As we approach our 40th Anniversary in 2017, SafeHouse Denver is pleased to announce plans to make a longtime strategic vision a reality with the addition of an Extended Stay Program (ESP). Our ESP will be a six-to-eight unit apartment building for shelter residents who are out of crisis, but require additional time to pursue affordable housing, employment, child care and other resources essential to achieving self-sufficiency.

“Over the past eight years, we’ve seen a significant increase in the number of women and children staying in our emergency shelter for long periods, sometimes up to four or five months,” notes CEO Victoria McVicker. “The lack of safe, affordable housing is the greatest barrier facing domestic violence survivors seeking to leave an abusive relationship. In Metro Denver, multi-year waitlists for Section 8 or other government housing, high rental and occupancy rates and on average, three-to-four-month waiting lists for transitional housing programs are often insurmountable challenges.”

McVicker estimates that the availability of SafeHouse Denver’s ESP would allow emergency beds to turnover within 30 days, making it possible to serve about 125 to 150 more women and children in immediate crisis each year. Equally important, is the decreased risk of re-traumatizing survivors who are doing well as they won’t be living with those in acute crisis.

In keeping with our strong commitment to good stewardship of donor funds, as well as sound financial management, SafeHouse Denver will identify and purchase the apartment building with cash. We are most grateful that The Anschutz Foundation has launched our capital fundraising efforts with a $200,000 conditional grant which will be funded when all funds necessary to purchase the building have been raised.

ESP at a Glance...

- Safe, secure, rent-free, independent living in fully-furnished studio or one bedroom apartments.
- Central Denver location, in close proximity to public transportation.
- A two-week supply of basic necessities such as toiletries and grocery staples, as well as bus tokens to help residents make the immediate transition into the ESP.
- Individual counseling, support groups, advocacy services and referral to self-sufficiency-related resources through SafeHouse Denver’s Counseling and Advocacy Center and a host of other community partners.
- On-site case manager.
- One-to-four month length of stay with longer periods possible on a case-by-case basis.
- Available to SafeHouse Denver emergency shelter residents who are working or receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Medicaid, and on transitional housing or other types of waiting lists.
- All ESP applicants must have a clearly documented plan for self-sufficiency which will be reviewed and approved by the Director of Shelter Services and ESP Case Manager.

“The lack of safe, affordable housing is the greatest barrier facing domestic violence survivors seeking to leave an abusive relationship.”

“As longtime supporters of SafeHouse Denver, we recognize the critical role that this outstanding agency plays in our community, providing domestic violence survivors with safe shelter, comprehensive counseling and advocacy services and access to essential resources,” said Ted Harms, the Foundation’s Executive Director. “We’re very proud to partner with SafeHouse Denver as they move forward with making ESP a reality in our community.”

SafeHouse Denver’s leadership has set the capital fundraising goal at $1M, including renovations and furnishings, and will tap private foundations, individual donors and corporate supporters as part of their capital fundraising efforts. “ESP is a wonderful opportunity to invest in the future of SafeHouse Denver, reduce homelessness in our community, and most importantly, invest in building a brighter future for survivors of domestic violence and their children,” emphasizes Board Chair Joy Woller.

Please watch for more details about this exciting new venture on our website, social media and future print communications.
Dear Friends,

I want to tell you a story. Many moons ago, our Director of Shelter Services attended a third party event to benefit SafeHouse Denver. As she often does, she mingled with guests, spoke about our services and discussed specific ways to support our mission.

At the end of the event, a guest approached and handed her an envelope. She thanked our staff member for the work that we do and said goodnight. When the envelope was opened, a donation had been thoughtfully enclosed. There was also a note. It read, “You don’t know me but I carried your card in my wallet for a year. I didn’t need to use it but I’m ever so grateful you are here. Thank you.”

