



# Autumn Reflections at Dawn's Place



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## A Glimpse into Life at Dawn's Place

- On September 10, one woman completed Dawn's Place year-long program and moved into the Transitional House where she will have up to six months to obtain affordable housing and part-time job. She is enjoying her first taste of independence in many years. Presently, there are 5 women residents in Dawn's Place program.
- Residents continue, with the help of staff, to set goals and are evaluated on their goals as they progress.
- Life skills are provided; residents are assigned household chores, learn to make grocery lists, and take turns food shopping, cooking, and making a weekly schedule.
- Our therapist sees each woman for individual counseling once a week, or more often if necessary, and residents also receive group trauma therapy weekly.
- Women who have been addicted to drugs or alcohol attend IOP (Individual Out-Patient) treatment at another facility three times a week.
- The women attend weekly art therapy classes at another facility.
- Residents in need of a GED receive tutoring.
- Monthly volunteers come to lead women in an arts and craft project (see flower making below).

### Financial Assistance:

- Staff meets monthly to distribute a \$200 stipend to each woman. From this stipend, the women pay \$60 for rent, they save \$60 and have \$80 for personal discretion. This program helps them learn responsible use of their money
- Pennsylvania recently discontinued the General Assistance program. The monthly \$200 stipend for each woman is a result of a Money Management grant provided by Sisters of Saint Joseph, Philadelphia

### What's New...

- Dawn's Place has begun a nutrition program. Residents meet individually every week with a nutritionist/dietitian to review their personalized program.

*-Sister Kathleen Coll SSJ, Executive Director of Dawn's Place*



Visit our website to learn more about Dawn's Place

## Upcoming Events

*Finding Her Voice*

We invite you to  
celebrate with us at our  
**10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA**  
Saturday, October 5, 2019 • 6-10pm

**PENNS LANDING CATERERS**  
1301 SOUTH COLUMBUS BLVD., PHILADELPHIA, PA

 **Dawn's Place**  
safe support. new beginnings.

## "Finding Her Voice"

It only happens once in a decade! What's that you ask? Why it's the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

celebration of Dawn's Place opening its doors. Thanks to the generous support of donors like you, we have made it to this milestone.

Please come help us celebrate on Saturday, October 5, 2019, at our **"Finding Her Voice"** gala. It will be held at the Penn's Landing Caterers, 1301 S Columbus Blvd, Philadelphia. This is easy access off Route 95, and there is ample free parking.

Reserve your tables now. Tickets are \$100.00 each or \$900.00 for a table of ten. There will be delightful dancing, an awesome auction, delicious dinner, bountiful bar, and of course the guests will be par excellence! In a special guest appearance, 1812 Production Company's own "Patsy from South Philadelphia" will give use the latest low down on the important issues from her stoop on Schrunck Avenue.

You can reserve your table or buy individual tickets through our website, [ahomefordawn.org](http://ahomefordawn.org).

Click on the link for Eventbrite and you won't miss out on a fabulous evening and help us keep our doors open for another ten years.

[Click here to buy tickets!](#)

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## Legislative and Advocacy Updates

There is important bi-partisan anti-trafficking legislation currently pending before Congress. On September 12, Representative Ann Wagner (R-MO) re-introduced "[The Sex Trafficking Demand Reduction Act](#)" (H.R. 4326). This legislation provides for further amendments to the United State's seminal anti-trafficking law, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act ("TVPA"), which was enacted in 2000. As the title indicates, the amendments are drafted to incentivize foreign governments to make "serious and sustained" efforts to reduce demand for commercial sex in their countries.

Every year, the U.S. Department of State (State Department) publishes the [Trafficking in Persons](#) ("TIP") report which reviews, analyzes, and ranks whether countries throughout the world are adequately addressing human trafficking. To establish the annual rankings, the State Department uses a set of criteria based in part upon the minimum standards for the elimination of sex trafficking set forth in the Palermo Protocol. Presently, the TIP report criteria already include a consideration of each country's efforts to drive down the market for commercial sex by addressing demand. However, the consideration remains vague regarding how countries should implement anti-demand policy. That's where The Sex Trafficking Demand Reduction Act comes in.

Rep. Wagner's legislation makes a simple yet rigorous update to the criteria. If passed, the new law would require countries to explicitly prohibit sex buying in order for the State Department to determine that a country has undertaken "serious and sustained" efforts to combat sex trafficking. Without criminalization and prohibition on the purchase of sex, a country cannot meet that criteria, regardless of any other efforts it makes to reduce demand. This straightforward revision emphasizes how essential criminalization of sex buyers is to the reduction and prevention of sex trafficking. It puts the impetus on foreign governments to make that crucial decision, one which every state in the U.S. has done.

The demand for commercial sex is a root cause of commercial sexual exploitation worldwide; [it must be treated as a serious crime](#). This imperative is one of the tenets of the [Nordic Model](#). The other three tenets include decriminalization of prostituted people, a public awareness campaign on the inherent harms of prostitution, and robust, holistic exit strategies for survivors.

In Pennsylvania, buying sex and selling sex are criminalized in the same section of our Crimes Code – [Section 5902](#), subsection (e) and (a) respectively. As the CSE Institute continues to advocate for the Nordic Model, we are working with state lawmakers to take the first step by disaggregating those crimes. Disaggregation, or separation, is necessary to appropriately reflect the differing levels of culpability inherent between the two. Disaggregation would separate the offenses of “Patronizing Prostitutes” (buying sex) and “Prostitution” (selling sex) into wholly separate statutes, instead of codifying them together in one singular section. We are hopeful that this legislation will be introduced later this year.

Stay tuned!

*-Shea M. Rhodes, Esquire*

*Dawn's Place Board Member*

*Director and Co-Founder of Villanova Law Institute to Address Commercial and Sexual Exploitation*

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## Healing Stories

Fall is beginning slowly with some yellowing of the leaves in the trees around Dawn’s Place. Maybe it’s the fact that school always begins in the Fall, but whatever the reason, Fall always tends to make me a bit reflective. When it comes to Dawn’s Place, that means that I look back over the years to our opening. It’s incredible to me that it has already been 10 years since we welcomed our first woman.

When I look back, it’s faces that come to me, rather than names. The sad half hidden faces of our group of five Latin American women when I first met them. Those same five faces, later on, alive with shrieks of laughter as they carried my excited four-year-old daughter deeper into a Center City fountain on a hot summer day.

The faces I first met in prison, tearful and not daring to hope, and those same faces smiling and excitedly telling me their latest accomplishment.

The three Indonesian women, who spoke no English, sitting down to dinner with three of my clients, who spoke no Indonesian, and yet, dinner was a happy and companionable affair among new friends and new family.

Finally, it’s the faces of the religious sisters that stick out to me. Tiny indomitable Sister Teresita, white hair flowing like a mane around intense blue eyes, lecturing on the need for demand reduction. Tall no-nonsense Sister Terry, on her hands and knees, scrubbing out an old bathtub. Quiet, reflective, Sister Kathleen’s brown eyes softening as she talked about a woman. These are the faces of women who dared to dream and who worked to make that dream a reality.

Thanks to the wonderful staff, volunteers, and donors at Dawn’s Place, and to our *amazing* women, I have been blessed to have been surrounded by such faces for the last

decade! Not bad for a Fall introspection.

*-Mary DeFusco, Esquire*

*Dawn's Place President of the Board*

*Director of Training, Defender Association of Philadelphia*



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