



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

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

S.A.F.E. Place Shelter
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WHO WE ARE

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 human 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.

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.

A photograph of two women sitting in a room designed for children. The room features a large, colorful play mat on the floor, a small playhouse with a sun and clouds on its roof, and various toys. The woman on the left is wearing a blue cardigan over a patterned top, and the woman on the right is wearing a dark blazer over a white top. They are both looking towards the right side of the frame.

FROM OUR CEO

Dear Community, Partners, and Supporters,

At S.A.F.E. Place, our mission is grounded in hope, safety, healing, and community. Every day, we have the privilege of walking alongside survivors and families as they take courageous steps toward lives free from violence and fear. None of this work would be possible without the support of our donors, partners, volunteers, and advocates, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

This past year was one of significant growth and progress. We completed major renovations within our shelter, creating more dignified, welcoming, and trauma-informed spaces for residents. We opened a new outreach office in Marshall to increase access to services across our region, renovated our communal bathroom, and redid our heating system.

Most importantly, we provided shelter, advocacy, counseling, and supportive services to more than 2,000 individuals seeking safety and a path forward. Behind every service provided is a story of resilience, courage, and hope.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains unwavering: to ensure that every survivor who reaches out for help finds safety, support, and a community ready to stand beside them.

Thank you for being part of this important work.

-Ellen Lassiter Collier



VICTIMIZATION IN CALHOUN COUNTY

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence remains a significant concern in Calhoun County, which experiences the second highest rate of domestic violence per capita in the state. S.A.F.E. Place continues to serve as a critical resource for survivors seeking safety and support, providing trauma-informed services including emergency shelter, 24/7 crisis response, advocacy, counseling, and prevention education for individuals and families impacted by domestic violence. Survivors often face barriers such as housing instability, financial dependence, transportation challenges, and the lasting effects of trauma, underscoring the need for accessible, coordinated services.

S.A.F.E. Place also expanded life skills and self-care workshops and strengthened community partnerships to better support residential clients, including access to services such as haircuts and banking support. The agency identified transportation as a key barrier and began pursuing solutions through a grant proposal for electric bikes. Through a survivor-centered approach and strong community collaboration, S.A.F.E. Place remains committed to promoting safety, hope, and healing across Calhoun County for survivors of domestic violence.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking continues to impact individuals and families in Calhoun County. During the reporting period, S.A.F.E. Place strengthened its response through increased collaboration with law enforcement and community partners to improve victim identification, support, and coordinated services. The agency also drafted a Law Enforcement Trafficking Indicator (LETI) to help police better identify victims and developed on a new human trafficking resource pamphlet to increase community awareness and access to services.

S.A.F.E. Place was invited to become a verified agency authorized to support survivors seeking credit repair through Michigan's Debt Bondage Repair Act and developed a policy for providing victim determination documentation. Additionally, our Clinical Coordinator joined the Board of Directors of the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, further strengthening S.A.F.E. Place's role in advancing anti-trafficking efforts at both the local and state levels.

MARSHALL OFFICE



Marshall Outreach Office Opening

In 2025, we opened an outreach office in Marshall, made possible through the generous support of the Marshall Community Foundation. This office expands access to critical services for victims and survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking in Marshall, Albion, and surrounding rural communities.

Through this office, survivors can access a range of supportive services, including counseling, legal advocacy, survivor advocacy, housing assistance, financial assistance, and safety-enhancing resources such as home security items. By bringing these services closer to the communities we serve, we aim to reduce barriers and ensure survivors receive the support they need to achieve safety, hope, and healing.

In addition to providing direct services, we envision this office as a welcoming community space where local organizations, groups, and residents can gather for meetings, trainings, and small events that strengthen connections and support community well-being.





SHELTER RENOVATIONS

Major Shelter Renovations Completed

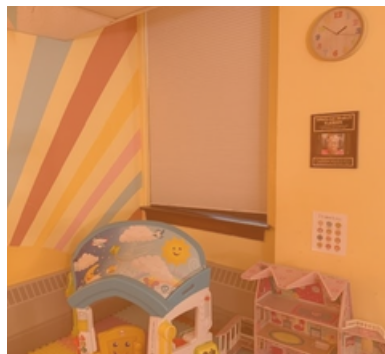
In 2025, we completed several important improvements to our facilities to better serve survivors and their families.

