

AWARE



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Empowering Survivors

October 2023 – October 2024

Table of Contents

01	Mission, values, & goals	10	Staff
02	Letter from the Director	11-14	Thank You to our Donors
03	Letter from Board President	15	Keep in Touch
04	Program Services		
05	Community Partners		
06	Fundraising Events		
07	Financial Highlights		
08	Client Success Stories		
09	Board of Directors		



United Way Community Partners



Mission, Values, & Goals

01

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

AWARE, Inc.'s core values were developed through a consultative process involving the organization's Board of Directors and staff at all levels. The principles reflected in this document constitute a value compass for board, staff, volunteers and other individuals working on behalf of the organization.

Collaboration

We recognize that our mission requires working successfully with clients, funding units, donors, the community, the court system, and other non-profit agencies. We encourage staff initiative, innovation, and leadership. We promote teamwork with our clients as we strive for excellence in facilitating the best possible results for the survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Empowerment

We believe in the right of everyone to live a violence-free life. Our dedicated staff and volunteers use all available resources to improve the lives of survivors and empower them to create an independent life, free from violence and fear.

Impact

We are committed to making a difference and affecting change in our community. We will do this by supporting and empowering survivors, and being leaders in the movement to eliminate domestic and sexual violence. We take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to educate residents of all ages in Jackson County about our mission, services, and programs.

Commitment

We are dedicated and passionate about our mission of empowering survivors of domestic and sexual violence. We treat our clients with compassion and acceptance. We will always exhibit professional and personal integrity, and adhere to high ethical and professional standards in our work.

Letter from the Director



**Christi
O'Neil**

Executive Director

A Letter from the Executive Director

In 2024, I embarked on my journey with AWARE, Inc., an organization dedicated to supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The staff at AWARE is deeply committed to our mission of empowering survivors and passionate about ending domestic and sexual violence. Our work ensures that survivors have access to safe emergency shelter, free counseling services, child advocacy programs, sexual assault response team services, flexible funding assistance for essential needs, and legal advocacy.

Additionally, AWARE, Inc. operates a 24-hour crisis line to assist survivors with helpful resources and services. These services are critical to our community as they save lives and help families rebuild following domestic and/or sexual violence. Our dedicated staff at AWARE, Inc. work tirelessly to address the holistic needs of survivors, focusing on their immediate emotional and safety needs, as well as the comprehensive support necessary for them to succeed in managing their lives.

In 2024, we provided crucial support to 118 adults and 65 children through our emergency shelter services. We responded to 994 crisis calls, offered counseling to 71 survivors, and provided immediate assistance to 21 sexual assault survivors. Additionally, we offered legal advocacy to more than 179 survivors, helping them secure protection orders and accompanying them to court.

As the sole organization in the Jackson community dedicated to these essential services, we are committed to supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Thank you to all of our community partners for supporting our vital mission and being a part of healing and hope for survivors. We look forward to being a foundation of safety and healing for survivors as we step into 2025.

Sincerely,

Christi O'Neil, Executive Director





A Letter from the Board President

I thank you for your continued support of AWARE, Inc. during the past year.

We continued to see a rise in the number of women and families torn apart by the issue of domestic and sexual assault. As you have seen in the headlines regarding various national music moguls, the issue of domestic and sexual violence continues to play out in our daily lives. Our staff are all too aware of the consequences that these issues have for the many families and victims we serve.

Thank you to our various partners who continue to shoulder this work with us including law enforcement, Henry Ford Health - Jackson, Lifeways, Family Service and Children's Aid, Center for Family Health, Council for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties, and A Healing Place. Our local and state government partners have provided a myriad of support including funding, outreach services, and additional resources to our clients. Thank you goes out to our local DHHS office, Adult Protective Services, Central Michigan 211, Friend of the Court, Legal Services of Southcentral Michigan, and Victim Rights Unit. Each of you play a critical role in aiding victims in their recovery, and we thank you for your continued partnership and work!

