



SAFEHOUSE

D E N V E R

Making Every House a Safe House

ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE COMMUNITY



MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

“Our lives are not determined by what happens to us, but by how we react to what happens; not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude is a catalyst...a spark that creates extraordinary results.”-*Author Unknown*

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of SafeHouse Denver, we're pleased to present our Annual Report to the Community for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. Inspired by the positive attitude, strength and resilience of the many domestic violence survivors we serve, we enjoyed a stellar year defined by celebration, collaboration and cultivation. These sparks created extraordinary results, allowing us to provide the caring, compassionate, high-quality services for which we've been known since 1977. With your generous involvement as donors, funders and volunteers, we offered help and hope as domestic violence survivors worked to achieve healthy, self-sufficient, and abuse-free lives.

SafeHouse Denver celebrated its 35th Anniversary in 2012, a milestone highlighted by the creation of a special Emerald Anniversary Fund. We quickly met our \$35K goal, earmarked to support women and children whose circumstances required a longer than 30-day stay at our Emergency Shelter. The Pioneer Fund generously matched this amount and their gift, as well as others over the initial \$35K, resulted in an additional \$47,721. These funds have now been placed in a restricted fund for operation of our future Extended Stay Facility, part of our strategic vision to house women and children who are out of immediate crisis but need additional time to secure stable, long-term housing.

In celebration of their 15th Anniversary and our 35th, Go Automotive Group selected SafeHouse Denver as their charity partner, resulting in significant cash gifts and pro bono work at our Emergency Shelter. “Go” was the Presenting Sponsor of the 2012 Hope Gala; donated a car lease to the live auction; contributed nearly \$40K to the Call for Support from funds raised through individual dealership challenges; and helped us secure grant funding from the Toyota and Enterprise Foundations. Their outstanding efforts resulted in SafeHouse receiving the top prize of \$30K in the nationwide AutoNation Culture of Caring Contest.

Our celebratory year continued as the 2012 Hope Gala exceeded all expectations, grossing a record \$315,952. The generosity of Go Automotive Group; the impact of our survivor Krystal sharing her story; Denver 7's Dayle Cedar's passion as the evening's Emcee; a strong Gala Committee; and the addition of a professional auctioneer all contributed to this phenomenal success.

Collaboration was at the heart of our service delivery throughout the year. In addition to maintaining our 21 well-established Memorandums of Understanding and nearly 100 informal partnerships, we prioritized outreach to agencies with primary missions related to economic opportunity. We created a Self-Sufficiency Coordinator position to partner with both staff and clients at Work Options for Women; the Center for Work Education and Employment; and Warren Village -organizations that provide job training, education, employment and/or housing programs for low income families who are especially vulnerable to domestic violence. (continued)

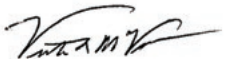
We also strengthened and expanded our collaborations with agencies serving other populations at high-risk for domestic violence. Our continued participation in the Justice Project for Older Adults (JPOA) helped increase our communication with other organizations that provide essential resources for older victims and work together to identify needs and build support networks. As a result of this partnership, we joined the Denver Forensic Collaborative for At-Risk Adults. This multi-agency team reviews and responds to cases that involve suspected physical, sexual, emotional and/or financial abuse; neglect or self-neglect; or often, some combination of these. The team assists the referring agency to ensure the safety of the at-risk adult by taking immediate action to protect the victim and contain the offender.

Our commitment to reducing the incidence of teen dating violence remained strong as we continued to provide education programs and early intervention services at a number of schools, parenting programs and juvenile diversion agencies. We re-established our relationship with The Center, serving the LGBT community. A SafeHouse Advocate is on-site at The Center one day a week to provide individual counseling, as well as presentations to transgender individuals and older adults.

