



The Role of the Advocate

Advocacy. It's the backbone of what we do at SafeHouse Denver and our advocates are the very important people doing this vital work day in, day out. The work is not easy but these committed professionals approach it with both skill and care. As one former client put it, "[my advocate's] nonjudgmental, rational, and extremely caring approach made me truly feel safe to discuss the abuse that had always been a guarded secret and was destroying me." We hope this FAQ article will help shed light on the central role our staff advocates play in supporting adults, children and youth in reclaiming their right to a life free from domestic violence.

1 Why 'Advocate'? What does advocacy mean?

In the context of domestic violence, advocacy is a partnership between the advocate and the survivor of domestic violence in which both the survivor's and the advocate's "perspectives, information and knowledge are shared and ultimately the best safety plan is formed and implemented." In this partnership, the survivor defines the advocacy and the help he or she needs and the advocate is an active, supporting participant. (*Jill Davies, Eleanor Lyon, Diane Monti-Catania, "Safety Planning with Battered Women", 1998.*)

2 Do all SafeHouse Denver advocates have the same role?

We currently have three different advocate roles:

Domestic Violence Advocate Counseling & Advocacy Center (CAC)

CAC advocates work with adult, child and youth survivors of domestic violence not in need of emergency shelter. Advocates conduct an initial intake that includes a needs and risk assessment with new clients and work together to create a safety plan. Through ongoing, individual domestic violence counseling, advocates provide emotional support, crisis intervention, and education about domestic violence. They also help clients

connect with other community resources and identify options for the future. Advocates facilitate support groups for survivors, and provide off-site advocacy-based domestic violence counseling and group support, including prevention and early-intervention work with youth. In many cases, CAC Advocates have the unique opportunity to develop and maintain a long-term support



role with clients. Survivors remain in CAC services for six months to two years, some for much longer.

Women's Advocate: Emergency Shelter Program

Women's Advocates at our Emergency Shelter Program work with women in immediate need of safe shelter due to domestic violence. Women's Advocates respond to callers accessing our 24-Hour Crisis and Information Line and screen potential emergency shelter residents. They welcome new residents to our shelter and provide orientation to the facility and services provided. Advocates provide emotional support, crisis intervention, and help residents set short-term goals to address immediate and long-term concerns about their safety and future. Advocates link residents to culturally appropriate community resources to meet their individual needs and facilitate weekly educational and support groups for residents.

Family Advocates: Emergency Shelter Program

Family Advocates support our emergency shelter residents in the same manner as a Women's Advocate.

In addition, these advocates have a specific focus on supporting each family as a unit. Family Advocates provide children and youth, and their mothers, with individual counseling and support and, with help from volunteers, facilitate children's groups using an evidence-based curriculum to help child residents work through the trauma they've experienced.

In addition to their direct work with survivors, all advocates facilitate educational sessions about domestic violence in the community. A number also sit on committees that inform our partner agencies of the safety and housing needs of survivors of domestic violence. Perhaps most importantly, SafeHouse Denver Advocates listen to and honor survivors' stories and provide nonjudgmental support.

3 What type of professional backgrounds do your advocates hold?

All of our advocates have extensive backgrounds in one or more of the following: working with survivors of domestic violence, mental health counseling, high-risk youth, legal advocacy, sexual assault, human trafficking, counseling and community education, children's advocacy and homelessness. This wide-array of professional backgrounds allow our advocates to share their strengths and expertise and best support our clients. In addition, all SafeHouse Denver Advocates receive extensive initial training and ongoing professional development in the field of domestic violence.

4 How many advocates do you have on staff?

We currently have six Domestic Violence Advocates at the CAC and six Women's and Family Advocates at the Emergency Shelter, including two Overnight Women's Advocates.

Continued on Page 2

Message from Our CEO



Dear Friends,

Every year, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) conducts a one-day census of domestic violence-related services provided by organizations throughout the country. Earlier this summer, NNEDV released the results from the 2014 census. The results affirmed the good work being done by domestic violence agencies every day. The results also revealed a strong need for more services for survivors of domestic violence. I'd like to share some of the highlights with you.

Let's start with the wealth of services provided to survivors when they needed them the most. **67,646...** that's the number of survivors of domestic violence that found safe shelter, transitional housing, or non-residential assistance from domestic violence agencies throughout the U.S on just **one day** in 2014.

On that same day in 2014, there were **10,871** requests for services that could not be provided because programs did not have adequate resources. At SafeHouse Denver, we witness this pressing need every day. In 2014, we referred **3,156** requests for safe shelter to other resources because our shelter facility was completely full.

These aren't just numbers. Each statistic represents an individual who reached out for assistance and safety. And this is momentous. The seemingly simple act of picking up the phone to call a domestic violence agency for shelter or counseling is a significant and courageous undertaking for survivors. When they're ready for us, we're here for them.