To our donors, thank you for providing the funding and support for us to continue our work. While it is true that we rely on grant funding from the federal government and the State of Michigan, your donations are truly a blessing. Your funding extends this work and provides flexible financial support to help victims get back on their feet. Without your support and partnership, we simply could not do this work.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our staff. Our staff provides commitment, persistence, and the know how to work with all who come through our doors. We appreciate their commitment to AWARE's mission especially in the face of hearing so many traumatic stories.

Financially, AWARE, Inc. is challenged like so many of our nonprofits in the community. We completed our annual audit and have continued to grow our endowments. Yet we continue to look for ways to grow our services and to adapt to the changes in our environment. As we look to 2025, we hope for your continued support as it will be needed to meet the many challenging needs in our community.

Lastly, thank you to our board for their dedication, commitment and passion for this work. We have several board members who have been touched personally by domestic and sexual violence and have bravely shared their stories. Many of our board members know of someone who has been touched by this issue. This is why we serve. We believe in this work, and ultimately the need to eradicate this issue from our families and our communities.

Thank you for all that you do. Our mission of eliminating domestic and sexual violence while promoting social change and empowering survivors by offering shelter and services is only realized through our continued partnership with the community. You are vital to our mission!

Yours in Service,

Terry Langston, Board President
AWARE, Inc.



Program Services

Residential Services

In 2024, 118 adults and 65 children sought emergency shelter 5493 nights of shelter were provided, an average of 30 nights per family. 994 crisis calls were received by our advocacy team.

Nonresidential Services

Nonresidential services include counseling, legal advocacy, and sexual assault crisis response. In 2024, 71 survivors received counseling services. Another 179 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 support to 21 survivors.

Outreach and Collaboration

Our success as an agency depends on collaborating with our community partners locally, regionally, and statewide. In 2024, AWARE participated in committees, workgroups, and initiatives Continuum of Care, Community Action Agency, Jackson Interfaith Shelter, Human Service Coordinating Alliance of Jackson, 4th Circuit and 12th District Court of Jackson, and many more. 179 individuals received information and training on domestic and sexual violence.

Flexible Funding Assistance

Flexible funding is a low barrier financial assistance for expenses that further survivor self-determination or impede access to safety. In 2024, 67 requests were granted for utility costs, rent, transportation costs, household items, clothing, food, and the cost of process service of civil protection orders

Volunteerism

In 2024, 32 volunteers donated over 550 hours of service by supporting crisis services, participating in events, providing meals or healthcare services to families in shelter, or as active members to the agency board and committees.

Thank you, Community Partners!

Our success as an agency depends on collaborating with community partners, locally, regionally, and statewide. In 2024, AWARE participated in the following committees, workgroups, and initiatives:

- Jackson County Continuum of Care
- Community Action Agency
- United Way of Jackson
- Jackson County Sexual Assault Response Team
- Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Jackson College and Career Access Center
- Dr. Palmer Chiropractic
- Jasmine Ragland, Mobile Dentistry
- St. Vincent DePaul
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Michigan Department of Corrections Community Liaison
- 4th Circuit and 12th District Court of Jackson County
- Member of the Jackson Collaborative Network
- Jackson Business Professionals Women
- Jackson Community Foundation
- Richard Ratts, Edward Jones
- Walton Insurance Agency
- Jackson Interfaith Homeless Shelter
- Human Service Coordinating Alliance
- Jackson County ISD
- JTV
- K105.3

Fundraising Events

04



Kentucky Derby Party

Event attendees indulged in southern fare, cheered with mint juleps, tried their luck with wagering games, and witnessed the thrill of the Kentucky Derby from Jackson. They dressed to impress to win big in our 'best hat' and 'best tie' showdown. Tickets included entry to the event, southern style heavy hors d'oeuvres, a drink ticket to be used on a mint julep, beer, or wine, ability to play games and enter raffles, access to the photo booth, live entertainment by Rude Boy Music, and a live stream of the 150th run for the roses.

