



# 2022 Annual Report



Fiscal Year in Review  
July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

# Dear Friends,

Our annual report is a reflection to look back and hold memory; memory of accomplishment and memory of lament. We lament a year where we have seen a surge in domestic violence homicides in Kent County. Our crisis calls increased 38% over the previous year, and the complexity of abuse and violence remains heavy. We recognize our mission's strength to support survivors and prevent abuse which changes lives and catalyzes transformation.

Safe Haven's faith rootedness lends us to be a peculiar kind of people. Peculiar - in that compassion and empathy mark our actions, we reimagine together, and grace is our ethos. We embrace an active and disruptive invitation to unleash justice against injustice and inequity.

**A year ago, we declared our 5 Bold Steps for 2025. These Bold Steps include our commitment to:**

- Comprehensive Housing
- Systems Change
- System Community Mapping
- Creating a Learning Center/Institute
- Remaining Survivor Centered

Stepping into a bold vision resulted in tremendous growth and impact. Safe Transitions, our partnership model of transitional housing opened, we added a mobile advocate to meet survivors in the community, our expanded services now support victims of human trafficking, and we co-led our county's first Homicide Review with the Domestic Violence Community Coordinated Response Team.

I am deeply grateful to serve alongside a team and with our partners to confront the challenges and serve our clients with compassionate care. We believe we strengthen community when we take action to care for our neighbor, develop equitable policy change, and stubbornly hold on to the belief that abuse is not the way relationships are meant to exist.



**Thank you,**

**Rachel VerWys**

CEO, Safe Haven Ministries

# Progress on 5 Bold Steps



5 Bold Steps for 2025 announced



Launched new services for victims of human trafficking



Reimagined and implemented a violence prevention program to fit local school needs



Survivor Advisory Committee reorganized



Multi-sector Domestic Violence Homicide Review released



Mobile Advocate begins work with the community



Transitional housing opens with Safe Transitions Units



# Prevention and Education

## Services this year included:

- Trainings for Community Members
- Policy Work To Affect System Wide Change
- Grow Engage Read Imagine
- Youth Violence Prevention
- Young Leaders Against Violence

**This Year    Last Year**

**237**

**60**

**Community Wide Domestic Violence  
Prevention Trainings**

**2,381**

**1,306**

**Community Members Reached Through  
Training Sessions**

**776**

**172**

**Students Reached Through Youth  
Violence Prevention Sessions**

Safe Haven Ministries embarked on a partnership with the Grand Rapids Public Library and SPARK4Change from the MSU School of Social Work to present GERI Book Nooks at four library locations as part of our Grow Engage Read Imagine (GERI) initiative. GERI is a program developed by Safe Haven that utilizes children's & young adult literature as a primary component of violence prevention. Learn more at [gerigr.org](http://gerigr.org).





# Homicide Review

## Honoring Dylan Thebo

**Community partners came together to better identify and respond to domestic violence. Key recommendations include:**

- Annual domestic violence and secondary trauma training for professionals who interact with survivors
- More comprehensive legal protections for survivors and children
- Maintain supervised child visitation when safety risks are present



Scan to read the  
full DVCCRT  
Homicide  
Review

**“The amount of domestic violence and domestic violence homicides in our community is absolutely devastating. Our hope for this recommendation report is that systemic actors can use it as a tool to make change. People are dying, and we as a community must do better.”**

**-Tara Aday  
Senior Director of Programs  
and DVCCRT Co-Chair**

# Client Services

Services include crisis support and safety planning, advocacy, adult and youth support groups, shelter, client assistance, and transitional housing.

	This Year	Last Year
<b>Number of crisis contacts</b> (via hotline, in person, text, web chat)	2,807	2,029
<b>Total clients served in shelter</b>	243	211
<b>Number of households who benefited from shelter</b>	94	79
<b>Number of children served in shelter</b>	165	132
<b>Average number of nights per stay</b>	40	54
<b>Number of individuals receiving nonresidential services</b>	418	331
<b>Number of nights of safety</b>	10,753	8,818

We saw an increase in case complexity in 2022. Not only did the number of crisis calls increase by 38%, but the length of those calls increased by 11% as well.



