



HELP IS HERE

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2021

Dear Friends,

In 2021 the pandemic continued to have a devastating impact on survivors. We served fewer clients overall, but those who did make it through our doors had harrowing stories. Most concerning was the sustained increase in lethal violence that spiked at the beginning of the pandemic. **In 2021, reports from local law enforcement showed that a staggering 31% of domestic violence calls involved a strangulation.**

Last year also set a Wisconsin record for domestic homicides with *104 lives lost*.

Prior to covid, our service numbers were trending upward thanks to outreach efforts and new satellite offices. However, the pandemic continues to reduce the number of survivors who can reach us for services. Here are some reasons:

- Isolation, one of the most common tactics used by abusers, was amplified during lockdown. Abusers got used to their victim being around all the time, and many abusers have turned to stalking to maintain that control, now that lockdown is over.
- Parents often struggle to find affordable childcare. If children are not school-aged or have to stay home from school to quarantine, families without alternative childcare can't come to shelter, since we cannot provide childcare onsite nor allow children to be left unattended.
- The overall, ongoing stress from the pandemic – loss, grief, financial strain, mental health issues, etc. – means that one more change might feel like too much. Even if the situation at home is abusive, some survivors choose to stay or not seek help because they can't cope with one more change. Think 'the devil you know vs. the devil you don't know'.
- Due to covid restrictions, we have not been out in the community doing as many educational presentations about domestic abuse and our services.

Reaching survivors has never been more important. Advocates are available 24/7/365 to offer unconditional support to help survivors escape danger, navigate crisis, and access resources. We are inspired by the survivors who walk through our doors every day and by our namesake, Christine Ann.

Thank you for your continuous support of survivors!

LEADERSHIP

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Carly Hirsch, Associate Director

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SHELTER

Provides safety for individuals and families who are in imminent danger due to domestic abuse. All ages and genders are welcome. Common services include safety planning, domestic abuse education, housing advocacy, and parent support.

We have no length of stay limit, but rather focus on each client's unique safety needs.

Shelter Fact: Canine Advocate Ross is a certified emotional support dog and works with many shelter residents. He has been with the agency for 4.5 years!

EMPOWERMENT

Meant for survivors who have no physical safety concerns, are not ready to enter shelter, or recently left shelter and want continued support. Common services include safety planning, emotional support, goal setting, connections to resources, plus legal advocacy for restraining orders, divorce, and more.

We have offices in Oshkosh, Menasha, and Green Lake and can provide services virtually or over the phone.

Empowerment Fact: We serve 2-3x more survivors in this program than in shelter – over 600 each year!

LEGAL

Many survivors find the legal system overwhelming and difficult to navigate. Our Advocates can help survivors understand, fill out, and file paperwork for restraining orders, divorces, custody, and even criminal cases they are a victim in. We accompany survivors to court hearings to provide emotional support and refer to or help retain legal representation when necessary.

Legal Fact: Of the clients who discussed a restraining order as part of their safety plan, 52% filed one.

YOUTH

When children witness or experience abuse, we must intervene to prevent the cycle of violence from continuing later in their lives. We work with youth to understand safety, healthy relationships, positive coping skills, and self-confidence. Advocates build rapport and teach these skills through age-appropriate games and activities.

Youth Fact: Last year we launched a LGBTQ+ youth support group open to the public, and some attendees have become clients as a result!

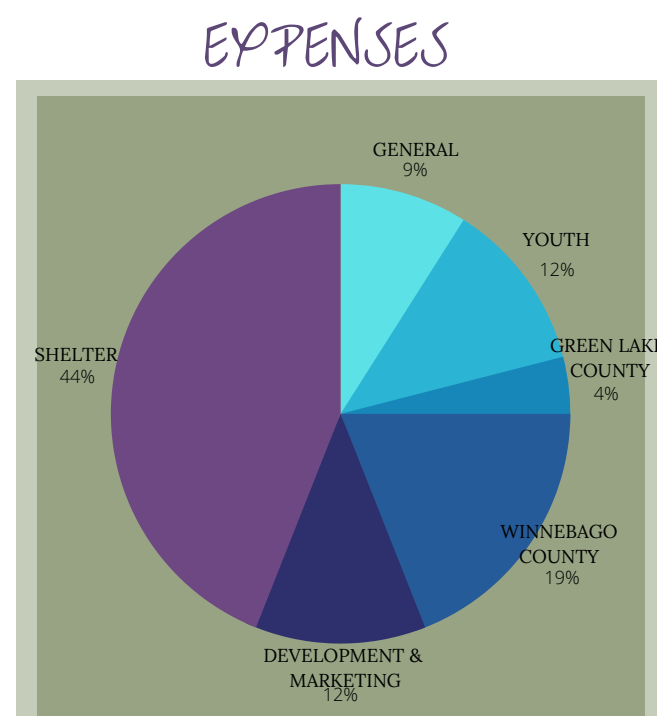
2021 Program Statistics

"Supporting Survivors in 2021 was an honor, a privilege and inspiring"
-CADASI Advocate



