



Saint Martha's
A MINISTRY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES



Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Louis

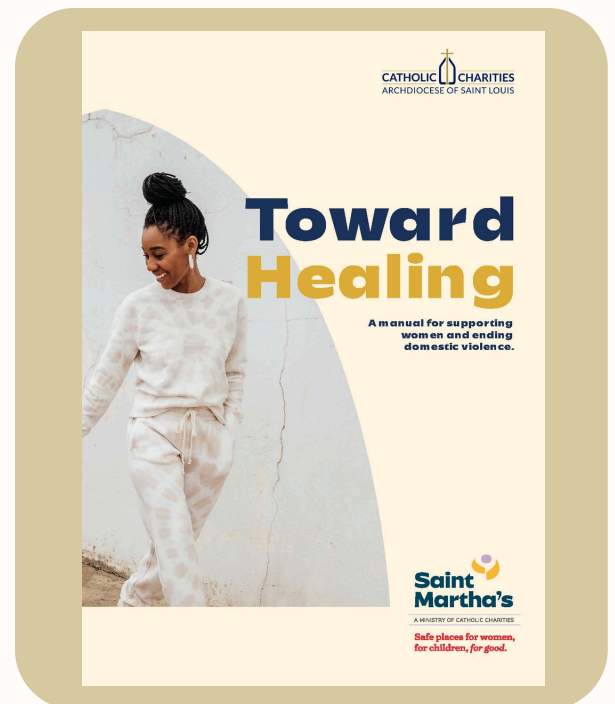
To bring the healing, help, and hope of Jesus Christ to those in need with a compassionate, caring presence. Saint Martha's serves women and children impacted by domestic violence by providing shelter and resources.

Saint Martha's programs

Saint Martha's has two programs that work closely together toward the goal of reducing barriers to safety for victims of domestic violence.

- **Shelter** providing 24/7/365 residential services including individual bedrooms, basic needs, crisis counseling, support for children, support groups, safety planning, and goal setting.
- **Drop-In Center** offering confidential, compassionate support for individuals experiencing abuse and resources for family and friends concerned about a loved one.

Services include a 24-hour crisis hotline providing compassion and solutions to survivors in crisis.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT LOUIS

Saint Martha's engages in systems advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels to advance policy change to benefit victims of domestic violence.



www.saintmarthas.org



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Jessica Woolbright, MSW, LCSW, is the Executive Director of Saint Martha's. She has been with St. Martha's since 2000 when she was a graduate student working as the Children's Program Coordinator. She is certified as an expert witness in domestic violence cases in the state of Missouri. She has served in various capacities on the Board of Directors for the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Jessica is a frequent speaker and trainer presenting on domestic violence, its effects on children, to law enforcement, medical professionals, attorneys, social and government organizations, and social service agencies. She has received the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Lifetime Impact Award for her unwavering dedication to women.

Saint Martha's offers:

- **Advocacy** to help survivors navigate the often-complicated legal, medical, governmental, and community systems.
- **System Advocacy** to advance policy change at the local, state, and federal levels.
- **Community Education** for social service professionals, schools, groups, and congregations to inform and teach communities about domestic violence.
- **Community Outreach** so survivors know St. Martha's exists. By spreading the word to different communities, more survivors in need can find help and hope.

Reflections from the Executive Director

"I remember the countless women we've served...their strength and their pain, their resilience and their trauma, their fear and their courage."

"I remember the first time I stood beside a woman as she gave birth. I also remember the first time a baby I had held and loved died because of violence."

I remember the children:

- A 7-year-old boy whose mom told him to stop interrupting me because I had other appointments...so he came every morning and asked for an appointment.
- A sassy 3-year-old girl who was so proud of her pink high-tops that I started wearing mine on the days I knew I would see her.
- A 10-year-old boy who had received every diagnosis imaginable, who told me, "I never color inside the lines because then it looks like everyone else's."
- A 15-year-old boy, an immigrant, who staff had to beg to leave the shelter during a fire because he wanted to make sure staff was okay, he even came running with a fire extinguisher. Today, he practices international law.