2016
COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

Honoring 30 years of providing services to our community.

Thank you for being our partners in helping.


24 Hour Crisis Line: 845.562.5340
www.safehomesorangecounty.org
A Message From Our Executive Director

In 2016, we celebrated 30 years of providing services to Orange County’s most vulnerable population, and we are so appreciative of our faithful donors and committed volunteers, whose support has enabled us to provide more services to more people than ever before. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff, I am pleased to present our 2016 Annual Impact Report showcasing the services we provided, our fiscal health, and highlighting our amazing donors and funders who supported us throughout the year.

In the pages of this Annual Report, you will discover that 2016 provided an in-depth understanding of the impact of sexual exploitation and human trafficking in Orange County. Our program was fully operational and received 106 referrals for children who were victims of sex trafficking, labor trafficking, or suspected of being trafficked in our county. Most of these cases involved victims between the ages of 13 and 18 years old, with some as young as 5, and many required law enforcement assistance. Our collaborations have increased and strengthened, and our education and training have reached even more providers in 2016. Human trafficking is devastating to the entire community and requires involvement from all of us to truly impart change. This change requires a paradigm shift on how we view trafficking, how we understand the objectification of women and girls, and how that feeds the growing business of human trafficking in our community and beyond. We can no longer ignore an epidemic that stands to surpass, in volume and revenue, the criminal enterprise of illegal international trade of guns and drugs!

In honor of our 30th anniversary, we held our first ever gala. It was an incredible evening that brought together community members, agencies, businesses, and survivors to honor those that came before us, and the future that lies ahead. Gala Honorees included several people in the community that have positively impacted the lives of community members devastated by violence and abuse. Dr. Michele Winchester-Vega was celebrated for her long time support of survivors, both personally and professionally. Dr. Marie Cantu was commended for her courage, strength, and service to Safe Homes for the past 25 years. Legal Services of the Hudson Valley was applauded for their partnership, collaboration, pursuit of justice, and dedication to serving our most vulnerable community members. Lavon Morris-Grant was honored for her strength, courage, and perseverance as a survivor and advocate; her inspirational journey and acceptance speech illuminated the inner strength all victims have, to not only survive, but thrive.

While our work centers around survivors who have been victimized, brutalized, and are often living through their darkest moments, we also have had the privilege to witness humanity at its best in those who, with deep commitment to our cause and an undying desire to help, give their time, goods, services, and monies. This Annual Report reflects the astounding efforts of the many that have and continue to support Safe Homes, and those who have walked through our doors during times of dire need seeking respite and safety. We cannot do this work alone, and we are forever grateful to the members of our community who have become our valued partners in helping.

For many of us serving in the non-profit arena, the political and social events that happened at the end of 2016 were challenging. Collectively, as a country, we were deeply divided and in turmoil. Regardless of party lines, there is grave concern and confusion about an uncertain future. Our work at Safe Homes is grounded in empowerment, education, prevention, and support. An important part of the healing process for victims of intimate partner violence and human trafficking is helping them to recognize and acknowledge the oppressive behaviors and actions that lead to abuse and exploitation, and to help support the core belief that choice and freedom are fundamental rights. Ignoring the existence of sexism, racism, homophobia, xenophobia, and other forms of societal oppression is equivalent to supporting the abusive power and control that leads to intimate partner violence and trafficking. This is counter to the Safe Home’s mission and we, as an agency, will continue to resist these forms of oppression. For the survival of our clients and our democracy as a whole, silence is not an option.

One of the best lessons I have learned over the years from those who have had to fight for their freedoms, rights and to have their voices heard, is that this is not a sprint, but a marathon. To be free from oppression, we must have the fortitude to persist in our pursuit of freedom for all.

In solidarity,

Kellyann
Surviving domestic violence can be a daunting, unrelenting journey. We recognize the incredible strengths of victims and survivors attempting to access safety and connecting with Safe Homes for support. Here we sample the impact of our work throughout 2016, made possible by our funders and supporters. Safe Homes services are accessible through a variety of Non-Residential and Residential Programs, which include crisis intervention, risk assessment and safety planning, advocacy, case management, counseling support groups, and much more.

During 2016, Safe Homes Advocates provided services to 731 adult clients and 593 children through Non-Residential Programs; and 70 adults and 57 children through our Residential Program, for a total of 4,849 nights of safety in our 17-bed Emergency Shelter.

### Advocacy & Support Services

- **3,334 Crisis Line Calls** provided safety planning and access to support services and resources.
- **6,657 Supportive Counseling** services were offered to victims and survivors, creating 4,110 individualized Safety Plans.
- **17,414 Advocacy Services** encompassed the areas of court accompaniment, legal support, law enforcement, medical, mental health, social services, housing, employment, immigration, economic empowerment, and education.
- **2,211 Emergency Services** addressed immediate needs of children and basic needs as food, clothing, personal care, and critical household items.
- 133 referrals for our Therapeutic Counseling Program provided counseling to 120 individuals with an amazing 915 sessions being provided.

### Community Collaborations

Safe Homes advocates co-located within Child Protective Services (CPS) in Goshen and in Newburgh worked collaboratively with CPS on 553 cases involving indicators of domestic violence and reported child abuse. They provided services and information to 429 individuals, conducted 124 joint home visits, and 60 joint visits within the community.

Collocated within Orange County District Attorney’s Office, Safe Homes provided assistance on 76 Grand Jury cases, advocated for survivors with Assistant District Attorneys on 212 occasions, and received 29 referrals from Assistant District Attorneys for services.

