



**SAFE** | stop abuse for  
everyone

# OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

2022-23 annual report  
[safeaustin.org](https://safeaustin.org)



# OUR MISSION:

To stop abuse for everyone.

# OUR VISION:

A just and safe community free  
from violence and abuse.



# Opportunities & Challenges

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Hello, friends of SAFE!

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded and humbled again by the incredible generosity and support from our community. Violence continues to be a multifaceted challenge that requires a variety of intersectional approaches to address abuse in all its forms. Inflation, Texas' increasingly severe heatwaves and freezes, and the ever-changing landscape of legal policies that affect survivors of abuse have added to these challenges. In the midst of navigating these obstacles, our community of supporters did not turn inward and isolate. Instead, you adhered to Fred Rogers' best, friendly neighborhood advice to "look for the helpers" during times of trial and provided SAFE with meaningful support that continues to make an enormous difference in the lives of our survivors, staff, and community.

In this new fiscal year, there are a multitude of challenges and opportunities SAFE faces in support of survivors of abuse, but there are three major drivers of our future direction we have chosen to focus on this year.

## **Affordable housing is violence prevention!**

Affordable housing is a crisis issue in Austin/Travis County. Lack of affordable housing causes clients to stay in our shelters longer, which leads to a shortage of beds and longer waitlists so the next person in danger remains vulnerable in their current housing situation. This year, we have three highly anticipated new shelter and housing projects in the works. We are building 2 new apartment complexes, each with 60 units of housing. Additionally, the City of Austin will be contracting SAFE as the shelter operator for a hotel the city recently purchased and is renovating to provide 42 units (a creative win/win solution for violence and homelessness). Each housing project is wrapped with rich support services like case management, peer support and more.

These projects will nearly double our short-term emergency shelter capacity and add 90 units of permanent housing for homeless survivors of violence.

## **Safe Home Placement for Children**

The child welfare system in Texas is changing. Fewer children are being removed, and for those that are, it is the state's preference that they be placed in family foster homes. What this means for SAFE is that we are seeing fewer young children needing placement in shelters, but more families needing support. In response, we are focusing on providing shelter and support to older youth as they transition out of the child welfare system.

Given the incredible success of kinship placements, we are bolstering SAFE's Foster & Adopt program, including assistance for families taking in nieces, nephews, and grandchildren, so they can be supported and successful. Keeping kids in a safe home is the best thing we can do for kids who have been hurt by abuse. We could not have made these changes without the support of new and loyal donors and supporters.



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## Staff Recruitment and Retention

Like all businesses and organizations, we are struggling to fill open positions and pay a fair and livable wage. Abuse is caused in relationships and likewise, healing happens in relationships. We have to support our staff who are doing this life changing work. Housing and affordability issues are as significant for our staff as they are for our clients. As we moved in 2023, we were able to increase staff salaries, but we are crystal clear that we must continue to improve wages and benefits for the incredible SAFE staff

## Resolute Support to End Cycles of Violence

Despite navigating Austin's housing crisis, changing Child Welfare laws, and inflation affecting our ability to hire and retain qualified, caring staff, SAFE has continued to provide incredible support for those we serve. In the past year, our community outreach and education programming has provided over 400 trainings to more than 10,000 community members. Our various housing and shelter programs have provided over 106,000 nights/days of care to survivors, 72% of whom secured stable housing after receiving SAFE services. Over 25,000 people received advocacy and crisis intervention or emotional support by chat, call or text through our 24/7 confidential SAFEline. These feats of service are incredible and we know they are only possible thanks to the dedication of our staff and the generosity of our community partners, volunteers and donors.

With our community's continued support, SAFE can offer services and care so survivors have a chance to live the lives they deserve full of safety, healing, and hope. It also allows us to provide violence prevention education so more people can enjoy healthy relationships and never experience the trauma of abuse. We are so thankful for you and all your support - it matters so much. Your dedication to survivors and contributions that are making a safer world for us all. Thank you for joining us as advocates for women, men, kids and families – all people experiencing violence and abuse.

With immense gratitude and relentless commitment, Your friends at SAFE.

