

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

S.A.F.E.  
PLACE  

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secure area family environment



S.A.F.E. Place Shelter  
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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. 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. Today, our shelter has 55 beds. 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.

## 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.

# NEW MISSION AND VISION: ADOPTED IN APRIL 2024

## MISSION

S.A.F.E. Place provides survivor-led preventative and supportive services to promote safety, hope, and healing for all victims of intimate partner violence and sex trafficking.

## VISION

S.A.F.E. Place envisions a collaborative, person-centered community that prevents violence and exploitation, while also advocating for peace and justice for those impacted by violence. Our two-pronged approach helps survivors identify their own power and impacts systems change.

# NEW STRATEGIC PLAN: ADOPTED IN APRIL 2024

## **STRATEGY: FINANCIAL STABILITY**

S.A.F.E. Place will work to ensure we have the financial resources needed to meet our mission and future opportunities. We will accomplish this while ensuring we are protecting those impacted by intimate partner violence and sex trafficking, producing high impact programs and ensuring staff have the resources they need.

## **STRATEGY: PROGRAM GROWTH**

S.A.F.E. Place will expand our range of programs offered, strengthening our infrastructure to help connect our clients to information, services, and resources. Our intent is that less people will need our services moving forward as our communities become safer and freer from violence.

## **STRATEGY: FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

S.A.F.E. Place will create and protect safe, trauma-informed, and welcoming environments, designed to acknowledge the impact of physical surroundings on mental health and well-being for both clients and staff.

## **STRATEGY: STAFFING AND CAPACITY**

S.A.F.E. Place will create a culture within our organization that acknowledges the emotional impact the work of actualizing our mission requires. We will invest in our staff to ensure an environment that fosters personal and professional growth while ensuring programs are delivered with impact and excellence.

# A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

For more than 40 years, S.A.F.E. Place has been honored to serve families in our community and to work alongside our partners to provide life-changing support for adults and children impacted by abuse. Our mission is to help break the cycle of violence and strengthen families by offering the tools needed for safety and self-sufficiency. This work includes emergency shelter, survivor and legal advocacy, counseling services, and specialized prevention and intervention efforts in our schools.

We are entrusted with helping survivors restore their dignity, rebuild hope, and envision a future free from abuse. That responsibility also calls us to engage the broader community—sharing our experience, raising awareness, and inviting others to be part of the solution to domestic violence and human trafficking. At S.A.F.E. Place, we remain focused on providing services that both support survivors and hold offenders accountable, in partnership with the justice system.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who takes an interest in and supports this mission. Intimate partner violence and sex trafficking affect us all, and addressing them requires collective action. Together, we can reduce harm, strengthen families, and help create safer communities for those who need us most.

## Ellen Lassiter Collier

CEO

# CRISIS LINE & EMERGENCY SHELTER

## 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 advocacy, emergency shelter, legal counseling, and general advocacy.



**In 2024, our advocates received 1,534 hotline calls.**

## EMERGENCY SHELTER

S.A.F.E. Place is a 55-bed emergency domestic violence shelter located in Battle Creek, Michigan. 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, basic bedding, hygiene products and other needs.

**In 2024, S.A.F.E. Place offered a total of 15,704 shelter nights to survivors of domestic violence. Our shelter served 297 adults and 309 children.**

# COUNSELING & SURVIVOR ADVOCACY

## COUNSELING

S.A.F.E. Place provides counseling for victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking 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 telehealth.

**In 2024, S.A.F.E. Place's Counseling Program served 155 adults and 16 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 Advocates meet 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 2024, our Survivor Advocates served 461 adults.**



“Often times the struggles our clients face reflect largely systemic issues. While the work we do may seem small in comparison, building one's sense of self is a strong protective factor to help clients navigate an oppressive world. I take pride in watching my clients know themselves deeply and speak their truth loudly. “ -Mandakini Quinones, Clinical Counselor

# PREVENTION EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

## 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. The program is known in the community as Calhoun County Youth Violence Prevention Project (YVP) and has expanded to Harper Creek Community Schools, Marshall Public Schools, Calhoun County Youth Center, and BC Pride.

