



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

**GIVING THANKS TO
OUR DONORS FOR
THEIR GENEROSITY
THAT HEALS HEARTS**

The artwork in this year's annual report was created by men and women, who are survivors of domestic violence, as an expression of their journey of healing with the help of counseling services at A Safe Place. The artwork is a personal expression of hope, resiliency, empowerment, and determination.

A LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

DEAR A SAFE PLACE SUPPORTERS AND ADVOCATES,

2018 has been another important year for A Safe Place, building on your generosity and your support. It has been a year dedicated to reducing the ever present impact of domestic violence and human trafficking, and implementing new, innovative strategies to enact real and lasting change.

Everything that A Safe Place has provided and continues to provide to adult and child victims of violence is all thanks to you, our Chicagoland community members, businesses, corporations, and organizations. This year, your support helped us grow our office locations from 10 to 13 and helped us impact and serve over 29,000 individuals.

With your support, we opened a new office for counseling, case management, and supportive services, and held 40-hour trainings in Lake Forest, increasing and expanding our reach into the southern parts of Lake County.

We also initiated Crisis Response Services for domestic violence and human trafficking, which works closely with law enforcement on 9-1-1 calls. With officers, staff provide face-to-face intervention, safety planning, support, and referrals to families in their homes or wherever they are, immediately following a violent incident.

For youth, we expanded our education and prevention program by increasing our presence in schools and working with individual students to encourage teens to speak out against violence. As a result, we impacted over 7,900 middle and high school students last year.

All of these wonderful successes and this amazing progress would not have been possible without your support. If only we could eliminate domestic violence, by our thoughts and passion, but sadly, our numbers continue to grow every year. It is only because of you that we are able to continue to transform lives.

In the coming year, our goal is to continue the work you helped start by expanding our human trafficking services to include therapy that will help break the hold that traffickers often have on the abused, expanding our housing program into more areas of the county, and becoming CARF accredited.

We look forward to another impactful year and hope you will continue to partner with us as we strive for a future free from domestic violence. Your kindness and generosity stands as a silent strength behind the victims who are suffering, often hopeless and alone.

In closing, we want to leave you with a thank you from one of our clients who requested we share this with “those who gave and those who told them people like us would need help.”:

“Please tell them that the girls wanted to bring their gifts back so the (new) baby could have more and we got to tell them that A Safe Place gave us more than we all need, and because of them, our little baby will never be without anything and neither will they. The girls cried and hugged the things they had chosen.

Please tell them that my mother told us she was thankful to experience the genuine hearts of people who care in a world that has only abused her.

Do the people who give understand that a box of diapers or a few pieces of baby clothes bring us hope? Do they understand that knowing someone cares about what we are going through helps us believe we will make it ok?

Tell them thank you. Tell them we will never forget them for this.”



PAT DAVENPORT
Chief Executive Officer



KATE JOHNSON
President, Board of Directors

MISSION AND VISION

As the leading advocate for eliminating domestic violence in northern Illinois, it is our goal that by helping others learn more about domestic violence, its causes, and appropriate responses, we can encourage a comprehensive response to the domestic violence in our midst, breaking the cycle of violence and creating safe and healthy communities.

TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN

WITH YOUR HELP, A Safe Place helps to HEAL victims and provide a continuum of trauma-informed care to survivors of domestic violence and their families.

24-HOUR CRISIS LINE

Bilingual staff and trained volunteers are available 24/7, nights, weekends, and holidays, for victims in crisis or concerned family members who are seeking information on domestic violence and A Safe Place programs and services. The hotline provides counseling, safety planning, and referrals to thousands of individuals each year.

Launched in 2017, the on-call crisis response team for domestic violence and human trafficking victims is face-to-face intervention, safety planning, support, and referrals for men and women in their homes or wherever they are immediately following a violent incident. Crisis responders work in tandem with law enforcement during 9-1-1 calls.

CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES

EMERGENCY SHELTER

A Safe Place operates the only emergency shelter for male and female victims of domestic violence in Lake County. Throughout the year, the 35- bed shelter operates at full capacity as families stay for 90 days or less depending on need. While at the shelter, families receive basic items, including three meals a day, 24-hour security, and personal care products as needed. Staff also provides supportive services to help victims move beyond the trauma of abuse, including case management, counseling, life skills, and referrals.

