

# Annual Report

To The Community



SAFEHOUSE  
D E N V E R

FISCAL  
YEAR

2021  
-2022



## *Faces Of Hope*

**A Letter From Leadership**

**Survivors' Experiences**

**Program Highlights**

**Fiscal Year Financials**



# From Our Leadership

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on the 2021-2022 fiscal year throughout the enclosed Annual Report is another journey through success, challenges, and changes.

Thanks to the generosity of you – our community of supporters – it was a very successful year. Not only does this allow SafeHouse Denver to continue providing the highest-level services for survivors, we are able to retain a dedicated and talented group of professionals. Additionally, and perhaps most notably, the success of the past year allowed us to fully pay off the mortgage for our non-residential Counseling and Advocacy Center (CAC). Outright owning all three of our properties – the Emergency Shelter, the Extended Stay Program, and now the CAC – secures our stability for the future and allows us to direct more of your support to the services survivors need.

Among other achievements you'll read about in the following pages, I'm particularly excited about the connections with the Denver Housing Authority and a new partner called Housing Connector that have allowed us to assist survivors in securing, using, and thriving with housing vouchers. These partnerships are a huge step forward in preventing homelessness for survivors, and ultimately paving a path to their self-sufficiency.

The fiscal year was not without challenge, though. Like all of you, SafeHouse Denver weathered another year of pandemic-related challenges. Despite restrictions lifting in the Denver area and vaccination rates increasing, SafeHouse Denver continues to maintain safety measures and provide services with the safety of our clients, residents, and staff in mind. Even though the Emergency Shelter remains at limited capacity, nearly 1,100 survivors received direct services from SafeHouse Denver, and thousands more called our Crisis and Information Line.

As I write this letter, we've just recently said goodbye to our CEO of 15 years, Victoria McVicker, as she stepped into a very well-deserved retirement. As Victoria consistently reminded us, this work isn't about one person, it is about what we can do **together**. So, as we step into our next chapter with Jennifer Caruso, our new CEO, at the helm, we do so **together**.

Thank YOU, for all you did to make the 2021-2022 fiscal year one to celebrate. And thank you for joining us on this journey as we continue to work together to support survivors of domestic violence in our community.

With gratitude,



**Geralyn Gorshing**  
Board Chair



Hello!

While I wasn't part of the fiscal year reported in the following pages, I am already so proud of the achievements SafeHouse Denver accomplished, and am excited to join the Team as we endeavor into the future.

In the coming year, in addition to providing high quality trauma-informed services to survivors, SafeHouse Denver will be growing two of our programs to meet the ongoing needs within our community. The "Youth Healthy Relationships Program" is an expansion of a previously-existing program to educate and support young women ages 16-24. Statistically, this age group is the most at-risk for domestic violence, so we are eager to provide early intervention and prevention. We are also excited to formalize and grow our Community Education program! With the newly renovated Conference Center space at the Counseling & Advocacy Center (CAC), we are now able to deliver educational presentations and professional trainings on domestic violence to increase community awareness, encourage prevention and develop effective community responses.

Thank you to all of you who contributed to the successes outlined in this Annual Report, and who continue to uplift survivors of domestic violence with your time, talent, and treasure. The work that I have done throughout my career, and the work that I will continue to do at SafeHouse Denver, requires a caring community. It is clear that I've joined the most caring, most dedicated community. With your ongoing support, we'll work together toward our mission: **to help adults, children and youth reclaim their right to a life free from domestic violence.**

