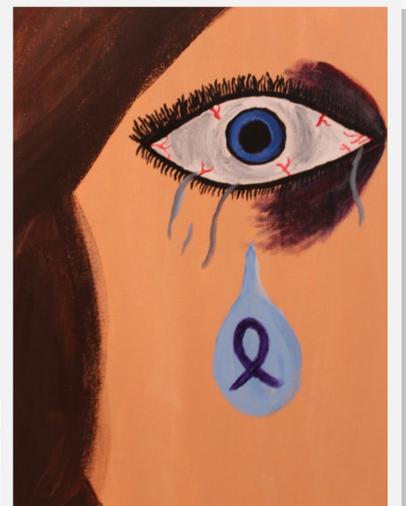
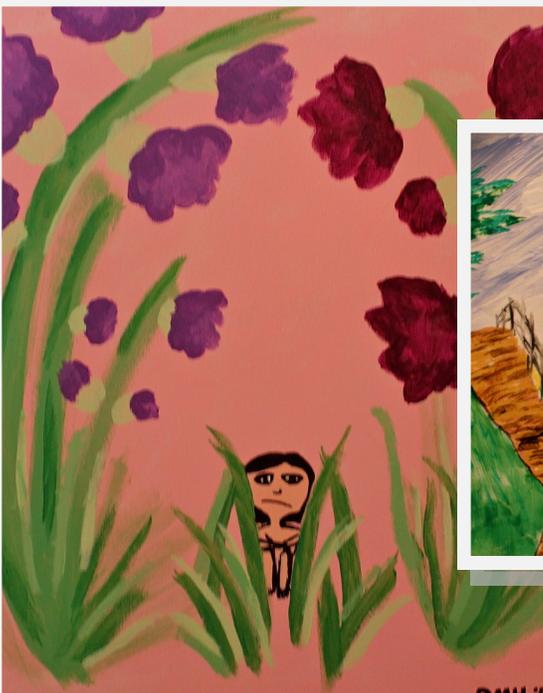


2011



Project Safe Annual Report

Through an Open Window: Images of Domestic Violence





The image to the left was painted by a former shelter resident whose abuser burned down her home in 2011. The people depicted in the image represent this woman and her two young children in their darkest moment. Today, they are safe and are in the process of beginning a new life.

Through an Open Window: Images of Domestic Violence

The image to the right was created by a child who formerly lived at Project Safe's shelter with his mother and two siblings. This young boy described his painting as a portrayal of all of the rooms in his home in which he witnessed violence.



Features

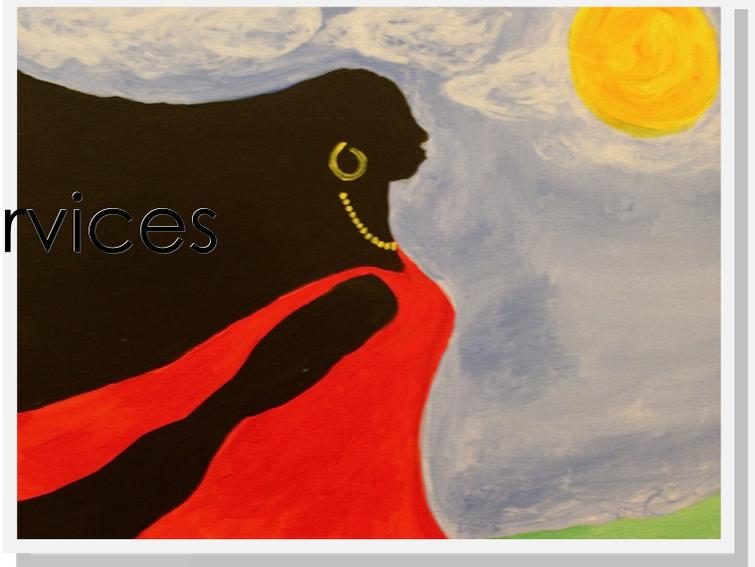


THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW:
Images of Domestic Violence

4 Program Outcomes

5 Programs & Services

12 Major Donors



13 Finances



In commemoration of Domestic Violence Awareness month in October 2011, Project Safe teamed up with local art studio ARTini's in the creation of a collection of art entitled, *Through an Open Window: Images of Domestic Violence*. Project Safe staff, volunteers, supporters, outreach clients, shelter residents, and members of the community were invited to express their experiences with domestic violence through the creation of paintings. The images you see throughout this report are just a few of the works that were captured.