94% of men and women leaving our emergency shelter **DID NOT** return to their abuser

In 2006, A Safe Place opened the county's first transitional housing program for male and female of domestic violence, which has grown to 40 subsidized apartments for families. A Safe Place staff provides trauma-informed supportive services, which include safety planning, individual and group therapy, art therapy, financial counseling, life skills workshops, and children's education services.

TRANSITIONAL HOMES

SANCTUARY OF HOPE

The Sanctuary of Hope program is a scattered-site transitional housing program to help male and female survivors of domestic violence live independently and become self-sufficient in their own homes throughout the county. Counselors work closely with victims to define and plan their educational, financial, and job-related goals and then work with landlords to find homes that fit each families' individual lifestyles and needs. Victims receive financial assistance, as well as counseling, legal advocacy, and case

COUNSELING AND THERAPY

A Safe Place provides comprehensive counseling services to help equip men, women, and children with an understanding of trauma and healthy strategies to cope with stress, anxiety, and depression. Therapists work with survivors through group, individual, and family sessions so that victims and their children can process their emotions, share their experiences, learn to recognize strengths, and know the resources that are available to them. Support groups are available throughout Lake County in both English and Spanish.

91%

of children in A Safe Place therapy showed a reduction in trauma symptoms related to witnessing and/or experiencing abuse

Located at the 19th Circuit Courthouse in Waukegan, D100 provides a safe space within the court system for men and women to receive assistance in filing orders of protection for victims of domestic violence, stalking, bullying, human trafficking, and sexual assault. Staff and volunteers stand beside victims in court and give encouragement to those who choose to testify against their abuser.

LEGAL ADVOCACY

FAMILY VISITATION CENTER

The Family Visitation Center provides supervised visitations and monitored custody exchanges in a safe environment for families with a history of abuse. Security measures give men and women the ability to comply with court-ordered custody arrangements safely and without having direct contact with their abusers. 100% of the children who have monitored visits with their non-custodial parent at the Center are fully protected from harm.

A Safe Place provides evaluation and group education for male and female perpetrators of abuse so they can learn accountability, responsibility, and alternatives to the cycle of power and control that is the basis of abusive relationships.

ABUSER INTERVENTION

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

The A Safe Place outreach and education department informs and engages the community about the issue of intimate partner violence. Education staff offer a variety of workshops for community groups, organizations, and city agencies in English and Spanish.

A Safe Place educators work with middle and high school students to prevent dating violence and encourage teens to speak out against violence. In-school programs encourage teens to think critically about healthy relationships and recognize signs of abuse. Educators work with schools all over Lake County, especially with schools in neighborhoods that report the highest rates of violence.

PREVENTION EDUCATION

WITH YOUR HELP, WE TOUCHED THE LIVES OF 29,975 PEOPLE IN FISCAL YEAR 2018.

CRISIS AND SAFETY

1,519 people

were helped by our 24-hour hotline and provided with counseling, referrals, information, and supportive listening.



77 men and women and 57 children

were provided safe emergency shelter throughout the county, which includes 32 adults and children who received off-site shelter at motels.

6,634 nights of shelter!

HEALING & BUILDING

688 men and women and 285 children

received case management, advocacy, counseling, therapy, art therapy, and life skills training.

11,944 hours of assistance!



619 men and women and 304 children

received life-saving counseling and art therapy individually, in groups, and as families.

75 men and women and 107 children

began rebuilding their lives with permanent supportive and scattered-site transitional homes.

48,926 nights of safe housing!



POST-SEPARATION



116 families with 184 children

were provided with safe custody exchanges and monitored family visitations at the Family Visitation Center.

1,270 custody exchanges and 1,003 family visitations!

INTERVENTION



1,724 men and women received assistance in obtaining 1,434 emergency, interim, and plenary domestic violence orders of protection.

2,547 hours of legal advocacy!

600 men and women were assisted with obtaining orders of protection related to sexual assault and stalking/no-contact.



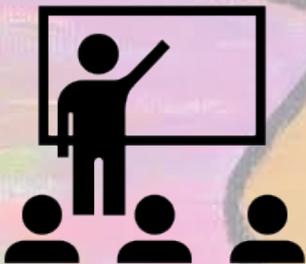
181 perpetrators of abuse were provided with referrals or counseling through a six-month program, teaching them accountability and helping them to examine and change their abusive behaviors.

2,388 hours of counseling!

