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 people in need.

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

STRATEGY The idea is simple. At Stand in the Gap, we connect people in need with people who care. In the course of our 20-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 or friendship capacity.
After a competitive grant process, Stand in the Gap was one of twelve local ministries honored for the impact we are making in Oklahoma City.

The Passion Awards are given by the National Christian Foundation and sponsored by Hobby Lobby. The purpose is to “recognize excellence in ministry.”

In 2014, Dr. Evie Muilenburg-Trevino, Research Specialist with the University of Oklahoma, designed a survey to assess the impact of our Women in Transition course on participants. The resulting survey is called “The Hope Survey.”

Dr. Muilenburg-Trevino reports “The Women in Transition program has been one of the most compelling projects that I have evaluated in my 12 years working with nonprofits. The success of the program is remarkable. When women begin to hope, real change can occur.”

Utilizing a similar Hope Survey for Life Launch, there was a statistically significant improvement in participants’ self-esteem. Preliminary findings also indicate improvement in all other well-being variables.
**THE PROBLEM**

Within two years of leaving foster care, 6 out of 10 youth will be homeless, incarcerated, or dead.

Pew Research

7 out of 10 girls who age out of foster care will be pregnant before they turn 21.

National Foster Youth Institute

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**THE PROGRAM**

Life Launch was created to fulfill the biblical mandate to care for orphans. We believe the orphans of our time are young adults aging out of the foster care system and from other hard places. Life Launch mentor teams interrupt the cycles of abandonment, poverty, and trauma that these young adults have experienced by creating patterns of safety, trust, and respect. The Life Launch mentorship model uses the healing power of safe, unpaid adult relationships to foster hope and personal agency, which are necessary for young adults to achieve independence and stability.

**OUR IMPACT**

175 Volunteers representing 45 Churches

In late 2017, we discontinued programming not related to our mentor teams. As a result, we served fewer people.

But more young adults participated in Life Launch small groups than ever before.

**OUR PARTNERS**

Life Launch has formal partnerships with various group homes, churches, and youth service agencies in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. These partnerships facilitate our ongoing relationships with at-risk youth and volunteers and provide the young adults we serve with the best possible continuum of care.

WWW.STANDINTHEGAP.ORG
THE RESULTS

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL MENTORING PARTNERSHIP, “RESEARCH FINDS THAT

- THOSE WHO SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITION FROM RISK-FILLED BACK
  GROUNDS TO THE ADULT WORLD OF WORK AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP—

ARE CONSISTENTLY DISTINGUISHED BY THE PRESENCE OF A

caring adult

IN THEIR LIVES.”

LIFE LAUNCH PARTNERED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF OUR PROGRAM.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS SHOW STATISTICALLY
SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN

youth self-esteem.

ALL OTHER WELL-BEING VARIABLES ALSO IMPROVED.

A Few Snapshots of Success

Makayla

No relationship with her biological mother // Went from homeless to living at Branch 15 transitional living home // Steadily employed // Learning to drive // Baptized // “For the first time, I’m excited for my birthday.”

Isaiah

Homeless after a failed adoption in Detroit // Struggles with cerebral palsy // Recruited into the drug trade and then abandoned // Now calls the men on his Life Launch team “father figures” // Finishing high school // Dreams of being a correctional officer

Jordan

Failed adoption due to abuse // Maintains relationship with Life Launch small group 2+ years after one year commitment expired // Graduated from high school // Baptized // Earned her driver’s license // Seen as a leader for other young women in foster care

Kyla

Abuse survivor and teenage mother // Found “a place to belong” in her Life Launch small group // Graduated from high school // Baptized // Married to a responsible Christian man // Restored relationships with her extended family

Malik

Emancipated himself from his mother after years of “paranoid relocations” // Completed his high school degree at Tulsa Hope Academy and went on to Tulsa Technology Center to study Surgical Technology // Put himself through school by working full-time // Bought his own car // Calls his Life Launch team his “support system”

Neikelle

Abuse survivor // Attends life.church regularly with her mentors // Finishing her senior year through EPIC // Got her own apartment // Earned her driver’s license // Aspires to be a social worker
Women in Transition

CONFRONTING OKLAHOMA’S INCARCERATION PROBLEM

THE PROBLEM

Oklahoma incarcerates more women, per capita, than any other state in the United States.

*The Wall Street Journal

More than 60% of those women have children under the age of 18.

*The Sentencing Project

THE PROGRAM

Women in Transition staff teach our curriculum inside ten Oklahoma prisons and jails. After a woman is released, we encourage and equip graduates to choose a transitional living home to further facilitate a healthy lifestyle. Finally, Stand in the Gap recruits and trains a small group of volunteers to come around an ex-offender, offering prayer and mentoring.

Our growing impact

Approximate annual program budget

$200,000

827 women served

1145 women served

1238 women served

1600 women served

2014

2015

2016

2017

Our partners

Women in Transition has formal partnerships with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections and twelve transitional living homes. These partnerships facilitate our ongoing relationships with women as they move through the Oklahoma correctional system and provide the women we serve with the best possible continuum of care.

“There’s a generational curse that has been broken.” Shaunte (right), Women in Transition Graduate

“I thought my life was over because I’d been in prison. Women in Transition gave me hope.” Jena, Women in Transition Graduate

WWW.STANDINTHEGAP.ORG
The Results

In the United States,

2 out of 3 released prisoners were rearrested within 3 years.

