



Letter from Chair & CEO

Dear Harbor House Friends and Supporters,

As we entered the 2016-17 fiscal year detailed in this report, Harbor House was a much different agency than it is today. In one short year, we made decisions and took huge steps toward transforming the agency by adding new leadership, new programs, and moving into the new Morgan & Morgan emergency shelter. Transitions are unique periods of opportunity, a chance to start fresh and make needed changes in an organization. The opportunities we offer survivors in Orange County are truly life-saving, and we are unable to offer them without the support of donors like you. This report highlights many programs and updates, but the new shelter and our attorney program are game changers for survivors in our community.

Opening a new state of the art emergency shelter to better serve survivors in our area was a goal that seemed almost unattainable. The new shelter will provide a safe home for many years to women, children, men, and pets in our local community. As survivors walked into the new home, they cried and cheered. For many women and children, it was the first time they had lived in a place that was brand new. In the new shelter's first three months, Harbor House has already housed 273 women and children.

Our new Injunction for Protection Attorney program that started in March continues to impact the lives of survivors in our community. The team of lawyers works with survivors that need legal counsel and representation for an injunction. To date, the attorneys have been successful in securing injunctions for 25 years, 50 years, and

even several lifetime injunctions. This program is helping hold perpetrators accountable and providing survivors the help they need to navigate the complicated legal system.

Your support has allowed Harbor House to respond quickly to these needs in our community. As we add new services, we continue to answer calls on our 24-hour crisis line; take women, children, and men into our emergency shelter; accompany victims to court; empower women to take control of their finances; provide child therapy to those who have witnessed violence; and teach youth how to prevent violence and build healthy relationships.

The community of Orange County has picked up picket signs, walked, marched, and spoken out against domestic violence in our community. We are united in the fight and, together, we will save lives and prevent countless more from being impacted by abuse in their homes.

As you read through this annual report, know that all the good news within is proof of your commitment to making our community a safe place. From all of us and those we serve, thank you.

Kindly,



Tony Cardoza
Board President



Michelle Sperzel
CEO

Our Mission

HARBOR HOUSE WORKS TO PREVENT AND ELIMINATE DOMESTIC ABUSE IN CENTRAL FLORIDA BY PROVIDING CRITICAL LIFE-SAVING SERVICES TO SURVIVORS, IMPLEMENTING AND ADVANCING BEST PRACTICES, AND EDUCATING AND ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY IN A UNITED FRONT.

OUR VISION

Harbor House is an innovating organization that guides the way for safer communities everywhere by developing, deploying, and modeling best practices to eradicate domestic abuse in Central Florida.

NEW MORGAN & MORGAN SHELTER OPENS

March 30, 2017 was a big day at Harbor House. After years of planning and months of construction, the new Morgan & Morgan building opened its doors to survivors and their children. The expanded shelter increases capacity to 120, but the move represented much more than additional beds. For some of the shelter residents, this is the first time they have ever been the first to live in a new place.

One advocate noted, "They were speechless with the beauty and size of the new shelter, particularly the kitchens and the rooms. Many of them felt the emotion of their new temporary home and had tears in their eyes. It was amazing to see the children's faces when they first walked in. Many of them quickly ran outside to

the new playground. Overall, it was a magical day for many survivors and for us."

In addition to increased capacity, the new shelter boasts two kitchens with adjacent play areas so kids can be nearby but out of danger while moms cook; a new, bigger playground; a space dedicated to teens; a business center with five computers; a larger laundry room with more washers and dryers and a television; and more meeting spaces where residents can talk with advocates or community partners and hold support groups.

Harbor House would like to thank Morgan & Morgan, the board of directors, and all of the generous supporters that made this move possible.