PREVENTION

15,541 people attended 272 presentations on domestic violence in the community.

Over 463 hours of education and training!



7,913 middle and high school students attended presentations focusing on healthy relationships and teen dating violence, received behavioral health services, street intervention, resources, and advocacy.

TEAM
BRAVE
FEARLESS
BOLD &
Strong

KRISTY'S* STORY: "I AM A SURVIVOR!"

When I was 41 years old, I met my husband Joe while I was working in downtown Chicago. The day I met him, I thought that I had just met the love of my life.

He was a successful partner at a large law firm in downtown Chicago. He was charming, sincere, respectful, attentive, and we felt like we had known each other all our lives. We were both college athletes, loved to travel, and we respected each other's career and the hard work it took to get where we were. He was the life of the party and made me feel special everywhere we went.

Four months after we were married, the emotional abuse started. He threatened divorce on a regular basis, told me that he had women at the house when I was on business trips, criticized the way I looked and my job.

One day, I picked up Joe at a bar after work. When he got into the car, he was angry that I had not picked him up earlier. When we arrived home, he pushed me from behind and I fell on the driveway, cutting up my knees, my neck, and my hands.

As I lay hurt on the driveway, listening to him scream at me, all I could think of was that my home was supposed to be my safe place. This was not supposed to be happening to me.

A few months later, we were invited to the Unmask the Violence Gala for A Safe Place by a friend. From the time we got there, Joe was clearly uncomfortable and nervous. He complained that the room was too hot, there were too many people, and the drinks were too small. Towards the end of the evening, survivors started telling their stories and the abuse they endured. I felt Joe grab my hand and hiss, "Let's go". We fought on the way home and he wanted to go to a bar for more drinks.

Two months after the Gala, my whole life changed forever. He was angry and something as simple as not giving him enough covers in bed set him off. He pushed me off of our bed and I hit my head on the floor. He started throwing me against the dresser, and I was afraid he wouldn't stop. I remembered something that I had heard at the Gala that gave me courage. I screamed, "No. Stop. This isn't right, I'm going to call the police."

He stopped hitting my head against the dresser for a minute and let me go. I ran upstairs and called the police. The next day, when Joe saw my bruises, he said that I deserved everything and that I could look in the mirror and thank myself for what happened.

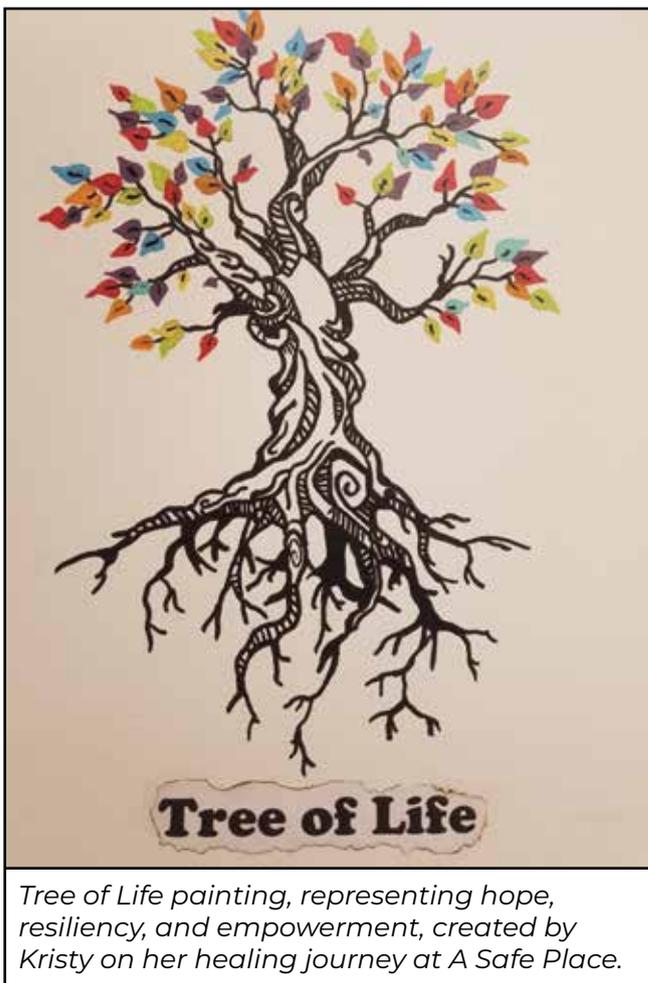
I finally left a few months later with only the clothes that could fit in my car.

