

ADVOCATES OF OZAUKEE

2023 Annual Report

2,495

NIGHTS OF
SHELTER

7,189

ADVOCACY &
COUNSELING
CONTACTS

827

GROUP
SUPPORT
CONTACTS

1,648

CRISIS &
HOTLINE CALLS

A Message From Advocates' Board President & Executive Director

If 2023 had a key theme running through it at Advocates of Ozaukee, Inc, it would *transformation*.

One of the most impactful developments has been the enormous progress on our shelter renovation. This is in no small part due to the generosity of many such as Ozaukee County, who assisted us in procuring a Community Development Block Grant, and Impact100 Milwaukee and a private donor made possible the new spaces for victims and survivors to find safety and healing. These renovation highlights include:

- All essential services are now on the main floor of the shelter, including laundry access
- An updated and expanded children's center that is big, bright, and welcoming and already getting a lot of use
- An additional bedroom fully accessible in compliance with ADA standards
- A modest exercise area to encourage and support the healing benefits of movement and physical activity
- Availability for 18 people to live at the shelter at once

Even more exciting is the addition of a pet kennel! Safety for the entire family is one of the leading reasons victims leave an abusive situation - but without a safe place for their pets many choose not to leave. Thanks to this development we can meet this need for victims and provide a safe, healthy environment for their beloved animal companions.

The addition brings Advocates into a new phase that is better equipped to consistently serve the community with the level of care and excellence Advocates is known for, even as needs shift and demands for services remain high. For example, in 2023 Advocates received 1,648 crisis calls, compared to 586 in 2013. Each of those calls is a lifeline for someone in a desperate situation. Our incredible staff field these calls, provide advocacy, referrals, as well as a safe space without judgment. Advocates' staff also offers counseling to all, including children, the often underserved victims of gender based violence.

We are so proud to be part of a community that values who we are and the service we provide. So many provide support in the way of donations, both monetary and in materials and supplies. You support our staff and board as they do the difficult but vitally important work-with clients, families, educators, community members, and other administrators. We truly depend on you for our existence and recognize your impact. Now is a wonderful time to get involved if you haven't done so already. Become part of powerful efforts that are helping to make Ozaukee County an even better place to live and changing the lives of the people in your own neighborhood.

Kate Bechen & Barb Fischer
BOARD PRESIDENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our Services

Awareness

- Share trusted, verified information and resources
- Work with educators in and outside our community
- Partner with businesses and other organizations on issue-based programming

Advocacy

- Advocate for all clients at first point of contact
- Engage fully with clients throughout their journey to safety and wellness
- Connect clients and any family with all appropriate resources and services

“Words can hardly express how grateful I am for the miracles—September rent assistance! Thank you! And thank you for your mentorship, guidance, and support. You have been invaluable to me and provided opportunities for me to grow and move forward. I also appreciate the food and toiletry supplies. You are AWESOME! Thank you!!”

—ADVOCATES CLIENT

Safety

- Create safe, welcoming, comfortable atmosphere in our shelter
- Follow all up-to-date protocols and protection for clients
- Ensure clients have access to information and resources regarding long-term safety

“Thank you! I seriously don’t know how I would have survived all these years without you. I appreciate you so much!”

—ADVOCATES CLIENT

Legal

- Connect clients with our Legal Advocate and work to support them in their experience with any and all legal systems
- Make sure clients understand aspects of the American justice system relevant to their situation
- Remain engaged with clients throughout any and all aspects pertaining to their legal needs

“You are my angel.”

—SA CLIENT TO LEGAL ADVOCATE



“Can I stay here? It feels safe.”