NEW LEADERSHIP *Early 2017 brought new leadership to the helm of Harbor House. Michelle Sperzel came on board as Chief Executive Officer in January followed by Millie Irizarry as Chief Operating Officer in March.*



MICHELLE SPERZEL

Sperzel came to Harbor House from Girls in the Games, a leading girls' health and fitness organization in Chicago, where she served as the CEO and implemented a long-term strategic and expansion plan. Prior to that, Sperzel served as the Executive Director of Shelter House Domestic and Sexual Violence Center in Northwest Florida. While there, she launched numerous survivor-defined programs, including literacy, economic justice, youth and prevention, transitional

housing, and an on-site kennel at the emergency shelter. She and her staff were presented with the Governor's Promote Peace, Prevent Domestic Violence Award for creating and implementing a model youth prevention program that addressed stereotypes, self-esteem, and bullying. Sperzel holds an MBA, a CFRE, and brings almost two decades of experience aiding women in crisis to the agency. She also has served on numerous boards and been involved with several community projects that address family violence, homelessness, and social justice.



MILLIE IRIZARRY

With more than 30 years of experience in management, fundraising, and program development, Irizarry most recently served as the Special Assistant for Hispanic Affairs to Orange County's Mayor Teresa Jacobs. She previously served as Executive Director of Forsyth County Family Haven, a domestic violence center just north of Atlanta. Active in the community, Irizarry has served as Chair of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando.

She has also served on various boards and projects that focus on social services and women's programs, including the Orange County Minority/Women Business Enterprise Advisory Board, the Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors, the Central Florida Trauma Center Task Force and the Blue Ribbon Panel for Education formed by Orange County and City of Orlando Mayors. Additionally, Irizarry was named the 2004 Paoli Award winner for Best of the Year Public Service Private Enterprise.



FAMILY LAW


ATTORNEYS JOIN HARBOR HOUSE STAFF

Harbor House brought three lawyers on board this year as part of the Injunctions for Protection (IFP) Project initiated by the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV). These attorneys provide legal representation to survivors of domestic, dating, and sexual violence, and stalking in temporary and final injunction for protection proceedings and at hearings for violations of injunctions. The lawyers work closely with the court advocates and have already secured longer standing IFPs for survivors that are helping keep them safer as they rebuild their futures.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

Harbor House opened its doors as a safe haven for survivors of domestic abuse in 1976. At that time, no shelter existed in Orange County for domestic violence victims. Initially called Spouse Abuse, Inc., the organization started with a hotline and a shelter. As we celebrate 40 years of providing safe harbor to women, children, men, and pets, Harbor House now provides a wide array of trauma-informed, victim-centered services.

Programs & Services



*“This place gave
me myself back.
At Harbor
House, I could
be me again.
Thank you.”*

24-Hour Crisis Line

Certified advocates staff the crisis line 24/7/365 to provide crisis counseling, safety planning, information, referrals, and support to callers so that they will be able to make informed decisions concerning their individual situation.

Confidential Emergency Shelter

Harbor House provides safe, confidential emergency shelter to domestic violence survivors and their children. The shelter can house more than 120 people at once. Immediate needs, such as food and hygiene products, are met and residents have the opportunity to work with a

case manager to make future plans for housing, safety, employment, transportation, childcare, and more.

Support Groups

Group counseling sessions take place frequently within the shelter and at Outreach offices throughout Orange County. Support groups for domestic violence survivors are available in English, Spanish, and Creole.

Peer Counseling

Advocates work with clients in person and over the phone. This counseling could take place in the shelter, at an Outreach office, or in the courthouse and includes safety planning, crisis counseling, referrals, and assistance with filing for Victim's Compensation and Relocation funds.



“I want to say thank you to the staff for all you have done to keep me and my children safe.”



Court Advocacy

Harbor House has court advocates located at the Orange County Courthouse who walk survivors through the process with the state attorney's office, safety plan, assist with filing injunctions, help apply for victim relocation funds, give referrals to legal aid, and accompany to court.

Children's Services

Children's Services strives to create an environment that fosters the whole child and builds strong families. State licensed childcare services are offered 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays for the children of shelter residents. In addition to the preschool and daycare, Children's Services works with families to rebuild the parent/child bond that might have been damaged during time with the abuser.

Primary Prevention

The best way to break the cycle of violence is to stop it before it begins. Primary Prevention engages young people by educating them with positive, non-violent messages about healthy relationships.

