

24 hours a day, every day of the year

SafetHouse Center Response Teams



SAFEHOUSE
CENTER

SafetHouse Center - Spring 2011

Building communities
free of domestic violence
and sexual assault

Thank you for helping us change the numbers!

Dear Community

Twenty-four hours a day, 7 days a week, the staff and volunteers of SafeHouse Center's Response Teams answer calls from police and hospitals. Every day of the year, you'll find us in hospital rooms, doctor's offices, survivor's homes and jails - offering hope and safety to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. In a typical year, the Response Teams provide essential information and crisis intervention services to nearly 800 survivors in Washtenaw County.

Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) staff and volunteers provide immediate, on-site support. They also meet with survivors who have been hospitalized due to an assault or who report a past assault. Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) staff and volunteers provide crisis intervention and support to survivors, ages 16 and up, immediately following a sexual assault.

Most individuals first learn of SafeHouse Center through contact with our Response Teams. For many, it is their initial point of entry to our services.

Given the fear and stigma many survivors feel, it is imperative that we reach them quickly. Therein lies the strength of the Response Team program. SafeHouse Center goes to the survivor immediately, assuring that she will receive information and help at the most critical time following an assault. What's more, by working with area hospitals, law enforcement and prosecutors, we have been able to streamline processes and improve services to survivors in our community.

SafeHouse Center is one of the few agencies in our community that provides 24/7 services, not only through our shelter and HelpLine, but through our critical outreach into the community. We are here for survivors, whatever the time, wherever the call. That's why, although we provide many other services, in this issue we are highlighting our Response Team program.

I encourage you to take part in this important effort.

There are many ways you can "Help Us Change the Numbers." Your financial support ensures that we will remain available and in the community 24 hours a day. Your volunteer efforts allow us to maintain the level of service survivors and their children need and deserve. Your commitment to speak out against domestic violence and sexual assault informs others that these acts of violence will not be tolerated.

Together, we will continue to be there for those who need us.

Sincerely,

Barbara Niess May
Barbara Niess May

Executive Director

734-973-0242 ext. 203

barbaran@safehousecenter.org



SafeHouse Center Response Teams make a real difference in the lives of those we reach. As coordinators for these teams, we are grateful and proud that we're able to provide encouragement, resources, validation and hope to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault who may not be receiving support anywhere else.

Our team members listen to survivors' stories and let them know that there is a place where they can receive help, a place where they will be believed. For some survivors, this is the beginning of a healing process as they learn that the abuse is not their fault and that SafeHouse Center can help them find safety and begin creating violence-free homes for themselves and for their children.

As one survivor recently shared with us: "I never dreamed I would be locked out of my home, hurt and afraid for my life. I am so grateful SafeHouse Center was there." We could not have helped this individual or the hundreds of others we see every year in homes, jail cells and hospital rooms, without your assistance.

Thank you for "Helping Us Change the Numbers" through your support and through your belief that no one deserves to feel unsafe in their home. On behalf of all survivors, we extend a huge thank you to our 2010 donors whose names appear on the following pages.

Gratefully,

C. Copolongo-Davis
Carly Copolongo-Davis

Amy Merkle
Amy Merkle



"I am very grateful these services are available to me—and others who have experienced violence. I am amazed at the support and understanding I face from women who don't know me but know what I've been through. It's empowering.

Thank you."

