



# ANNUAL REPORT

## Fiscal Year 2008

### The mission of SafeHouse Center is two-fold:

To provide safety, support, advocacy, and resources for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence and their children, and to work relentlessly to change the systems and attitudes that allow this abuse to continue.

SafeHouse Center's programs exemplify our mission by providing comprehensive services to survivors of domestic violence and their children, and survivors of sexual assault. Our experienced team of advocates and staff provide empowering and supportive services to survivors who live or work in Washtenaw County. We provide direct services through our shelter facility, 24 hour helpline, counseling, legal advocacy, crisis intervention, medical services, legal advocacy, and ongoing referrals and assistance. It is our intention to provide excellent and progressive services, as well as to continue creating a large network of community allies, to join us in speaking out against domestic violence and sexual assault.

**“SafeHouse truly feels safe. I can speak my feelings and know I'm understood, validated. Not looked down upon or discriminated against . . . Food donation helped so much to lift my spirits during the tough times of the holidays. Thank you.”**  
-Survivor

### Community Partners:

It has been our honor and privilege to partner with a wide range of community networks throughout Washtenaw County and has created a comprehensive effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault. SafeHouse Center has a close partnership with Washtenaw County's Police and Sheriff's Department, the court system, local businesses, Universities and Colleges, social service agencies, and the faith-based community.

### New partnerships within 2008 include:

- **Arbor Motion:** Donated 322 oil changes to change lives and raised over \$10,000 for SafeHouse Center services.
- **Criminal Justice Association:** Passed a Resolution of support to SafeHouse Center.
- **Avalon Housing:** Collaboration for grant funding to provide Permanent Supportive Housing for Domestic Violence Survivors and their families.
- **Knight Foundation:** Provided new funding support for a Spanish Speaking Advocate.
- **Washtenaw County Judges:** SafeHouse Center hosted an informational breakfast to reinforce collaborative efforts with our judicial partners.

**SafeHouse Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.**

**SafeHouse Center  
4100 Clark Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105**

[www.safehousecenter.org](http://www.safehousecenter.org)

**24-hour HelpLine**

**734 995 5444**

**Business**

**734 973 0242**

**FAX**

**734 973 7817**

**info@safehousecenter.org**

## Quality of Services:

Recently, a survey was conducted to evaluate survivor satisfaction of our programs and services. This information will be used to improve the services we provide. Statistics included the following data (expressed in percentage of survivors who strongly agreed or agreed with the statements):

- **100%:** I would recommend SafeHouse Center services to a friend.
- **97.6%:** SafeHouse Center has helped me to understand that I am not to blame for the assault(s).
- **95.1%:** I am treated with respect by SafeHouse Center staff.
- **95.1%:** I feel supported by the staff at SafeHouse Center.
- **92.5%:** I have learned about the ways domestic violence affects people.
- **84.4%:** I have learned about the criminal justice system.

**“I have received excellent support in every possible area within Safehouse Center.”**

**-Survivor  
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**“I love SafeHouse! It's made a HUGE difference in my life!”**

**-Survivor**

## Shelter and Helpline:

SafeHouse Center has provided shelter to a total of 275 adult and child residents in 2008. Shelter numbers have been on an increase within the past three years. The shelter hotline provided support, advocacy, and referrals to 2,044 crisis calls in the past year. The financial situation of the state of Michigan's and the U.S. is affecting homeless survivors in a very big way. We have seen an increase both in the number of shelter residents and the amount of time that

## Service Numbers Category

## Served

Domestic Violence Advocacy & Counseling	217
Domestic Violence Support Group	189
Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy	1085
Domestic Violence Response Team	573
Sexual Assault Advocacy & Counseling	126
Sexual Assault Legal Advocacy	51
Sexual Assault Response Team	75
Sexual Assault Support Group	87
Crisis Calls	2044
<b>Total Served</b>	<b>4447</b>
Adult Shelter residents	121
Child Shelter residents	154
<b>Total Unduplicated</b>	<b>275</b>
Adult nights	2883
Children nights	4597
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>7480</b>

