2010
organizational overview
mission statement
My Sisters’ Place (“MSP”) aims to engage each member of society in our work to end domestic violence, so that all relationships can embrace the principles of respect, equality, and peacefulness.

At MSP, we believe that survivors have the right to...

- **be free from abuse.**
  We believe that no one deserves to be abused. We believe that everyone has a right to a relationship that is founded on respect, equality and peacefulness.

- **understand that the violence that has been perpetrated against them is not their fault.**
  We acknowledge that the batterer denies the existence of abuse, minimizes its extent, and/or blames the victim for the abuse. We acknowledge that the batterer has made a choice to be abusive and we support efforts to hold the batterer accountable.

- **express their own thoughts and feelings and be heard.**
  We acknowledge that the process of change and decision-making is a difficult one. We support survivors by providing a safe space and listen to their experiences.

- **make their own decisions.**
  We acknowledge that survivors are the expert on their lives and are the only ones uniquely qualified to make decisions for their future. We acknowledge the ease in which we can continue to perpetrate a relationship with an imbalance of power. We believe that we should not make decisions for or rescue survivors. Rather, survivors should be provided with information about the options available to them, and supported as they make the choices that best fit their lives.

- **confidential services.**
  We believe that maintaining the highest level of confidentiality is important to a client’s physical and emotional well-being.

- **privacy.**
  We believe we should not go “sight-seeing” in the lives of survivors. We do not need to know every detail to support survivors in their pursuit of safety and justice.

- **be seen as having strengths which help them survive daily.**
  We acknowledge that some of these strengths may seem counterintuitive. We can help them identify these strengths to build on.

- **not be perfect.**
  We appreciate that survivors are like all of us—human beings with inherent flaws. We acknowledge that there is an expectation for survivors to be “super-human” and always make the “right” choices.

- **receive services without discrimination.**
  We acknowledge that partner violence transcends race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or any other defining characteristic. We attempt to actively implement practices that foster a safe environment where the diversity and unique experiences of all survivors are welcomed.

- **define success as it applies to their individual situation.**
  We consider every day of survivors’ lives to be a success. We acknowledge that success is seen in different forms for different people, and that we must sometimes help survivors identify accomplishments in their own lives.
my sisters’ place programs & services
MSP provides comprehensive shelter, advocacy, legal services, and supportive services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, stalking, and human trafficking and currently offers a range of services that address the needs of victims at various stages of separating from their abusers and their subsequent pursuit of productive, independent lives. Services and programs include: two emergency shelters; a 24-hour hotline for assistance and referrals; an extensive support group network in both English and Spanish; a full service Legal Center providing advice and representation; and a life skills program that includes job training. MSP’s comprehensive children's services include both residential and non-residential support groups and a therapeutic art program for children who have experienced domestic violence. Outreach efforts reach high school students to prevent dating violence and healthcare workers to identify signs of domestic violence.

2010 agency highlights
MSP’s Legal Center assisted more than 1,000 women with legal brief services, advice and representation related to orders of protection, child support and custody and immigration.

MSP’s emergency hotline answered over 2,500 calls

MSP’s Domestic Violence Education and Prevention program reached over 6,700 teens throughout the county with community outreach and work in the schools addressing healthy relationships and teen dating violence.

MSP’s counseling programs supported over a 1,600 women through individual and group support.

MSP’s children’s services supported over 2,000 children through individual and group support and art therapy programs.

MSP’s emergency shelter provided housing for nearly 200 women and children

MSP’s programs provided support and services to 10 victims of human trafficking

governance
MSP is a New York not-for-profit corporation that is exempt from taxation under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. We are governed by a dedicated volunteer Board of Directors, and our day-to-day operations are managed by our Executive Director, Karen Cheeks-Lomax, Esq., who supervises three senior staff members: the General Counsel/Chief Operating Officer, Director of Development and External Affairs, and Director of Programs. Our programs are staffed by trained professionals and supported by trained volunteers.

Board of Directors
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**Finance**

MSP’s most recent audited financial report and IRS 990 form can be found on our website: http://www.mysistersplacenyc.org/financials. The following revenue and expense charts are based on MSP’s most recent financial reports:

**FY 2010 revenue $4,530,354**

- Shelter: 23%
- Govt contracts - federal: 6%
- Govt contracts - state: 14%
- Govt contracts - local: 28%
- Private grants: 5%
- Fundraising: 23%
- Investment and other: 1%

**FY 2011 revenue (budget) $4,811,931**

- Shelter: 24%
- Govt contracts - federal: 5%
- Govt contracts - state: 12%
- Govt contracts - local: 29%
- Private grants: 8%
- Fundraising: 22%
- Investment and other: 0%

**FY 2010 expense $4,502,684**

- Residential programs: 26%
- Non-residential programs: 34%
- Administration: 9%
- Fundraising: 7%
- Legal services: 24%

**FY 2011 expense (budget) $4,770,911**

- Residential programs: 24%
- Non-residential programs: 35%
- Administration: 11%
- Fundraising: 8%
- Legal services: 22%

*Included in Fundraising Expenses is the salary expense for staff dedicated to fundraising activities on behalf of MSP.*
core values & guiding principles
The following statements reflect our view of what constitutes MSP. They explain the beliefs and principles that motivate us and influence how we approach providing services to our clients, advocating public policy on their behalf and building community partnership in order to promote social change.

Our values and principles define our role in the community, give us direction for the future and distinguish us as a leading resource for victims of abuse in the Westchester County region.

core values
Safety & Security: through emergency services such as hotline, shelter and crisis counseling

Encourage & Empower: through listening, believing, understanding and responding to our clients’ needs

Nurture & Inspire: through programs that help clients meet basic needs and gain skills, tools and resources to pursue their goals

principles
Through direct services, we support the abused, primarily women and their children, in seeking safety, self-determination, and justice.

Through community education, we challenge public perceptions of intimate violence and the social inequities that give rise to it, and we promote prevention with a special emphasis on youth.

Through advocacy, we act as a force for social change in law and public policy.