

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission

Town Clock Community Development Corporation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, provides permanent, affordable homes and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence and their children.

Barbara Littman House Major Donors

Leonard Littman

Anonymous Donors

Domestic Violence
Response Team,
Woodbridge

Christine & Benjamin Bucca

City Home HUD Funds

Housing First Capital Grant,
Middlesex County
Freeholder/Commissioners

Jennifer Ganley, architect

Elizabeth Garlatti

Three L & Co. Flooring



TOWN CLOCK
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Town Clock CDC's 2020 board president John Keller (left) and Executive Director Susan Kramer-Mills (right) with Leonard Littman at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Town Clock's newest addition, the Barbara Littman House (September 2020)

We did it! Even in the midst of an eight-week shutdown due to the pandemic. Even with all our staff forced to work remotely. Still, we were able to transform First Reformed Church's Sexton's House into a colorful, beautiful, safe home for a survivor and her children. The project was made possible thanks to the City of New Brunswick's HOME Housing and Urban Development Funding, Middlesex County's Housing First Capital Grant, and various private donors.

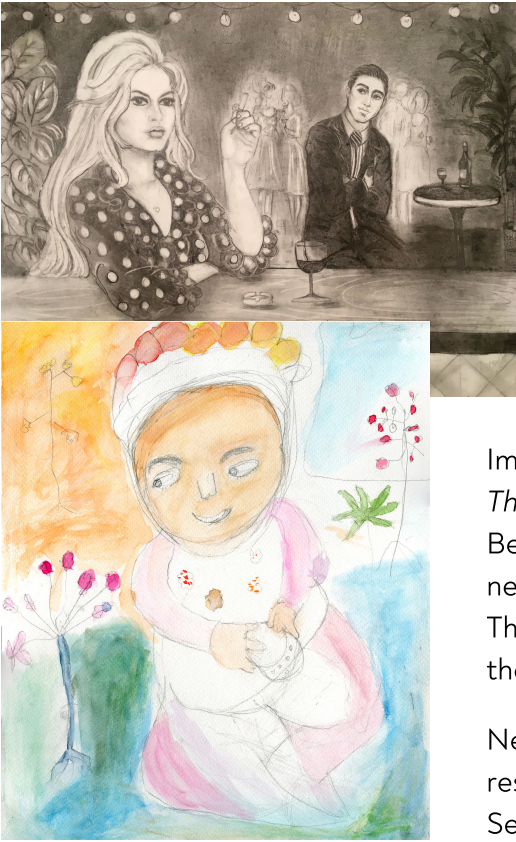
A small ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the end of September managed to be celebratory despite social distancing requirements. We were grateful to have Leonard Littman and family in attendance as this dwelling received a new name: the **Barbara Littman House**. In 2016, Barbara revamped Town Clock CDC's fundraising efforts, and she continued to advise us throughout her illness and untimely death in 2017. We are so pleased to be able to honor her impact and memory in this way through Mr. Littman's generous gift. Please read more about Barbara Littman's legacy and the house renovation on our website!

This successful expansion is one part of Town Clock CDC's greater mission: to **increase the number of permanent, supportive, affordable housing units designated for survivors of domestic violence and their children**. With 57% of all homeless women across the United States citing domestic violence as the number-one reason for their homelessness, every single unit of such housing is worth celebrating. We realize we have so much further to go, however, and are looking to the future with plans for building more (see "Looking Ahead" on page 4)!

Grateful for your support and excited for the future,

Susan Kramer-Mills, Executive Director

Listening to Survivors



Above: Two pieces of art created by Town Clock CDC residents as part of the workshop with Lauren Weinstein

Hear Me, See Me: A Conversation on Art, Advocacy & Healing

With the help of our community partner **coLAB Arts**, Town Clock CDC was awarded a Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund grant to fund a special arts program of workshops for our residents. Under the guidance of award-winning artist and cartoonist **Lauren Weinstein**, several residents developed into marvelous artists.

Imagination is absolutely critical to healing from abuse and trauma. In his book *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma*, Bessel A. van der Kolk writes, "Imagination gives us the opportunity to envision new possibilities—it is an essential launchpad for making our hopes come true." The artwork our residents create under Lauren's caring guidance is helping them heal.

