



Harbor House  
of Central Florida

ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 18

## Letter from Chair & CEO

### Dear Harbor House Friends and Supporters,

When we opened the 2017-2018 fiscal year outlined in this report, we had no idea of the sweeping social change that was coming our way. By late 2017, women in the U.S. and around the world (and eventually, men as well) lifted their voices to testify about sexual assault and harassment via the hashtag #MeToo. In January 2018, the #TimesUp movement was born as survivors demanded an end to silence and shame in the face of abuse.

You might be wondering why a domestic violence center is so invested in a movement focused on sexual assault. At Harbor House, we know the mistreatment runs deep. We see it in homes, schools, the workplace, and in society. You are part of a movement that encourages men and women alike to act on behalf of harassment and abuse victims.

The visibility of #MeToo and the sheer numbers of survivors speaking out emboldened victims to come forward and seek help. This year, our advocates answered 7,140 calls on the 24/7 crisis line. That's an increase of more than 43% over the previous year. Advocates in the emergency shelter and outreach offices delivered more than 63,000 services to clients, up 76% over last year. More survivors are reaching out for help. More survivors are receiving help.

As much as we are doing for domestic violence victims now, we want to do more, especially for the youngest victims. Harbor House has been in operation more than 40 years. The sad fact is that some children who lived in our shelter with their moms years

ago have come back to Harbor House as adults, now victims of abuse themselves. Offering more interventions for children who have witnessed violence is key to breaking the cycle of abuse. You will read in this report about initiatives we have already started — Camp HOPE, GLASS, expanded children's services in shelter. We visualize growing children's services even more in the coming years. Our childcare workers and advocates do so much with and for the children, and we want to add a child/play therapist to work with the children and their non-offending parent. We want to make the end of intergenerational family violence a reality.

The accomplishments described in this report were made possible by a passionate staff, dedicated volunteers, generous donors, vocal supporters, and the brave survivors who are putting in the work to build a new life for themselves and their children. Thank you for your part in making Orange County a place where victims can feel safe, seen, heard, and supported.

Kindly,

  
Angel Buchanan  
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 CAMP HOPE

Harbor House is excited to be selected to host Florida's first ever Camp HOPE, an evidence-based camping and mentoring initiative that focuses on children exposed to domestic violence. It began in San Diego in 2003 under the leadership of then-City Attorney Casey Gwinn and has grown throughout the country. Campers have the opportunity to regain their childhood, find hope and healing, and spend time with other children who have overcome similar obstacles and trauma. The program also strengthens the family unit, encourages a stronger sense of community, and enhances the youth's quality of life through civic involvement. Harbor House will host Florida's first Camp HOPE in summer 2019.



## NEW GLASS – GIRLS, LEADERS, SPORTS, & STEAM



The inaugural year of the GLASS program was a success with a dozen teen girls participating in workshops on health and healthy relationships, sports, STEAM, and leadership topics. Members worked together throughout the year on a professional development series, where the teens chose topics on which to receive training and advice from guest leaders, ranging from goal setting to women's empowerment. They also shared their new knowledge by teaching younger girls. The Leader to Leader event connected the teens with female business and community leaders from Orlando Police Department, National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), and Harbor House.

## NEW YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD

The Young Professionals Board of Harbor House started in January 2018 with 21 members, ranging in age from 21 to 40. The YP is an organization of young adults committed to promoting the works of Harbor House and becoming leaders in the community through collective action, including volunteer service, social fundraising for Harbor House, and advocating for survivors. Their first event, Handbags for Hope, was a huge success, bringing in more than \$21,000 to support children's services at Harbor House.

# Programs & Services

*“Harbor House got me back on the right track. My life has turned around.”*

## NEW EXPANDED CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Harbor House has had a certified childcare center on our emergency shelter campus for years, but we recently expanded services for children within the shelter. In EmpowerArt, advocates lead children in art and craft projects just for them. Teen Support provides an opportunity for youth living in the shelter to talk with advocates and each other in a support group setting. Mommy and Me brings children together with their non-offending parent for fun activities and learning to respect each other.

### 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.

### 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

*“Thank you to everyone at Harbor House for helping me get back on my feet.”*

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.

*“We can change our stories. We can start a new life even with the most horrendous past.”*

# Our Impact

2017-2018

*"I am leaving very happy and grateful for all your services and support. Thank you for everything."*  
—Former Shelter Resident

Shelter Adult Residents: **459**

Shelter Child Residents: **439**

Services Offered: **63,887**

**36,055** Shelter Nights

**20,348**  
Community Referrals

**1,514**  
Volunteers

**10,991**  
Hours of Counseling

**12,610**  
LIVES TOUCHED

**4,539**  
Outreach Participants

Domestic Violence Trainings Led: **75**

**33**  
Pets in Kennel

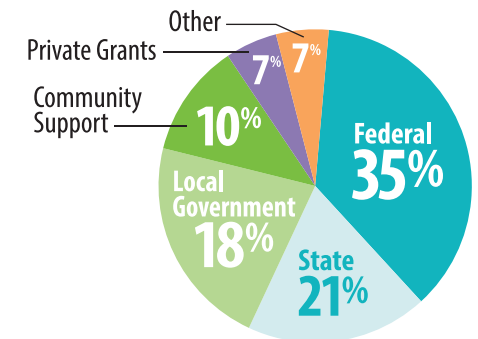
Hotline Calls: **7,140**

Hours of Children's Services: **13,647**

**5,417**  
Safety Plans Completed

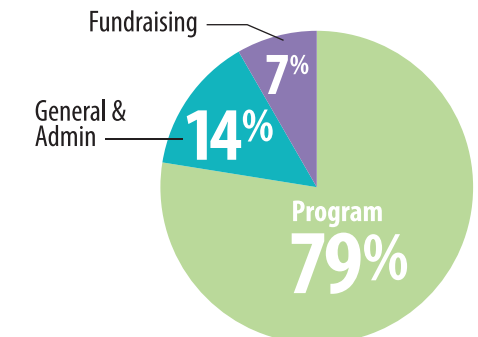
**REVENUE:**

Federal	35.5%	1,467,071.00
State	21.5%	888,281.00
Local Government	18.2%	754,176.00
Community Support	10.4%	432,782.00
Private Grants	7.5%	308,542.00
Other	6.9%	284,862.00
<b>100%</b>		<b>4,135,714.00</b>



**EXPENSES:**

Program	78.6%	3,251,461.00
General & Admin	14.3%	589,839.00
Fundraising	7.1%	294,414.00
<b>100%</b>		<b>4,135,714.00</b>





# 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](http://www.harborhousefl.com)