



# **Safe Haven Annual Public Report 2025**

# Message from the Board President



Safe Haven REC has had a productive 2025 helping out the community and growing as an organization. What started as a vision 8 years ago has turned into a thriving community organization that has benefited hundreds of people searching for and maintaining recovery. We are proud of our accomplishments and thank the community for their unwavering support of our programming, whether that be monetary donations, volunteered time, or simply sharing our social media posts. We look forward to what 2026 brings us, striving for the empowerment and betterment of our community, while continuing to share our own experience, strength, and hope to those looking for recovery from Substance Use Disorder.

Mike Meehan, Board President

# Message from Executive Director



What a year 2025 was for Safe Haven and the people we serve! 2025 was another year of incredible growth and support in our organization. From opening a satellite office in Evansville, expanding to cover 13 counties, partnering with another RCO to meet our deliverables, hosting two Voices of Recovery events, starting a food pantry, and expanding street outreach, 2025 was one for the books! Safe Haven was blessed enough to be able to open our Men's sober living home housing 12 men, and expanded our staff to 23 employees. Transportation continued in 3 counties and expanded to assist our men's home and intensive outpatient participants! Our coaches all received training and attended conferences to keep their skills up to date while helping other people in need, and our organization as a whole received great support from the community, donors, and grant makers throughout the counties we serve. We thank the community for their support and look forward to even more servant work in 2026!

Kelly Mullen, CAPRC I, Executive Director

# Message from CFO



2025 was a year of growth and challenges for our organization, especially at the grant level. Safe Haven REC is a 501c non-profit organization and is run exclusively on grants and donations from the community, so that we may always offer free services. 2025 brought the expansion of our RRH grant to cover 13 counties and partner with another organization to help serve those counties. 2025 also brought the completion of two grants: DMHA Opioid Match Settlement Grant and our IU Community Investment Impact Grant. 2025 came with many unknowns, wavering grant support or limited grant support due to various political climate changes; all of which Safe Haven was able to maneuver. I am particularly proud of the ability of Safe Haven REC to economically impact Orange County and Vanderburgh County by hiring and maintaining 23 employees who, most if not all, would not have careers if not for Safe Haven. At Safe Haven REC, we foster and cater to who they are now; not who they were.

I am forever grateful and humbled by the immense support we receive from all levels throughout our local towns, counties, and state as well as for our partners in funding through various state, private, and foundational stakeholders that make our work possible. We are excited to usher in 2026 and bring even more of the same great resources to the counties we serve.

Brittany Stout FNP-C, CFO

## About Safe Haven Recovery Engagement Center

Safe Haven Recovery Engagement Center (REC) is a 501c non-profit organization in Orange County, Indiana. Founded in 2018 after the loss of Brittany's brother, Dakota, to an overdose, Safe Haven started as an information center run by volunteers. Quickly recognizing the many needs of the community, Safe Haven REC expanded into a Recovery Community Organization (RCO). We began providing recovery coaching and other services in 2020 and became a Certified RCO through DMHA in 2023. We now serve 13 counties and provide a multitude of resources and support to include recovery coaching, transportation, Narcan distribution, harm reduction supplies, food support, hygiene support, community education, men's sober living, food pantry, and celebratory recovery events. All of our services are offered free to the community. We are completely grant and donation funded since we do not charge for any of our services.

### Service Area:

- Crawford
- Daviess
- Dubois
- Gibson
- Lawrence
- Martin
- Orange (office in Paoli)
- Perry
- Pike
- Posey
- Spencer
- Vanderburgh (office in Evansville)
- Warrick

## 2025 Highlights

- Nominated for Recovery Network Peer Run Organization of the Year
- Implemented Gas Fund assistance for our recovery coaches
- Hosted Voices of Recovery in Orange & Pike Counties
- Hosted Celebrate Orange County Recovery
- Hosted first responder appreciation breakfast
- Hosted Community Thanksgiving meal
- Hosted our first Back to School Bash
- Attended multiple events and conferences across our service area
- Opened Dakota's House: a 12 bed men's sober living home
- Launched our first coloring book fundraiser
- Adopted Highway 37 North for clean up
- Started food pantry
- Expanded street outreach to Crawford and Perry Counties
- Expanded transportation services to Lawrence County
- Started homeless outreach
- Implemented vehicle repair fund for staff
- Opened Evansville office
- Joined Paoli and Mitchell Chamber of Commerce
- Obtained our recertification as a Recovery Community Organization
- Started family and youth coaching services, creating programming specifically for school systems
- Started participant sponsorship program
- Embedded youth coaching into Orleans School System
- Started dedicated Facebook Page for Evansville location

## Programming

Safe Haven provides a multitude of resources to the communities we serve. All of the resources that we offer are free to the community.