New possibilities were envisioned when COVID shutdowns necessitated our resilient staff and board to reimagine our traditional art fundraiser. Hear Me, See Me: A Conversation on Art, Advocacy & Healing emerged—a virtual art sale and conversation placing our residents' work in the larger context of art as an outlet for recovery. Lauren Weinstein and our case manager, **Christine Edwards**, discussed how art is an amazing medium for trauma survivors to share their sadness and dreams hopes for the future. The conversation was hosted by our board president, **John Keller**, who is also the director of education and outreach for coLAB Arts.

Please visit our website (townclockcdc.org) to see their work! You can even help make their hopes come true, as they receive the proceeds from any of their artwork you may purchase!

"Dina's Dwellings is an opportunity that gives us wings; and once we get our wings, we are ready to fly on our own."

- Quote from a resident
(English translation)

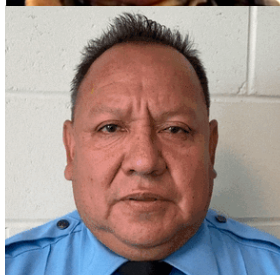
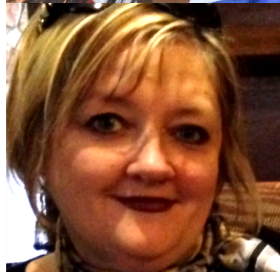
Mother's Day: A Fundraiser for Our Survivors

A few weeks prior to Mother's Day, our Fundraising Team invited our supporters to donate towards gift cards for our residents, and were surprised by a generous, anonymous donor who made a \$5,000 matching gift to support the Town Clock CDC Resident Scholarship Fund.

You all responded so generously! We were able to meet the match and give each resident a gift card for Mother's Day. Furthermore, we were able to provide five residents with desktop computers and extend our Wi-Fi capabilities. Through a computer training class program we are offering, residents are learning new skills necessary for reentry into the workforce.



Being Brave: A Virtual Event Honoring Survivors



Top: Leslie Maxie, OLY
Middle: Debbie Maddock
Bottom: Det. Danilo "Danny" Gallardo

On Thursday, October 22, supporters of Town Clock CDC gathered virtually for an inspirational event honoring domestic violence survivors. Incidents of domestic violence have risen significantly during the pandemic, and Town Clock's "housing first" model is more important than ever.

Being Brave 2020, presented by Cadillac, featured musical performances and impassioned words from an array of artists, advocates, and supporters. Our host was award-winning reporter **Lisa Guerrero**. The 2020 Being Brave Award was presented to Tony-nominated actor and activist **Sheryl Lee Ralph**, who has produced the annual DIVAS Simply Singing! Benefit for 30 years to raise awareness for HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening diseases. Special guest **Dr. Arabia Mollette**, serving on the front lines against COVID-19 and a survivor of domestic violence, shared her inspiring story of survival and resilience.

Community Awards were given to three vital supporters of Town Clock and our mission: Our Outstanding Advocate was **Leslie Maxie, OLY** of Maxie Media Group; our Outstanding Volunteer was **Debbie Maddock** of Sophie's Bistro; and our Outstanding Provider was **Det. Danilo "Danny" Gallardo** of the New Brunswick Police

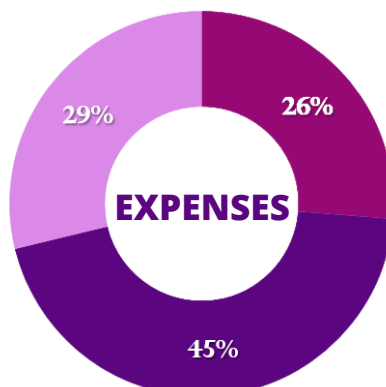
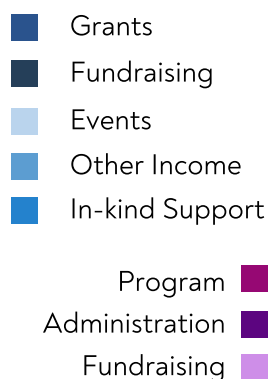
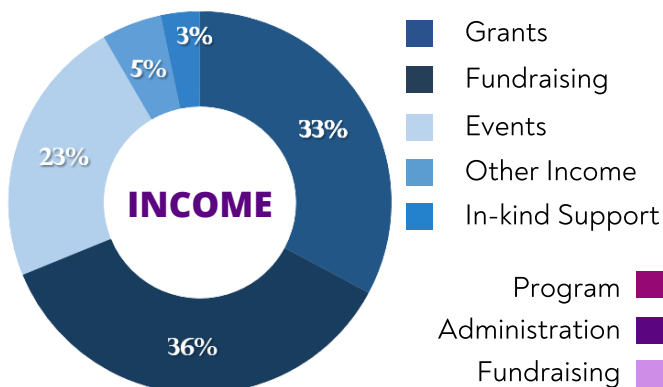
Department. You can count yourself among the over 700

people to view Being Brave 2020 live or through post-event videos by visiting our website and following the links to our awardees' stories, pictures and videos!