Thank you,



**Jennifer Caruso**  
CEO



# Board Members

**Geralyn Gorshing, Chair**

CPS HR Consulting

**Ramona Gomoll, Chair Elect**

Rock Solid HR Consulting, LLC

**Nate Barker, Secretary**

Spencer Fane LLP

**Sharla Carlson, Treasurer**

Sunbelt Rentals

**Trevor Bartel**

Lewis Roca

**Dylan Metzner**

Jones & Keller

**Barry Overton**

eXp Realty, LLC

**J.J. Simon**

CIBC Bank

**Jamie Slavin**

Nova Home Loans

**Danielle Vaughan**

FirstBank

**Jennifer Caruso**

CEO, SafeHouse Denver

## HONORARY BOARD

**Cassidy Bednark/DJ Bedz**

360 Dwellings

**Dayle Cedars**

Community Volunteer

**Susan Noble**

Community Volunteer

**Carol & Paul Rose**

Community Volunteers

**Karen Fox Wolfe**

Community Volunteer



# STAFF LIST

**Natasha Adler**, Co-Located Domestic Violence Advocate & Intake Coordinator

**Amena Ahmad**, Part-Time Evening Domestic Violence Advocate

**Shannon Boltz**, Chief Development Officer

**Gabbi Brault**, Part-Time Evening Domestic Violence Advocate

**Sarah Budisavljevic**, Domestic Violence Advocate & Youth Advocacy Specialist

**Jennifer Caruso**, Chief Executive Officer

**Melanie Durham**, Operations Assistant

**Jelga Emiwo**, Domestic Violence Advocate

**Bertha Garza**, Bilingual Domestic Violence Advocate

**Abigail Hansen**, Chief Program Officer

**Solei Palacios**, Bilingual Domestic Violence Advocate

**Sue Pilcher**, Interim Chief Financial Officer

**Rob Purper**, Communications Manager

**Jennifer Reed**, Grants Manager

**Dana Roberts**, Donations & Volunteer Coordinator

**Valeria Rocha**, Extended Stay Program Case Manager

**Alice Ryan**, Part-Time Domestic Violence Advocate

**Heather Schreck**, Annual Giving & Events Manager

**Stacey Simmons**, Development Associate

**Sutter Taft**, Domestic Violence Advocate

**Cymoné Williams**, Director of Shelter Services

**Ruth Williams**, Overnight Domestic Violence Advocate

**Samantha Wogensen**, Overnight Domestic Violence Advocate

### Shelter Relief Staff

Julian Allen

Morgan Montalvo

Samantha Williams

### 2021/2022 Interns

Harper Bolz-Weber (Urban Servant Corps)

Zoe Donnell

Natalie Frias

Alice Ryan

Diana Walbrun

# Program Highlights

## CRISIS & INFORMATION LINE



### **9,596 calls**

from survivors and those helping them were answered by Advocates who offered safety planning, support and informed resource referral.

### **3,648 callers**

were referred to other resources because Shelter beds were unavailable.

*"I didn't know what to expect, but I'm so glad that I called. Right away, I was put in contact with someone who could support me, listen to me and help guide me through a very difficult situation."*

## EMERGENCY SHELTER

### **98 women, 83 children, 3 men and 1 nonbinary survivor**

received safe housing, basic necessities, individual and group counseling and referrals to other resources such as medical care and housing.

### **560 individual interactions**

occurred for counseling and/or advocacy between residents and staff. On average, clients received five referrals to community resources.

### **Shelter Improvements**

In December 2021, we remodeled the entryway and ADA bathroom. These improvements allowed for increased support to make this space trauma-informed. Paint colors and décor were specifically picked after the Shelter Director completed a number of trainings specific to trauma-informed design.



*"When I arrived at the shelter, I was depressed, hurt and confused. Since I've been here, I have come so far. I'm making full use of the resources and information available to me."*

### **Group Support**

We have continued to offer group materials in safe, socially distanced ways through grab-and-go materials.

# COUNSELING & ADVOCACY CENTER

## 876 survivors

received support, including post-assault outreach, crisis intervention, safety planning, trauma counseling and systems advocacy.

## 40 survivor-led support group sessions

were held with the guidance of a SafeHouse Denver Advocate.

## 35 young people

received education about dating violence and healthy relationships.



*"We can all be the women we are striving to be. Thank you for the love and support! My fears have been replaced with hope, and I know it is going to be okay."*

## EXTENDED STAY PROGRAM



### 15 adults and 12 children

accessed safe housing, community resources, increased stability and confidence.

### 100 days

was the average length of a survivor's stay, an increase over previous years due to limited and difficult-to-access affordable housing.

### 622 individual interactions

occurred for counseling and/or advocacy between residents and staff. On average, clients received four referrals to community resources.

*"Living at ESP allowed me to take time to process my trauma safely and continue to work on my housing goals. The Advocates work so hard for the space they create."*

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Center for Work Education & Employment, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Denver Indian Center, Denver Women's Collaborative, Family Tree, Housing Connector, The Initiative, and Rose Andom Center remained key community partners out of **36 formal partnerships**.

In 2021, our Community Education program reached **2,163 people through 31 educational presentations**.

