

ANNUAL REPORT *to the Community*

Fiscal Year **2017/2018**



*Honoring the Past and
Celebrating the Future*



DEAR FRIENDS,

On behalf of SafeHouse Denver's Board of Directors and Staff, we're proud to present our FY 2017-2018 Report to the Community. This was a year marked by milestones, achievement and most importantly a continued commitment to offering the highest quality domestic violence prevention and intervention services to survivors of domestic violence and their children.

In 2017, we celebrated our 40th Anniversary, remembering the vision and courage of five community leaders who, in 1977, first recognized the desperate need for safe shelter, counseling, advocacy and group support for women fleeing domestic abuse. Throughout our 40th Anniversary year, we focused our fundraising and awareness promotion efforts on this important milestone, garnering a total of 796 first time supporters and educating the community about the complex issue of domestic violence. Through our events, formal presentations, active involvement in workplace giving and third party initiatives, the efforts of a dynamic Community Engagement Committee and our ever-growing social media presence, we effectively shared SafeHouse Denver's lifesaving work with the community.

December 2017 saw our nearly 10-year vision become a reality as we purchased a six-unit apartment building to house our future Extended Stay Program (ESP). This critically needed facility will allow Shelter residents, who are out of acute crisis, one to three months of independent housing as they work toward securing long-term living situations and stability-building community resources. Our ability to move these residents to ESP will also allow us to serve an estimated 80 to 100 more survivors in our Emergency Shelter each year. ESP will open in early July.

Perhaps most importantly, during the fiscal year, we continually evaluated our services and programming for survivors of domestic violence. We added an additional room at Shelter to house male victims and individuals of all gender identities, offered trauma-informed yoga for clients, ensured that our shelter environment is always warm and welcoming, and strengthened relationships with dozens of our partner agencies. We hope you'll enjoy reading a bit more about our accomplishments in the pages that follow.

As we prepare the letter that opens our Annual Report each year, our thoughts turn to the survivors we serve and the life-changing impact of their involvement with SafeHouse Denver. Survivors like Anna, who bravely left her abusive husband of 12 years, with only \$4.00 in her pocket, for the safety of our Emergency Shelter. Today, she and her son rent a small apartment, and Anna is working toward a certificate as a nursing assistant. We think of Olivia, her face scarred by her abuser, who found the strength to accept a job at a local retailer and of Sarah, who at 70 years old, has a new life in a senior housing complex and still sees her Advocate weekly.

In closing, we celebrate YOU, our many donors, funders, volunteers and other supporters who make our work possible. We know that domestic violence continues to be a difficult cause for many people to embrace. However, you've chosen to take a public stand, supporting us with your time, talent and treasure and speaking out against domestic abuse. We are deeply grateful for your investment in our often lifesaving work and look forward to your continued involvement. Together, we can ensure that the many Annas, Olivias, and Sarahs who seek our help will receive the services they need to build healthy, abuse-free lives.

With Deepest Appreciation,


Victoria McVicker, CEO


Laura Keasling, Chair, Board of Directors



SafeHouse Denver CEO,
Victoria McVicker (L), with
Board Chair, Laura Keasling

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The mission of SafeHouse Denver is to assist adults, children, and youth in reclaiming their right to a life free from domestic violence.

ANGELA'S STORY

ONE OF HOPE AND HEALING



Angela's resilience in the face of domestic violence spans decades. For more than 15 years, she endured physical, emotional, and financial abuse at the hands of her partner. Yet she always dreamed of a better life, even as she nursed bruises and fractured bones, soothed her tangled emotions, and tried to break out of her financial prison. When the abuse became too much, Angela filed for a protection order that put her abuser behind bars. She even felt safe, until her abuser started calling every day. His sentence was nearing its end.

"I'll find you," he told her. "I want you back."

Angela's fears surfaced in unexpected moments of panic. He would find her and hurt her as he had so many times before. Moving far away seemed her only option, so Angela scraped together enough money to buy a bus ticket. Her destination... Denver, Colorado.

After an emotional and tiring three-day bus journey, Angela found herself in a city with a high cost of living, tremendous competition for limited housing, and fewer well-paying jobs than she expected. She spent a terrifying night wandering the city streets, startled by every male voice she heard, imagining it was him.