Our former communal bathroom was renovated into four private restrooms, each equipped with a sink, countertop space, shower or bathtub, and toilet. These upgrades provide greater privacy, comfort, and dignity for the individuals and families staying in our shelter. This project was made possible through the generous support of Consumers Credit Union, Junior League of Battle Creek, Battle Creek City Lions, Lions Clubs International, Consumers Energy, and the Battle Creek Area Association of Realtors.

We also upgraded the heating system in our older building, improving comfort and energy efficiency for residents and staff. We are grateful to the Battle Creek Community Foundation and Marshall Community Foundation for their support of this important project.

This year, we proudly dedicated our playroom in honor of Tawana Bradley, a beloved shelter advocate whose passion for supporting survivors of domestic violence and advocating for children left a lasting impact on our organization and community. We are honored to celebrate her legacy through a space where children can play and thrive.

In addition, we expanded resources available to clients by creating a dedicated library, offering access to books, educational materials, and information that support learning and healing.





DIRECT SERVICES

Emergency Shelter

Total Shelter Nights: 12,587
Adults Served in Shelter: 221
Children Served in Shelter: 205
Crisis/Info/Referral Calls: 1,305

Our Emergency Shelter provided a safe, supportive environment for survivors and their families fleeing violence. In addition to secure shelter, residents received essential supplies, including food, clothing, hygiene items, and household necessities.

Survivor Advocacy

Adults Served by Survivor Advocate: 382
Children Served by Survivor Advocate: 57
Households Receiving Rental Assistance: 20, including 23 children
Phones, Security Items, Gift Cards, and Transportation Provided: 389

Survivor Advocates worked with survivors to overcome barriers, access needed resources, and achieve their personal goals. Through individualized support and collaboration with community partners, advocates empowered clients on their path toward safety and stability.

Legal Advocacy

Clients Receiving Legal Advocacy: 1,031
Lethality Assessment Protocol Calls: 75
Personal Protection Orders Serviced: 32

Legal Advocacy continued to provide critical support to survivors by assisting with Personal Protection Order service, offering court accompaniment, and helping clients navigate the legal system. Through strong partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, advocates worked to increase access to resources, and support clients throughout the justice process.

Counseling

Adults Participating in Counseling: 132
Children Participating in Counseling: 30

Counseling expanded services this year by opening counseling offices in Marshall, increasing accessibility and generating significant growth in referrals from the surrounding community. Support groups at the Marshall office, main shelter in Battle Creek, and Battle Creek Central High School provided safe spaces for participants to build connections, process experiences related to domestic violence, and access valuable resources.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Community Outreach

Community Meetings Attended: 103

Community Education Presentations: 54

Tabling/Public Awareness Campaigns: 41

S.A.F.E. Place's community outreach efforts are multifaceted, encompassing engagement with current and former clients, youth, community organizations, and key stakeholders throughout our service area. We recognize that domestic violence and human trafficking impact individuals in every community, neighborhood, school district, and zip code. As a result, we are committed to maintaining a visible and accessible presence across the region to ensure survivors can connect with support wherever they are.

Our outreach team actively participates in community meetings, delivers educational presentations on domestic violence and human trafficking, and staffs informational booths at a wide range of events. By engaging diverse audiences and building strong community partnerships, we increase awareness of available services, strengthen prevention efforts, and help ensure that survivors know where to turn for safety, hope, and healing.

Prevention Education

Prevention Education Presentations: 201

Elementary Students: 1,684 contacts

Middle School Students: 2,170 contacts

High School Students: 2,260 contacts

S.A.F.E. Place Prevention Education, in collaboration with Sexual Assault Services, continued to provide prevention programming to students in Battle Creek Public Schools, Marshall Public Schools, Harper Creek Community Schools, and Calhoun County Youth Center. Throughout the year, the program expanded its community impact by presenting at the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) New Grantee Orientation as a continuation grantee, building new partnerships with organizations such as the Doris Klaussen Developmental Center, and providing countywide training for educators on technology-facilitated abuse. Prevention staff also hosted a support group for teens impacted by teen dating violence at Battle Creek Central High School.

