

# Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence

# 2022 Annual Report



# Executive Director, Anne Tapp

Dear Friends,

In many ways, 2022 brought us hope after an exhausting two years of COVID-19. Things were starting to feel “normal” again. In other ways, however, 2022 proved what we had feared: that the full impact of the pandemic on survivors of domestic violence would only become clearer as time passed.

According to the Boulder County District Attorney’s Office, domestic violence calls to county law enforcement increased by 31% during the pandemic. In 2022, Colorado Crime Statistics reported that more than 1,800 violent crimes occurred in Boulder County, a 25% increase over pre-pandemic levels. In more than 75% of these incidents, the victim was a family member or intimate partner to the perpetrator.

Responding to this increase, SPAN touched more than 11,600 lives in 2022 through our crisis hotline, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, counseling, and transitional services and housing programs. And each of these individuals touched us with their courage and determination.

Our work is inspired by the survivors who turn to SPAN for assistance, and it is only made possible through the generosity of a community of supporters like you. I am grateful to each of you, and honored to be surrounded by our remarkable staff, board, and volunteers who are truly changing lives every day.

In peace,



Anne Tapp, Executive Director



# Board Chair, Sally Thorner

Some people might think that here in the “Boulder Bubble” we are impervious to things like domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, child abuse, and sexual assault. You might think that it just isn’t possible for a parent with young children to be forced to flee their home with little more than the clothes on their backs, here in our beautiful Boulder.

But if you are reading this annual report, you are probably aware that these things do happen in Boulder and Broomfield counties, and that is why Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN) is so very important.

In my second year as SPAN’s Board Chair, I’ve had the privilege of sitting in on several meetings with funders for much-needed grant support for SPAN’s program. Some we won, some we lost.

The grant funding decisions that didn’t go our way seemed to come down to the magical thinking that Boulder doesn’t need any outside help. Despite our presenting them with ample evidence that domestic violence occurs in every demographic, and that the underserved, marginalized communities in greatest need of SPAN’s services are a growing part of our community, the widely held perception of the “Boulder Bubble” has a real impact on our support among philanthropic foundations in the Denver Metro Area.

Read this report and you’ll see how much SPAN does with so little.

On behalf of our small but mighty Board, we appreciate your support of this lean yet powerful social justice machine! Without you, there is no SPAN. And without SPAN, thousands of our neighbors, our friends, our family members, our colleagues, will have nowhere to turn for the safety and support they need.

With gratitude,

*Sally Thorner*

Sally Thorner  
SPAN Board Chair







## Our Impact

**In many ways, "Lois" felt as if she had never had a stable home.** Her mother was a single parent who struggled to raise Lois and her four siblings on her own, and the family had moved often, sometimes living with friends and relatives, and even spending time living in their car.

"I promised myself that I would never raise my kids like that," Lois says. When she looks back now, she thinks that this urgent desire to make a home was partly why she stayed with her abusive partner for as long as she did -- her two children had a home that she knew she could not afford on her own.

The COVID crisis threw the family into turmoil. Lois and her husband both lost their jobs and her partner became increasingly violent during quarantine. **One night he slammed her head into a wall hard enough for her to lose consciousness; when she came to, her kids were tending to her, with her little 4-year-old son holding an ice cube to her head while the 6-year-old rubbed her face saying over and over: "Wake up Mommy, please wake up!"** She could see the terror in their faces and she knew she had to act.

Over the years Lois had talked with SPAN's Crisis Hotline advocates from time to time, as they helped her plan around staying safe as she navigated her difficult situation. This time she called SPAN's Crisis Hotline and told them she was finally ready to get out; she and her children were screened into the Emergency Shelter that same day. "I was overwhelmed when I got to Shelter. I didn't know how to begin again, and I was so afraid. Afraid of my husband finding us. Afraid of ending up like my mom when I was a kid. Afraid I just couldn't do this."

Taking it one day at a time, SPAN staff helped Lois plan a path forward. She attended a Legal Clinic at our Shelter and connected with a pro-bono attorney to help her file for Protective Orders and start the process of divorce. She and the kids started some counseling to begin processing what they had been through. Perhaps most importantly, Lois connected with SPAN's Shelter-based Housing Hub to find safe, stable post-shelter housing. Lois and her children ended up staying at SPAN's Shelter for nearly two months, but at the end of that time, Lois was able to move directly from Shelter into a two-bedroom apartment with financial assistance from SPAN and Boulder County. **"SPAN helped us find beds and some other furniture, household stuff, they even sent us home with some toys for the kids and some groceries."** Lois smiled when she added: **"Did you hear what I said? SPAN sent us 'home!'"**



# 2022 Recap

## January 2022:

We received a beautiful donation from artist Chad Glang of the SPAN logo in stained-glass. We are grateful for our community members!

## March 2022:

Former client, along with SPAN's Spanish Bilingual Tri-City Counselor and Community Advocate, Harpiar Kaur, were featured in the Voces Vivas exhibit at the Museum of Boulder. The Vocas Vivas exhibit featured art and story-telling from Latinx community members."