### **Recovery Coaching**

Our recovery coach program is a program offering one on one mentorship to people seeking recovery from substance use and/or mental health concerns. All of our coaches are certified in the state of Indiana and are people with lived experience. Participants in this program receive weekly individual meetings to remove barriers and develop a recovery plan that works for them. Participants can stay in this program for as long as they feel it benefits them.

### **Transportation**

Transportation is a free service offered in Lawrence, Orange, Crawford, and Dubois counties. Utilizing paid drivers and our own fleet of vehicles, Safe Haven REC offers free rides for anybody currently or previously involved in the criminal justice system. This service can be used for rides to and from work, appointments, probation, peer support meetings, or running errands.

### **Food Pantry**

Safe Haven opened a food pantry in 2025 due to the continued and increasing need we saw in the population that we serve. Our food pantry is accessible weekly for individuals in need and we aim to offer a variety of food options including pantry staples, meat, dairy, and fresh produce. Our food pantry is open three days a week.

### **Salvation Army**

Safe Haven Paoli location is home to Orange County's Salvation Army representative. This service is open to anybody in need residing in Orange County.

### **Harm Reduction**

Harm reduction saves lives. With harm reduction we focus on keeping people alive and safe until they find the right recovery path that works for them. Safe Haven offers Naloxone free of charge. Safe Haven monitors and stocks 9 Naloxboxes throughout our service area and serves as a pass through to distribute Naloxone to other organizations. We also offer fentanyl test strips, xylazine test strips, and wound care supplies as needed.

## **Events and Awareness**

Safe Haven REC regularly aims to celebrate recovery, spread awareness of resources and treatment options available, and reduce stigma surrounding substance use and mental illness. We do this by offering a variety of pro-social activities and events in our service area and being active on social media.

## **Homeless Outreach**

Our most vulnerable of our vulnerable populations we serve are the unhoused. Safe Haven offers support through all our programs to the unhoused population as well as supplies they may need such as sleeping bags, tents, warm clothing, and hygiene items. We also offer mailboxes at our Paoli location.

## **Street Outreach**

Our street outreach teams serve Orange, Crawford, and Perry counties. These coaches provide a cooked meal and access to resources for people that need it, often setting up in community-oriented areas such as parks, food pantries, or other local organizations that allow us to set up. This program meets people where they are at, reducing the barrier of needing to come to our physical location to access services.

## **Family/youth coaching**

Safe Haven REC has a family recovery coach on staff that works specifically with youth and family members impacted by substance use. Substance use is a family disease and this mentoring opportunity provides support to those impacted as well.

## **School Programming**

Our family coach offers curriculum and programming designed specifically for youth and is designed to be administered and reported through the local school systems. This is a free service to the school systems to help empower youth that might be struggling with substance use to find recovery. Our program involves a variety of aspects including one on one mentorship, community service, family involvement and evaluation, and educational curriculum focused on substance use. This program is suitable for illicit substance use as well as alcohol and nicotine abuse.

## **Groups**

Safe Haven offers group peer support meetings at our Paoli location; lists all known peer support meetings on our social media page; and has a coach that runs various types of groups in our service area including AA, NA, Smart Recovery, and Celebrate Recovery. Other group

offerings are available upon request as well such as lifeskills classes and anger management. Our groups coach hosts and manages multiple groups weekly across our service area.

## **Sober Living**

Dakota's House is a 12 bed men's sober living facility in Paoli, Indiana. Dakota's house is a long-term sober living treatment environment offering full programming to the men that live there. Men are required to hold employment, complete Intensive Outpatient Services, attend peer support meetings, and provide community service work as part of the program. Dakota's House is managed by a live-in House Manager.

