

Letter from Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It is impossible to reflect on the past year without considering the challenges faced by the entire community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the intensity of domestic violence events has increased due to volatile home situations and



mandated quarantines. While the pandemic has created a spike in terms of community need for Safe Harbor's services, we saw a growing need for our services pre-pandemic with an annual trend in the previous fiscal year of a 40% increase in requests for services.

We are saddened to see this growing need, but optimistic about more survivors coming forward to use our services. Recovery from domestic abuse is a multi-faceted and difficult process. Survivors are challenged with obtaining financial security, childcare, and affordable housing while oftentimes overcoming substance abuse, lack of education, and mental health issues.

Safe Harbor has sought to combat the rising need through the help of the community and generous individuals. An ongoing need for survivors is therapeutic intervention to help prevent recidivism. Through the tireless efforts of our staff, we have successfully obtained funding sources to increase our therapeutic services. You will read more about this effort and its importance later in our annual report.

At the break of the pandemic early in 2020, Safe Harbor worked quickly to ensure the safety of staff and our clients. We faced many challenges but creatively addressed them to allow for the continuation of our essential services. Increased sanitation of facilities, protective gear such as masks and gloves, protective equipment installed in our emergency shelter, and limitations on housing capacity went into place for the safety of clients and staff. Employees who could perform their duties from home worked at home during the state-mandated quarantine period. We continue to observe recommendations on-site to help stem the increasing number of COVID-19 cases.

We are thankful every day to those frontline staff who take on additional risk when they come to work to serve those in need. While healthcare employees, grocery store workers, mail and parcel delivery drivers, and others have received well-deserved appreciation for helping the population through this pandemic, social workers, such as those employed at Safe Harbor, also deserve an enthusiastic thank you.

We are continually grateful for the community support we receive, and we assure you despite the challenges of this past year, Safe Harbor will continue to operate and continue in the fight against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. As always, we invite you to join us.

Sincerely,

Kristen Floyd

Executive Director

Gristen Floyd



FAST FACTS



Total clients served







Children served



Community education attendance



Shelter nights







Client Progress

90% progressed on a goal

93% felt increased safety

90% felt more confident about decisions



NOW 801-444-9161



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The Fight for Therapy

In a needs assessment performed by the University of Utah in 2016-2017, domestic violence survivors identified limited access to therapy as one of the greatest challenges to recovery. In the past fiscal year, Safe Harbor has sought funding to address this critical need.

"We [survivors] come into shelter with a lot of emotional baggage from the relationship that we have and we're so focused on getting a place to stay and food and taking care of the essentials that we forget to take better care of ourselves... I think that needs to be really addressed so that we can be better moms. I couldn't even drive the first few weeks because... the trauma was so fluid in my mind that that's all that was there. I couldn't concentrate. I couldn't sleep. I couldn't eat. I couldn't even drive.



I'm like I can't function properly. I have to process this. So, I think that there needs to be like maybe some counselors." Without therapy to assist in trauma recovery, some individuals turn to substances to self-medicate: an action that makes their situation even more difficult. Lack of therapy can also lead victims to remain or return to dangerous environments.

Our current therapy program has a waiting list of over 100 individuals and an average wait time of 3-6+ months. Because sexual trauma can have a serious impact on mental health, it's important that services and support consider and address the trauma that individuals have experienced. Sexual assault can have a variety of short and long-term effects on a survivor's mental health. Many survivors report flashbacks of their assault as well as feelings of shame, isolation, shock, confusion, and guilt. Providing services soon after the trauma can reduce the severity of trauma. Through generous donations, Safe Harbor expanded our therapy program by adding two additional therapists and four therapy interns. The therapy program provides on average 1800+ hours of therapy for adolescent and adult survivors of domestic and sexual violence annually. That is 1800+ hours of face-to-face time supporting clients.



Emergency Shelter Hotel Funding

Looking at a five-year average, domestic violence assaults are up 51% in the year 2020. While sheltering at home is an important measure designed to protect individuals from the coronavirus, it has proven to raise the intensity of domestic violence incidents. In the State of Utah, over 40% of homicides since 2000 have been Domestic Violence related. A search of news will garnish a number of victim's names: Haynie family (Grantsville), Natalie Thurber (Salt Lake City), Utahna Halona (Midvale), Ashlyn Black (Layton), to name a few. One death is one too many, and Safe Harbor endeavors to accommodate any and all who qualify for our Emergency Shelter Program, supplemented this year by hotel/motel stays.

