



STAND IN THE GAP 2015 HOPE REPORT

Connecting People In Need With People Who Care

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INTRODUCTION

Momentum

I am a big believer in momentum: the dynamic of continuously pushing forward, achieving incremental progress and increasing forward motion so that you are almost carried along. And, after a sensational 2015, I'm privileged to report that Stand in the Gap has momentum!

In 2015 we completely revamped our Life Launch volunteer training to more effectively prepare volunteers for relationship with at-risk youth. Over 1,100 women participated in our Women in Transition courses. The University of Oklahoma surveyed a subset of those participants in order to measure the impact of our course. The results were so positive that OU plans to write a scholarly report about the success of Women in Transition. Through a series of statewide special events, we connected with and supported over 1,000 widows. Finally, we ended the year by hosting our most well attended and well-received annual celebration events to date. The "icing on the cake" was being featured in the December issue of *TulsaPeople* magazine.

A few years ago we recognized that, to better steward the ministry, strengthen our foundation, and facilitate growth, we needed greater donor diversification as well as increased funding. Our efforts have resulted in significantly growing our donor base from 100 donors in 2012 to over 400 donors in 2015.

In short, 2015 was a remarkable year! We are grateful to all of our stakeholders. Thank you for your role in bringing hope to orphans, prisoners and widows in Oklahoma.

With hope,

Francois Cardinal, Stand in the Gap Executive Director

Thank you for your role in bringing hope to orphans, prisoners and widows in Oklahoma.



MISSION / VISION / STRATEGY

The Heart of Stand in the Gap

Our Mission.

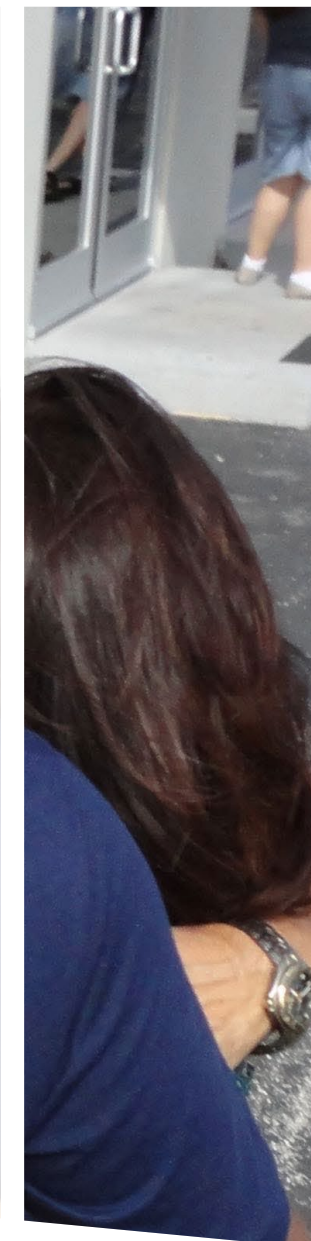
Stand in the Gap Ministries (SITGM) is a prayer-based, small-group empowered movement that fills the gaps in the social service system, in the ministry of the local church, and in the lives of Oklahomans in need.



*Stand in the Gap
volunteers serve
orphans, prisoners
and widows.*

Our Vision.

At Stand in the Gap, we do not offer handouts. No money is exchanged. Instead, through healthy relationships, education and prayer, Oklahomans in need are empowered to break unhealthy patterns in their lives and achieve self-reliance.



Our Strategy.

The idea is simple. At Stand in the Gap, we connect people in need with people who care.

In the course of our 18-year history, we've realized our passion for three specific populations: orphans, prisoners, and widows. For each of these "need categories," we offer specific support programs, but the overall methodology is the same. We surround our "Neighbors" experiencing a major life transition with trained, committed, volunteers who care. These volunteers commit to be present in our client's life (for a minimum of one year) in a mentorship capacity.

WOMEN IN TRANSITION

“Most people who go to prison, everyone has given up on them. My Stand in the Gap family truly put hope in my heart where there was nothing but doubt.” -Jennifer

It is no secret that Oklahoma has the highest female incarceration rate in the United States. These women are the mothers of thousands of Oklahoma children. Because most women leave prison without a healthy support group, they often return to the “scene of the crime” and repeat the same behavior patterns.

By breaking these patterns, educating and empowering women to live healthy, whole lives and return to their children, Stand in the Gap is a solution.

