



Christine Ann

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES, INC.

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

2020

NAVIGATING ROUGH WATERS



Dear Friends,

In some ways, 2020 is a year we'd rather not revisit. Many more in our community suffered abuse, including heightened physical violence. There was added stress from lost wages, working and schooling children from home, and sickness. For many, there was and still is the terrible grief of loss.

Many survivors suffered mental health crises due to the added stress. Some returned to the only coping skills they had like alcohol and drugs.

On the other hand, there is so much we had to be grateful for in 2020. The way generous funders and community members stepped up with donations to keep us healthy and operational. The way we continued to reach isolated survivors through phone and video appointments. And the way our staff adjusted and readjusted to meet the needs of clients.

All in all, we are grateful for the dedication and generosity of our community and the bravery and resilience of our clients. We look forward to brighter days ahead and remain steadfast in our commitment to empowering survivors and ending the cycle of abuse.



With hope,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth Oswald".

Beth Oswald
Executive Director

MISSION:

Empower individuals and families through education, safety, and support and lead our community to reduce the incidents and effects of domestic abuse and dating violence.

VISION:

To end the cycle of domestic abuse and dating violence.

COVID-19 ADAPTATIONS

Despite the many obstacles 2020 brought us, Christine Ann is proud to say that we remained fully operational thanks to our dedicated staff and many generous donors in our community. We didn't limit our shelter capacity, we adapted to an increased volume of hotline calls and outreach appointments, and **we continued to meet the needs of survivors**. Here are some of the adjustments we made:



- PPE available for all staff and clients
- Increased professional cleaning services to disinfect high-touch areas
- Secure phone and video appointments
- Quarantine room reserved in shelter, with protocols if anyone tested positive for Covid-19
- Chromebooks for children living in shelter who were not provided the technology yet, needed to attend school virtually
- Smart TVs and streaming services for our shelter living rooms for clients to pass the time during the shut-down
- Increased internet bandwidth in our facility to support dramatic demand suddenly needed by clients and staff offering virtual visits
- Laptops donated allowing staff to work from home and rotate schedules to control the number of staff in office
- All staff have had the opportunity to be vaccinated, thanks to Omro Pharmacy
- Provided \$13,973 in basic needs assistance and barrier removal (compared to \$7,997 in 2019) for clients facing economic hardship

This was all made possible through the generosity of the Oshkosh Women's Fund: Women Who Care giving circles, US Venture Schmidt Family Foundation, United Way Fox Cities and many community donors



PROGRAM

SHELTER

Christine Ann offers a 37-bed emergency shelter to those in imminent danger due to domestic abuse. While in shelter, basic needs are provided so clients can de-escalate from crisis, care for themselves, and focus on next steps. Clients can meet with an Advocate for emotional support, safety planning, domestic abuse education, parenting support, referrals to community resources, support groups, and more.



- In 2020, **248 adults and children** stayed in shelter for a total of **8,170 safe nights**



- **30%** of shelter stays were **7 nights or less**
- **70%** of shelter stays were **30 nights or less**
- **12%** of shelter stays were **over 60 nights**
- Average length of stay was **27 nights**

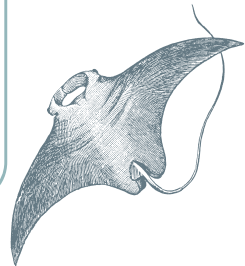


- **2,999** calls were answered on our 24-hour hotline (**a 55% increase from 2019**)

LEGAL

For survivors facing civil or criminal cases, we offer education on processes, assistance with paperwork, court accompaniment, and legal financial assistance for restraining orders, divorce, custody, and more.

402 clients received **821 hours** of Legal Advocacy in 2020
(**a 10% increase from 2019**)



STATISTICS

YOUTH

We work with youth who have experienced domestic abuse or teen dating violence. Our services intervene during a critical time in a young person's life, helping them heal from past abuse and prevent the cycle from repeating.

