

Annual Report

SAFETY. ADVOCACY. EMPOWERMENT.

2021

S.A.F.E.
PLACE
secure area family environment



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Who We Are

HISTORY

In 1979, Family and Children's Services of Battle Creek opened the first shelter for victims of domestic violence in Calhoun County. About a year later, it was closed due to insufficient funds.

A S.A.F.E. Place Board of Directors was organized in 1981, and the Miller Foundation donated a building. After hundreds of volunteered hours were spent cleaning and furnishing the shelter, S.A.F.E. Place opened on September 6, 1983. The original shelter had a capacity of only 18 beds. In 1988, 224 women and 414 children were served at the agency, but another 142 women and 318 children were turned away because the shelter was full.

On January 19, 1989, S.A.F.E. Place moved into its newly renovated facility with 54 beds. Financial support from foundations, State and Federal Government agencies, individuals, businesses, service clubs, and church groups enabled the organization to acquire and renovate this new facility.

S.A.F.E. Place continues to provide temporary shelter, crisis intervention services, including counseling, advocacy, and public education in, but not limited to, Calhoun, Barry, and Eaton Counties.

MISSION

S.A.F.E. Place exists to provide safety to empower and advocate for victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking and their families.

S.A.F.E. Place envisions a future where all people enjoy the right to safe, healthy relationships..

PHILOSOPHY

S.A.F.E. Place believes that people are best able to make their own choices leading to the safest outcomes for their unique situation. Staff encourages survivors to explore their choices while learning of new resources. In doing so survivors become confident and empowered. Staff always remain non-judgmental when working with survivors because we realize each person's life should be self-determined.

The programs offered are voluntary and free of charge. A survivor may choose to participate in any, all, or none of the programs. Survivors may change their minds whenever they would like to and can be assured that their values, lifestyles, and life choices will be honored.

Letter from the CEO

Dear Friend,

The services S.A.F.E. Place provides to our community are like no other and are needed now more than ever before. Data from the 2019 Michigan Incident Crime Reporting shows that Calhoun County experiences the second highest per-capita rate of domestic violence in the state. During a year when many businesses and nonprofits were forced to scale back or shut their doors, we rose to the challenge to serve the ever-growing number of individuals in our community who are experiencing intimate partner violence and sex trafficking.

Thanks to the support of community partners, supporters, and donors, S.A.F.E. Place has continued providing free and confidential services to victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking and expand our program areas to better serve the community. Our community rallied to play a significant role in providing safe, trauma informed, and survivor-led services.

Some of our accomplishments in 2021 include:

- Serving 2308 survivors and their children, our most ever.
- Adopted HIPPA compliant virtual platforms and document signing to better serve clients during the pandemic as well as make services more accessible for clients with transportation barriers.
- Make significant improvements to our facility that enhance the residential client experience as well as allow for enhanced sanitization. This includes new flooring, new furniture for all three client living rooms, painting of all interior spaces, HVAC ionization system, local air purifiers in high traffic areas, and an upgraded fire detection and alarm system.
- Added a new prevention program in partnership with Sexual Assault Services to implement age-appropriate prevention curriculum for grades k-12, teachers, staff, and parents at Battle Creek Public Schools.
- Maintained employment for all staff throughout the pandemic, never once furloughing or laying off employees. Staff remain our biggest asset, and S.A.F.E. Place prioritized them by supporting remote work as appropriate and providing COVID pay in recognition of their dedication to our clients.

Thank you for a successful year. We are grateful to have the opportunity to serve our community.

With gratitude,
Ellen Lassiter Collier

Programming

24/7 CRISIS LINE

Shelter Advocates are available 24/7 and 365 days a year via S.A.F.E. Place's crisis line. Our Shelter Advocates can assist with:

- Crisis intervention
- Accessing S.A.F.E. Place services
- Safety planning
- Information and referrals

Both residential and non-residential services can be accessed by calling our crisis line. These services include emergency shelter, legal advocacy, counseling, and general advocacy.

