

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

SAFE SHELTER OF ST. VRAIN VALLEY

SERVING ALL VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As we at Safe Shelter reflect on our work in 2014, we remember a year of intense activity, advocacy, and activism. Our programs served nearly 600 victim/survivors of domestic violence, supported clients through over 12,000 nights of safe emergency and transitional housing, provided over 3,000 counseling sessions, assisted 70 clients with complex legal cases, and educated over 1,700 teens in the St. Vrain Valley School District about building healthy relationships.

During 2014, the Staff and Board of Safe Shelter made a landmark policy decision by opening the Emergency Shelter facility to male victims and their children. In September, our first male resident and his 5 children found safety and support in shelter after enduring years of abuse and instability. In shelter, Dad found the information, resources and advocacy he needed to move his family toward a peaceful life. His children were surrounded by a supportive residential community that taught them that abuse is never OK, and that they are loveable and capable young people deserving the very best care. Services for men and their children have been in place in our Public Office since 2004. Now we are proud to be able to say that all services are fully available to all individuals affected by domestic abuse.

Supporting children's healing has always been a priority for Safe Shelter. Nearly 200 children passed through our doors in 2014. Each of them found a warm, welcoming and safe advocate who was ready to talk, play, paint, build, read, dance, sing, and learn with them. Each

came to understand that they were valuable, unique and capable people who deserved the very best care. Helping children to truly heal is possible only if their non-offending parent is part of that process. Often the relationships between non-offending parents and their children are sabotaged by the abusive partner. To heal and strengthen the bond between victimized parents and children, Safe Shelter has implemented the A Kid Is So Special (K.I.S.S.) Program. This 12-week flexible model invites parents and children to reconnect and rebuild positive relationships.

Looking forward, Safe Shelter will continue to increase our impact through expanded services and partnerships. In 2015, we will be embarking on a strategic plan, which will include working with men and boys as allies, and investigating a social enterprise to ensure our sustainability.

Our work would not be possible without the 37-year investment of our community, the dedication of professionals who partner with us each day, and the financial support of donors and funders. We are grateful to have such loyal supporters in our circle, helping us realize our mission and vision—thank you!

In Peace & Justice,



Jackie List
Executive Director



JACKIE LIST
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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2014 SPOTLIGHT



A KID IS SO SPECIAL (K.I.S.S.) PROGRAM UPDATE

The K.I.S.S. program completed its first year as our hallmark program designed to work with non-offending parents and their children. The program deepened our capacity to address the needs of children and adolescents, to heal damaged relationships as a result of the abuser's behavior, and to advance the non-offending parent's care-giving capacity. The project demonstrated success in assisting youngsters' ability to express their feelings, deepening parents' understanding of the complexity of the impact on the family, and providing the tools to respond to children's emotional needs. Both moms and children also self-reported improvements in physical ailments such as headaches, lower back

pain, asthma attacks, nightmares, wakeful sleep, school attendance and attention while there, and reduced inter-dependency illustrated by decreased texting and phone calls between parents and children. These are first steps in building personal and family stability. More stable and healthy families means more stable employment, school attendance, ability to thrive and a better chance of positive future outcomes.



LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM EXPANSION

When our long-time Legal Advocate retired to spend more time with her toddler, we were presented with the opportunity to hire a licensed attorney (Director of Legal Advocacy). Nick Butler has added knowledge, expertise and an increased capacity to assist victims of DV with their multiple, complex legal cases of safety, child protection and custody, housing, and division of property and finances, to name a few. Through an agreement with Workforce Boulder County, we were able to increase support with Chase Mosqueda as Legal Advocate who learned new skills while also providing outstanding assistance to victims seeking help, protection orders, and court accompaniment.

SERVING MEN IN SHELTER

Safe Shelter achieved a milestone in honoring its mission to serve all individuals affected by domestic abuse without discrimination. In August, the board approved accepting male residents and in September we received our first male resident and his children.

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Last year marked the launch of two events that remain on our yearly calendar as part of our expansion in community outreach and our commitment to raise awareness about the impact of domestic violence.

5K RACE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

ON A BRIGHT AUTUMN MORNING...

...Safe Shelter sponsored its first 5K Race Against Domestic Violence in collaboration with Longmont Ending Violence Initiative (LEVI). The sporting event included a diverse array of singles, pairs, and intergenerational family participants. As an annual event, we hope to include other health-oriented activities to enhance our "Stay Safe, Stay Healthy" initiative.





LEGACY LUNCHEON

HONORING OUR PAST, SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE

THIRTY-SIX YEARS AGO...

...a group of determined women decided to make a change. Through their hard work, professional skills and vision, they created a 24-hour call center, surreptitiously distributed cards and fliers to women throughout Longmont, made presentations to law enforcement officials, and took women into their homes, offering support and safety.