Board of Directors

Governing Board

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- Betsy Harter, Secretary/Treasurer
- Megan Haley
- Tonya Dugas
- Ed Levine
- K. Paige Carmichael
- Elizabeth Dalton
- Camila Pardo
- Maria Gloria Cardarelli
- Dawn Meyers
- Patrick Winter

Advisory Board

- Pat Daugherty
- Carol Faulkner
- Jenny Coleman
- Jill Birch
- Sandra Townsell
- Chuck Ivey

Executive Director

- Joan Prittie



To Our Friends,

I am proud to share with you the Annual Report of Project Safe. As you will see in the following pages, this is a remarkable organization which is serving our community tirelessly in the effort to end domestic violence. It is staffed by 23 full- and part-time employees, whose work was buttressed last year by almost 500 volunteers who gave over 18,000 hours of service in support of our efforts.

Unfortunately, the data demonstrates that our work is necessary: last year, we provided shelter for more than 100 individuals in need of help in the face of the scourge that is domestic violence; almost 2,000 hotline calls were answered by our staff which is available 24 hours each day (an average of over 5 calls every day of the year). Project Safe facilitated 200 support group meetings, conducted over 400 individual counseling sessions, and staffed over 100 presentations and training sessions during the year to businesses, social service agencies, judges and attorneys, school classes, church groups and civic clubs. Our hard-working staff created two videos to explain the process for obtaining civil protection orders from the court system.

The data also demonstrates that we have been successful: 94% of our clients reported they were assisted in meeting their immediate needs; 93% of our clients reported they now know ways to manage their safety; 95% of our clients reported satisfaction with services received and 98% of our sheltered clients achieved their housing goal or safe housing. And we do all this in an efficient manner: in fiscal year 2011, 90% of expenses were for program services, with just 10% devoted to administration and fundraising.

We do all this for our community because we want it to be safer. The cancer that is domestic violence is not confined to one socio-economic group. A donor or a volunteer can become a victim. After reading this Report, I hope you will seriously consider what you can do to help us in our mission....to do what we can to end domestic violence.

Sincerely,
Paul Kurtz, Board Chair

Project Safe is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization working to end domestic violence through prevention and educational programs, crisis intervention, ongoing supportive services for survivors of domestic violence and their children, and systems change advocacy in our community.

2011 Program Outcomes

94%

of clients reported they were assisted in meeting their immediate needs.

93%

of clients reported they now know ways to manage their safety.

95%

of clients reported they are satisfied with services received.

We believe in empowering clients to set their own goals and supporting them through the process. The outcomes to the right reflect the success of these efforts.

Project Safe is committed to evaluating the efficacy of our services. The outcomes to the left are self-reported by clients on anonymous surveys turned in upon the conclusion of services.

98%

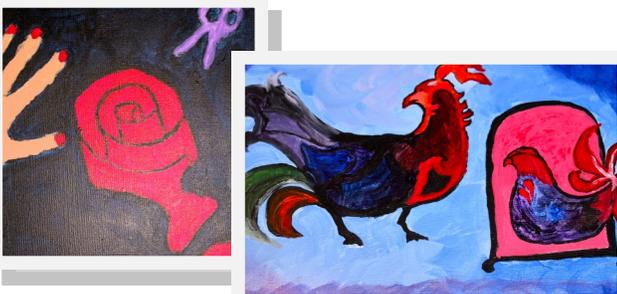
of sheltered clients achieved their housing goal or safe housing.

46%

of sheltered clients achieved their employment goal.

75%

of clients achieved other goals they set for themselves.



107 individuals

received shelter from Project Safe In 2011.

The average resident remained in shelter for
59 days.

The emergency shelter maintained an average of a
96 percent occupancy rate.

In the 2011 calendar year, Project Safe Advocates
answered 1,947 hotline calls.

Project Safe helped provide
359 nights of shelter to pets in 2011.



"I didn't want to be here, and I didn't want to stay, but I was encouraged by my network of family, friends, Project Safe staff, and new Project Safe roommates, using Project Safe as a stepping stone to a new life."

-Former shelter resident

Project Safe offers crisis intervention services to victims of domestic violence in the form of a 24-Hour emergency hotline, confidentially located emergency shelter, safety planning, legal & social service advocacy, and emergency financial assistance.

Crisis Intervention

Ongoing Support

Outreach services are provided to survivors of domestic violence who are in need of support but not necessarily shelter. These services include counseling, support groups, legal and social service advocacy, job training, safety planning and victim liaison programs.

