



# ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

*Fiscal Year 2019/2020*

*Helping Create Violence-Free Futures*

# DEAR FRIENDS,



On behalf of our Board of Directors and the Staff of SafeHouse Denver, we're pleased to present our Annual Report to the community for Fiscal Year 2019/2020.

Just as our fiscal year was drawing to a close, the world outside our doors began to change in dramatic and historic ways. With all the challenges facing us at the moment—a global pandemic, an economic crisis, and protests against racial injustice—it's hard to pause and reflect on the year that was. But when we do, we are filled with gratitude. Deepest gratitude for being part of a community that has long stood up for those experiencing all forms of violence and oppression, especially those abused by people they trusted to love them.

We never could have anticipated the upheaval that would befall us in 2020. As we write this message, we are all still in the middle of this storm. We don't know how or when it will end. What we do know is that because of your support, SafeHouse Denver is well poised to face these crises and continue serving survivors of domestic abuse. Any success we realized toward achieving our mission of helping adults, children and youth reclaim lives free from domestic violence in Fiscal Year 2019/2020 was because of you—our caring donors, funders, volunteers and other supporters. Even before COVID-19 shined a light on those who were not safe at home, you knew, you understood, and you were already doing something about it by supporting survivors at SafeHouse Denver.

Today, we celebrate YOU and all we have accomplished together in the previous fiscal year because of your kindness and generosity. We will remain true to our mission, believing this is the best way to be part of the solution, and look forward to a brighter future for ALL.

With Deepest Appreciation,

**VICTORIA MCVICKER**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
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FY 2019/2020

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# RUTH'S STORY—Ending Intergenerational Abuse

Ruth and Tom were married for more than 50 years. They ran a family business together—a popular neighborhood bar and grill. Charming and handsome, Tom was the perfect pub proprietor—the life of the party. He was the face of the business while Ruth was the brains of the operation. Always good with numbers, she managed the books and ordered supplies. Tom made the bank deposits, ran errands and managed the front of the "house." They had five grown children and a dozen grandchildren. By all accounts, they appeared to be a perfect match and have a happy family. And maybe they did...

Maybe this was as good as it got, Ruth thought. Did it matter that Tom drank a little too much? He owned a pub after all—occupational hazard. Sometimes he'd get angry and throw things, but he'd never hit her. True, he'd broken some sentimental pieces that she inherited from her parents, but he apologized. Whenever business lagged, things got worse. He blamed her. She'd be nothing without him, he reminded her over the years when she threatened to leave and take the kids. "They'd never go with you," he scoffed. He was probably right. Like everyone else, they adored him. She couldn't bear the thought of not being a part of their lives, so she stayed.

One day when Tom ran to the bank, a longtime waitress at the pub slipped Ruth a card with SafeHouse Denver's Crisis Line number on it. She'd heard the demeaning way Tom talked to her when he thought no one was in earshot. She confided in Ruth that she'd been abused in the past. She told Ruth she didn't have to live like this. Abuse, was this abuse? Ruth wondered.

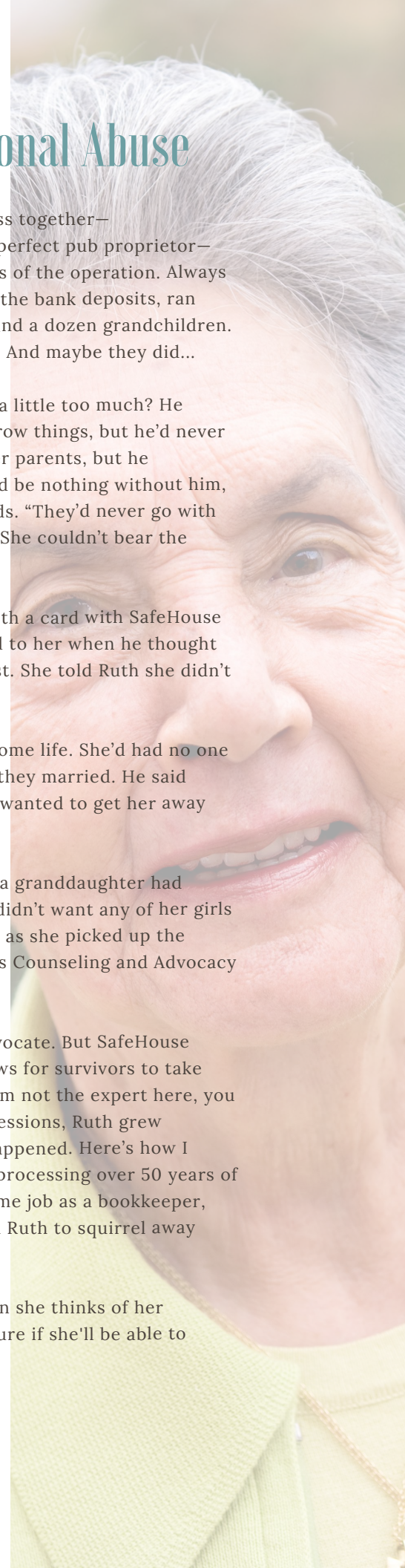
She was raised in a generation when people didn't share the details of their home life. She'd had no one to talk to since Tom had moved her from the Northeast to Denver as soon as they married. He said opportunities were better in this growing city. Now Ruth wondered if he just wanted to get her away from her doting parents and "busybody" sisters.