As you'll read in our cover story, the advocates who provide these individualized services are truly the backbone of what we do here at SafeHouse Denver. They answer the crisis line and talk someone through their options and how to stay safe. They help a mom and her two children get settled during their first night at our emergency shelter. They build trust with a client they've been seeing in individual counseling sessions for a year or more. They go out in the community to educate the public about the issue of domestic violence and what they can do to help.

As the NNEDV Census Report affirms, these one-on-one services are vital and save lives.

These committed, caring, professional advocates can only do the work that they do day in and day out with the support of people just like you. Please consider making a monetary contribution today by returning the enclosed donation envelope or visiting coloradogives.org/safehouse to make a secure gift online.

Thank you for your commitment to, and investment in, our mission. We're grateful for your involvement!

With Warm Regards and Gratitude,

Victoria A. McVicker
Chief Executive Officer



Continued from front page

5 How do the advocates approach their work with survivors of domestic violence?

Advocates provide support using a Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) approach. TIC is an evidence-based approach that provides all services through a trauma lens that focuses on each individual's safety needs, prevents re-traumatization and promotes healing and recovery. We believe that survivors are experts in their own lives. Rather than tell them what to do, advocates gather and provide information and walk alongside survivors as they make decisions that are best for themselves and their children.

6 How do the Advocates work together?

Both CAC and emergency shelter advocates meet as a team once per week to support one another, share best practices and new community resources, and to brainstorm how to appropriately support each survivor. Additionally, CAC and emergency shelter advocates meet monthly to participate in joint training and educational sessions. Informally, the advocates are regularly in communication with one another and our Program Directors at both locations to provide the best advocacy and program access for each of our clients.

7 How do SafeHouse Denver Advocates differ from systems advocates?

SafeHouse Denver Advocates are trained domestic violence advocates working for an independent, community-based domestic violence services organization. System-based victim advocates, are employed by a prosecutor's office, law enforcement or other criminal justice agency and serve as the primary contact between the crime victim and that entity on behalf of the justice system. When working with community based domestic violence advocates, survivors have the rights of confidentiality and privilege afforded to victims of domestic violence by the State of Colorado and the U.S. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA 2005). Unless a client gives their community-based domestic violence advocate permission to share information with another entity, the relationship and information shared between a survivor and Advocate is completely confidential. The private nature of this relationship is crucial to promoting victim safety and healing.

October is **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. Please visit our website, safehouse-denver.org, for more information on our life-saving services for survivors of domestic violence. To access services, call our 24-Hour Crisis and Information Line: 303-318-9989. ■

2015 Hope Gala

The 2015 Hope Gala is right around the corner! See the back page of this newsletter for detailed information, including how to purchase your individual seat today!



2015 Gala leaders
Carrie Wernecke-Swenson,
Marta Kostelny and Devon Hayes

Kudos to 'Sampling for Hope'

175 guests attended our inaugural *Sampling for Hope* event on Thursday, June 4, 2015 at RedLine Gallery. The event brought together some of the best chefs and caterers in Denver to create a casual evening featuring delicious bites and samples.

Foodie Food, The Oceanaire Seafood Room, and the Ritz-Carlton, Denver won awards for best appetizer, entrée and dessert, respectively. Lala's Wine Bar & Pizzeria won the coveted People's Choice Award. We'd like to



Board Chair, Joy Woller (L), and CEO, Victoria McVicker (R),
with SAMPLING FOR HOPE winning restaurant chefs

thank our incredible event committee, all of the generous restaurants, our VIP Judges and the businesses and individuals who generously supported this event. Watch for a 2016 'Save the Date!'

Workplace Giving

If your employer hosts a workplace giving campaign, please consider designating payroll deductions to SafeHouse Denver using the following campaign numbers and instructions:

- Caring Connection: 1099
- Combined Federal Campaign: 24771
- Denver Employees Combined Campaign: write in 'SafeHouse Denver, Inc. Denver, Colorado'
- Colorado Combined Campaign: 4060
- Mile High United Way: designate SafeHouse Denver by writing in our name on your pledge form.

Thank You

We'd like to thank and recognize the following entities for hosting an event or initiative on our behalf since February: Accenture, AEG Live, LLC, BC Realty, Big Ten Alumni Group Charity Social, The Behr Team, City Attorney's Office Trivia Night, Columbian Elementary School, CrossFit Modig, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Denver School of Science and Technology, DU Small Communications Class Charity Yard Sale, Intelisecure, Lakewood Senior High, Author Deanna Morss, Mountain Vista High

School, My Drink On, P17, Pax Christi Mom's Group, Performance Chiropractic, Plain's End Golf Tournament, Shakin' it for SafeHouse/Shimmy Mob, Steel Spirit Jewelry, Sundance Energy, Inc., Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, University of Colorado student chapter of the American Pharmacists Assoc., Wesley Yarrowborough.

IRA Beneficiary Designations

Typically, IRA beneficiaries include a spouse and/or other family members or loved ones.