## May 2022:

SPAN hosted our record-breaking 41st Annual Chocolate Lovers' Fling with over 315 guests in attendance. We were honored to have Ella McConnell share her story surviving an abusive boyfriend, and now leading a healthy, happy life.

## July 2022

Our JUL-IPA Rooftop Party was back for its 14th year! SPAN partnered again with West End Tavern, hosting six breweries and one distillery for a great afternoon of tastings, games, and fundraising!

## September 2022:

SPAN Staff enjoyed a friendly game of kickball, pizza, and afternoon at North Boulder Park! Once a month, staff take time for "Wellness Wednesday", for a chance to connect and unwind with one another.

## October 2022:

In collaboration with the University of Colorado Boulder Athletics and the Office of Victim Assistance, SPAN participated in the Domestic Violence Awareness Football Game. And thanks to Corwin Toyota, we received a \$7,500 sponsorship at the game.

## December 2022:

Our Donor Appreciation Event was a success! SPAN supporters gathered at the Embassy Suites in Boulder in celebration of their generosity. We are beyond thankful for our supporters who make our work possible. We are looking forward to another opportunity to show our appreciation for you, our donors.



# Program Statistics

## **9,948 crisis calls answered by trained Advocates.**

Our Advocates ensured each and every caller received the necessary support and resources to feel safer in their situation.

## **8701 nights spent in Emergency Shelter.**

Our Team provided Shelter to 254 adults and 108 children in 2022. Shelter clients were always met with care and provided with clothes, toiletries, and anything they may need to feel comfortable.



Our advocates work incredibly hard to make survivors and their children feel safe and welcome at our Emergency Shelter. Survivors and their children arrive at the Emergency Shelter in the wake of violent trauma, and often with little more than the clothes on their backs. Besides providing all basic needs, SPAN's Shelter Advocates help empower survivors with client-centered and trauma-informed support. Survivors can stay up to six weeks, with exceptions and extended stays becoming more common as we see an increase in the number of survivors with children staying at Shelter. During their stay survivors have access to individual, family, and group counseling to start the process of healing, and they can work with SPAN's Legal Advocacy Program to find safety and justice through the courts. Maybe most importantly, survivors connect with the Shelter-based Housing Hub, receiving intensive housing advocacy and support so they can transition straight from Shelter into stable housing, a critical first-step towards independence!

## **4,045 Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) middle and high school students received our violence prevention curriculum.**

This included 497 sessions in 18 different BVSD middle and high schools. The Education Team also trained 10 BVSD staff; teachers, district leadership, nurses, and counselors in the PBJ curriculum in order to teach it themselves to their students.





# Program Statistics

## **251 survivors received Legal Advocacy.**

Advocacy included supporting survivors as they applied for Protective Orders, accompanying them to hearings, and connecting them with pro-bono legal representation that can make all the difference in navigating our complex legal system.



In 2022 SPAN strengthened our partnerships with local law enforcement and courts. We are founding stakeholders in the Boulder County District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Acute Response Team (DV-ART) and the Domestic Violence High Risk Team, organized by the District Attorney's Office in the 17th Judicial District in Broomfield. Both jurisdictions use evidence-based lethality assessment tools designed to identify high-risk domestic violence cases and immediately connect them with SPAN's emergency response service. SPAN's Legal Advocacy Program staff have conducted trainings with police in Boulder, Broomfield, Lafayette, CU Boulder Police, and the Boulder County Sheriff's Office, ensuring consistent application of the use of lethality assessment tools, and making sure that survivors are connected to SPAN's services as soon as possible.

## **295 survivors received Transitional Housing Services.**

Our Team served survivors through intensive housing support, including negotiating with landlords and providing flexible, emergency financial support to help keep survivors and their children in stable housing.

## **455 adults & 297 children received Counseling.**

Our Team provided group counseling sessions for LGBTQI+, Spanish-speaking Latinx, and older adult survivors, as well as multi-generational family counseling services that address the impacts of violence on the entire family.