Women in Transition (WIT) begins with curriculum taught inside seven Oklahoma prisons and jails. Formerly incarcerated women facilitate the course and teach skills necessary to live healthy, whole lives post-incarceration.

SITGM provides the most comprehensive WIT post-release support to women who actively demonstrate their desire to change. Qualifying WIT graduates are matched with trained Stand in the Gap small groups who share wise counsel, brainstorm solutions and encourage new approaches to problem solving.



New Courses

We were invited to offer our Women in Transition course at two new facilities, Mabel Bassett Correctional Center and Rogers County Jail. As a result, hundreds more women participated in the WIT course in 2015.



Hope Survey

Our Hope survey tool was developed by The University of Oklahoma’s Center of Applied Research for Non-Profits. OU staff compile the surveys (gathered before and after the course). The results were so positive that OU plans to publish a scholarly report about the success of the Women in Transition course.



“I took the Women in Transition course from Rhonda Bear and Kathy Peacock. They were the first people I met that had come out of prison and were doing something amazing with their lives. They gave me hope.”

Jena (gray sweater) with a few members of her Stand in the Gap small group

STAND IN THE GAP FOR WIDOWS

“We found camaraderie because we understand the sadness and heartache, and are able to encourage each other. We laugh a lot, and cry sometimes, but I always come away refreshed and renewed.” -Kathi



Ongoing Research

Widows throughout Oklahoma participated in our first ever crowd-funding campaign to facilitate additional research (conducted by The University of Oklahoma) into the most common needs widows have and the best methods to address these needs.



Special Events

Stand in the Gap hosted special events in Tulsa and Oklahoma City that featured subject matter experts like Doug Manning and Dr. Teri Cox in order to introduce widows to our program while providing encouragement/education.



Responsive Changes

Based on our experience serving widows in Oklahoma, Stand in the Gap for Widows continues to evolve, now offering more social opportunities, practical support (i.e. home maintenance), and informative events.

There are over 150,000 widows in Oklahoma. In spite of this, there are very few support programs aimed specifically at this population. By empowering the local church to offer emotional, spiritual and practical support to widows, Stand in the Gap is a solution.

SITGM staff asked 300 widows what types of support they needed and were not receiving. Consistently, we found that widows need to socialize with people who understand, sources for practical help, to feel remembered, and to walk through grief in deep relationship with others. Stand in the Gap for Widows was designed to address these needs.

Stand in the Gap for Widows is offered to churches for free. The program includes a tactical plan, research, implementation and marketing tools. The Stand in the Gap small group methodology is central to Stand in the Gap for Widows, however this program also offers the church additional “best-case practices” including a home maintenance manual created by an Oklahoma City architect, estate-planning documents compiled by a Tulsa estate attorney, and a tactical plan for church volunteers to communicate regularly with widows in their congregation.

“We could say to [the other widows in] our small group, ‘When it’s the middle of the night and you are having a hard time, pick up the phone and call. Someone will be at the other end of the line.’”

-Margaret (red sweater) with her Stand in the Gap small group



LIFE LAUNCH

Before I met my Life Launch team I didn't have anything to look forward to. My plan was to join a gang and make easy money so that I would be able to take care of myself.
-Demetryus



We believe the orphans of 2015 are youth aging out of the foster care system. In the next three years, approximately 1,500 Oklahoma youth will age out of care. A Pew study of 2009 states that within two years of leaving foster care, 6 out of 10 youth will be homeless, incarcerated, or dead. By bringing healthy adults into the lives of these youth, Stand in the Gap is a solution.

The Life Launch goal is to interrupt the cycle of poverty and, through loving relationships, invest in the lives of these at-risk youth, so that they develop healthy self-esteem, begin to have hope in their futures and seek to be self sufficient. Potential Life Launch youth first undergo an assessment by a Program Manager. As much as possible, Program Managers determine a youth's stability, commitment to independence, and willingness to be vulnerable in a group setting.

Following training, 2-4 volunteers are matched with a youth. Volunteers are trained to initially focus on developing a relationship and building trust. In phase two of the program, this relational foundation gives volunteers the platform to encourage youth to set attainable goals and support them through personal setbacks and successes.

Volunteers connect youth to community resources, generally meeting education, employment, housing and transportation needs. But primarily, volunteers invite youth into their lives by going out to eat, playing sports, and spending intentional time together.

