

2023

Annual Report



SAFETY. ADVOCACY. EMPOWERMENT



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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 56 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.

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.

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.



Letter from our CEO

Dear Friends,

Another year stronger, another year of making a positive impact in our community. This past year has once again reinforced the importance of our commitment to survivors of domestic violence and Human Trafficking. As we celebrate our 40th anniversary of serving our community, this moment in time has proven that when we work together, we are able to make a difference. I am inspired by our donors, partners and staff who have risen to the unprecedented challenges of this past year. They have demonstrated resilience and a dedication to the communities we serve.

Despite rising numbers of domestic violence and sex trafficking survivors in our community in the last year, there was an unwavering commitment to our mission to lead positive systemic change that strengthens our communities in Calhoun, Barry, and Eaton Counties.

Thanks to the diligence of our staff, board, donors, and community partners, those experiencing domestic violence and human trafficking in our community have turned moments of despair into stories of hope and resilience.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our mission at S.A.F.E. Place. Together, we can build our community up.

With appreciation,

Ellen Lassiter Collier
CEO



Celebrating 40 Years of Service

This year marks a significant milestone for S.A.F.E. Place as we celebrate 40 years of unwavering dedication to supporting victims of domestic violence and fostering safer communities. Since our founding in 1983, we have continuously evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, expanding our services and enhancing our impact. In 2023, we are proud to reflect on our journey and share our most recent advancements in addressing critical issues like sex trafficking and youth violence prevention.

In recent years, we recognized the urgent need to tackle the pervasive issue of sex trafficking within our community. Our new initiatives aim to provide comprehensive support to survivors of sex trafficking, ensuring they receive the specialized care and resources necessary for their recovery and reintegration.

Additionally, we have begun to establish a proactive approach to violence prevention. Understanding that prevention is key to building a safer future, we have established a Youth Violence Prevention Team. This team is dedicated to addressing the root causes of violence among young people and promoting healthy, positive behaviors.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to evolving our services and addressing emerging challenges. The addition of our sex trafficking and youth violence prevention teams is just the beginning of our renewed focus on comprehensive and inclusive support for all individuals affected by violence.

Thank you for standing with us over the past four decades. Together, we will continue to build a safer, more compassionate community for all.

With gratitude,

The S.A.F.E. Place Team



Crisis Line and Emergency Shelter

24/7 Crisis Line

The S.A.F.E. Place's crisis line is staffed by Shelter Advocates around the clock, every day of the year. These advocates provide vital support, including crisis intervention, safety planning, access to S.A.F.E. Place services, and information and referrals. By calling our crisis line, individuals can access both residential and non-residential services, such as emergency shelter, legal advocacy, counseling, and general advocacy. In 2023, our advocates handled 1,458 calls through the hotline.

Emergency Shelter

Located in Battle Creek, Michigan, S.A.F.E. Place operates a 56-bed emergency domestic violence shelter. Our shelter and crisis line are available 24/7, every day of the year, providing all services at no cost. Advocates in shelter are ready to help clients achieve their goals, whether that involves finding safe housing, employment, childcare, income assistance, or connecting with community resources. During a client's stay, we supply food, bedding, hygiene products, and other essential items. In 2023, S.A.F.E. Place provided a total of 15,039 shelter nights to survivors of domestic violence and sex trafficking, supporting 307 adults and 302 children. Shelter Advocates are available 24/7 and 365 days a year via S.A.F.E. Place's crisis line.

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 2023, our advocates received 1,458 hotline calls.



Counseling and Survivor Advocacy

Counseling

S.A.F.E. Place offers counseling services to victims of domestic violence and their children. Our counseling program aims to create a safe environment for survivors to process their experiences, understand the impact of trauma, and start their healing journey. Counseling is provided by Master's level counselors and interns who utilize various therapeutic methods tailored to the unique needs of each client. All counseling services are free of charge. Sessions are available in person, by phone, or through doxy.me, a secure telemedicine platform.