- **114 youth** received **586 hours of advocacy** including emotional support, safety planning, coping skills education, and self-esteem support
- **1,250 students** saw one of **59 prevention** education presentations



EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment Advocacy serves adults who are not staying in our shelter. They may not have a physical safety need, may be able to stay with friends or family, or are simply not prepared to leave their abuser. This program meets survivors where they are to provide safety and support without judgement. We have additional office locations in Menasha and Green Lake to better serve all of Winnebago and Green Lake Counties.

- **628** adults received support from our Empowerment Advocates
- **1,947 hours** of advocacy were provided to survivors including emotional support, safety planning, healthy relationship education, and information on community resources

ADVOCACY is the foundation of Christine Ann's work. Our services are always client-centered and client-led. Our Advocates provide education, options, and support to survivors based solely on the survivor's needs and goals. We support our clients' choices, even if we might choose differently, and acknowledge that every survivor has their own journey.

EVENTS

HOLIDAY

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

35 Families were adopted through our Holiday Adopt-A-Family program.

THANK YOU to our community donors and First Congregational Church for making the holidays brighter for our families!



TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

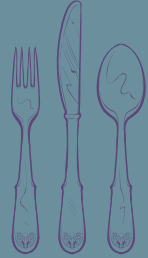
Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, Reach Counseling, and UW-Oshkosh celebrated the 30 year anniversary of Take Back the Night in the Fox Valley in 2020! Take Back the Night is held to bring awareness to domestic and sexual abuse and take action to becoming a better and safer community.

This year, we transformed our in-person event into a week-long awareness event using social media.



DINE OUT AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

2020 marked our 2nd Annual Dine Out Against Domestic Abuse event where we teamed up with 15 local restaurants for one day during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. When guests dined out (or ordered delivery) at any of those 15 restaurants, a portion of the sales benefitted Christine Ann. Thank you to all who supported our organization!



RACE FOR THE LIGHT

We celebrated our 18th Annual Race for the Light 5K fun run in December 2020. Participants who walked/ran through the beautifully lit Celebration of Lights in Menominee Park helped shine a light on those who feel in the dark. All funds raised support the prevention, outreach, advocacy and 24/7 emergency shelter we provide to individuals and families impacted by domestic violence throughout Winnebago and Green Lake Counties.



SURVIVOR

Nakeisha and her children stayed in our shelter for a few months in 2020.

The first few days, she would not look at anybody and kept her hood up while lying on the couch all day. Slowly Nakeisha started to open up to staff.

She would make eye contact and ask for help or resources. In time, she came alive. She made tie-dye waffles for her kids in the kitchen, took them to the zoo, took them swimming, and more. Our Youth Advocates also hosted summer day camps, giving Nakeisha's kids the opportunity to build rapport with staff and learn about healthy relationships while playing at the park, going on a scavenger hunt, and creating art. They even participated in our end-of-summer talent show. They sang, danced, and showed us their gymnastic moves!

When the end of summer approached and school enrollment started, Nakeisha wanted help finding a private school for her kids to go to. Our Advocate called two local schools, advocated for her, and asked about the enrollment process. Nakeisha toured and got information for both schools and then made a choice and enrolled her kids. She then got a job at a local fast-food restaurant so our Advocate helped Nakeisha transfer her childcare assistance benefits so her youngest could continue to go to daycare while she worked.

A few weeks later, Nakeisha finalized a housing opportunity through ADVOCAP. Thanks to generous donors, we provided household items like kitchen items, cleaning supplies, bed sheets, toys, and décor. After leaving shelter, Nakeisha started working with an Empowerment Advocate for ongoing support. In frigid February when the heat in their apartment broke, we provided a few nights of shelter until it was fixed. We are so grateful to be a part of this beautiful family's journey to safety and independence!