# Our Mission In Action

**For survivors at SafeHouse Denver,** looking back on one year is only part of their story.

**Bertha Garza** has been an Advocate for 24 years, and she also volunteered with the agency before that. She has watched SafeHouse grow and change, including the agency's ability to purchase its three buildings – the Emergency Shelter, the Extended Stay Program, and the Counseling & Advocacy Center – all to better support survivors' needs at every step of their journey.

As a survivor herself, Bertha understands the empowerment that exists in her caring, compassionate relationships with clients. It's a deeply personal process full of breakthroughs and resilience, and the results are profound.



**Bertha in 2012**

**“I admire my clients’ courage and strength to aspire to have a life free from domestic violence,” Bertha said.**

**“I celebrate their success, even if it is just getting up in the morning, and I enjoy watching them heal on their journey.”**



**Bertha in 2022**

That celebration doesn't stop when survivors move on from our services. Bertha still gets holiday cards from many of her clients. She receives thank you letters when clients she assisted with naturalization become citizens. She has even been invited to weddings when survivors have found new, healthy relationships. All because she was there when she was needed, and she still is.

To the rest of the world, only a year has passed. But to Bertha and the survivors she serves, **a lifetime of hope and possibility happens every day.**

# Finances

## Audited Financial Statements for the 12-Month Period Ending March 31, 2022

### ASSETS

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents   | \$ 1,177,564        |
| Accounts receivable   | \$ 139,706          |
| Contributions receivable  | \$ 35,000           |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets   | \$ 42,273           |
| Investments   | \$ 1,273,664        |
| Beneficial interest in Community First Foundation   | \$ 73,993           |
| Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$1,031,650 and \$951,082 respectively | \$ 2,519,544        |
| <b>Total Assets</b>   | <b>\$ 5,261,744</b> |

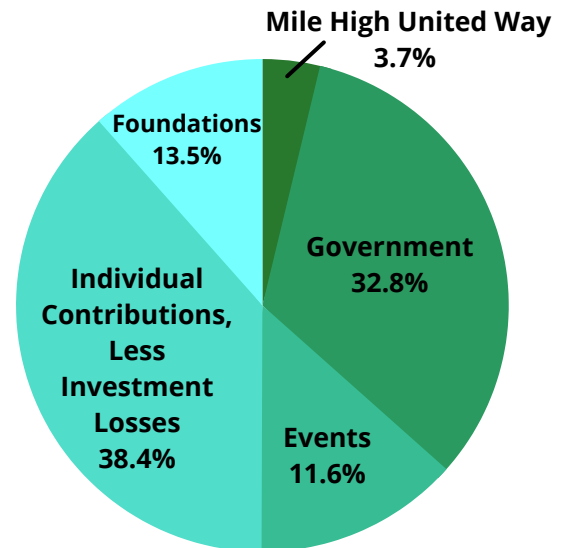
### LIABILITIES

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Accounts payable, payroll liabilities, deferred revenue, and capital lease | \$ 199,547        |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>   | <b>\$ 199,547</b> |

### NET ASSETS

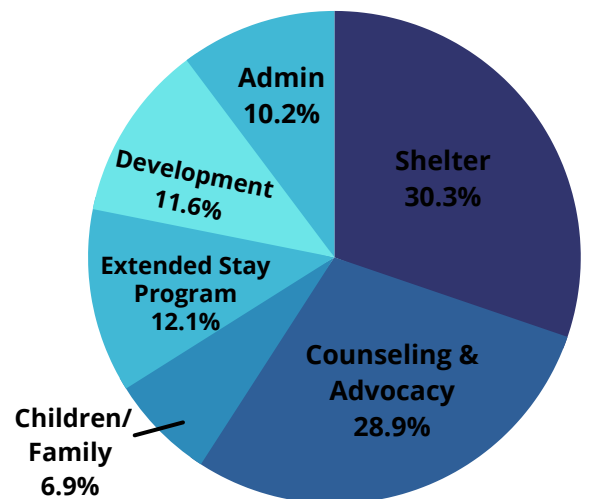
|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Without donor restrictions                      |                     |
| Board designated operating and building reserve | \$ 778,798          |
| Undesignated                                    | \$ 4,125,772        |
| Total unrestricted net assets                   | \$ 4,904,570        |
| With donor restrictions                         | \$ 157,627          |
| <b>Total Net Assets</b>                         | <b>\$ 5,062,197</b> |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>         | <b>\$ 5,261,744</b> |