EVE/InVEST

Advocates working in the Early Victim Engagement (EVE) and Intimate Violence Enhanced Services Team (InVEST) programs partner with local law enforcement on high lethality cases. They reach out to survivors within 72 hours of the crime and walk them through the criminal process and the civil side and often accompany them to depositions with the state attorney's office, pre-trial meetings, trials, and bond hearings. They work closely with detectives, including the domestic violence task force.

CPI

The Child Protection Investigator (CPI) program brings domestic violence advocates from Harbor House into the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to bridge the gap. This program enhances family safety, creates permanency for children, reduces removals of children from the non-offending parent, and holds batterers accountable.

Economic Justice

Financial abuse and domestic violence often go hand in hand. The Economic Justice program equips survivors with knowledge and empowers them to take control of their finances as they move toward financial freedom.

Paws for Peace Kennel

The Paws for Peace Kennel opened on-site at the Harbor House emergency shelter in 2012 and serves as a model for other domestic violence kennels across the country. Survivors are able to bring cats and dogs with them as well as birds, ferrets, hamsters, and other pocket pets.

Legal Assistance

Harbor House has three attorneys on staff that represent survivors in court as they seek injunctions for protection and at hearings for violations of injunctions.

Enhanced Economic Empowerment

The Economic Empowerment program grew this year as we added a literacy component in partnership with ProLiteracy. Numbers have grown in the financial groups, and we have solidified partnerships with banks and technical schools to provide survivors with optimal choices for their specific situations. We also launched microloans which have already increased credit scores of some survivors and put them on a path to independence.

“Harbor House really helped me in a time of need. Everyone was very welcoming and understanding.”

Our Impact



Shelter **Adult** Residents: **346**

Shelter **Child** Residents:
352
0-4: **160**
5-12: **147**
13-17: **45**



21,191
Community Referrals



Value of **Volunteer** Time:

\$263,512.24

36,211
Services Offered



10,847
LIVES TOUCHED



119
Volunteers



10,916
VOLUNTEER HOURS

10,334
HOURS OF COUNSELING

Shelter Nights:
27,833



4,818
Outreach
Participants



Hours of **Children's Services:**
14,540



5,834 
Safety Plans Completed

Domestic
Violence
Trainings Led:

87


4,976

Hotline Calls

Children in
Primary
Prevention:

60


29

Pets in Kennel

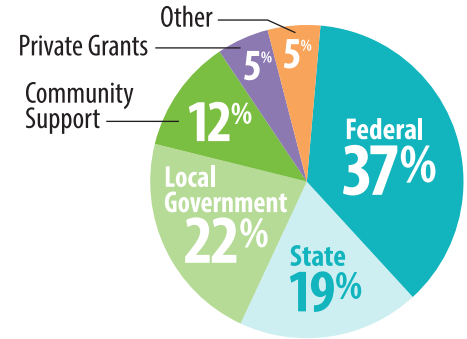
Individuals
Attending
Support
Groups:

263



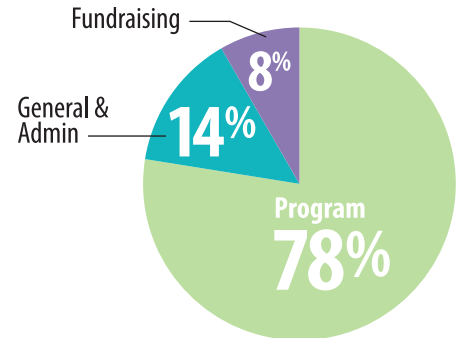
REVENUE:

Federal	37%	1,367,071.00
State	19%	697,815.00
Local Government	22%	814,636.00
Community Support	12%	435,225.00
Private Grants	5%	200,000.00
Other	5%	201,363.00
100%		3,716,110.00



EXPENSES:

Program	78%	2,875,074.00
General & Admin	14%	524,646.00
Fundraising	8%	308,573.00
100%		3,708,293.00





How You Can Help

You can join Harbor House in our efforts to end domestic violence in Orange County by giving of your ***TIME, TALENT,*** and ***RESOURCES.***



Crisis Line: 407.886.2856

For more information, contact our main office at 407.886.2244.

www.harborhousefl.com

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