—ADVOCATES CHILD CLIENT

Our Staff

Barb Fischer
Executive Director

Kristen Nicholson
Associate Director

Mary Knetter
*Sexual Violence
Services Director*

Abby Favela
Legal Advocate

Janet Schmitt
Accounting Manager

Shaina Buckner
*Sexual Violence
Community Advocate*

Amanda Bramstedt
*Community Housing
Manager*

Valerie Peterson
*Shelter and Crisis
Phone Advocate*

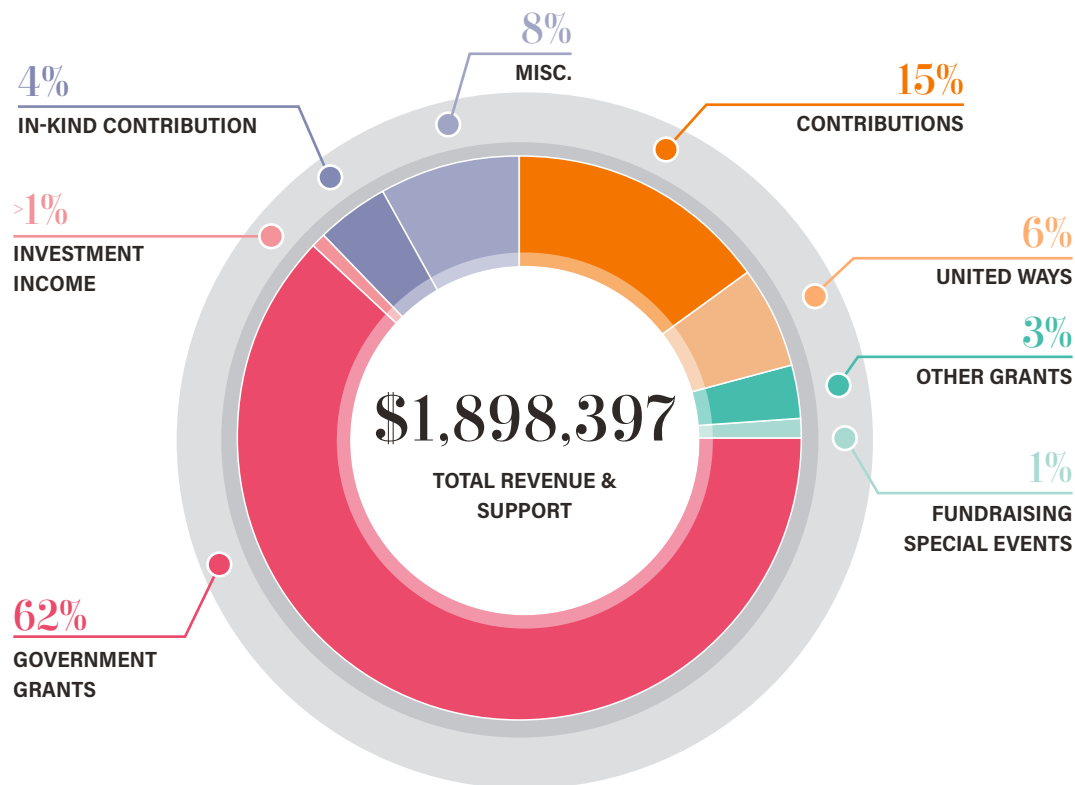
Sophie Zentner
Child Advocate

Vincent Hall
*Community Advocate
Transitional Housing*

ASSOCIATES

Laura Cox
Mary Ferwerda
Kerry Pratt
Pam Molina
Nancy Johnson
Diamond Lashae
Samantha Allen

2023 Financials



REVENUE

Contributions	\$292,197
United Ways	\$116,798
Other Grants	\$53,625
Fundraising Special Events	\$10,303
Government Grants	\$1,186,827
Investment Income	\$3,551
In-Kind Contribution	\$87,444
Misc.	\$147,652

Total Revenue & Support \$1,898,397

EXPENSES

Domestic Abuse Program	\$594,222
Children's Program	\$183,296
Sexual Assault Program	\$441,911
Total Program Expenses	\$1,219,428
Management & General	\$86,054
Events/Fundraising Support	\$47,797
Total Support Expenses	\$133,851

Total Expenses \$1,353,279

Thank You
to our Caring Annual Donors

For a listing of all donors, please visit our website at
www.advocatesofzaukee.com



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Advocates of Ozaukee



www.advocatesofozaukee.com

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Dawn Faucett
Aurora Health

Barb Fischer
Executive Director

Our Mission

With a commitment to safety, respect, and compassion for individuals and families, Advocates of Ozaukee works to end domestic and sexual violence through intervention, education, and prevention services.

Vision Statement

Advocates' vision is to lead the social change necessary to elevate safety, equity and justice, so all people may live in dignity, security, and without fear of oppression. To that end, Advocates will work 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.

CALL 24/7

[262.284.6902](tel:262.284.6902) · [877.375.4034](tel:877.375.4034)

24-HOUR
CRISIS
HOTLINE

SUPPORT
GROUPS

DIGITAL
SAFETY

ADVOCACY
LEGAL,
MEDICAL

“Staff are committed, kind, caring & supportive.”

—ADVOCATES OF OZAUKEE CLIENT