To our knowledge, we never saw this woman again, but the donation envelope with her note still hangs in our offices. It’s a daily reminder of our connection to one another. It’s a reminder that, for many survivors of domestic violence, SafeHouse Denver’s availability as a resource is a reassuring comfort. It provides hope for a future free from violence, fear and intimidation.

Together, in 2015, our donors, funders, volunteers and other supporters helped us be there for so many in our community. We served 1,572 adults, children and youth through our Emergency Shelter and non-residential Counseling and Advocacy Center. We also responded to 16,504 calls to our 24-Hour Crisis and Information Line, providing callers with often lifesaving support and access to critical resources.

As you’ll read in our cover story, we’re on the cusp of an exciting time programmatically. We’ve officially launched capital fundraising efforts for our future Extended Stay Program. This additional facility will be one more way that we’re here for victims and survivors of domestic violence. We’re certain that this new program will be the next step in helping survivors achieve safe, healthy self-sufficient, abuse-free lives.

As a friend of SafeHouse Denver, you understand the complex issue of domestic violence prevention and intervention. With that in mind, we hope you’ll support us by making a financial contribution today. Like the woman who wrote that note many years ago, you will be allowing other potential victims and survivors to be “ever so grateful that SafeHouse Denver is here” for all who need us.

Thank you for your belief in our mission and for investing your time and treasure in supporting our work.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Victoria A. McVicker
Chief Executive Officer
Thank You, Judy!

Judy Carrier, Director of the Counseling and Advocacy Center at SafeHouse Denver for the past seven and a half years and employee extraordinaire for close to 18 years, retired at the end of 2015. Her contributions, as well as dedication, to the mission of SafeHouse Denver are truly immeasurable. We will miss her immensely and wish her all the best on this new chapter in her life.

Board Update

We’re pleased to welcome Heather Magic of Delta Dental and John Rivera of Bellco Credit Union to our Board of Directors as well as welcome back Roger Sherman of CRL Associates from a brief leave of absence.

Leave A Legacy

Invest in a violence-free future by becoming a member of SafeHouse Denver’s planned giving society, Legacy of Hope. There are several ways you can make planned gifts to SafeHouse Denver and enjoy tax and income benefits. Contact Valerie Chileski, Chief Development Officer, at 303-302-6116 or vchileski@safehouse-denver.org for more information.

Westerra Credit Union

If you’ve been searching for a new banking option, consider opening an account at any Westerra Credit Union location. When you do, mention SafeHouse Denver and Westerra Credit Union will donate $52.80 to SafeHouse Denver. As a locally-owned credit union, Westerra is happy to support the survivors of domestic violence in our community. Each donation is enough to provide five support group sessions to a woman in our Emergency Shelter. Best of all, there’s no limit to the number of new accounts you can open, and each one will result in a $52.80 donation! Visit www.WesterraCU.com for more information.

Save The Date: Shakin’ It for SafeHouse

For the fourth year in a row, dancers from across the Denver-metro area will put on a fun-filled dance show to benefit survivors of domestic violence. This year, the Shimmy Mob and Shakin’ It for SafeHouse will both take place on the same day, May 14, 2016. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for further details. We hope to see you there!

Westerra Credit Union

The Ninth Annual Warren Miller Film Screening to benefit SafeHouse Denver was another rousing success! Nearly 180 guests came out to Stoney’s Bar and Grill to watch the latest film, Chasing Shadows. There were two exciting games of Ro-Sham-Bo this year, with both winners taking home a pair of Icelandic Skis. Overall, the event raised nearly $4,900 to support adults, children and youth as they reclaim their right to a life free from domestic violence.

We’d like to extend our deepest gratitude to Brenda and Christopher Volgenau for their tireless work in coordinating the event for the ninth year in a row. We’d also like to thank Warren Miller Entertainment, Stoney’s Bar & Grill, Oskar Blues Brewery, the volunteers and all attendees for their generous support of the event.

'Twas The Season!

Thank you to the 47 donors who generously provided holiday gifts and Thanksgiving food baskets to 103 families in services at SafeHouse Denver. Your generosity helped make the holiday season brighter for those we serve!