While all Safe Harbor's services are crucial, the limitation of our Emergency Shelter due to the pandemic added stress to an already overburdened program. In Fiscal Year 19-20, Safe Harbor had to turn away 500 requests to our Emergency Shelter. Emergency Shelter is used to help individuals who are in high-risk situations find a place to shelter in safety. Our shelter saves lives every year and is often a gateway to recovery for Safe Harbor Clients.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Safe Harbor's maximum capacity for our Emergency Shelter faced greater limitations. Safe Harbor's Emergency Shelter has 10 available rooms and 31 beds. To ensure the safety of clients and staff that availability became limited to 6 rooms to host families with up to 16 beds total, and 4 rooms with 4 beds for individuals, limiting the entirety of our on-site housing to 20 individuals at a time. Because residents in Emergency Shelter are often fleeing highly dangerous situations, it became crucial for Safe Harbor to find an alternative means of housing clients. Fortunately, Safe Harbor was able to secure funding through the CARES Act to meet the needs of those who seek help at our facility.

With additional funding, Safe Harbor placed qualified clients into hotels/motels. This expanded our Shelter capacity by providing an additional four rooms and eight beds for families and individuals. Through the hotel/motel vouchers program, Safe Harbor provided an additional 1202 nights of safety. These life-saving efforts would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors and community funding.



THERE IS HOPE

February 25, 2019, Ana, a survivor of domestic violence and sexual assault walked into Safe Harbor's Lifeline and Prevention Center for the first time. "I was broken, like really broken. I seem to endure domestic violence a lot, but this time it was an experience for me and my son. He was scared and broken, afraid to go to school or leave the house. I was referred to Safe Harbor from the Officer and Victims' advocate."

In the United States, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner, approximately 10 million men and women each year (Art Therapy International, 2019). Ana's trauma led her to feelings of helplessness, fear, and depression. When Ana was referred to Safe Harbor she did not know what she would find. "I didn't trust at all. I felt like my perpetrator knew everyone, I was paranoid and I was also semi-new to Utah. I was scared he was going to kill me, And when I walked in I felt like I was home, I felt like I was safe from my perpetrator, my advocate welcomed me, ...and made me feel like I was important like I was acknowledged."

Earlier this year, Ana was introduced to the Allstate Purple Purse program. "My perpetrator took everything from me, my dignity, my self-esteem, independence, ...and all my \$6,000 in savings. He almost took my son and my apartment. When my advocate called me for the Purple Purse program and I did the class and earned a certificate, I felt good that I can at least build my life. The class taught me how to control my own funds and power, I have now been able to be 100% independent and my self-esteem is back. I have not looked back once on what I lost but what I'm going to do to continue to achieve "MY GOALS". I'm not struggling like I was, I put my child first now and focus on my dreams. I am no longer a victim, I'm a survivor! I've overcome sexual trauma and I'm FREE!! Free from abuse, debt, and pain,"

*Names have been changed for privacy reasons



FINANCIAL REPORT

FY 2019-20

<u>Income</u>	
Corporate/Private Donations	\$124,627
Fundraisers	\$173,438
Grants	\$1,661,241
Rental Income	\$6,064
Other/In-kind Income	\$118,265
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	<u>\$2,083,635</u>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Salaries & Wages	\$1,063,801
Fringe Benefits	\$238,731
Client Services	\$196,195
Rent	\$24,830
Building Maintenance & Utilities	\$151,196
Professional Fees & Licenses	\$66,617
Other Expenses	\$218,336
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$1,959,706</u>
Net Assets at End of Year	\$2,236,053



THANK YOU!

This year has been especially challenging for all, but the support received by our community was evident. Thank you for your continued support and invite you to learn more at https://safeharborhope.org/offer-hope/

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Safe Harbor is led by an all-volunteer Board of Directors who provide leadership, stewardship, and support for our clients, services, staff, and volunteers.

VOLUNTEERS AT SAFE HARBOR

year was a challenge, our incredible volunteers found creative ways to support our mission. If you would like to become part of this incredibly-talented, committed group, email volunteer@safeharborhope.org.

MISSION

Safe Harbor, a non-profit organization, provides shelter, supportive services, and advocacy to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as education. awareness, and resources to our community

STAY IN TOUCH

24/7 Crisis Line: 801.444.9161 Lifeline Prevention Center: 385.515.4044 Business Line: 801.444.3191



www.facebook.com/SafeHarborCrisisCenter

Lifeline Prevention Center: Station Park, Mailing: PO Box 772, Kaysville, Utah 84037