

Providence Place offers 18-month program for survivors of domestic abuse, trafficking

by Robyn Oguinye | Wednesday, September 29th 2021



A young Asian woman suffering from domestic violence stands alone in the bay window of her home. (Photo by In Pictures Ltd./Corbis via Getty Images)



SAN ANTONIO (KABB/WOAI) - Survivors of domestic abuse and human trafficking are seeking help from one San Antonio home offering more than just a place to stay.



Inside the halls of the **Providence Place**, 11 women currently await their graduation day, this Friday, the start of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.





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Their commencement ceremony will not be one of academics, instead they've completed a year and a half of job skills training, anger management and for some parenting classes.

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All have been victims of human trafficking, sexual abuse or domestic violence.

"We have women who are 18 and some that are 70. Some don't have an education, never graduated high school and some have a master's degree," says Melody Valdez, a case manager. "If you've been affected by it, we'll consider you."

The program within Providence Place is called [My Mariposa Home](#).

The women also undergo counseling tailored to not re-traumatize them.

As a part of the program they're asked to live there.

"It's very important to their recovery that they have a place that they actually call home," says president of Providence Place, Judith Bell.

The program can house up to 20 women at a time.

Women that have children that are three and under can stay with their mothers while they complete their 18-month stay.

Valdez says the residents' needs vary depending on their situation, but having someone available to them any time of the day is what keeps them going.

"The easy part is actually doing that legwork and guiding them to the resources that we have, but ultimately they want someone who is going to care about them, show them compassion and just be that listening ear," she says.

After their residency at My Mariposa Home, the women are able to stay connected.

Graduation at the end of this week is not the end, rather a beginning.

"They're coming back for therapy and they're continuing their restorative journey," says Bell. "We can't ask for anything different, but for them to keep connected with us and that growth go on and on."