Always a priority, our ongoing cultivation efforts resulted in greater visibility in the community and greater investment in our cause. We garnered the support of 492 first-time donors during the fiscal year; recorded 174 donors through Colorado Gives Day; saw a 35% increase in “likes” on Facebook and 26,506 visits to our website. A total of 125 donors gave at the major gifts-level of \$1K or more, a 30% increase over 2011. Year-end giving was also up by 30%. Our Board and Staff were always mindful of our need to continually grow our base of supporters and truly embraced every opportunity to message SafeHouse Denver in both formal and informal ways. In addition, the development of a volunteer-based Donor Stewardship Team and a stronger Major Gifts Committee resulted in closer contact with our individual donors.

Well into our 36th year as a recognized leader in providing domestic violence prevention and intervention services to the community, our commitment to all our constituents has never been stronger. We extend our sincerest thanks for your past support and continued investment in our lifesaving work. You are truly the sparks that allow us to create extraordinary results!

Warmest Regards,



Victoria A. McVicker
Chief Executive Officer



Brad Smith
FY2012-2013 Board Chair



SHARING THEIR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE

SafeHouse Denver is very fortunate to have the support of hundreds of donors, funders, volunteers and friends who contribute to our organization in so many ways. We've highlighted a handful of them here.

The current Chair of the SafeHouse Denver Board of Directors, Carrie Wernecke (pictured with fellow supporter Chad Karst) has been involved with our organization as a donor and volunteer since 2003. She started as a volunteer with the Denver Alumni Chapter of Alpha Chi Omega and later joined the Gala Committee, serving as Auction Chair for two years and the Event Chair for two years. Carrie also participates in the Coldwell Banker *Ride the Range* biking event every year, earmarking all sponsorship proceeds for SafeHouse. As a domestic violence survivor herself, the SafeHouse Denver mission is very close to her heart. "SafeHouse Denver plays a vital role in keeping women and children safe during a crisis," Carrie emphasizes. "It's important to me that we are able to provide these intervention services, as well as prevention services, to educate the community and stop domestic violence."



In the 35 year history of our organization, no single company has had such a broad and significant impact on our work in one year's time as Go Automotive Group. Through fundraising, employee involvement, leveraging relationships with vendors and raising awareness about the issue of domestic violence, "Go", recently rebranded as AutoNation, reached thousands with the message that SafeHouse Denver saves lives. Steve Strader, former President and CEO of the Western Region, now Senior Vice President of Retail Operations with AutoNation, pictured at our 35th Anniversary celebration with wife Virgie (left) and Board Member Monica Denler, modestly noted that "It is the staff and survivors at SafeHouse that do the hard work. Go Automotive Group's contribution is insignificant by comparison."

SafeHouse Denver was the very grateful beneficiary of over 40 third party events and initiatives over during the fiscal year. From ongoing initiatives like those sponsored by Sloane's Carpet Secret, BC Realty LLC and DJ Bedz, to annual events like the ever-popular Cornhole Tournament, our third party sponsors generously raised funds, as well as awareness of the issue of domestic violence. Chris and Brenda Volgenau, pictured with CEO Victoria McVicker, have hosted the Warren Miller Film Screening for the past six years. "We are deeply committed to SafeHouse Denver's mission," note Brenda and Chris, "and are thrilled to support it through organizing this exciting annual event."



As a highly successful professional, loving sister and caring friend, few people would suspect that Lisa Herschli is a survivor of domestic violence. Raised in a home where her father emotionally abused her mother and his three daughters, Lisa had never experienced a healthy relationship. As an adult, she married three times, with each marriage ending in divorce due to emotional, psychological and financial abuse. Today, this very resilient and generous survivor supports SafeHouse Denver's work as both a donor and a community education volunteer. "I may not be the typical face of domestic violence," notes Lisa, "but by speaking-out, I know I'm making a difference. I want to change the denial of domestic violence's existence-it must be talked about openly and frankly."

A BEST PRACTICE APPROACH TO WORKING WITH SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

At SafeHouse Denver, our skilled and experienced Program Directors and Advocates help survivors of domestic violence achieve healthy, self-sufficient lives free from abuse. The five professionals featured here represent all SafeHouse Advocates who collectively bring the highest level of compassion and expertise to their work.

