

ANNUAL REPORT 2010 | 2011

You have the right to live free from abuse.



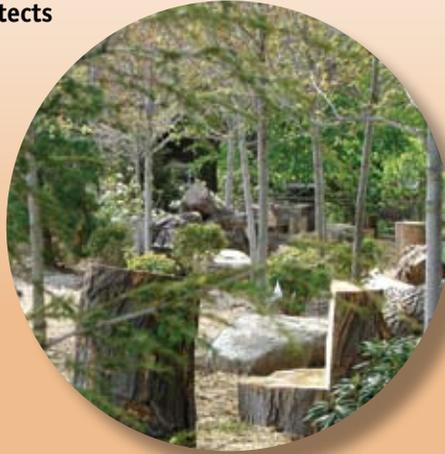
D O M E S T I C V I O L E N C E S A F E T Y N E T W O R K



*Gannon
University's
fraternity and
sorority groups helped
to landscape our Big
Backyard Children's Garden.*

The recent completion of our annex and expansion of our emergency shelter left little in the way of outdoor play space for kids.

Children comprise approximately 50 percent of our population in our shelter at any given time. When several pieces of property around our shelter became available, our dream of creating a Big Backyard Children's Garden became possible. During our 2010-11 fiscal year, the garden became a reality thanks to the hard work and fundraising efforts of Erie's Manufacturer & Business Association, its annual Roar on the Shore motorcycle rally, Dahlkemper Landscape Architects and volunteers from Gannon University, especially the Pi Kappa Epsilon fraternity. Many other local individuals, businesses, and organizations also contributed time, talent and treasure for which we are so grateful. — Thank you all.

