Why we’re better together

We are the SAFE Alliance, a merger of the Austin Children’s Shelter and SafePlace, and we believe that we must stop abuse for everyone – SAFE.

These two long-standing, community agencies first came together in 2011 to talk about the intersections between sexual assault and exploitation, child abuse, and domestic violence. We didn’t begin this process thinking we would eventually merge, but as our understanding grew and the commonality of our missions, purposes, and people we serve became clearer, we became even more committed to a comprehensive and holistic approach to ending violence against individuals, families, communities, and generations.

In 2016, the SAFE Alliance emerged as the completion of our five-year journey. Stories like Maryann’s in this annual report demonstrate how individual lives are improved, systems are enhanced, and generations are impacted through our work to address violence and abuse in a holistic, trauma-informed, and survivor-centered way.

SAFE is helping to ensure that survivors can heal, adults can learn to be better parents, children have a better chance at a happy and stable future, and the cycle of abuse can be stopped sooner. The services we offered prior to the merger were very effective, but we’ve learned so many lessons since then that have enabled us to expand and improve our services even more. As a result, great things are happening for the children, adults, and families we serve. We never thought we could have achieved without merging our efforts.

And we’re just getting started.

Thank you for being our partner in this work. Thank you for joining us in this endeavor. Together we are saving lives, changing our community and our world. And we certainly couldn’t have turned our visionary merger into a reality without your continued support. When we knew it was time to change and adapt to better serve our clients and the community, you changed with us. Thank you for it, we’re even better together.

Our Partners in the Community

To our Partners in the Community... Thanks to you, we’re even better together.

It was time to change and adapt to better serve our clients and the community, you changed with us. Thanks to you, we’re even better together.

Amber Snell CEO

President

Kelly White

Legal Services

S

SAFE Programs

Transitional and Supervised Living Programs for Youth who are coming of age and moving out of foster care

Therapeutic, Medical, and Alumni Services counseling, case management and support for youth and families

Foster and Adopt in Austin recruiting, training, and supporting families who foster and adopt children in the child protection/foster care system

Survivor Advocacy case management and advocacy for abuse victims working toward financial stability

Teen Parent Program providing support programs for children and youth in the child protection/foster care system

Supportive Housing Program transitional living, housing and support for families facing violence and homelessness

Children’s Services and Kozmetsky School supporting and educating the children and youth we serve

Family Tree and Care Academy early childhood programs

Community Counseling individual and group counseling for people who have experienced abuse

Family Shelter emergency shelter for adult and child victims of family and/or sexual violence

SAFEline 24/7 hotline and chat services

Community Advocacy working with other systems that survivors interact with (i.e., courts, law enforcement, etc.)

Forensic Nursing and Advocacy/Eloise House sexual assault forensic nursing and advocacy

Legal Services representation and court accompaniment

SAFE Futures prevention services and direct support for families at the intersection of domestic violence and child welfare involvement

Foster Care in Austin supporting families and children

Plan Safe supervised visitation and exchange center

Expect Respect promoting healthy teen relationships

Strong Start comprehensive in-home and community-based parenting support for families with multiple stressors

Disability Services awareness and abuse prevention for individuals with disabilities

Community Education outreach, training, and engagement

Deaf SHARE awareness and abuse prevention for Deaf people of all identities

Volunteer Services recruiting and training those who want to help SAFE

Karen Barkenstoss

Guardian Award, 2016 Honorees

The Guardian Award is bestowed annually to an individual, couple or organization that has shown exceptional support and dedication to the SAFE Alliance.

2016 Financials

Expenditures

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Residential Programs</td>
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<td>Client/Community Services</td>
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<td>Management &amp; General</td>
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<td>Support</td>
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Revenue

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<td>Government Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reimbursements and Fees</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>$21,587,842</td>
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* Includes a $5 million 30-year lease gift for SAFE Headquarters at Rathgeber Village

Financials

- Youth and adults received 112,465 of care/bed nights
- 2,365 volunteers dedicated 37,816 service hours
- 13,207 SAFEline calls were answered
- 179 youth attended charter school
- 589 people received advocacy and 485 forensic exams were provided in the immediate aftermath of a rape
- 27,064 people attended Family Shelter
- 2,365 volunteers dedicated 589 service hours
- 1,654 children were placed in foster or adoptive homes
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Maryann could feel his hands pressing down around her throat. He’d beaten her up before. Dragged her by her hair. But, in this moment, she truly believed that her husband was going to kill her.

Her four children were — where? She hoped they weren’t seeing this. She hoped they were somewhere safe.

Like so many of SAFE’s clients, Maryann was in a desperate situation. She also had more than one desperate need. Getting herself, and her four kids, to safety was critical and urgent. Just as important, however, was healing all of their trauma and getting connected with resources that would help them create happy, fulfilling lives as a family.

Maryann was able to escape her husband on that terrifying night. After running from their home, she called the police. They arrested him, but warned her that he wouldn’t be held for long. The family needed to seek emergency shelter immediately.

The next day, when her kids were at school, Maryann called the SAFEline — and received some terrible news. SAFE’s Family Shelter was completely full and had a waiting list. All she could do was put her name on the list, and hope. The day after that, Child Protective Services showed up. They had seen the police report, filled with details of violence witnessed by Maryann’s children. They had determined that her home wasn’t safe, and all four children were removed.

Maryann’s two youngest were placed in a foster home. And, by chance, her two oldest were placed in SAFE’s Emergency Care program, which is a shelter for kids in the state’s care. It’s that one fortunate twist of fate that made all the difference for this family and their future together.

Because of SAFE’s trained staff and full spectrum of services, SAFE caseworkers were able to take a unique approach. They quickly learned that the children’s mom was hiding in a local homeless shelter and convinced CPS to let the family reunite once Maryann was safe. They also made sure there was room in SAFE’s Family Shelter for all of them.

It’s SAFE’s holistic approach that allowed this family to reunite quickly, versus having to navigate through different agencies, caseworkers and systems. When lives and families are at stake, there’s no substitute for having one organization able to meet a variety of urgent needs.

Today, Maryann and her kids are in their own home, and mom is working at a steady job. There are no more terrifying moments at the hands of their abuser, and no more police calls in the middle of the night.

Maryann and her children are happy. They are healing. And they are SAFE.