

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



*S.A.F.E. Place exists to provide safety to, empower and advocate for victims of domestic violence and their families.*



Issued February 2018



SAFETY. ADVOCACY. EMPOWERMENT.

1,632

- NUMBER OF CRISIS CALLS



189

- LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL (LAP) CALLS

2,129

- TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED



1,763

- COUNSELING ADVOCACY SESSIONS

501

- SHELTER RESIDENTS



892

- SURVIVOR EDUCATION AND RESOURCE SESSIONS

12,666

- TOTAL SHELTER NIGHTS



1,261

- LEGAL ADVOCACY CLIENTS

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

We are so grateful for our treasured volunteers, supporters, donors and funders that help S.A.F.E. Place continue to strive toward excellence. Despite hurdles in seemingly every direction, we were fortunate this year to expand our Volunteer, Children's Advocacy, and Counseling Programs, and to secure an additional \$101,797 in grant funding to increase services to the youngest victims of domestic violence, the children living in shelter. With the help of our generous community, we are slowly repairing our shelter to make it a safer and more comforting space for victims.

Although we have much to celebrate, we still have a long road ahead. Our most pressing focus in the coming months is the lead paint on the outside of our historic building. We continue to raise funds to address this immediate need in addition to our budgeted annual fundraising goal that directly supports victim services.

We will continue to work hard each day to end domestic violence and hold abusers accountable. I feel honored to be part of this organization, community, and the exceptional team at S.A.F.E. Place.

We hope that you will continue to fight alongside us and support victims and survivors. Please follow S.A.F.E. Place on Facebook @safeplaceshelter.org, consider making a financial gift that will directly impact a victim's life, or call us to find out how you can volunteer your time or talent.

With gratitude,

*Jessica Edel-Harrelson, PhD*

**“Very thankful for this facility, it provides a safe option for a new beginning.”**

*~ A S.A.F.E. Place past client*

## FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On behalf of the S.A.F.E. Place Board of Directors, the Executive Director and our staff, I am happy to present the 2017 Annual Report. Enclosed you will find an overview of the many programs we offer to our clients in the hope of empowering them to re-shape their future. You will also find pie charts that display our revenue stream and the challenges we face as we continue to provide quality services.

I cannot adequately express the pride we have in S.A.F.E. Place and the staff. We are making a number of changes, some visible and some not, but we feel it will make the organization even stronger. With your continued support, we are looking for a bigger and better 2018.

Regards,

*Mike Olson, President, 2018*

“After escaping from an abusive partner, it can feel very overwhelming for a person who already feels afraid, isolated, and alone to enter into an unfamiliar, communal living environment.

As a Shelter Advocate, my support, comfort, and reassurance helps clients to feel safe in the moment and more at ease while processing their thoughts and feelings.”

*~ A Shelter Advocate*

“Today marks the 2-year anniversary of me being free and making a decision of walking away from a monster. I just wanted to let you know the 2 years have been amazing.

I now have my own home and I have been promoted twice at work. I am doing this all on my own and it’s absolutely amazing.

I’m just so grateful for the strength that I have because I know that’s from me making that decision.

I’m glad you were the one who helped me walk through the process of healing.”

*~ A Counseling Client*



### **COUNSELING ADVOCACY**

The counseling program at S.A.F.E. Place served over 150 survivors and their children in 2017 by a master’s level therapist, free of charge. Counseling offers a safe, healing space to survivors who otherwise may not be able to afford counseling or cannot access counseling confidentially due to being on their abuser’s insurance.

In 2018, we are continuing to grow our counseling services by adding four master’s level counseling intern positions to meet the growing demand for more supportive services for survivors and their children.

### **CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY**

This past year marked the relaunch of the children’s program at S.A.F.E. Place. In February of 2017, the program was able to provide an array of new services and reach 193 youth clients in shelter. Families were able to access youth friendly activities that promoted spending time together and meeting new friends. Residential clients were invited to attend homework time in which they had the opportunity to meet with an advocate to work on assignments in a quiet environment.

For children and teens that have experienced trauma due to witnessing domestic violence, they have the ability to seek counseling services. Through counseling, these young people can receive domestic violence education, learn healthy coping strategies for dealing with trauma, and create an individualized safety plan that is tailored to their needs.

Over this past year, the children’s program has been able to provide many resources to children and their families. This program plans to continue expanding to offer a variety of services and reach more survivors of domestic violence.





# 2017

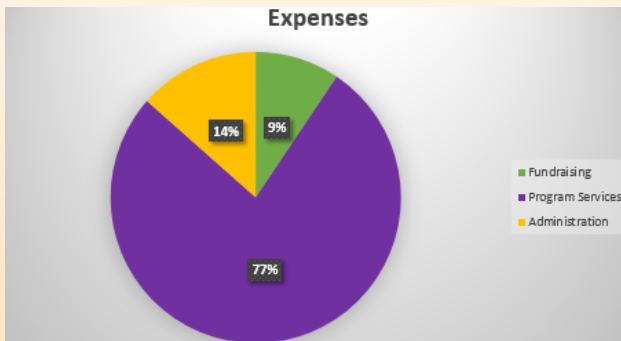
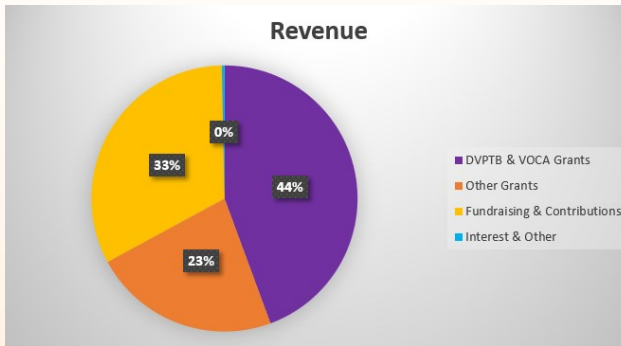
## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## FINANCIALS

