

## Bridging the Gap to Stable Housing

**W**hen Kristy and her two children came to SafeHouse Denver's Emergency Shelter facility, they were fleeing an abusive husband and father. In addition to the increasingly violent physical abuse, he was also financially abusive. He earned all of the income for their family and tightly controlled every expense. Kristy, though a contributing member of the household and primary care provider for her children, had no access to the family's money without her husband's strict oversight.

Leaving was not an easy decision. The lack of access to funds left her no choice but to stay in a relationship with a pattern of increasingly dangerous abuse. When Kristy began to fear for her own life and that of her young children, she made the decision to seek help. Leaving meant the loss of everything. Connecting with SafeHouse Denver helped the family do so in a safe, supported way.

During her stay at Shelter, Kristy worked with a Family Advocate who helped the family process the abuse they had experienced. With her Advocate's help during one-on-one and group counseling sessions, Kristy also began to make a plan for the future. She immediately identified securing employment and housing as her main goals. Happily, she was able to find employment quickly, but housing proved to be a more difficult goal to achieve.

While working full-time, Kristy focused on her goal of finding a suitable home for herself and her children. Contacting housing resources in the community helped her clearly identify realistic possibilities. Unfortunately, Kristy quickly learned that many of the wait lists associated with affordable housing had a minimum wait time ranging from six months to two years. Often, there was even an additional wait list once your name was selected.

A lethal perpetrator of domestic violence forced Kristy and her children from their home. The lack of affordable

housing options in the Metro Denver Area forced them to stay in Shelter longer than they wanted to, prolonging their ability to begin life anew in a place they could call home.



While they waited, Kristy and her children stayed with family who lived close to her place of employment and her children's daycare. They also stayed at SafeHouse Denver's emergency shelter two additional times when Kristy's husband was actively looking for them and a secure shelter facility was critical to their safety. Finally, four years after starting her search for housing, Kristy and her children moved into their own home early in 2017.

Though Kristy's story is unique to her own experience, it is not unusual. At SafeHouse Denver we continually see survivors of domestic violence ready and able to move on from the abuse, only to be held up by a lack of a permanent, affordable, and safe place to call home.

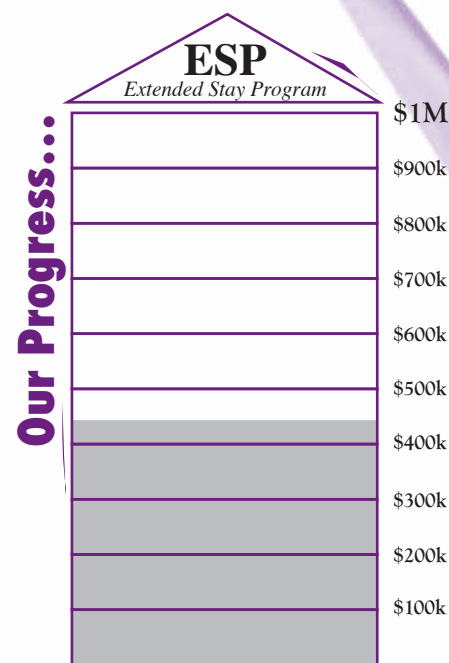
We've long identified a gap between our emergency shelter services and long-term housing for our clients. To address this need we continue to

actively fundraise to open our future Extended Stay Program (ESP).

ESP is to be housed in a 6-8 unit apartment building and will serve as a stepping stone for our current shelter clients, like Kristy and her children, who are out of immediate crisis but need more time to pursue affordable housing, employment, child care and other resources. In addition to more appropriately serving clients out of immediate crisis, we estimate that opening ESP would allow us to provide emergency shelter to an additional 80-100 women and children each year.

We're proud to share that we've currently raised over \$443,000 toward our \$1 Million goal, but we still have a long way to go to make this program a reality.

