

Our Vision Every homeless woman, youth and child will have the opportunity to heal, learn and grow, build the foundation for a brighter future, and blossom into who they are truly meant to be.

NEWS FROM THE LOTUS HOUSE

HERE IS WHAT THE RESEARCH SHOWS

- Not only are homeless families overwhelmingly households headed by women, but they are disproportionately families with young children.
- In homeless families across America, there are over 1.35 million children, 40% of whom are under six years old.
- Violence is a critical factor in homelessness. Studies show that violence is normative in the lives of homeless women and children with at least half experiencing homelessness after fleeing from a violent relationship.
- The majority (92%) of homeless mothers have experienced severe physical and/or sexual assault at some point in their lives; 66% experienced severe physical abuse and 43% were molested as children. Thirty-six percent (36%) of homeless mothers have post traumatic stress disorder over their lifetimes, a rate three times higher than women of all ages.



Sadly, the statistics listed above reflect the experiences of those we serve all too well. Over 90% of the women and youth at Lotus House report histories of childhood abuse, domestic violence or other serious trauma. The impact of domestic violence, untreated mental health issues, and other traumas, including homelessness, on infants and young children can be devastating, pervasive, lifelong and intergenerational if left untreated.

EVIDENCE INFORMED SOLUTIONS

Research shows it is possible to break the cycle of childhood abuse, domestic violence, and homelessness with life changing support, tools, education, and resources that heal broken bodies, minds and spirits, and Lotus House is committed to achieving those outcomes for a better way of life. Early and focused interventions can increase the chances of positive developmental outcomes even when early childhood is marked by disruption. In fact, appropriate interventions can minimize or even reverse the effects of early traumatic childhood experiences. Mothers provided with evidence-based trauma-resolution focused therapy and strong supportive parenting skills can positively impact everything from their child's chances of high school graduation to their success in the workforce as adults.

A child and family centered approach to mental health assessments and services is essential to positive outcomes for those experiencing disruptions in their lives, including domestic violence, childhood abuse and homelessness. Lotus House Families Programs are carefully designed to assist mothers and their newborn infants and young children to achieve healthy child-caregiver attachments and long-term stability. Our child and family centered services promote trauma resolution in both mothers and children and foster positive, healthy development and parenting so that mothers and children thrive together.

- To enhance the mental and developmental health of babies and children, Lotus House Families Programs include child parent psychotherapy, play therapy, nurturing skills for parents, and individualized service planning.

- To promote trauma resolution, life skills building, and empowerment of mothers-to-be and mothers, Lotus House Families Programs include early screenings of each woman's mental health and well-being, weekly individual counseling, personalized action plan, and evidenced based, individual and group counseling modalities for trauma resolution.

With a multi-faceted, coordinated approach, and comprehensive support system, parents can address their personal issues and work toward providing nurturing care for and developing healthy attachments with their children. Lotus House emphasizes trauma-informed, evidence based and informed therapies, parenting education, and comprehensive support services in a nurturing environment that addresses the special needs of these fragile families. Your support makes all that we do possible!

*See footnotes and learn more about these special programs at www.lotushouse.org.

OUR IMPACT With your support, Lotus House uplifts homeless women, youth and children by providing sanctuary, support, education and resources to empower them to improve the quality of their lives on every level, achieve greater self sufficiency, and build safe, secure lives as they transition to new homes.

95,950+
Number of nourishing meals served annually

70,000+
Number of shelter bed nights annually

200+
Number of individuals sheltered nightly

500+
Number of women and children served annually

115 and counting!
Newborns who will call lotus house their first home

1,600+
Women and children served to date

Dear Lotus House *Farewell Letters from Former Guests*

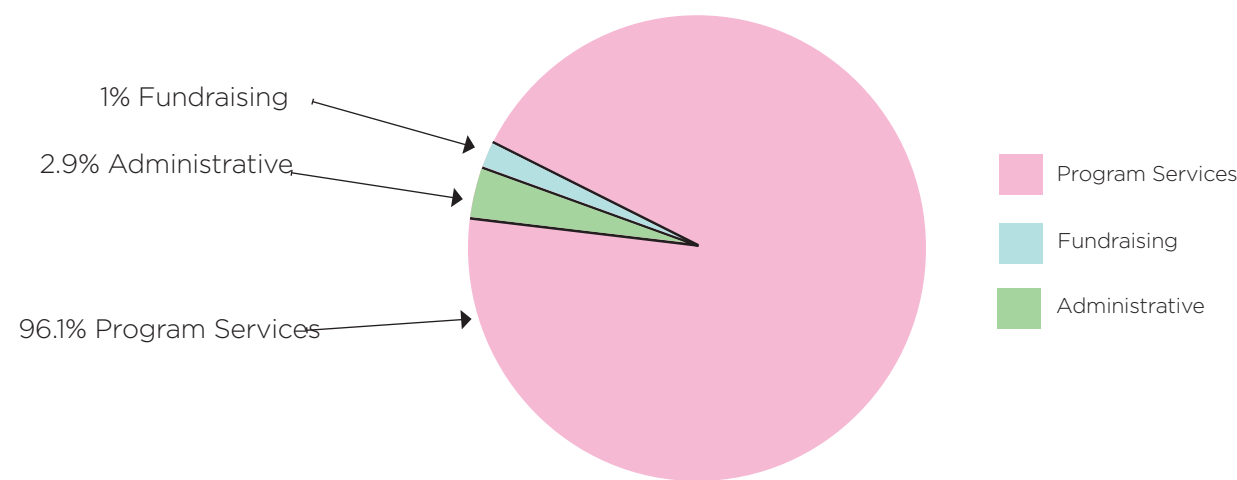
Thanks to the Lotus House I am able to raise my family with the security of independence. I no longer have to accept abuse to provide a roof for my children. Knowing that I can do that by myself is the greatest feeling ever!! *Lotus House Mother*