He tried to turn my family and friends against me, he tried to access my bank account and investments, and he tried to sabotage my job. I needed help. I called A Safe Place to learn more out about their programs and services. It was one of the best calls I ever made. I began going to counseling and sought help from the legal advocacy services at D100. I also began attending the support group and found an amazing group of people who changed my life. I found a connection with people who understood what I had been through.

A year after I left, while I was moving forward on my path of healing, Joe committed suicide.

It was through the support of A Safe Place, that I had finally realized that my relationship with Joe would never have changed. I saw how fragile my safety had been, and what he had been capable of doing. I am thankful to A Safe Place for helping me find my strength. I am a survivor!

*names have been changed for privacy and safety

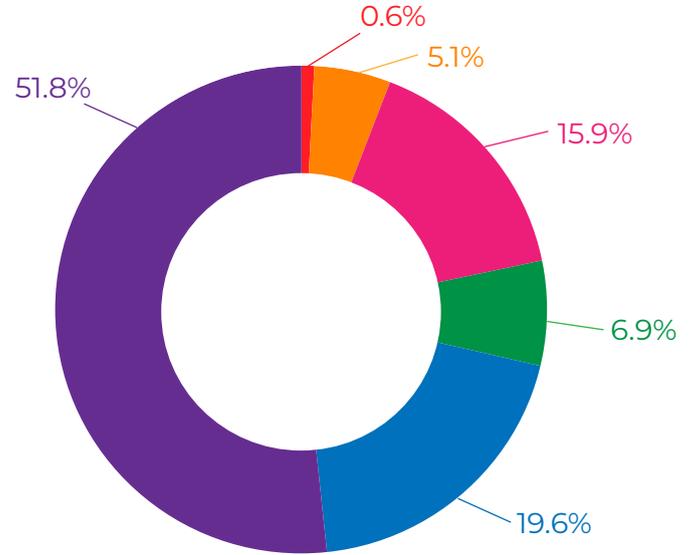


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A Safe Place is committed to the highest quality fiscal management, ensuring that YOUR contributions are used with integrity, transparency, and in a manner that will have the greatest impact for our clients.

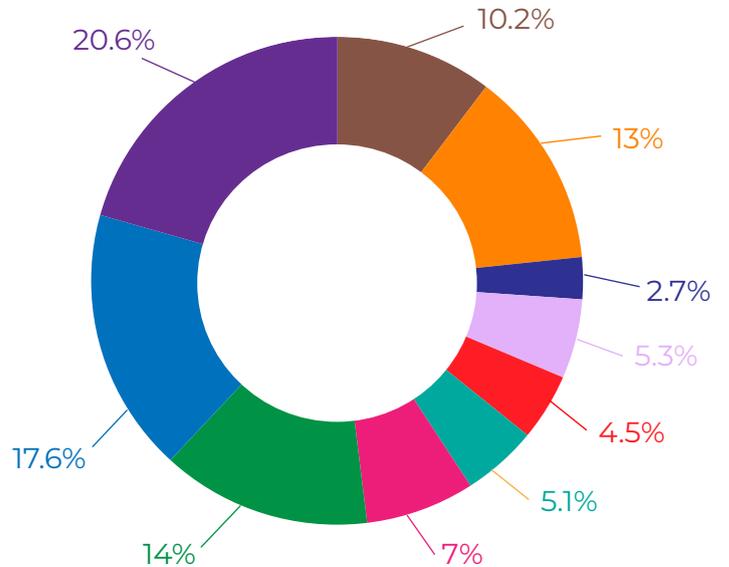
TOTAL REVENUE \$3,870,873

Government Funding.....	\$2,004,676
Contributions.....	\$758,286
Estates and Trusts - Bequests.....	\$269,000
Private Grants, Fundraising Events.....	\$617,757
Supportive Housing Rent and Other Program Fees.....	\$198,896
Other.....	\$22,258



TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,542,734

PROGRAM SERVICES	
Shelter and Crisis Advocacy.....	\$728,295
Counseling, Life Skills, and Case Management.....	\$622,882
Supportive Housing and Transitional Living.....	\$497,033
Safe Youth, Safer Lake County.....	\$249,325
Family Visitations and Exchanges.....	\$181,779
Outreach and Education.....	\$158,631
Legal Advocacy.....	\$188,300
Abuser Services.....	\$96,086



