

State Fiscal Year Annual Report

2015

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015



The mission of WomenSafe is to provide emergency shelter and support services to survivors of domestic violence throughout Northeast Ohio.

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Next survey date:
Summer 2015

A Message from the Executive Director:

You have read about it in the newspaper. You have seen it on the television. You have heard it on the radio. The media has paid critical attention to these stories and facts, and has brought awareness to a cause that is so often overlooked. The leaked video of Ray Rice physically abusing his girlfriend went viral... overnight. Overnight, thousands and now millions of people have seen a celebrity and possibly one of their favorite athletes commit a crime. If this year has taught us anything, it is that domestic violence can be encountered by any one in any environment and it is our job as an agency to continue to be readily available for survivors and continue to bring awareness to one of the most underreported crimes.

This year, we expanded the reach into the community to show that domestic violence still exists and that services are available. In addition, trainings have been provided to ensure the person-centered, trauma-informed care approach still plays an integral part in the mission of WomenSafe as it has since 1980.

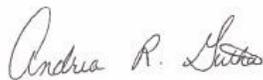
Through the "Rock the Purple Socks" awareness campaign, we partnered with high school football teams in Lake County and Geauga County to wear a purple ribbon on their helmets or purple socks during one of their football games in October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month. During each game, the announcers explained the ribbons and socks, and publicized the free help that is available through WomenSafe. In addition, attendees received safety cards describing an escape plan if they were in danger. Through media outlets and word of mouth, thousands of people were reached as a result.

Prevention education is a vital part in preventing and ending domestic violence. The goal of the Healthy Relationship program is to provide an interactive way where students can learn about the five types of abuse, warning signs of abusive relationships, the ways to help a friend who is in an unhealthy relationship, and the services offered by WomenSafe. Over 2,000 students are reached yearly through this essential program! With the support of the Lake County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board, we expanded to teaching the Healthy Relationship prevention education program to Lake County middle schools and high schools.

Trainings and seminars are essential to WomenSafe as we strive to provide the best services to survivors of domestic violence. This past year, we utilized our partnership with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network to receive a De-Escalation Training. This training has allowed our advocates to gain the techniques to properly reduce the intensity of a conflict or situation.

This year marks 35 years that we have been providing support to survivors of domestic violence. Without support from the community, we would not be able to provide free services and an emergency shelter to survivors of domestic violence 24/7. Thank you very much for helping us provide help and empowerment to those in the community searching for what is often times taken for granted – the safety and security of home.

Sincerely,



Andrea R. Gutka, M.Ed., MCHES
Executive Director

Year in Review

96% of survivors reported that they now know more ways to plan for their safety.

7,376 bed days were provided to 97 adults and 96 children and youth.