## **Employee Supports**

Safe Haven cannot do all the amazing work we do without our employees. Our employees encounter unique needs and challenges related to their jobs. Safe Haven supports their employees by offering a gas stipend once weekly since they use personal vehicles to travel for their job as well as a mechanical assistance fund that can be accessed for vehicle repairs.

## **Sponsorship Program**

Our participant sponsorship program is a unique way for people to support our work. Participants are individuals working with a recovery coach at Safe Haven. Often times, they have a small need or want that would help them in their recovery journey. We publish these needs and wants on our website for community members to browse and if so led, can purchase as a sponsorship for that participant. Needs vary from a simple word search book to combat boredom to a warm coat for the winter.

## **Safe Space/Community Center**

Our physical location in Paoli has transformed into a true community center over the last year. Our open floor plan allows people to come in and just be. They can grab a cup of coffee, a snack, and watch some TV or charge their cell phones. Our physical location provides respite from heat and cold for many of our unhoused populations and serves as a congregation point or a meeting spot for any person or organization that wishes to utilize it.

## **Jail Hygiene Program**

The jail hygiene program is specific to Orange County Jail. Monthly, Safe Haven provides all inmates with a basic hygiene bag that includes soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, toilet paper, and deodorant. We often include small snacks like a bag of chips or a candy bar. For women we include feminine hygiene products.

## Community Activities

Safe Haven continues to be a strong and vital community partner in all counties we serve. Safe Haven REC has had strong involvement in 2025 and the following activities reflect our dedication to service work, community awareness, and community partnerships.

- Hosted two nutrition programs by Lost River Market & Deli and Purdue Extension
- Sponsored a soccer and baseball team
- Sponsored a mission trip
- Hosted the following events:
  - Voices of Recovery Orange County
  - Voices of Recovery Pike County
  - Celebrate Orange County Recovery
  - Summer of Recovery Jasper
  - Friendsgiving
  - Appreciation Breakfast
  - Back to School Bash
  - Community Discussion
  - Addicts' Wake viewing
  - CRISIS Peer Training
  - CRAFT Training
  - Tile painting with Possibilities in Paoli
- Attended and participated in the following:
  - Paoli parade
  - Mighty Kindness Festival
  - Paoli Farmer's Market
  - Community Baby Shower
  - Inspire & Invest
  - Orange County Leadership Program
  - Moving Forward Conference
  - Washington County Resource Fair

- Fuel Up Perry County
- RISE Ribbon Cutting
- Washington Color Run
- Tell City Stand Down
- Tell City Resource Fair
- Hardinsburg Trunk or Treat
- Paoli Trunk or Treat
- Crawford County Trunk or Treat
- Perry County QPR Training
- Lawrence County Resource Fair
- Color Me Recovered
- InROC Conversation on OUD: Orange, Perry, and Crawford counties
- Hope for Warrick County
- Rockport Recovers
- Faces of Change
- Homeless Stand Down Evansville
- Howell on the Rock
- Vanderburgh County Substance Abuse Council
- DCS Resource Fair
- SOFR Team Lawrence County
- Dubois ARC
- Families in Action
- Lawrence County LCC
- Crawford County LCC
- Recertification of Orange County as Indiana Health Community
- Stand Down Warrick County
- Orange County Tobacco Free
- Conferences attended:
  - Suicide Awareness Conference
  - Tech Conference
  - Recovery Summit
  - MHAI Recovery and Mental Health Symposium

- IU Rural Health Conference
- IACCAC Conference
- Completed social media campaigns for Recovery Month and Mental Health Month
- 3 Food drives with Team OC
- Created and launched our Safe Haven Coloring Book
- Completed a video marketing and educational series
- Volunteering opportunities for Team Peace
- Hosted Paoli High school students for Service Day
- Adopted Highway 37 North for clean up
- Installed new NaloxBox in Martin County
- Volunteered packing Narcan at Overdose Lifeline in Indianapolis

## Sponsors

Safe Haven operates on grants and donations exclusively. This allows us to keep our services free of charge. 2025 brought amazing support from organizations and businesses across our service area. Sponsors throughout the year included:

- NOW Counseling
- InLiner
- Avenues
- Old National
- Sunrise
- Ireland Homebased Services
- Orange County Community Foundation
- Springs Valley Bank and Trust
- Infrastructure
- Kendall Trucking
- Pederson Chiropractic
- Reynolds
- LRC
- IU Health Bloomington Community Health
- Lost River Market & Deli
- Stained & Grained

Multiple organizations partnered and helped Safe Haven REC with food drives or event support including:

- Vanity Vault
- Babcock Motors
- Lost River Market & Deli
- IU Health Bloomington Community Health
- Syria Church
- Mooresridge Church
- Multiple individuals

## Grants 2025

### **1. Walmart Sparkgood Grants (one time funding)**

- a. Received 3 Sparkgood Grants (Paoli, Bedford, Tell City) to assist with the purchase of homeless outreach supplies and bicycles

### **2. Crawford County LCC (one time funding)**

- a. Funds to support street outreach in Crawford County

### **3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Indiana (ongoing)**

- a. Funds to support our Lawrence County Transport system.

### **4. Warrick County Commissioners (one time funding)**

- a. Funds to provide street outreach, HIV and Hep C testing, and host a Voices of Recovery in Warrick County in 2026.

### **5. Perry County Community Foundation (one time funding)**

- a. Funds to support out street outreach in Perry County

### **6. Orange County Commissioners (one time funding)**

- a. Funds to purchase licensure to Addict's Wake documentary and host viewings.

### **7. Lilly Endowment Grant (ongoing)**

- a. Funds to help renovate the Orange County Jail Lobby, support our jail hygiene program, purchase recovery literature, cover software costs, and support harm reduction supplies and transport for IOP.

### **8. IU Community Impact Investment (ENDED 2025)**

- a. Funds to support salaries for our Executive Director and House manager; video series; marketing and advertising supplies; and the start up of our Men's House.

**9. DMHA: Transport (ongoing)**

- a. Funds to support our transport program in Orange and Crawford Counties

**10. IRN: EDP (ongoing)**

- a. Funds to support two coach's salaries to cover Washington, Dubois, and Perry counties focusing on treatment, housing, and hospitals.

**11. Dubois County Community Foundation (one time funding)**

- a. Funds to support our Dubois Transport team

**12. DMHA: Peer Expansion (ongoing)**

- a. Funds to cover salaries for four coaches, one of which is a groups coach in charge of running peer support meetings throughout our service area.

**13. Dubois County ARC (one time funding)**

- a. Funds to support maintenance on our Dubois Transport vehicle

**14. DMHA: RRH (ongoing)**

- a. Funds to subcontract to RISE Recovery to cover 3 of our 13 counties; provide salary support to multiple coaches; and provide some administrative funds.

**15. Families in Action (One time funding)**

- a. Funds to purchase an AED and provide continuing education for our coaches.

**16. Orange County Community Foundation (One time funding)**

- a. Funds to support Voices of Recovery Orange County and our food pantry

**17. IU Community Health (One time funding)**

- a. Funds to support Voices of Recovery Orange County

**18. SAMHSA (One time funding)**

- a. Funds to host a community discussion/needs assessment

**19. French Lick Town Council (One time funding)**

- a. Opioid Settlement Funds to support transportation match grant
- b. Emergency funds to support food pantry during SNAP shut down

**20. Paoli Town Council (One time funding)**

- a. Opioid Settlement Funds to support production of a phone application

**21. IDOH (ENDED 2025)**

- a. Funds to support a recovery coach salary to cover Lawrence County.

**22. DMHA Opioid Match Settlement ( ENDED 2025)**

- a. Funds to support coaches, harm reduction team, and transportation

## DATA 2025

### DOC Referrals

As a Regional Recovery Hub we accept referrals from Indiana DOC and the criminal justice system.

County	Referrals
Crawford	20
Daviess	0 (served by RISE)
Dubois	12
Gibson	0 (served by RISE)
Lawrence	3
Martin	28
Orange	55
Perry	2
Pike	22 (served by RISE)
Posey	1
Spencer	3
Vanderburgh	7
Warrick	0
State	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>163</b>

We also received 150 self-referrals: individuals that requested services on their own without a referral from a community organization or DOC.