SafeHouse Denver's many collaborations raise awareness of domestic violence and our services; ensure that services are easily accessible to vulnerable populations; and facilitate access to additional community resources for those we serve. "We know that SafeHouse can't do this work alone," notes Judy Carrier, Director of Counseling and Advocacy Services. "Our community partners work in a variety of ways to augment our efforts to remove barriers to a life free from abuse, increase access to services, and support a victim's ability to become self-sufficient." Our partners also enhance SafeHouse Denver's ability to increase awareness of domestic violence through education and outreach in the community.

From in-take to exit, SafeHouse Denver's Emergency Shelter serves clients using a Trauma-Informed Care model. "Our goal is to look at all aspects of programming and client care through a trauma lens and respond with strategies that are sensitive to individual client needs," notes Natalie Hicks, Director of Shelter Services. "For example, REAP (Realizing Your Economic Action Plan) explores issues of economic power and financial abuse, while emphasizing a survivor's strengths and resourcefulness. Self-Care Week and DV101 Groups allow us to model the importance of taking care of ourselves as we tailor strategies to intentionally meet clients where they are in the healing process."

"At SafeHouse Denver, we help clients develop an understanding of what self-sufficiency looks like, identify the components of a healthy relationship, and cultivate a sense of competence and success by recognizing each client's abilities," says Shely Basnet, DV Advocate and Self-Sufficiency Coordinator. Through programs, classes, resources, and tools, Shely uses a holistic approach, helping domestic violence survivors understand the five essential "S's" – safety, support, sabotage, self-determination and self-care. Clients are provided with specific strategies to help them regain their self-confidence and work toward achieving healthy, self-sufficient lives.



SafeHouse Denver takes advantage of an environment in which mothers and their children are in the Shelter together to address their needs as a family unit. Advocates work closely with moms to help identify and address behavioral issues that may have resulted from the trauma the child has witnessed, develop an appropriate care plan and provide specific support and resources. “While families are with us at Shelter, our role is not to change parenting styles but to reinforce the parent/child relationship with understanding, flexibility, and a sense of stability,” comment Laurel Tawresey and Nicole Maier, Children’s Advocates. Approximately 50% of Shelter clients have their children with them during their stay. Supporting children in their journey, while helping to strengthen family relationships, is essential to the healing process.



Brianne’s Story

Although divorced from her abusive husband, Brianne continued to endure his harassment as they worked to co-parent their two children. His abuse was very evident as he frequently demanded schedule changes for visiting their children, verbally threatened her, and stalked her by computer and phone. His demands, threats and cyber stalking left Brianne feeling confused and bullied. Because Brianne’s ex-husband is in law enforcement in the same county where she lives, she was reluctant to call the police to report signs of his emotional abuse and physical aggressiveness toward their children.

Since beginning services at SafeHouse Denver in 2011, Brianne has learned more about the dynamics of domestic abuse, custody issues, and developing a parenting plan. She understands that manipulation is a very common theme for survivors who must remain in contact with their abuser because children are involved. In addition to accessing individual counseling, Brianne participates in a parenting support group.

Despite Brianne’s ongoing challenges with her abusive ex-husband, she uses the many tools provided by SafeHouse Denver Advocates, becoming increasingly insightful and self-aware about the dynamics of domestic abuse and the potential long-term impact on her children. She’s also focusing on her own self-care, building a strong support network, and setting and maintaining boundaries. Brianne is healing from years of abuse and her children are doing well in their loving, nurturing home.