### In 2024, The YVP Team Conducted:

72 Elementary Presentations  
>1400 Students  
7 Locations

128 Middle School Presentations  
>2000 Students  
9 Locations

178 High School Presentations  
>3300 Student Contacts  
7 Locations

372 Prevention Trainings  
6823 Contacts

17 Adult Education Sessions

56 Community Meetings

2 National Conferences Attended

## 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.

# LEGAL ADVOCACY & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

## LEGAL ADVOCACY

S.A.F.E. Place's Legal Advocates provide assistance and support to survivors of intimate partner violence and sex trafficking. 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 to offer court support and accompaniment to criminal and civil court hearings, assistance with crime victims' compensation, and making appropriate legal referrals. The legal advocate can walk you through any questions regarding court proceedings, paperwork, or legal terms.

**In 2024, our Legal Advocates served 905 clients. S.A.F.E. Place received 124 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."

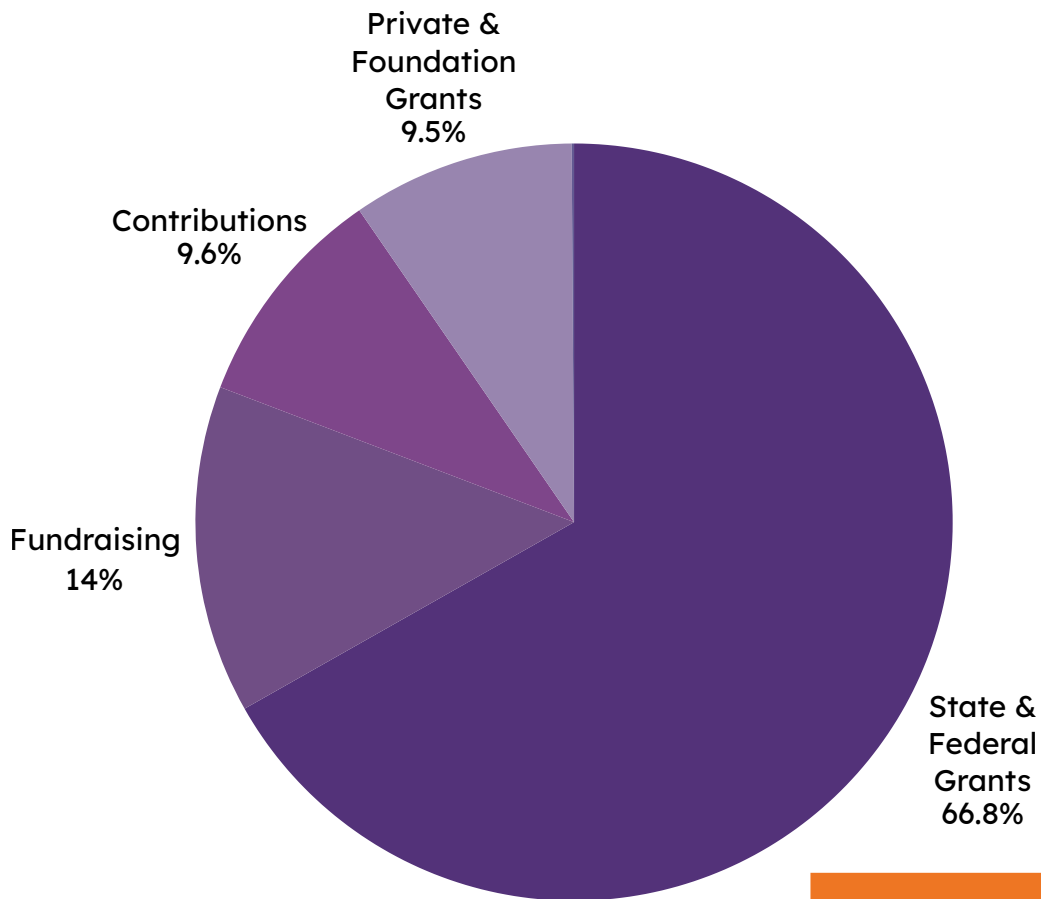


“I enjoy serving survivors with legal advocacy needs because no one should have to navigate the criminal justice system alone. Supporting survivors throughout the criminal justice process helps them to feel heard, become more knowledgeable about the system and empowers survivors to hold their abusers accountable in the court of law.”