Men Who Cook

This year's Men Who Cook took place October 24th at 6:30 pm, at the Commonwealth Commerce Center. Nine local chefs competed against each other for best tasting dish and most donations collected. Congratulations to best tasting dish winner, Ralph Smith Jr. and to Noah Nagy and Scott Dixon for collecting the most donations.

Attendees sampled the dishes provided by the chefs, used a drink ticket for local beer and wine or a soda, participated in the silent auction and raffles, and enjoyed local live entertainment by the Valescos and DJ Mike Holiday.

Financial Highlights

05

Government Grants

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

VOCA-Domestic Violence Victim Services - \$343,824
VOCA-Sexual Assault Victim Services - \$56,911
Domestic Violence Family - FVPSA - \$25,089
Domestic Violence APRA Act - \$14,513
Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter -TANF-MSHDA - \$31,983
TANF/GF - \$65,993
Domestic Violence Supplemental FVPSA Mitigation - SFMI - \$33,889
CVSF-DV - \$57,296
CVSF-SA - \$30,987
United Way of South Central Michigan
FEMA - \$5,000

Private Grants & Foundations

United Way of South Central Michigan - \$23,69
Jackson Community Foundation - \$15,000
The Speckhard Knight Foundation - \$15,000
DTE Energy Foundation - \$10,250
Bill & Vi Sigmund Foundation - \$10,000
Hurst Foundation - \$10,000
The Natalie Field Foundation - \$10,000
EveryTown - \$10,000
Willis Foundation - \$10,000
Schwab, Hoekman & Bauer Charitable Trust - \$6,000
Maccia Family Foundation - \$5,000
CAMPS foundation - \$5,00
Cowan Trust - \$4,000
Copley Trust - \$3,000
Mable Harris Trust - \$2,500
Walmart - \$1,000

Total Revenue - \$920,092

Expenses - \$1,151,294

Client Success Stories

06



AWARE Survivor Story

"I was told I am strong because of what I went through. I will lean on AWARE now. Above all, I know it's going to be OK and if I am not, it's OK not to be OK for a bit. I will forever be grateful."❤️



AWARE Survivor Story

To Staff,

"You mean so much to more than I have shown. I appreciate your whole crew from the bottom of my heart. I did not know you and you did not know me, but I appreciate every time I wake up someone asks me how I am doing. I never got that as a child. I really appreciate everything you do for me and others. You guys have a big heart!"❤️

"You guys helped me when no one else would. I am very thankful for all of the help."

"You helped me find others so I could get to where I need to be. Thank you."

"The staff have been very understanding of my trauma and kind. I am thankful."❤️



2024 Board of Directors

07

Terry Langston - *President and Treasurer* - "Serving with AWARE lets me make a meaningful, immediate impact."

Angela NaDell - *Vice-President* - "AWARE is not just a safe haven - it helps survivors heal and become confident and independent again"

Traci Spring - *Secretary*

Kristin Maxson - *Member-at-large* - "Even small actions can make a big difference in the lives of others."

Susie West - *Member-at-large* - "Supporting survivors in rebuilding their lives fuels my passion for service!"

Lindsey Erb - *Member-at-large* - "I'm proud to play a role in fulfilling the mission."

Dr. Shannon Lowder - *Member-at-large* - "For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people's love and concern for each other." Millard Fuller

Ryan Felty - *Member-at-large*

Adam Soper - *Member-at-large*



2024 Staff

08

“The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.”