SafeHouse Center 2010 Income Review

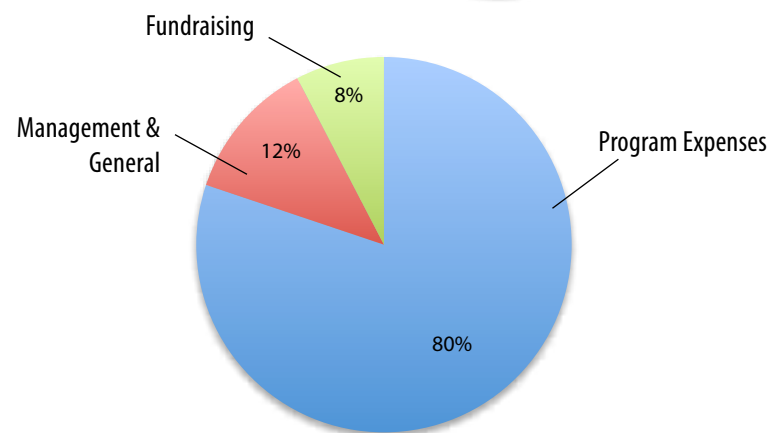
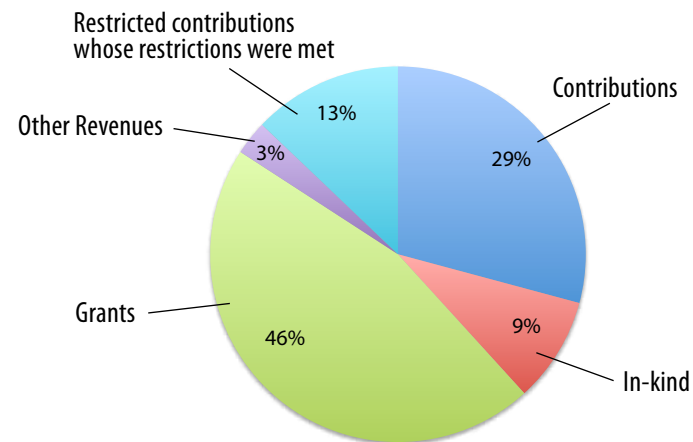
OPERATING REVENUE

Contributions.....	\$584,253
In-kind.....	\$181,747
Grants.....	\$919,000
Other Revenues.....	\$59,000
Restricted contributions whose restrictions were met.....	\$258,000
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$2,002,000

OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Expenses.....	\$1,511,000
Management & General.....	\$230,000
Fundraising.....	\$144,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,885,000

Financial information audited by Bennett & Associates.
Complete report available upon request. Please contact
Julaine LeDuc at: julainel@safehousecenter.org.



Thank you for your generosity...

Thanks to our donors in 2010,
we were able to provide:

Safety for 310 families in shelter

6,904 hours of counseling and advocacy

Empowering services to nearly 4,805
individuals who have gone on to create lives
free of violence for themselves and their children.

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Gust P. Bovoletis
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Sally Camper
Capital Area United Way
Gwendolyn M. Cartwright
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Rachel Matthews
Amy McLoughlin and Callie McKee
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Donovan Moo
Sarah Otto
Jennifer Palnau
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Pfizer United Way Campaign
Rajeev Batra
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Ann Arbor Animal Hospital
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Chad and Amanda Smith
Ken Smith

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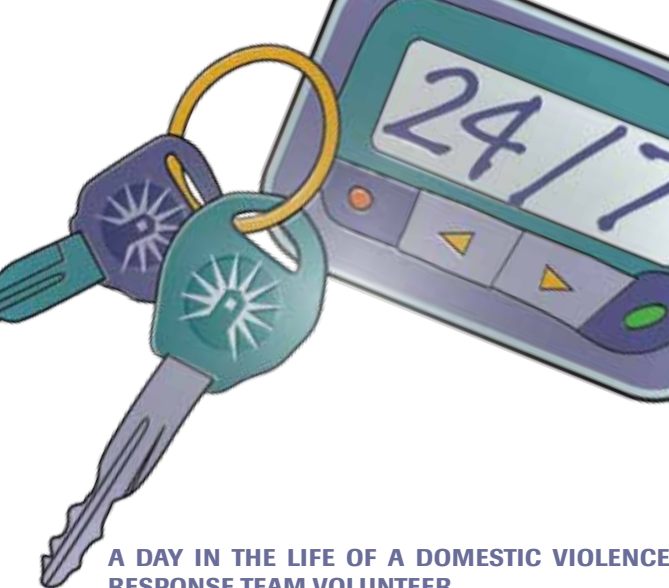
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In 2010 SafeHouse Center launched a county-wide multimedia

campaign—a combination of billboard, bus tail and poster advertising—to raise awareness about the frequency of domestic violence and sexual assault in local communities. The campaign is supported by a generous grant from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. We want you to join us in taking a stand against domestic violence and sexual assault in our communities. It happens here. Help us change the numbers by volunteering, speaking out against domestic violence and sexual assault, giving generously or calling SafeHouse Center's HelpLine if you or someone you know needs help.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE TEAM VOLUNTEER

8:00 a.m. Pick up the DVRT (Domestic Violence Response Team) pager at SafeHouse Center. On call for the next 24 hours....