A couple of her daughters had married men just like their "dear old dad," and a granddaughter had recently moved out of state with her new husband. She feared for them. She didn't want any of her girls to be treated the way she had been treated. This ends with me, Ruth thought, as she picked up the phone and scheduled an appointment with an Advocate at SafeHouse Denver's Counseling and Advocacy Center.

In the beginning, Ruth constantly sought direction and approval from her Advocate. But SafeHouse Denver uses an "Empowerment Model" to help clients process trauma. It allows for survivors to take back power and control, rather than shift it from an abuser to a counselor. "I'm not the expert here, you are," her Advocate told Ruth, encouraging her to trust herself. After several sessions, Ruth grew comfortable taking the lead. She started telling her Advocate, "Here's what happened. Here's how I handled it. This is how I feel about it." Together, they started unpacking and processing over 50 years of trauma. They made a safety plan for Ruth to leave her husband, find a part-time job as a bookkeeper, and secure an apartment. Luckily, keeping the books for the business allowed Ruth to squirrel away some money for her future and make her plans a reality.

Sometimes Ruth wonders if it's worth leaving at this late stage in life, but then she thinks of her daughters and granddaughters. It is worth it. They deserve better. She isn't sure if she'll be able to break the cycle of abuse in her family, but she knows she has to try.

*The mission of SafeHouse Denver is to assist adults, children and youth in reclaiming their right to a life free from domestic violence.*





# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

## Crisis & Information Line

- 11,307 calls from survivors and those helping them were answered by Advocates and trained volunteers who offered safety planning, support and informed resource referral
- 6,234 callers were referred to other resources because Shelter beds were unavailable

## Emergency Shelter

- 179 women, 99 children, 12 men, and one non-binary survivor received safe housing, basic necessities, individual and group counseling, and referrals to other resources such as medical care and housing
- 2,588 total individual counseling and/or advocacy interactions occurred between residents and staff; on average, clients received three referrals to community resources
- Major Shelter improvements included a kitchen renovation and painting of the building's exterior
- A Facilities and Maintenance Coordinator was hired to assist with facility needs and upcoming large-scale Shelter improvements
- A *Window Between Worlds*, a program that uses art as a healing tool for trauma, was added to our adult programming at Shelter and the Extended Stay Program (ESP)


## Extended Stay Program (ESP)

- Provided safe housing, access to community resources, increased stability, and a renewed sense of empowerment to seven heads of household and 13 children under the age of 18
- Average stay was just under three months, and six households entered stable housing after ESP

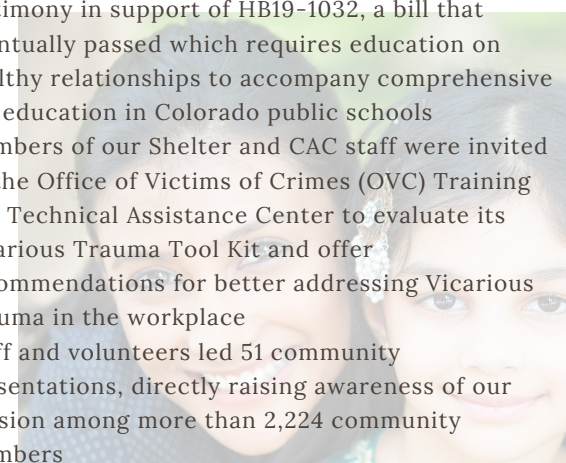


## Counseling & Advocacy Center (CAC)

- 837 requests for individual advocacy-based domestic violence counseling from our Crisis Line and community referrals were managed by the CAC team
- 437 adults received individual domestic violence services, including crisis intervention, safety planning, emotional support, trauma counseling, and systems advocacy; 55 of these adult survivors were monolingual Spanish speakers; eight were men, and four were transgender or gender non-conforming