The next day, Angela saw a flier about SafeHouse Denver at a bus stop and called our 24-Hour Crisis and Information Line. She spoke to a SafeHouse Advocate about her past and the uncertainties that haunted her. "I want to begin again," Angela said, "to be free of fear once and for all." Angela moved into our secure Emergency Shelter that day, comforted by the supportive counseling and welcoming embrace of the SafeHouse team, and connected to the community resources that would help her begin to rebuild her life.

When she wasn't job hunting or searching for housing, Angela volunteered in the community. She recognized in others a need for healing and found herself moved to act. Angela excelled as a volunteer, so it was only natural that one of the organizations she'd become involved with offered her full-time employment. A few weeks later, she found transitional housing – the next step toward stability and the independence she dreamed of.

SafeHouse Denver offered Angela safety, support and the practical resources she needed to begin to heal. Because of the support she received from SafeHouse, Angela escaped the terror of abuse. Every day, SafeHouse Denver works with survivors to provide shelter, safety planning, counseling, and advocacy that leads to new beginnings, because we believe that all survivors have a right to live free from domestic violence.

EXTENDED STAY PROGRAM – OUR VISION REALIZED!

In December 2017, at the close of our 40th anniversary year, we purchased a 6-unit apartment building to house our new Extended Stay Program, which will provide current SafeHouse Denver clients with free, private, short-term housing and continued support from our staff. The one to three month stay will provide residents with more time to secure permanent housing, employment, childcare and other resources essential to achieving stability. The facility will officially open in July 2018, fulfilling our longtime strategic vision of a full continuum of care for survivors of domestic violence.



2017 HIGHLIGHTS



EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAM

233 WOMEN AND 142 CHILDREN called our shelter facility home. Residents were provided with a safe place to stay, basic necessities, individual and group counseling, and referrals to other resources such as medical care and housing. Trauma-informed care continued to be implemented into all aspects of emergency shelter programming.

"Without the help of my advocate, I would have been confused about how to get help from other resources...Thanks to the SafeHouse team, I will leave [the shelter] safe and happy."

—Emergency Shelter Resident

Our **27-BED PLUS 4 CRIB EMERGENCY SHELTER** remained the primary source of safe shelter in the metro Denver area for survivors of domestic violence who are homeless because of abuse. The need continues to be pressing. We referred 5,223 requests for safe shelter to other resources because our facility was completely full.

In November 2017, a new, three-bed room with private bath was added to **EXPAND THE EMERGENCY SHELTER SERVICES TO INCLUDE SURVIVORS OF ALL GENDERS**. Our goal is to make direct services available to survivors of all gender identities, including women, men, transgender, and those who identify as non-binary or gender-neutral.

The **ALUMNI GROUP** continued to provide opportunities for former shelter residents to support current residents, as

well as the organization. Participants shared their stories during shelter support groups, community education, and fundraising events. Participants also utilized art to express and share their stories at agency events and with existing residents.

COUNSELING AND ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)

The non-residential Counseling and Advocacy Center served **484 SURVIVORS, INCLUDING 20 MALES AND 32 YOUTH** through domestic violence counseling services, including crisis intervention, safety planning, emotional support, trauma counseling, and systems advocacy.

121 ADULTS participated in off-site groups facilitated by CAC staff at partner agencies such as Warren Village, Center for Work Education & Employment (CWEE), and Ruth Goebel House, a Colorado Coalition for the Homeless facility.

29 ADOLESCENT GIRLS received teen dating violence prevention programming at Florence Crittenton High School, Denver Safe Cities Juvenile Diversion program, as well as through a new partnership. In conjunction with Denver Public Safety Youth Programs, CAC Advocates developed a teen dating violence and healthy relationship psychoeducational and support group for teen girls in the juvenile justice system who are at-risk of human trafficking.

CAC staff remained highly involved with programming at the **ROSE ANDOM CENTER**, serving on leadership committees, as well as having advocates on-site Monday through Friday to support survivors. A total of 312 referrals originated at the Rose Andom Center.

A CAC advocate trained in **TRAUMA-INFORMED YOGA** facilitated the first short-term trauma-informed yoga group for survivors. Trauma-informed yoga takes the core elements of yoga – mindfulness and breathing techniques – and uses them to help survivors find present moment awareness.