## Survivor Demographics

## Percent

Caucasian	49%
African-American	38%
Hispanic	10%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1%
Multi-Racial	1%
Native American	1%
Aged 0-12	5%
13-17	3%
18-24	23%
25-34	39%
35-44	22%
45-54	6%
55-64	1%
Over 65	1%



For assistance call our helpline at: 734 995 5444

they are staying in shelter. **There was 7480 total nights spent at the shelter by service participants.** Not only are we seeing survivors who are homeless due to recent domestic violence, but we are also seeing more and more survivors who are experiencing chronic homelessness that stems from past domestic violence.

**These increases are due to the following:**

- Community resources that once served as a safety net are becoming either non-existent or more difficult to access.
- Family and friends who were once able to provide shelter or financial assistance are now also experiencing hardship and therefore no longer able to help.
- Changes in welfare policy and benefits make it impossible or difficult for survivors to move forward with their goals.
- Immigration laws, limited resources, and discrimination from systems, makes it very difficult for LEP survivors to receive the help they need and move forward.
- Lack of jobs and affordable sustainable housing.
- Shortage of transitional housing and housing vouchers (HARP, TBRA)
- Survivors are coming to shelter with multiple issues that they need to address such as substance abuse, health issues, child protective service concerns, etc.

**“The crisis line counselor was attentive and kind. She gave great feedback and helped me to put a name to my situation with my spouse. I will always be grateful.”**  
-Survivor

**“Support Group and Counseling-both help deal with regaining your own strength to help you get through this and come out a better stronger person.”**  
-Survivor

### **Counseling Advocacy:**

**In the last year, our advocates provided services to 2,403 service participants through legal advocacy, individual counseling, support groups, and response team meetings.** We have seen an increase in the amount of hours our counselors have spent with service participants, although the actual number of

survivors we have seen has decreased. **These numbers indicate that our service participants are meeting with our counselors more frequently and for longer periods of time.** This is a testament to the quality of our domestic violence and sexual assault counselors, who create a welcoming, supportive, and healing space for survivors. When service participants meet with counselors for a longer period of time, we are able to provide a higher level of support in terms of meeting concrete needs and facilitating the healing process.

Although we hope to provide counseling to as many survivors as possible, there continues to be a great need for counseling services. Our counseling services are able to supplement for these limitations by providing continuous domestic violence and sexual assault support groups, as well as an abundance of specific need-based support groups. These groups offer a powerful connection between survivors to learn and support one another, that breaks down the isolation and blame often imparted by assailants.

**“I learn why I may be feeling the way I am and some strategies for dealing with them. I also come to realize that what I've been through isn't my fault.”**

-Survivor  
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**“Overall, this group has been great. I have met so many friends and supportive people here that know exactly what I have gone through. It is always making me feel way better week by week and meeting by meeting by feeling stronger every day.”**

-Survivor

## Response Team:

Our Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Response Teams are a vital way for survivors to connect with our services. After an incidence of violence, the response teams connect with survivors to offer empowering, nonjudgmental support, information, and offer resources.

**In 2008, our response teams made contact with a total of 648 community members.** After an incident of domestic violence or sexual assault, the response teams make contact either in person or over the phone in order to provide support, safety plan, discuss the legal system, and offer resources. The response teams are staffed by both staff and volunteer advocates, who respond to pages 24hrs a day, seven days a week. This contact opens the door for survivors to access more specific services that they may need. The Response Teams are a foundation for other services to build upon, by referring survivors to shelter, the helpline, counseling advocacy services, legal advocacy for on-going services.



## Volunteer Program:

**Each day volunteers make it possible to provide the extensive services that survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault deserve.**

**Crisis Intervention Volunteer Hours: 20,315.** This includes the volunteers who work in our shelter, answer the HelpLine, go out on-call with the Domestic Violence and the Sexual Assault Response Teams and the volunteers who open the playroom for the children in shelter. All these volunteers have an immediate and profound impact on the survivors they meet

**Behind the Scenes Volunteer Hours: 2570.** This represents only a fraction of the hours volunteers provided by the SafeHouse Community Friends, Teen Voice, board and committee members, as well as administrative assistants, receptionists and project workers. These volunteers do the valuable behind the scenes work that let staff and trained volunteers focus on survivors.

