

2017 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



Creating Safety. Reclaiming Equality. Pursuing Justice.

24-Hour Hotline: (845) 562-5340

www.safehomesorangecounty.org



A Message From Our Executive Director

On behalf of Safe Homes of Orange County Board of Directors and Staff, I am pleased to present our **2017 Community Impact Report**. This report takes a look at the services we provide, our fiscal health, and acknowledges the amazing donors and funders who supported us throughout 2017. This past year has proved challenging on many levels, as we have navigated the impact of changes within our country.

Many significant events occurred in 2017—moments in our history that precipitated conversations with our children and will prove pivotal to our country's future. On January 20, 2017, we shared in the incredible experience of the Women's March as more than 5 million people across seven continents joined together to reinvigorate a movement for true change. Since then, greater space has been created to allow all voices to be heard as we focus on dismantling the systems that keep sexism, racism, classism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression functioning.

In August, the country bore witness to an abhorrent rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, led by a white supremacist group. In October, an act of domestic terror in Las Vegas pushed perpetrators of domestic violence

and their patterns of abuse to the forefront of a national conversation about the prevalence of mass murder. But also in October, we saw an explosion of the "me too" movement (created ten years ago by Just Be Inc. founder, Tarana Burke) as it shifted to social media and became #MeToo. As we head into 2018, we continue to have these conversations, we continue to speak up and share our stories, and we continue to laud the courage of so many survivors.

In 2017, Safe Homes provided the highest number of shelter bed nights in our 31-year history. Our advocacy services increased tremendously, and the need to support our community during these challenging times was felt far beyond our education and prevention programs. And yet, even on our most challenging days, there have been amazing moments. These moments occur on both an individual and community level and they allow us to bear witness to extraordinary acts of humanity, courage, and perseverance. These moments fuel us to keep moving and keep speaking up—*because the alternative is not an option*.

In October, Safe Homes celebrated 31 years of providing services to the community at our Second Annual Celebration of Hope Gala. It was an incredible evening that brought together community members, fellow service providers, local businesses, and survivors to honor those that came before us and the future that lies ahead. It was incredible to see guests embrace both our "masquerade ball" theme and Safe Homes. While this annual event may be filled with entertainment, fun, and laughter, it serves as the one night a year we honor the amazing individuals and businesses that have supported Safe Homes and lifted up our mission within their daily work.

Assemblyman James Skoufis was honored for his longtime support of Safe Homes. A friend to Safe Homes well before his political career, in his current role, Assemblyman Skoufis has continued to support those impacted by domestic violence by co-sponsoring legislation to strengthen protections for victims, as well as securing monies to help fund our new shelter (scheduled to open in January 2019).

Shannon Wong was honored for her commitment of well over a quarter century of her life to the liberation of all women and girls. Shannon is one of founding mothers of the community education tool "In Her Shoes: Living with Domestic Violence", which our organization and countless others across the country still use today. Her current role as Director of the Lower Hudson Valley Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union, allows her to continue lifting up the voices of those that are not always heard.

Cornerstone Family Health Center was honored this year for the ever-evolving partnership between our two organizations. Each of us works within our own areas to ensure basic human rights are granted. Our paths intertwine daily and our ability to work effectively together has a greater impact on all those seeking each of our services.

We rounded out the evening by honoring Mauri Architects. Jay Diesing and his incredible team believed in the Safe Homes mission to expand shelter services long before a pencil was ever put to paper. Mauri Architects has been with us every step of the way, and has never wavered on ensuring that we be able to accommodate the needs of as many victims as possible that seek emergency shelter services.

Safe Homes could not exist without the incredible supporters and donors that help us throughout the year. Each donation, both monetary and in-kind, plays a vital role in ensuring that victims whose lives are impacted by violence at the hand of their abuser can feel supported as they attempt to navigate a life free from violence. From the monetary donations that help us meet basic needs and support vital programming, to gifts of laundry detergent bottles tied with a roll of quarters that ensure a child's clothes are clean for tomorrow—each act of kindness has a ripple effect.