## Your support means everything for survivors

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**“SAFE saved my life and gave me hope when I had lost all hope.**

I was told by several counselors starting in my teens that my trauma was too much for them to handle. SAFE helped me heal from child sex trafficking and domestic violence when no one else knew how to help me. It was the first place where I felt safe to share everything I endured. I finally felt I wasn't alone. SAFE showed me I deserve love, not abuse. ”

– Brooke, Former SAFE Client



# 2022-23 Overview



**25,940**

SAFEline contacts

- 23,594 calls
- 3,100 chats/texts
- 104 walk-ins



**64,642**

service units



**10,264** community members/professionals participated in **478** trainings/presentations



**106,872**

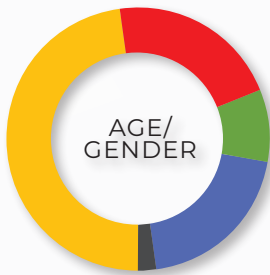
bed nights/days of care



**6,209**

youth and adults served

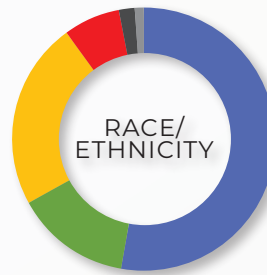
## Who we serve



- **48%** Adult-Female
- **3%** Non-binary/Unknown\*
- **19%** Child-Male
- **8%** Adult-Male
- **22%** Child-Female

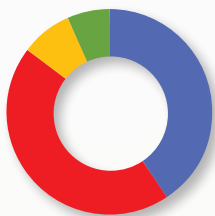
\* Includes youth

\*\* Adults are considered 18+



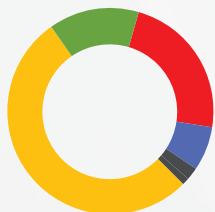
- **2%** Asian
- **5%** Other or Unknown
- **6%** Multi-racial
- **18%** White
- **16%** Black/African American
- **53%** Hispanic/Latinx

## 2022-23 financials



### Expenditures\*

● Residential programs	\$	12,172,593.07
● Client/community services		14,018,616.37
● Management & general		3,065,671.70
● Fundraising		1,965,470.1
Total	\$	31,222,351.27 **



### Revenue

● Philanthropic	\$	9,786,550.88
● Government grants		15,764,038.42
● Reimbursements and fees		2,302,282.19
● In kind		807,021.91
● Other		106,413.83
Total	\$	28,766,307.23

\* Expenditures include \$980,000 non-cash depreciation expense

Includes The SAFE Alliance, The SAFE Alliance Foundation and The SAFE Alliance Facilities Holdings.

\*\* Funded by prior year's surplus

## Executive Leadership Staff

Wendie Abramson  
Chief Quality Officer and  
Director of Deaf SHARE

Melinda Cantu  
Co-Chief Program Officer

Angela Glode  
Chief Development Officer

Jay Gossett  
Chief Operations Officer

Yvette Mendoza Rouen  
Vice President of Residential & Support  
Services

Movetia Salter  
Chief People Officer

Julia Spann  
Chief Executive Officer

Coni Huntsman Stogner  
Co-Chief Program Officer

Lesley Varghese  
President and  
Chief Legal Officer

Nikhita Ved  
Vice President of Community Services

Samantha Weinmeister  
Chief Financial Officer

## 2022-23 Board of Directors

Kate Andrade  
Amy Barbee  
Ann Benolken  
Octavious Bishop  
Lila Brolsma  
Quan Cosby  
John Daigre  
Heather Dennison  
Rabbi Alan Freedman  
Kristie Gonzales  
Emma Cartmell Hochman  
Dr. Bruce Kellison  
Cathy Kyle  
Diane Land  
Liz Matthews  
Alan Mayer  
Jennifer McCurdy  
Tim O'Hara  
Pam Benson Owens  
Venus Pineyro De Hoyos  
Nelia Robbi  
Caroline Roche  
Bill Skeen  
Taylor Steed  
Kathy Terry  
Tim Wilschetz

P.O. Box 19454, Austin, Texas 78760

For administrative needs, please call: 512.499.0090

Confidential, 24-hour SAFEline

Call: **512.267.SAFE (7233)** Text: **737.888.7233** Chat: [safeaustin.org/chat](https://safeaustin.org/chat)

For Deaf people of all identities, please use relay/VRS

