

SAFEHOUSE DENVER

Annual Report

To The Community

*Hope Didn't Stop Last Year...
Neither Did We!*



FISCAL
YEAR

2020
-2021

IN THIS EDITION

A Letter From Leadership

Survivor Stories

Program Highlights

Fiscal Year Financials

Donor Recognition



SAFEHOUSE
D E N V E R

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

From Our Leadership

Looking Forward, Reflecting On The Past

Dear Friends and Community Members,

You've no doubt read the phrase "2020 has been a year to remember" dozens of times or more. It is true – the world as we know it has changed; and still, there is so much to be hopeful about.

For SafeHouse Denver, the COVID-19 pandemic was just beginning to explode as our fiscal year began on April 1, 2020. **There was incalculable uncertainty, fear and anxiety – for survivors and staff.** Survivors were facing increased isolation, heightened violence and a lack of available resources. Our staff suddenly became front-line workers, managing ever-changing safety regulations and coping with their own personal pandemic-related challenges.

Like most of you though, we learned to do our best within the new reality so that we could continue our mission. Our 24-Hour Crisis and Information Line has remained open, despite the inability to staff the line with trained volunteers. Our Counseling and Advocacy Center has continued to accept new clients and pivoted to provide support and resources virtually and by phone. Our Extended Stay Program remains fully operational and acts as a spring board for survivors who are out of immediate crisis. And our Emergency Shelter has steadfastly provided housing, advocacy and basic necessities in a limited capacity to maintain social distancing.

Even in the best of times, raising funds and awareness to support survivors of domestic violence is an arduous task due to the myth and misunderstanding that surround this issue. As the economic doubt settled in, we feared for the worst. We are very proud of the fiscal accountability our Management Team and Board of Directors has always maintained. Yet we had no idea if the individuals, foundations and business partners that we have come to rely on would be able to give back during such uneasy times.

And then you – our community – stepped up for survivors.

As the year progressed, we saw a record number of supporters donate for the first time. We were the grateful recipients of handsewn masks, soap, gloves and – importantly! – toilet paper when it was impossible to find. We had the honor of being showcased on 9News' Next program during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, successfully held a virtual Hope Gala and experienced record-breaking giving on Colorado Gives Day. Several long-time Foundation partners recognized the unique challenges that non-profits faced, and substantially increased their support.

Now that our fiscal year has come to a close, we see that the combination of these factors and the gains on our investments have resulted in an unprecedented year for SafeHouse Denver. The surplus is remarkable and could not have come at a better time. As you'll read in the following pages, we unexpectedly purchased the building that houses our administration and Counseling and Advocacy Center (CAC) in November

2020. The financial success of this past fiscal year will help us reinvigorate the reserve funds that provided so much comfort during the pandemic, and will allow us to come closer to retiring the mortgage on the CAC.

A year to remember indeed! Combined with heightened coverage of domestic violence in the media, **the general public saw in 2020 what we've known for years: that not every home is safe, that not every relationship is healthy, and that domestic violence doesn't happen in a vacuum.** We are so proud to live and work in a community that saw this challenging year and never wavered in its support for survivors.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Staff here at SafeHouse Denver, we're pleased to share more details of our fiscal year in this 2020/2021 Annual Report. **Thank you for providing hope through such a difficult time.** We look forward to supporting more survivors, with you by our side, for years to come!

With deepest gratitude,



Victoria McVicker
CEO

Geralyn Gorshing
Board Chair



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CEO, SafeHouse Denver

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Cymoné Williams, Assistant Director of Shelter Services

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Samantha Wogensen, Overnight Domestic Violence Advocate

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Marie Panchesson

Linda Sinclair

Interns

Emily Cox

Sara Schmidt

Lupe Staigers

Sarah Wilkinson

Survivor Stories

Like all of us, the **COVID-19 pandemic** has touched nearly every aspect of the lives of survivors. Increased isolation, limited access to resources and intensified physical violence have all exacerbated the crises and challenges faced by those experiencing domestic violence.