-Melissa Smith, Criminal Justice Advocate

# Year in Review

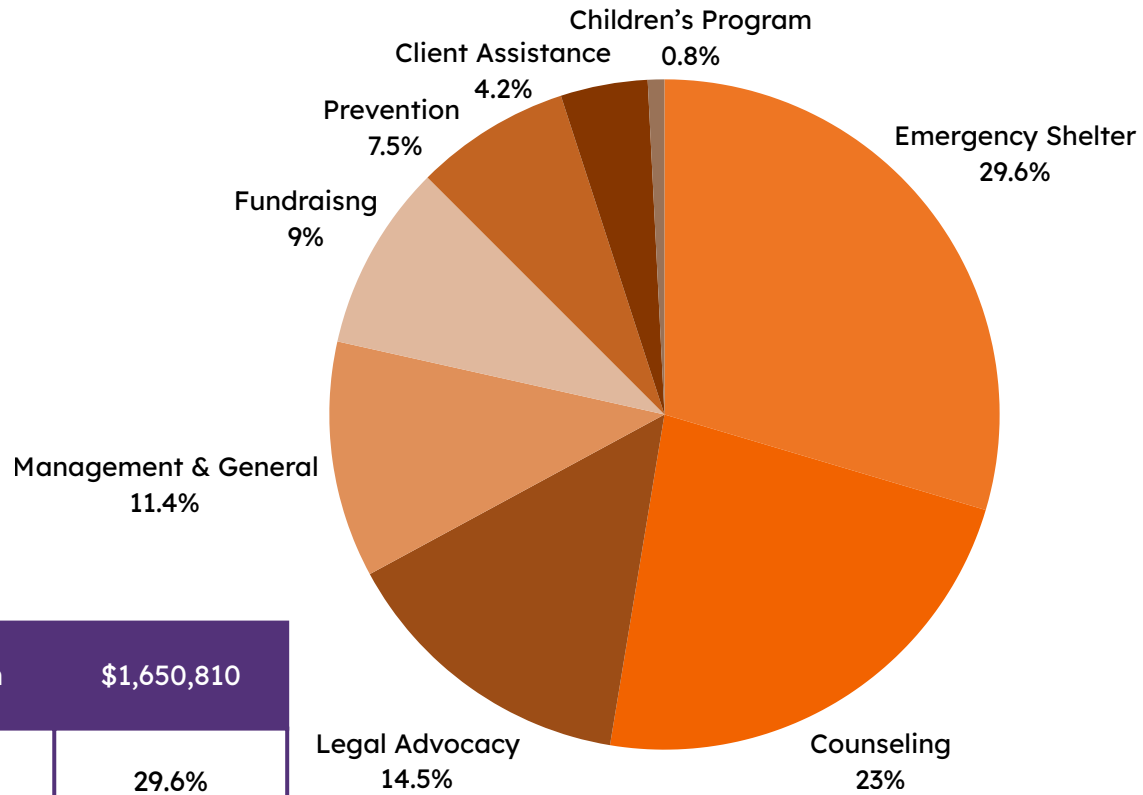
## INCOME



| Income Breakdown            |       | \$1,667,973 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------------|
| State & Federal Grants      | 66.8% |             |
| Fundraising                 | 14.0% |             |
| Contributions               | 9.6%  |             |
| Private & Foundation Grants | 9.5%  |             |
| Investment Income           | 0.1%  |             |

# Year in Review

## EXPENSES



| Total Expenses by Program |  | \$1,650,810 |
|---------------------------|--|-------------|
| Emergency Shelter         |  | 29.6%       |
| Counseling                |  | 23.0%       |
| Legal Advocacy            |  | 14.5%       |
| Management & General      |  | 11.4%       |
| Fundraising               |  | 9.0%        |
| Prevention                |  | 7.5%        |
| Client Assistance         |  | 4.2%        |
| Children's Program        |  | 0.8%        |

# SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A SPECIAL  
THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 BOARD MEMBERS:

- Ann Bakker
- Sierra Blair
- Jade Bolden
- Amy Everhart
- Scott Hamric
- Chris Higdon
- Heather Ignash
- Alyssa Jones
- Tim Kool
- Rev. Clare Loughrige
- Jasmine Miller
- Taylor Miller
- Jackie Tucker
- Ellen Lassiter Collier, CEO

WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A SPECIAL THANK  
YOU TO THE FOLLOWING GRANTORS:

- State of Michigan Division of Victim Services
- United Way of South Central Michigan
- Miller Foundation
- Battle Creek Community Foundation
- Marshall Community Foundation
- DTE Energy Foundation
- Post Consumer Brands Foundation
- Department of Justice: Office on Violence Against Women
- Department of Housing and Urban Development