2015 HIGHLIGHTS



Volunteer Training

Prospective volunteer orientation is now available by video. This facilitates a more efficient process for our Program Managers and is more user-friendly for prospective volunteers. Additionally, in 2015, we hosted regular "Roundtable" continuing education events for Life Launch volunteers featuring subject matter experts.



Recognition

The non-profit organization, *Empowering Adults - Protecting Children*, recognized our work bringing hope to at-risk youth by presenting us with an award at their annual symposium.



Youth Education

Not all at-risk foster youth are ready for the Life Launch experience. In response, we began facilitating Life Skills classes for youth at the Tulsa Detention Center. We teach budgeting, boundaries, self-care, career readiness and more. In 2015, we reached 56 youth through the Life Skills class.



Why do I Stand in the Gap?

There are five of us in Jena's Stand in the Gap spiritual family/small group. We get together twice a month to talk about needs, wounds, desires and hopes.

As a group, we cried tears of joy when Jena followed the Lord's leading and was baptized. We attended her graduation when she finished her "Step Study" with Celebrate Recovery. We have worshipped and enjoyed church events together. We celebrated her birthday with dinner and laughter. Most recently, we all attended the wedding of one of the ladies in our group. We have become a family!

It is so simple to Stand in the Gap. We show up for Jena and for each other as a team. We seek God's plan, not our own. We love through prayer and a few hours of our time each month. We are investing in the most important commodity there is, people.

It is one of my greatest privileges to be on Jena's team. She is one of my heroes. This experience has changed me and strengthened my faith.

With hope,
Susan Esco
SITGM Board of Directors



2015 HIGHLIGHTS

january

Women in Transition classes began at Mabel Bassett Correctional Center.

february

A Life Launch youth and volunteer were honored at the State Capitol, February 14th was "Widows Day" in Oklahoma and SITGM began focus groups to gain insights from our volunteers.

march

The University of Oklahoma reported on our first round of Hope Surveys from a Women in Transition course at Eddie Warrior. The results were outstanding!

april

Stand in the Gap hosted events for widows in Tulsa and OKC featuring expert in grief, Doug Manning.

may

Ashley Walker joined the SITGM team as Life Launch Tulsa Program Manager.

june

John Venture and Sister Mary Clare retired. Buddy Stone transitioned to manage Stand in the Gap for Widows. Francois Cardinal was named Executive Director.

july

Life Launch Tulsa hosted the first of four "Roundtables" for volunteers.

august

Produced the Life Launch video orientation for prospective volunteers.

september

Widows completed a crowd-funding campaign to facilitate program research.

october

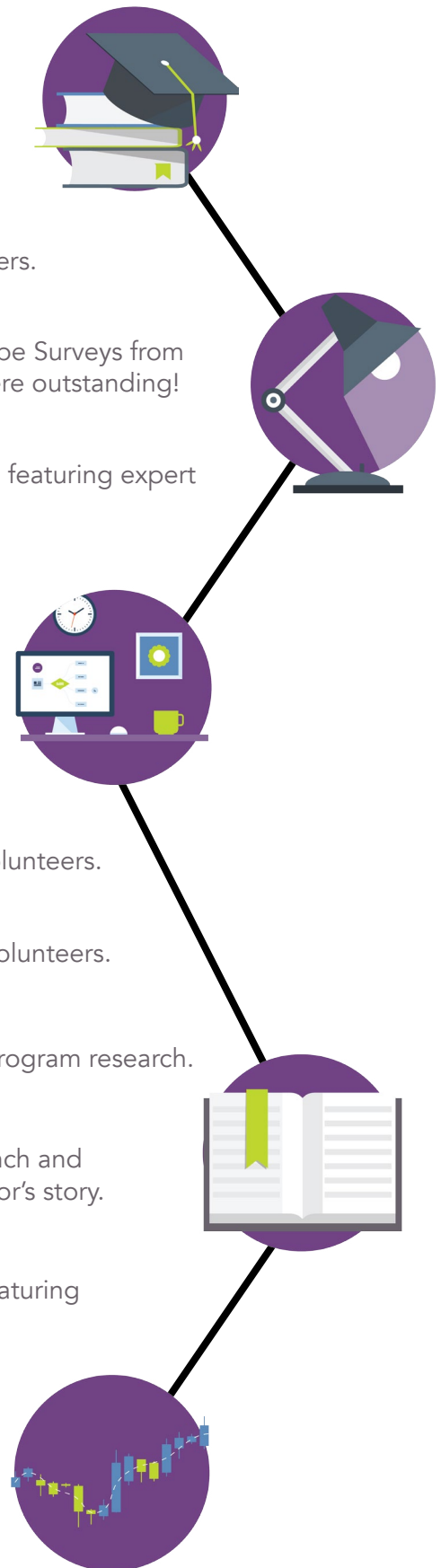
Dr. Barbara Sorrels presented at a "Roundtable" for Life Launch and Women in Transition volunteers and we published Kathy Taylor's story.

