

ANNUAL REPORT

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Highlights

Thanks to the leadership of **Walter and Joan Harf, Peggy Richardson, Joe Conti, Jim Herr** and **Shirley Williams** plus the generosity of the people in NW Pennsylvania and beyond, **our capital campaign finished as a great success.** In total we raised \$1,654,500, enabling us to renovate our shelter, improve security for our clients, and build a new annex, providing an additional 2,450 sq. ft. of space.

When the annex opened, a woman staying in our shelter asked how we were able to afford it. We told her there are individuals and businesses in our community who believe there should be relief for women and children trapped in abusive situations. Hearing that, she burst into tears and said, "I can't believe people are so kind. I've never lived in a place with anything new."

This extra space has meant a lot to others as well. For example, the *quiet room* in the annex

— a place for peace, contemplation and



reading — has received great reviews. No TVs, radios, laptops, or cell phones are allowed, plus it's a kid-free zone. This was never possible before with the overcrowding in our shelter. One victim of domestic violence told us, "You don't know what it means to have a place to get your head together when you're faced with so many life changes."

The quiet room has been named in honor of **Sarah Hagen McWilliams** whose support of our capital campaign was greatly appreciated.

In addition to our shelter renovations and construction of our new annex, we've been able to acquire several properties near our campus as well. Our plan is to create a **Big Backyard Children's Garden** where kids from abusive homes (and their mothers) can get fresh air and sunshine as they heal emotionally and physically.

Ken Finch, an international expert on natural play, availed himself to SafeNet and the design began. The garden will not have playground equipment nor groomed shrubs like a city park. Instead it will feature a natural landscape with opportunities for

kids to dig in the dirt, float a stick in a stream, build a fort, and lots more outdoor fun.

Several major contributors from our community have stepped forward to help



us with this project. **GE Transportation, the Manufacturer & Business Association** and the **Roar on the Shore Motorcycle Rally** have donated time, and significant financial and in-kind resources to make it happen.

Landscaping and construction of the Big Backyard Children's Garden will be completed in May of 2011.

Several neighboring agencies with programs serving women and children will also be invited to use the garden.

SafeNet is Erie's only accredited domestic violence agency. We provide sanctuary, support, education and legal advocacy. We believe every individual has the right to be respected and live a life free from abuse.

Victim Services, Community Education & Professional Training

• 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. • **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 16 and 22 and their children. The young women work toward self-sufficiency, develop parenting skills and find permanent housing. • **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.

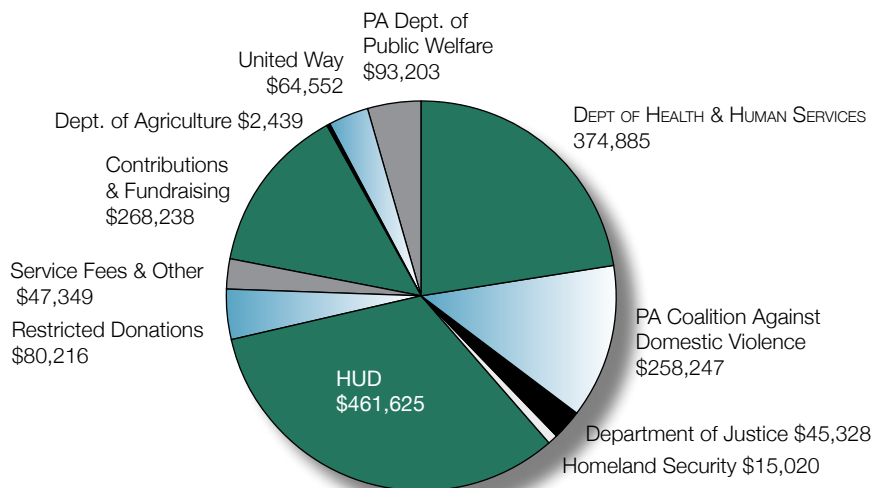
• **Medical Program** Our counselor/advocates help victims 24/7 in emergency rooms at area hospitals. They also connect victims with services to reduce repeated injuries and the need for medical treatment. • **Counseling Program** Our counselor/advocates are available 24/7 to provide immediate help to victims of domestic violence. Both individual and group counseling are available to adults and accompanying children. • **Whole Mother/Whole Child** Mentors from Gannon University provide support to young mothers and help them connect with the community and educational opportunities. • **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. • **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** Volunteer counselor/advocates are vital in our 24/7 shelter and hotline 24/7 as well as children's programs. Twice a year, we conduct in-depth training that qualifies volunteers to assist victims of domestic violence.



SafeNet
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAFETY NETWORK

Income \$1,711,102



Cuts in state and federal funding caused us to reduce our staffing by 28 percent. The cuts were felt across our organization with the greatest impact occurring in our Prevention Education Programs for children and young adults and our Training Programs for local medical, legal and human service professionals.

Expense by Program \$1,705,782

Board of Directors

Shirley Williams
President

Edward Whitbred
Vice-President

Kathleen Whipple
Secretary

James Herr
Treasurer

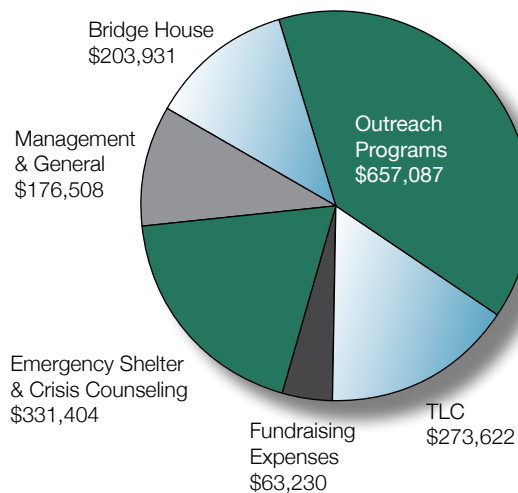
Lynn McBrier

Kathleen Pae

Nancy Sennett

Lisa Hart

Linda Lyons King
Chief Executive Officer



Service	Adults	Children
emergency shelter	279	226
transitional housing	30	44
residential days	7,472	6,576
hospital intervention counseling	312	
legal advocacy	1,049	
hotline callers	691	
counseling hours	9,287	1,765
children's structured activities		548
in-school prevention		1,591
community education	1,111	
professional training	1,800	

Local Funders & Program Partners

Citadel Broadcasting • City of Erie
 • Economic Development Corporation of Erie County • Erie Art Museum • Erie City Police Department • Erie Community Foundation • Erie County Bar Association • Erie County District Attorney's Office • Erie County Department of Human Services • Gannon University • Hamot Medical Center • Highmark • Housing Authority of the City of Erie • Jewish Community Council of Temple Anshe Hessed • Mercyhurst College • Millcreek Police Department • Northwest Savings Bank • Office of Drug and Alcohol • Penn State-Behrend • PNC Bank • Ronald McDonald Charities • Saint Vincent Health System • Susan Hirt Hagen Center for Organizational Research and Evaluation • United Way of Erie County • WQLN Public Broadcasting

Affiliations for Advocacy & Action

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence* • 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 • Community HealthNet • Erie DAWN • 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 • Healthy Youth Development Advisory Committee • HUD HOME Team* • National Network to End Domestic Violence • Mercy Center for Women • Safe Horizons • MHEDS • 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 • United Way Better Together

* Founding member or current officer in organization