8:15 a.m. My pager goes off. It's the person who was on call the night before, alerting me that there is a survivor in the hospital, someone they were unable to see early this morning.

8:20 a.m. Drive to the hospital. Spend the next two hours with the survivor, listening, telling her about the services we offer at SafeHouse Center. Her assault was especially violent, and she is afraid to return home. I let her know about our safe shelter and how to call for a shelter assessment.

10:30 a.m. Back to SafeHouse Center. Do follow-up paperwork and contact the shelter to let them know that the survivor I just saw may be calling. Pager goes off twice in the next hour with calls from walk-in survivors. One will be seen by the SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) responder. I will work with the other survivor.

11:30 a.m. Meet with the walk-in. She was referred to SafeHouse Center by another community agency that provides her with food assistance. She and her partner had an argument the evening before and she is beginning to realize that the relationship is abusive. She wants to talk about her options so I spend time with her, assessing her needs. I tell her about our support groups and counseling services. We spend an extensive amount of time on safety planning. When she is ready to leave, I give her a Survivor's Handbook and information about the next steps she needs to take if she would like future counseling sessions.

12:15 p.m. Three pages in a row with jail release alerts. The jail supplies the names of the survivors who may be affected by these releases. I attempt to contact the survivors to let them know the assailants have been released.

12:30 p.m. Although we try not to schedule counseling appointments when we have a Response Team shift, sometimes survivors are unable to come at a different time, so we make every effort to see them. My standing appointment arrives as I finish contacting the survivors about jail releases.

2:00 p.m. Start paperwork for the earlier contacts. A survivor walks in and I am paged. Her ex-husband has been stalking her and has threatened to kill her and their children. She is seeking a Personal Protection Order (PPO) to protect herself and her family. PPO requests need to be filed by 4:30 p.m., so I work with her to complete the paperwork. Then I deliver the forms to the City Clerk's office since the survivor has traveled by bus and can't make it to the Clerk's office in time.

4:30 p.m. As I drive back to SafeHouse Center, the pager rings again. A new walk-in is concerned not only for her own safety but for the safety of her teenage son as well. Although they have left the abusive relationship, she needs help with next steps and feels her son also needs supportive services. I return to SafeHouse Center, work with her to secure an appointment for her son at Ozone House, and give her the information she needs to join our drop-in support group.

5:00 p.m. I talk with my Response Team partner, who will be on call with me from now until 8:00 a.m. tomorrow. During the day, a SafeHouse Center staff member responds to pages. During the evening and overnight hours, we partner with another staff member or with a volunteer.

5:30 p.m. I complete the day's paperwork and head home.

7:00 p.m. My pager goes off. The police have made an arrest. We go to the survivor's home to provide her with information about our services, then talk with her for a couple of hours until the pager goes off again.

9:00 p.m. A law enforcement officer contacts us with a report a woman has been arrested. When police responded to the call, the husband had scratches on his face.

9:15 p.m. We visit the woman in jail. She reports that she scratched her husband while he was strangling her. She currently has no visible marks, as the bruises won't show for a few more hours. We discuss the history of the relationship and assess her as being a survivor and eligible for our services. We leave information for her.

Midnight We receive three more jail release calls and contact those survivors whose information has been provided by law enforcement officials.

3:00 a.m. Pager goes off. The hospital is calling us about a survivor who has been badly beaten by her boyfriend. We visit but can only talk to her sporadically as health care staffers are in and out, stitching her wounds and determining the severity of a head injury. We leave information with the survivor.

8:00 a.m. To SafeHouse Center, where I hand off my pager to the next Response Team member. While we are debriefing about pager activity, a survivor arrives who speaks only Spanish. We contact our Spanish-speaking advocate to assist her.

9:00 a.m. My scheduled appointment arrives and I start my new day. Today, it's someone else's turn to respond to the pager. And so the process continues, providing critical outreach to members of our community....