november

Over 600 guests attended the annual SITGM Celebrations featuring best-selling author and movie producer, Jim Stovall.

december

Annual contributions reached an all time high. Stand in the Gap was featured in *TulsaPeople* magazine.



LOOKING AHEAD

2016 Goals

As an organization, volunteers are our greatest asset and stewardship is among our highest priorities. In 2016 we will continue to invest in enhanced training and continuous support of our program volunteers.



Women in Transition

Our Women in Transition course has grown exponentially over the last few years. To continue supporting more women after their release, we aim to proactively recruit and partner with transitional living home operators. We expect these partnerships to result in more women supported through the Stand in the Gap small group methodology.

Life Launch

We believe that developing opportunities for volunteers to support our youth clients without making the one-year mentorship commitment will enhance volunteer participation. The underlying strategy is to attract more volunteers by lowering the initial commitment level, hopefully attracting more mentors in the long run.

We must continue to improve our process of identifying, engaging, and qualifying at-risk youth who are ready and motivated to engage through Life Launch small groups.

Stand in the Gap for Widows

In order to continue to empower the church for ministry to widows, we must cast a broader net to recruit lay and clergy volunteers in Oklahoma churches who would be highly motivated to implement the widow program within their congregation. We plan to accomplish this through promotional activities and programs statewide.



