



*Domestic Violence*  
SafeNet  
*Safety Network*

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Youth and LGBT Program Coordinator Leroy Oglesby (left) educates community members about SafeNet's services at the 2018 NWPA Pride Picnic.



Local law enforcement entities partnered with SafeNet to provide cameras, iPads and tasers to enhance their response to domestic violence calls. Pictured L to R: Hon. Jack Daneri, Millcreek Chief Scott Heidt, Erie Chief Dan Spizarny, Erie Deputy Chief Jon Nolan and Deputy Sheriff Doug Kubiak.

# Mission

SafeNet is committed to ending domestic violence, affirming human dignity, and delivering comprehensive direct services to victims of domestic violence.

Linda Lyons King, CEO (left) posing with Jenny Weigold Geertson (center) of UPMC Health Plan and Geri Cicchetti, SafeNet's Director of Advancement after receiving funds from the Neighborhood Assistance Program.



Young women in SafeNet's Transitional Living Center (TLC) enjoying a graduation party for one of their fellow residents.



# Letting Survivors Speak

Cindy sought refuge at shelter after her long-term marriage became increasingly more violent. Cindy, along with her two children (ages one and four) had been isolated in their home, not allowed to



associate with anyone outside the home or to even go to the playground. Finally, when the physical violence escalated, Cindy summoned the courage to call the police and seek SafeNet's shelter.

Cindy remained strong and sought a Protection from Abuse Order. She and her children transitioned to Bridge House while she continued to seek housing. They eventually found a permanent home in public housing. Cindy and her children continue to benefit from SafeNet's community counseling and children's group counseling.

*This quilted design, above, by Karen Bille hangs in SafeNet's offices. Images such as this serve as a reminder that survivors of domestic violence can reclaim their own lives.*

## A Community in Unity

Forty-four years ago, a group of brave, tenacious women came together to provide respite for women who were in distress. This indomitable group became the first board of directors of Hospitality House.

Decades later we better understand the scope and impact of domestic violence. Domestic violence effects go far beyond the healing of injury or need for shelter. Over time, Hospitality House became SafeNet and offered survivors a larger support system thanks to additional programs and increased collaborations within our community.

As our domestic violence (DV) services have matured we have realized that other systems are often the first responders to abuse. DV services working with law enforcement and health care systems are astonishingly effective in preventing DV-related homicides.

Programs like the Lethality Assessment and the Danger Assessment give our police tools to assess the likelihood of fatality or serious injury. As of April 2018, both the Erie Police and Millcreek Police Departments are utilizing these assessment tools to help officers evaluate danger and connect survivors with SafeNet.

SafeNet first began medical outreach programs in 1996 when we first offered training for hospital personnel on the importance of screening for DV and the health impacts of abuse. Now, our advocates are available 24/7 to meet with survivors in the emergency departments of local hospitals. Our annual Medical Conference in October of 2017 continued to explore the intersection between health care and domestic violence thanks to an array of dynamic speakers from those respective fields.

SafeNet has also continued to organize the STOP Violence Against Women program. Through the previous fiscal year, law enforcement, victim services providers, and prosecutors came together to invest in prevention, develop public policy and address the needs of underserved populations for the betterment of our community. In addition to our community outreach, our fundraising efforts continued to show increased results. We owe the significant uptake in success of our events to Mary and Howard Lincoln, who chaired our English Garden Party, Lisa NeCastro, who hosted our 100 Women Event, and Chris and Mary Ellen Sorce, who chaired the outstandingly successful Jenni-Lyn Watson Memorial Performance benefiting SafeNet and the Mercyhurst University Dance Department.

All in all, 2017 to 2018 was a VERY GOOD YEAR. Throughout the 2018 to 2019 year, we will continue to work within our community to bring an end to domestic violence.

Linda Lyons King  
**Executive Director**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Lyons King".