- ◆ **743** clients served overall
- ◆ **173 adults and children** stayed in shelter for a total of **4,944 safe nights** and **794 hours** of advocacy
- ◆ Length of shelter stay: **42%** of stays were **7 nights** or less, **84%** of stays were **30 nights** or less, **12%** of stays were over **60 nights**
- ◆ We served **20 adult men survivors**, 3 of whom stayed in shelter for a total of **174 safe nights**
- ◆ **1,126** hotline calls were answered with **329 hours** of 24/7 hotline advocacy
- ◆ Canine Advocate Ross spent over **305 hours** with **69 clients**
- ◆ Client Demographics: **45%** reported a *disability of some kind*, **23%** were *people of color*, **9%** reported a *LGBTQ sexual orientation*, **1%** reported a *gender other than male/female*

- ◆ **589 adults** received **2,441 hours of support** from Empowerment Advocates
- ◆ **429 clients** received **755 hours** of legal advocacy, court accompaniment, and education about restraining orders
- ◆ **39%** of Empowerment clients in 2021 had also received services in the previous 3 years
- ◆ In 2021, 115 survivors reported a strangulation - **a 37% increase from 2019**
- ◆ **69%** of domestic incidents where law enforcement responded qualified as **high danger** that the victim could be killed by the abuser
- ◆ **84 youth** received **503 hours** of support from youth advocates
- ◆ **1,700 students** participated in one of **68 prevention education** presentations or groups



Save the Date

Thursday
October 20, 2022

Saturday
December 3, 2022

Friday
February 24, 2023

Follow us on Social Media!

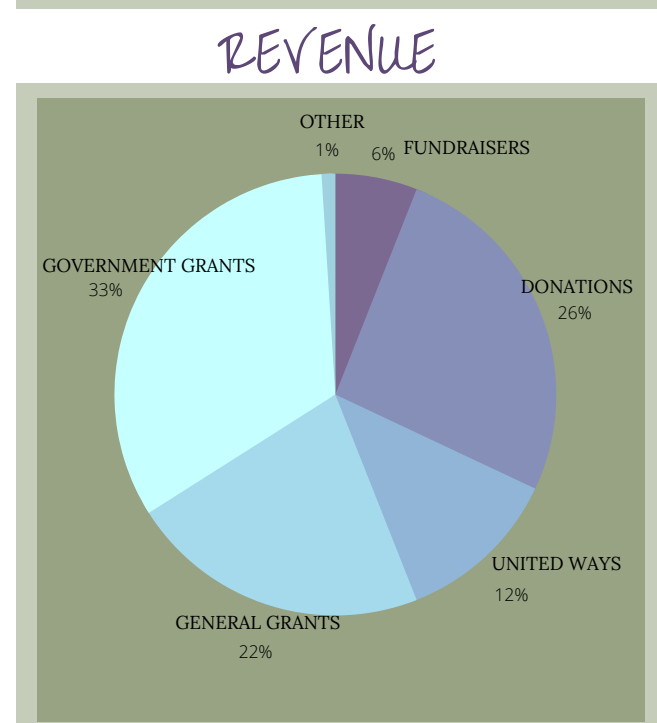
@ChristineAnn.Oshkosh

Helpline: 920-235-5998
Website: www.christineann.net
Shelter: 206 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh WI 54901

Support Groups

"When I think of supporting survivors in 2021, I think of navigation, empowering them, and providing unconditional support" -CADASI Advocate

In 2021 we brought back support groups, welcoming 41 clients to create a safe space with others with similar experiences. We even expanded groups into our Menasha and Green Lake offices!



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Megan Kaminski

"Volunteering at CADASI over the past 3 years has been a very humbling experience for me. I began volunteering in 2019 due to a school community service project as part of one of my UW-Oshkosh classes. When I started volunteering, I did not understand how rewarding this experience would be. The children who attend the children's program group surprise me every week by how positive they are during a stressful time. Although there have been some difficult conversations with the children, I know that providing a safe place for them to talk and express themselves is very important. Not only is children's program beneficial for the children but I know that this service provides much-needed time for the parents who are there to seek the help they need."

VOLUNTEERS

209

Volunteers

3,301

Hours of Volunteerism

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.