

## Local Funders/ Community Partners

Office of the District Attorney  
Erie County Department of Human Services  
Erie County Bar Association  
Erie Community Foundation  
Penn State CORE  
Erie City Police Department  
Millcreek Police Department  
Office of Drug and Alcohol  
United Way of Erie County

## Collaborative Projects

### Project Reach

Provides a continuum of support for women and children in their journey from homelessness to permanent housing. Project partners are SafeNet, Erie DAWN, Mercy Center for Women and Gaudenzia/Community House.

### Project Connect

A HUD-funded program that gives donated furniture and household goods to help families who were once homeless to re-establish themselves in permanent housing. Project partners are SafeNet, Family Services, Safe Horizons, the Refuge, Erie DAWN and Mercy Center for Women.

### Domestic Violence Medical Advocacy Task Force

Connects victims presenting in a medical setting to access longer term counseling and advocacy. Includes SafeNet, Hamot Medical Center, St. Vincent Health Center, Community Health Net and MHEDS.

### STOP

Develops local remedies to hold perpetrators of violence against women accountable and to support victims. Project partners include the Office of the District Attorney, SafeNet, Crime Victims Center, GECAC Area Agency on Aging, Magisterial Court Judges, Sheriff's Department, and the Millcreek Police Department.

## Affiliations for Advocacy & Action

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence \*  
Domestic Violence State Standards Committee  
Domestic Violence Medical Advocacy State Committee \*  
VOCA (Victims of Crimes Act) Policy Board  
Erie County Protection From Abuse Task Force \*  
Domestic Violence Medical Advisory Task Force \*  
District Attorney's STOP Violence Against Women Committee  
Children's Advocacy Center, Board of Directors  
SCI Albion Batterer's Intervention Project \*  
Department of Public Welfare Maximizing Participation Task Force  
Children's Health Initiative of Pennsylvania  
Child Death Review Committee Erie County Department of Health  
Advisory Board Erie County Offender Re-entry Program  
Healthy Youth Development Advisory Committee  
HUD HOME Team \*  
Family Group Decision Making Task Force  
National Network to End Domestic Violence  
National Batterer's Intervention Network  
Mercyhurst Civic Institute Policy and Planning Council  
Erie County SHIPP Health Initiative Partnership \*  
Mother To Mother Advisory Board  
United Way Executive Directors Forum  
Erie Safe Kids Coalition  
Erie Housing Authority Interagency Council

\* *Founding member or current officer in organization*

### Our Mission

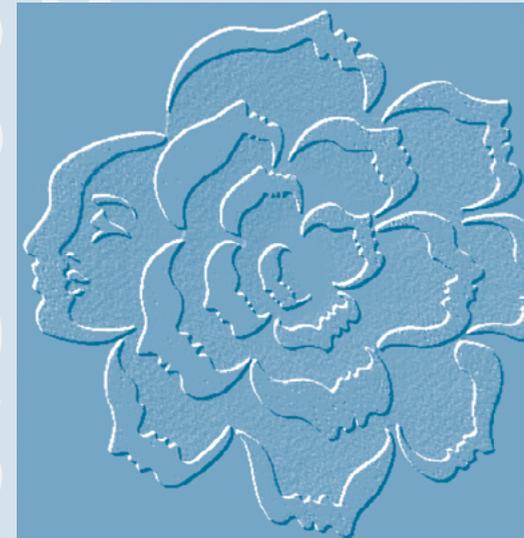
SafeNet is committed to ending domestic violence, affirming human dignity and delivering comprehensive direct services to victims of domestic violence. SafeNet provides sanctuary, support, education and advocacy and promotes changes in legislation and social policies. We believe every individual has the right to be respected and to live a life free from abuse.

**SafeNet**  
Domestic Violence Safety Network

P.O. Box 1436 • Erie, PA 16512 • (814) 455-1774 • safeneterie.org

# SafeNet

## ANNUAL REPORT Fiscal 2005/2006



# Year At A Glance

**Shirley Williams, M.S.**

President, Board of Directors  
and

**Linda King**

Chief Executive Officer

This year we began planning for the expansion and renovation of Hospitality House, our emergency shelter where battered women and their children have been coming for sanctuary for more than 30 years.

At first we just wanted to increase the living space at our existing shelter. But adding new construction to an aging existing structure created complications with commercial building codes. This, along with greatly inflated construction costs in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, increased our project costs to three times our original estimate.

Still we forged ahead. The need to alleviate the overcrowding in our shelter was great. On most nights all twenty-eight beds in the handful of bedrooms we have were filled.

We drafted a fundraising plan and presented it to the Erie Regional Chamber of Commerce, which serves as a clearinghouse for local capital campaigns. Their advice was to re-evaluate the plan. They recommended a more comprehensive project that would not only solve our immediate problem but meet our shelter needs well into the future.

So we literally began to think outside of the box. Instead of an addition, we drew plans to create an annex adjacent to the building. This change reduced costs significantly.

We saw our property as a campus and planned for green space to give women and their children a place to get fresh air and sunshine, which goes a long way to lift moods and lower stress in difficult times.

SafeNet's Board of Directors and Capital Campaign Committee submitted a

revised plan to the Chamber and was granted approval for a \$2 million dollar campaign that would be publicly solicited during 2007. We secured two large gifts totalling \$400,000 which gave us tremendous incentive.

We secured Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credits from the state of Pennsylvania to attract business donations. For every dollar donated, Pennsylvania tax will be reduced by 50 cents.