The economic stress and heightened tension combined with more time at home has fueled physical violence for survivors who share a home with their abuser. According to the Denver Police Department, **aggravated assaults tied to domestic violence jumped more than 40% in 2020**. Here are just some of the stories of how survivors in our services overcame the incredible difficulties from the past year:



Angelica, a survivor in our services last year, had no access to her own food because her abuser controlled every bit of money in the household. Prior to the pandemic, she relied on secretly accessing food banks to subsidize their weekly groceries. However, with their limited hours and her abuser now working from home, she was unable to utilize that vital resource.

Once she called SafeHouse Denver's Crisis Line, she was connected to an Advocate who understood her unique challenges. With detailed planning and support, including printing protection order paperwork and involving friends to safely deliver it to her, Angelica was able to escape to the safety of a family member's home in another state.

Neesa left her abuser but was in the middle of a difficult custody battle when she and her two children contracted COVID-19. When she made the responsible decision to quarantine herself and her children, her abuser accused her of trying to interfere in his relationship with their children, going so far as involving their lawyers.

Already a client of SafeHouse Denver's Counseling and Advocacy Center, Neesa's Advocate helped her navigate the situation, as well as process the added trauma. Isolation of all forms has unfortunately become a common manipulation tactic for abusers.





Upon escaping to SafeHouse Denver's Emergency Shelter, **Rosario** filed a protection order against her abuser, which he violated four times, resulting in five active warrants for his arrest. In the past, he would have been arrested once he appeared in court, but this did not happen since the courts were limited or taking place virtually.

Rosario was in a constant state of fear and was grateful to be in the safety of the Shelter. Thankfully, an anonymous tip eventually led to her abuser's arrest and she was able to work with her Advocate on further safety planning.

Throughout the pandemic, SafeHouse Denver has been **committed to providing as much support as possible, especially for marginalized populations.**

Despite the challenges of the past year, SafeHouse Denver is steadfast in our dedication to provide essential, trauma-informed care to survivors escaping domestic violence.

These services are only possible thanks to the ongoing support of you - our community!

Danielle had been through a string of jobs that she had been fired from due to her abuser stalking and confronting her at work. She left the relationship and was working toward self-sufficiency, only to lose her service industry job during the pandemic. She was also in school and really struggled with remote learning.

Once she was connected to SafeHouse Denver, her Advocate spent time helping her identify her career goals, find an affordable laptop and secure a new job to support herself while continuing school. The ability to lean on an Advocate who understood how the trauma of her past relationship affected her current goals was pivotal to Danielle's success.



Program Highlights

CRISIS & INFORMATION LINE

8,792 calls from survivors and those helping them were answered by Advocates and trained volunteers who offered safety planning, support and informed resource referral. Most calls were answered by Advocates in 2020, as we were unable to host volunteers at our facility for the majority of the year.

3,873 callers were referred to other resources because Shelter beds were unavailable.



EMERGENCY SHELTER

107 women, 48 children, three men, and one nonbinary survivor received safe housing, basic necessities, individual and group counseling and referrals to other resources such as medical care and housing.

1,752 total individual counseling and/or advocacy interactions occurred between residents and staff; on average, clients received about five referrals to community resources.

Shelter improvements included a security system upgrade, energy efficiency upgrades and beautified outdoor space, which was especially helpful during the pandemic as residents chose to spend more time in the secure courtyard space.

Group support was re-configured in a safe, socially distanced way with “grab and go” materials for residents to take and complete in their own space with Advocate support.



COUNSELING & ADVOCACY CENTER

723 individuals received support through our non-residential Counseling and Advocacy Center. This includes post-assault outreach, crisis intervention, safety planning, emotional support, trauma counseling and systems advocacy.

With fewer new survivor referrals, we served a slightly smaller number of clients in 2020. However, individual client contacts increased by 23% from 2019 to 2020, demonstrating the depth of need for counseling and advocacy work during the pandemic.

A new Survivor-Led Support Group was formed at the beginning of 2020. The CAC team halted group sessions at the beginning of the pandemic, but was eventually able to move to virtual group sessions. The team facilitated 12 survivor-led support groups in 2020, serving 16 adults with over 60 client contacts. We were also able to provide a healthy relationships group to 10 adults through our partnership with the Center for Work Education and Employment (CWEE).

41 young people in the highest risk age group of 16 to 25 received age-appropriate psychoeducation on dating violence, and 9 adolescent girls received teen dating violence prevention programming through a collaboration with the Denver Safe Cities Juvenile Diversion Program.

