

2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Partners and Friends:

As we come to the end of another fiscal year, let's look back at some of the highlights and see what we achieved together.

Because the need for our services remained high, we advanced the safety and healing of survivors in a variety of ways. For the first time we instituted a Medical Advocacy Program to expand our efforts to educate and train the medical community about available domestic violence resources, so that they can share information with their patients. We continued our contract with a Certified Trauma Therapist to not only address the essential therapeutic needs of our survivors but to also provide a vicarious trauma support group for staff, which is essential in preventing burnout. We formed an ongoing partnership with Randi's House of Angels by providing programming to children and families. A closer relationship with Safe Harbour helped us move survivors from our emergency shelter to longer-term housing in their facility more expeditiously. DVSCP counselors provided opportunities for families to connect by hosting quarterly family events, such as carving pumpkins for Halloween, making gingerbread houses, and showing movies.

Our Pub-Ed department put more focus on Perry County this year. Out of the 842 educational/awareness activities, 300 were provided in Perry County along with 14 primary prevention programs. A somatic walking group was started there, offering participants an opportunity to discuss issues while being out in nature. Other important achievements include DVSCP working with several other non-profits to host a family event at Hope Station called Healing Through the Arts. Every non-profit offered a craft or game table for children. We are so grateful for courageous professional staff who deeply care about making a difference in the lives of victims/survivors of domestic violence. They do it with commitment, dedication and compassion.

The Board of Directors had a great year leading the agency, especially with fundraising. We raised \$45,075 in corporate sponsorships and a total of \$24,480 with virtual, live and silent auctions. This was the first year we participated in Match Madness and because you came through in a big way, we were awarded \$22,350.00. The financial position of this agency remains strong and healthy. We are grateful to the members of the Board for their steadfast commitment to our mission through their guidance, support, giving, volunteerism and advocating for the most vulnerable amongst us.

Lastly, we've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. We could not do what we do if we didn't have a whole community of supporters behind us. You have stepped up in so many ways. Thank you for sharing our commitment to safety and dignity for everyone and for standing with and standing by every survivor in our community.

Matthew Sadler, Board President

Sonya Browne Executive Director

Jones Prouve

OUR MISSION

DVSCP supports the empowerment of those who are experiencing domestic violence through the provision of **equitable** and **inclusive** direct services and the promotion of nonviolence through social and systems change.

PROGRAM GOALS

Goal 1: Provide a full array of services to victims of domestic violence to include crisis intervention, shelter, counseling and advocacy, court accompaniment, safety planning, goal planning, and referrals to other agencies/resources.

Goal 2: Work with local social service agencies to transition clients to safe and affordable housing.

Goal 3: Provide a coordinated community response to violence against women and children.

Goal 4: Work collaboratively with social service agencies and the medical community to assure their understanding of the dynamics of abusive relationships and the cycle of abuse.

OUR IMPACT Thanks to your support.

1,311 **TOTAL SERVED**

Includes all adults and children who utilized one or more DVS programs or services.

SHELTERED Includes 105 adults and 79 children totaling 5,225 shelter nights, 75% of whom were safely relocated.

1,494

466 **PFAs**

384 in Cumberland County

> 82 in Perry County

REFERRALS

Common referrals include MidPenn Legal Services, housing providers, and cash assistance.

72% of clients follow up on referrals and support services.

1,404 **HOTLINE CALLS**

111 met 'high risk of death' criteria and 78 needed translation services.

Staff also sent/received 2,081 hotline text messages.

3,300 COUNSELING **HOURS**

For adults and children

112 **AMEND PARTICIPANTS**

87 group members in **Cumberland County**

25 group members in **Franklin County**

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



842

education & outreach efforts reaching

total people.

A SURVIVOR STORY Meet Ruth

What began as a fairy tale relationship quickly transformed into what would become a nightmare lasting decades. Meet Ruth.

