



“DWC is a place where women aren't an afterthought.”

— Day Center participant

### OUR PROGRAM

The Downtown Women's Center (DWC) provides permanent supportive housing and a safe and healthy community fostering dignity, respect, and personal stability, and advocates ending homelessness for women.

Founded in 1978, DWC is the only resource in Los Angeles that is exclusively dedicated to serving the unique needs of homeless and very low-income women in downtown Los Angeles' Skid Row.

DWC is nationally recognized as a prototype for unique and effective programs serving homeless women and ending homelessness. Our services include meals, personalized case management, an on-site medical clinic, health workshops and screenings, computer literacy, government benefits advocacy, support groups, job counseling, and self-expression classes.

### DAY CENTER

- Nearly 200 women visit the drop-in Day Center each day
- Over 200 meals are prepared daily and 77 showers are taken
- Popular services are: Meals, Showers, Computers, Telephones and Mail, and Case Management

### RESIDENCE

- DWC provides 71 units of permanent supportive housing
- The average length of stay is 7 years
- 98% of the women we house stay housed permanently — a high success rate for ending homelessness

### WOMEN SERVED BY DWC

- 5000 women are served annually
- **Target population:** The women who come to DWC are homeless, formerly homeless, or experiencing extreme poverty; they cope with mental and chronic illnesses, physical disabilities, chronic abuse and domestic violence, as well as ageing related-issues
- **Places where they have slept in the past year:** 62% Temporary Shelter, 55% Street/Park, 50% Motel, 38% Friends/Family, 30% Encampment
- **Demographics:** 53% African-American, 22% White/Caucasian, 12% Hispanic/Latina, 13% declined to state or other
- **Average Age:** 48

Call:  
213-680-0600

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Visit:  
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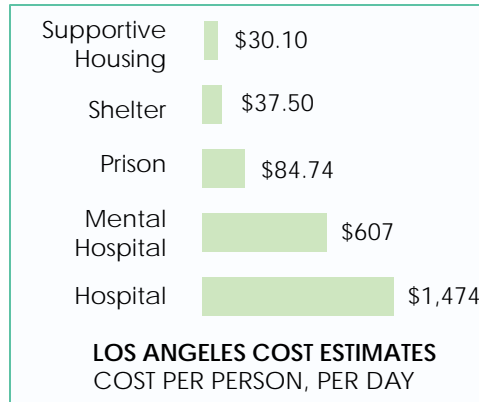
Connect:  
www.DWCweb.org

## HOMELESSNESS IN LOS ANGELES

- Over 50,000 people are homeless in Los Angeles County
- 32% of the homeless population are adult women — the fastest growing segment
- Skid Row has the largest concentration of homeless individuals
- Los Angeles is the homeless capital of the nation

## OUR SOLUTION

**Permanent supportive housing** is a successful, cost-effective combination of affordable housing with services that help people live more stable, productive lives. This housing model improves stability and reduces the use of high cost public services, like hospitals and jails.



- Creates stability by eliminating the need to move
- Fosters self-sufficiency that minimize long-term dependency on government safety nets
- Facilitates obtaining and keeping employment
- Prevents future crises through ongoing support and intervention before a problem escalates
- Provides a social network of peer support

## HELP END HOMELESSNESS FOR WOMEN

**VOLUNTEER:** You can make a difference! There are many great group and individual volunteer opportunities. Visit [www.DWCweb.org](http://www.DWCweb.org) or email [Volunteer@DWCweb.org](mailto:Volunteer@DWCweb.org)

**DONATE:** A monetary or in-kind goods donation can help us provide service to the women on Skid Row. Donate online at [www.DWCweb.org/give](http://www.DWCweb.org/give)

**GET INVOLVED:** Become an advocate for permanent supportive housing. Learn more about ending homelessness at [www.DWCweb.org](http://www.DWCweb.org)

**“ Donors and volunteers have given us their love, care and concern, as they would their own elderly parents, by providing us with the best support.”**

— Maria T., DWC Resident

## OUR NEW DWC HOME

- Opened our new Center in late 2010 and serve 5000 women annually in our larger home
- 71 new units of permanent supportive housing
- MADE by DWC café and shop, our innovative social enterprise and workforce development program
- Downtown’s first medical and mental health clinic exclusively for uninsured and underinsured women
- A renovated 1926 historic building that is a silver LEED Certified green building



## OUR SUPPORT

- Our operating revenue for 2010 was \$4,867,052
- Over 75% of every dollar raised goes directly to program services
- 1800 individuals volunteered nearly 22,000 hours at DWC in 2010