



STEPS
TO END
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

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Dear Friends,

As I reflect back on the year behind us, I am amazed by what we have been able to accomplish during a time full of hardship for so many communities, including our own.

In the face of COVID-19 and social unrest, we have been able to bring our community together in the spirit of love, support and solidarity to hold survivors close and warm hands and hearts through it all.

Emergency supplies, resources, meals and more continued to come in from donors, funders and partner organizations as we embarked on our biggest project yet – our new shelter.

The first half of the year was spent in partnership, purchasing, renovating and preparing to open the doors to a 21-room shelter and office space. Our new home. We poured over the details, from the



most important pieces, like safety and security, to the most minor, like flooring and wall colors.

And as I've come to know well in my first year as Executive Director, our community did not disappoint in helping us open our doors and create the warm welcome survivors needed in those first cold December days. Everyone lent a hand – from the contractors that managed our project to so many small businesses, community groups and individuals that donated their time, resources and supplies.

The rest of our year was all about adapting. We adapted to our new space and all of the comforts and challenges of living under one roof – especially during a pandemic. We adapted to meet new and different needs of residents, to building community in a shelter full of separate units and we continue to adapt to the increasing shortage of resources survivors need to build lives free from violence.

As we continue to navigate uncertainties, we also sit warmly in the arms of caring community and the brighter days that vaccines will bring. We stay steadfast in our commitment to social change and feel grateful for all that the love and support of those around us makes possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Kubon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nicole" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Kubon".

Nicole Kubon, MSW
Executive Director

A NEW HOME



Moving to a space that better suited our needs was a long time coming. In partnership with Champlain Housing Trust, we secured CARES Act funding through Vermont Housing & Conservation Board to move quickly and convert this former extended-stay motel into 21 individual suites, that's over 60 adults and children – with separate kitchens, bathrooms and living spaces – to ensure increased access to safe, emergency housing.



The new children's space offers a safe place to play, share and learn.

Having our entire agency under one roof has been a benefit to staff and service users alike.

We are able to provide case management, advocacy, child care, workshops and more – all just steps away from our residents' living space.

Our Director of Housing Services, Ciara Kilburn, said: "Moving into our new space means hope that there is a better tomorrow. We had one resident say that they had been to multiple shelters that had shared living spaces and they always found themselves going back to their abuser. They said that by having their own bathroom, bedroom, kitchen, and privacy they know now that they will be able to start building their life free from abuse."

WHO WE SERVED

HOTLINE

We received 4,328 calls, emails and web chats through our 24-hour hotline services with an average of 71 new callers each month. We were able to assist 1,296 people with emergency services, support and referrals.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

We provided emergency shelter to 196 adults and 101 children for a total of 28,451 bednights.

HOUSING & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

We provided economic advocacy and support to 247 adults and 135 children for a total of 1,200 hours. We were able to provide rental assistance

to 20 adults and 23 children as well as other emergency short-term financial assistance to an additional 60 adults and 38 children.

LEGAL ADVOCACY

The Legal Advocacy program provided services to 493 adults seeking support with divorce, custody/parentage, immigration and criminal justice. We assisted 264 adults with filing for relief from abuse orders.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Children and Youth Services program spent 1,505 hours providing advocacy, parenting support, and resources to 131 adults and 380 children.

SERVICE USERS BY LOCATION



	Adults	Children
Bolton	5	6
Burlington	530	613
Charlotte	6	4
Colchester	112	122
Essex	58	51
Essex Junction	50	77
Hinesburg	13	28
Huntington	4	2
Jericho	7	14
Milton	46	56
Richmond	11	22
Shelburne	43	66
South Burlington	114	120
St. George	2	6
Underhill	5	8
Westford	2	2
Williston	25	38
Winooski	70	97
Outside Chittenden County	160	93

Many served opted not to disclose their town of residence because they felt unsafe doing so. It should be assumed that the numbers for each town are under-reported.

Last year's reinvented fundraiser, Steps for Social Change, was created as a way to persevere during the pandemic and stay true to the spirit of its predecessors – the Run for Empowerment and Take Steps in Their Shoes.

The new, month-long event focused on self-care as it relates to physical wellness, healing from trauma, avoiding burnout and more – caring for ourselves while caring for our community.

Individuals and teams made personal wellness goals, local businesses hosted workshops and virtual classes and, in the end, an incredible \$42,700 was raised! We can't wait to do it again – stay tuned for details!