When Ruth met Henry, he was charming, well-traveled, educated and had an endless supply of compliments and flattery for her. After dating for a few months, he was basically living with her and there were talks of marriage and children.

While Ruth knew he was recently let go from his full-time job, he had a part-time job and was paying his way, so what may have been a red flag seemed like someone just down on his luck. He was very positive, calling her a muse for his art and music. She thought she had found her soulmate. Right after she found out she was pregnant with the couple's only child, things began to take a turn.

He was slowly changing, becoming cruel and manipulative. Over the next 9 years, he would use accusations, horrific stories about her and those she cared about, and ultimately their son, to control Ruth. She often feared for her life. He accused her of having affairs, would follow her to work, and watched her wherever she went. He questioned whether their baby was his, insisting she had affairs the entire time she was pregnant. He demanded to go everywhere with her and would accuse her of sleeping with whoever she happened to smile at during their outings.

"When you have this person who you love but who constantly criticizes you, puts pressure on you, and makes awful accusations about you and your family and friends, it causes you to question everything, and you agree to things you wouldn't normally do, even when it goes against your better judgement," Ruth commented.

While most of Henry's abuse toward Ruth was psychological, if she tried to walk away during an argument, he would grab her arms. If she fought back, he would escalate it, throwing her to the ground and pinning her down. While there were no punches or severe marks left behind, Henry made sure she knew that he had control over her. Afterwards, he would claim it was self-defense because she tried to fight back, causing her to question herself, thinking maybe his version was the truth. He would tell her every day all the things that were wrong with her - comments about her body, especially after the baby was born, about their sex life, about what a terrible mother she was. He accused her family of being child predators and would later tell their son these same lies. He monitored her phone activity and at one point sent an explicit photo to several of her friends and coworkers from her account.

The mental abuse he inflicted on Ruth took its toll – she was confused, anxious, and depressed, not knowing what to believe and constantly on edge that she was going to upset him. By the time the baby was a few years old, Ruth hit her breaking point and told Henry it was over, and he needed to move out.

Unfortunately, Henry's abuse was escalating, and he was making blatant threats like, "You will never leave," or "You'll be dead before you ever leave this house." While they were just words, Ruth felt the weight behind them and was terrified of how far he would take things if she tried to leave. Henry didn't work, didn't pay any bills, and

she later found out that he had been taking money out of her bank account. Ruth decided to get Henry evicted and file for full custody of their son.

She met with a lawyer who immediately advised her to get a Protection From Abuse order (PFA). Ruth was shocked. She knew Henry was difficult, but she had never considered herself a victim of abuse.

With her son in mind, knowing she would still have to co-parent with Henry, she sat him down and explained that she was filing a PFA to have him evicted. She offered to pay his moving expenses to encourage him to leave. Henry refused, stating, "The only way I'm leaving this house is if you're dead." Ruth wholeheartedly believed that Henry was capable of murdering her after years of him telling her horribly dark, twisted things. She knew he had a gun, and he repeatedly threatened to bludgeon her with tools.

The day after her conversation with Henry, she took her son to her parents and called our agency. Staff fit Ruth in that day to complete her paperwork to file a PFA. Throughout the PFA process, Ruth was a wreck. After years of living in a high stress situation, she was hopeful that she would finally get away from Henry. She was also scared that if he found out what was happening, he would find their son and vanish. Her parents took the boy into hiding while Ruth worked through the PFA process. DVSCP offered Ruth shelter, but she was afraid if she left her home, Henry would change the locks and establish residency. She knew she needed to keep her home to safeguard her future and that of her son.

After sharing her history with Henry, she was quickly granted the PFA. During the first few weeks, Henry repeatedly came to Ruth's home, sent hundreds of threatening text messages that included vivid death threats, and was even caught on her security cameras removing the light bulbs from her outdoor lights. Within the first four weeks, Henry was convicted of violating the PFA five times. Ruth reported the first several violations, but there were no significant consequences, and Henry's harassment would continue. "The police don't want to be involved because I'm not hurt, I'm not in the hospital, I didn't get my face smashed, and they know the judge won't do anything, so it's just a waste of their time," remarked Ruth.

