



# 2022

# ANNUAL REPORT

## MORE INFO :

517-783-1638

PO Box 1526

Jackson, MI 49204-1526

[www.awareshelter.org](http://www.awareshelter.org)



## Mission

AWARE, Inc. strives to eliminate domestic and sexual violence while promoting social change and empowering survivors by offering shelter and services.

## Goals

- Provide quality housing and services
- Empower survivors to achieve their goals
- Secure resources to carry out our mission
- Educate the community and promote social change

## Values

### *Collaboration*

Our success requires collaborating with community partners, court systems, law enforcement, healthcare, and other social service agencies to meet the needs of survivors.

### *Impact*

Our aim is to make a difference, effect change, and eliminate the root causes of domestic and sexual violence.

### *Empowerment*

We believe in the right of everyone to live violence-free and in everyone's right to self-determination.

### *Commitment*

We are committed to compassionate and quality services to survivors.



**Community Partner**

## *Letter from the AWARE Executive Director*

As we begin winding down COVID emergency measures, AWARE is reflecting on how the pandemic altered survivor needs and services. Emergency shelter continues to be a priority. Alternative options, such as shelter off-site through hotels is also an option. Bypassing shelter altogether was just as important. During the pandemic, we helped survivors with rental assistance, moving expenses, or barriers to housing, such as delinquent utilities to facilitate access to new homes.

Access to court systems and relief, such as Personal Protection Orders became extremely important during the pandemic. Our legal advocacy team were steadfast in their response during times when the courthouse was closed to the public. Our team showed up every day and provided access to survivors by text, e-mail, telephone, or by meeting off-site.

Counseling services were essential. Counselors reported seeing former clients return and an increase in new clients. Through the use of telehealth services, crisis counseling remained steadily available. Telehealth reduced barriers overall for survivors seeking support by reducing transportation and childcare needs.

In June 2022, we safely increased occupancy to 100%. But what we learned while operating with reduced occupancy, is the important of privacy. The overall shelter environment was calmer, less stressful and more conducive to healing.

As we look ahead, we will continue to prioritize survivor access to resources that meaningfully address their needs.

Sincerely,



Angelita Velasco Gunn  
Executive Director

# Program Services

## *Residential Services*

In 2022, 145 adults and 133 number of children sought emergency shelter. 3,998 nights of shelter were provided, an average of 28 nights per family. 987 number of crisis calls were received by our advocacy team.

## *Flexible Funding Assistance*

Flexible funding is low barrier financial assistance for expenses further survivor self-determination or impede access to safety. In 2022, 68 requests were met. Assistance included covering the costs for delinquent utilities, rent, security deposits, transportation costs, gas cards, household items, clothing, food, and the cost of process service of civil protection orders.

## *Nonresidential Services*

Nonresidential services include counseling, legal advocacy, and sexual assault crisis response. In 2022, 102 survivors of domestic and sexual violence received counseling services. Another 165 adults seeking remedies through the courts received assistance with filing Personal Protection Orders, court accompaniment, victim notification, safety planning and referrals. Our sexual assault response team provided advocacy and support to 25 survivors, nine (9) of whom sought a medical forensic exam.

## *Outreach and Collaboration*

Our success as an agency depends on collaborating with community partners, locally, regionally, and statewide. In 2022, AWARE participated in the following committees, workgroups, and initiatives:

- Jackson County Continuum of Care
- Community Action Agency homelessness workgroups
- Jackson County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
- Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence Executive Director office hours
- ValorUS Leadership Education and Advancement for Professionals National Summit
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Anti-Racism Transformation Team
- Human Services Coordinating Alliance
- Jackson Downtown Choice Neighborhoods Steering Committee
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Victim Services Agency Directors meetings
- 2022 Summit to Reduce Gun Violence
- Region IV Sexual Assault Therapy Clinic

# Program Services

## *Outreach and Collaboration*

In 2022, 238 individuals received information and training on domestic violence and sexual assault issues including healthy relationships, consent, survivor trauma response, volunteerism, and AWARE services:

- Jackson College, Jet Jam
- Jackson County Health Department
- Spring Arbor University, Forensic Psychology class
- Lion's Club District 11-B1
- Brooklyn Presbyterian Church
- Napoleon High School, Wellness Day
- FiveOneSeven Salon

## *Volunteerism*

In 2022, 47 individuals donated over 1242 of hours of service by supporting crisis services, participating in our events, providing meals or healthcare services to families in shelter, or as active members to the agency board and committees.