Move your body, make a difference



THANKS FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE

While the COVID-19 pandemic made in-person volunteering virtually impossible this year, it did not stop people from supporting those who have experienced domestic violence. We are grateful for individuals and businesses who donated much-needed items to make our transition into a new facility a smooth one.

You helped us by providing:

- Bedding, linens, pots and pans, dishes, toiletries
- Cookies for residents who loved the sweet treats
- Back-to-school supplies galore
- Toys, stuffed animals and other gifts during the annual Holiday Giving Program
- Raised beds, soil, vegetables and flowers all set up and planted on site by volunteers
- Funds to help us outfit and upgrade our new space including grants from the Mary Kay Foundation and St. Michael's College Fix It With Five



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

This year Steps to End Domestic Violence said “so long” to one of its most beloved, longest-serving staff members. Ikey Spear, who dedicated 23 years to helping children and families impacted by domestic violence, retired as 2020 drew to a close.

From her amazing sense of humor to her genuine care for all with whom she worked, Ikey has left a lasting impression on our organization and our community.

Ikey was honored by Sen. Kesha Ram, top right, and Rep. Ann Pugh, with a resolution recognizing her incredible career and community contributions.

Sophia Thureau-Gray, who learned from the best while interning with Ikey, has taken the reigns as Youth Advocate and will see that the program continues to provide the best service to participants.

The Children's Program now has a full-time Advocate and includes more groups, emotional support to moms and kids, and help with childcare.

“With the shift to a larger shelter we have increased both the number of families we can serve and the size of families we can serve. As the Youth Advocate I have the pleasure of creating a fun and open space for kids to be kids and have fun,” Sophia said.



Revenue

Federal Grants	\$	514,332.25
State Grants	\$	395,579.95
Foundation Grants	\$	281,118.55
United Way	\$	6,897.57
Municipal Contributions	\$	5,384.38
General Contributions	\$	147,111.58
Fundraising Income	\$	108,772.53
Investment Income	\$	58,822.68

Subtotal-support and revenue	\$	1,518,019.49
Other revenue	\$	1,912.17

Total \$ 1,519,931.66

Expenses

Program services

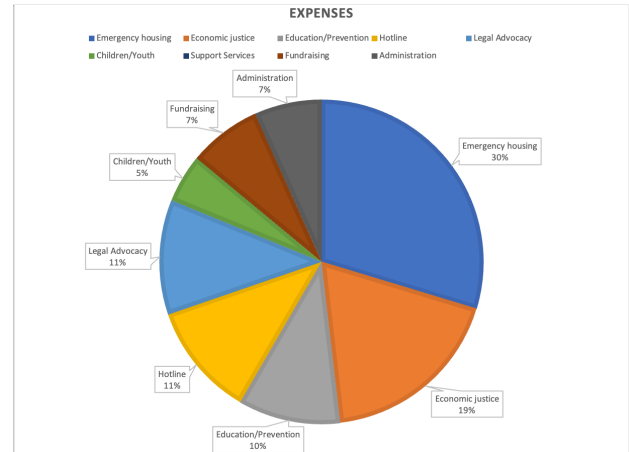
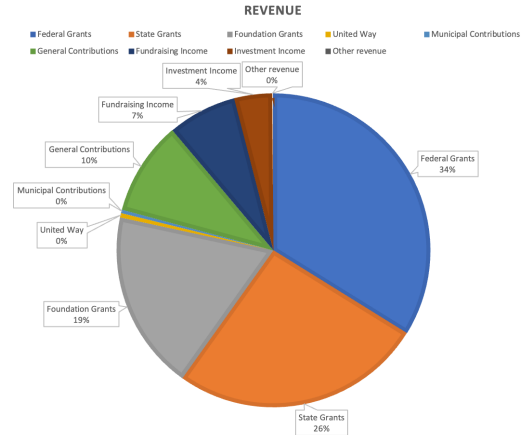
Emergency housing	\$	402,662.62
Economic justice	\$	250,524.64
Education/Prevention	\$	138,620.99
Hotline	\$	154,467.48
Legal Advocacy	\$	154,970.20
Children/Youth	\$	65,707.60

Support Services

Fundraising	\$	98,544.63
Administration	\$	91,134.45

Total \$ 1,356,632.61

FINANCES





Steps to End Domestic Violence
PO Box 1535, Burlington, VT, 05402