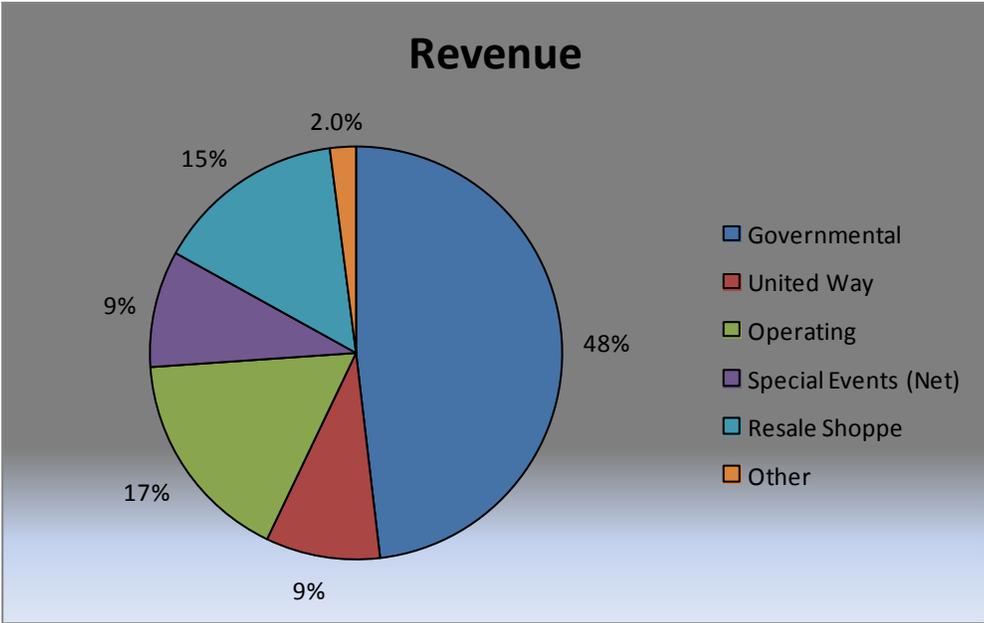
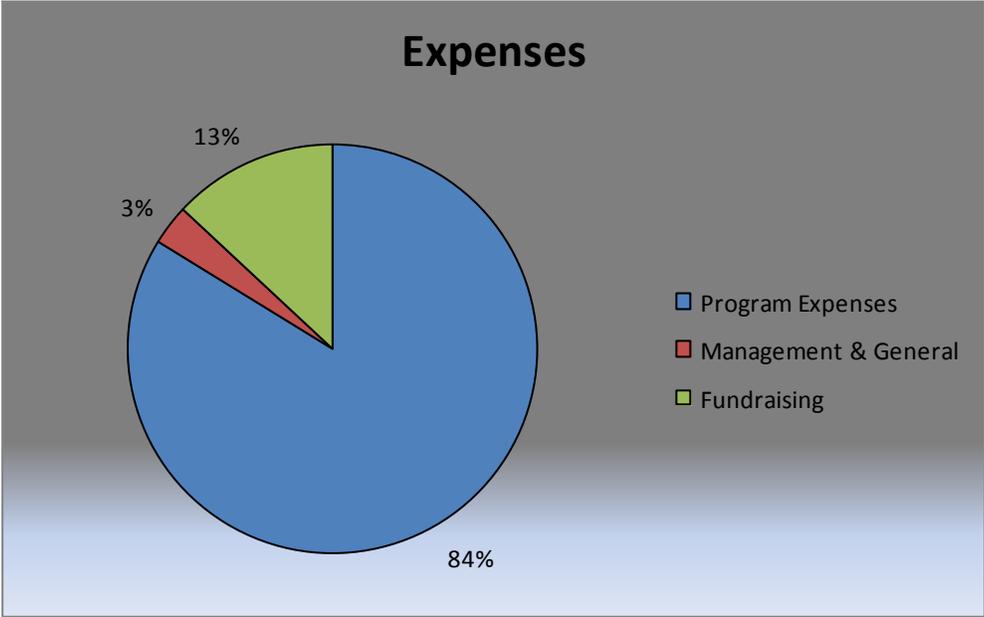
1,923 supportive counseling and advocacy interactions were provided for adults, and **942** were provided for children and youth.

3,511 crisis calls via COPEline

Friends of WomenSafe continued to make a huge impact in the lives of survivors of domestic violence. In October 2014, they hosted “An Afternoon with Michelle Knight” and in January 2015, they donated \$13,500 to WomenSafe. To date, they have donated over \$300,000 to support WomenSafe’s services!

The Quilt Raffle continued to visit nearly 50 venues during the spring and summer months. The Quilt Raffle allows WomenSafe’s materials to be available to the community and generates revenue for WomenSafe.

Expenses and Revenue



Results include depreciation. To see the detailed, audited report for Fiscal Year 2015, please contact Andrea Gutka at agutka@womensafe.org or 440-286-7154.



Providing Resources for Survivors of Domestic Violence

Emergency Shelter... Counseling... 24-Hour Hotline
Court Advocacy... Art Therapy... Relocation Assistance
Aftercare Programs... Community Education.

All services are provided free of charge

For 24-Hour Support Call COPELine 1-888-285-5665

WomenSafe, Inc. the Green House • 12041 Ravenna Road • Chardon, Ohio 44024
Phone 440-286-7154 • Fax 440-286-1037 • www.womensafe.org