- 
- 20 women engaged in on-site support groups ranging from sessions for monolingual Spanish survivors and those healing from intimate partner sexual abuse to trauma-informed yoga
  - 93 adults participated in off-site groups including healthy relationship education at the Center for Work Education & Employment and MotherWise
  - 95 young people in the highest risk group of under 25 received age-appropriate psychoeducation on dating violence
  - 33 adolescent girls received teen dating violence prevention programming through a collaboration with the Denver Safe Cities Juvenile Diversion Program
  - An additional 31 young women accessed 132 individual counseling sessions at CAC
  - Through the Denver Triage Project, Advocates made 433 outreach calls to survivors immediately post-assault, provided advocacy services to 110 survivors, and counseling services to 44 survivors

## Community Outreach & Education

- The Rose Andom Center, Denver Forensic Collaborative for At-Risk Adults, Denver Anti-Trafficking Alliance, Victim Services Network, StandUp Colorado, Metro Denver Fatality Review Committee, and Denver Collaborative Partnership remained key community partners
  - The CAC Director presented at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Mexican Delegation Study Tour, the Colorado Advocacy in Action Conference, and the Denver City Attorney's Office Annual Domestic Violence Symposium
  - The CAC Director and a CAC Advocate gave public testimony in support of HB19-1032, a bill that eventually passed which requires education on healthy relationships to accompany comprehensive sex education in Colorado public schools
  - Members of our Shelter and CAC staff were invited by the Office of Victims of Crimes (OVC) Training and Technical Assistance Center to evaluate its Vicarious Trauma Tool Kit and offer recommendations for better addressing Vicarious Trauma in the workplace
  - Staff and volunteers led 51 community presentations, directly raising awareness of our mission among more than 2,224 community members
- 

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## Audited Financial Statements for the 12-Month Period Ended March 31, 2020

### ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,155,017
Accounts receivable	\$ 146,975
Contributions receivable	\$ 20,000
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$ 25,359
Investments	\$ 918,815
Beneficial interest in Community First Foundation	\$ 57,162
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation \$864,629	\$ 1,362,150
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,685,478</b>

### LIABILITIES

Accounts payable, accrued expenses and deferred revenue	\$ 152,664
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 152,664</b>

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted:	
Property and equipment, net of related debt	\$ 1,429,175
Board designated assets	\$ 815,363
Undesignated	\$ 1,026,714
Total unrestricted net assets	\$ 3,271,252
With donor restrictions	\$ 261,562
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,532,814</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,685,478</b>

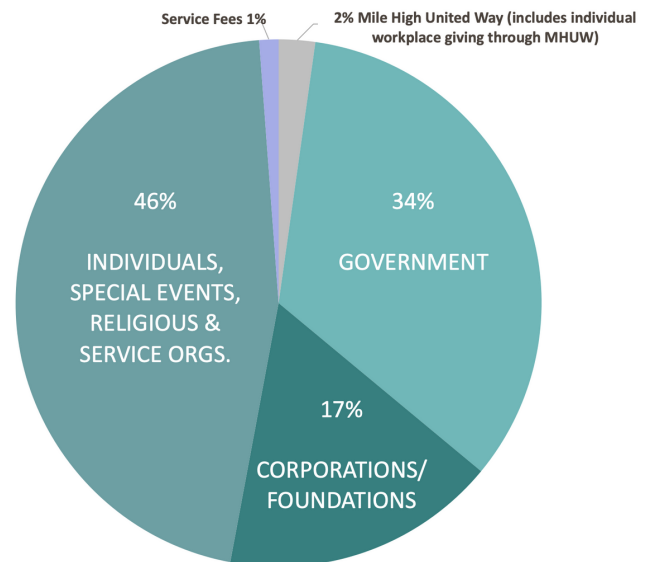
### OPERATING REVENUE

Mile High United Way (includes individual workplace giving through MHUW)	\$ 45,419
Government	\$ 684,567
Corporations/Foundation	\$ 343,309
Individuals, special events, religious, and service orgs.	\$ 929,921
Service fees	\$ 23,994
<b>Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,027,210</b>

