

TELLING MYRTA'S STORY



Myrta grew up in Puerto Rico. Her mother instilled in her the importance of an education—believing that a college degree would insure Myrta was always able to take care of herself. But at 16, her mother had a stroke. Running out of options, Myrta joined the U.S. Army at 18 to gain some stability—and most importantly, healthcare for her and her family.

In the military, she thrived. She became an intelligence specialist, and met and married her husband. But when they began their lives as civilians, the effects of PTSD and other mental health issues led to an unhealthy and broken relationship. Myrta headed to New York City for a fresh start, pursuing her dream career of becoming a screenwriter. But then her mother got sick. And Hurricane Maria happened. Myrta spent her last \$20 on sheets for her mother's hospital bed. She was no stranger to struggle, but says "I literally tried everything, and everything that could go wrong, did."

Once her mother's health improved, she returned to New York City. But with her funds depleted, she became homeless and came to live in Sankofa House. During her time with us, Myrta had been accepted into a one-year program for screenwriting using her additional VA education benefits—her dream was coming true! But a few weeks before the semester started, the VA unexpectedly told her that they would not pay tuition for the program—it wasn't considered an eligible course of study. So Myrta, with some encouragement from her HousingPlus case

manager, began to advocate for herself. After sending a flurry of letters to caseworkers, directors, and other representatives at the VA, she was called in for a meeting and was told they had reconsidered and would pay the tuition for her program—because of her persistence. Myrta is currently attending her first semester of school, "It's amazing—I still can't believe I'm here," and feels at home in her new apartment, "I have what I need to have a dignified existence—it's such a luxury. I'm so grateful to HousingPlus!"

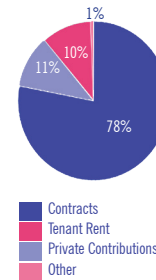
Over the past year, we completed the expansion of Sankofa House, doubling the number of female veterans served. We are happy to house Myrta, making us one of the largest providers of housing for female veterans experiencing homelessness in New York City.

BY THE NUMBERS

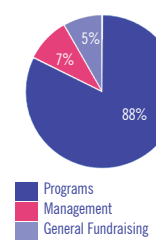
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

TOTAL FY 2018 REVENUE	
Contracts	4,015,253
Tenant Rent	545,274
Private Contributions	555,856
Other	29,849
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>5,146,232</b>
TOTAL FY 2018 EXPENSES	
Programs	4,450,200
Management	345,484
General Fundraising	248,091
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,043,775</b>
NET INCOME/LOSS	
	<b>102,457</b>

FY18 REVENUE BY %



FY18 EXPENSES BY %



GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
New York State Office of Alcoholism  
and Substance Abuse Services  
New York State Office of Temporary  
and Disability Assistance  
New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice\*

*\*Thanks to the Osborne Association for serving as  
fiscal administrator*

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

We've reached the end of our Sweet 16 year, which has been full to the brim with some exciting growth and a change to our look—both inside and out. Well into our teens now, we've been busy building on the gains we have made and are seizing new opportunities to grow into our full stature. Amid these exciting changes, our approach remains the same: housing stability is the foundation each woman and her family needs to build a stable life and better future—and we hope you will continue to join us on the journey ahead.

Warmly,

Rita Zimmer, Founder and Executive Director

HOUSING PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

- 146 women and 90 children live in our housing
- 83 women are employed
- 35 women are in school or vocational training programs
- 70 women in our programs are veterans



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

HousingPlus provides community-based permanent housing and comprehensive services to women, including women with children, to support them in overcoming poverty, homelessness, addiction, trauma, and the effects of incarceration, in order to build lives of stability, and to define and realize goals for themselves and for their families.

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 DONORS

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*Opening doors for women in crisis*

## CELEBRATING OUR WORK



Celebrating our Sweet 16 year, we hosted our second annual Spring Celebration and “Good Person Awards” this past June. Thanks to all of our friends for helping us raise \$200,000 to support the women and children we serve.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BENEFIT HONOREES AND CO-CHAIRS

**Honorees:** Lisa Chaney, Vivienne Keegan, Naomi Marks, and Kuni Schmertzler  
**Benefit Co-chairs:** Sheri Sandler and Nancy Solomon  
**Auction Co-chairs:** Bonnie Bach and Sally Franklin

## SUPPORTING HAPPY & HEALTHY FAMILIES



It’s our belief that children living in safe and stable housing can begin to dream big about their futures—starting with school. In 2018, we served 90 children through our housing programs—and 100% of them advanced to the next grade level.

For Krystal, HousingPlus made it possible for her to envision a successful future. This past May she graduated from high school and is now enrolled as a first-year Biochemistry major at Connecticut College. She currently plays on the women’s basketball team and is known by many as a “Superstar.” We couldn’t agree more.

## HELPING WOMEN COME HOME



Women should not be detained at Rikers Island jail simply because they are homeless and cannot pay bail. Alongside our four partners in the Women's Community Justice Project, we completed the first year of a three-year demonstration project made possible through public funding, with administrative support provided by the Osborne Association, to reduce the number of women being unnecessarily detained at the Rose M. Singer Center. Over the past year, we moved more than 100 women out of the city jail into supportive transitional housing. Their success has spurred us to add supportive housing for up to 30 women with families in 2019.



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