Two hundred support group meetings occurred in 2011. In the past year, Project Safe added two new support groups: an online group for male survivors, and a group for women in recovery.

Project Safe's Transitional Housing Initiative provides housing, child care, transportation, education, and emergency medical costs for two years with ongoing case management and emotional support.

Superheroes & Mantra are 10-week closed session groups for child and youth witnesses of domestic violence with a concurrent group for non-offending parents/care givers. The group works through the events experienced by youth in an age-appropriate and fun manner.

"I had no idea how to go about communicating with the court, especially getting a TPO. I was so scared, and my advocate helped me so much. Thank you so much for being there." - former client

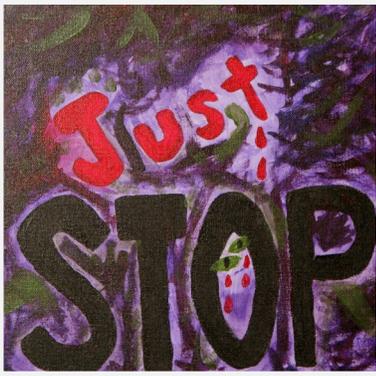
1,230 women, men, and children were served in outreach in 2011.

\$11,295

was spent on tuition and education-related costs for clients.

Project Safe counselors delivered more than **404 individual counseling sessions.**





Project Safe believes that by focusing on preventative and educational measures, we can bring our community closer to ending domestic violence. Advocates provide professional in-service trainings to businesses, social service agencies, judges and attorneys, and also provide educational presentations to school classes, churches, clubs, etc.

102 presentation & training events took place in 2011.

Advocates specifically focus preventative efforts on school-aged children through the Crossroads program, a three-part curriculum for elementary school students. Also, numerous presentations are given each year to high school and college students that focus on dating violence.

In 2011, Project Safe created two "Access to Courts" videos highlighting the process for obtaining civil protection orders in Clarke County, providing residents with the knowledge needed to access the legal resources available to them.

" I never gave much thought to domestic violence. I expected the feminist model heavy on the dogma from your class. I was fortunate you gave us much more. Nine days later, I found myself talking to police over an abusive ex-boyfriend of my daughter's roommate.

Without the benefit of your seminar, I would probably have underestimated the situation worse than the police."

- Attorney, Macon, Georgia

Prevention & Education

Systems Change Advocacy

In addition to the services provided directly to clients, Project Safe also works to [improve the legal and social service systems](#) within our community to better serve the individuals that need them.

Project Safe employs a [Fatality Review Coordinator](#), who leads a collaborative effort to review closed cases of domestic violence fatalities and near-fatalities and implement recommendations for improvements in community response.

[Family Violence Intervention Program Compliance Monitoring](#) is another activity of Project Safe staff. This is an ongoing review of offenders ordered to certified FVIP programs with follow up to determine the number of those individuals actually enrolled in FVIP. Project Safe shares data with members of the Domestic Violence Task Force and works closely with them to improve FVIP compliance.

In addition, Project Safe Staff are dedicated to building collaboration, information sharing, and efficient service delivery among agencies occupying the [Athens-Clarke County Family Protection Center](#). These agencies include Project Safe, The Cottage, The Special Victims Unit of the ACC Police Department, and the District Attorney's Office.



Leadership & Recognition



In FY 11, Executive Director Joan Prittie (far left) was one of 15 people in the United States to win the Sunshine Peace Award which honors extraordinary individuals in the field of domestic violence. This award recognizes those who have facilitated social change needed to end domestic violence. It is presented by the Sunshine Lady Foundation, whose founder Doris Buffet is pictured with Joan.

Joan also served as principal author and editor of the 6th edition Georgia Domestic Violence Benchbook: A Guide to Civil and Criminal Proceedings. The Benchbook was released in December 2011 by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education.

In the Spring of 2011, Associate Director Marla Taylor launched a state-wide training initiative to improve the collection and reporting of data for all 46 certified domestic violence agencies in Georgia. After close collaboration with the Georgia Governor's Office for Children and Families and a domestic violence software designer, Marla facilitated on-site, individualized training for each shelter program so that advocates could better meet the needs of federal, state, and local funders, and in turn, their clients.



“The high work motivation level among staff is **inspirational and admirable.**

You all are simply amazing. Project Safe makes a positive difference in many lives, and I hope the organization will continue to grow!” - Former Intern, Fall 2011

Thrift Stores



The Project Safe Thrift Store in the Bell's Shopping Center on Hawthorne Avenue raises much-needed revenue for the organization, in addition to serving as the distribution center for clothing, furniture and household items donated to clients. On average, 455 items are provided free of charge to 30 families each month.

