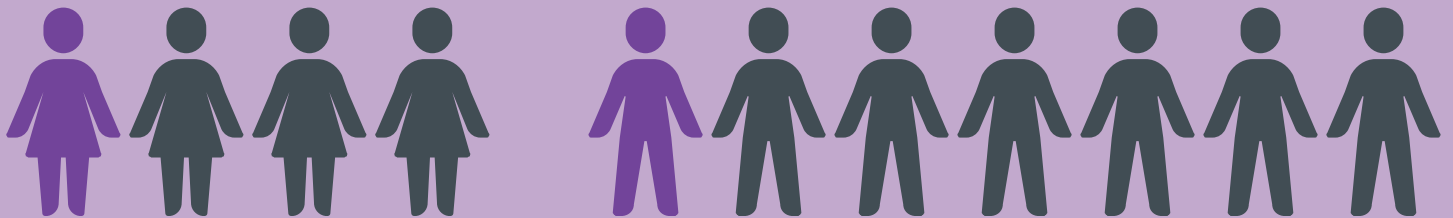




*Women's Shelter*  
AND SUPPORT CENTER

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**SAVING LIVES  
RESTORING HOPE  
CHANGING FUTURES**



Women's Shelter and Support Center  
PO Box 457, Rochester, MN 55903

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

I'm excited to share with you the 2022 Annual Report of the Women's Shelter and Support Center, an organization dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence. This report provides a snapshot of our program services, financial position, and aspirations for the future.

Firstly, I want to express my gratitude for your wonderful support. You provide a beacon of hope for adults and children who have experienced the trauma of domestic violence. I would also like to recognize our incredible team who worked tirelessly to provide crucial support and resources to clients, despite staffing shortages and space limitations that were exacerbated by the economic downturn.

As we look back on the past year, we are reminded of the crucial role that shelters and nonprofits play in our communities, and how our work helps victims navigate challenges and barriers to safety. The year also saw progress as Covid restrictions were slowly lifted, and community advocacy, support groups, and public awareness events flourished. We also celebrated the gift of a new van, a gift coordinated by Community Presbyterian Church on behalf of a generous benefactor.

Moving forward, we remain committed to providing essential resources for safety and advocacy to those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse. We are taking steps to assure we have adequate space and housing options to assure our ability to meet needs for those seeking services.

Thank you for joining us on this journey to empower more survivors as we work towards eradicating domestic violence. Once again, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your support and dedication to our cause.

Respectfully,

*Artyce Thomas*

**Executive Director**

Women's Shelter and Support Center

# FOCUS AND LEADERSHIP

## FOCUS

Our focus is to provide temporary shelter and services to people impacted by domestic violence, while transforming our communities through education and leadership for social change. Our goal is for all people to live safely with freedom and dignity in our communities.

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

The Women's Shelter and Support Center is built on a foundation of equity, diversity, inclusion, and safety. We strive to provide this through the people who we serve, the staff we employ, and the culture we promote. The Women's Shelter and Support Center is committed to serving all victims of domestic violence through services and supportive housing options that meet the needs of the community. We endeavor to do this by incorporating the input of clients, volunteers, staff, and board members into these values and the future of the organization. We respect the unique experience of diverse clients and staff, and we are committed to the preservation of our values.

### 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Cathy Stroebel**

President (Oct. 2021- present)

**Vickie Ernste**

Vice President

**Gail Sauter**

Interim Secretary

Past President (Oct. 2021 - present)

**Bill Oertli**

Treasurer (Aug. 2019 - present)

**Richard Bennett**

**Judy Braatz**

**Bobbie Gostout**

**Jennifer Horn**

**Sue Palen**

**Gerald Weinrich**

### WSSC LEADERSHIP STAFF

**Artyce Thomas**

Executive Director

**Kara Hoel-Kleese**

Director of Housing

**Barb Schramm**

Director of Development

**Jodi Skurdahl**

Director of Shelter Services

**Jeannie Thompson**

Director of Youth Programming  
and Community Outreach

# PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Women's Shelter and Support Center has four regional offices situated in Dodge County (1), Fillmore County (1), and Olmsted County (2), an emergency shelter in Rochester and multiple transitional/permanent housing units.

## Crisis Intervention & Advocacy

### Emergency support services to victims of domestic violence

**1,778** Individuals received advocacy services including: Crisis intervention; Safety planning; Support with civil/criminal court activities, such as restraining orders or victim impact statements; Emergency supplies, such as food, clothing, and personal needs; Resources for housing, childcare, transportation, and other immediate needs and ongoing support.

**768** Individuals received community referrals for childcare assistance, legal services, housing assistance, financial resources, and other crucial support.

**5,334** Individuals called our 24-hour crisis line for assistance, information, and support for themselves or others.

*"Thank you! You  
always know the  
right thing to say!"*

## Shelter & Housing

### Emergency & long-term housing to enhance safety and remove barriers

**6,797** Nights of shelter were provided for individuals impacted by domestic violence to sleep safely, free from harm or intimidation.

