

Willow Tree Missions 2018 Annual Report

Achievement and Accomplishments for 2018

WILLOW TREE MISSIONS

2018

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We went into the last year with some very lofty and aggressive goals. 2018 did not disappoint. It turned out to be our biggest year EVER in many ways! Here are a few of the highlights for 2018.

Domestic Violence Services:

We started off 2018 with a goal of providing direct services to 25 victims of domestic violence in Piatt County. We thought this goal was aggressive but quickly learned how great the need truly is in our communities. We passed the goal by mid-March and ended the year having provided direct services to 61 victims of domestic violence as well as numerous family members of those victims. It was simply staggering to see how great the need is in Piatt County, but we are honored to be in a position to rise up and meet that need. Here are some statistics related to the services provided to those 61 families:

- **53 of the victims served were female**
- **8 of the victims served were male:** This is surprising to many, but male victims are far more common than we realize. Thankfully, they are beginning to seek help more often. We strive to meet the needs of all victims equally. Aside from the shelter, Neighbor House, all of our services are available to males and females alike. We have an alternate plan for males who are in need of emergency shelter because their safety is at risk.
- Our shelter, Neighbor House, provided **shelter to five women** this year for a total of **382 nights** of shelter
- The other 56 clients were provided services such as legal advocacy, crisis counseling, support groups, and educational activities. The total of these services provided equaled **1,172 hours of direct service** on top of shelter stays!

I am often asked my opinion on why we are able to help so many more people this year than in past years. My answer is simply.....COLLABORATION. In 2018, the professionals in Piatt County who come in contact with DV victims regularly began many collaborative efforts to work together aggressively versus domestic violence. This created a tighter net that resulted in more victims receiving greater comprehensive services and resulted in higher levels of accountability for offenders. We look forward to continuing this collaborative work that is making a difference in our communities!

Resale Shop:

None of these great accomplishments would have been possible without the amazing team at our resale shop! They work tirelessly day in and day out to fuel this mission! They accomplished some amazing things in 2018 that went well above and beyond our goals!

- The resale shop has a skeleton crew of paid staff that relies very heavily on volunteers every day! In 2018, our amazing volunteers provided our resale shop with **8,864 hours of volunteer labor!**
- In July, the support of the community enabled us to raise **thousands of dollars in less than two weeks.** With this, we were able to install **AIR CONDITIONING** in our building! This is such a blessing to the safety and comfort of our team! It will also help us financially moving forward, as we will no longer lose business due to the heat and uncomfortable conditions.
- In the spring, we were able to purchase a small building to erect in our parking lot and serve as a **furniture barn.** This has been an amazing blessing! It gives us more room to display furniture. More importantly, it eases the physical load on our dock workers since they no longer have to lift heavy items up onto the dock.
- In the fall, we were able to fulfill a long-term goal of implementing a new Point Of Sale System in the resale shop. This took an enormous amount of work by the shop team, but it was well worth the effort! The bar coding and computer system streamline our checkout process and our book keeping tremendously, making us more efficient and productive.
- Thanks to the hard work of our shop team, the **resale shop experienced a 15% growth** in sales in 2018 over the previous year. This growth provides more fuel for our fight against domestic violence and making our community a safer place! We are so grateful for the shop team's relentless service and dedication to our mission!

Thank you all for the part you have played in making this mission so incredible! Lives are being touched and changed! Without every single donor, shopper, staff member, volunteer, and board member, we could not do what we do. **MOST IMPORTANTLY,** thank you to our ALMIGHTY GOD who continues to bless and provide for this mission in ways beyond what we could possibly think, dream, or imagine!