A large photograph at the top of the page shows a woman in a white sweater clapping her hands, and another woman in a dark dress hugging her from behind. The image has an orange tint.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Thank You to Our Wonderful Volunteers

Number of Volunteers: 44

Throughout the year, S.A.F.E. Place is strengthened by the generous support of dedicated volunteers and interns. From local businesses such as Chad Heeter State Farm, to faith communities like Woodland Church, to service-learning students from Kellogg Community College, our volunteers bring a diverse range of skills, experiences, and perspectives that enhance our ability to serve survivors.

Volunteers and interns play an essential role in our daily operations and programming. They assist with a variety of tasks at our emergency shelter and Marshall office, support children and families in our playroom, help organize donations and special projects, and contribute to administrative and outreach efforts. Additionally, Master's of Social Work interns provide counseling services and support to survivors under the supervision of our Clinical Coordinator, expanding our capacity to meet the growing needs of those we serve.

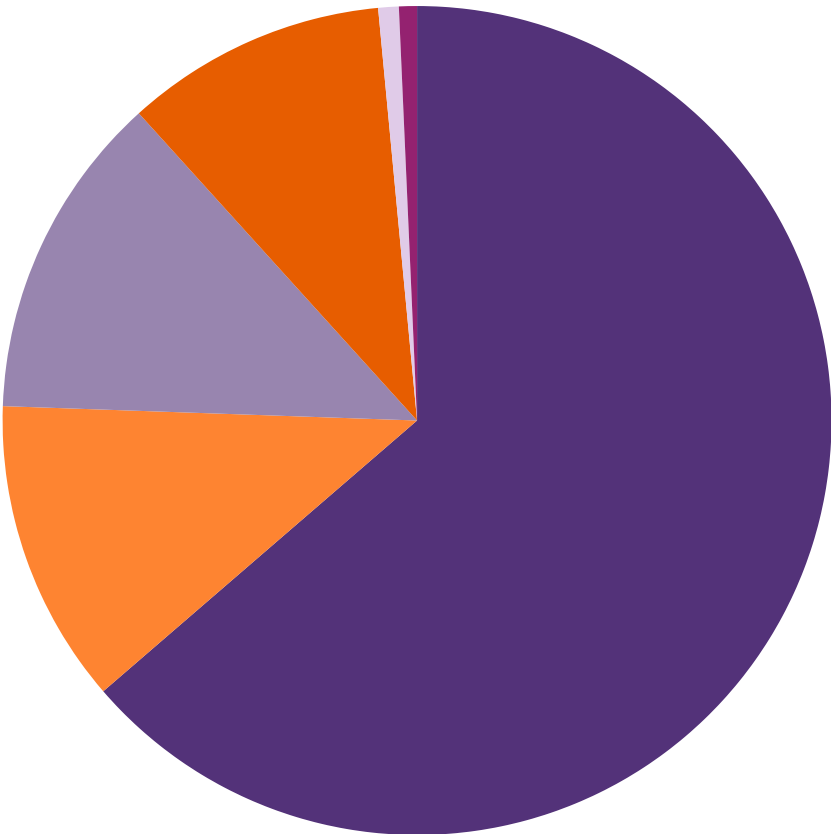
Their time, compassion, and commitment make a meaningful difference in the lives of survivors and help ensure that S.A.F.E. Place can continue providing critical services throughout our community.