In 2021, our advocates received 961 hotline calls.



EMERGENCY SHELTER

S.A.F.E. Place is a 54-bed emergency domestic violence shelter located in Battle Creek, Michigan. Our shelter and crisis line are in operation 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. We provide all services free of charge.

Advocates are available to assist with working towards your goals including obtaining safe housing, employment, childcare, income assistance, and any referrals you may need to connect with available community resources.

During a shelter stay, we will provide food, bedding, hygiene products and other basic needs.

In 2021, S.A.F.E. Place offered a total of 7987 shelter nights to survivors of domestic violence. Our shelter served 216 adults and 183 children.

Programming

COUNSELING

S.A.F.E. Place provides counseling for victims of domestic violence and their children. The mission of the counseling program is to provide a space for survivors to process their experiences, understand the effects of trauma, and begin to heal. S.A.F.E. Place counseling is provided by Master's level counselors and interns. Counselors offer a variety of therapeutic modalities based on the individual needs of the client.

Another key piece of our mission is to provide services that are accessible to everyone. Because of that, all counseling services are completely free. Additionally, counseling is offered in person, via phone, or through doxy.me, a secure platform created for telemedicine.

In 2021, S.A.F.E. Place's Counseling Program served 152 adults and 37 children.

SURVIVOR ADVOCACY

The Survivor Advocacy Program works to ensure that clients' needs are addressed in a timely and ethical manner by providing direct services and collaborating with colleagues and community agencies. Our Survivor Advocate meets with clients to assist with identifying each client's unique needs. Clients are assisted with needs such as identification, housing, childcare, employment, and many other needs.

In 2021, our Survivor Advocate served 235 adults.



Programming

PREVENTION EDUCATION

S.A.F.E. Place offers a variety of education and awareness presentations about domestic violence. Our presentations can be adjusted based on the needs of the audience. Presentations are available to any school, college, event, club, or workplace in our community.

S.A.F.E. Place received a grant from the Office on Violence Against Women to design and implement a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate prevention education program in collaboration with Sexual Assault Services and Battle Creek Public Schools. In 2021, S.A.F.E. Place staff conducted a needs assessment, designed a logic model, and designed a comprehensive program.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

S.A.F.E. Place's Children's Advocate works with survivors and their children to provide counseling, advocacy, referrals, individual and group activities, tutoring, and various other methods of support for children who have been exposed to domestic violence. We offer counseling services to children beginning at the age of 4 and up until they reach 18.

Children who have been exposed to domestic violence either between their caregivers or in their own relationships can qualify for service.

In 2021, 89 adults and 81 children participated in S.A.F.E. Place's Children's Program.



Programming

LEGAL ADVOCACY

S.A.F.E. Place's Legal Advocates provide assistance and support to survivors of intimate partner domestic violence. Services may include but are not limited to assisting with questions regarding criminal charges against the abuser, against the victim, obtaining and enforcing a personal protection order, pursuing divorce and child custody issues, and other matters. Legal advocates are also available for court accompaniment to all court hearings for support, assistance with crime victims' compensation, and making appropriate legal referrals.

Our legal advocates are not legal attorneys and therefore are not able to provide legal advice. The legal advocate can walk you through any questions you may have about legal proceedings, paperwork, legal terms, etc. If you need assistance, please call our crisis line and we can connect you with an advocate.