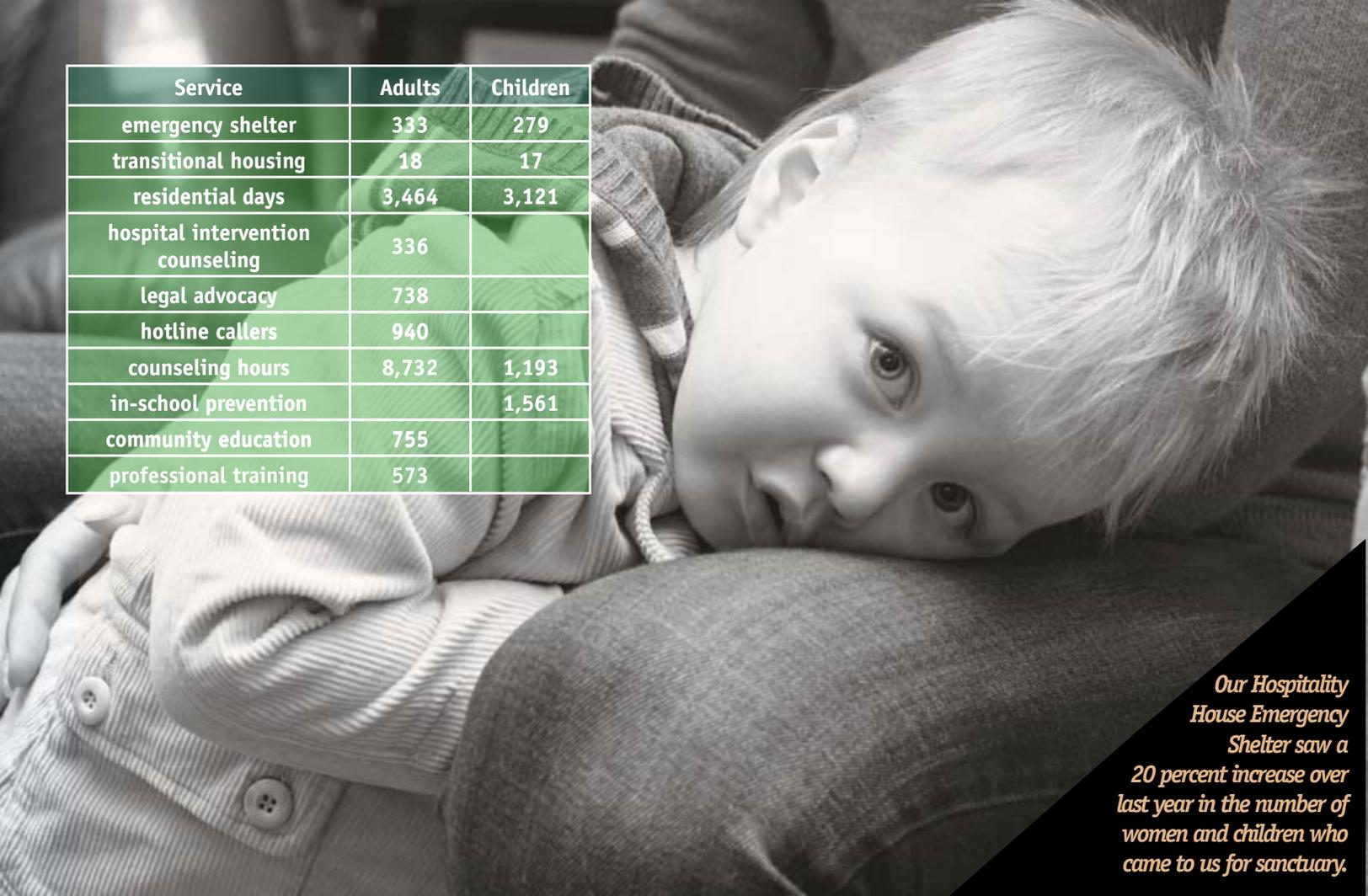


Ruth Burton, a longtime member of our board of directors and generous friend to our organization, passed away unexpectedly in January 2011. One of Ruth's last acts of kindness was to donate a beautiful marble bench for our Children's Garden with the words "Faith Hope Love" inscribed on it. These words capture the essence of Ruth and what she gave to all of us. She always had faith we could rise above present difficulties. She gave hope to victims of domestic violence by improving their quality of life across our organization. And she did it all with love for her community and great compassion for those in need.



You are deeply missed dear friend and will always be remembered...

Looking Back At Fiscal 2010 | 2011



Service	Adults	Children
emergency shelter	333	279
transitional housing	18	17
residential days	3,464	3,121
hospital intervention counseling	336	
legal advocacy	738	
hotline callers	940	
counseling hours	8,732	1,193
in-school prevention		1,561
community education	755	
professional training	573	

Our Hospitality House Emergency Shelter saw a 20 percent increase over last year in the number of women and children who came to us for sanctuary.

■ **Hospitality House Emergency Shelter** A safe, confidential place for victims and their children to stay. Counseling, child care and referral services are available on site.

■ **Counseling Program** Our counselor/advocates are available 24/7 to provide immediate help to victims of domestic violence. Both individual and group counseling are available to adults and accompanying children.

■ **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. The program is sustained, in part, through the HUD Continuum of Care.

■ **TLCPlus** Our TLC program was created in 1990 to provide transitional shelter for homeless mothers 16 to 21 years old and their children. While in residence, the women work toward self-sufficiency, job readiness and finding permanent housing.

In order to meet the challenges of homeless families in our community today, the program recently expanded to include more services and widened its scope of clients who can be helped.

The expanded program is called TLCPlus. In addition to transitional housing, a network of supports has been put in place to assist clients leaving transitional housing. This includes a six month follow-up period after they have found permanent housing. Our TLCPlus Housing Advocate assists families with financial management as well as tenancy and family issues to help ensure a strong new beginning.

At the same time, TLCPlus has enlarged the scope of people served. In addition to SafeNet clients, it now offers moving services, access to furniture donations, and housing search assistance to clients who are moving from transitional housing programs operated by SafeNet's community partners.

■ **Legal Representation 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 counselor/advocates help victims 24/7 in emergency rooms at area hospitals. They also connect victims with services to reduce repeated injuries and the need for medical treatment.