# How We Help

From July 1st 2017 to June 30th 2018, SafeNet's services assisted an average of 1,061 adults and 261 children.

## SHELTER

Available 24/7, SafeNet's shelter offers safe, confidential short-term housing for adults and their children. **400 survivors were sheltered.**

## COUNSELING AND ADVOCACY

Individual and group counseling are available to both adults and their accompanying children. Longer term counseling and the support provided by the group are effective in the process of getting free. **5,757 hours were devoted to counseling.**

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Community education and professional training are essential as we network with hospitals, police, and schools. **228 pieces of educational material were produced and 29 trainings occurred. 488 youth were reached via prevention activities.**

## HOTLINE

Answered 24/7 by a certified domestic violence counselor, SafeNet's hotline is often the first contact in seeking services. **1,214 survivors and family members were served on the SafeNet hotline.**

## LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The LAP is an evidence-based program linking survivors of violence seen by first responders to the domestic violence hotline. Officers on the scene will screen survivors to assess their level of lethality and subsequently connect them with SafeNet to safety plan. Connection with domestic violence services has been shown to significantly reduce lethality risks. The program has been fully implemented within the Millcreek and City of Erie Police Departments. **36 survivors were put in touch with SafeNet after their Lethality Assessment screening.**

## MEDICAL OUTREACH

SafeNet provides domestic violence information and training to all local hospitals. Trained advocates are available on request 24/7 to see survivors in the health care setting. **66 survivors were served and 371 professional health care providers were trained.**

## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

All residents in transitional housing were previously homeless and now need assistance with education, training,

or life skills to move forward towards self-sufficiency. Bridge House is for survivors of domestic violence and the Transitional Living Center (TLC) is for young mothers aged 16-21. **15 adults and 16 children were served in Bridge House and 7 young women and 6 children were served by TLC.**

## PUBLIC HOUSING OUTREACH

SafeNet is represented as a part of a team of organizations helping to meet the needs of public housing residents. SafeNet's staff provides short-term counseling, connection to SafeNet services, and facilitates violence prevention curricula with children and adolescents. **154 adults and 39 children were served (public housing stats represent Feb. 2018 to Dec. 2018).**

## CIVIL LEGAL REPRESENTATION

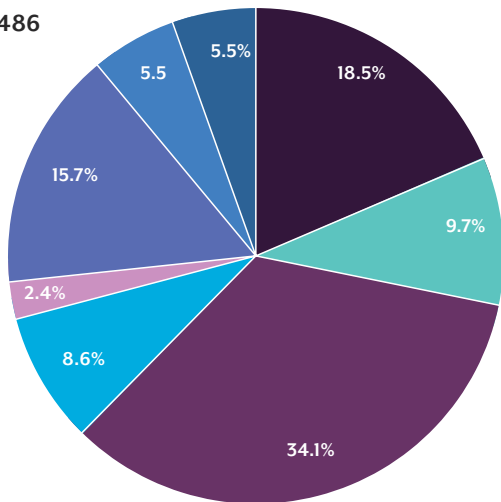
These legal services are aimed at re-establishing autonomy for survivors of abuse. CLR is primarily for custody, divorce, and support. **55 survivors were served.**

Protection from abuse actions are handled by SafeNet's affiliate, Protection from Abuse Coordinated Services (PFACS). **504 survivors were served by PFACS.**

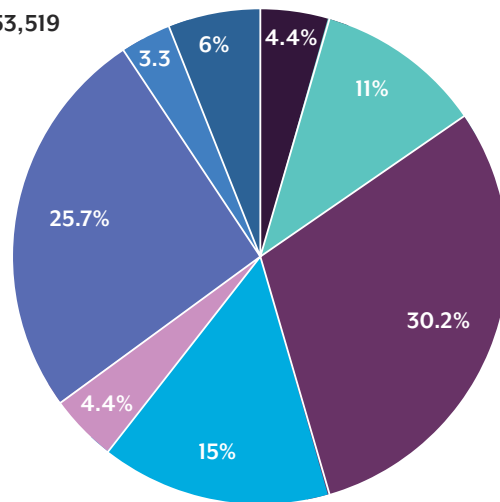
The ripple design included throughout this report represents the expanding reach of SafeNet's domestic violence services throughout Erie County. SafeNet's many programs are designed to make intervention and services more available and to provide individual plans that will assist in self-sufficiency.