— Rob Siltanen

Christi O’Neil - Executive Director

SeQuita Brown - Deputy Director

Nina Thomas - Clerk & Data Analyst

Katherine Wrozek - Children’s Services & Outreach Coordinator

Olivia Piepkow - Fund Development, Marketing, & Events Manager

Larry Daft - Maintenance Technician

Tammy Sanford - Finance Manager

Heather Hunter - Nonresidential Services Manager & SART Coordinator

TaRaya Austin - Sexual Assault Advocate

Catherine Williams - Sexual Assault Advocate

Demita Murphy - Legal Advocate

Kelly Barson - Legal Advocate

Candy Strouss - Counselor

Valerie Daft - Counselor

Elizabeth Alderson - Counselor

Joanne Marr - Shelter Manager

Lori Wheeler - Client Advocate

Kennedy Sours - Client Advocate

Alma Morgan - Client Advocate

Nicole Pugh - Client Advocate

Kaylee Davis - Client Advocate

Gabrielle Hurley - Client Advocate

Thank you to our Donors

09

William & Karen Abbott
Robert & Katherine Albertson III
Tamra Allen
Martha Allen
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Amanda & Briston Bamm
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Nathaniel & Cori Baumann
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Ronald & Jane Beiswenger
Tami Belote
Mark Biskupski
Renee Bock
Susan Brail
Brian & Kristina Brannick
Patricia Breniser
Michael & Katherine Brieger
Paul & Kathleen Brindle
Jerry & Carol Broughman
Rosa Brown
Benji Brue
Sara Bullinger
Nancy Bunker
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George & Kathleen Byerly
Patricia Byler
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Barry & Dawn Casebeer

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Judy Kammer
Matthew Keene
Kathryn Keersmaekers
Richard & Jane Konkol
Mary Konopacki
Gary & Jann Krupa
Tamyra Krupa-MacFarlane
Randall Kunz
Edward & Deborah Kutcha
Terry & Sandra Langston



Thank you to our Donors

10



Kevin & Kathleen Lavery
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Laurice Lazebnik
Carlene LeFere
Jeff Lewis
Diana Liechty
Kathleen Lincoln
Jesse Lipson
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Thank you to our Donors

11

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Bill and Vi Sigmund Foundation
Brooklyn Presbyterian Church
Center for Family Health, Inc.
College & Career Access Center of Jackson
Commonwealth Associates, Inc.
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Consumers Energy

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Edward Jones
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Fraternal Order of Eagles Dist #2
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Grass Lake Medical Center
Heise Claims Service, Inc.
Huff Auto Group
Jackson Calvary United Methodist Church
Jackson Community Foundation
Jackson Friendly Home
Jackson Pediatric Associates
Johnny's Tree Service Inc.
JTV
Judicial Services Group
Louis Glick Memorial and Charitable Trust
Mabel H. Harris FBO Charity
MACI - Michigan Automotive Compressor Inc.
McDonalds
Meijer Inc.
Michigan Center Auxiliary 3634
Michigan Center Bible Church
Michigan Dept of Corrections-Cooper Street
Mount Hope Community Church
North Jackson Lions Club
Orbitform

Thank you to our Donors

12

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Phil and Pat Willis Foundation
Presbyterian Church Women's Association
Queen Of The Miraculous Medal Parish
Saint Stanislaus Kostka Rosary Society
Samuel Higby Camp Foundation
Southern Michigan Bank and Trust
Speckhard-Knight Charitable Foundation
Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church
St James Lutheran Legacy Fund
St. Paul Episcopal Church
Starship Travel IN
Steven R Hoekman & Nancy J Bauer Charitable
Foundation
TAC Manufacturing

Target Corp.-Cybergrants
The Benevity Community Fund
The Hurst Foundation
The Kittens
The Natalie Field Foundation
The Roadhouse
Trinity Lutheran Church
True Community Credit Union
United Way Of Metropolitan Dallas
Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty
Walmart
Willard R and Lucile W Cowan Trust
Women's Society of St Demetrius
Womens Assn. Presbyterian Church
YourCause-Blackbaud Giving Fund



Keep in Touch

13



(517) 783-1638

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Email



www.awareshelter.org

Website



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Address