**Training Hours: 3859.** This represents the hours that our dedicated volunteers committed to trainings in preparation for working with survivors.



**TAKE A STAND TO END SEXUAL  
ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
VOLUNTEER**

**“I am so grateful to be a volunteer at SafeHouse Center. This place is amazing and it means so much to help out women who are literally transforming their lives day by day. The staff are well-informed and experienced and I know that the service participants are getting excellent care!”**  
–Receptionist Volunteer

***Thank you to all these volunteers who represent the heart of SHC and our community!***

# The Numbers

Domestic Violence Project, Inc./dba/SafeHouse Center statement of financial position, September 30, 2008.  
As presented by Weidmayer, Schneider, Raham & Bennett, Certified Public Accountants to the SafeHouse Center Board of Directors:

## Revenues, Gains, and Other Support

Contributions	\$ 796,342.00
Grants	\$ 877,440.00
Other Revenue	\$ 77,950.00
Net assets released from restriction	\$ 209,581.00

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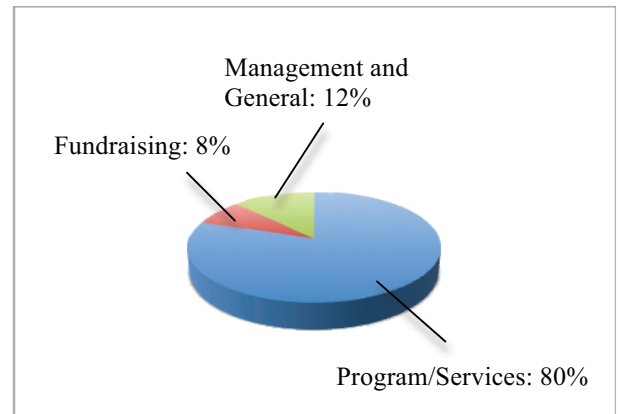
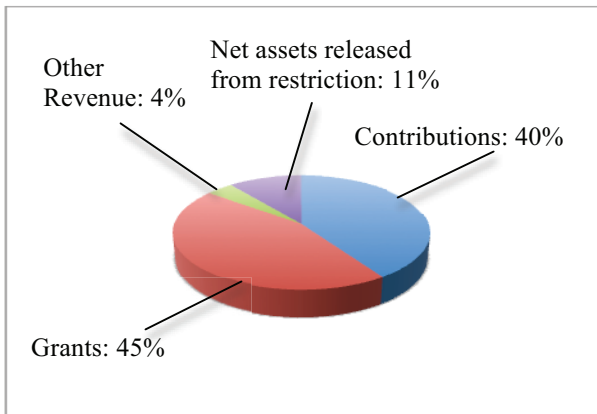
**TOTAL** \$ 1,948,647.00

## Functional Expenses

Program/Services	\$ 1,565,493.00
Fundraising	\$ 145,989.00
Management and General	\$ 237,165.00

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**TOTAL** \$ 1,961,313.00



**“Thank you! Every house should be a Safe House!”**  
-Survivor

**“My deepest and heartfelt thanks and gratitude to you SAFEHOUSE!”**  
-Survivor



**We hope you will help SafeHouse Center!**

There are many opportunities for involvement:  
If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to SafeHouse Center, please contact *Julaine LeDuc* at 734-973-0242 ext.273 or [julainel@safehousecenter.org](mailto:julainel@safehousecenter.org), or send a donation directly to *SafeHouse Center, 4100 Clark Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105.*

We couldn't provide comprehensive services to survivors without our dedicated volunteers. There are many ways for individuals or groups to become involved.

For information on volunteer opportunities, please contact *Kathy Winterhalter* at 734-973-0242 ext.252, or [kathyw@safehousecenter.org](mailto:kathyw@safehousecenter.org)