

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



AWARE
EMPOWERING SURVIVORS

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United Way Community
Partners



WELCOME

Hi There!

I'M CHRISTI O' NEIL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Celebrating 57 Years of Community, Commitment, and Hope

For 57 years, our agency has stood beside survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Jackson County, offering safety, advocacy, and hope when it is needed most. As the sole agency in our county providing these critical services, we are deeply aware that our work is only possible because of the unwavering support of our community.

Every day, survivors turn to AWARE for safety, guidance, and hope. They come to us for shelter, advocacy, and supportive services that help them navigate difficult circumstances and begin their healing journey. For over fifty years, our mission has been to eliminate domestic and sexual violence while promoting social change and empowering survivors by offering shelter and services. It drives every program we offer and every life we touch, helping survivors not only find safety but also the tools and confidence to reclaim their lives.

This year, our community once again showed up in powerful ways. Honoring 57 years of standing with survivors, the collective support of our community has raised \$142,127.37 since the start of Fiscal Year 2026, making safety, stability, and healing possible for survivors and their children. Your generosity sends a clear message to survivors: you are not alone, and your community cares.

As we celebrate our 57th year, we want to pause and say thank you to our donors, volunteers, advocates, collaborators, allies, and supporters who have walked alongside us year after year. Your dedication, teamwork, and belief in this work have created lasting change and a stronger, safer community for survivors.

We truly value these relationships and the collective impact we make together. Through collaboration, empowerment, and a shared commitment to change, we continue to build a future where survivors are supported, heard, and empowered, and where violence is no longer tolerated.

Thank you for being part of our journey, for honoring the resilience of survivors, and for helping us carry this work forward for generations to come.

CHRISTI O'NEIL

Empowering Survivors, Together!

Board of Directors

Board President

Terry Langston

TSL Associates Chief Executive Officer & Founder

Vice President

Angela NaDell

Green Stone Farm Credit Services Executive Vice President - CHRO

Secretary

Lindsey Erb

Gerdau Special Steel North America Manager, ESG & Communications

Treasurer

Adam Soper

Bond & Company, PLC
Certified Public Accountant

Member - at - Large

Kristin Maxon

State of Michigan Department of Corrections
Registered Nurse, Health Unit Manager