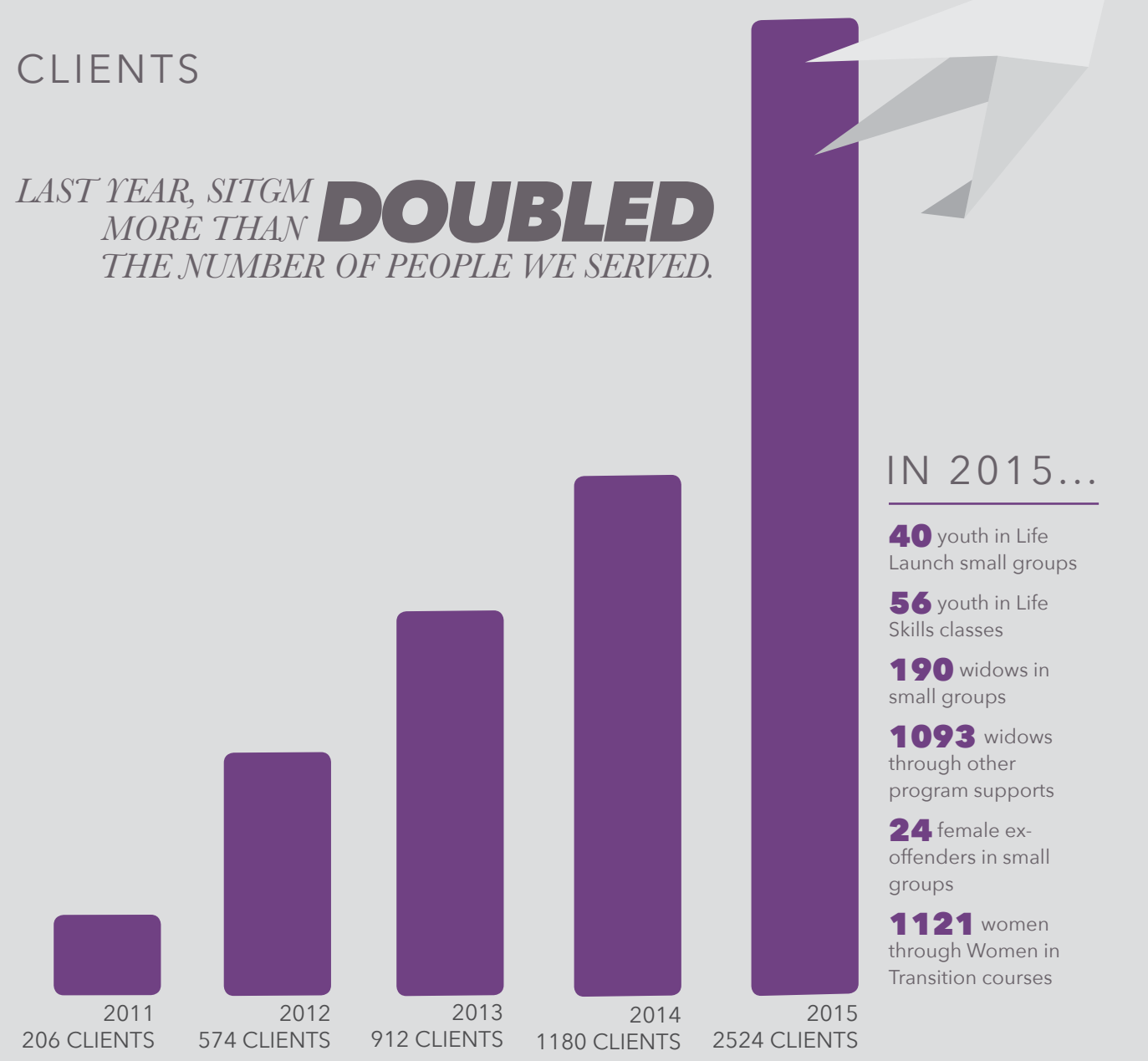
FINANCIAL SUMMARY *2015*

NUMBERS

Population Breakdown

CLIENTS

LAST YEAR, SITGM MORE THAN **DOUBLED** THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WE SERVED.



IN 2015...

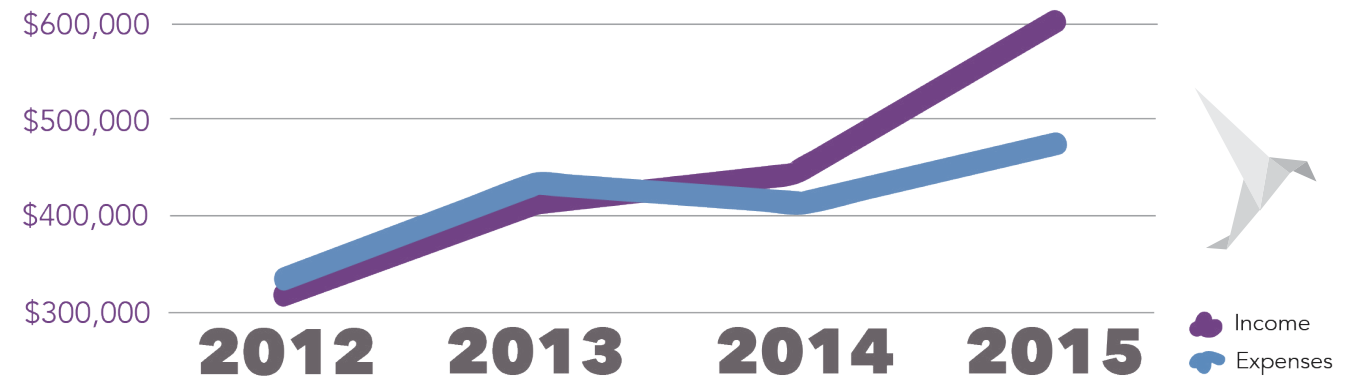
- 40** youth in Life Launch small groups
- 56** youth in Life Skills classes
- 190** widows in small groups
- 1093** widows through other program supports
- 24** female ex-offenders in small groups
- 1121** women through Women in Transition courses

VOLUNTEERS

IN 2015, **595** VOLUNTEERS SERVED **13,017** HOURS THROUGH SITGM. THAT TIME IS VALUED AT **\$295,015**.