In 2023, our Counseling Program supported 152 adults and 37 children.

Survivor Advocacy

The Survivor Advocacy Program is dedicated to addressing clients' needs promptly and ethically by offering direct services and collaborating with community agencies. Our Survivor Advocates consult with clients to identify their specific needs and provides assistance with various necessities, including identification, housing, childcare, and employment.

In 2023, our Survivor Advocates supported 415 adults and 66 children.

Prevention Education

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. Since then, the program has been named the Calhoun County Youth Violence Prevention Project (YVP).

In 2023, the YVP team conducted:

- 401 Prevention Education Sessions
- 90 Elementary presentations, covering 1,742 students
- 98 Middle School presentations, covering 1,542 student contacts
- 195 High School presentations, covering 2,784 student contacts
- 14 Adult Education Sessions
- 2 “ACEs, Domestic Violence, and Resilience” trainings for Big Brothers Big Sisters and S.A.F.E Place
- 2 “Coaching Boys Into Men” Coaches trainings for BCCHS
- 8 “Stewards of Children” child sexual abuse prevention trainings for HCCS, BCPS, S.A.F.E Place, and other partners
- 2 “Teen Dating Violence” How Advocates Can Encourage Healthy Teen Relationships” for S.A.F.E Place
- 27+ Workgroup/Committee Meetings with the YVP CCRT
- Grace Health
- BCPS staff and coaches
- Committee on Adolescent Sexual Health
- BCPS Sex Education Advisory Board
- HCCS Sex Education Advisory Board
- Bearcat Health Leadership Team
- BCPS Attendance Team

5 materials created:

- **YVP Family Brochure in English, Spanish, and Burmese**
For caring adults to learn how to interact with youth who disclose violence and connect them to YVP services
- **Referral Flow Chart**
Document for caring adults/teachers/services providers to learn how to contact YVP staff and make referrals
- **YVP Water Bottles**
For fun at tabling events, prizes
- ACEs, DV, Promoting Resilience Training
- Teen Dating Violence Training

39 “Supportive Conversations” resulting in

- 2 SAS referrals
- 2 S.A.F.E Place referrals
- 6 school counselor referrals
- 4 CPS reports



Legal Advocacy and Volunteer Program

Legal Advocacy

S.A.F.E. Place's Legal Advocates offer support and assistance to survivors of intimate partner domestic violence. They help with various legal matters such as questions regarding criminal charges against the abuser or the victim, obtaining and enforcing personal protection orders, and addressing divorce and child custody issues. They also provide court accompaniment, help with crime victims' compensation, and make appropriate legal referrals.

In 2023, our Legal Advocates assisted 1,007 clients and responded to 175 lethality assessment protocol (LAP) calls.

Volunteer Program

S.A.F.E. Place volunteers bring diverse backgrounds and a wide range of skills to our organization. They contribute in many ways throughout the shelter, assisting both directly with clients and behind the scenes.

Children's Program & Rental Assistance

Children's Program

S.A.F.E. Place's Children's Advocate supports survivors and their children through counseling, advocacy, referrals, individual and group activities, tutoring, and other support methods for children affected by domestic violence. Our counseling services are available to children from age 4 up to 18.