Member - at - Large

Susie West

Consumers Energy IT Director - Corporate
Finance and Shared Products

Member - at - Large

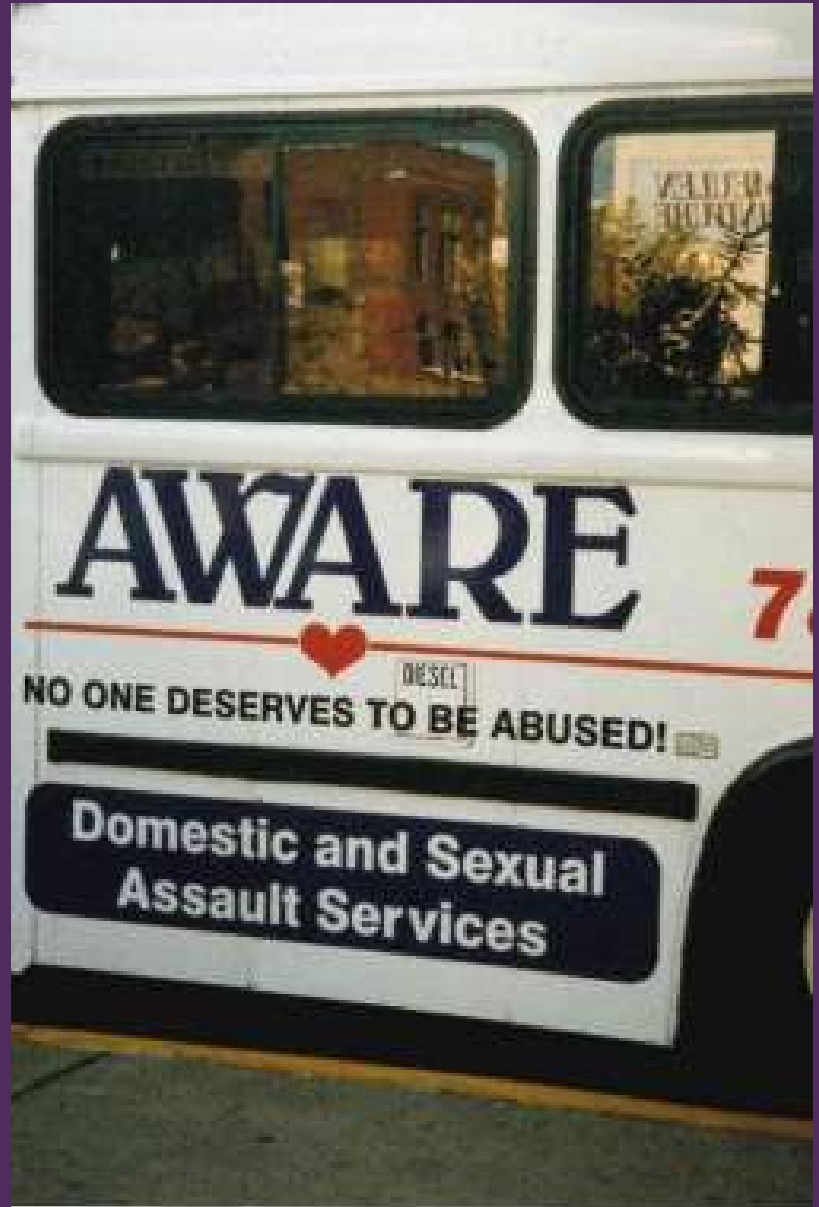
Jenifer Robinson

Flagstar Bank
Assistant Branch Leader

Member - at - Large

Dr. Shannon Lowder

A Healing Place Chief Executive Officer, LLC
Owner, Observed Parenting Time (OPT)
Consultant, Jackson County Immediate School
District
Board Member Eating Disorders Education
Network



Contact Us

517.783.1638

info@awareshelter.org

2025 Staff Members

Executive Director

Christi O'Neil

Deputy Director

Sequita Brown

Marketing, Fund Development, and Events Manager

Olivia Piepkow

Sexual Assault Response Team and Non-Residential Coordinator

Joanne Marr

Shelter Manager

Katherine Wrozek

Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

TaRaya Austin

Counselor

Candy Strouss

Counselor

Valerie Daft

Non-residential Advocate

Kelly Barson

Legal Advocate

DeMita Murphy

Clerk and Data Analyst

Nina Thomas

Client Advocate

Gabby Hurley

Client Advocate

Catherine Williams

Client Advocate

Alma Morgan

Client Advocate

Nicole Pugh

Maintenance Manager

Larry Daft



760

Training Hours Completed

89.5%

Staff Retention Rate

Our Mission

AWARE strives to eliminate domestic and sexual violence while promoting social change and empowering survivors through shelter and services.

Organizational Core 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

Our Core Values

Collaboration

We encourage teamwork, staff initiative, innovation, and leadership for the best possible results for survivors.

Impact

We are committed to making a different and affecting change in our community by supporting and empowering survivors.

Empowerment

we use all resources to improve lives of survivors and empower them to create an independent life, free from violence and fear

Commitment

We are dedicated to our mission of empowering survivors and treat them with the highest standards of professionalism, compassion and acceptance



2025 Community Partners

- 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
- COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS CENTER
- DR. PALMER FAMILY 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 PROFESSIONAL WOMEN
- JACKSON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
- RICHARD RATTS, EDWARD JONES
- WALTON INSURANCE AGENCY
- JACKSON INTERFAITH HOMELESS SHELTER
- HUMAN SERVICE COORDINATING ALLIANCE
- GERDAU
- THE BROKERAGE HOUSE
- JACKSON COUNTY ISD
- JTV
- JACKSON INTERFAITH SHELTER
- NEWCOMERS & FRIENDS GROUP OF JACKSON
- NORTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
- MICHIGAN CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
- COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT
- WESTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT
- LUMEN CHRISTI HIGH SCHOOL
- ADVANCE TURNING & MANUFACTURING
- JACK V. BUTTERFIELD INVESTMENT COMPANY
- LIFE CHURCH OUTREACH
- COMMUNITY CHOICE BANK
- SOUTHERN MICHIGAN BANK & TRUST
- ART 634
- MICHIGAN THEATRE
- S.O.A.R CAFE
- THE ANNEX COLLECTIVE
- MYPLACE OF JACKSON
- JACKSON YMCA

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Government Grants

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

VOCA- Domestic Violence Victim Services: \$358,761

VOCA-Sexual Assault Victim Services: \$104,629

Domestic Violence Family- FVPSA: \$46,590.0

Domestic Violence ARPA Act: \$17,065

Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter- TANF MSHDA: \$31,983

TANF/GF: \$74,669

Domestic Violence Supplemental FVPSA Mitigation- SFMI: \$178,310

CVSF-DV: \$96,935

CVSF-SA: \$28,270

United Way of South Central Michigan

FEMA: \$10,050

Private Grant & Foundations

United Way of South Central Michigan:

Jackson Community Foundation: \$ 6,793.24

The Speckhard Knight Foundation: \$8,367.50

DTE Energy Foundation: \$10,250

Bill & Vi Sigmund Foundation: \$10,000

Hurst Foundation: \$5,550

Steven R Hoekman & Nancy J Bauer
Charitable Foundation: \$3,000

Mable Harris Trust: \$2,500

Lavery Family Foundation: \$500

Maccia Family Foundation: \$8,000

Samuel Higby Camp Foundation: \$ 5,000

Allan B. Copley Charitable Foundation: \$5,000

Steve & Debbie Lazaroff Charitable Giving: \$1,000

Consumer's Energy Foundation: \$5,000

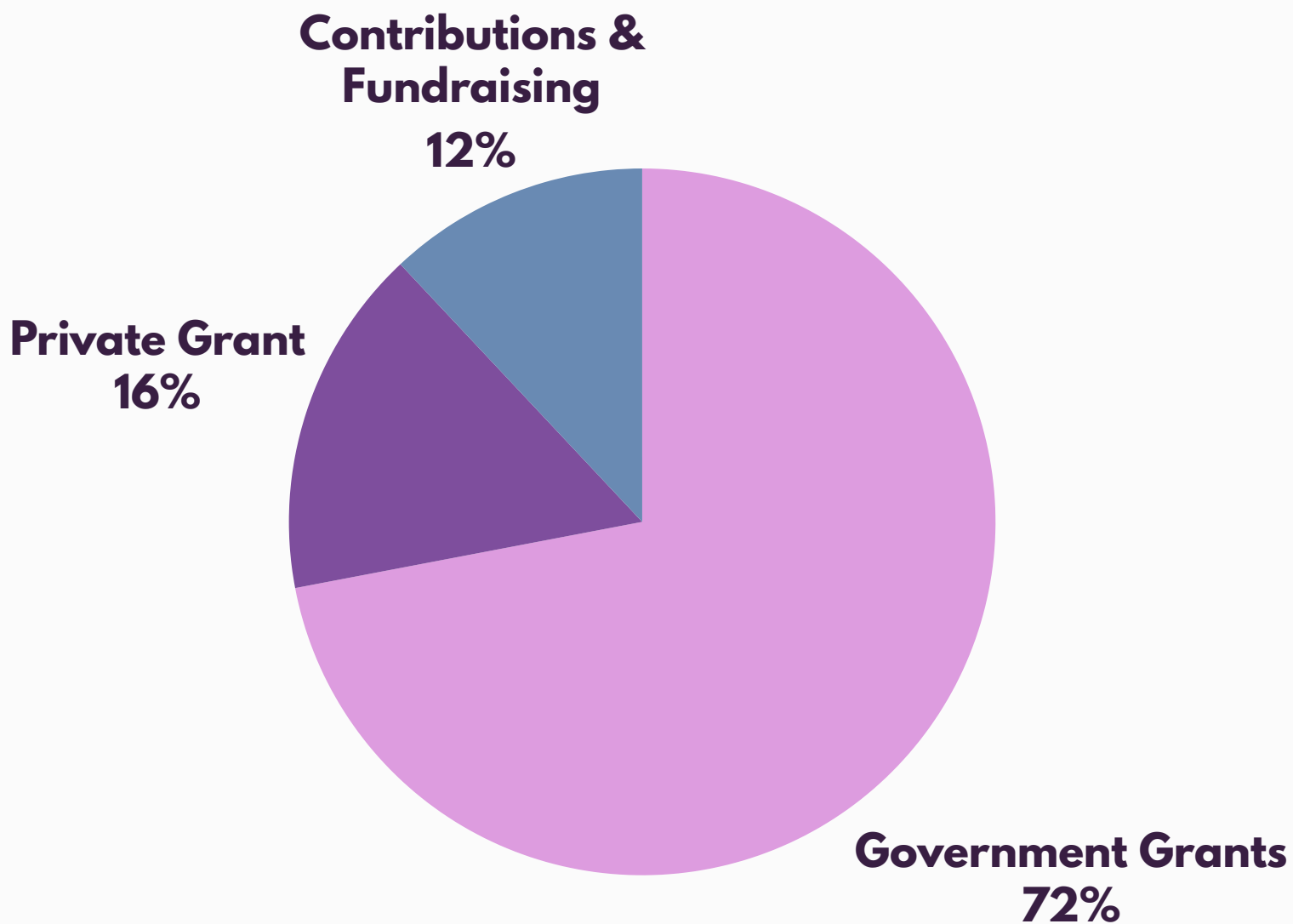
L.H. Field Foundation: \$10,000

Willard R and Lucile W Cowan Trust: \$5,000

Louis Glick Memorial Trust: 2,000

Samuel Higby Camp Foundation: \$ \$5,550

Funding that Powers our Programs and Services



State/ Federal Grants	72%	➡	\$ 825,566.21
Private Grants	16%	➡	\$116,032.74
Contributions & Fundraisers	12%	➡	\$ 171,345.79