P.S. Too is Project Safe's upscale resale shop featuring clothing, jewelry, accessories and more in the Omni Shopping Center on Gaines School Road. This women's boutique also serves as a job training site for clients seeking to gain retail experience.



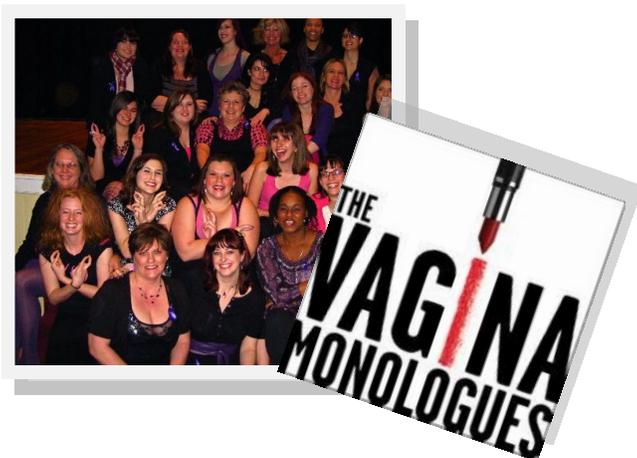
Special Events



Dancing with the Athens Stars is the community's premiere fundraiser, with a net total of more than \$313,000 in its first four years.



A spin-off of Dancing with the Athens Stars, Stomp Out Domestic Violence features teams of novices paired with experienced coaches in a step competition.



Eve Ensler's award winning play challenges, entertains and inspires audience members to take action to stop violence against women.



Groovy Nights disco and silent auction is Project Safe's longest running event.

Major Donors & Sponsors

Accounting Payroll Services
American Legion Unit 185
Arbor Salon & Spa
Ashford Memorial Methodist Church
Athens Area Commencement Center
Athens Area Health Plan Select
Athens First Bank & Trust
Athens Regional Medical Center
Robert & Mary Zorn Bates
Anita Blaschak
Lacy Camp
Casa Mia
Classic City Chefs and Cooks Association
Classic City Orthodontics
Jenny Coleman & David Shipley
CMN Wireless Group
Dr. Kenneth Cook
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Dr. Rajiv Desai
Diane Dietzler-Lehmann
Dr. Randall Dishaw
Bertis & Katherine Downs
Lee Epting
CR Elliott

ETL Construction
Alana Feuerhahn
First American Bank & Trust
First Presbyterian Church of Athens
First United Methodist Church of Athens
Ellen Garrison
Georgia Power Company
Jessica Herzig
Hilltop Grille
Jackson EMC Foundation
Tammy Kemper
Sonya Kimsey-Lerch
Carol & Paul Kurtz
Last Resort Grill
Blake Lavender
Law Offices of John Lyndon
Cheri Leavy
Don Leeburn
Macy's
Mama's Boy Restaurant
Aimee Martin
Doug & Mary McKillip
McDonald & Manus, LLP
Richard & Angela Meltzer
Merial LTD
Dr. Brent Nail
Bill Overend

Peachtree Medical Billing
Karen Porter
Princeton United Methodist Church
Joan Prittie & Sandy Berry
Regina Quick PC
Road Runners
Saint Mary's Healthcare System
Saint Mary's ER Physicians
Silver & Archibald
Stoltz Business Services
Zolinda Stoneman
Sunshine Lady Foundation
Sherry Surra
Taste of the South
Telecom Pioneers
Town & Country Garden Club
TSAV
Ulm Family Foundation
United Way of Northeast Georgia
Wells Fargo
Walmart

*Donors listed here contributed \$500 or more during either FY2011 or calendar 2011.