The CAC team made 367 outreach calls to survivors immediately post-assault as a result of our participation in the Colorado Domestic Violence Review Team (CDVRT), the revamped Denver Triage Project. SafeHouse Denver’s Co-Located Advocate provided phone-based advocacy services to 212 survivors, almost doubling the number reached in 2019, and 168 of survivors contacted requested individual counseling services, the largest number of referrals generated since 2015. The team provided individual counseling services to 53 unique survivors as a result of this project.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Rose Adom 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 out of **32 formal partnerships**.

In 2020, our Community Education program reached **1,205 people through 20 educational presentations** on domestic violence prevention, intervention and services available in the community.

The Impact of COVID-19 on Numbers Served

In 2020, we served fewer survivors than we normally would have due to COVID-19 limitations. Our Shelter operated at half-capacity to maintain social distancing, and fewer survivors were able to move out of the Shelter and Extended Stay Program due to scarce housing options. For most of 2020, Counseling & Advocacy Center staff were only able to meet with survivors via phone and virtually, and very few group sessions were held. While the number of survivors that we served in 2020 is lower than previous years, the intensity of the services has increased. Survivors are requiring more in-depth services, safety planning has become more challenging and survivors are likely to remain in our services for longer periods of time due to limited availability of other community resources.



EXTENDED STAY PROGRAM

12 adults and 13 children accessed safe housing, community resources, increased stability and confidence.

The average length of stay increased to 125 days with fewer housing options available during the pandemic.

Securing Our Future

Many supporters and volunteers are familiar with our building at 17th and Downing. This beautiful Victorian brick structure is home to our non-residential Counseling and Advocacy Center (CAC) program and our administrative staff.

In August 2020, our landlord decided to sell the building, putting us at risk of losing what has been our “home” since 1998. After a great deal of discussion and research, our Board of Directors and leadership team decided that the best course of direction was for SafeHouse Denver to purchase the building for \$1.3 million.

Our strong financial reputation allowed us to secure a very competitive mortgage. On November 6, after thorough inspections, numerous negotiations and due-diligence, we officially purchased the

building that houses our Counseling and Advocacy Center!

Although we hadn't planned to make a purchase of this magnitude in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it allows us to continue supporting survivors without disruption and with confidence into the future.

Due to the very strong commitment of donors and supporters and an extremely positive fiscal year, SafeHouse has already been able to make significant additional payments toward the mortgage principal.

As we continue to work diligently toward the stability of our agency, we are committed to retiring this debt as quickly as possible, allowing us to put an even larger percentage of funds toward supporting survivors.



Finances

Audited Financial Statements for the 12-Month Period Ended March 31, 2021

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,341,724
Accounts receivable	\$ 139,504
Contributions receivable	\$ 18,473
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$ 36,285
Investments	\$ 1,285,985
Beneficial interest in Community First Foundation	\$ 74,272
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$951,082	\$ 2,585,690
Total Assets	\$ 5,481,933

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable, accrued expenses, deferred revenue, capital lease, mortgage note, and SBA Payroll Protection Program (expected to be forgiven)	\$ 1,146,991
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,146,991

NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions	
Board designated assets	\$ 814,463
Undesignated	\$ 3,386,264
Total unrestricted net assets	\$ 4,200,727
With donor restrictions	\$ 134,215
Total Net Assets	\$ 4,334,942
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 5,481,933

SafeHouse Denver proudly ended the 2020/2021 fiscal year with a surplus of \$802,128.

This is due to several favorable factors including, most substantially, a **\$334K gain on investments**. Additionally, we benefitted from the surge in charitable giving seen across the country, with a **29% increase (\$260K) in overall donations from individuals**.

Foundation support increased by more than \$104K due to an infusion of funds for COVID relief and unexpected one-time gifts.