FINANCIALS

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$348,335
Accounts receivable	\$71,724
Contributions receivable	\$30,000
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$8,060
Investments including Beneficial Interest in Community First Foundation	\$571,869
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$528,498	\$522,440
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,552,428

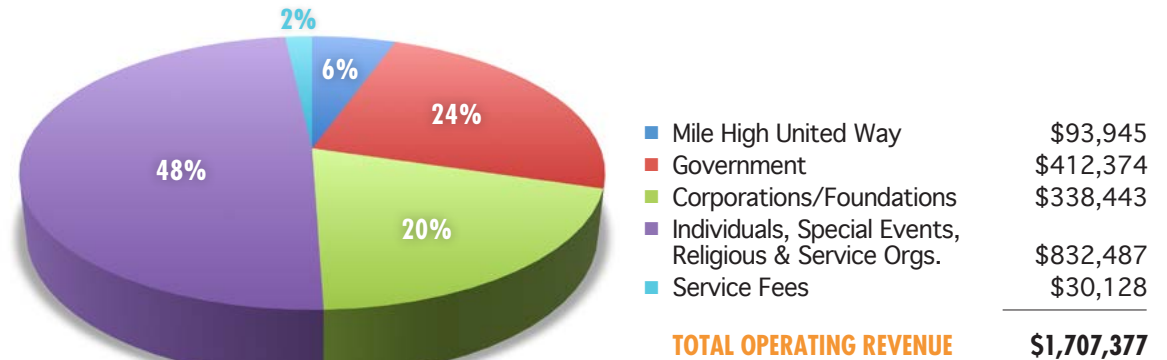
LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$130,963
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$130,963

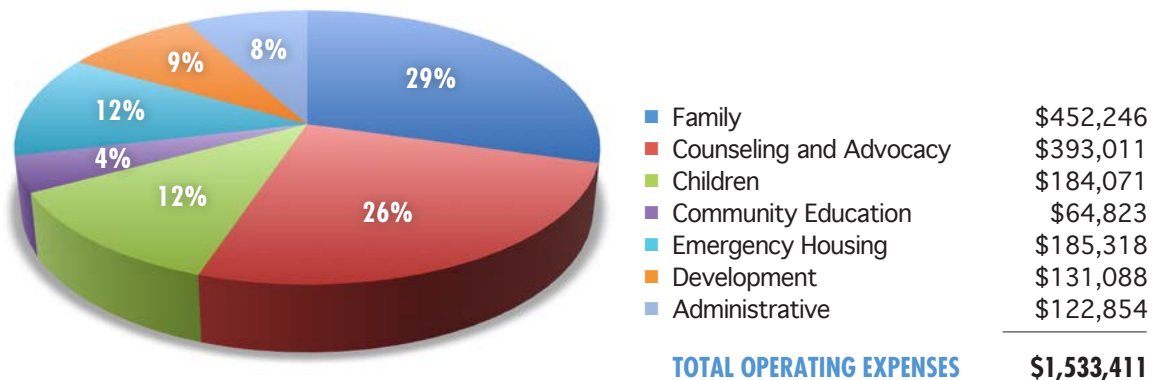
NET ASSETS

Unrestricted:	
Property and equipment, net of related debt	\$522,440
Board designated-rent security, operating reserve, extended stay program operating and capital	\$135,361
Undesignated	\$661,534
Total unrestricted net assets	\$1,319,335
Temporarily restricted	\$56,390
Permanently restricted	\$45,740
Total net assets	\$1,421,465
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,552,428

OPERATING REVENUE



OPERATING EXPENSES



SAFEHOUSE DENVER 2012 PROGRAM STATS

18,618 NUMBER OF CRISIS LINE CALLS

186 NUMBER OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN
SHELTERED

9,486 NIGHTS OF SAFE SHELTER

3,011 CALLERS REFERRED TO OTHER RESOURCES
AS SHELTER WAS AT CAPACITY

614 WOMEN SERVED AT THE COUNSELING
AND ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)

296 CHILDREN SERVED AT THE CAC

14 MALE VICTIMS SERVED AT THE CAC

632 ADDITIONAL VICTIMS SERVED
THROUGH CAC OUTREACH

374 NUMBER OF TEENS REACHED THROUGH
DATING VIOLENCE INTERVENTION GROUPS

318 NUMBER OF TEENS REACHED THROUGH
DATING VIOLENCE
PREVENTION PRESENTATIONS

38 NUMBER OF DIRECT SERVICE VOLUNTEERS
CONTRIBUTED **3,550** HOURS

1,350 VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED BY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE
VOLUNTEERS