NUMBERS

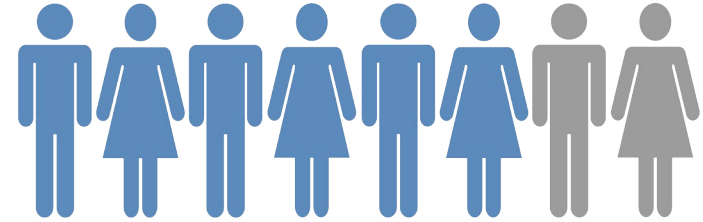
Budget Breakdown



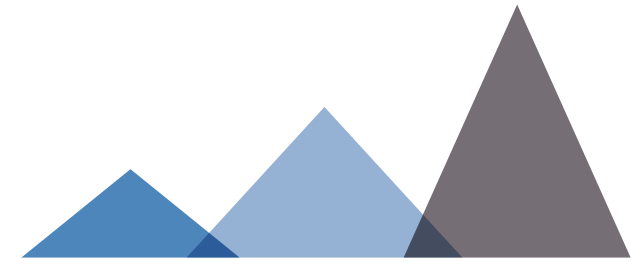
2015 expenses were **\$39,288** under 2015 budget.

73%

of SITGM's total budget is dedicated to thirteen full- and part-time staff members.



Income Diversity



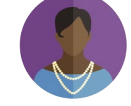
Stand in the Gap has more than doubled the number of individual donors in the last three years.



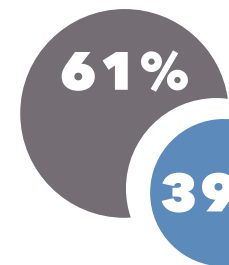
\$153,351 Women in Transition 2016 Budget



\$210,317 Life Launch 2016 Budget



\$157,818 SITG for Widows 2016 Budget



39% of Stand in the Gap income comes from foundations. The remaining 61% is raised through other sources, primarily individuals.

NUMBERS

Financial Report

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

1,000

Women in Transition Manuals

Unit Corporation and QuikTrip printed 1,000 course manuals for our WIT classes, resulting in a savings of \$2,500 for SITGM.

\$25,000

Three-Year Recurring Contribution

The H.A. and Mary K. Chapman Charitable Trust has committed \$25,000 to SITGM's Life Launch program every year through 2017.

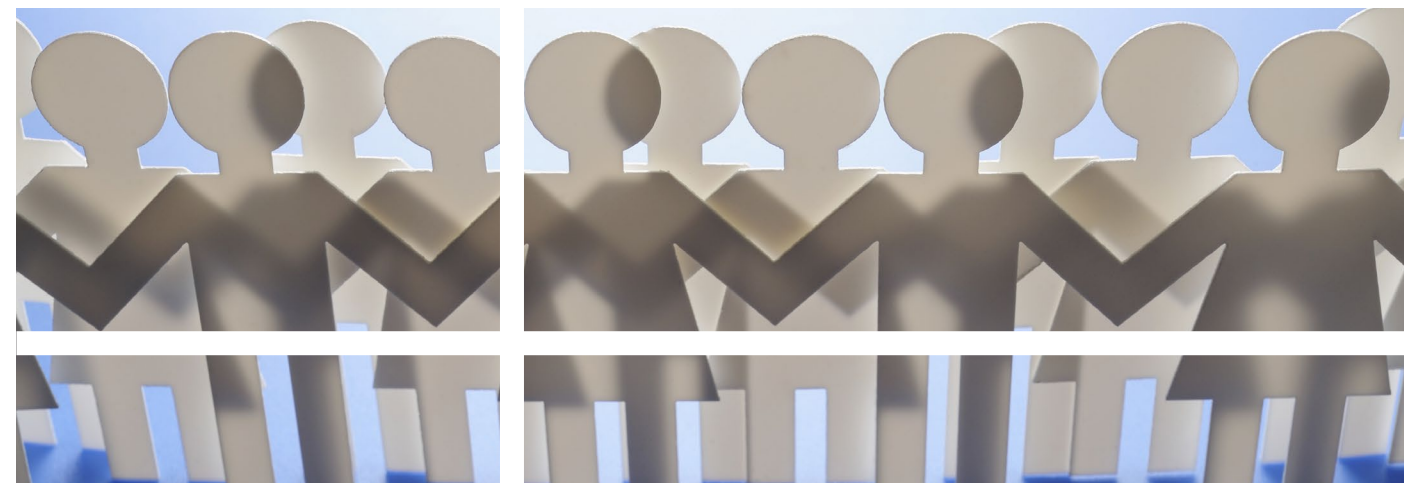
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New Church Partnerships

Church partnerships are SITGM's primary source of volunteer recruitment and central to the work of Stand in the Gap.