# Funding

**2016-2017**  
TOTAL FUNDING:  
\$2,065,486



**2017-2018**  
TOTAL FUNDING:  
\$2,153,519



**2016-2017**      **2017-2018**

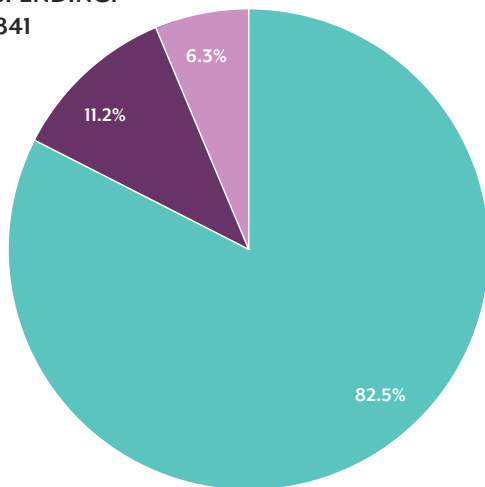
● HUD	..... \$382,606	..... \$95,373
● PCCD	..... \$199,917	..... \$237,270
● PCADV	..... \$703,092	..... \$651,536
● HHS	..... \$177,706	..... \$322,125

**2016-2017**      **2017-2018**

● United Way	..... \$50,022	..... \$94,518
● Contributions/ Fundraising	..... \$324,989	..... \$553,540
● Investment Earnings	..... \$113,570	..... \$71,292
● Other/Rental	..... \$113,584	..... \$127,865

# Spending

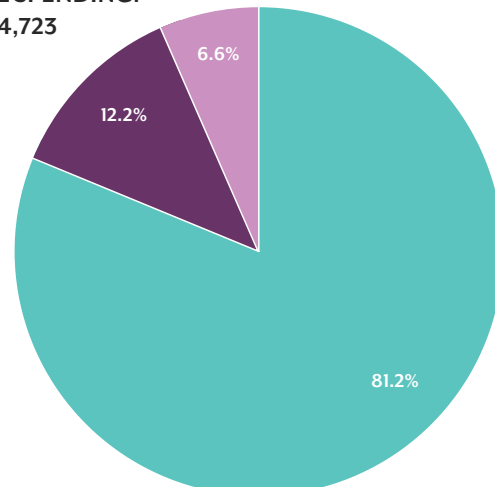
**2016-2017**  
TOTAL SPENDING:  
\$2,070,841



**2016-2017**      **2017-2018**

● DV Services	..... \$1,708,653	..... \$1,659,969
● Management and General Expenses	..... \$231,781	..... \$248,782

**2017-2018**  
TOTAL SPENDING:  
\$2,044,723



**2016-2017**      **2017-2018**

● Fundraising	..... \$130,407	..... \$135,972
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# SafeNet

Domestic Violence Safety Network

Non-Profit  
Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Erie, PA  
Permit No. 205

1702 French St. • Erie, PA 16501

(814) 455-1774 • TTY: 1-800-654-5984

[www.safeneterie.org](http://www.safeneterie.org)

Weekdays from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Board Members

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Linda Lyons King

Lynette Hughes

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Kyle Hannon

Cheryl Mitchell

Richard Perhacs



Linda Wilkinson and Laurel Swartz debating their moves during the 2018 Scrabble Tournament. The fundraiser raised over \$31,100 for SafeNet's Children's Programs.



Children and their families spend time playing in SafeNet's Big Backyard Children's Garden.