In the last 3 years, more than 90 percent of women who completed the entire Wit program have not been rearrested.

In the last 3 years, 150 children were reunited with their mothers thanks to women in transition. If those kids were in foster care instead, they would cost the state more than $1,000,000 each year.

A Few Snapshots of Success

Delivered from heroin addiction // Restored relationships with all of her children // Home schools her children // She and her husband are active in the Emmaus ministry and local church // The family is purchasing their first home

Crystal

Preparing to lead a Stand in the Gap small group // Manager of a local hotel chain // Employs many Women in Transition participants // Restored to both of her sons // Recently bought her first new car

Chantel

Graduating from her SITGM small group and plans to volunteer for SITGM // Received full custody of her 5-year-old son // Works as a custodian at First Baptist Church // Making A’s & B’s at Rogers State University // 26-years-old and an amazing example for those around her

Sophia

Former drug trafficker has been restored to her daughter // Marketing Manager for She Brews Coffee House // Widely respected in her community

Kristal

Volunteers in a SITGM spiritual family // Works at Pelco Structural, LLC and is an Assistant Manager at local hotel chain // House Manager of His House Outreach Ministries // Leading a women’s 12 step group through Celebrate Recovery, sponsors multiple women in CR // Restored to her son and family

Cristen

Sober // Reunited with her two daughters and living as a family // Homeowner // Promoted to Assistant Branch Manager at a bank // “Outstanding Employee” Recipient // Still in relationship with her Stand in the Gap small group

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Stand in the Gap for Widows

**THE PROBLEM**

50% of all widows leave their church after their husband’s death.

Stand in the Gap for Widows survey

**THE PROGRAM**

Stand in the Gap staff asked 1500 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 equip the local church to address these needs.

1,000+ VOLUNTEERS SERVED WIDOWS THROUGH STAND IN THE GAP IN THEIR CHURCHES (IN 2017).

OUR PARTNERS

Stand in the Gap for Widows provides local churches with our research and program, empowering them to support the widows within their congregation and community. With more than 75 church partners around the United States, it’s clear that churches are recognizing the need and efficacy of Stand in the Gap for Widows.

OUR STAND IN THE GAP FOR WIDOWS FACEBOOK PAGE PROVIDES HOPE, ENCOURAGEMENT & COMMUNITY TO 4,600 WIDOWS
THE REASON

STAND IN THE GAP SURVEYED 1500 WIDOWS

3 out of 4 said their church does not have a widow ministry.

One half leave their church home.

17 percent actively look for a church with a ministry to widows.

A Few Snapshots of Success

Debbie

Married at 19-years-old // Widowed after 43 years of marriage // “You are used to unity with another person. When he is gone, more than half of you is gone.” // Left her home church after her husband’s death // Sought out Stand in the Gap for Widows at one of our partner churches // “Stand in the Gap gave me wings to go forward and embrace others.”

Roseanne, Gwen, and Kathi

Stand in the Gap’s first small group of widows, formed in 2012 // “Nobody understands what it’s like to be a widow, except another widow.” // “Every time we are together, I come away refreshed. That in itself strengthens my faith.” // Still sharing meals, prayer requests, late-night phone calls, and laughs together

Jacquelyn

Widowed after her husband’s nine-month-long battle with lung cancer // Even months later “I would cry myself to sleep” // Began hosting a Stand in the Gap small group for widows at her church // The small group has grown to dozens of women // “We talk about everything; our husbands, our feelings, our frustrations, our fears, our new normal. As I minister to these ladies, the blessings come back to me tenfold.”

Phyllis

Always the “life the party”, Phyllis was crushed by the silence in her home after her husband’s death // “The alone-ness can be overwhelming.” // Widowed for six months when she found Stand in the Gap for Widows at one of our partner churches // “We’ve brought camaraderie and company and life back into each other’s homes again. It’s been a lifesaver.”
### PEOPLE SERVED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>912 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1180 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2152 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2849 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4279 people</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

99% INCREASE IN PEOPLE SERVED FROM 2015-2017

### THE BUDGET

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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<td>$300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$552,000</td>
<td>$595,000</td>
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**2017 PROGRAM BUDGETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stand in the Gap for widows</td>
<td>$163,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women in transition</td>
<td>$175,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life launch</td>
<td>$253,209</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7% INCREASE IN 2017 INCOME ($595,000)

3% INCREASE IN 2017 EXPENSES ($552,000)
PEOPLE INVESTED

- **1,322 volunteers served**
- **26,402 hours in 2017. That time is valued at $600,000.**
- **$50,000 value added in volunteer time every month**
- **$100 cost per client served**

INCREASE IN FOUNDATION FUNDING IN 2017: **↑4%**
INCREASE IN INDIVIDUAL DONOR DOLLARS IN 2017: **↑9%**

THE MAJORITY OF STAND IN THE GAP FUNDING COMES FROM INDIVIDUALS, INCREASING THE DIVERSITY OF STAND IN THE GAP’S FUNDING SOURCES.

- **Individual donors: 66 percent**
- **Foundations: 34 percent**

1/2 of 2014’s cost to serve one client

THE PASSION AWARDS ARE DISTRIBUTED BY THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION AND RECOGNIZE “EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY”

2018 recipient
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Debbie Davis
Terri Gordineer
Karen Milstead
Julie Rains

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FOR PRISONERS
Rhonda Bear, Program Director
Kathy Peacock
Shaunte Gordon

FOR WIDOWS
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