On October 22nd Safe Shelter sponsored its first annual Legacy Luncheon to honor the work and the leadership of our founders. Our founders' members, early Board members, and former Executive Directors stand before archival documents that reflect the early years of our organization's development.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Phyllis Dwyer, Eileen Biscard, Carolyn Sunderland, Sharon Wherry, Nancy Herbert, Lynn Wylie, Maritza Sneddon, Mary Kopman

NOT SHOWN:

Melodye Feldman

IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

COUNSELING SERVICES

2,238	Individual counseling sessions
1,221	Group counseling contacts
254	Outreach clients served (Women)
98	Outreach clients served (Children)
10	Outreach clients served (Men)

"I was so scared to come; so scared that I was wrong or that I was abusive and all of the other lies that I had come to believe from years of abuse. The advocates have helped me be more confident, find myself again, fight for my realities and given me the tools and support for a better, strong, positive future for myself and my children."

EMERGENCY SHELTER

3,521	Nights of shelter provided
113	Shelter adults served
96	Shelter children served
17.1	Average length of stay

"I was in another shelter once before and immediately went back to my abuser. Being a resident at Safe Shelter was a transformational experience for me, but it was the counseling that I am receiving there that makes me feel confident that this will a successful PERMANENT release from a nine-year abusive relationship that I could not leave in the past. I am more certain than ever that this is finally the end."

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING: CASE MANAGEMENT

50	Clients Served
9,437	Nights of housing

COMMUNITY AWARENESS/ EDUCATION

68	Events
18,584	Community Members Reached

ACT COMMUNITY

LEGAL SERVICES

62	Civil Assistance
8	Criminal Justice Support

"The legal help, counseling and attendance at our hearing was such a help to me and my son. I greatly appreciate Nick's legal counsel and how he taught the school district personnel the truth regarding protective orders and how it affected my son. You have all been a blessing to us during a very difficult time."

TEENS ENDING RELATIONSHIP ABUSE (TERA) PROGRAM

1,701	High school students reached
60	Number of presentations
722	Number of TERA volunteer hours

"Talking to students about relationship abuse is important to me because it's not easily recognizable in non-physical forms. I want to help people learn to tell the difference between what is and what isn't ok in a relationship, so we can reduce the number of students who are abused by their dating partner, their family members, or even their friends."

GEOGRAPHICAL REACH

9	Number of Colorado counties served
9	Number of additional states served

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

1,197	Number of crisis calls
2,481.5	Number of volunteer hours (Not including TERA)



A NEW BEGINNING

AFTER YEARS OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE IN THEIR HOME...

...Lauren's husband was charged with assault and imprisoned for the second time. As a mom, she felt her family was in shambles. She lived with trauma, feared for the mental health of her two young girls and faced the responsibility of supporting the household on her own. On the recommendations of Longmont Police Department, Lauren sought help at Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley, launching a slow road to recovery for the family in crisis through our comprehensive programming. The children slowly began to learn trust and communication skills through specialized counseling while Lauren participated in individual and group counseling and received case management and legal support. The family was provided with emergency food vouchers, funds to pay for

car repairs for Lauren's new job, assistance with transitional housing and backpacks were outfitted with supplies at the start of the school year. Five years later, the family has a stable home, Lauren is employed and the kids check back with counselors at Safe Shelter's Public Outreach facility now and then, knowing they are welcome to visit at no cost with trained, compassionate staff who can help them through life's challenges.

FROM
Small beginnings
COME GREAT THINGS.

IN A FOREIGN LAND

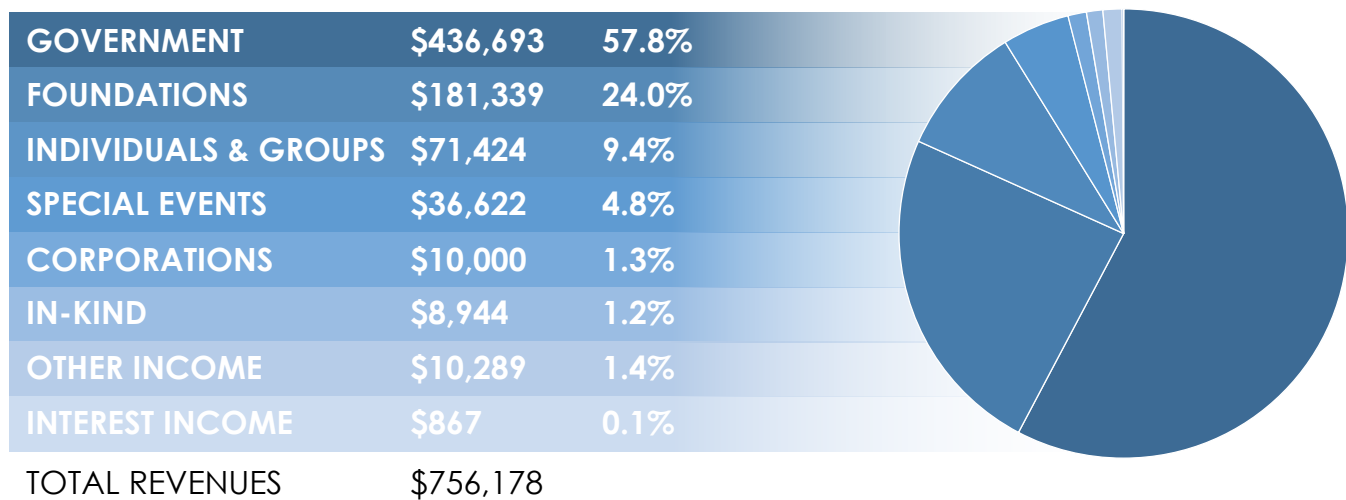
LISA ARRIVED WITH HER SON FROM AN ASIAN NATION...