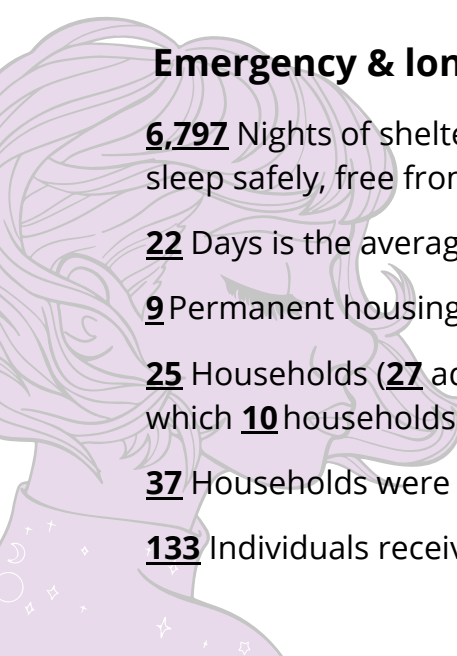
**22** Days is the average shelter stay per resident.

**9** Permanent housing units were maintained.

**25** Households (**27** adults and **46** children) utilized our transitional housing programs from which **10** households moved on to self-identified safe housing.

**37** Households were assisted financially to obtain or maintain their own stable housing.

**133** Individuals received additional relocation assistance from our agency.



# PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

## Children and Youth

### Support and education to reduce the impact of violence for children

**116** Children participated in **34** interactive activities throughout the year, such as holiday parties, field trips, and on-site activities (i.e. craft projects, story time, music, etc.).

**133** Youth received educational and supportive programming through support groups, learning about topics such as self-esteem, anger, and communication skills.

*"I feel like they listened to me and valued me as a human being and supported me without judgement."*

## Community Outreach & Volunteering

### Raising awareness of domestic violence and services available

**509** Individuals attended **32** community education presentations, offered virtually and in-person, covering topics such as WSSC services and the interactive "Why they Stay" presentation. Participants included systems professionals, law enforcement, medical professionals, college and high school students, and other community groups and organizations. Additionally, WSSC hosted information booths at local health fairs.

**414** individuals received education and support at virtual and in-person support groups covering topics such as self-esteem, power and control, anger management, healthy relationships, and domestic violence awareness.

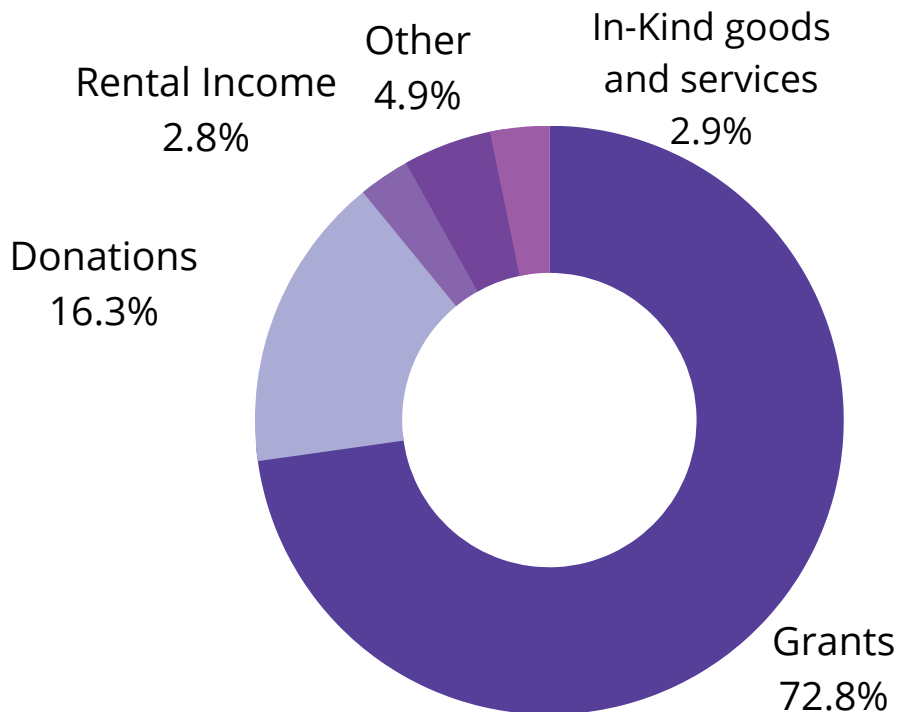
**1,560** Individuals watched WSSC awareness videos on topics related to domestic violence and our services.

**15** Volunteers provided **1,384** hours of service, helping with support groups, data entry, graphic design, maintenance, gardening, presentations, community booths, foster grandparent program, childcare, organizing material donations, and other needs.

