



1,833

NIGHTS OF  
SHELTER

10,754

ADVOCACY &  
COUNSELING  
CONTACTS

1,285

GROUP  
SUPPORT  
CONTACTS

894

CRISIS &  
HOTLINE CALLS

**ADVOCATES OF OZAUKEE**  
*2021 Annual Report*



A Message From Board President

## Lucia Francis

Despite the ongoing challenges faced by the lingering effects of the pandemic, it is an extremely exciting time to be involved in Advocates. Throughout 2021 we have not only confronted many of these difficult economic and emotional issues, but have marshaled resources to provide the kind of consistent, high-level support Advocates is known for. This is, in part, thanks to our incredible staff. The work they do is done with empathy to open the minds of all to see domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking not as we imagine the experience to be, but as those who experience it see it. Our successes over the last year are also in large part due to the generosity of organizations, community, and people like yourself. Your support enables individuals and families to have more than safety: it puts them on the path to living a full, thriving life.

We look forward to a robust 2023, growing the services we provide and continuing to enhance the environment we provide for our clients. I encourage you to become an Advocate for this worthy organization and thank you for your part in our vision.

*Lucia Francis*

A Message from Advocates' Executive Director

## Barb Fischer



At Advocates 2021 turned out to be a year of incredible growth and successes despite being called upon to stretch our resources. Our wonderful board, tremendous volunteers, and caring staff worked in concert to make sure services and programs were uninterrupted and our clients remained on their path from safety to building healthy lives of fulfillment.

We are extremely proud to be recipients of a significant and highly-competitive grant through the Equitable Recovery Act. These funds allowed us to hire new staff; establish a Transitional Housing Program assisting 12 families a year with 12 to 18 months of rent while at the same time continuing to work with them on case management, budgeting, increasing income, and counseling for both adults and children; and increase our mental health counseling resources. We are very excited to see these developments take root and bear fruit in 2022.

At Advocates, we believe in an individual's right to not just survive, but to thrive in a life of dignity and purpose. We approach all of our programs, resources, and outreach with this goal in mind. It is incredibly uplifting to know this does make an impact. Recently, we had the pleasure of hearing from two of our survivor clients who were both able to purchase their first homes. Another client called to let us know she had just become a U.S. citizen! A robust life of accomplishments, safety, and meaningful connections is no longer a fantasy for victims/survivors. With the right type of assistance throughout the period of crisis and after, this can be the reality for more and more individuals impacted by sexual and domestic violence.

Every survivor who thrives makes us all stronger. Join us in being a part of our collective success story. I am grateful for your continued support that enables everyone at Advocates to be a part of work that enriches the entire community.

*Barb Fischer*



# A Client's Story

At the stop sign, a moment's hesitation. Instead of turning left like I usually did to return home (a place I had never considered my home, but a house of horrors upon horrors), I continued straight, wholly unsure where I was destined until I found myself in front of the local police department. I walked inside, informed the kind officer that I would like to file a report against one of my more aggressive and unrelenting abusers for attempted murder. I broke down and cried about the reality in which I found myself. A kind officer gave me a phone to talk to an Earth Angel (one of the first of many I would soon encounter) who comforted me, was patient with me, was gentle with me, and re-assured me that my furry children would be well taken care of if I did choose to drive to the shelter, an unknown place, but anything was better than "home."

When I did enter the doors of the shelter, I was finally free—I was truly safe—for the first time in my life (at almost thirty years of age). What an incredible blessing and liberating feeling that was; I will never forget it. The shelter was the first place in my life in which no one harmed me with words, acts, and/or hands and, even more, had unbelievably neither any wish nor desire to harm me.

I was assigned a case manager to help return to the real world with a better plan, in a better state, and in a better place than I had coming in.

There was free legal counseling appointments for all of us to help in any potential court cases; vouchers to various places for us to use for bedding, furniture, clothing, or whatever else it was that we were in need of (just do not offer to buy the most comfortable shelter furniture—I already tried); resources for us to use to find new affordable homing (should we choose that route).

Help to find new employment; resources for us to add additional layers of security for our continued and necessary safety (and privacy) from our abusers (by way of a little-known Department of Justice Program: Safe-At-Home); programs passed along for me and others to use to shelter any and all pets and many and much more that would take several more pages.