Throughout the PFA process, Henry was eventually convicted of 7 violations. Countless other incidents happened that Ruth didn't report, partly because she knew nothing would happen and because she was already in danger of losing her job due to the amount of work missed for court appointments concerning Henry.

Today, Ruth continues to co-parent with Henry, which has been a challenge. She focuses on the good times with her son – watching a movie, playing a game, sitting next to him on the couch reading. Her son has shared that while he loves his father, he knows there is something really wrong with him.

To aid survivors like Ruth, DVSCP's Advocacy Committee is working with several key legislators on a bill to increase consequences for PFA violations and is hoping to have a bill in place for consideration by early 2025. To learn more about our Advocacy Committee's work or how you can get involved, please visit our website at www.dvscp.org.

HIGHLIGHTS

of your generosity during FY 23/24.

Last summer, DVSCP worked to upgrade our children's outdoor play area. Thanks to many generous donors, our shelter kiddos now have a mud kitchen, cedar wooden playhouse, play cottage, and play food, new balls, chalk, water balloons, bubbles and more! Thank you for making the Shelter a fun place for our smallest clients!

DVSCP participated in the Partnership for Better Health's Match Madness Campaign in March. Individual donors, plus the Partnership's match, helped our agency raise \$22,350

Thank you to everyone who made a gift through this campaign. All money raised was in support of our free services.

Members of Carlisle United Methodist Church blessed our agency in multiple ways this year, including participating in our 'Share a Meal' program, and through their donation of 14 easter baskets for our shelter children, and handmade reversible bags filled with useful self-care items for our mamas on Mother's Day!

In April, DVSCP held 'Healing Through Art,' a Child Abuse Prevention Month event. More than 40 children and their families joined the agency at Memorial Park in Carlisle for art workshops, live music, food trucks, games, community partners and more. The outpouring of support was truly incredible!!

















DVSCP was selected by Target to participate in their charitable giving campaign through the Target Circle App. From July—September 2023, supporters cast 99,230 votes raising over \$2,750 for our agency!

Thank you to everyone who cast a vote in favor of DVSCP!

DVSCP's 'Share a Meal at the Shelter' program is still going strong. Thank you to all the incredible groups and individual volunteers who've provided take-out options or homemade meals for our support group and shelter clients.

Their kindness and generosity were appreciated by so many!

DVSCP was selected as beneficiary of last fall's New Bloomfield Fall Fest, organized by Utterly Simple Events.

We truly appreciated not only the donations from vendors and individual attendees, but also the opportunity to raise awareness of our services in Perry County!

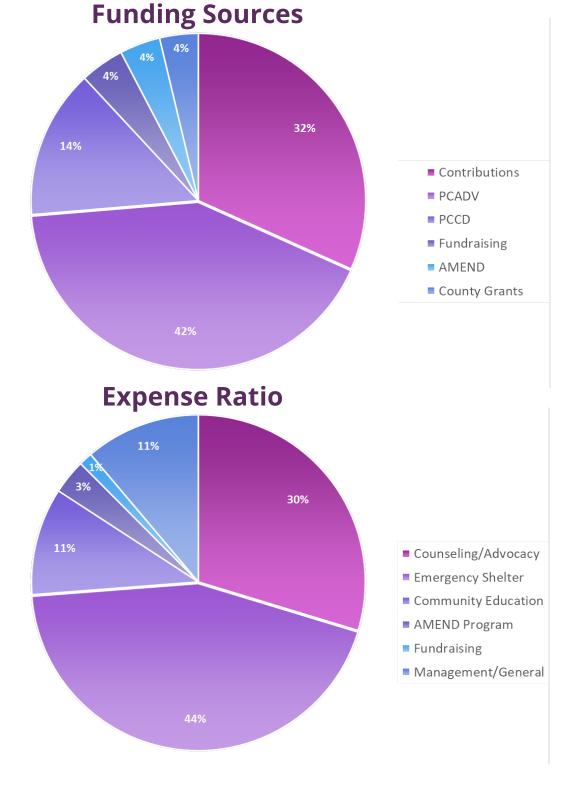
DVSCP hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast to express our gratitude for our amazing volunteers. They selflessly dedicate their time, skills, and passion to create positive change for our clients. Thank you for making a difference in our agency and in the lives of our clients!