The demand for our shelter, counseling and legal services continues to grow. However, state and federal funding cuts continue to place more demands on all of us to maintain the quality of our service with fewer and fewer resources. So we are grateful to our wonderful staff, board of directors and volunteers for their perseverance and hard work that have advanced our mission during this fiscal year.

Victims of domestic violence need our protection and help. In fiscal 2005-2006 we laid the groundwork to provide safety with dignity through improved emergency shelter accommodations. In the year ahead we will raise the walls of a much needed new space and raise the funds to carry our entire project to completion.

*The issue of personal safety defines the difference between a domestic violence shelter and a homeless shelter. Forty percent of the victims who come to SafeNet's Hospitality House are brought to our doors by the police because their abusers continue to be dangerous threats. Another ten percent arrive from hospital emergency rooms because their abusers injured them badly enough to require medical attention.*

*Homeless shelters are mainly about housing. Domestic violence shelters are about safety, empowerment and hope.*

## Board Members 2005-2006

Shirley Williams  
*President*

Jeanne Peck  
*Vice President*

Edward Whitbred  
*Treasurer*

Kathleen Pae  
*Secretary*

Joseph Conti, Esq.

James Herr

John Johnston

Helen Klauk

Lynn McBrier, Esq.

Gina Rullo

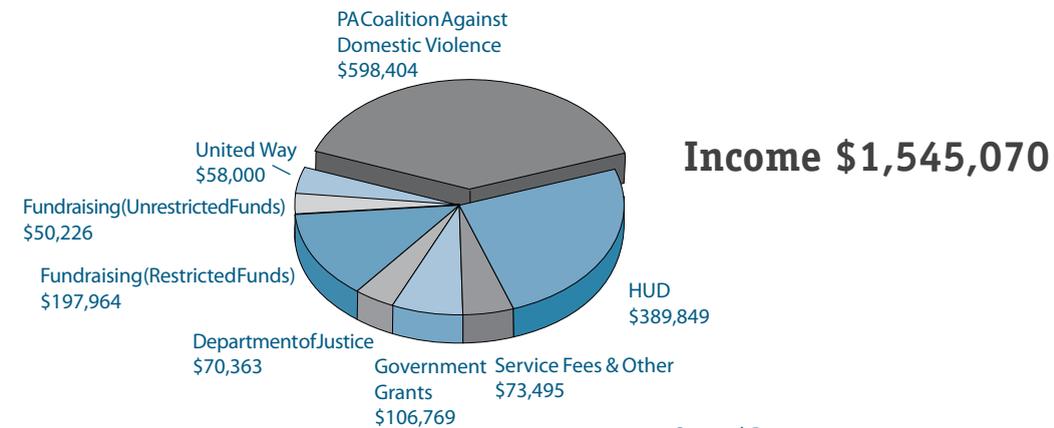
Nancy Sennett

Desh Sharma

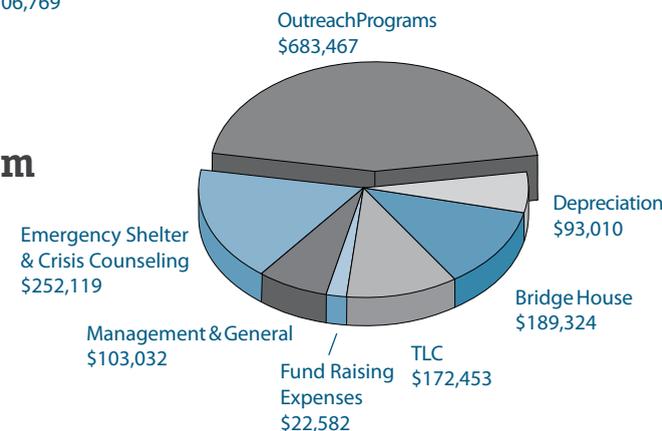
Kathleen Whipple

| SERVICE                    | ADULTS | CHILDREN |
|----------------------------|--------|----------|
| emergency shelter          | 243    | 173      |
| transitional housing       | 35     | 44       |
| nonresidential counseling  | 344    | 162      |
| hospital ER counseling     | 138    |          |
| legal advocacy             | 1,219  |          |
| hotline calls              | 982    |          |
| in-school prevention       |        | 1,849    |
| community education        | 2,580  | 1,161    |
| training (medical & other) | 2,203  |          |
| counseling hours           | 14,907 | 2,584    |
| supervised activity hours  |        | 1,161    |

Total residential days children & adults = 17,790



## Expense by Program \$1,515,997



# SafeNet Programs

## Hospitality House

### Emergency Shelter

A safe, confidential place for battered women and their children to stay. Counseling, child care and referral services are available on site.

## Bridge House

Supported living in independent apartments for women and their children made homeless by domestic violence. Families work toward self-sufficiency and finding safe, affordable housing.

## TLC (Transitional Living Center)

Supported living for homeless mothers between the ages of 15 and 21 and their children. The young women must work toward self-sufficiency, develop parenting skills and find permanent housing.

## Legal Program

Attorneys and SafeNet advocates work together to help victims of domestic abuse through the Protection from Abuse (PFA) process and other civil legal action as needed.

## Medical Program

Our counselors help victims 24/7 in emergency rooms at area hospitals. They also connect victims with community services in order to reduce repeated injuries and the need for medical treatment.

## Counseling Program

Our counselor/advocates are on call 24/7 to provide immediate help to victims of domestic violence. Both individual and group counseling are available.

## Education & Training

SafeNet offers education programs for community groups and provides prevention education to young people up through college. Training medical personnel and hosting an annual medical conference are important parts of our connection to the community.

In house, SafeNet advocate/volunteers and staff complete 50 hours of state certified training followed by 20 hours supervised practical experience. This training is offered twice a year.