SUPPORTING SERVICES	
Management and General.....	\$459,565
Fundraising.....	\$360,838

SUMMARY OF ASSETS, LIABILITY, AND NET ASSETS

TOTAL ASSETS \$10,723,069

Cash and Short-Term Investments.....	\$548,308
Grants and Contributions Receivable.....	\$771,192
Prepaid Expenses and Other Current Assets.....	\$67,253
Restricted Deposits, Reserves, Deferred Financing Costs.....	\$525,321
Land, Building, Furniture, and Equipment (net of depreciation).....	\$8,810,995

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$3,546,293

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses.....	\$541,180
Notes and Mortgages Payable.....	\$3,005,113

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$10,711,874

Net Assets, Unrestricted.....	\$4,275,758
Net Assets, Temporarily Restricted.....	\$125,850
Noncontrolling Interests in A Safe Place LLP.....	\$2,763,973

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

YOUR GENEROSITY HEALS families and makes our life-saving work possible.
Your investment ends domestic abuse.

\$50,000+

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Frank and Esther Homeck Trusts
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\$25,000-\$49,999

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+ 1 anonymous donor

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+ 10 anonymous donors

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CALL OR EMAIL (847) 731-7165, ext. 109
dlorta@asafeplaceforhelp.org

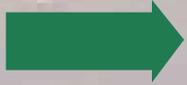
GET INVOLVED!

Help us. Ending domestic violence requires our entire community. Below are a few ways you can get involved in this life-saving work.



Join the Purple Ribbon Society

Choose to give monthly and support A Safe Place during times when the state budget is tied up or government funding is reduced. Reliable contributions, on a monthly basis, save valuable staff time and money, so more effort can be put toward the services and programs that help victims and their families.



Workplace Giving

Corporate giving is a profound way for your company to have a tremendous impact on the lives of many men, women, and children affected by domestic violence. Ask if your company participates in a workplace giving program or if you can become involved in one. If you work for the Federal Government, choose A Safe Place during the Combined Federal Campaign and use our CFC #94106.



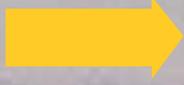
Workplace Presentations

Early intervention, prevention education, and domestic violence education can interrupt the inter-generational cycle of violence. Training sessions can be provided for any community or professional group in Lake County. Interactive classroom programs for middle and high school students are focused on identifying healthy and unhealthy behaviors in relationships.



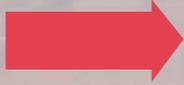
Host a Break the Silence Event

Invite friends, neighbors, and family to your home for drinks, appetizers, and conversation about the myths and realities of domestic violence with a representative from A Safe Place and real stories by survivors.



Attend or Sponsor an Event

A Safe Place hosts four large fundraising events throughout the year and we need the community's support to make them successful. In the Spring, we host our annual EmpowerRun 5K and Wine Women & Shoes. In the Summer, we gather golfers together for our Drive Out Domestic Violence Golf Outing. And, in October, we bring supporters together for our Unmask the Violence Gala and Candlelighting ceremony.



Volunteer or Host a Service Project

The dedication and enthusiasm of volunteers at A Safe Place are channeled in many directions, including filing orders of protection, answering crisis calls, assisting counselors. We are also in need of businesses and corporations to help with large service projects, including landscaping, painting, collecting donations, and the maintenance and upkeep of our buildings and properties.

PLEASE DONATE TO HELP US CONTINUE OUR WORK.

ONLINE

www.asafeplaceforhelp.org
Click on the "Donate" button

CALL

Damaris Lorta
(847) 731-7165, ext. 109

2710 17th Street, Suite 100
Zion, IL 60099

dlorta@asafeplaceforhelp.org
info@asafeplaceforhelp.org

MAIL

EMAIL

TOM'S* STORY: "PLEASE BE A PART OF THIS MOVEMENT."

"I never thought that domestic violence would become a part of my life. And it happened in just an instant.

My youngest daughter, Jennifer, was a nursing assistant and got a job at Glenbrook hospital right after graduation. She was 21 years old when she met a young man, Luke, and moved out from under my roof into her own apartment. She had a great group of friends, enjoyed her job, and was very content with her life.