### Harm Reduction Mobile Unit

Our harm reduction mobile unit was funded by a grant that ended in 2025. We were unable to secure funding to continue this program. The following data is from January through June 2025

Narcan	Fent Strips	Xylazine strips	Referrals	Hygiene Kits	Interactions
200	124	132	16	160	260

### Group Interactions

The number of interactions served in the group setting for 2025 was 1,244. This is not a number of unique individuals, but the number of people that attended groups throughout the year.

## **Jail Hygiene Program**

The jail hygiene program provided 606 hygiene bags to Orange County Jail inmates in 2025.

## **Transportation Program**

Our transportation program covers Crawford, Dubois, Orange, and Lawrence counties. Our transport team also offers free transport to and from IOP. The following data is in relation to our transport program.

Unique Individuals Served	Number of rides	Number of miles
1,388	4,786	117,247

The following table is a break down of rides given per county.

Orange	3,008
Crawford	222
Dubois	1,469
Lawrence	52
Clark	1
Pike	1
Monroe	2
Sullivan	3
Washington	22
Martin	4
Louisville	1
Scott	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,786</b>

## **Naloxone Distribution**

Safe Haven distributed 1,523 doses of Naloxone in 2025.

## **Recovery Coaching Program**

Safe Haven did 681 intakes on new individuals in 2025. We served a total of 2,056 for the year. This larger number is NOT unique individuals. Some individuals would have been served for more than one month, thus counted twice.

Out of the intakes, the following chart shows the county distribution

Crawford	23
Daviess	83
Dubois	14
Gibson	3

Lawrence	23
Martin	21
Orange	120
Perry	6
Pike	29
Posey	4
Spencer	1
Vanderburgh	88
Washington	1
Warrick	4
Other/unknown	262

## **Food Pantry**

The food pantry started in March 2025. November was a busy month with the suspension in SNAP benefits. For the year 2025 we served 3,827 individuals.

## **Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army representative served 91 individuals in 2025.

## **Street Outreach**

Street outreach is available in Orange, Perry, and Crawford Counties. In 2025, street outreach served 528 meals.

## **Online utilization**

Our social media pages, google, and our website are all ways that we try to advertise about our free services. In 2025, our website was visited 12,063 times.

Through google searches the following information is available:

568 website clicks

573 directions given

589 phone calls

1,730 interactions.

## Challenges

Every year comes with challenges. 2025 proved to be one of our most challenging years.

Financially, there was a lot of turmoil in the grant world especially around federal funding. Federal funds move to the state which moves to organizations so the impact trickles down. In 2025, Safe Haven did receive a 21% reduction in funding due to budget cuts as well as 2 grants that ended their cycle in 2025. While we are very blessed to have been able to find sustainability plans for the majority of our staff and programming, Safe Haven did have to close down our Harm Reduction Mobile Unit in June 2025.

Our building proved challenging with septic issues in 2025 and we lost our very first vehicle purchased: Safe Haven -1 to a deer in 2025.

Despite these challenges, we were able to pivot, navigate, and continue pursuing our mission of recovery for everybody!

## Needs

As we look on into 2026 our needs are generalized. We will be looking for support to fund some basic operation costs such as business phones, internet, email subscriptions. We will also be needing new laptops in 2026. Volunteers are always appreciated as well for events.

## Looking Ahead

So what does 2026 have in store for Safe Haven and the service area we cover?

- Implementation and launch of a phone application for Safe Haven resources, events, and notifications
- Implementation of an organization wide policy and procedure management system
- Expansion of naloxbox access in our service area
- Introduction of a business technical assistance program for 2<sup>nd</sup> chance employers
- Renovation of our lobby space to become more of a community center
- Renovation of our kitchen for floor repairs
- Events:
  - Resource day for unhoused individuals: May 2026
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> chances Masquerade Ball April 30<sup>th</sup> 2026 at French Lick Hotel
  - Voices of Recovery Orange County: September 2026
  - Voices of Recovery Warrick County: September 2026

- Celebrate Orange County Recovery: June 2026

Above all, we will continue to bring excellent resource and our own experience, strength, and hope to the communities we serve. Recovery IS possible!

## Financials

Safe Haven REC is a 501c3 non-profit and thus required to post our annual tax statements online. Our form 990 is available at [propublica.org](http://propublica.org) as well as upon request at [safehavenrec@gmail.com](mailto:safehavenrec@gmail.com)

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