Harmony Garden Music Therapy Services, Kara and Natalie, lead a sing-a-long with children in shelter. Also pictured, Kennedy Sours and Fawn Rowe, AWARE employees.



# Fundraising Events

## *Men Who Cook*

Our 11th annual event raised \$13,000 towards operating support and crisis services. We cannot thank enough both the new and returning chefs that make this Men Who Cook a success! Local celebrity chefs that participated in 2022 were:

Adam Dittenber

Chad Kennedy

Hunter Sullivan

Brian Dumont

Aaron Dimick

Ryan Felty

Henry Heise

Freddy Dancy

Shannon Arnett



Winner for Best Tasting entry



Winner for Big Tipper - most tips raised



Winner for Most Creative Workstation

Thank you to the many local businesses who supported the silent auction, and the following event sponsors:

Blue Ox Credit Union

Gerdau

TAC Manufacturing

Southern Michigan Bank and Trust

Meijer

MSU Federal Credit Union

Accounting Systems Alternatives, Inc.

# Fundraising Events

## *Derby Event*

In 2022, AWARE held its first annual Kentucky Derby event. The event raised close to \$10,500 towards operating support and crisis services. Huge thank you to the following event sponsors:

Commonwealth Commerce Center and Mr. Donald Finelli

Nevermore Decor

JTV

Henry Ford Health Systems

Peak Manufacturing

American 1 Credit Union

Richmond Brothers

Walton Insurance Group and Auto Owners Insurance

Orbitform

Heise Claims Service

Boswell, Schultz, Sonnenberg & Arnett, PLC

TRUE Community Credit Union

Gerdau



# Revenue

## *Government Grants*

Michigan Department of Health and Human  
Services, Division of Victim Services

- VOCA-Domestic Violence Victim Services \$ 371,976
- VOCA-Sexual Assault Victim Services \$ 110,249
- Domestic Violence Family - FVPSA \$ 66,920
- Domestic Violence Comprehensive Services - TANF/GF \$ 43,135
- Domestic Violence APRA Act \$ 14,939
- DVCA Housing \$ 8,700
- Domestic Violence CARES Act Housing \$ 7,210
- Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter - TANF-MSHDA \$ 6,418

United Way of Couth Central Michigan \$ 10,250

- FEMA

## *Private Grants & Foundations*

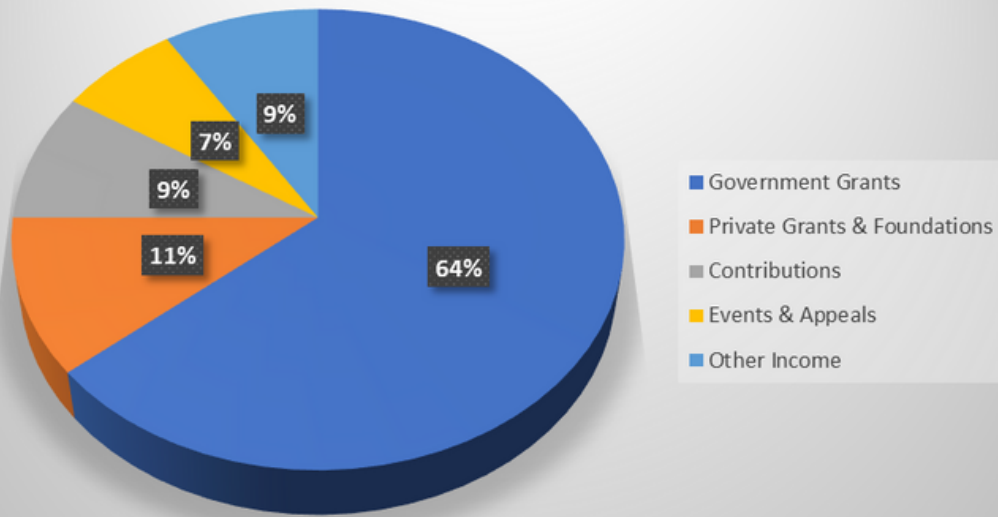
- United Way of South Central Michigan, Community Solutions Fund \$ 47,412
- The Speckhard Knight Foundation \$ 15,000
- DTE Energy Foundation \$ 10,000
- Bill & Vi Sigmund Foundation \$ 10,000
- Hurst Foundation \$ 8,500
- The Natalie Field Foundation \$ 5,000
- Anonymous \$ 5,000
- Saint-Cobain Corporation Fund (Certainteed) \$ 3,093
- Steven Koeman-Nancy Bauer Charitable Fund \$ 3,000
- Mabel Harris Trust \$ 3,000
- Allan B. Copley Foundation \$ 2,500
- Olsen-Kulka Foundation \$ 250
- Consumers Energy Foundation (employee match program) \$ 250

