



ESP Provides Stability & Hope for the Future

As Alicia opened the door to the two-bedroom unit in SafeHouse Denver's Extended Stay Program (ESP), a wave of emotion washed over her. She and her two daughters had been through so much over the past several months. She was so grateful for this new opportunity but was struggling to accept that she was worthy of it. "I don't deserve this," she said, shaking her head. Her ESP Case Manager assured her, "Yes, you do. You earned the right to be here through your hard work." After so many years of abuse, it was hard for Alicia to process but that moment helped her begin to understand that she was indeed worthy of this and so much more. For the first time, she began to feel hopeful about the future she could create for herself and her girls.



“Stability is a powerful catalyst for self-sufficiency. The stable housing provided at ESP allowed Alicia to re-enter her nursing program... and improved the well-being of her girls”

Thanks to the generosity of so many of you, our vision of an Extended Stay Program has finally become a reality! The ESP facility opened in July and is already providing a safe place for survivors of domestic violence to work toward more permanent housing and continue to pursue their self-identified goals. As this edition of the Journal goes to press, all six units in our ESP facility are occupied. SafeHouse Denver is proud to have put into place this final piece in the full continuum of care for survivors like Alicia.

Alicia's partner had been emotionally and physically abusive for years. After a particularly violent outburst, Alicia took her daughters to stay with a friend, who suggested she call SafeHouse Denver's Crisis Line. Since she had a safe place to stay for the moment, she began seeing a SafeHouse Denver Advocate at the non-residential Counseling and Advocacy Center. The Advocate helped her set small goals and develop safety plans for herself and her girls. Having never lived on her own before, Alicia was afraid she would not be able to support her

family. They spent months staying with various friends while she tried to plan their next steps.

Then, without warning, her abuser tried to take her younger child from daycare. Suddenly the fear of being on her own paled in comparison to the fear of losing her daughter. Through the counseling she was receiving at SafeHouse Denver, Alicia recognized that her partner's behavior was escalating and that he was never going to change. She knew keeping her family safe had to be her top priority, so she made the choice to move them into SafeHouse Denver's Emergency Shelter.

With the help of her Family Advocate at the Shelter, Alicia began to set goals for caring for her family on her own. She had always wanted to become a nurse, but dropped out of school when she became pregnant with her first child. Her Advocate helped her find resources to return to school, but the instability of living in a shelter environment, combined with not having consistent child care, made regular attendance nearly impossible. Alicia's daughters struggled as well, trying to cope with staying in yet another new place.

Finding safe, affordable housing was Alicia's greatest challenge. She applied for every housing resource that her Advocate shared with her, but the waitlists were so long. When the Extended Stay Program opening date was set, Alicia's Advocate encouraged her to apply. Happily, she was accepted, and she and her girls were one of the first families to move into ESP.

Stability is a powerful catalyst for self-sufficiency. The stable housing provided at ESP allowed Alicia to re-enter her nursing program. A stable living situation improved the well-being of her girls, and the stability of ongoing support from a SafeHouse Denver Advocate is helping Alicia continue to heal from the trauma of her abuse.

SafeHouse Denver is incredibly grateful to all of the foundation funders, corporate entities, and individual donors who made the ESP possible and who continue to support the full range of programs that we offer. Alicia accessed every program at SafeHouse Denver — the Crisis Line, the Counseling and Advocacy Center, the Emergency Shelter, and finally the Extended Stay Program. Her story is a true testament to the full continuum of care that SafeHouse Denver is now able to provide to survivors of domestic violence. ■

Message from Our CEO



Dear Friends,

I hope that you had a wonderful summer and that you're enjoying these early days of fall. The year has passed quickly for everyone at SafeHouse Denver, especially as we prepared to open our long-awaited Extended Stay Program. While contractors completed minor repairs, painting and carpeting projects, our staff worked to furnish and decorate each unit and thoughtfully identify and prepare Shelter residents for their move to independent, short-term housing. The first residents were tearful as they settled-in to

the safe, comfortable apartments that would be their home for the next one to three months. I hope you'll agree that our cover story well-illustrates the continuum of care that SafeHouse Denver now offers to survivors and their children.

As October quickly approaches, my thoughts turn to Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) and supporting survivors of domestic violence through ongoing education in our community. In keeping with our goal of raising awareness of this complex issue, I'd like to share just a handful of national, local and SafeHouse Denver-compiled statistics that speak to the critical need for domestic violence programs and services.

- 1-in-3 women and 1-in-4 men have been victims of some form of domestic violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- In the US, on average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner.
- On a typical day, more than 20,000 calls are placed to DV hotlines nationwide. At SafeHouse Denver alone, we handle an average of 14,000 to 16,000 calls annually.
- The fastest growing rate of domestic violence is among women ages 16-to-24.
- 1-in-15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year and 90% are eyewitnesses, placing them at higher risk of developing behavior problems, anxiety, depression, PTSD and becoming victims or perpetrators later in life.
- Since 2008, there have been 330 domestic violence-related fatalities in Colorado alone.

As we mark DVAM, please take some time to learn more about the issue of domestic violence and how you can help decrease these staggering statistics. **For the second consecutive year, we're excited to offer the DVAM Challenge, when every donation made in October will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$20,000.** Several very generous donors have combined resources to make this match possible, so please watch our electronic communications and social media as the Challenge progresses. If events appeal to you, consider attending our October 13th Hope Gala, at the chic Art Hotel. Or this might be the month to host a small third party event or schedule a SafeHouse Denver speaker to present at your workplace, school, service organization or faith community. Please visit www.safehouse-denver.org for details on these and other ways to support SafeHouse Denver.