...with little English capacity but trust in the American man who declared his love and offered promise for a rewarding new life. She left behind her family and all that was familiar. Almost immediately, her new husband began abusing her, enslaving her and selling her to his acquaintances for sexual favors. She had left her home in disgrace and was without resources, language and cultural understanding. With the support of a local English-speaking Japanese friend, Lisa sought out assistance from Safe Shelter's legal advocate and was accepted as a resident into shelter. With guidance from our advocates, Lisa obtained a Permanent Protection Order, referral to an immigration attorney to get her a UVISA to stay permanently in this county, and counseling to slowly dismantle her state of shock

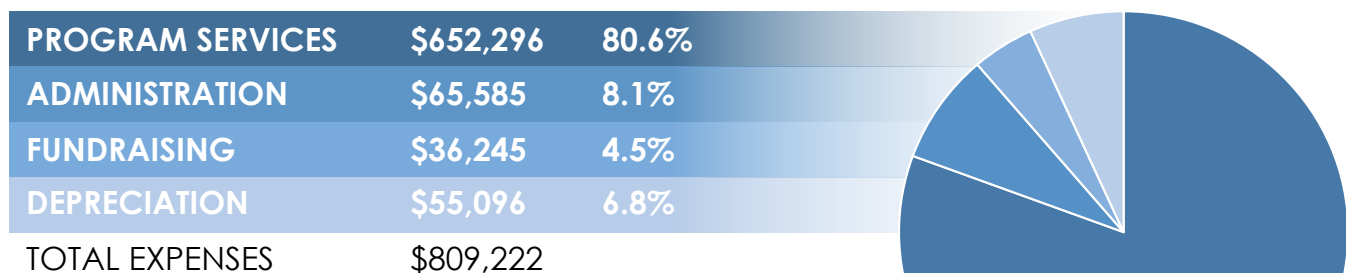
stemming from the physical abuse, degradation and utter betrayal she had experienced. Within four weeks, she acquired a working conversational English vocabulary. Safe Shelter's housing advocate secured Lisa a home in Gateway transitional housing, from where she studied English and gained employment as a skilled Japanese cook, while her son studied and became a certified Sushi chef. With integrated support and faith in her abilities from Safe Shelter staff, Lisa drew on her inner strength and sense of purpose, emerging as a strong mother and professional, independent woman. She returns now and then, bearing a sumptuous Japanese meal for the advocates that helped her on her path.

2014 FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUES



EXPENSES



CHANGE IN ASSETS

Beginning of Year, Net Assets **\$1,824,409**
 End of Year, Net Assets **\$1,771,365**
 Change in Assets **(\$53,044)**

SUPPORT SAFE SHELTER

PLANNED GIVING

Whether you are creating a will, making changes to an existing will, or planning a long term gift, consider talking to your attorney about charitable estate planning techniques. Remember the lives you will be touching by making Safe Shelter a part of your plans.

CORPORATE GIVING

If you own your business, Safe Shelter will work with your company to find the right partnership for your philanthropic goals. If you work for a business, find out if you can increase the impact of your gift through a donation match program.

MONTHLY DOSE OF GOODNESS

Your support of Safe Shelter's comprehensive services will help families in crisis strive stabilize their lives and strive toward a self-sufficient future.

SECURE ONLINE GIVING

Make a donation online by visiting the Safe Shelter Website.

IN-KIND GIFTS

Make a gift of new Wish List items posted on the Safe Shelter Website.

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT CAN PROVIDE

- \$50** A personal care kit with toiletries, diapers, and a change of clothes for a client.
- \$150** One nutritious dinner for all clients at the shelter.
- \$250** A full night in the shelter, including counseling; meals; and a warm, safe bed.
- \$1000** 12-week K.I.S.S. curriculum for a parent and a child needing to heal and to strengthen the bonds severed by their abuser.

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Longmont Yarn Shoppe, LLC
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Business Woman's Referral Group
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First Congregational United Church of Christ
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who prefer to remain anonymous.



SAFE SHELTER OF ST. VRAIN VALLEY
P.O. BOX 231
LONGMONT, COLORADO 80502

24/7 CRISIS LINE: (303) 772-4422

OFFICE: (303) 772-0432

FAX: (303) 772-1576

TERA TEXTLINE: (720) 340-8372

WEBSITE: SAFESHELTEROFSTVRain.ORG
EMAIL: INFO@SAFESHELTEROFSTVRain.ORG