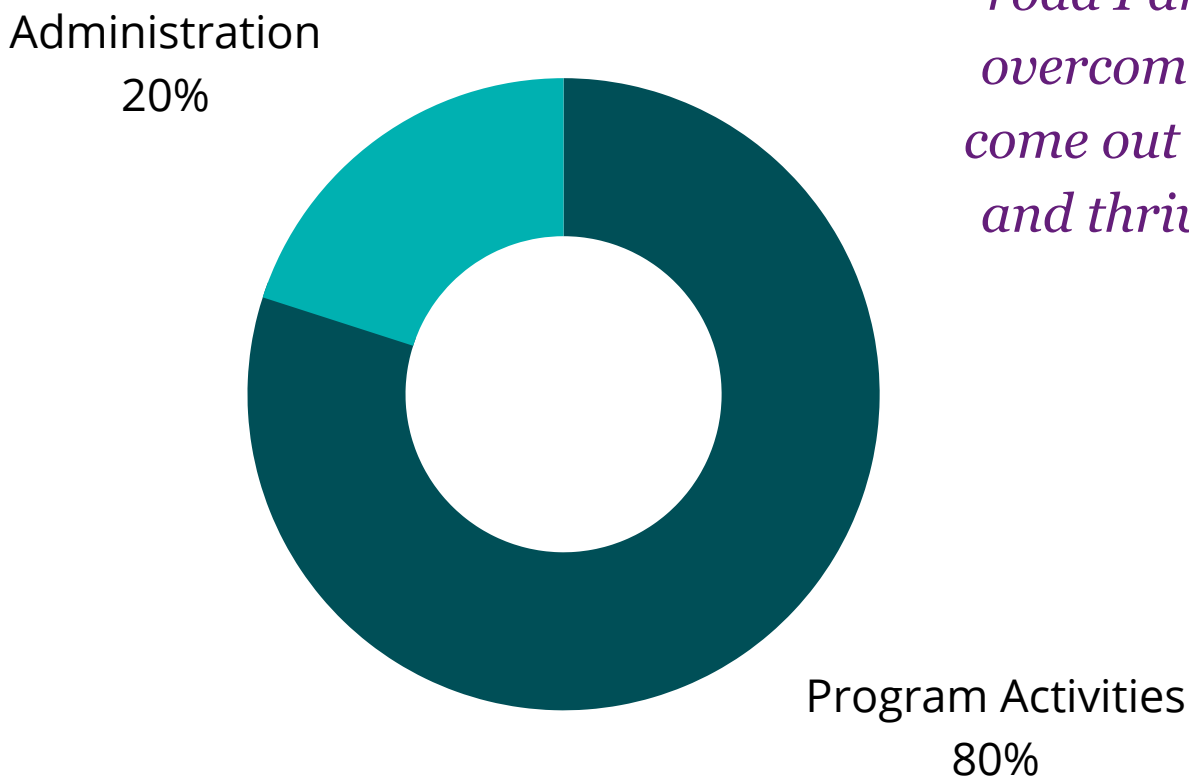
**2,221** People follow WSSC's Facebook page with a reach of **3,700**.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Revenue \$2,447,732



## Expenses: \$2,214,406



*"When I come to group, I feel normal for once, knowing that other women had walked the road I am on, overcome and come out whole and thriving."*

Data reflects 2021 Audit



# THANK YOU

**Your kindness and generosity saves lives, restores hope and changes futures.**

## **GIVING SOCIETIES / CONTRIBUTORS**

Transforming Lives Founders  
Multi-year Giving Society (*pledges*)  
Shelter Stewards (*monthly giving*)  
Legacy Society (*planned giving*)  
In-Kind Donors (*goods and services*)  
Financial Donors  
Volunteers

## **TRIBUTES** (≥ \$500)

### **In memory of:**

Camilla Berry  
Arlene Freeland  
Janine Hamilton  
Katie McRoberts  
Deanna Simons  
Bethany Welcome

### **In honor of:**

Most Rev. John Quinn  
Cathy Stroebe

## **COMMUNITY GROUPS & BUSINESSES** (≥\$5k)

Community Presbyterian Church  
Dodge County United Way, Inc.  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
IBM Employee Charitable Contributions  
Luxury Bath Remodeling  
Mayo Clinic  
Mayo High School students (*GOFA - Give One For All*)  
Think Bank  
United Way of Olmsted County

## **STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTORS**

Minnesota Department of Human Services  
Minnesota Department of Public Safety  
Office of Violence Against Women  
US Department of Justice/Office of Justice Programs  
US Department of Housing and Urban Development

## **TRANSFORMING LIVES 2022 LEAD SPONSORS**



MINNWEST  
BANK®



OLMSTED  
MEDICAL  
CENTER



WILLOW CREEK  
— GOLF COURSE —

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Visit **[www.womens-shelter.org](http://www.womens-shelter.org)** to learn about ways you can help, such as volunteering, attending educational presentations or donating funds or items to the shelter.
- Spread awareness about the shelter and our services to your community.
- Advocate for policies and laws that support survivors of domestic violence.
- Speak out against injustices.



## **DONATIONS**

**Online:** [www.women's-shelter.org/waystogive](http://www.women's-shelter.org/waystogive)

**Mail:** WSSC, PO Box 457, Rochester, MN 55903

**Phone:** 507-292-6743





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