■ **Professional Development** We provide training to medical, human services and law enforcement personnel about domestic violence and the best ways to help victims.

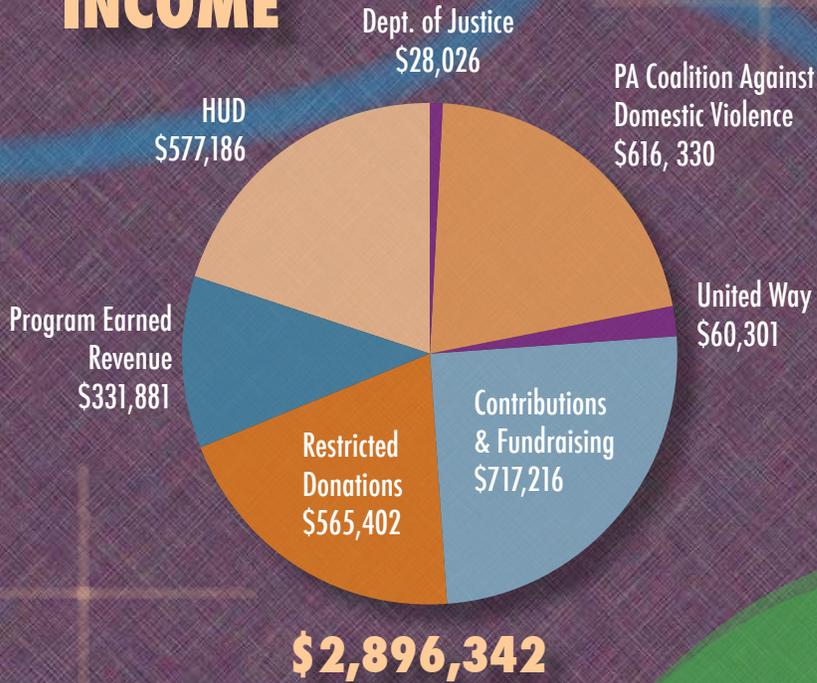
■ **Volunteer Training** We provide counselor/advocate training that qualifies volunteers to directly assist victims of domestic violence in our shelter and through our hotline.

■ **At School** We offer prevention education to students at area schools upon request.

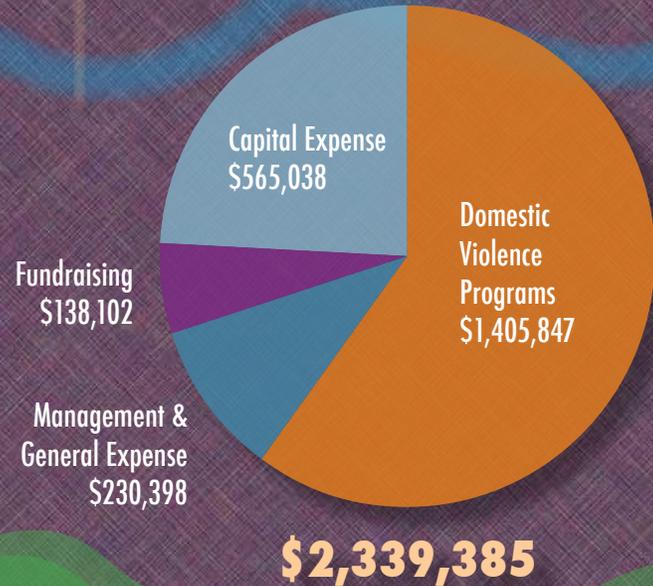
■ **Across The Community** Speakers from SafeNet talk to civic organizations about the dynamics of domestic violence and how citizens can help our community become a safer place.

Victim Services, Community Education & Professional Training

INCOME



EXPENSE



The recession put the spotlight on sustainability and capacity building at local nonprofits, including SafeNet. The Erie Community Foundation led an effort called ReTool Erie, focusing on workforce development and helping organizations meet the challenges of the changing economy.