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Dodi Gauthier
Crisis Support Volunteer

“ I have been welcomed with open arms into this organization and even though I am old enough to be the grandmother to most of the staff I work with, I have a connection with these young women. Perhaps it is because we are all service-to-others oriented and truly do want to help others. I have spent my life helping others -- why stop now? 'Pay it forward' is a great mantra. ”

ABOUT DODI

I'm a registered nurse who grew up in the Fox Valley. I graduated from Mercy Medical School of Nursing and then on to earn my BSN and Masters in Education while I was living in Salt Lake. I then moved to California and was offered an opportunity of a lifetime to work as a clinical nurse and teach nursing students, medical students, colleagues and first responders for nearly 30 years. I decided to retire in 2018 and move back home to the Fox Valley.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO VOLUNTEER WITH CADASI?

I became interested in volunteering with CADASI shortly after returning to Wisconsin. I wanted something meaningful to do (other than the dog-sitting and reading) with my time and when I was interviewed by the Volunteer Coordinator, I knew this would be a good match for me. CADASI has such a wonderful reputation in the community for so many reasons -- Board Members, Beth, legal information, donors, internships, Take Back the Night, and of course, Men Who Cook. But mostly, for empowering individuals and offering them safety and shelter. All of the women in my family have experienced some kind of abuse in their lives and have become independent and confident. I want to help other women achieve that as well just as I did with laboring women. My triage and coaching skills are useful with crisis intervention as well.



123 Volunteers

1,855 total volunteer hours

STAY CONNECTED

VOLUNTEER

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities to the community including; children's program, self care support group facilitation, shelter organizing, maintenance, shelter helpline support, special events, one-time group opportunities and more! Fill out a volunteer application on our website!



NEWSLETTER

Stay in the know with our monthly newsletter where we share agency highlights, upcoming events and current agency needs! Sign up on www.christineann.net



EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

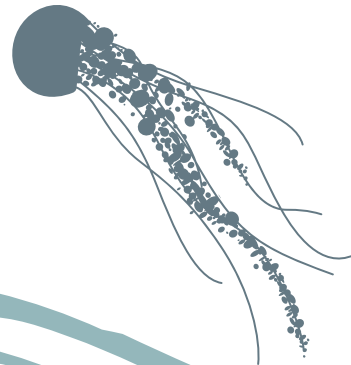
Race for the Light

Saturday, December 4th, 2021



Men Who Cook

Saturday, February 12th, 2022



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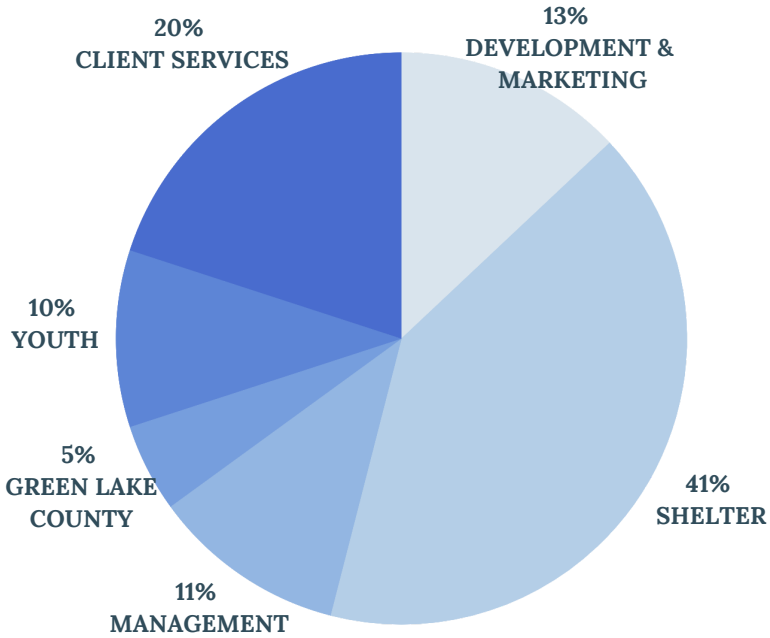


[@ChristineAnn.Oshkosh](https://www.instagram.com/ChristineAnn.Oshkosh)