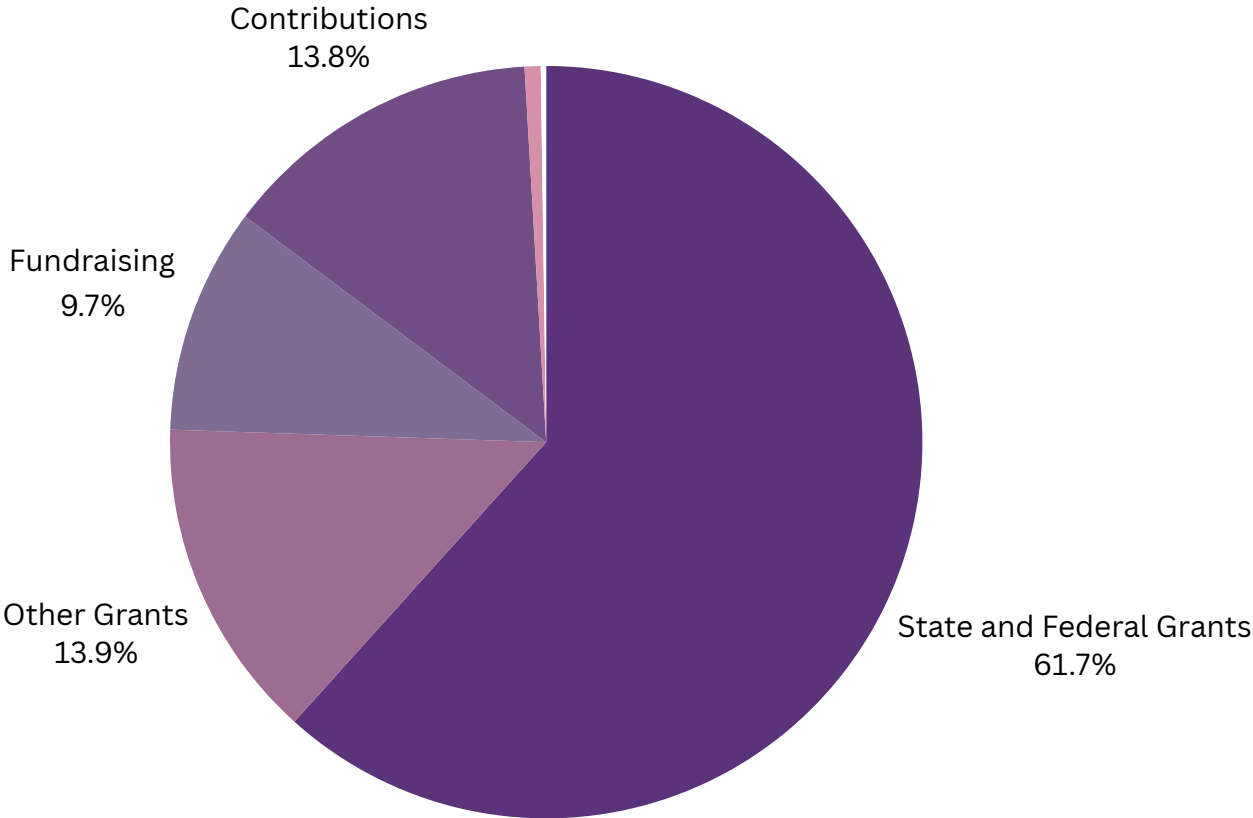
Children exposed to domestic violence, whether between their caregivers or in their own relationships, are eligible for these services.

Rental Assistance Program

In 2023, S.A.F.E. Place secured critical funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), enhancing its capacity to support those in need. This funding facilitates essential services such as rental assistance and rapid rehousing, covering crucial costs like security deposits, first and last month's rent.