OUR IMPACT

Clients voluntarily completing surveys at our shelter and counseling center reported:

94% 

increased their safety strategies;

94% 

increased their knowledge of community resources; and

92% 

felt they received support to make self-identified changes in their lives.

FINANCIALS

Audited financial statements for the period April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018.

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 777,883
Accounts receivable	\$ 83,945
Contributions receivable	\$ 45,532
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$ 48,835
Investments	\$ 877,616
Beneficial interest in Community First Foundation	\$ 59,334
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$ 715,281	\$ 1,390,159
Total assets	\$ 3,283,304

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable, accrued expenses, capital leases, and deferred revenue	\$ 137,014
Total liabilities	\$ 137,014

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted:	
Property and equipment, net of related debt	\$ 1,376,949
Board Designated Assets	\$ 815,362
Undesignated	\$ 750,429
Total unrestricted net assets	\$ 2,942,740
Temporarily restricted	\$ 144,216
Permanently restricted	\$ 59,334
Total net assets	\$ 3,146,290
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 3,283,304

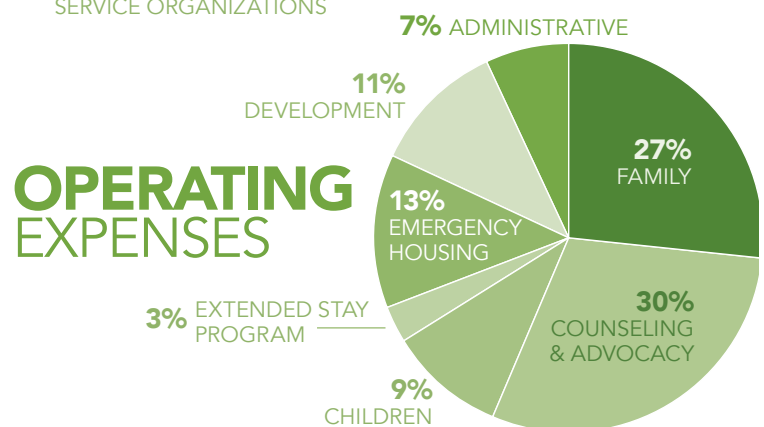
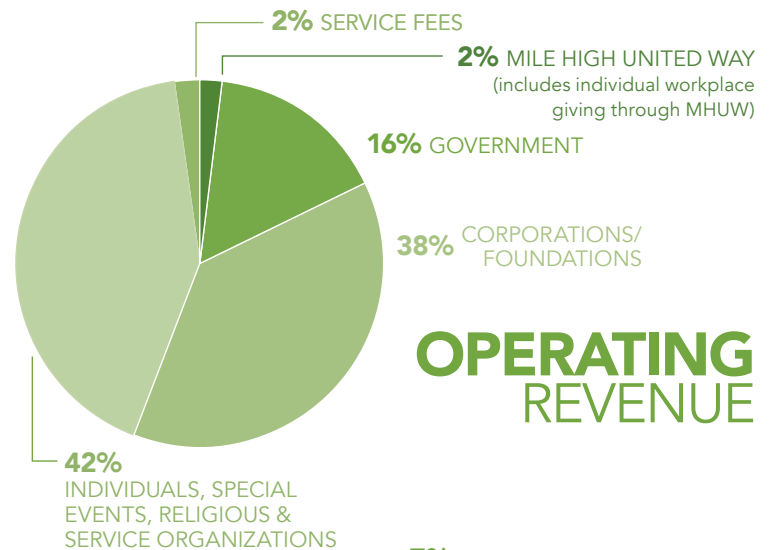
OPERATING REVENUE

Mile High United Way (includes individual workplace giving through MHUW)	\$ 57,657
Government	\$ 454,821
Corporations/Foundations	\$ 1,075,506
Individuals, Special Events, Religious & Service Orgs.	\$ 1,179,856
Service Fees	\$ 44,182
Operating Revenue	\$ 2,812,022