In short, I have nothing but endless gratitude to the many Earth Angels and to Advocates of Ozaukee as a whole, and all those anonymous donors, businesses, organizations, professionals, and others who partner with Advocates of Ozaukee to make all the things that they do even possible and to have even come across them in my life. I am boundlessly thankful for them and this even more beautiful life I now have, one that was made unfathomably and unbelievably better (one that I did know that I was capable of even achieving) because of them.  
—Advocates' Client

## Our Staff

Barb Fischer  
*Executive Director*

Kristen Nicholson  
*Associate Director*

Mary Knetter  
*Sexual Violence  
Services Director*

Abby Favela  
*Volunteer Manager*

Janet Schmitt  
*Accounting Manager*

Alyssa Ellis  
*Legal Advocate*

Shaina Buckner  
*Sexual Violence  
Community Advocate*

Charlotte Coenen  
*Shelter and Community  
Housing Advocate*

Pamela Molina  
*Case Manager*

Natasha Keiser  
*Case Manager*

Sophie Zentner  
*Child Advocate*

Robert Kirsling  
*Resource Development*

### ASSOCIATES

Mary Ferwerda  
Megan Grossmueller  
Nancy Johnson  
Samantha Kovatch  
Christina Kotlowski  
Erin Leroy  
Kerry Pratt  
Laura Cox  
Maddie Schultz  
Megan Whitmer  
Vincent Hall  
Diamond Lashae  
Marquis Thorn  
Amaria Fagundes



# Thank You to our Caring Annual Donors

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Community United Methodist Church				St. Francis Borgia Catholic Church	
				St John Lutheran Church	
				St John's United Church of Christ	

**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO WILLY PORTER FOR HIS 19 YEARS OF SUPPORT!**



# Special Donations

## In honor of:

Chris Drasch  
Jennifer Drasch-Gerard

Barb Fischer  
Cheri Farnsworth  
Diane M. Lane

Patty Eubanks  
Cindy & William Hilgendorf  
Lynn Thiermann  
Michelle Chen &  
Matthew Roethle

Mary Knetter  
Edmund & Sue Placzkowski  
Cheri & Greg Richardson

Alyssa Schaller  
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## In memory of:

Jessica Ellenberger &  
Madyson Marshal  
Susan Cadwallader

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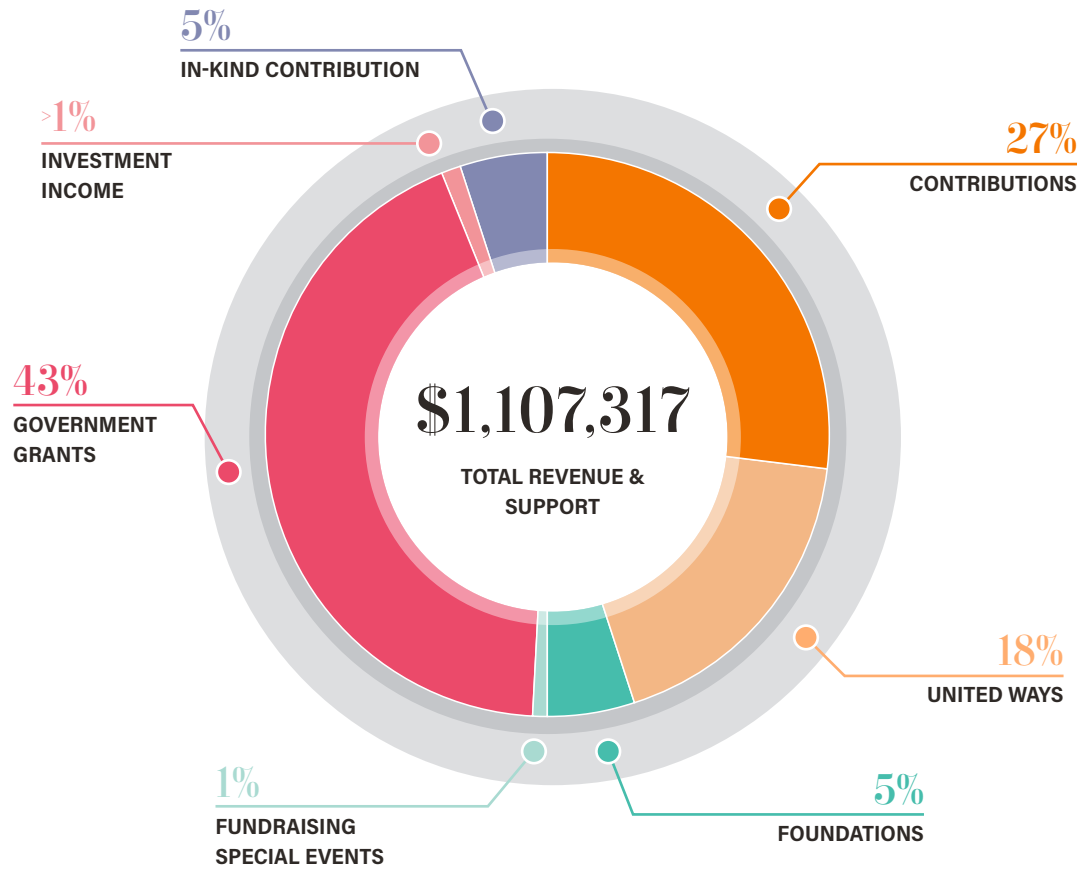
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Barbara Schaezner  
Dave Schaezner