### REVENUE AND EXPENSES

With a new leadership team in place, Fiscal Year 2017 was a year of building and establishing a baseline for operations. About 2/3 of S.A.F.E. Place's \$972,000 revenue



comes from a variety of federal, state, and local foundation grants. The remaining 1/3 is a mixture of fundraising events, corporate and civic gifts, as well as individual contributions made throughout the year. More than 3/4 of S.A.F.E. Place's expenses directly support vic-

tim programs, including emergency shelter services, legal advocacy, counseling, and children's programs. 14% of expenses were allocated to administrative costs and 9% to fundraising activities, with a cost ratio of about 0.27.

### DONORS & EVENTS

A special THANK YOU to our 2017 donors and community partners —all **1,409** of you! Whether you provided monetary donations or in-kind donations of food, shelter supplies, toys, appliances, or other much-needed materials for our clients, please know that your support, large or small, makes a world of difference to our clients!

A few of our primary events this year included the 12th Annual Celebrity Server

Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser, Walk-A-Mile community education events during National Domestic Violence Prevention month, and support for the 1st annual Mitchell VanderWall Memorial Golf Outing.



We are looking forward to a strong 2018. Again, THANK YOU!

"I talked with a client who was leaving the shelter to go home to her abusive husband. I asked her if she felt she was going to be safe, in which she replied she felt she would be okay.

However, she was concerned that her abuser might hit her hard enough to break another bone in her face as he had done before. I discussed with the client that once an abuser becomes physically abusive towards his/her significant other, the chance of it happening again often increases since the abuse is likely to escalate over time.

I told the client that I was concerned for her life and offered to safety plan with the her. I assured her that she could always call us whenever she needed to get away from her abusive husband, and we would always have an available bed for her to stay in if she chooses to come back and receive safe shelter services."

*~ A Shelter Advocate*



## LEGAL ADVOCACY

Our three legal advocates at S.A.F.E. Place serve Calhoun, Eaton, and Barry Counties, assisting victims through the criminal and civil legal system. They work closely with the Prosecutor's Office, Personal Protection Order Office, and Legal Services. Each week, they meet clients at preliminary exams, pre-trials, and jury trials, assisting and supporting them as needed.

Supervised by Legal Services in a collaborated effort, our Calhoun County legal advocate also may assist clients in The Divorce Clinic. The Divorce Clinic allows many victims of domestic violence who qualify and are low income, guidance and support in filing for a pro per divorce who would not otherwise be able to afford an attorney.

The coordinated efforts in place with the Prosecutor's Office, Personal Protection Order Office and Legal Services allow S.A.F.E. Place to empower and address victims' safety and legal concerns.

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We LOVE our volunteers! And, we couldn't make it without their generous support and help. From working with clients to baking holiday cookies, performing data entry, painting the hallways, or maintenance and spring cleaning on our grounds, our volunteers help in countless, selfless ways. Check out our statistics from FY2017.

Our volunteers are amazing! If you or your group would like to volunteer with us, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Danielle Chauvin, at [dchauvn@safeplaceshelter.org](mailto:dchauvn@safeplaceshelter.org) for details. We'd love to host



- Total volunteer hours: **6,780**
- Number of volunteers: **381**
- Lowest month for volunteer hours: **June 2017**
- Highest month for volunteer hours: **May 2017**
- Board Member Hours: **201**



## OUR MISSION

S.A.F.E. Place exists to provide safety to, empower and advocate for victims of domestic violence and their families.

## OUR VISION

S.A.F.E. Place envisions a future where all people enjoy the right to safe, healthy relationships.

**SAFETY. ADVOCACY. EMPOWERMENT.**

## CONTACT US!

### S.A.F.E. PLACE

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TOLL FREE: 888.664.9832

FAX: 269.966.2503

<http://www.safeplaceshelter.org>

@safeplaceshelter.org



A Comprehensive  
Domestic Violence Program  
*Established 1983*

## 2018 FOCUS

S.A.F.E. Place is striving to meet our 2018 goals:

- ◆ Fully adopting Best Practices and Trauma-Informed lens for service provision
- ◆ Plan for a Capital Campaign in order to build or rehab existing structure to better serve victims and survivors
- ◆ Focus on strengthening and growing the Volunteer Program, Counseling Program, and Children's Advocacy Program
- ◆ Create Life Skills Program to provide one-on-one advocacy with shelter residents to assist with life skills education and model effective parenting techniques.
- ◆ Strengthen partnership with law enforcement to continue to reduce domestic homicide in Calhoun County through the Lethality Assessment Program