While we were challenged in numerous ways in 2017, it is in the moments embedded in all of these experiences that we saw heroism, courage, kindness, compassion, and the fortitude to keeping moving. Safe Homes is thankful to each and every one of you that chose Safe Homes and those we serve to benefit from your generosity and incredible acts of kindness.

Collectively, we are all changing lives.

In Solidarity

Surviving domestic violence can be a daunting, unrelenting journey.

We recognize the incredible strength of victims and survivors attempting to access safety and connecting with Safe Homes for support. In March of 2017, our services expanded beyond Orange County into Sullivan County as the Safe Passage program transitioned under Safe Homes. We provide Non-Residential advocacy services, supportive counseling, and emergency services from our office in the Sullivan County Government Center in Monticello. The Safe Passage hotline continues to be (845) 292-5700 with hotline services now provided by Safe Homes.

Advocacy & Support Services in Orange County

3,166 Crisis Line Calls provided safety planning and access to support services and resources.

7,326 Supportive Counseling services were offered to victims and survivors, creating **5,099** individualized **Safety Plans**.

18,383 Advocacy Services encompassed the areas of court accompaniment, legal support, law enforcement, medical, mental health, social services, housing, employment, immigration, economic empowerment, and education.

2,297 Emergency Services addressed the immediate needs of children, and basic needs such as food, clothing, personal care, critical household items, and transportation for individuals and families.

119 referrals for our **Therapeutic Counseling Program** provided counseling to **133** individuals with **1,306** sessions provided.

185 Support Groups were facilitated, and made available in both English and Spanish.

Advocacy & Support Services in Sullivan County*

Sullivan

54 Crisis Line Calls provided safety planning and access to support services and resources in Sullivan County.

314 Supportive Counseling services were offered to victims and survivors, creating **238** individualized **Safety Plans**.

214 Advocacy Services encompassed the areas of court accompaniment, legal support, law enforcement, medical, mental health, social services, housing, employment, immigration, economic empowerment, and education.

18 Emergency Services addressed the immediate needs of children, and basic needs such as food, clothing, personal care, critical household items, and transportation for individuals and families.

*Period beginning March 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017.

While Sullivan County covers almost **19%** more square miles, this rural area has **1/5** the population of Orange County.

During 2017, Safe Homes Advocates provided services to:

741 adults and 543 children through Non-Residential Programs in Orange County; **47** adults and **45** children through Non-Residential Programs in Sullivan County; **66** adults and **45** children through our Residential Program in Orange County;

with a total of 5,322 nights of safety in our 17-bed Emergency Shelter.



Safe Pets Program

When survivors seek to leave their homes, they sometimes face the additional challenge of finding a safe home for their pets—which may become an additional barrier to leaving. Through a collaborative effort with the **Warwick Valley Humane Society**, we are able to arrange temporary housing for pets. Our **Safe Pets Program** allows us to provide a safe haven for both household and other types of pets while an individual or family resides in our emergency shelter. In **2017**, **8** pets were sheltered for a total of **578** nights of safety. This allowed **6** adult survivors and their children to access safe shelter without having to leave their pets behind or worry about the care they would receive.

Community Collaborations

Safe Homes advocates co-located within Child Protective Services (CPS) in Goshen and in Newburgh worked collaboratively with CPS on 549 cases involving indicators of domestic violence and reported child abuse. They provided services and information to 364 individuals, conducted 113 joint visits in the home and within the community.

Co-located within the **Orange County District Attorney's Office**, Safe Homes provided assistance on **70** Grand Jury cases, advocated for survivors with Assistant District Attorneys on **515** occasions, and received **24** referrals from Assistant District Attorneys for services.

Orange County Safe Harbor is a collaboration between the **Orange County Department of Social Services (DSS)**, **Safe Homes**, and **HONOR**. The program received **134** referrals for youth and provided **120** youth with services, including safety planning, individual support, case management, and referrals to service. This program expanded in 2017 to include a full-time Trafficking Case Manager, in addition to our Trafficking Resource Coordinator.