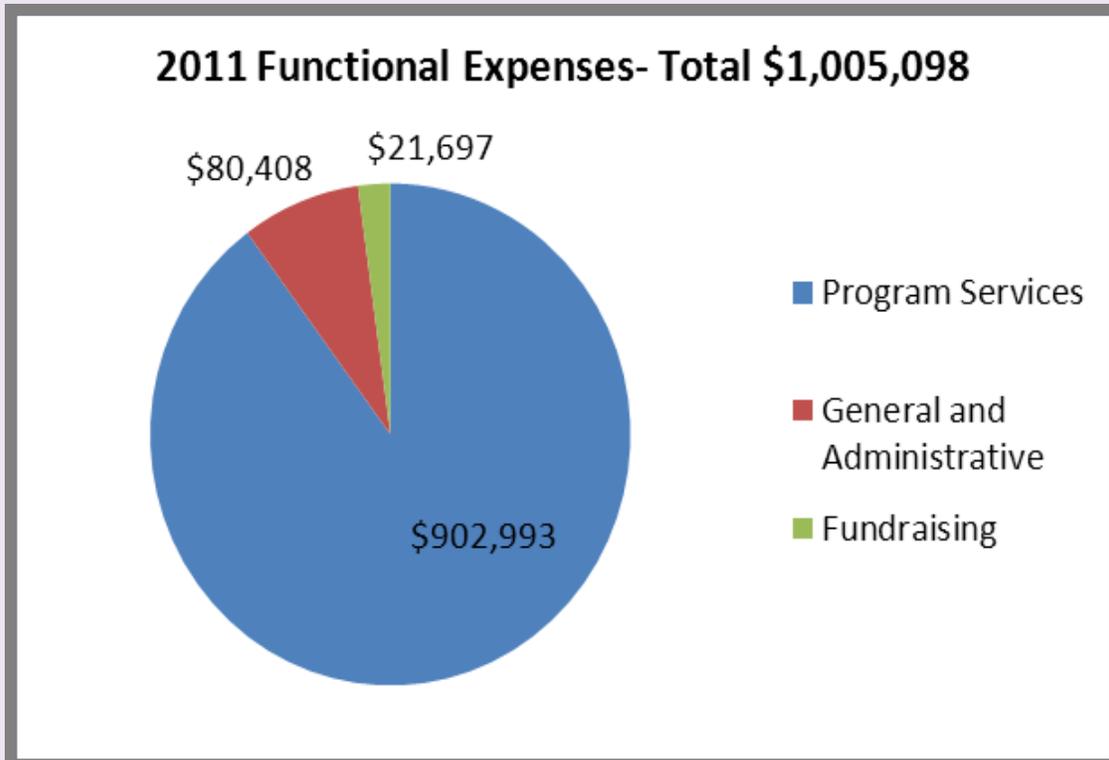
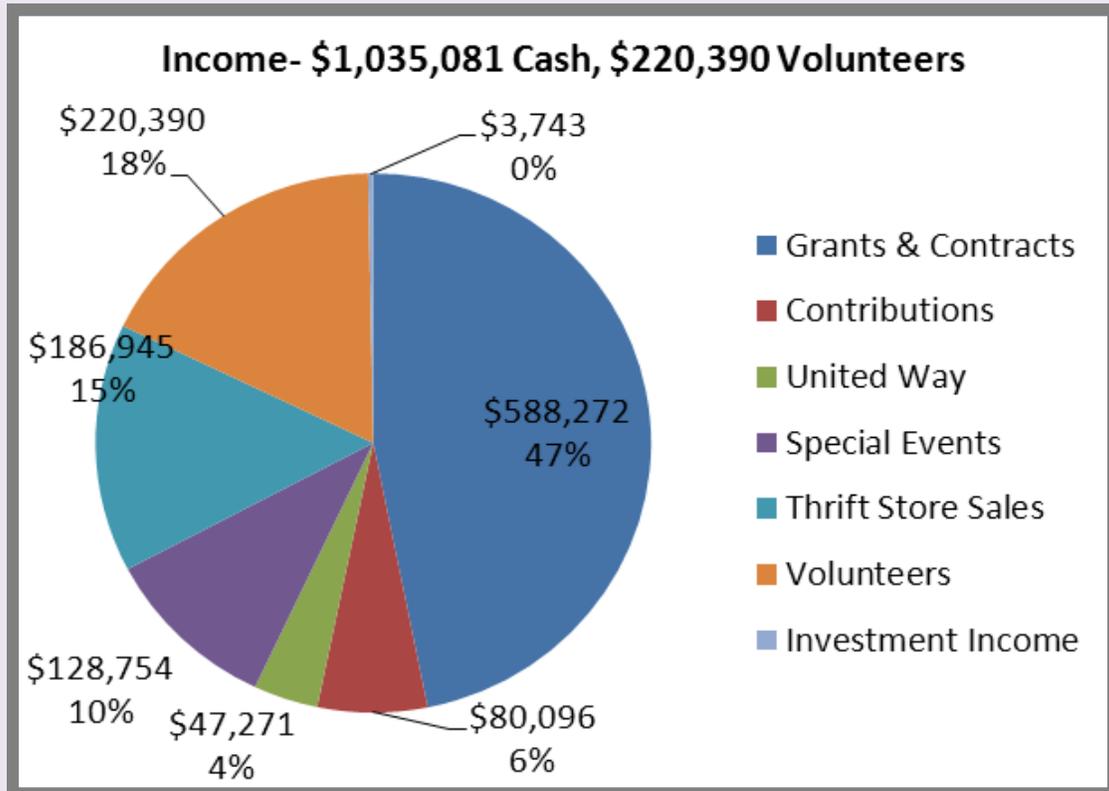
Government Grants