Please consider investing in the future of SafeHouse Denver and in the lives of so many survivors of domestic violence in our community through a gift in support of our future ESP. Contact Valerie Chilewski at 303-302-6116 or [valchilewski@safehouse-denver.org](mailto:valchilewski@safehouse-denver.org) to learn more. ■



## Message from Our CEO

**D**

ear Friends,

It's hard to believe, but 2017 marks SafeHouse Denver's 40th Anniversary in serving the community. SafeHouse for Battered Women, Inc., was incorporated in 1977 by five courageous women who first recognized the desperate need for safe shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children. At that time, there was no safe place for women to go.



Over the years, our programs and services have grown and developed to better meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence in our community. Recognizing that shelters solve only part of the problem, we expanded our community support program in 1985 by providing counseling services to women, children and youth in the community. We opened our non-residential Counseling and Advocacy Center in 1993 and officially changed our name to SafeHouse Denver, Inc. in 1994.

Today, SafeHouse Denver is the only agency in the City and County of Denver that provides both emergency shelter and non-residential counseling and advocacy services specifically for survivors of domestic violence. As you'll read in our cover story, we also have exciting plans to expand services through our future Extended Stay Program (ESP).

Though we've made great strides in raising awareness around the issue of domestic violence and how the community responds to it, there continues to be a pressing need for our services in the Metro Denver Area. In 2016, we served over 1,100 adults, children and youth through our emergency shelter and non-residential Counseling and Advocacy Center and answered 14,600 calls to our 24-Hour Crisis and Information Line. We referred 4,997 calls for safe shelter, however, to other resources because our emergency shelter was completely full.

As we recognize this milestone year and look to the future, we're grateful to have you, our generous donors, volunteers and community partners, by our side.

**With your support...** we will continue our work to provide trauma-informed services to help survivors heal, process, connect to valuable community resources and identify next steps to a violence-free future.

**With your support...** we will continue our work to inform and educate the public about the issue of domestic violence to create a community that does not tolerate abuse and knows how to respond when they see it.

**With your support...** we will continue our work to collaborate with public and community agencies to improve the way our systems respond to domestic violence.

YOUR support of this work and YOUR belief that no one deserves to live a life filled with violence, fear, and intimidation, especially as we recognize this milestone year, means so much to us.

With gratitude,

**Victoria A. McVicker**  
Chief Executive Officer



**O**

ur 2017 Hope Gala is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, at the Sheraton Denver Downtown (15th St & Court).

This year's Gala will bring together individual donors, corporate supporters, board members, staff, volunteers and friends of SafeHouse Denver for an elegant evening with fun surprises! A cocktail hour, fabulous live and silent auctions, dinner, presentation of two prestigious awards, inspiring survivor speakers and dancing to the lively music of *That Eighties Band* will combine to make it a memorable evening.

We hope you'll join us for this special milestone year celebrating our 40th Anniversary!

Please contact Valerie Chilewski, [vchilewski@safehouse-denver.org](mailto:vchilewski@safehouse-denver.org) or 303-302-6116, with questions and for information about sponsorship opportunities.

### GOLD SPONSORS:

Bellco Credit Union  
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### SILVER SPONSORS:

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Sheraton Denver Downtown



# News Notes

## Warren Miller Film Screening

The Tenth Annual Warren Miller Film Screening event on January 13<sup>th</sup> was a tremendous success thanks to the 200 guests who joined us that evening!



Brenda and Christopher Volgenau at the Warren Miller film screening event

Over \$10,000 was raised in support of our programs and services for survivors of domestic violence — the equivalent of 34 nights of safe shelter and support services to a family of four.

Special thanks to **Brenda and Christopher Volgenau** (pictured), volunteers extraordinaire, who coordinated this fabulous event for the tenth year in a row!

## 40 Donors, for 4 Days, Celebrating 40 Years



**Save the Date!** This spring, we're excited to launch a unique fundraising campaign to celebrate our 40th Anniversary. You may receive a phone call or email from a SafeHouse Denver staff

member or volunteer between Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, to thank you for your involvement and to invite you to participate in this special, celebratory initiative. If you're interested in volunteering to help with this exciting campaign, please call Shannon at 303-302-6126.