Regardless of how you choose to become involved, in October or at other times during the year, please know your support is making a difference in the lives of hundreds of survivors and their children.

With Deepest Appreciation,

Victoria A. McVicker, Chief Executive Officer

Join Us This Year for



Come experience a new look, new feel, and new attitude at the SafeHouse Denver Hope Gala on Saturday, October 13, 2018.

This year's event will take place from 6 to 10 p.m. at the ART Hotel, a true destination venue adjacent to the Denver Art Museum in downtown Denver.

The 2018 Hope Gala will feature an innovative buffet dinner, unique entertainment stations, a look at some of the hotel's world-class art collection, and a distinctive silent auction — all enjoyed at each guest's leisure. An exciting live auction, the chance to win a fabulous prize in our newly added raffle, a moving mission-focused program, and several fun surprises will complete a memorable evening.



Since SafeHouse Denver charges nothing for its services, your attendance at the Hope Gala will help ensure that services and programs remain available for those in need. Whether you've attended the event for years, or this will be your first time, the 2018 Hope Gala is not to be missed! Registration is limited and seating placement is based on date of purchase. Please plan to join us and purchase your seats at www.safehouse-denver.org or by calling 303-302-6126 today! ■

News Notes



More than 280 foodies and SafeHouse Denver supporters gathered at The Westin Denver Downtown on June 14th for the fourth annual **Sampling for Hope**. This year's event was especially joyous as guests celebrated the approaching opening of the **Extended Stay Program**. Thanks to the hard work of the Steering Committee, the support of the event's sponsors, and the generosity of attendees, this year's event raised over \$41,000! The proceeds from Sampling for Hope will be directed toward operating the new Extended Stay Program.

Congratulations to **Briar Common Brewery & Eatery**, **Ester's Neighborhood Pub**, **The Westin Downtown Denver**, and **Stargazer Chocolates** for being named as attendees' favorites in their respective categories.

Make sure to follow SafeHouse Denver on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn to be among the first to know when the 2019 Sampling for Hope will take place!

Annual Report

Your generous investment helped provide safe shelter, counseling and advocacy services to 1,171 individuals and purchase our Extended Stay Program building in 2017! Read all about your impact in our Annual Report for fiscal year 2017-2018, which is now available on our website. Special thanks to our friends at **Pique Creative** for designing the Annual Report pro bono again this year.

Third Party Events: Our Deepest Gratitude

Thanks to the following individuals and businesses for supporting survivors of domestic violence by hosting a third party event or initiative since April:

The 2018 Shimmy Mob, 3rd Degree Brands, Angel Concepts, Anthony & Dominick Randolph, City and County of Denver Technology Services, East High School, Gallegos Real Estate, Good Deed Seats, H&R Block, Horse & Dragon Brewing, I Love Kickboxing, Jewelius, Kendra Scott/Glendale Girls Club, Lunnon Realty, MCA Denver, Mizu Izakaya, Mountain Aire Dentistry, Move Studios, Mr. Jonathan Mottern, Tegan Dunlop, Tobi Cares, Wed For Good, and Western Paper.

If you are interested in supporting survivors in this way, please call 303-302-6126.

Book Bonanza

Thank you SO MUCH to all who volunteered, attended, and sent good thoughts to the **2018 Book Bonanza** in July. The event raised an incredible \$50,000 to support survivors of domestic violence at SafeHouse Denver. That is enough to provide 22 nights of safe shelter to all 31 residents! We are so grateful for these truly life-saving funds!



New Law Makes Donating to CO Nonprofits Easier

On May 29, 2018, Gov. Hickenlooper signed Colorado Senate Bill 18-141 into law. SB 18-141 authorizes a new line on the tax form for 2020 (2019 tax year) called the "Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund," which allows Colorado taxpayers to donate part or all of their state tax refund to any nonprofit registered in Colorado. All taxpayers will need to do is write or type in the amount of their donation and identify which nonprofit is to receive the donation.

We are excited about this new method for donors to support their favorite nonprofit, and hope you'll consider supporting survivors of domestic violence by remembering SafeHouse Denver in your giving!

Follow Us on Social Media



Get the latest SafeHouse Denver news and updates by following us on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and **LinkedIn**, or by subscribing to our monthly eNewsletter. Stay up to date on how your support helps survivors, what's new at SafeHouse Denver, and noteworthy articles about the issue of domestic violence. Visit safehouse-denver.org to subscribe or search for SafeHouse Denver on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. 📌

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Colorado Gives Day is an exciting time when many Coloradans come together to support their favorite nonprofit organizations. Thanks to 270 amazing supporters, including several very generous matching donors, a record \$75,000 was donated to SafeHouse Denver on last year's Colorado Gives Day.

With an ever-growing need and expanded services this year, we hope to have another record-breaking day. Mark your calendars now and please remember to support survivors of domestic violence on December 4th. ■

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
- Extended Stay Housing
- Counseling and Advocacy Services
- Support Groups
- Referrals to Community Resources
- Teen Dating Violence Intervention & Prevention Services
- Family 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 x207
 Fax 303-318-9979
 safehouse-denver.org

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 safehouse-denver.org
- Commit to a monthly gift and become a Sustainer of Hope by selecting the option on the enclosed giving envelope or donate online at safehouse-denver.org
- 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 vchilewski@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 'Get Involved' 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