Orange County Safe Harbor is a collaborative project with Department of Social Services (DSS), Safe Homes, and HONOR, the program received 106 referrals for youth and provided 90 youth with services, including safety planning, individual support, case management, and referrals to service.

Within DSS, the Domestic Violence Liaison conducted 236 assessments for individuals seeking DSS assistance and provided 238 waivers to enable survivors to safely comply with DSS requirements.

In collaboration with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, Safe Homes Family Justice Center housed a full-time attorney and paralegal who handled 117 cases assisting clients with orders of protection, custody, visitation, divorce, and child and spousal support.

"I left my abuser and came here looking for a safe place to sleep other than my car. I arrived and I got a bed, a pair of sweats, a smile, warm food, and a place to exhale!"

Client entering Safe Homes shelter

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End Human Trafficking

Protect our Youth from Sexual Exploitation and Forced Labor

CALL: 1-888-373-7888

Safe Homes, along with OC Safe Harbor, OC Department of Social Services, and HONOR, is proud to be part of a county wide campaign for human trafficking awareness and outreach. The above billboard can be found on Route 9W in Newburgh and in New Windsor.
Outreach & Education

Safe Homes offers free education on issues surrounding teen-dating violence, violence prevention, human trafficking, and healthy relationships to community groups, schools, workplaces, law enforcement agencies, healthcare, government, and human service organizations. Trained educators design presentations or workshops according to the needs and characteristics of each group or audience, in English and in Spanish.

181 presentations reached 2,406 adults raising awareness on topics such as the dynamics of domestic violence, stalking, technology safety, human trafficking, the impact of domestic violence on children, and domestic violence in the workplace.

Safe Homes Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program held 402 age-appropriate presentations reaching 7,032 adolescents and teens. Topics included abusive versus healthy relationships, physical and online bullying, the impact of stereotypes, sexism, bystander intervention, and other cultural-competency themes.

Safe Homes Youth Educators led the 4th annual Youth Leadership Academy over two weeks in July for students ages 14-17. With support from the Orange County Youth Bureau, Safe Homes offered two academies, one in Newburgh and one in Port Jervis, with a total of 39 Orange County youth participating. During this training youth exercised and enhanced their leadership skills while gaining knowledge and participating in conversations on teen dating violence, equality, safety, respect, healthy boundaries, consent, messages from the media, systems of privilege and oppression, bystander empowerment, communicating effectively, what makes a true leader, and how to make a difference in their own community. Youth were challenged to think outside the box, to challenge themselves, and to challenge others.

On February 20, 2016 we announced the winner (pictured right) of our 2nd annual Safe Love is … Art Show and Scholarship Contest. With the sponsorship of Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan 39 students from across Orange County (grades 9-12) submitted artwork expressing their vision and voice in ending teen-dating violence for a chance to win the scholarship.

Financial Statement

**Support & Revenue:** $1,940,814
- Program Revenue ...................... $529,616
- Grants & Contracts ................ $1,275,848
- Donations ............................... $89,849
- Special Events ........................ $44,086
- Interest ................................. $1,414

**Expenses:** $1,842,324
- Program ........................................ $1,719,581
- Administrative & General .............. $91,723
- Fundraising ............................... $31,020

Total Agency Budget: $1,842,324

93 cents of every dollar donated to Safe Homes goes directly into programs.
Safe Homes comprehensive support services and outreach programs are sustained by the dedication of our volunteers, the solidarity of our community, and the vision of our funders and government leaders.

We gratefully acknowledge all forms of support for the Safe Homes mission and for the individuals and families we serve. All gifts, big and small, move our work forward. The following names represent organizations, groups, and individuals who made monetary or in-kind gifts valued at $50 or more, during 2016. Please contact us if you feel your name was inadvertently left out. Thank you.

**VOLUNTEERS/INTERNS***

Lindsey Arrida*  Marie Barnett  Stephanie Berra  Tanya Bray  Alicia D’Amico  Maryann Faggio  Jessica Householder*  Mickey Morgano  Rosemary Newman  Saithree (Kiki) Rao  Suzanne Schmidt  Anne Thoet

**CORPORATE**

Bloom & Bloom P.C.  Carter’s, Inc.  COTV Inc. New York  Crystal Run Healthcare  Eileen Fischer, Inc./Retail Division  Fidelity Brokerage Services  IBM Employee Services Center  KeyBank  M&T Bank  Mediacom  Orange & Rockland Utilities  Orange Regional Medical Center  Seely & Durland, Inc.  St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital  Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

**GOVERNMENT**

Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)  County of Orange  NYS Office of Victim Services (NYSOVS)  Orange County Department of Social Services  Orange County District Attorney’s Office  Orange County Youth Bureau  Police Chiefs’ Association of Orange County  Senator John J. Bonacic, NYSDCSJ  United Way of Dutchess - Orange Region

**FOUNDATIONS**

In 2017, we call on our donors to join our Sustainers Circle and make a difference every day of the year with a recurring, monthly gift. Sustaining donors provide a consistent base of support and help us plan for the future. To enter the Sustainers Circle go to safehomesorangecounty.org and find our “DONATE” button. Thank you!

Mission

Safe Homes of Orange County’s mission is to work toward the elimination of intimate partner violence, teen dating violence, and trafficking by providing comprehensive support services to victims and their children, and by increasing public awareness about these issues and encouraging accountability for perpetrators.

2016 Board of Directors

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Jimmy O’Donnell ♦ Liz O’Halloran ♦ Dr. Agathe Pierre-Louis ♦ Sher Singh

Kellyann Kostyal-Larrier, Executive Director

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