Within **DSS**, the **Domestic Violence Liaison** conducted **295** assessments for individuals seeking DSS assistance and provided **372** waivers to enable survivors to safely comply with DSS requirements. In addition, **145** individuals were connected with Safe Homes for ongoing services and support.

In collaboration with **Legal Services of the Hudson Valley**, **Safe Homes Family Justice Center** housed a full-time attorney and paralegal who handled **162** cases assisting clients with orders of protection, custody, visitation, divorce, and child and spousal support.

Risk Reduction Response Program

In partnership with the City of Newburgh Police Department, Orange County Probation, and the Orange County District Attorney's Office, Safe Homes implemented a **Risk Reduction Response Program (**RRRP) within the City of Newburgh police department. Starting in March, officers conducted high risk screenings at the scene of all intimate partner domestic violence incidents, identified **310** high risk cases, and immediately connected these individuals to the Safe Homes 24-hour hotline. Case management and advocacy services were provided to all individuals identified as high risk. The RRRP Project Coordinator



reviewed 686 domestic incident reports and conducted 187 joint home visits with law enforcement.

Orange County Commission Against Intimate Partner Violence (OCCAIPV)

Safe Homes also implemented a Risk Reduction Response Program in partnership with the City of Port Jervis Police Department. Starting in April, officers conducted high risk screenings at the scene of all intimate partner domestic violence incidents, identified **215** high risk cases, and immediately connected these individuals to the Safe Homes 24-hour hotline. Case management and advocacy services were provided to all individuals identified as high risk. The OCCAIPV Project Coordinator reviewed **482** domestic incident reports and conducted **35** joint home visits with law enforcement.

Outreach & Education

Safe Homes offers free education in both English and Spanish on issues surrounding teen dating violence, violence prevention, human trafficking, and healthy relationships to community groups, schools, workplaces, law enforcement agencies, healthcare, government, and human service organizations. Trained educators design presentations or workshops according to the needs and characteristics of each group or audience.

131 presentations reached **1,741** adults, raising awareness on topics such as the dynamics of domestic violence, stalking, technology



2017 "Safe Love is..." Art Contest Winner: Casey LaBar '17 Valley Central High School

For Who You Are

Artist's note: "I wanted to highlight abuse against the LGBTQ+ Community in teens. I wanted to show that it isn't always obvious that someone is being abused, and how words can affect someone just as much as physical violence.

safety, human trafficking, the impact of domestic violence on children, and domestic violence in the workplace.

Safe Homes **Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program** held **264** age-appropriate presentations reaching **4,561** adolescents and teens. Topics included abusive versus healthy relationships, physical and online bullying, the impact of stereotypes, sexism, bystander intervention, cultural-competency, and other themes.

Safe Homes Youth Educators led the 5th annual **Youth Leadership Academy** during two weeks in July for students ages 14-17. With support from the **Orange County Youth Bureau**, Safe Homes offered two week-long academies, one in Newburgh and one in Port Jervis, with a total of **25** Orange County youth participating. During this workshop, youth exercised and enhanced their leadership skills while gaining knowledge and participating in conversations on teen dating violence, equality, safety, respect, healthy boundaries, consent, messages from the media, systems of privilege and oppression, bystander empowerment, effective communication, what makes a true leader, and how to make a difference in their own community. Youth were challenged to think outside the box, to challenge themselves, and to challenge others.

On February 11, 2017, we announced the winner (pictured above) of our 3nd annual "**Safe Love is..." Art Contest**. **39** students from grades 6-12 across Orange County submitted artwork expressing their vision and voice in ending teen-dating violence.





Safe Homes comprehensive support services and outreach programs are sustained by the dedication of our volunteers, the solidarity of our community, and the vision of our funders and government leaders.

ALL GIFTS-BIG AND SMALL-MOVE OUR WORK FORWARD.