The Board and Staff of DVSCP would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the many ways you support our agency and efforts. It is through thoughtful contributions like yours that we are able to keep those in our community experiencing abuse safe and comfortable as they work to rebuild their lives.

FINANCIALS

For every \$1.00 donated to DVSCP, \$0.88 goes to our programs and services. According to Boyer & Ritter, LLC, Certified Public Accountants, human service nonprofits have an expense ratio of 65-70%; DVSCP's ratio is 88%.

A full financial report for fiscal year 2023/2024, provided by Boyer & Ritter, is available by scanning the QR code below or by visiting www.dvscp.org/audited-financial-statement/.





Key Program Funders

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence	\$487,392
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency VOCA Grant	\$225,508
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency STOP Grant	\$25,000
United Way of the Capital Region	\$44,171
United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland County	\$22,648
United Way of the Shippensburg Area	\$6,000
The Stabler Foundation	\$37,500
Chilton Foundation	\$25,000
ESG County Grant	\$20,000
Emergency Food & Shelter Grant	\$18,111
Betty & Leo Balzereit Foundation	\$15,000
Alexander Stewart Foundation	\$13,000
CommunityAid Foundation	\$12,500
Exchange Club of Carlisle	\$10,000
Emergency Shelter Grant	\$10,150
The Royer Foundation	\$6,000
Diocese of Harrisburg	\$5,000
The Malpezzi Family Fund	\$5,000
Members 1st Foundation	\$5,000

DVSCP's Advocacy Committee met with several state legislators during the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence's Lobby Day in May. The Committee's goal was to encourage support of a budget increase to cover the expanding need for services.

Two survivors also attended and bravely shared their personal stories as part of an initiative to address the lack of consistent legal consequences for Protection from Abuse Order violations.





THANK YOU FY 23/24 supporters

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DVSCP is deeply grateful to Diane Brokenshire for her \$120,000 donation to our agency through planned giving of her estate. This generous gift will help us support survivors with a wide array of free programs and services. Her kindness and generosity will make a real difference in many lives for years to come.



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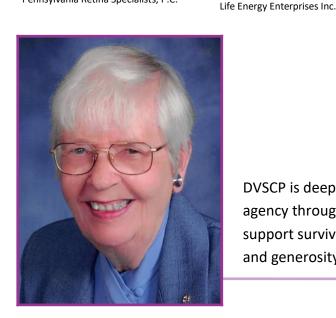
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Upper Allen Women's Club



WHAT'S NEXT?

Virtual Auction

Thursday, April 3 —Saturday, April 5, 2025 www.32auctions.com/2025DVSCPAuction

Annual Sunflower Gala

Saturday, May 3, 2025

West Shore Country Club

Mother's Day Flowers

On sale starting April 1

Flowers tentatively delivered Thursday, May 08, 2025

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 2025 (Date TBD)

West Shore Country Club

Wreath Sale

On sale starting September 1, 2025
Wreaths delivered week before Thanksgiving

Candlelight Vigil

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Camp Hill Borough Building



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24-Hour Crisis Hotline (Call or Text): 1-800-852-2102 or (717) 258-4249

Main Office: (717) 258-4806

Perry County Office: (717) 582-8900

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 Mailing Address: PO Box 1039, Carlisle, PA 17013

Website: www.dvscp.org
Email: info@dvscp.org