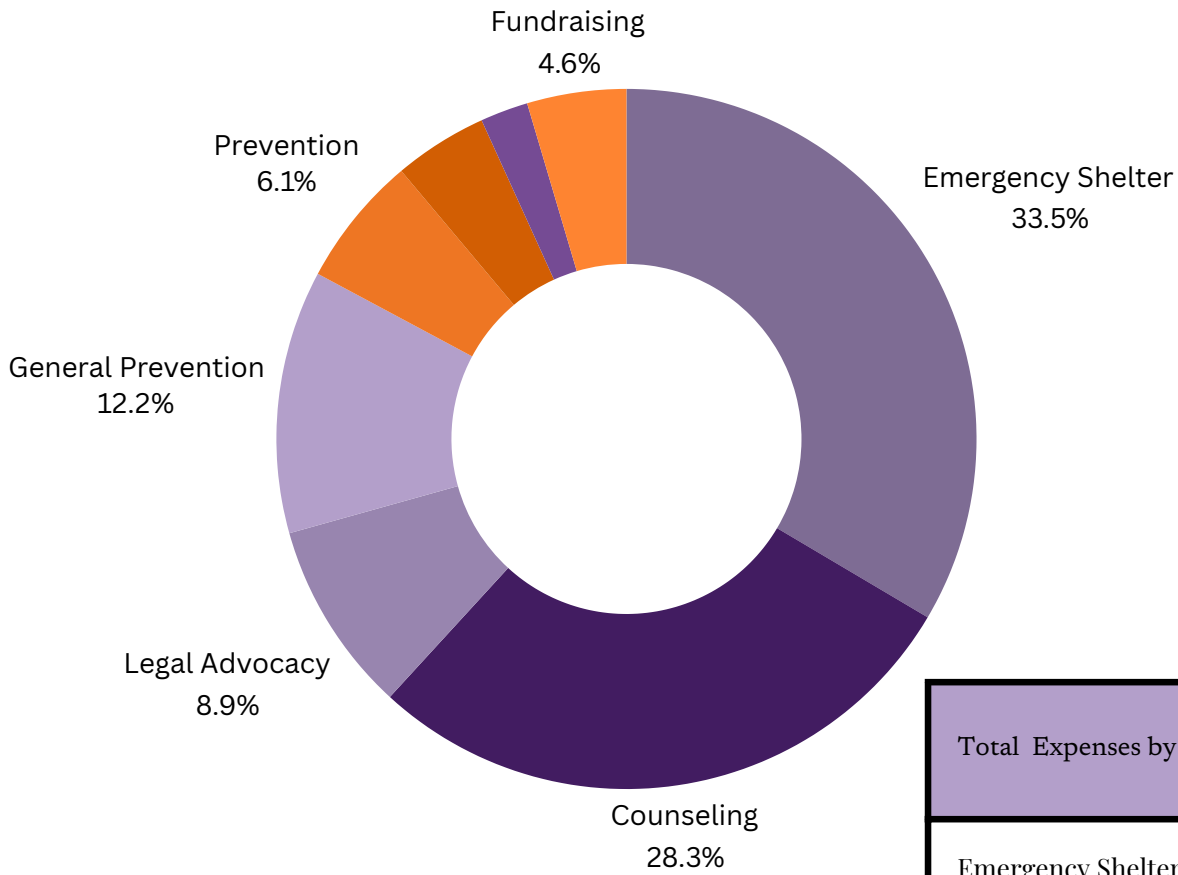


Income



Total Income FY23	\$1,670,173
State & Federal Grants	61.67%
Other Grants	13.86%
Contributions	13.84%
Fundraising	9.71%
Interest and Other Income	0.69%
Investment Income	0.23%

Expenses



Total Expenses by Program	\$1,433,294
Emergency Shelter	33.51%
Counseling	28.30%
Management & General	12.16%
Legal Advocacy	8.85%
Prevention	6.06%
Fundraising	4.58%
Client Assistance	4.33%
Children's Program	2.21%



Special Acknowledgements

Special thank you to our 2023 Board Members:

- Ann Bakker
- Sierra Blair
- Jade Bolden
- Ellen Lassiter Collier, CEO
- Scott Hamric
- Chris Higdon, Secretary
- Tim Kool, Vice President
- Christine Lajoie
- Rev. Clare Loughrige
- Lisa McNiff
- Amina Dubois (youth member)
- Jasmine Miller
- Shelly Miller, Treasurer
- Taylor Miller, President

Special thank you to the following funders:

- State of Michigan Division of Victim Services
- United Way of South Central Michigan
- Miller Foundation
- DTE Energy Foundation
- Zanetti Foundation
- Post Consumer Brands
- Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Department of Justice: Office on Violence Against Women
- Department of Housing and Urban Development