Volunteering and Internships

Safe Homes witnessed a tremendous increase in helping hands as **Volunteers** and Interns contributed a total of **2,687** hours of service— a 48% increase from the prior year.

INTERNS

Alexis Floyd Bobbie Sphuler Cassandra Beyer Dakota Francis Denise Cabrera Kayla Lanza Laura Hatch Lindsey Arriola Maria Streva Marina Krupp Michael Cannone Nicolle Brunale Perryn Dutiger Alicia D'Amico Barbara Levy Cheryl Hinds-Simmons Harrie Mule Maryann Faggio Mickey Morgano Rosemary Newman Saishree "Kiki" Rao Stephanie Berra

VOLUNTEERS

GOVERNMENT

Child & Adult Care Food Program County of Orange NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services NYS Office of Victim Services NYS Senator John J. Bonacic NYS Senator William J. Larkin Orange County Department of Social Services Orange County District Attorney's Office Orange County Youth Bureau Police Chiefs' Association of Orange County

FOUNDATIONS

1st Lt. Louis Allen Scholarship & Community Foundation Allstate Foundation Avon Foundation Community Foundation of Orange & Sullivan Dyson Foundation M&T Charitable Foundation Verizon Foundation Warwick Savings Foundation

COMMUNITY

Advanced Dental & Oral Surgery Alexis Diner Antalek & Moore Insurance Avenue Capital Group B and B Tan Ball Corporation **Blimp Guys Freight Services** Bruderhof, Bellvale Community bruyn designed Cantu Chiropractic **Catholic Charities** Central Hudson Certified Financial Services, LLC Chris Staritz Rand Realty **City View Promotions Combined Energy Services** Committee to Elect Bill Larkin Community Health Charities Congregation Kol Ami **Cornerstone Healthcare** Cornwall Yacht Club Ladies Auxillary Crystal Run Village, Inc. Down 2 Earth Dr. Michele Winchester-Vega & Associates Drake Loeb, PLLC **Emmerich Tree Farm Empire State Bank** English Rose Day School **Essential Power Systems** Finkelstein Law Firm First Presbyterian Church, Campbell Hall Florida Family Dental Care Frank's Custom Shoe Fitting, Inc. Frazzleberries Friends of James Skoufis Friends of Sweeton Geekhive General Traffic Equipment Corp. Goshen Sunoco Grace United Methodist Church **Greenery Plus Florist** Harriet Earnest, CPA Harriman Army Navy/Harriman Clothing Co. Heating & Burner Supply, Inc. **Higher Ground Ventures** Highland Mills United Methodist Church

HONOR ehg, Inc. Horizon Family Medical Group Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union Hudson Valley Kitchens & DKI Hudson Valley Women In Business Independent Insurance Agents Association of **Orange County** Interiors Plus / Hip & Chic Jacobowitz & Gubits LLP Jean Claude Fine Cakes & Pastries JP Packaging, LLC Keller Williams Realty Hudson Valley United La Piazza of Warwick Lakeland Bank Landmark Inn Laura Stevens Physical Therapy Lazear-Smith & Vander Plaat Memorial Home Legal Services of the Hudson Valley Lions Club of Warwick Macan Hotel Corp. Maple Avenue B & B Mauri Architects Maximus Foundation Media Solstice Mediacom Mental Health Association of Orange County **Microtel Inn & Suites** Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union MidHudsonNews.com Monroe Family Eyecare Associates, LLP Monroe Woodbury Rotary Club Mount Peter Mountainville Methodist Church Murphy Solar & Central Air MVP Healthcare NeighboRx Pharmacy Neptune Diner Corp. Neugent & Haeussler Newburgh Envelope Newburgh Free Library Newburgh Teachers' Association Newhard's The Home Source Northeast Martial Arts **Orange & Rockland Utilities** Orange Regional Medical Center Otisville Grange #12 Palmetto, Mollo, Molinaro & Passarello, LLP Peck's Wine & Spirits **Planned Parenthood**