INCOME

- State & Federal Grants
- Fundraising
- Contributions
- Private & Foundation Grants
- Investment Income
- Interest and Other Income



Income Breakdown	\$1,973,102
State & Federal Grants	63.65%
Contributions	12.73%
Fundraising	11.88%
Private & Foundation Grants	10.21%
Investment Income	.80%
Interest & Other Income	.73%

"You've been a really big part of my life and teaching me how to value myself and set goals."
 -S.A.F.E. Place Counseling Client

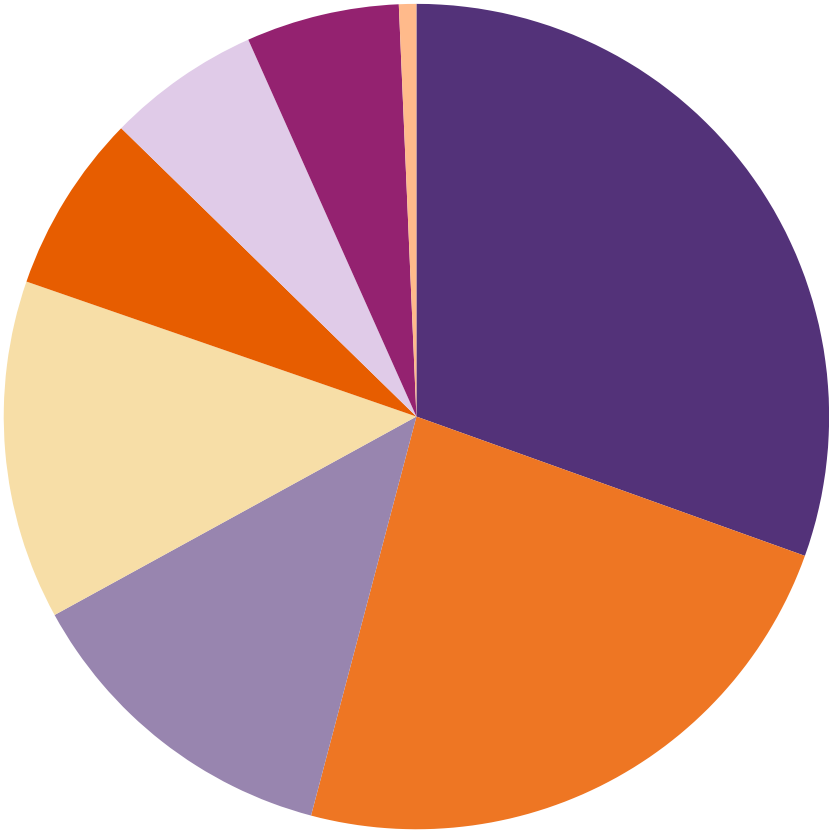


EXPENSES

"Thank you so much for supporting me and my daughter. It has been extremely difficult to navigate this situation, but your advocacy gives me a lot of hope."
-S.A.F.E. Place Counseling Client

Total Expenses by Program		\$1,698,109
Emergency Shelter		30.4%
Counseling		23.6%
Legal Advocacy		12.89%
Management & General		13.27%
Prevention		7.04%
Fundraising		6.09%
Client Assistance		5.99%
Other		.72%

- Emergency Shelter
- Counseling
- Legal Advocacy
- Management & General
- Prevention
- Fundraising
- Client Assistance
- Other





SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Board of Directors

- Ann Bakker
- Sierra Blair
- Jade Bolden
- Ed Bujdos
- Mary Jo Garrett
- Amy Everhart
- Audrina Hampton
- Scott Hamric
- Chris Higdon
- Heather Ignash
- Alyssa Jones
- Rev. Clare Loughrige
- Jasmine Miller
- Ryan Payne
- Jackie Tucker
- Deanna York
- Gerald Yott
- Ellen Lassiter Collier, CEO

Thank you for your support and dedication of our organization, staff, and mission!



Local Funders

- Battle Creek Community Foundation
- Battle Creek Area Association of Realtors
- Cereal City Lions Club
- Child Abuse Prevention Endowment
- Consumers Energy Foundation
- DTE Energy Foundation
- Feldpausch Foundation
- Junior League of Battle Creek
- Marshall Community Foundation
- Post Consumers Foundation
- The Miller Foundation
- United Way of South Central Michigan

We are grateful for the trust, support, and partnership of local funders that make our work possible!