What Lotus House means to me is a second chance at life. I was literally on my last leg, health wise, and you and the team genuinely nursed me back to life. Lotus House offers the biggest support system I have ever witnessed. *Lotus House Alumni*

You [Lotus House] show that you are not just talk but action, by developing programs that help the guests to not only get back on their feet but to find ways to empower the guest to leave with a high self-esteem and knowledge of knowing that they will not come back again. For this reason I will pay it forward and never forget my experience at Lotus House. *Lotus House Alumni*

This is not an exit letter, though I'm not there physically, my heart and soul remains with the Lotus House. Life has a way of rearranging when you least expect it and that's what happened to me at the Lotus House. Not only did I gain a second family, I gained a new desire in life, a desire to live. For that, I am eternally grateful. Grateful for being able to have this experience, thanks to the people at Lotus House, their big hearts and resources. I am now able to raise my family with the security of the absence of a man to provide a roof over their heads; knowing I can do it myself is the greatest feeling in the world! The Lotus house will forever be a part of me, thanks so very much!!!! Love always, *Lotus House Mother*

I very much hope this family [Lotus House] exists as long as there are women and children in need of a home. *Lotus House Alumni*



SUNDARI FOUNDATION, INC.
CONSOLIDATED AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2014 FISCAL YEAR EXPENSES

The 2016 annual budget for Lotus House is approximately \$3.5 Million, allowing us to serve over 500 women, youth and children each year.

Donations to the Sundari Foundation, Inc. are deductible to the full extent allowable under IRC section 501c3 (tax id #81-0652266). A copy of the official registration and financial information (Foundation id #CH17660) filed with the State of Florida may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll free 800-436-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.

WHAT GOES ON BEHIND LOTUS HOUSE THRIFT CHIC BOUTIQUE: LIFE SKILLS AND JOB READINESS CENTER



As we celebrate the one-year anniversary of the new location of our Lotus House Thrift Chic Boutique, we want to give you a peek into what really goes on behind all the glamour! Not only is the thrift store the best place to shop for vintage, unique, and hand selected clothing and furniture, but it also provides life-changing educational tools and resources for the women, youth and children of Lotus House. Home to our Life Skills and Job Training Center, Lotus House Thrift uplifts and empowers women and youth through multiple job readiness programs that provide the education to secure employment and become economically independent as they build the foundation for a brighter future.

Basic Job Readiness Workshops and individual coaching help prepare participants to enter the work place successfully, with professional attire, good communication and customer service skills, and responsible work etiquette. Individual guidance is provided for the all important job search, on-line applications, resume preparation, and practice interviews. Vocational training assistance in security, hospitality, childcare and the medical fields is facilitated via various community partners. **Retail Program** Guests receive hands-on training in our Chic Boutique retail training, including marketing, sales, merchandizing, inventory, customer service and check out skills. **Barista Program** In partnership with Panther Coffee, our training program prepares guests to enter the barista and food service industry via a barista training. Join us for an espresso! **Adult Education** In partnership with Miami-Dade Public Schools, we offer adult education and GED (high school equivalency) courses four days a week. Group classes and individual coaching also assist women and youth in learning basic computer skills, financial literacy, reading and basic math skills.

In providing these very special women and youth with support, tools, resources and opportunities, Lotus House Thrift Chic Boutique assists them in becoming truly who they were meant to be, and at the same time, our community blossoms with their beauty and the hope for a better future.

Learn More: lotushousethrift.org

LOTUS HOUSE KIDS LOVE LEARNING!

Each fall is an exciting time at Lotus House as our children head off to school, and Lotus House is once again a regular stop on the school bus route. Thanks to all of you, we received much needed donations of school supplies and backpacks to start the school year off right. Each child received four school uniforms, two pairs of new shoes, a backpack loaded with the essentials, and lots of love from all of us!