OPERATING EXPENSES

Family	\$ 441,671
Counseling and Advocacy	\$ 490,414
Children	\$ 159,837
Extended Stay Program	\$ 45,405
Emergency Housing	\$ 209,313
Development	\$ 177,479
Administrative	\$ 112,862
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,636,981

SafeHouse Denver proudly ended FY 2017/2018 in a strong financial position, achieving our capital campaign goal, as well as exceeding our annual budget. The revenue surplus of just over \$1,175,000 was largely due to the \$1,056,000 in one-time gifts donated for the purchase of our new Extended Stay facility. The building was purchased in December 2017 for \$1,000,000, increasing the Property and Equipment Asset by that amount. In addition, investments earned just over \$85,000 and aggressive control of expenses, combined with strong fundraising efforts, contributed to our exceeding operating revenue goals by \$52,000.



OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

An incredible **1,753 donors and funders** made over **3,383 monetary contributions** in support of our mission.

551 generous donors made **642 in-kind contributions**, valued at more than \$159,336, including gifts of clothing, toiletries, and other supplies for clients, as well as auction items for events and pro bono professional support.

At the close of 2017, our 40th anniversary year, **our leadership proudly achieved our \$1.2M capital fundraising goal** to purchase an apartment building, complete minor repairs and improvements, furnish each unit and build a capital operating reserve for our new Extended Stay Program (ESP).

Our selection as the 2017 recipient of Bank of America's Neighborhood Builder Award contributed significantly to our ability to purchase the new ESP facility. The Anschutz Foundation made the lead gift towards the campaign and The Daniels Fund awarded the final grant that brought us to our goal. We're also incredibly grateful to The Fulcrum Foundation/The Roberts Family and an anonymous private foundation for their respective leadership gifts.

DONORS

Thank you to the following donors who generously contributed to SafeHouse Denver between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018.

While space limitations allow us to publish only those donors who have contributed at the \$500 level and above, we sincerely appreciate all levels of support.

* indicates Sustainers of Hope monthly giving program member + indicates Legacy of Hope planned giving program member

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We have made every effort to
print an accurate list of donors
from April 1, 2017 to March
31, 2018. We apologize for any
omissions or errors. Please call
303-302-6126 with corrections.

Special thanks to our top-level 2017 Hope Gala Sponsors:

GOLD SPONSORS

Bellco Credit Union
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Carol and Paul Rose

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Thank you to the following donors who
made contributions to our successful
Extended Stay Program capital fundraising
effort, many in addition to their annual gift/s.

LEADERSHIP GIFTS: \$100,000 AND ABOVE

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Anschutz Foundation
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Daniels Fund
Fulcrum Foundation/The Roberts Family

ESP PARTNERS: \$50,000 TO \$74,999

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BRICK BY BRICK CONTRIBUTORS: \$1,000 TO \$4,999

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IMPACT OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our direct service volunteers, interns, and committee members, as well as our Board of Directors, collectively contributed **OVER 5,742 HOURS OF SERVICE** to our mission.

VOLUNTEER TIME WAS VALUED AT OVER \$153,000 IN 2017 (based on the estimated value of volunteer time in Colorado from Independent Sector)!

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & AWARENESS

We reached **1,099 INDIVIDUALS THROUGH 26 EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**, providing life-saving education on domestic violence prevention and intervention and educating the public on services available in the community. Our interactive *In Their Shoes* educational tool, as well as our growing social media presence, amplified our efforts to increase community understanding of domestic violence and helped garner support for our mission.

24-HOUR CRISIS & INFORMATION LINE

Our advocates and trained volunteers answered **15,747 CRISIS AND INFORMATION CALLS** providing callers with emotional support, information on and access to our services, referrals to other community resources, as well as advice on how to support someone experiencing abuse.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

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

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
- Extended Stay Program
- Teen dating violence prevention and intervention services
- Children and youth services
- Community education and outreach

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

**1649 Downing Street
Denver, CO 80218**

P 303-318-9959 | F 303-318-9979

24-HOUR CRISIS AND INFORMATION LINE:

303-318-9989

safehouse-denver.org



ANNUAL REPORT CREDITS

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Tamara Fox, CONTRIBUTOR

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INTERNS (2017/2018 SCHOOL YEAR)

Ryan Ayala

Francis Cheung

Carmelle Coleman

Emma Skok