She gave birth to my first granddaughter, Ava, a healthy, beautiful baby girl, on May 15, 2010. She was such a little bundle of joy and I could not wait to get out of work every day so I could spend time with her. Ava had the most beautiful smile and she captured her heart.

But only four weeks later, on June 11, our lives changed forever.

I was at work when my phone rang. It was Jennifer. She was sobbing and screaming and I couldn't understand her at first. When she finally calmed down a bit, I heard her say, "*Ava is dead.*"

That past evening Jennifer had asked Luke to watch the baby so she could get some much needed sleep. He agreed and Jennifer fell asleep while Luke held Ava in his arms on the sofa. Early in the morning, at 1:28am, Luke woke Jennifer and told her that Ava was dead. Ava was laying in his arms, she was cold and white. They called 911, the police arrived before the paramedics and they confirmed that Ava was dead.

We buried Ava. Never in my life, in any imagination possible, did I think I would be carrying a tiny three-foot coffin down the aisle to lay my granddaughter to rest.

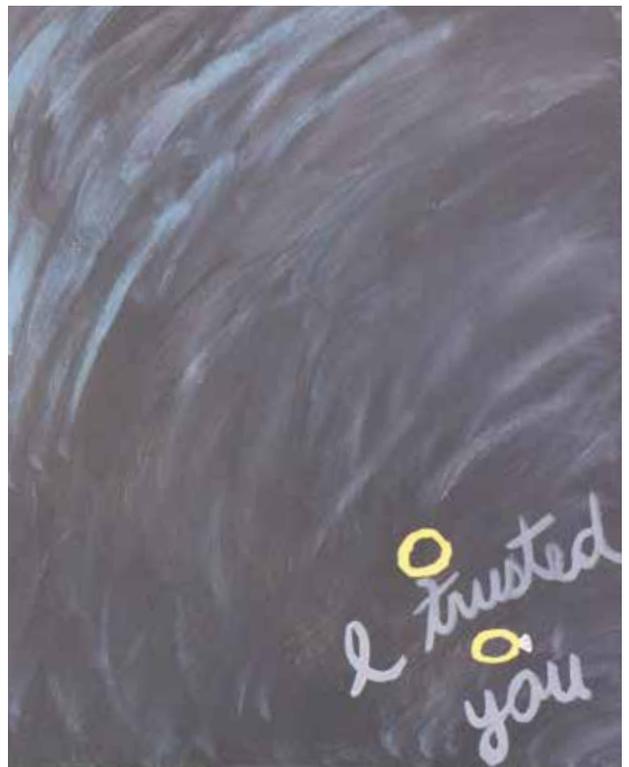
Two weeks after Ava's death, overcome with grief, Jennifer asked Luke about what happened the night that Ava died. There had been an investigation, but no charges had been filed and his story was inconsistent and didn't really add up. Instead of them grieving together, instead of comforting each other, instead of walking away, Luke began to beat her.

He beat her with his fists, he grabbed her hair, he took her head and slammed it into walls and floors. When he finally turned and walked away a bit, Jennifer tried to leave. She started to crawl towards the back door, but he heard her and rushed back towards her, knocking a full size mirror to the floor, shattering it. There was shards of glass everywhere. Jennifer continued to crawl away, screaming for help, while the glass was cutting into her skin. There was blood everywhere, blood on the walls, the floor, the table, the sofa, the rugs. Jennifer finally reached the back door and a neighbor heard her screams and called the police.

After Jennifer was released from the hospital, I will never ever forget walking into her bedroom and looking at my daughter beaten so badly that I couldn't even recognize her. As a father, you hold your new baby in your arms and you vow to protect them as fiercely as a lion protects their cubs. You worry about them when they start school, when they go on their first date, when they struggle with puberty and growing pains. You would do anything to make their world better. You would never think that in a million years you might have to see them covered in bruises, cuts, and injuries so terrible that they are now just a shell of themselves.

I have been a volunteer for A Safe Place for over two years and have seen first hand the troubled families that come seeking shelter and assistance. They are looking for a fresh start after domestic violence, but it's not easy. Please be a part of this movement to stop domestic violence.

This has to stop and it must stop. We are making great strides, but we still have a lot of work to do."



*names have been changed for privacy and safety



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The artwork in this year's annual report was created by men and women, who are survivors of domestic violence as an expression of their journey of healing with the help of counseling services at A Safe Place. The artwork is a personal expression of hope, resiliency, empowerment, and determination.