PERIOD	COURSE NAME	GRADES		
		A	E	C
1	READING	B	1	A
2	WRITING	B	1	A
3	MATH	A	1	A
4	ARTS & CRAFTS	A	1	A
5	SOCIAL STUDIES	A	1	A
6	SCIENCE	A	1	A

A - ACADEMIC
E - EFFORT
C - CONDUCT
ABS - ABSENT
TD - TARDY

PARENT SIGNATURE _____



Supported and nurtured, our children blossom!

The first day of school!

LOTUS VILLAGE

Lotus Village is envisioned as a mixed-use “village” with combined state of the art shelter facilities and supportive services serving homeless individuals and families, as well as our Overtown neighborhood. In Lotus Village, we seek to create a prototype for the future, in which shelter and services for those in need are fully integrated with the urban fabric of the neighborhood we call home. In addition to offering increased capacity with efficient design and land utilization, Lotus Village will include a holistic neighborhood health clinic and children’s day care and wellness center, serving Lotus House and our community.

In-Take Sanctuary A warm welcome and sense of safety are integral to helping women, youth and children make the transition from the streets to our shelter. The overwhelming majority of the women and youth we serve at Lotus House are victims of physical or sexual abuse, domestic violence, trafficking or other severe traumas, usually starting in childhood. Our in-take sanctuary is their first introduction to Lotus House and so we strive to create a loving refuge in this special space where tears transform to hopes for a better way of life.

Residential Programs To serve growing numbers of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our community, Lotus Village will include specially designed facilities to better serve:

Youth: Fostering positive youth development for youth in a campus style setting, with wrap around support services that emphasize educational and vocational supports to allow youth to thrive and complete high school or GED before going on to college, the service or vocational training and employment.

Safe Haven: Providing sanctuary with intensive counseling and a wrap around support system for women and youth who are victims of crime, domestic violence, or with other serious trauma histories, to promote healing, building self esteem, life skill development, and educational and employment success for a brighter future.

Families: Housing high special needs families with newborn infants, toddlers and school age children, providing wrap around therapeutic and educational supports for mothers and children, intensive resource coordination, social services advocacy, job readiness training and employment assistance, and permanent housing assistance to assist these fragile families in building the foundation for a stable future.

Medically Needy and Elders: Serving women with high special needs, including serious medical and/or mental health issues, physical disabilities, developmental challenges, and our elders ages 62 and above.

Holistic Health and Wellness Center To heal bodies, minds and spirits, serving both sheltered individuals and families experiencing homelessness and our Overtown neighborhood, Lotus Village will include a state of the art health and wellness clinic, offering a full complement of basic health care, pre-natal and pediatric care, mental health care, eye and dental care, counseling, and social services support.

Children’s Wellness Center and Day Care A holistic children’s wellness center and day care with playground, offering infant mental health assessments, play therapy, parent/child therapy, parenting classes, enrichment activities and day care for children. Our Children’s Wellness Center will serve both the children of Lotus House and our neighborhood.

Working Class Room Kitchen This unique working classroom kitchen and food service will double as a training program for the residents of Lotus House, who will have the opportunity to build basic life skills as they learn about healthful eating, food safety, and the basics of cooking at home. For those seeking a career in the food service industry, the kitchen and food service training program will allow participants to build critical job readiness skills and experience in the operation of a professional kitchen, preparing them to enter the work world with a new and practical skill set.

Pavilion The Pavilion will be the heart and hub of nearly all daily activities at Lotus House, where meals are served and group activities launched. From quiet nooks and books for coffee and tea or front porch reading to movies, performances, inspirational talks and Lotus House gatherings, the Pavilion will truly be the social center of our resident community.

Arts & Activities Lab We have seen first hand the power of art to heal on so many levels, giving voice to those who have survived by being invisible, touching our creative source, and reminding us all of our profound interconnection. In the “Lab,” the arts will be explored as alternative pathways to healing and creative expression.

Computer Library Because education is key to the future, our community facilities will include a computer library and classrooms, offering adult education and job readiness assistance.

Healing Hands Salon Being homeless is one of the most isolating experiences women, youth and children can have. In the Healing Hands Salon we seek to restore both inner and outer beauty and a sense of self worth for those struggling to reclaim and rebuild their lives.

Gardens Lotus Village will include lush green landscapes, soothing waterscapes, fountains and gardens that offer quiet refuges throughout the shelter and community grounds. Our farm to table kitchen garden will also offer fresh herbs and vegetables to our chefs and cooking school. Everything green is an opportunity for learning, healing and growing.



**Our Children Are Our Future!
It Takes A Village to Raise A Child.**

Join Us,
Together We Change Lives
Together We Save Lives
Together We Make A Difference

Lotus Village is a project of Lotus Endowment Fund, Inc. Gifts to Lotus Endowment Fund are deductible to the full extent allowable under IRC section 501c3 (tax id# 92-0233563). A copy of the official registration and financial information (#CH26128) filed with the State of Florida may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll free 800-436-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.