Help us change the numbers:

We are here for the community. We are happy to answer your questions, provide information, or talk to you about ways you can help.

If you want to...

- Talk to a counselor about domestic violence or sexual assault:
call our 24 Hour HelpLine: 734-995-5444
- Learn more about SafeHouse Center:
visit our website: www.safehousecenter.org
- Volunteer, apply for an internship, or receive information about training dates:
contact Kathy Winterhalter: 734-973-0242 x 252 or kathyw@safehousecenter.org
- Find out about making a donation or becoming involved in fund raising opportunities:
contact Julaine LeDuc: 734-973-0242 x 273 or julainel@safehousecenter.org
- Donate gift cards or other items, organize a fund raising event, benefit, or cell phone drive:
contact Gwyn Hulswit: 734-973-0242 x 277 or gwynh@safehousecenter.org
- Get a speaker for a class or event:
contact Kathy Winterhalter: 734-973-0242 x 252 or kathyw@safehousecenter.org



Are you interested in Volunteering at SafeHouse Center?

We have a rich history of providing exemplary services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and are in the forefront of efforts to create a violence-free society. We invite you to join us in this work and help us change the numbers.

If you would like to work directly with survivors and their children, SafeHouse Center has four programs in which you can do so. All of these programs involve crisis intervention, which includes providing emotional support and advocacy, engaging in safety planning and sharing information about domestic violence and sexual assault.

Our next 40-hour training program will be held September 16, 17, 18, 30, October 1, 2, 2011. Please contact Kathy Winterhalter for more information at *734-973-0242 ext. 252* or at *volunteer@safehousecenter.org*.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Drop-In: Domestic Violence Survivors:

Thursdays 6:30-8:00 pm
at First United Methodist Church in Ann Arbor

Drop-In: Sexual Assault Survivors:

Mondays 5:30-7:00 pm
at SafeHouse Center

Spanish Speaking Survivors:

Mondays 6:30-8:00 pm
at SafeHouse Center

For more information about any of the support groups, call the 24-hour HelpLine at 734-995-5444.



SafeHouse Center Wish List

SafeHouse Center provides support to survivors all year long. You can make a difference in the life of a survivor of sexual assault or domestic violence with your financial support or by donating the following new items. To learn more about this giving opportunity please contact Gwyn at 973-0242 ext. 277 or gwynh@safehousecenter.org.

- * Gift Cards (Meijer, Target, Kroger, Kmart, and Walmart)
- * Phone Cards
- * Gas Cards
- * New towels, sheets, and pillows
- * Dishes, glasses, pots and pans, silverware
- * Microwaves
- * Canned and boxed food items
- * New underwear for women and children up to teens

SafeHouse Center also has a wish list on amazon.com where you can purchase specific items needed by SafeHouse Center. SafeHouse Center is set up as an amazon.com affiliate; just follow the Amazon link at www.safehousecenter.org to visit amazon.com; a portion of all of your purchases is donated to SafeHouse Center at no cost to you.

SafeHouse Center Board of Directors

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

SafeHouse Center
4100 Clark Road
Ann Arbor MI 48105

www.safehousecenter.org

24-hour HelpLine: 734-995-5444
Business: 734-973-0242
FAX: 734-973-7817
info@safehousecenter.org

Our Newsletter is designed and prepared for printing by volunteer Jude Wilson of *Press Lorentz* in Ann Arbor.

Jude can be reached at:

734-604-1627 jwilson@presslorentz.com



DVP Inc.

4100 Clark Road
Ann Arbor MI 48105

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A poster for "PLAY FOR THE Cause 2011". The top text reads "PLAY FOR THE Cause SEPT. 23rd at Lake Forest Golf Club". The central image is a green golf club head with a clock face on its face, with the text "IT'S A MATTER OF TIME" curved around it. The bottom left says "6th Annual Golf Outing SAFEHOUSE CENTER". The bottom right says "SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!" and provides contact information for Julaine LeDuc: "For more information contact Julaine LeDuc at SafeHouse Center 734-973-0242 ext. 273 or julaine@safehousecenter.org".

**If you or someone you know is a survivor of sexual abuse or domestic violence
Call our 24 hour HelpLine: 734 995 5444**