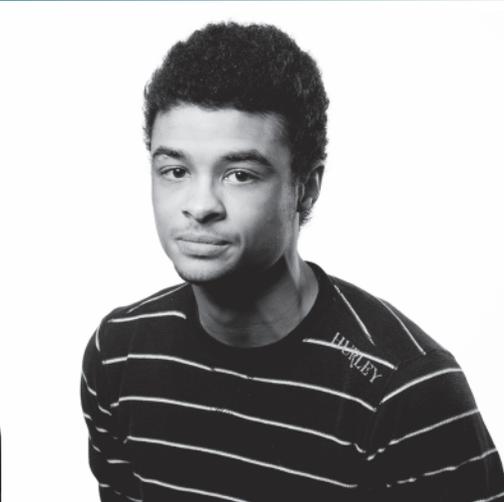




WE GIVE TO SAFEHOUSE



2014 OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES



SAFEHOUSE

## *A Message from the Executive Director*



### **Dear Friends**

**T**his past year has been a whirlwind of hard work and relentless effort. Thanks to everyone on our amazing team, it has also been a year of success achieved and challenges overcome.

In 2014, we were once again confronted by severe budget strains, forcing us to reach out to more diverse populations for financial support. As in past years, we did not back down in the face of challenges. Instead, with the help of people like you, we exceeded our fundraising goals, thereby assuring that survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence would have uninterrupted access to our services.

Because of you, those who are brave enough to walk through our doors have a safe place to stay and the resources they need to move their lives forward in peace. Last year, donors and volunteers made it possible for SafeHouse Center to serve over 5,000 survivors.

We are awed and humbled by the selfless generosity surrounding SafeHouse Center. And we wanted to learn more about supporters like you and what drives their devotion. So this year we did something different. We asked our volunteers and donors: Why? Why do you give your time, energy and financial support to SafeHouse Center?

Here's a small sample of their responses:

- We give to SafeHouse because... there are more and more survivors every day who need our services.
- Because...we don't want a child living in fear.
- Because...there is still violence in our community.
- Because...although it's a constant uphill battle, we have to provide a safe place to keep survivors and their children from being hurt or killed.

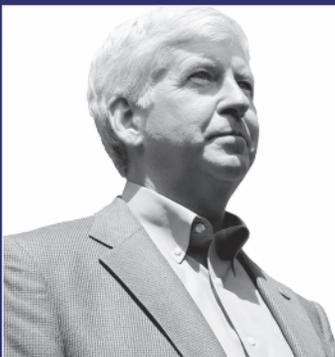
In an ideal world, there would be no need for a SafeHouse Center. But our world is far from ideal and so, together, we continue the battle against sexual assault and domestic violence. No words can describe the magnitude of the difference you make. We thank you—always—for your support of Washtenaw County's survivors and their children. And we thank you for continuing to make our life-saving work possible!

*With sincere gratitude,*



**Barbara Niess-May**  
Executive Director

## WE GIVE TO SAFEHOUSE



## *A SURVIVOR'S STORY... The Difference We Make, Together*

**M**illie was just 18 and away at college when she found herself in an abusive relationship. Without her family nearby, she was isolated and alone. Everywhere she turned, she was met with disbelief. Even her pastor urged her to go back to her husband.

“I didn’t know what to think or what to feel or where to go,” Millie said. “I just wish I had known of somewhere to go. Fliers advertising about resources for people in unhealthy relationships around my school or at the grocery store, anything.”

What Millie did know was that bruises, rape, and near-strangulation were not love. Luckily, after extensive self-reflection and prayer, Millie found the strength to leave this deadly relationship and get a divorce.

Fast forward several years. After breaking off a relationship, Millie’s ex-boyfriend turned violent and threatening. Feeling extremely unsafe, Millie decided to take the assailant to court, where she was directed to SafeHouse Center.

***This time, she would not have to face this alone; SafeHouse Center was there to help.***

Going into court, she was confident that she had a solid case. However, to her surprise, she was advised to reduce the charge to “inappropriate use of a cell phone” to ensure a win. Feeling deflated, she agreed. The offer was turned down by her former partner and the case continued as a stalking charge. After being rigorously questioned at the trial for more than an hour, Millie was exhausted. But her assailant was found guilty.

Throughout her life, Millie endured countless acts of violence, was isolated from family, and had nowhere to turn. However, being the empowered and resilient woman that she is, she did not back down—despite resistance from some of her friends, counselors, even her attorney. Instead, Millie discovered SafeHouse Center, decided to stand up for herself, and won brilliantly.

Today, Millie is in a happy and healthy relationship. Having earned an MBA, Millie is a successful woman, and is also involved in a mile-long list of community activities.

Millie is a survivor. An amazing person who set out to accomplish astounding things regardless of her past. She is an inspiration not only to other survivors, but to everyone she meets.

Now, Millie wants to give back to SafeHouse Center by breaking the silence that surrounds domestic violence. “Other people may be hesitant because they feel embarrassed or it’s just too painful,” she says. “But I’m ready to share my story.”



## WE GIVE TO SAFEHOUSE





*...because Safehouse was there when I needed them*

**...because no one  
deserves to be abused**

**...to break the silence**

*...because I'm a survivor*

*...because I've treated too many abused women*

**...because we care**

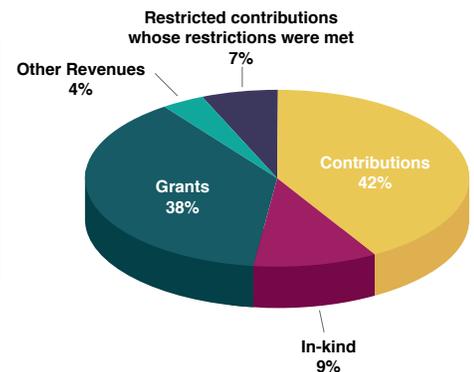
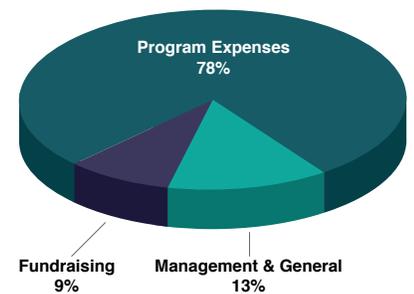
*...because everyone deserves safe shelter*

**WE GIVE TO SAFEHOUSE**



OPERATING REVENUE	Audited 2014
Contributions	\$835,688.00
In-kind	\$176,470.00
Grants	\$751,455.00
Other Revenue	\$78,062.00
Restricted contributions whose restrictions were met	\$129,651.00
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,971,326.00</b>

OPERATING EXPENSES	Audited 2014
Program Expenses	\$1,442,739.00
Management & General	\$253,043.00
Fundraising	\$162,418.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,858,200.00
<b>Increase/Decrease in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$113,126.00</b>



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



Business Line: 734-973-0242

Help Line: 734-995-5444

SafeHouse Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is 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.