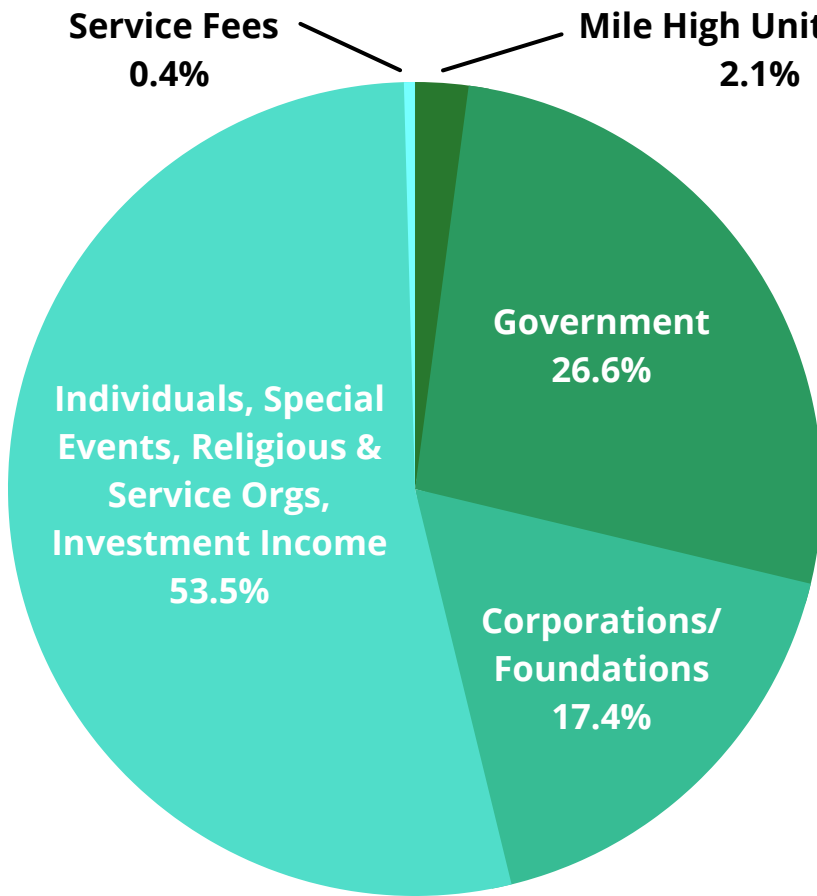
Government funding increased by \$56K for the same reason, notwithstanding one of our major government funders significantly decreasing their funding as a result of the pandemic.

In light of the positive outcomes of the previous fiscal year and despite the uncertainty of the future, we are steadfast in our commitment to fiscal responsibility.

SafeHouse Denver plans to use the surplus to considerably pay down the mortgage acquired in late 2020 to unexpectedly purchase the Counseling and Advocacy Center (CAC) building, as well as infuse our CAC Building Reserve Fund to take care of anticipated and unanticipated repairs.

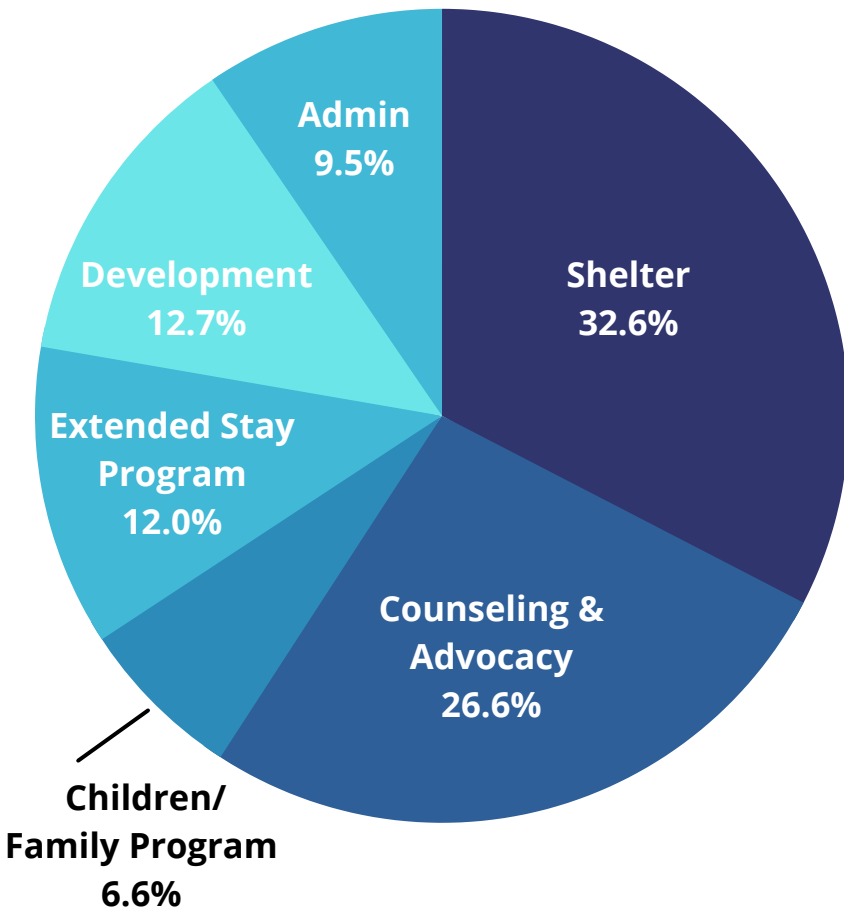
By investing in our future and the sustainability of the organization, we will be able to continue our mission to **help adults, children and youth reclaim their right to a life free from domestic violence.**