In 2021, our Legal Advocates served 1,097 clients. S.A.F.E. Place received 54 lethality assessment protocol (LAP) calls.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

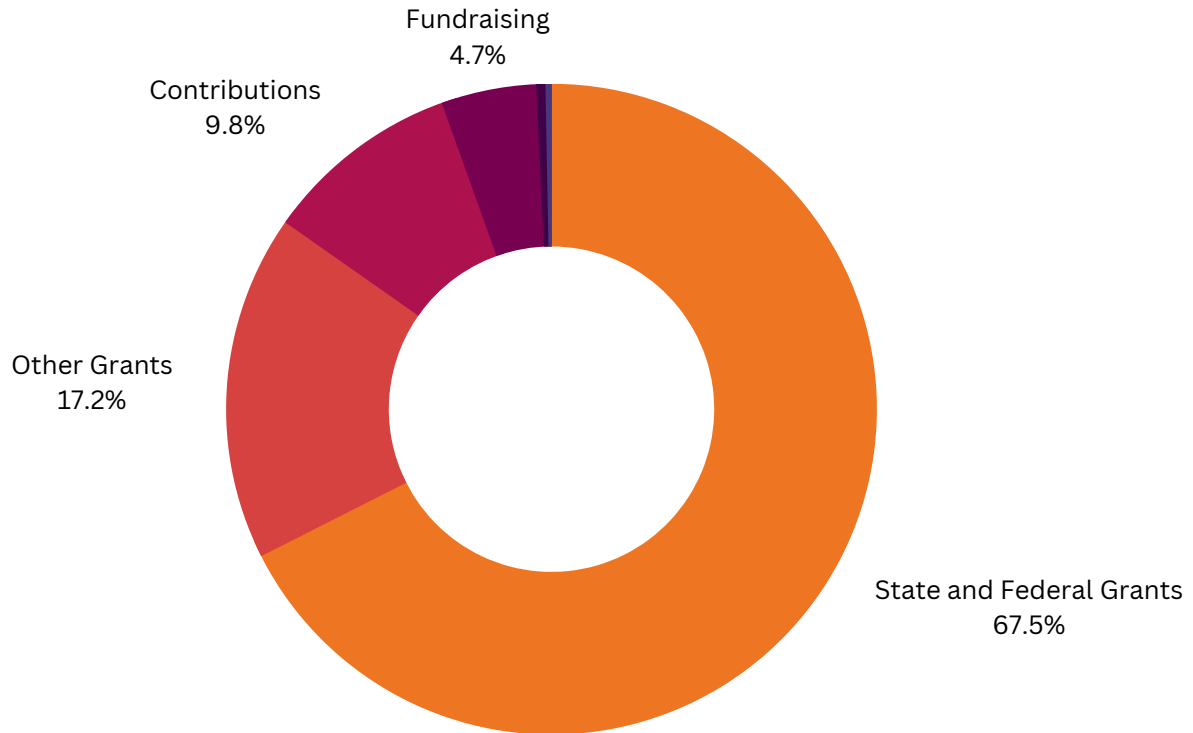
S.A.F.E. Place volunteers come from various backgrounds with a wide variety of skills that they have chosen to offer to S.A.F.E. Place. Our volunteers help with various tasks throughout the shelter, both directly with clients and "behind the scenes."

In 2021, we had a total of 1,833 volunteer hours from a total of 32 volunteers. Sixteen direct service volunteers completed a total of 1,539.75 hours.

Our Ann Schwarz Outstanding Volunteer Award was presented to Jean Parker and First Presbyterian Church Mission Team.

