**JESUS CHRIST IS OUR EXAMPLE** of how to care for people. Stand in the Gap methods and ministry are built around the Gospel model of how Jesus cares about the men, women, and children he encounters.

**THERE ARE FOUR PILLARS** that form the foundation of our ministry model: compassion, humility, patience, and prayer. We believe that relationships built on this foundation provide a solid basis for true and lasting life change.

**COMPASSION**
To us, caring for someone in need means seeing her with compassion, and praying with and for her, so we may see God’s presence and purpose in our time together.

**HUMILITY**
connecting with her in an attitude of humility.

**PATIENCE**
participating in her life with patience and understanding.

**PRAYER**

MEASURING THE IMPACT OF STAND IN THE GAP is a challenging thing because we are all about relationships, which are hard to quantify. So we turned to the experts. Since 2006, Dr. Chan Hellman has provided outcome assessments to nonprofit organizations based on the emerging science of Hope Theory. Based on their years of academic research, Dr. Hellman’s team at the University of Oklahoma - Tulsa’s Hope Research Center has designed evaluations and research projects that study existing programs. The goal is to gauge outcomes as related to a client’s hope. We started partnering with their team in 2014.
OUR HOPE SURVEYS

We worked with research scientist, Dr. Evie Muilenburg-Trevino, to create a survey specifically for Stand in the Gap clients. Our resulting Hope Survey is based on tested and proven studies, but refined for the people we serve.

To measure the growth of hope in the Women in Transition and Life Launch clients we serve, we needed to primarily focus on:
- psychological resources and strengths (how do you handle stress?),
- coping skills (how do you handle a problem?),
- and co-dependency (how do you relate to other people?).

WHY DOES HOPE MATTER?

People with “high hope” have goals, a plan to achieve their goals (pathways), and the motivation to pursue the plan (agency). Academic research confirms that higher hope individuals have greater satisfaction with life, better coping skills, a buffer against anxiety, and a greater sense of a meaningful life.

Most of our Women in Transition and Life Launch clients have had traumatic life experiences that make hope hard to come by and harder to keep. According to hope expert, Dr. Chan Hellman (Director of OU Tulsa’s Hope Research Center), “Hope is very much a social gift. We share it with each other. It doesn’t happen in isolation. Hope begets hope.”

That’s where Stand in the Gap comes in...
**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

**OUR IMPACT**

182 VOLUNTEERS representing 76 CHURCHES

*IN LATE 2017 WE DISCONTINUED PROGRAMMING NOT RELATED TO OUR MENTOR TEAMS. AS A RESULT, WE SERVED FEWER PEOPLE.

- 2019: 65 YOUTH SERVED
- 2018: 69 YOUTH SERVED
- 2017: 111 YOUTH SERVED
- 2016: 81 YOUTH SERVED
- 2015: 40 YOUTH SERVED
- 2014: 43 YOUTH SERVED

**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.

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.

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THE RESULTS

According to the National Mentoring Partnership, “Research finds that resilient youth—those who successfully transition from risk-filled backgrounds 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.

Results showed

74% of young adults had more hope after participating in Life Launch. All other well-being variables also improved.

Hope Highlights

Suffered from severe depression and anxiety // Barely got out of bed for a month // Her mentors regularly checked on her // Graduated at the top of her class // Negotiated the price on her first car // Enrolled herself in college // She said before having mentors she thought the world was scary and didn’t think she was capable of doing anything on her own.

Katherine

Adopted as a teenager after spending most of his life in group homes // He trusted his mentors and maintained open and honest communication even as his work load increased // He loves video games, but his favorite memory with his Life Launch team was hiking in a local park // Calls his mentors his “brothers and sisters”

Nate

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”

Malik

Homeless after a failed adoption in Detroit // Lives 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

Isaiah

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HOPE SURVEY RESULTS

Based on the feedback of 30 young adults who completed the entire Life Launch mentorship experience.

Their average age was 17.8.

“After participating in Life Launch, statistically significant fundings were observed for hope, self-esteem, existential wellbeing, and trust.”