Thank You!

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses for hosting a third party event or initiative on our behalf since September.

AEG Live; Ashli Griswold; Bellco Credit Union; Brian Thye Forrest; Colorado Department of Corrections; Girls in Gis; Italians of America, North Denver; Kutak Rock; Lakewood Dance Academy; Larson Financial, Inc.; Lifetime Fitness, Westminster; Logan, Dean, Heather & John Day-Richter; LUPEC Denver; MasTec Advanced Technologies; MOMs Club of East Parker; Bethany Wolfer; Kim A. Sharp-Leyba; My Drink On; PeaceJam; Rock Canyon High School Women’s Choir; Skinology; Steel Spirit Jewelry; Warrior Yoga Academy

Shelter Relief Staff

Michelle Brister, Domestic Violence Advocate
Jessica Wall Schmidt, Grants Manager
Rachael Williams, Domestic Violence Advocate
Ruth Williams, Outreach Advocate
Cassidy Windchip, Domestic Violence Advocate
Sabrina Wright-Hobart, Development and Administrative Assistant

Newsletter Credits

Valerie Chileski & Ashley Goldner, Co-Editors
Shannon Bolt, Contributor
Steve Cruz, Graphic Design

Winter/Spring 2016
On June 2, 2016, Sampling for Hope will bring together some of the best chefs and caterers in Denver to create a casual evening featuring delicious bites and samples.

Attendees will gather at the Westin Denver Downtown to be treated to small plates prepared by some of Denver’s culinary elite. There will be a silent auction and Cork Draw — guests who donate $20 come away with a bottle of wine!

Thank you to the following Sponsors for their support: Westerra Credit Union, The Bradsby Group, MasTec Advanced Technologies and FirstBank.

Interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities or participating as a restaurant for this event? Call Shannon at 303-302-6126 or email sboltz@safehouse-denver.org.

Ways to Support SafeHouse Denver

The generosity of our donors, sponsors, funders and friends is essential to our work. Every gift is important, so please consider making a donation in one of these ways.

• Make a financial contribution: mail a check using the enclosed giving envelope; call 303-302-6126; or donate online at coloradogives.org/safehouse.

• Commit to a monthly gift and become a Sustainer of Hope by selecting the option on the enclosed giving envelope or online coloradogives.org/safehouse.

• Make a planned gift by naming SafeHouse Denver in your will or estate plans.

• Designate SafeHouse Denver as your charity of choice during your employer’s workplace giving campaign. Simply note SafeHouse Denver on the pledge form.

• Ask your employer to match your contribution.

• Donate in-kind goods. Visit our website and click on ‘Support Us’ to view our current Wish List.

• Donate your used cell phone at any Verizon store. The company’s recycling program generates grant funds for shelters like SafeHouse Denver.

• Earn even greater tax relief on a donation of $100 or more. Write ‘Enterprise Zone’ on your check or make a note in the ‘comments’ field of your online donation.

• Volunteer! Learn more at safehouse-denver.org/volunteering

SafeHouse Denver Programs & Services

SafeHouse Denver offers comprehensive services, in English and Spanish, at both our Emergency Shelter and our non-residential Counseling and Advocacy Center.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

• 24-Hour Crisis and Information Line 303-318-9989
• Secure Emergency Housing
• Individual Counseling and Advocacy
• Support Groups
• Safety Planning
• Referrals to Community Resources
• Teen Dating Violence Prevention Services
• Children and Youth Services
• Community Education and Outreach

24-Hour Crisis and Information Line ........ 303-318-9989
Administration........................................... 303-318-9989
Community Education Program.................. 303-302-6125
Development Department...................... 303-302-6126
Volunteer Opportunities ......................... 303-830-1276 x16
Fax .............................................................. 303-318-9979
Website: www.safehouse-denver.org

Helping adults, children and youth overcome domestic violence since 1977.
safehouse-denver.org