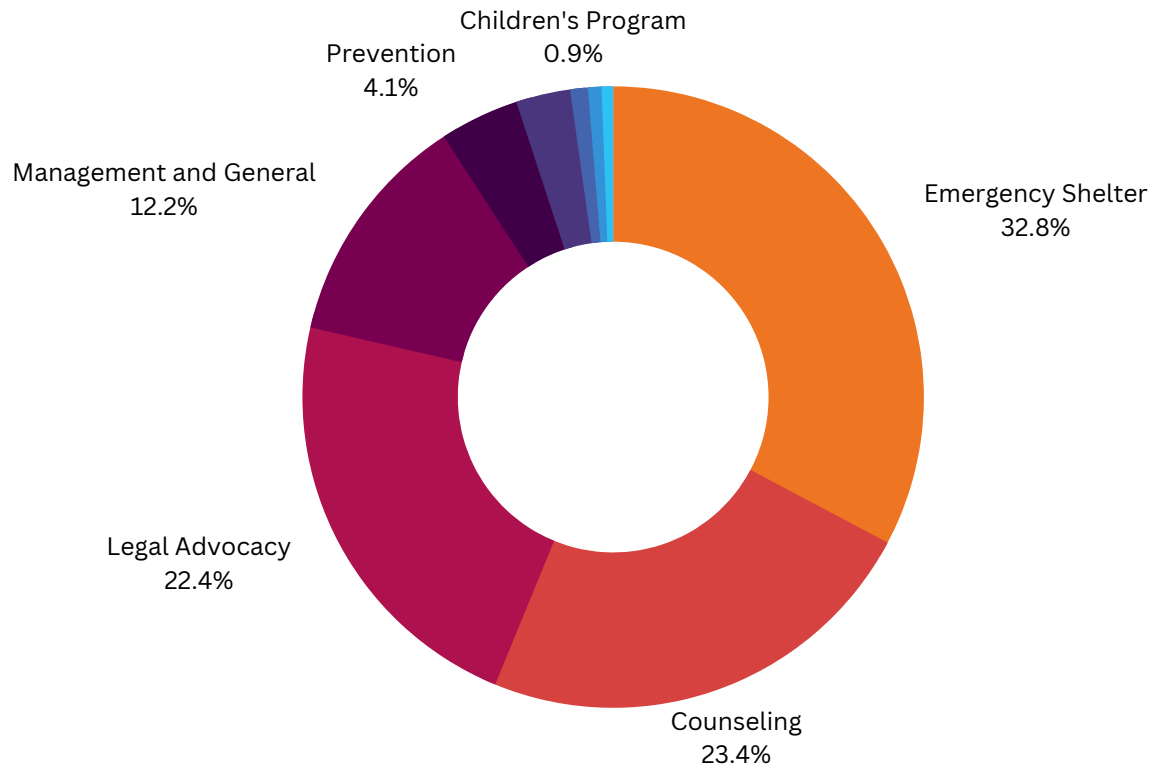


Income



Total Income Fiscal Year 2021		\$1,485,810.69
State & Federal Grants	67.54%	\$1,003,516.54
Other Grants	17.20%	\$255,559.44
Contributions	9.78%	\$145,312.29
Fundraising	4.73%	\$70,278.85
Interest and Other Income	0.45%	\$6,686.15
Investment Income	0.30%	\$4,457.43

Expenses



Total Expenses by Program		\$1,318,598.99
Emergency Shelter	32.76%	\$431,973.03
Counseling	23.44%	\$309,079.60
Legal Advocacy	22.40%	\$295,366.17
Management & General	12.22%	\$161,132.80
Prevention	4.13%	\$54,458.14
Client Assistance	2.83%	\$37,316.35
Children's Program	0.92%	\$12,131.11
Fundraising	0.70%	\$9,230.19
Other	0.60%	\$7,911.59

Special Acknowledgements

Special Thank You to our 2021 Board Members:

- Jim Grafton, President
- Tim Kool, Vice President
- Shelly Miller, Treasurer
- Lisa McNiff, Secretary
- Ann Bakker
- Chris Higdon
- Christine Lajoie
- Taylor Miller
- Clarence Stirgus
- Denise Sutter
- Ellen Lassiter Collier, CEO (non-voting)

Special thank you to the following funders:

- State of Michigan Department of Victim Services
- United Way of South Central Michigan
- Miller Foundation
- Post Consumer Brands
- Zanetti Foundation
- Albion Community Foundation
- Marshall Community Foundation
- DTE Energy Foundation
- Southwest Michigan First Corporation
- Department of Justice: Office on Violence Against Women



We thank you for your
continued support in
our programs.

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