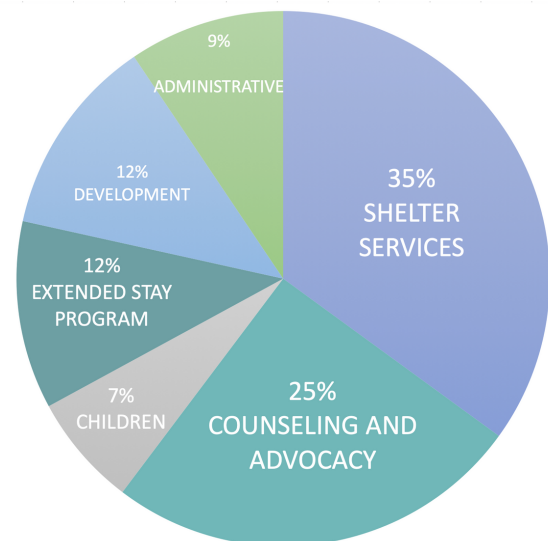
### OPERATING EXPENSES

Shelter Services	\$ 663,718
Counseling and Advocacy	\$ 479,590
Children	\$ 128,814
Extended Stay Program	\$ 215,502
Development	\$ 229,448
Administrative	\$ 179,070
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,896,142</b>

## Operating Revenue



## Operating Expenses



"This has been an extremely difficult and scary time for me, but the Advocates made me feel so supported and helped me every step of the way. They picked me up and put me back together every time I had a meltdown. Because of them, I am stronger and more at peace. I am hopeful about my future now."

—2019 SafeHouse Denver Shelter Resident

# DONORS

Thank you to the following donors and funders who generously contributed to SafeHouse Denver between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020.

While space limitations allow us to publish only those donors who have contributed at the \$500 level and above, we sincerely appreciate all levels of support.

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*CRL Associates, Inc.*

*We have made every effort to  
 print an accurate list of  
 donors from April 1, 2019 to  
 March 31, 2020. We apologize  
 for any omissions or errors.  
 Please call 303-302-6122 with  
 corrections.*

# A GENEROUS COMMUNITY\*

- **\$332,000** awarded through 27 grants from **private foundations**
- **\$182,042** raised through **year-end giving**: \$94,270 from Colorado Gives Day + \$87,772 from our holiday appeal
- **\$234,081** received through 25 **major gifts** of \$1,000 or more
- **\$108,806** received in other designated gifts, mostly through **workplace giving**
- **\$248,759** raised through our signature **Hope Gala** event
- **\$44,092** raised to benefit our Extended Stay Program through our **Sampling for Hope** event
- **\$52,260** generated through monthly gifts from our **Sustainers of Hope**
- **\$66,706** raised through **third-party events and initiatives**, thoughtfully sponsored by individuals, organizations and companies in our community
- **4,490 hours** contributed by dedicated direct-service and committee **volunteers**, as well as Board Members
- **\$176,241** = the value of **in-kind donations**, given by **281** donors through our holiday gift giving programs, event auctions, and regularly throughout the year

\*This list represents only a portion of our many fundraising initiatives. We're very grateful to everyone who supports survivors of domestic violence in any way.

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

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

### SERVICES INCLUDE:

- **24-Hour Crisis & Information Line: 303-318-9989**
- Secure Emergency Housing
- Extended Stay Housing
- Counseling & Advocacy Services
- Support Groups
- Referrals to Community Resources
- Safety Planning
- Teen Dating Violence Intervention & Prevention Services
- Family Services
- Community Education & Outreach

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

1649 Downing Street  
Denver, CO 80218  
Phone 303-318-9959  
Fax 303-318-9979

[safehouse-denver.org](http://safehouse-denver.org)



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## 2020 Staff

**Natasha Adler**  
Domestic Violence Advocate

**Amena Ahmad**, Overnight Domestic Violence Advocate

**Shannon Boltz**  
Chief Development Officer

**Katie Brown**, Bilingual  
Domestic Violence Advocate

**Sarah Budisavljevic**  
Domestic Violence Advocate

**Valerie Chilewski**  
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(Retired 7.31.2020)

**Ginny Creager**, Facilities & Maintenance Coordinator

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## Shelter Relief Staff

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