### OPERATING REVENUE



|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Mile High United Way (includes individual MHUW workplace giving) | \$ 103,206          |
| Government   | \$ 899,210          |
| Foundations  | \$ 369,500          |
| Contributions  | \$ 1,052,354        |
| Special Events   | \$ 316,621          |
| <b>Total Operating Revenue</b>                                   | <b>\$ 2,740,891</b> |

### OPERATING EXPENSES



|                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Shelter Services                | \$ 608,843          |
| Counseling & Advocacy           | \$ 581,567          |
| Children/Family Program         | \$ 139,646          |
| Extended Stay Program           | \$ 243,330          |
| Development                     | \$ 233,981          |
| Administrative                  | \$ 206,269          |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b> | <b>\$ 2,013,636</b> |

**SafeHouse Denver proudly ended the 2021/2022 fiscal year with a surplus of more than \$727,000.**

Once again, there was an increase in individual support, as **nearly 700 new supporters** gave anywhere from \$5 to \$10,000. This **10.6% increase in individual giving (representing almost \$88K)** proved that the community believes that everyone deserves a life free from domestic violence.

Local and national businesses also recognized the need to support survivors, as the **giving from corporations increased more than \$26K**. In addition, the return of **in-person special events garnered nearly \$84K more** than events the previous year.

Furthermore, longtime partner Mile High United Way awarded SafeHouse Denver **grant funding of \$100K – double the amount requested** for 2021. Finally, SafeHouse Denver's Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) Loan of \$258,496 was fully forgiven, decreasing the agency's liabilities and increasing government income for the fiscal year.

These factors, combined with our steadfast commitment to monitoring and controlling internal expenses, helped SafeHouse Denver maintain an extremely healthy portfolio. This financial health allows us to continue to invest in the future of the agency and ensures continuity of services for survivors of domestic violence. **Thank you for your contributions to a very positive fiscal year!**

## GOVERNMENT FUNDERS

Denver DA's Crime Victims Compensation Fund

Denver Department of Housing Stability (HOST)

Denver Department of Human Services - TANF

Denver Department of Human Services - Utility Assistance

Denver Victim Assistance Law Enforcement Funds

Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime - Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) Funds

Emergency Food and Shelter Program

Office on Violence Against Women to Rose Andom Center for Colorado Domestic Violence Response Team

State of Colorado - Child and Adult Care Food Program

State of Colorado Department of Human Services - Domestic Violence Program

## 2021 TOP-TIER SPONSORS: SAMPLING FOR HOPE

### Gourmet Sponsor

Junk King

### Epicurean Sponsors

Ent Credit Union

Carol & Paul Rose

Sloane's Carpet Secret

Westerra Credit Union

## 2021 TOP-TIER SPONSORS: HOPE GALA

### Gold Sponsors

Joel Javer

MasTec Advanced Technologies

### Auction Sponsor

Milgrom & Daskam

### Silver Sponsors

CRL Associates, Inc.

Gibson Dunn

Lewis Roca

MDC/Richmond American Homes Foundation

Susan & Howard Noble

Carol & Paul Rose

**"To be a part of an organization that is vital to the well-being of the community is something that I truly treasure as it brings balance and perspective to my life."**

## COMMUNITY GIVING

**\$313,401** raised through year-end giving, including \$153,981 in 24 hours on Colorado Gives Day

**\$369,500** awarded through 29 grants from private foundations

**\$259,052** raised through our in-person 2021 Hope Gala

**\$42,061** raised through our virtual 2021 Sampling For Hope event

**\$87,560** generated through monthly gifts from our 128 Sustainers of Hope

**\$49,014** received in designated gifts, mostly through workplace giving

**\$91,403** raised through third-party events and initiatives

**3,024 hours** contributed by volunteers as well as Board Members

**\$88,324** of in-kind donations and pro bono services, given by 108 donors

*\* This list represents only a portion of the many ways that we raise funds. Whether contributions are modest or large, we're very grateful to everyone who supported survivors in any way.*



## Programs & Services

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

### Our Services

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



**Helping adults, children and youth reclaim their right to a life free from domestic violence**

### Administrative Offices

1649 Downing St.

Denver, CO 80218

303-318-9959

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

**2021/2022 Annual Report Production Credits**

**Design & Editing:** Rob Purper • **Data Summaries:** Jennifer Reed & Stacey Simmons