# Safe Transitions

Safe Haven expanded programming to include transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. Safe Transitions provides transitional housing for up to 2 years through a collaborative model with flexible rental assistance and savings plans for individuals and families. Our generous donors, as well as our partners at A.Y.A. Youth Collective and Madison Church made this possible.

**"Safe Transitions cultivates hope by creating safe housing connected to a network of community partners. Our expansion of housing opportunities is vital during a time of agonizing housing insecurity in our community. The reality is the intersection of domestic violence and human trafficking further contributes to vulnerabilities a person or a family experience."**

**-Rachel VerWys,  
CEO**



# New Initiatives in 2022

## Mobile Advocate

Our new Mobile Advocate is able to engage with survivors in the community to provide comprehensive support and intervention services to individuals experiencing relationship abuse and exploitation.

## Human Trafficking

We expanded services to include victims of human trafficking. Safe Haven responded to the need for increased shelter in West Michigan to address the complex nature of sex and labor trafficking victims.



Learn more about Safe Haven today!

## Prevention Enhancements

Refreshed curriculum was shared with local educators to empower youth to engage in healthy online and in-person relationships. Teens were introduced to specific ways they can step in to help someone being bullied or harassed, improving the safety of our community.

# Survivor Advisory Committee

This year, survivors have been empowered in new ways including ongoing and active engagement in our Survivor Advisory Committee. This committee works alongside staff to provide excellence in service delivery.



## Key Achievements:

- Contributed input and voice into support group improvements
- Recommended a new support group for survivors further out in their journey
- Influenced news stories that highlighted the survivor experience when domestic violence was involved



Hear more from one of our committee members and learn more about Safe Haven.

**"The greatest impact that Safe Haven has had in my life has been to get me out of just the darkest and toughest times into a space where I can thrive again."**

**Survivor Advisory  
Committee Member**



**TAKE A STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE**

# Give Hope

**44 volunteers**  
**contributed 2,095 hours,**  
**investing an equivalent**  
**of \$62,745.**

Volunteering is an experience that allows us to give and receive. Besides giving back to the community, volunteering provides the opportunity for a transformative venture. Here at Safe Haven, we strive to engage our partners in a mutuality of service where both groups learn from one another. Learn more at [shmgr.org/volunteer](http://shmgr.org/volunteer).

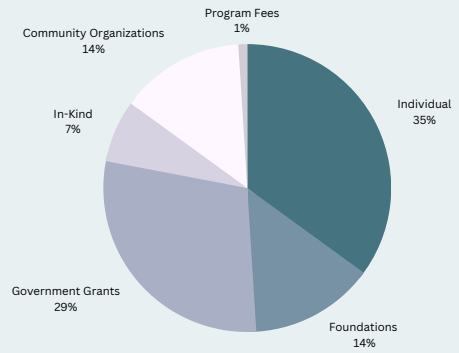


# Fiscal Year 2022 Review

We believe strategic financial decisions, good governance and development of meaningful partnerships are vital to our organization.

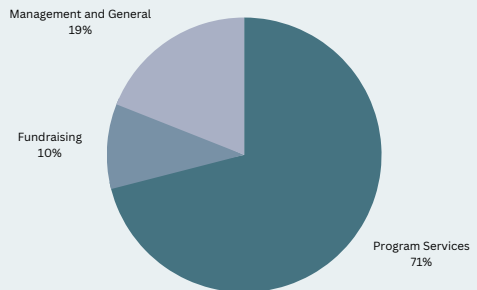
## Revenue

Individual	\$813,089	35%
Government Grants	\$684,520	29%
Foundations	\$323,707	14%
Community Organizations	\$340,316	14%
In-Kind	\$157,687	7%
Program Fees	\$19,115	1%
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Total	\$2,338,434	



## Expenses

Program Services	\$1,669,494	71%
Management and General	\$444,086	19%
Fundraising	\$224,854	10%
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Total	\$2,338,434	



# SAFEHAVEN MINISTRIES

## Current Board of Directors

Shannon Vinson, President  
Thelma Ensink, Vice President  
Danica deWaha-Persons, Treasurer  
Mike Wiese, Secretary  
Chaz Amidon  
Maleika Brown  
Esperanza Degnan  
Joan DeVries  
Julie Manion  
Pastor Shawn May  
Mike Rundhaug  
Allie Walker

(Safe Haven Staff, 2022)