2020 Grant Support

Town Clock CDC gratefully acknowledges grant awards from the following in 2020:

- Affinity Federal Credit Union Foundation
- Amboy Bank
- Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund
- Jeffries & Rona Shein Family Foundation
- The Karma Foundation
- Magyar Bank Charitable Foundation
- Middlesex County Arts & History
- Middlesex County Commissioners Support Grant
- Rutgers Community Health Foundation



Being Brave Sponsors in 2020

- Cadillac
- Sandra Soriano, Vice President of Town Clock CDC Board of Directors
- Bentley Dock
- Johnson & Johnson
- PuroClean of Middlesex
- Shamrock Way
- J.J. Poole Opticians
- OptimEyes
- The Bank of Princeton
- Ashley & Brendan Kaplan
- Susan K. Painter & Vincent A. Rifici
- New Brunswick City Center
- Scottish American
- Travelers
- Amboy Bank
- Barrood Agency
- Friends of Mayor Jim Cahill
- Assemblyman Joseph V. Egan, Legislative District 17
- Farmers of Salem
- The Frog & The Peach
- Giving Tree Events by Diana
- New Brunswick F.M.B.A. Local 17
- Optical Boutique
- The Service Insurance Company
- The Soul Snacks Cookie Company
- suite 6 designs
- The Elk's Lodge #324
- George Street Camera
- Jill C. Gladish, MD
- Hull & Company
- Jersey Shore 10-13 Association
- LSE - Life Services and Essentials, Insurance and Real Estate
- Redwood Florist
- Veganized Restaurant

Farewells & Welcomes

If you have ever called the Town Clock CDC office, you may have run into this issue: Which Susan am I speaking to? Sadly, this dilemma was resolved when our charming office administrator, **Susan Painter**, retired at the end of 2020! We will all miss her sweet demeanor and constant helpfulness, and wish her and her husband a wonderful future in the next part of their life's journey!

Our board president, **John Keller**, completed his nine-year term on our board of directors this January. John has been with us through all the stages of our first two projects, from planning to completion. We are grateful for his visionary support and incredible leadership.

We welcome **Rebecca Escobar** as our new board president. Rebecca has significant community connections as a member of the New Brunswick City Council. In addition, she has worked for many years to raise awareness about domestic violence.

We are also excited to welcome our newest staff member, **Dave Zuidema**, who now bears the title "operations manager." Dave comes with a plethora of nonprofit experience, and we are glad to have him on our team!



Having completed our first expansion project, the Barbara Littman House, we asked ourselves: *What's next? How do we continue to build—and motivate and guide other organizations to build—more permanent, supportive, affordable homes for survivors?*

We are thrilled to announce that we are in the planning stages of two new projects that further our mission! One is located at our current New Brunswick "campus": The First Reformed Church's education building offers a unique opportunity for renovation that combines additional housing with offices, conference rooms and a teaching kitchen. The second "project" is a bit different: We are working as a consultant—a first for us, but necessary to expand our impact beyond what we can build ourselves! Both projects will take time, conversation and planning before public details may be shared. At this time we are putting together designs, and seeking funding sources and private seed donations.



Donate to Town Clock CDC today!

Scan the QR code or visit townclockcdc.org/donate to make a tax-deductible gift today to support survivors of domestic violence.

2020 Leadership Board of Directors

John P. Keller
President

Sandy Soriano
Vice President

Barbara Glazewski
Treasurer

Andrew Shaw
Secretary

Elizabeth Barrood

Wilhelmina Bryant

Rebecca Escobar

Ashley Kaplan

Lisa Smith McFall

Brendan Nihill

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Executive Director
Susan Kramer-Mills

Case Manager
Christine Edwards

Office Administrator
Susan Painter

Clinical Therapist
Dr. Debra Ruisard

Development Consultant
Raymond E. Warren

Public Relations Consultant
Patty Murray

Digital Marketing & Communications Consultant
Elise Brancheau

Community Partners

coLAB Arts

First Reformed Church of
New Brunswick

Sophie's Bistro

Domestic Violence Response
Team, Woodbridge