The following foundations and corporations made 2015 investments in Stand in the Gap.

- Alliance Resource Partners, LP
- Grace and Franklin Bernsen Foundation
- Mervin Bovaird Foundation
- H.A. and Mary K. Chapman Charitable Trust
- Cox Charities
- Cuesta Foundation
- Cyntergy AEC, LLC
- Founders of Doctors' Hospital
- E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation
- Gelvin Foundation
- Hardesty Family Foundation
- Helmerich & Payne, Inc.
- The Helmerich Trust
- Inasmuch Foundation
- George Kaiser Family Foundation
- Kerr Foundation
- Lou and Connie Miller Foundation
- Sarkeys Foundation
- Charles and Peggy Stephenson Family Foundation
- David E. and Cassie L. Temple Foundation
- Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation



Stand in the Gap Angel Donors contributed \$1,000 or more in 2014 and/or 2015.

- | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Akers, Larry & Le* | • Derington, Dr. Gayle | • Koerner, Kevin | • Rice, Jo |
| • Baab, Kathi* | • Dixon, Gayla | • Krueger, DeDee & Neal* | • Riddle, Stephanie & Bruce* |
| • Bank of America Charitable Foundation | • Duncan, Mr. & Mrs. Christopher | • Langley, Todd & Rachel | • Sanctuary A Life Connection |
| • Barnett, Linda | • Dodson, Charles & Diane* | • Largent, Terry & Steve | • Schwerdtfeger, Tyson & Kenna* |
| • Barnett, Taylor | • Elpis Foundation | • LeBleu, Betsy & Robin | • Sharpe, Jennifer |
| • Bartlett, Michael & Marilyn | • Esco, Susan & Steve* | • Life.Church | • Shimer, Pam |
| • Beavers, Jim & Sharon | • Fears, Doug & Jill* | • Lockwood, Larry & Kathleen | • Slawson, Stephen |
| • Bennett, Charles & Dyann | • Foresman P.L.C., Michael | • Lyon, Patsy | • Smith, Phil & Shannon |
| • Bennett, John & Whitney | • Francis, Nancy | • Meador, Mark & Susan* | • Southern Hills Baptist Church |
| • Berry, Bill | • Frey, Dan | • Mileur, Donald | • Southern Hills Christian Church |
| • Blake, Derek | • Gallus, Nick & Kami | • Miller, Doug & Leah* | • Staab, Alan & Sharon |
| • Bockus, Bruce & Suzanne* | • Carved in Stone Inc./ Gillespie, John* | • Millspaugh, Anne | • Stevenson, Jim & Sandi |
| • Borden, Louise & Mike* | • Graves, John & Sarah | • Moore, Michael & Leslie | • Stone, Pamela & Buddy* |
| • Bourne, William | • Grunst, Karen | • Morris, Dona | • Stanley, Craig & Mary* |
| • Bradstreet, Mike & Jan | • Grunewald, Laura & Greg | • Morris, Joseph* | • Stump, Jeff & Stephanie |
| • Bresee, Kent | • Hall, Jean | • Mueller, Linda | • Taylor, Ed & Kari |
| • Burkhardt, Mike & Susan | • Hardin, Don & Pat | • National Christian Foundation | • Taylor, Edward & Sylvia |
| • Butler, Keith | • Harvard Avenue Christian Church | • Newman, Tom | • Taylor, Suzanne* |
| • Campbell-Lepley/Hunt Foundation, Inc. | • Heritage Trust Co. | • Oden, Bill | • Thompson, Bruce* |
| • Campbell, Dr. James & Terri | • Hodgkinson, Nancy | • Payne, Michael | • Thompson, Victoria |
| • Cardinal, Francois & Laura* | • Hollingsworth, Larry | • Pennington, Charles & Katheryn | • Townsend, John |
| • Case, Kristen | • Hopper, Charles & Kameron | • Perkins, Donnie & Sarah | • Travis, Kyle & Laura |
| • Choats, Chad & Misty | • Hudiburg, David & Lezlie | • Piper, Greg & Kay* | • Tuttle, Chad & Katie |
| • Christopher, Gary & Regina | • Hughes, Clayton & Gina | • Plan Benefit Analysts/ Dan Wheeler | • Vassiliou, Chris & Wendi |
| • Church of Holy Spirit – Anglican | • Jernigan, Bill & Pat | • Plaster, Mark & Debbie | • Venture, John* |
| • Church on the Move | • Jewitt, Dave & Janice | • Predovic, Michael & Marilyn | • Walle, Lori* |
| • Cloud, Jeremee | • Jones, Gwen | • Price, Sherri & Ford* | • Wertz, Don & Connie |
| • Cox, Bishop William* | • Jordan, Kevin & Susan | • Queen, Bill & Becky* | • Whinery, Denny & Connie |
| • Craft, Kathy | • Keim, Arlene | • Queen, Ben & Anne | • Whitehead, Albert & Lacy |
| • Curry, Cyndi | • Klammer, Julia & Kevin | • Ragland, David & Jensica | • Wilson, Sandy |
| • DeKraai, Arlo & Barbara | • Kleppe, Duane & Loleta | • Ray, Steve | • Wootton, Clyde & Cheryl* |
| | • Klein, Ken & Judi | • Raybourn, Steve & Susan | |
| | • Knight, Bettye | • Rector, Evans* | |