News & Notes

If there is also room to include a gift to SafeHouse Denver, naming us as a beneficiary of your IRA might be the perfect option to remember SafeHouse Denver in your estate plans. Completing a beneficiary change form only takes a few minutes and can be done online. And, as an added bonus, there is no planning cost to changing your beneficiaries.

To learn more about planned giving opportunities with SafeHouse Denver, please contact Valerie Chileski, Chief Development Officer, at 303-302-6116 or vchileski@safehouse-denver.org.

Annual Report Available Online

Our Annual Report for fiscal year 2014-2015 is available on our website. Throughout the



report, you'll find information on our financial health, noteworthy program updates and stories and quotes from individuals whose lives, with your support and involvement, we have touched.

Special thanks to Welch Creative Group for generously designing the piece pro bono again this year!

Taco & Margarita Tasting: Third Party Event

Enjoy a taco, tequila and margarita tasting at The Lobby (2191 Arapahoe Street) on Saturday, October 3, 2015 from 6-9 pm. Admission includes 20 tasting tickets, a souvenir glass, taco tasting, entertainment and more! Tickets are \$45-\$55 and a portion benefits SafeHouse Denver. Visit safehouse-denver.org/upcoming-events to purchase tickets. ■

Board of Directors

Joy Woller, Chair
Lewis Roca Rothgerber LLP
Laura Keasling, Treasurer/Chair Elect
FirstBank Data Corp
Michael Baker, Secretary
Gold Crown Management
Carrie Wernecke-Swenson, Past-Chair
Kentwood City Properties
David Beal, Delta Dental of Colorado
Sharla Carlson, Reed Group, Ltd.
John Dillie, Janus Capital Group
Kelly Donovan, Wells Fargo Government and Community Relations
Ramona Gomoll,
MasTec Advanced Technologies
John Rivera, Belco Credit Union
Ted Vanderveen, Be Relevant Solutions
Victoria McVicker
CEO, SafeHouse Denver

Honorary Board

Cassidy Bednark, aka DJ Bedz
Dayle Cedars, 7News
Carol and Paul Rose,
Community Volunteers
Susan Noble,
Coldwell Banker Devonshire
Karen Fox Wolfe,
Community Volunteer

SafeHouse Denver Staff

Maleshah Bender,
Donations Coordinator
Shannon Boltz,
Annual Giving and Events Manager
Judy Carrier, Director of
Counseling and Advocacy Services
Valerie Chileski,
Chief Development Officer
Abby Eschler,
Domestic Violence Advocate
Kayla Frawley, Bilingual Family Advocate
Bertha Garza,
Bilingual Domestic Violence Advocate
Ashley Golder,
Director of Communications
Natalie Hicks,
Director of Shelter Services
Kelly Holland,
Volunteer and Project Manager
Rebecca Knight,
Bilingual Women's Advocate
Nadine Leonard,
Domestic Violence Advocate
Victoria A. McVicker,
Chief Executive Officer
Ashlee Morris Hobbs,
Domestic Violence Advocate
Jeanne Newland,
Assistant Director of Shelter Services
Sue Pilcher,
Chief Financial Officer
Brandy Walega,
Domestic Violence Advocate
Jessica Wall Schmidt, Grants Manager
Rachael Williams,
Bilingual Women's Advocate
Ruth Williams, Women's Advocate
Sabrina Wright-Hobart, Development and Administrative Assistant

Shelter Relief Staff

Michelle Brister
Elaine Cho
Courtney Kuepper
Katie Stubbs
Veronika Walker
Lynne Watson
Jennifer Wernsing
Cecily Williams
Chelsey Valeri

Newsletter

Ashley Golder, Editor
Valerie Chileski, Associate Editor
Steve Cruz, Graphic Design

SafeHouse Denver

1649 Downing Street, Denver, CO 80218
Let us know if you receive duplicates of this mailing.

YOU'RE INVITED!



Saturday, October 17, 2015

5:30 to 10:30 pm • Ritz-Carlton, Denver

An elegant evening featuring a cocktail hour, fabulous auctions, dinner, a mission-focused program and fun surprises.

\$185 Individual Seat | \$100 Young Professional Seat (guests under 35)

— **2015 Top-Level Hope Gala Sponsors** —

Gold Sponsors: **MasTec Advanced Technologies | Carol and Paul Rose**
Auction Sponsor: **Delta Dental of Colorado**

— **2015 Awardees** —

Carolyn Hamil-Henderson Memorial Award: **Anne DePrince**
Susan Noble Community Impact Award: **Monica Denler**

For information about sponsorship opportunities,
visit our website or call Valerie at 303-302-6116.

If you'd like to donate to our live or silent auction,
please email Auction Chair, Devon, at devon.wisner@gmail.com.

To purchase your Individual Seat today, visit
safehouse-denver.org/upcoming-events or call 303-302-6126.

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 1136
DENVER, CO

Return Service Requested

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 303-318-9959
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