49 TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMUNITY
EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS
REACHED **1,128** COMMUNITY MEMBERS

383 TOTAL NUMBER OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN
SERVED THROUGH *In The Spirit*, HOLIDAY
GIVING PROGRAM



SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS

SafeHouse Denver is most grateful to the many donors, funders, vendors and pro bono contractors who helped create a safer, more comfortable environment for the women and children at our Emergency Shelter. During the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year, the following projects were completed:

- PLAYROOM RENOVATION
- ELEVATOR MODERNIZATION
- ELECTRICAL UPGRADE
- EXPANDED STORAGE SPACE
- CONFERENCE ROOM and SITTING AREA “FACELIFT”



WATCH FOR OUR FEATURE
ARTICLE ON PHYSICAL UPDATES
TO THE SHELTER IN THE LATE
SUMMER/EARLY FALL EDITION
OF THE SAFEHOUSE JOURNAL.

The SafeHouse Denver Sustainers of Hope is a group of generous individual donors who have pledged to make a monthly contribution to support our lifesaving work. Developed several years ago under the leadership of former Board member, Donna Goldin Evans, monthly giving is an easy and effective way to support SafeHouse Denver throughout the year. Monthly donors provide us with the dependable funding we need to continue our lifesaving work and also allow us to plan for the future and continually strengthen our programs and services.



**Sustainers
of**
Hope

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2012-2013 SUSTAINERS OF HOPE:

Jon & Sandy Bierbaum; Nancy Bishopp; Sharla Carlson; John Carnal; Carol Cazes; Jamie & Craig Emmons; Donna & Earl Evans; Full House Commercial Cleaning, LLC; Annette & Mark Germinario; Salvador & Claudia Gonzales; Keri Gilder; Patrice Groux; Laura Keasling; Shannon & Joseph Keel; Carol Lazell; Margie & Michael McKnight; Victoria McVicker; Sarah Paige; Bruce Peterson; Carol Quinn; Taylor Robertson; Kathleen Rogness; Lisa & Jack Rouff; and Jim & Joy Woller

SAFEHOUSE DENVER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SAFEHOUSE DENVER OFFERS
COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES, IN
ENGLISH AND SPANISH, AT BOTH
OUR EMERGENCY SHELTER AND OUR
NON-RESIDENTIAL COUNSELING
AND ADVOCACY CENTER.

SAFEHOUSE DENVER

1649 Downing Street
Denver, CO 80218

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

Specialized Services for Older Adults, the LGBT Community
and Other High-Risk Groups

ADMINISTRATION: 303-318-9959

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: 303-302-6126

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT: 303-302-6112

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM: 303-302-6125

WWW.SAFEHOUSE-DENVER.ORG

2013 SAFEHOUSE DENVER STAFF

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Judy Carrier, *Director of Counseling and Advocacy Services*

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Ashley Golder, *Director of Communications and Annual Giving*

Natalie Hicks, *Director of Shelter Services*

Kelly Holland, *Volunteer and Project Manager*

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San Castillo Jones, *Bilingual Women's Advocate*

Dora-Lee Larson, *Contractor; Community Education*

Nadine Leonard, *Domestic Violence Advocate*

Nicole Maier, *Bilingual Children's Advocate*

Victoria A. McVicker, *Chief Executive Officer*

Sue Pilcher, *Chief Financial Officer*

Lynne Sprague, *Domestic Violence Advocate*

Laurel Tawresey, *Children's Advocate*

Brandy Walega, *Domestic Violence Advocate*

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While space limitations allow us to publish only those donors who have contributed at the \$250 level and above, we sincerely appreciate all levels of support.

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