ProTilly, Inc. R.E.C. Electric, Inc. **Ristorante Grappa** Rotary Club of Walden Salon Lucere Seely & Durland Insurance Siena's Auto Sales St Ann's Guild St. James Church of Goshen St. John's Lutheran Church, Middletown St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital St. Paul's Episcopal Church Sun Indulgence Tanning Salon Sunrise Broadcasting - FOX Radio Superior Home Care Services Sussman Holistic Tau Chapter Sigma Lambda Nu TD Bank The Blarney Station The Eagle's Nest The Red Shutters Thom Woglom Construction **Times Herald Record** Town of Newburgh Memorial VFW Aux 1161 **Ulster Savings Bank** United Way of Dutchess-Orange Region Valley Central Teachers' Asso. Van DeWater & Van DeWater, LLP Verticon, LTD Wadeson Home Center Walden Savings Bank Warwick Foot Spa & Tea Bar Warwick Valley Auto Body Warwick Valley Chamber of Commerce Warwick Valley Iron & Wood Warwick Valley Rotary Club West Point Asso. of Graduates West Point Highland Falls Rotary Wild Soul Yoga Studio, Inc.

INDIVIDUAL

Ada Seymour Agathe Pierre-Louis Alan Storjohann Alex Jamieson Amy Kauffman Amy M. Enna Amy Stillwaggon Andrew Grzegorzewski Andrew Stoll Ann Gallotti Anna Gibbs Anne Harris Ashley Lenahan **Baerbel Brandao** Barbara & Mark Levy Barbara D. Arons Barbara Driscoll Barbara E. Davis Barbara Molinelli Barry J. Grossarth Bernadette Scheible **Beverly Mennerich Bill Braine** Bonnie Orlowski Brenda I iz Brian C. Gates **Bryan Giudice** C. Hope Arber Caitlin Dolan **Caren Fairweather** Carol Schork Carol Stein Carol Tunnev Carolynn Mulligan Carrol M. Coleman Caryn Burke Catherine Bookey Cecelia Hanat Chervl A Smith Chris Smith **Christie Foster** Christine Blakey Christine Fitzgerald Christine Knapp Christine Rolando Christine Staritz **Christopher Costa** Cindy Cox Cynthia Bancroft Cynthia Ochsner Dana Asher Dana Scott **Danielle August** Daphne Besten Darlene Vandercliff **David Goggins** Debora Ackerman **Deborah & Michael Sweeton** Debra A. James **Denise Billings** Denise M. Mingione Di Martino **Diane Decker** Dr. Diane Hennessy **Diane Massey Diane Sager** Donald Laurencell Donna Beyer Donna Silver-McCormack

Douglas Howard Eileen M. Thompson **Elaine Greenblatt** Elinor Hart **Elizabeth Boughot** Elizabeth O'Halloran Elizabeth Walsh Erica Kozuch **Esther Donohue** Felix Vega Florence Evina-Ze Frank & Beth Desiderio Frank Siena Friends & Family of Kiki Rao Gael James Gail B. Hoffer-Loibl Gail Potash Gene Maloney George Burgard Gerianne Minkus Gerson Levitas **Gillian Frazier** Gina Marie Guiliano **Ginger DeStefano** Gloria Esch Griffin DuBois **Groves Living Trust** Heidi Fuhrmann Inaudy Esposito Ingrid Jacob J.D. Fogarty James Bruyn James O'Donnell Janet & Steven Sargent Janet Connot Janette McKay Janis DeFrancesco Jason P.W. Halperin Jeanette Babcock Jeanette Haug Jeff Nicholson Jeffrey Ahern Jennifer M. Brecciano Jennifer Phillips-Carrillo Jeremiah J. Gallagher Jeremy B Scott Jeri Baker Jessica Butkus Jessica Yang Joan Crawford Joann Daly Joanne & William Kelly Joanne Bella Joanne Silvano Joella Koski John Courtsunis John Desibia John McLaughlin