Dr. Evie Muilenburg-Trevino, Research Scientist

74% of individuals increased their level of hope after Stand in the Gap.

70% of individuals increased their level of existential wellbeing (sense of life purpose) after Stand in the Gap.

78% of individuals trust in other people increased after Stand in the Gap.

Hope (higher scores indicate belief that the future will be better and you have power to make it happen)

26% higher scores after Life Launch

Pathways (higher scores indicate understanding the steps a person should take to reach a goal)

16% higher scores after Life Launch

Agency (higher scores indicate willpower or motivation to pursue pathways)

27% higher scores after Life Launch
THE PROBLEM

For the last 25 years, Oklahoma has incarcerated 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 nine 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.

Approximate Annual Program Budget

$250,000

Our growing impact

827 women served 1145 women served 1238 women served 1600 women served 2462 women served 2727 women served

221 volunteers representing 100 churches

Women in Transition partners with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections and county jails to provide our course in all major female prisons and jails at no cost. We also partner with 15 transitional living homes across the state. These partnerships facilitate our ongoing relationships with women as they move through the correctional system and provide the women we serve with the best possible continuum of care.

“God, through Stand in the Gap, has changed my life and my kids lives.” Brandy, Women in Transition Graduate

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

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THE RESULTS

2 out of 3 released prisoners in the United States were rearrested within 3 years.

More than 90 percent of women who completed the entire WIT program have not been rearrested.

Over 200 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.

Hope Highlights

**Shaunte**
- Separated from her children for 5 years
- Life changed when she was arrested
- Came to a transitional living home and was matched with a Stand in the Gap small group
- Now she has a job, driver’s license, leads a SITG small group and has her children back

**Chelsie**
- Born and raised in addiction
- Never incarcerated but lost custody of her children
- Found God and Women in Transition in prison
- Works as an addiction recovery specialist
- Is reunited with her two children

**Charly**
- Became addicted to opioid medication after a car accident
- Lost custody of her children
- Found God and Women in Transition in prison
- Works as an addiction recovery specialist
- Is reunited with her two children

**Shannon**
- Once regarded as one of Oklahoma’s most violent female inmates
- Found Jesus in the back of a police car
- Reunited with her daughter, mother, sister, and granddaughter
- Now a business owner, leader in her community, and Women in Transition class facilitator

**Amanda**
- Lived in a friend’s shed with her three daughters
- Entered Teen Challenge and addressed her abuse and addictions
- Still in relationship with her Stand in the Gap family long after commitment ended
- Regained custody of her daughters

**Dustie**
- After facing a 15 year prison sentence, she was introduced to Stand in the Gap while living at Branch 15
- Worked hard to regain custody of her son
- Calls her Stand in the Gap family the place she found unconditional love
HOPE SURVEY RESULTS

Based on the feedback of 39 women who completed the entire Women in Transition program (participated in the Women in Transition course while incarcerated, lived in a transitional living facility post-incarceration, and participated in a Stand in the Gap small group).

Their average age was 38.1.

“Women in Transition is the most impactful program I have measured in 12 years of work.”

Dr. Evie Muilenburg-Trevino, Research Scientist

- **HOPE INCREASED**: 87% of women scored as having “high hope” after Stand in the Gap.
- **CODEPENDENCY DECREASED**: 68% of women decreased their level of codependency (an unhealthy way of relating to other people) after Stand in the Gap.
- **CONNECTION INCREASED**: 63% of participants had an increased sense of connection to other people after Stand in the Gap.

Flourishing (higher scores indicate psychological resources and strengths)

- **11% higher scores after Women in Transition**
- **8% higher scores after Women in Transition**

Emotional Coping Skills (higher scores indicate ability to handle thoughts and feelings associated with stress)

- **13% higher scores after Women in Transition**

Sense of Connection (higher scores indicate feeling connected to other people in meaningful ways)
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.

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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 95 church partners around the United States, it’s clear that churches are recognizing the need and efficacy of Stand in the Gap for 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.

