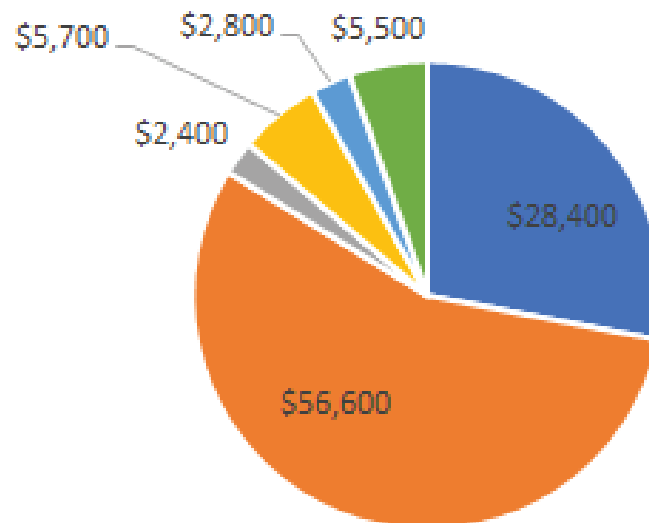
### Revenue: \$118,600

■ Foundation Grants ■ Fundraising Events ■ Public Support ■ Program Fees



### Expenses: \$101,400

■ Program ■ Staffing ■ Marketing ■ Administration ■ Fundraising ■ Taxes & Insurance







## Looking Ahead

The number of incarcerated women keeps rising—nationally as well as in our state and community. And the challenges faced by women exiting incarceration are more and more intense given the tenacity of illicit drugs and alcohol. More than ever, the greater Black Hills community needs the services of Passages. As the only such program in the region, Passages is meeting a very specific need with tremendous implications for these women as well as their families. Thus, Passages leaders see a growing demand for the transitional living services it provides. As such, the Passages program is on a path of continuous improvement based on the experiences of the past six years and focused on interventions with demonstrated effectiveness for women exiting incarceration.

Critical to more effective services is engaging with more partners invested in related services for the women Passages serves. A recent connection is with Salvation Army's Pathway of Hope program. In coming months, Passages and Pathway of Hope will implement complementary supports for the women. Passages will provide the foundation for women exiting incarceration and Pathway of

Hope will provide additional supports for the women when they are ready to move out into the community. Working as partners, the two agencies see the potential of supporting the women for a longer period of time with increased long term success.



Another important consideration for effective services is a housing environment that accommodates more women needing transitional living services. As such, the New Housing initiative remains a high priority with the intention of more than doubling our capacity to house women in a new safe, supportive environment for years to come.

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**As you know, this year has already been a challenging one, dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. While we know you are taking care of your own family, please consider supporting Passages this year so we can continue to show God's grace to the women we serve. You can make your donation at [passagesliving.com](https://passagesliving.com).**