Our participation in the program helped us maximize the effectiveness of our volunteer program. The shining example of this success was the creation of our Big Backyard Children's Garden. Without well-organized volunteers it would still be an idea on paper and not the renewing outdoor space it has become for victims of domestic violence young and old.

Our fundraising efforts were in high gear throughout the fiscal year. A series of events, including a Chill-E Cookoff, a motorcycle poker run, our Halloween Boo Run trail race at Presque Isle and other events attracted hundreds of people and raised thousands of dollars for the victims of domestic violence.

Fundraising for our Big Backyard Children's Garden met with great success as

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well thanks to leadership donations from the Roar on the Shore motorcycle rally sponsored by the Manufacturer & Business Association of Erie, GE, Erie Insurance Group, Northwest Savings Bank, and Susan Hirt Hagen. Many other generous individuals and businesses also stepped forward to make pledges and in-kind service donations.

The \$717,216 wedge of contributed funds in the pie chart above also accounts for money we received from a benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous, to purchase a former church, helping secure the downtown neighborhood where our shelter and children's garden are located.





*Our
Neighborhood
Partnership Center
repurposes a former
church as an incubator
for new nonprofit businesses
serving women and children.*

Local Funders & Program Partners

- Asbury Woods
- Community House
- Crime Victims Center
- Community Health Net
- Community Shelter Services
- Erie Dawn
- Erie Free Taxes
- MHEDS
- Mercy Center for Women
- The Nonprofit Partnership
- ReTool Erie
- Safe Horizons

The neighborhood where SafeNet's shelter and children's garden are located is also home to several other social service programs for women and children sponsored by Sarah Reed and the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. These programs combine with ours to create an overall safe and well-maintained environment around the block and beyond. During our fiscal year, a nearby church came up for sale. A donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, stepped forward to provide us with the funds needed to buy the property. This generosity enabled us to preserve the quality and character of the neighborhood. We renamed the facility the Neighborhood Partnership Center and repurposed it as an incubator for nonprofit businesses that can further enhance the neighborhood.

Affiliations for Advocacy & Action

Child Abuse Prevention Coalition
Child Advocacy
Multidisciplinary Team
Child Death Review Team
Children's Advocacy Center
CORE Advisory Board
Council of Women's Organizations
District Attorney's STOP Violence
Against Women Committee
DV Prevention Medical Task Force
DV Prevention Initiative
Erie County PFA Task Force

Erie Housing Authority
Interagency Council
Healthy Youth Development
Advisory Committee
HUD HOME Team
Maximizing Participation
Project Multidisciplinary Team
Pennsylvania Coalition
Against Domestic Violence
Respectful Relationships Coalition
Safe Kids Coalition
United Way Board of Directors
United Way Executive Director Forum
Victims of Crime Act Policy Board



Collaborative Partners & Advocacy Affiliations



TLC project contractor Jerry Biebel (left) and carpenter Mark Hansen work on the new stairwell connecting the two houses.

Part of SafeNet's TLCPlus program is to provide transitional housing for homeless mothers 16 to 21 years old. Since 1990, two donated houses adjacent to our emergency shelter have served as the residences for this program.

HUD granted SafeNet funds to connect the two houses and make much needed renovations to the interiors. A lengthy funding cycle and rising construction costs caused the project to be delayed and scaled back. But the project was completed during our fiscal year with additional funding from the Erie Community Foundation and the Department of Human Services. Many volunteers and SafeNet staff members pitched in with sanding, painting, and more.

The two homes, now integrated into one expanded facility, serve six young moms and their babies. While in residence, the young women work toward self-sufficiency and on developing their parenting skills.

The renovation created study areas, play areas, two separate kitchens, and a garden for residents' use. The facility also was wired for computer use and Internet access to help student moms with their educational and life skill goals.



Architect Adam Trott (below right) designed the TLC addition and interior renovation. He is pictured here with painter Kim Danielson.



Looking Back At Fiscal 2010 | 2011



SafeNet

Domestic Violence Safety Network

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