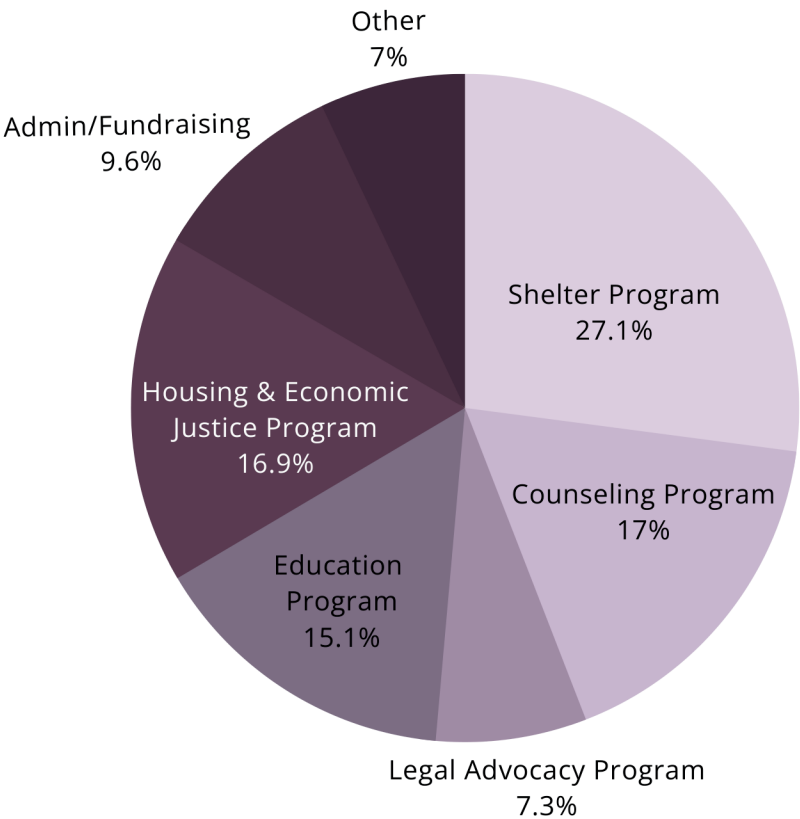
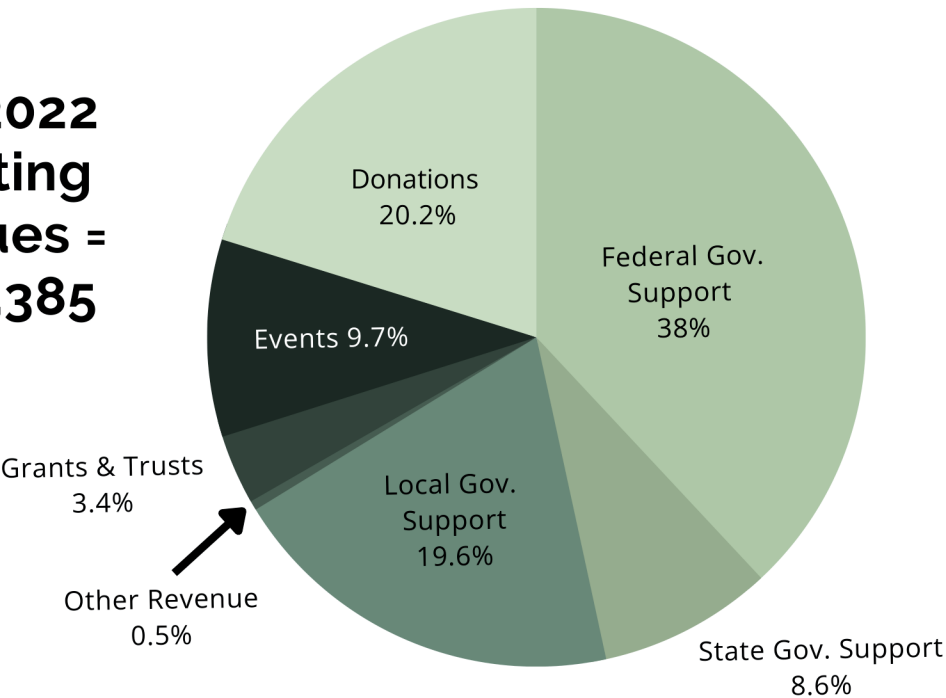


An integral part of our Counseling Program has been our weekly Family Resiliency, Empowerment, and Engagement (FREE) Program. This program has been developed to strengthen families by providing children and youth groups while simultaneously running a caregiver support group. Children and youth participate in age-appropriate, creative, social, and emotional skill-building classes. Through art and activities, they can develop coping skills, practice kindness and compassion, connect with their roots, and prevent violence in their futures.



# 2022 Financial Recap

**Total 2022  
Operating  
Revenues =  
\$2,721,385**



**Total 2022  
Operating  
Expenses =  
\$2,960,603**



## SPAN Leadership Team

**Anne Tapp** | Executive Director  
**Lisa Van der Veer** | Finance & Operations Director  
**Aparna Harris** | Development Director  
**Erin Shannon** | Advocacy & Education Program Director  
**Nicole Borelli** | Housing & Economic Justice Program Director  
**Soledad Diaz** | Emergency Shelter Program Director  
**Tsunemi Maehara** | Outreach Counseling Program Director

## Board of Directors

**Sally Thorner** | Board Chair  
**Judy Knapp** | Vice Chair  
**Chris Maughan** | Treasurer  
**Peter Burr** | Secretary

**Amy Gestal** | Member  
**Anna Frick** | Member  
**Debbie Ramirez** | Member  
**Denice Walker** | Member  
**Jen Messina** | Member  
**Kimala Gray** | Member

All rights, powers, duties, and responsibilities relative to the control of SPAN's property and affairs are vested in the Board of Directors.



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