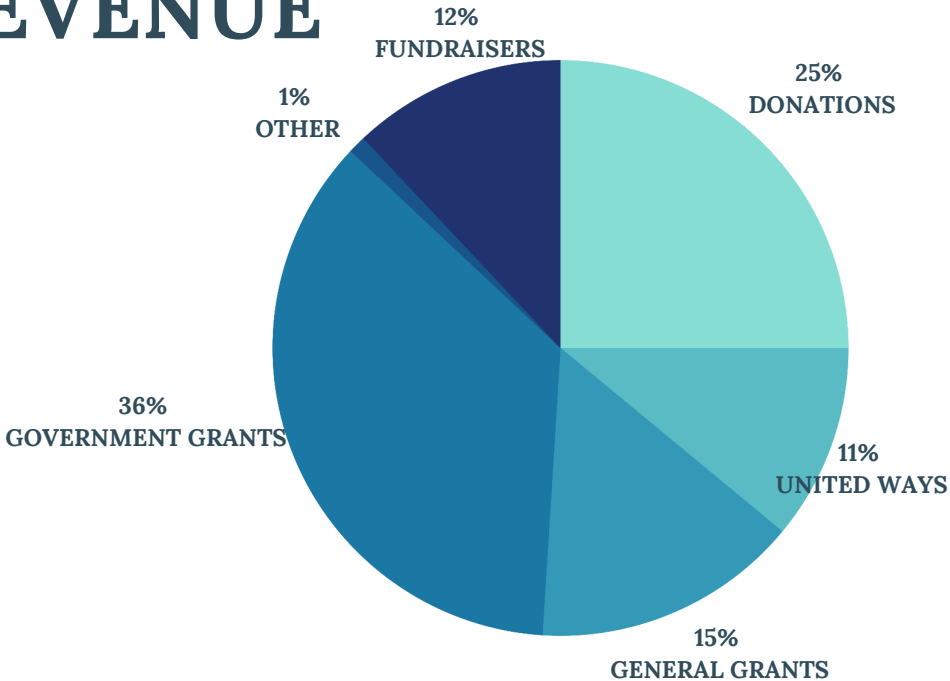


Search "CADASI"

EXPENSES



REVENUE



STAFF HIGHLIGHT



ROSS



Ross is our full-time Canine Advocate. He is a trained emotional support animal, providing comfort and grounding for clients in crisis. When a client comes to an appointment in distress, Ross immediately gets to work. He jumps in their lap and puts his face close to theirs, sometimes giving kisses. He may sit on their feet or lay next to them on a couch with this body against their leg. These techniques put the client's attention on Ross,

redirecting them away from high crisis. Once Ross has calmed the client enough to talk, our Advocate can begin working with them to process their trauma and discuss next steps to rebuild their life, free of abuse. Ross stays close by and many clients continue to pet him as they talk, feeling soothed throughout the meeting.

In a recent meeting with a survivor, our Shelter Advocate was having a hard time getting through. The client was numb, shut down, unexpressive, and didn't want to talk. After a few minutes of struggle, Ross picked up his ball and brought it to our Shelter Advocate. She played with him for a few minutes, using commands like "bring" and "give". The client's face brightened, so the Advocate offered her the ball. For the next few minutes she smiled, laughed, and talked while playing with Ross. Our Advocate said of the experience, "Ross did what I couldn't - got her to finally open up." Because of past trauma and low-self-esteem, many clients struggle to trust and open up to our Advocates immediately. But with Ross, rapport comes easily and he is able to bridge the gap, allowing for connection and healing.

Since joining our team in 2017, Ross has provided over 1,000 hours of advocacy to survivors of domestic abuse.

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LEADERSHIP

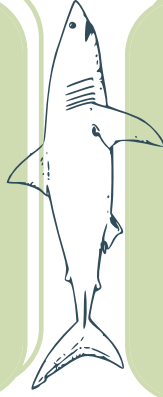
Beth Oswald - Executive Director
Carly Hirsch - Associate Director



YOU'RE INVITED!

Join our virtual Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 20th from 8:00-8:30am. Email Alicia Gehrig for link invitation

Agehrig@christineann.net



Thank you for your continued. generous support of survivors. We couldn't do this work without you!