## Colorado Brewery Running Series

Looking for a good run with good people for a good cause? Look no further than the **Colorado Brewery Running Series**. On 17 different dates throughout the year, you can walk/jog/run a 5K course and then enjoy a beer at a local brewery. Each event features live music, food trucks, giveaways and activities. A portion of your registration will be donated to SafeHouse Denver. Visit the 'Events' page of our website for more information.

## Denver Nickel and Dime Animation Festival

The **Denver Nickel and Dime Animation Festival**, which is donating 50% of ticket sales to SafeHouse Denver, takes place on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at the **Bug Theater** (3654 Navajo St, Denver) with two more screenings later in 2017 at the **SIE Film Center**. The festival will include screening of 30 international animated shorts, as well as features on some of the directors. Visit the 'Events' page of our website for more information and to purchase your tickets today!

## Shimmy Mob

**Shimmy Mob**, an impromptu performance dance event, will take place this year on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at

**Southwest Plaza** in Littleton.

Through their performance, dancers will raise awareness and funds for SafeHouse Denver. Visit the 'Events' page of our website for more information.

## Upcoming Volunteer Training

Do you want to get more involved with SafeHouse and directly support survivors of domestic violence and their children? Our next program volunteer training takes place on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, and



we'd love to have you join us! Visit the 'Volunteer' page of [safehouse-denver.org](http://safehouse-denver.org) to access the application and learn about Crisis Line and Children's Program volunteer roles.

We're also recruiting volunteers to help with an opportunity at the **Denver Arts Festival** on May, 26<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup>. If you're interested in learning more, please call Shannon at 303-302-6126.

## In the Spirit

Though the winter holidays are well in the past, we'd like to thank the 46 donors who provided Thanksgiving food baskets and holiday gifts to the single women and families that we serve through our annual holiday **In the Spirit** program. Thank you for adding, as one recipient shared, "such light and love to our holiday."

## Thank You!

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

Bellco Credit Union; Merrill Lynch Colorado Women's Group; YouthTrack; One Hope; WedForGood; Denver Dames; Wellness Rhythms Chiropractic; SoundDown Silent Disco; Uptown on the Hill Summer Shindig; Live Nation; Sold by Simmons Team; Women's March on Denver; Innovative Real Estate Group; Kendra Scott Cherry Creek; La Luna Academy.

We'd also like to thank the **Denver Turnverein** and **Beacons Community Space** for donating space for events this year! 🍷

## 2017 Board of Directors

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*Community Volunteer, Chair*  
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Dayle Cedars, *7News*  
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Karen Wolfe, *Community Volunteer*

## SafeHouse Denver

1649 Downing Street  
Denver, CO 80218

Admin: 303-318-9959  
Crisis Line: 303-318-9989  
[www.safehouse-denver.org](http://www.safehouse-denver.org)

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# Sampling for HOPE

**R**egistration is now open for our 2017 Sampling for Hope event! You won't want to miss what our restaurant partners will be serving up at this casual food tasting:

Illegal Pete's; Morton's The Steakhouse Denver; Sexy Pizza; Stargazer Fine Chocolates; The Ritz-Carlton, Denver; Work & Class; and more!

**Wednesday, June 14, 2017 | 6:00 to 9:00 pm**  
**Westin Denver Downtown (16th & Lawrence | Denver)**  
**\$55 per person | \$65 per person after May 5, 2017**

Visit our website or call Shannon at 303-302-6126 to register today!

Thank you to our Sponsors: Epicurean Sponsor: H2O Power Equipment; Artisan Sponsor: Westerra Credit Union; Foodie Sponsors: Bradsby Group; Ramonna Robinson. 🏠

## 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](http://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](http://coloradogives.org/safehouse).
- Make a planned gift by naming SafeHouse Denver in your will or estate plans. For more information, please contact Valerie Chilewski at 303-302-6116 or [valchilewski@safehouse-denver.org](mailto:valchilewski@safehouse-denver.org).
- 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](http://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 .....	303-318-9959
Community Education Program .....	303-302-6125
Development Department .....	303-302-6126
Volunteer Opportunities .....	303-830-2660 x285
Fax .....	303-318-9979

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

Helping adults, children and youth overcome domestic violence since 1977.  
**[safehouse-denver.org](http://safehouse-denver.org)**