Meeting the Growing Need for our Services

This year, your support is more crucial than ever. As domestic violence rates continue to rise, so does the need for accessible, compassionate services in our community. Every dollar raised provides hope to a survivor beginning their healing journey. Through AWARE's advocacy, shelter, counseling, and sexual assault programs, we offer the critical resources survivors need to move from crisis to stability, from fear to empowerment.

Together, we are not only meeting the growing need, we are restoring safety, dignity, and the opportunity for a brighter future.

572
requests for help went unmet due to lack of shelter or resources.

Michigan domestic violence programs collectively received **688** hotline contacts in just one day

2,980
victims of domestic violence were served in Michigan programs in a single day.

Impact Through Engagement



AWARE Homecoming

We were honored to recognize the incredible individuals who fuel our mission at AWARE Homecoming. Thank you to everyone who attended and made such a meaningful impact.



Sexual Assault Awareness Month

We are so grateful to our community for helping spread awareness for Denim Day by decorating and displaying jean banners in solidarity against victim blaming.



Pickleball for a Purpose

We raised an incredible \$17,119.54. Thanks to everyone who participated and our generous event sponsors. We are truly grateful for your support.



Domestic Violence Awareness Month

You helped us raise awareness through our "These Hands Don't Hurt" banners. We are so thankful to every business that partnered with us to expand our mission this month.

Men Who Cook

The community truly came together for our 14th Annual Men Who Cook event. Thanks to our sponsors, attendees, chefs, and volunteers, we raised a record-breaking \$27,090, our highest total ever and a sold-out evening. This incredible night would not have been possible without the amazing culinary talent, generous support, and dedication of everyone involved. We can't wait to see you at our 15th Annual Men Who Cook!

**Awareness
creates
change, and
change
creates a
safer future.**

Community Impact

2025 Event Sponsors

Pickleball for a Purpose

The Brokerage House

TAC Manufacturing

Southern Michigan Bank & Trust

Gerdau

**Jack V. Butterfield Investment
Company**

H.B. Fuller

Willis & Jurasek

Eaton Aerospace

Kelly Fuels

Commonwealth Associates

Eagles Point Marina and Boat Club

ReMAX- Kiersten Mogul

Men Who Cook

Southern Michigan Bank & Trust

Gerdau

MAGI

Commonwealth Associates

Huff Auto Group

County National Bank

Accounting Systems Alternative

On Another Level Builders

Kathy Schmaltz

Dr. Shannon Lowder

+115

NEW DONORS

18

GRANTS RECEIVED

LEGAL ADVOCACY

In 2025, AWARE assisted 143 new clients through our legal advocacy services, including court accompaniment and support with Personal Protection Orders (PPOs).

VOLUNTEERISM

In 2025, AWARE volunteers generously contributed 572 hours of service, supporting both direct client services and essential behind-the-scenes activities that strengthen our programs.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

In 2025, AWARE provided emergency shelter to 197 individuals and families. Additionally, our 24-hour crisis line responded to 1,355 calls from those seeking immediate support and safety.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2025, AWARE reached 451 individuals through community outreach tables, increasing awareness of our services and available support.

COUNSELING

In 2025, we assisted 87 new clients through counseling services, providing trauma-informed support to help them heal and move forward.

FLEXIBLE FUNDING

In 2025, AWARE approved 51 flexible funding requests, assisting survivors with critical needs such as security deposits, transportation costs, relocation assistance, furniture, food, and car repairs.



Impact in Action

Behind every number is a person whose life was impacted through safety, advocacy, and support. Together, our services work hand-in-hand, meeting immediate needs, empowering long-term stability, and creating pathways to healing. This integrated approach ensures survivors are not just served but supported every step of the way.

Thank you



We truly could not do the work we do without you! Every donation, volunteer hour, grant, and person who follows along with our mission allows us to continue supporting survivors.

Follow Along



www.awareshelter.org



@AwareShelter



Info@awareshelter.org