# 2021 Financials



## REVENUE

Contributions	\$302,766
United Ways	\$201,859
Foundations	\$53,625
Fundraising Special Events	\$7,449
Government Grants	\$480,715
Investment Income	\$903
In-Kind Contribution	\$60,000

**Total Revenue & Support** **\$1,107,317**

## EXPENSES

Domestic Abuse Program	\$422,999
Children's Program	\$167,863
Sexual Assault Program	\$346,535
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$937,397</b>
Management & General	\$83,807
Events/Fundraising Support	\$63,594
<b>Total Support Expenses</b>	<b>\$147,401</b>

**Total Expenses** **\$1,084,798**  
**Net** **\$22,519**

# Our Services

## Awareness

**Trusted information is vital to the safety and ongoing wellness of domestic and sexual abuse survivors. We are proud to be educators in our community and beyond, working with partner organizations to break the silence around abuse, assault and human trafficking.**

"Thank you, again, for the amazing gift of your time and for sharing the tremendous depth of knowledge, experience, and skill that you have in working with individuals experiencing abuse and violence, especially in the context of intimate partner, family and dating relationships. These issues are impactful across the population and lifespan – and will very possibly, if not undoubtedly, touch the lives of these OT students in both personal and professional realms. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity for the students to receive the program and frank conversation you provided for us. Thank you so very much for this educational experience."

—THANK YOU LETTER FROM AN EDUCATOR TO MARY, OUR SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES DIRECTOR

**"Advocates was so helpful. Staff was compassionate, caring and so supportive during my healing journey. I am so grateful for everything Advocates provided. Staff continue to reach out to provide regular support."**

—ADVOCATES CLIENT

**"Thank you for being flexible. Advocates operates unlike other agencies where it is difficult to get through and coordinate meeting your needs. I know I can always count on Advocates to help in my darkest moments."**

—SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNSELING CLIENT

## Advocacy

**We begin advocating for all of our clients at the first point of contact—a phone call, a social media message, a conversation at one of our informational events. We are committed to seeing our clients through every part of their journey to live lives of health, dignity, and purpose.**

"I don't know that without Advocates help I ever would have healed. The staff gave me the tools I needed to get through a really tough time. Getting the help, knowing the resource is there is the biggest thing. I'm a huge advocate for Advocates because of the great resource that they are." —ADVOCATES CLIENT

"Advocates of Ozaukee have helped me in my journey by offering nonjudgmental support. Making the call to them was tough. For the first time I had to admit I was a victim of abuse after 33 years of marriage." —ADVOCATES CLIENT



# Safety

One of the cornerstones to building a successful life is safety. Individuals deserve to feel physically, emotionally, and mentally secure as well as to create financial stability. We take our commitment to our clients' safety needs very seriously and work hard to make sure we follow the most up-to-date protocols and protections.

"Without Advocates help I don't know that I'd be here. It was an online dating situation that went wrong. I was afraid at first, but you just need to make that first call. The first time is hard but it gets easier."

—SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR

"[Support] Group is super beneficial because it helps you realize you are not alone and you get the chance to help others who are in the group too."

—SEXUAL ASSAULT GROUP CLIENT

"I started calling Advocates of Ozaukee Crisis Line almost 1 year before I finally left my Abusive situation. I received all the support and help I needed, but it was still hard to leave at that time. I was at my lowest point when I made the choice to move out and into the shelter. I am now living my life happy, abuse free and confident. I would not be here if it were not for Advocates of Ozaukee and their amazing staff and volunteers. Thank You Advocates!!!"

—ADVOCATES CLIENT

# Legal

There has never been a more crucial time to know your rights as a citizen or member of the community. Our Legal Advocate works closely with our diverse clients to ensure just and equitable treatment under the law.

"I couldn't have done this without you. You helped me understand my strength and worth through knowing my truth and what I deserved. You helped me confirm that I was doing the right thing and that I was capable of getting through it, and because of that, I did!"

—ADVOCATES LEGAL CLIENT

"I could never thank you enough for the continued support and for fighting for me. I truly appreciate you and all you do for me."

—ADVOCATES LEGAL CLIENT

"My kids are at a much better place & are starting to enjoy life again."

—ADVOCATES HUMAN TRAFFICKING CLIENT TESTIMONY

18%

INCREASE IN CLIENTS WITH DISABILITIES

20%

INCREASE IN INFORMATION & REFERRALS

16%

INCREASE IN SAFETY PLANNING

33%

INCREASE IN JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE



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[www.advocatesofozaukee.com](http://www.advocatesofozaukee.com)

## Our Mission

To support and empower those who have experienced domestic or sexual violence by providing safety, advocacy, education and resources. To educate and work with and within the community to promote respect, dignity and appropriate behavior. To transform our community so that domestic and sexual violence no longer exists.

## Our Purpose

To end domestic and sexual violence through support, empowerment, education, and transformation.



## Board of Directors

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Kate Bechen, V.P.</b><br>Dykema                           | <b>Patty Eubanks</b><br>Keller Williams Realty    |
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