Other Income \$ 85,297

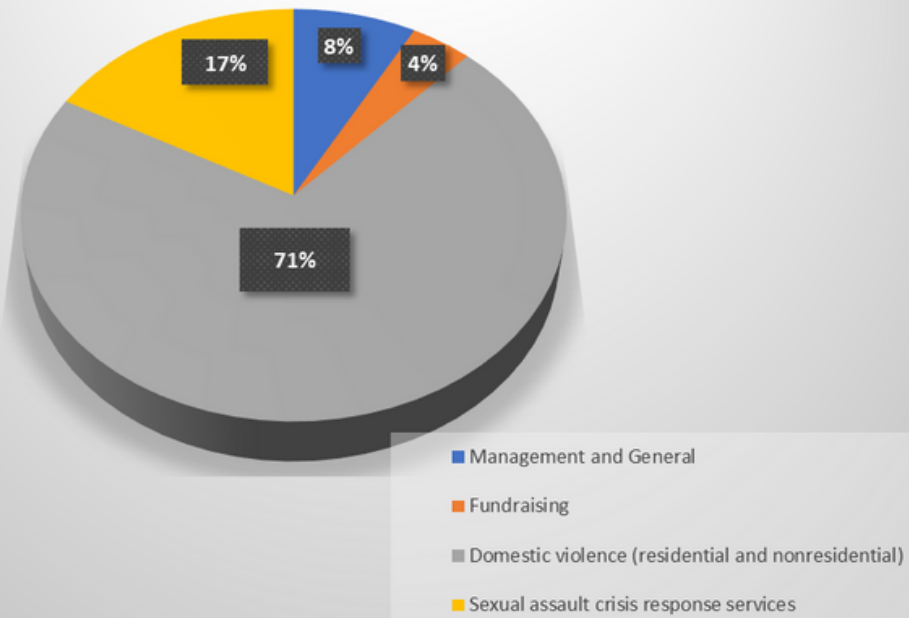
Events & Appeals \$ 72,266



## Revenue



## Expenditures



# AWARE Team

## *Board of Directors*

Terry Langston, President  
Lindsey Erb, Vice-President  
Traci Spring, Secretary  
Ryan Felty, Member-at-Large  
Kristin Maxson, Member-at-Large  
Angela NaDell, Member-at-Large

Accounting Systems Alternatives, Inc.  
IT Now!, LLC

## *Employees*

Angelita Velasco Gunn, Executive Director  
Nina Thomas, Office Manager  
Emilee Heise, Marketing and Events Manager

SeQuita Brown, Director of Shelter Operations  
Joanne Marr, Senior Client Advocate  
Larry Daft, Maintenance Technician  
LaShawn Caldwell, Client Advocate  
Ruth Collins, Client Advocate  
Alma Morgan, Client Advocate  
Fawn Rowe, Child Advocate  
Kennedy Sours, Client Advocate  
Lori Wheeler, Client Advocate  
Catherine Williams, Client Advocate

Heather Hunter, Senior Legal Advocate  
Demita Murphy, Legal Advocate  
Casey Corey, Sexual Assault Advocate

Elizabeth Alderson, Counselor  
Valerie Daft, Counselor  
Candy Strouss, Counselor  
Elizabeth Alderson, Counselor