John T. Lan Jonathan Geissler Judith A. Lombardi Judith Duboff Juella Guadalupe June Seltman Karen Casey Kathleen A. Hamilton Kathleen Fairservice Kathleen Fanning Kathleen Fogarty Kathleen Jacobs Kathleen Lyons Kathleen Oliver Kathryn Zambito Kathy & Jeff Ahearn Kathy Demarest Kevin Manchesani Kim Leake Kim Sumner-Maver **Kimberly Marshall Kimberly Terpening** Kyle Fanning Larry Kratitz Larry Wolinsky Laura Edwards Lauren Fee Lauren Potter Laurie Wilcox Lea Kui Lee & Jaci Murphy Lee & Joyce Zawistowski Leigh Benton Leona Dina Liblich Christie Lezode Kipoliongo Linda Mulligan Linda Zuclich Lisa Calapa Lisa Daily Lisa Gubernick Lisa Laufer Lisa Santiago Lisa Tse Lois Tappan Lonnie Richards Loretta Breedveld & Family Lori Kaplan Lori Lentini Lori Rivenburgh Louise Ballinger Louise Yanofsky Lucy Gillmeier Madelyn Goldberg Mandy Ives Marcel Martino Margaret C. Walczak Margaret M Diamond Maria E. Holleran Rivera



INDIVIDUAL cont'd

Maria Vega-Byrne Mariann Cheney Marie Barnett Marie Cantu Marie Chindamo Marissa Klejbuk Marjory A. Warren Mark Chisholm Mary Latino & John Yates Mary Schweitzer Marylou Gardner Matthew Fanning Matthew Ritter Matthew Rodrigs Maureen Gregorio Maureen Mennerich Melanie Richards Melissa Houlihan Meri Ann & Mark O'Hara Michael A. Johndrow

Michael Blustein, Esq Michael Ferrante Michael Hart Michael Pappas Micheline Morgano Michelle Colella Michelle Greiner Minerva Mundo Naomi Levine Nettie Frohnhoefer Nicholas Esposito Nicole Nadal Nicole Pena Noreen Cummings Patricia Hoover Patricia Iko Patricia Johnson Patricia McDonnell-Megahey Patricia O'Dwyer Patricia Reinhardt Patricia Yeager

Patrick Davis Paul & Ilene Nebrasky Penney G. Steyer Peter & Cynthia Ochsner Peter & Salvatore Buttialieri Peter Hevmann **Rasheena Charles** Rebecca Johnson Rebecca Simpson Rebekah Wilhelm Regina Wittosch Richard & Deborah Matyus Richard Greenblatt Robert McManus Robert Onofry Robyn J. Sellet Rodger Brown Rosa Gurny Roseann Gorski Rosita Gilsenan Saishree "Kiki" Rao

Sally Kelly Sandra Mennerich Sandra Nagler Sandra Oppedisano Sandra Soons Sandy Cuozzo Sandy Nagler Sarah Armand Scott LoSchiavo Scott Macmillin Shannon Wong Sheila Nugent Sher Singh Shirley Puett Stacy & Robert Jacobs The Staffon Family Stephanie D. Madoff Stephanie Feely Stephanie Siegel Stephen LaRosa Stephen McKeown Steve O'Brien

Susan Brown Susan Maloney Susan Swiat Suzanne Derian Svlvie Rainaldi Syreeta Jones Tabatha Donato Tara Cook **Terence** Colman Teresa Lindsay **Thomas Fitzgerald** Thomas Tursi Tori Rissmiller Tyler Etzel Uwe Koepke Valentina Johnson Valerie Lacey Visanee Darin Wendy Maldonado William Flynn Yoko Ono Lennon Zhenya Amditis

Our Mission

Safe Homes of Orange County's mission is to work toward the elimination of intimate partner violence, teen dating violence, and trafficking by providing comprehensive support services to victims and their children, and by increasing public awareness about these issues and encouraging accountability for perpetrators. We envision being the County's leading authority and key agent of change for victims, their families, and our community impacted by intimate partner violence, teen dating violence, and human trafficking.



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