Hope Highlights

DEBBIE

Widowed after 43 years of marriage // 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.”

Even months after her husband’s death “I would cry myself to sleep” // Hosts a Stand in the Gap small group for widows at her church // “We talk about everything; our husbands, our feelings, our frustrations, our fears, our new normal.”

ROSEANNE, GWEN, & 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.” // Still sharing life together.

“We were best friends. In fact, we were each others’ only friend.” // Began facilitating monthly dinners for widows // Now hosting hundreds of widows each month // “Out of this horrible circumstance of grief, God has brought so much good.”

PHYLLIS

Crushed by the silence in her home after her husband’s death // 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.”

After 30 years as a widow, she still hadn’t found a church that understood and supported her needs // Started a small group at First Christian in Sapulpa and saw her fellow widows “come alive” // “Being seen” has given them a place to belong and to serve.

SHARRON

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OUR PARTNERS
Working collaboratively with the following organizations allows us to provide a complete continuum of care to the orphans, widows, and prisoners we serve.

- 111 Project
- Another Chance Justice Project
- Beautiful Day Foundation
- Branch15 Transition Home for Women
- Bridges Transition Home
- Chickasaw Nation
- Children’s Hope Program
- Christian Helping Hands
- Dunamis Transitional Living Home
- Eagle Christian Ministry
- Family Hope House
- His House Transition Homes for Women - She Brews Coffee Shop
- His Open Door Ministry
- HopeHouse Oklahoma City
- Hope Pregnancy Centers
- Jehovah Gireh Christian Recovery Program for Women
- Jordan’s Crossing
- National Resource Center for Youth Services
- New Life Homes
- Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children
- Oklahoma Child Welfare Services (DHS)
- Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs
- Pearl’s Hope
- Phoenix Rising Alternative Program
- Tulsa Boys Home
- Youth Services of Tulsa
- Youth Villages Oklahoma
- Walker Hall Homeless Shelter for Youth
- Women’s Firstep Recovery Program

PASSION AWARD
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."

FLOURISH AWARD
Partnerships with like-minded ministries and organizations are central to the success of Stand in the Gap. That’s why our Flourish Award means so much. It was awarded to us in recognition of our impactful partnership with Branch 15.

We work together to interrupt the cycle of incarceration in Oklahoma families.
VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN
500 volunteers, representing 270 churches, served over 17,000 hours through Stand in the Gap in 2019.

MORE PEOPLE SERVED THAN EVER BEFORE
In 2019, Stand in the Gap volunteers and staff impacted 5,916 people through our programs.

BEATING THE AVERAGE
75% of Life Launch teams reached graduation after one year together. The national average of completion of mentoring programs is 50%.

COMING BACK
18 Women in Transition graduates returned to participate in small groups as volunteers and 43 children were reunited with healthy mothers in 2019.

ADDED OPPORTUNITIES
18 additional churches partnered with us to offer Stand in the Gap for Widows to their communities, bringing our total widow program partnerships to 96. These churches represent the opportunity to serve thousands of widows.
108% INCREASE IN PEOPLE SERVED FROM 2016-2019

DOING MORE GOOD FOR LESS MONEY
In 2019, it cost Stand in the Gap an average of $119 to serve one client for one year. In 2015, we were spending $188 per person served.

INCOME VS. EXPENSES 2014-2019

PROGRAM BUDGET BREAKDOWN
Program expenses vary based on staffing requirements and infrastructure investments. Our most efficient program is Stand in the Gap for Widows, because church partners implement and manage our program model within their community.

STAND IN THE GAP FOR WIDOWS

women in transition 2,807 WOMEN
2019 income

INCOME
EXPENSES

$740,394
2019 income

3,044 WIDOWS

INCOME VS. EXPENSES
2014-2019

LIFE LAUNCH

WOMEN IN TRANSITION

STAND IN THE GAP FOR WIDOWS

INCOME VS. EXPENSES
2014-2019

INCOME
EXPENSES

INCOME VS. EXPENSES
2014-2019

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