As of January 25, 2016. *Staff, Active, or Former Board Member

THE TEAM

Stand in the Gap Staff



Stand in the Gap staff, Board of Directors and Families

Francois Cardinal

Executive Director

Bill Queen

Administration, Finance & Outcomes

Kathy Peacock

Women in Transition Course Facilitator,
OKC Region

Danielle Stendahl

Office Administrator

Alisa Andrews

Life Launch Program Coordinator,
Tulsa Region

Julie Rains

Marketing & Development

Melissa Phenicie

Widow Project Administrator

Vanessa Crouch

Women in Transition Program
Administrator

Chevas Stancliff

Life Launch Program Coordinator,
OKC Region



Program Managers
bring hope

to volunteers and clients. Stand in the Gap Program Managers recruit participants and match Stand in the Gap small groups. They are the faces of Stand in the Gap.



Rhonda Bear

Women in Transition



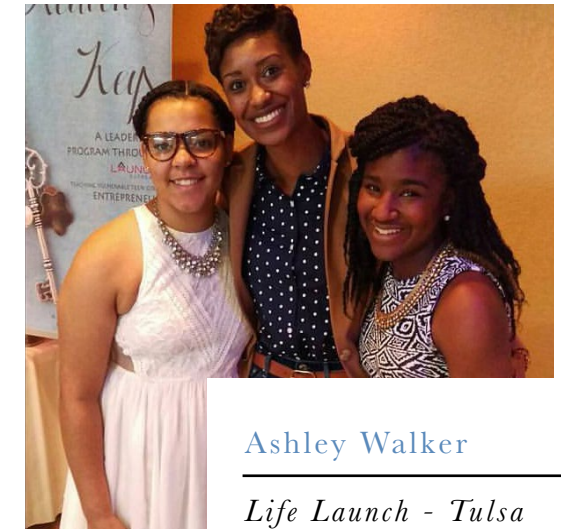
Buddy Stone

Stand in the Gap for Widows



Kathy Taylor

Life Launch - OKC



Ashley Walker

Life Launch - Tulsa



Why do I Stand in the Gap?

I joined Stand in the Gap around five years ago. After being part of a spiritual family small group, I saw how effectively it reached and helped, not only the Neighbor In Need, but also the entire spiritual family. Volunteering in a SITGM family has shown me how Christ can bring positive change to those who need to find direction and at the same time create a spirit of family love in each SITGM family!

I cannot think of a better way to practice Christianity and fulfill our mission to orphans, widows, prisoners and all those who need a friend.

With hope,
Mark Meador
 SITGM Board of Directors

THE STORIES

2015 God Sightings



1 Shaunte was one of Oklahoma's most notoriously difficult female prisoners. Today, she is quick to smile and easy to love. Read her Stand in the Gap story at www.sitgm.org.

2 Need proof that relationships can change a life? Kathy went from foster youth to passionate advocate. Read her Stand in the Gap story at www.sitgm.org.

3 Stand in the Gap was featured in the December 2015 issue of *TulsaPeople* magazine. Get to the heart of Stand in the Gap by reading the article at www.tulsapeople.com.

STAND IN THE GAP

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Stephanie Riddle
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Craig Stanley
Suzanne Taylor
Lori Walle



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