OPERATING REVENUE



Mile High United Way (Includes individual workplace giving via MHUW)	\$ 58,649
Government	\$ 740,869
Corporations/Foundations	\$ 485,271
Individuals, special events, religious & service orgs; investment income	\$ 1,484,839
Service fees	\$ 12,140
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 2,781,768

OPERATING EXPENSES



Shelter	\$ 645,228
Counseling and Advocacy	\$ 525,995
Children/Family Program	\$ 130,305
Extended Stay Program	\$ 237,056
Development	\$ 252,121
Administrative	\$ 188,935
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 1,979,640

Donors

Thank you to the following donors who generously contributed to SafeHouse Denver between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021. While space limitations allow us to publish only those donors who contributed at the \$500 level and above, we sincerely appreciate all levels of support. We have made every effort to print an accurate list. We apologize for any omissions or errors. Please call 303-302- 6122 with corrections.

* Sustainer of Hope (monthly gifts) + Legacy of Hope Society (estate plans)

\$50,000 AND ABOVE

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The Anschutz Foundation
Daniels Fund
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\$20,000 - \$49,999

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Mile High United Way
Nord Family Foundation
The Mary Kay Foundation

\$10,000 - \$19,999

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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Community First Foundation
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Weckbaugh Foundation
Daniel Wernecke
Audrey Wheeler
Kristie Wieland
Maury Wooldridge
Debra Young
Patricia L. & Robert J. Zoetewey

GOVERNMENT FUNDERS

Denver Department of Human Services - Denver's Road Home AKA HOST

Denver Department of Human Services - Utility Assistance

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 Denver District Attorney's Office for Rose Androm Center/Triage Intervention Project

State of Colorado - Child and Adult Care Food Program

State of Colorado Department of Human Services - Domestic Violence Program

TANF/Denver Dept. of Human Services

VALE - Victim Assistance Law Enforcement Fund

2020 TOP-LEVEL HOPE GALA SPONSORS

Exclusive Platinum Sponsor Group

Buddy Boy Brands

MJardin Group

Next1 Labs, LLC

Potco, LLC

Gold Sponsors

Anonymous

MasTec Advanced Technologies

Auction Sponsor

CRL Associates, Inc.

Silver Sponsors

Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

MDC/Richmond American Homes Foundation

COMMUNITY GIVING

\$436,348 awarded through 29 grants from private foundations

\$274,175 raised through year-end giving, including \$128,207 in 24 hours on Colorado Gives Day

\$329,758 received through 68 major gifts of \$1,000 or more

\$102,264 received in other designated gifts, mostly through workplace giving

\$203,448 raised through our virtual Hope Gala

\$58,475 generated through monthly gifts from our Sustainers of Hope

\$61,535 raised through third-party events and initiatives

2,677 hours contributed by volunteers as well as Board Members

\$90,000 of in-kind donations and pro bono services, given by 159 donors

** The 2020/2021 fiscal year was record-breaking for many of our fundraising initiatives. We are so grateful for the community's support of survivors – especially in such a difficult year.*

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

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



Administrative Offices

1649 Downing St.
Denver, CO 80218
303-318-9959

safehouse-denver.org