Athens-Clarke County (5% Funds)
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Emergency Food & Shelter Program
Governor's Office for Children & Families
U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development



Financial Information

FY11 income and expenses are shown below. Project Safe received \$1,035,081 in cash while \$220,390 was received through donations of time, with the value of a volunteer hour estimated at \$12. Client services account for 90% of all spending.

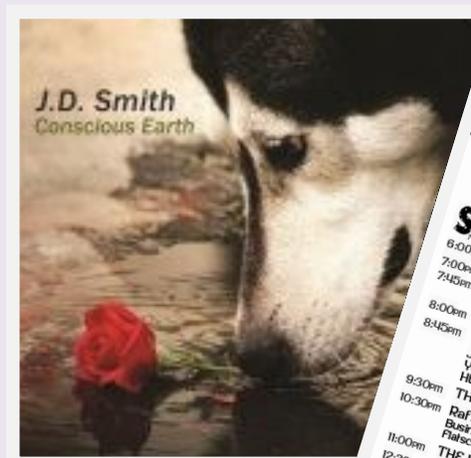




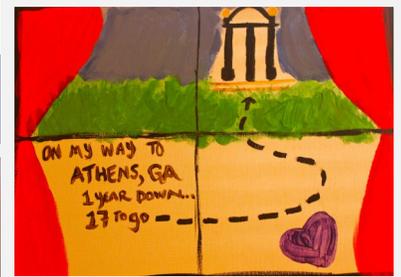
From Survivors to Advocates

Sherri Tanner and J.D. Smith, pictured above from left to right, met in the 1990s at Project Safe's emergency shelter, where they were each escaping an abusive relationship that had left them with nowhere else to turn. Sherri and J.D. point to Project Safe as the reason they are alive today. The friendship they formed in the shelter is still strong, and the duo recently released a single entitled, "In the Dark: A Song for Battered Women," which J.D. wrote while staying in the shelter. A portion of proceeds from the sale of their C.D. benefit Project Safe. Sherri and J.D. are both active advocates in the fight to end domestic violence and can frequently be found raising awareness at local events on behalf of Project Safe.

In November of 2011, Sherri and J.D. organized, "Safe Jam," an evening of musical performance benefitting Project Safe. During the event they performed songs from their album, pictured to the right. The entire album can be purchased on iTunes.



Staff



Project Safe employs 23 full- and part-time advocates who provide counseling, case management, legal advocacy, store management, and other supportive services to benefit victims of domestic violence in the community. Advocates are available 24 hours a day to provide crisis intervention and emotional support to clients on the hotline, at the shelter, and through outreach facilities.

“I believe I owe Project Safe staff and volunteers my life.

I will never forget the program,
the valuable information,
and the people.
Each one of you genuinely care,
and it shows!”

-Former Project Safe Client



Volunteers

CONNECT



In the 2011 calendar year,

471 volunteers

donated

18,587 hours

of service to Project Safe.

Find up-to-date information about the latest news and events at Project Safe on Facebook, Twitter, and through our YouTube channel. To sign up for our new monthly e-newsletter, e-mail news@project-safe.org.

Project Safe is an organization that took root decades ago because of the compassion and courage of local volunteers. Still today it is only possible to offer the wide variety of services and programs available to victims of domestic violence because of the continuous support of the surrounding community.

CONTACT

Business Line: (706) 549-0922

Crisis Hotline: (706) 543-3331

Fax Line: (706) 354-6161



HOW TO DONATE

More than ever, Project Safe relies on the generosity of the community to support our work. Donations can be made in the following ways:

Online:

www.project-safe.org

Check by Mail:

P.O. Box 7532
Athens, GA 30604

Become an Annual Sponsor:

E-mail jprittie@project-safe.org

Donate to our stores:

Project Safe Thrift Store
995 Hawthorne Ave
Bells Shopping Plaza
Monday—Saturday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

P.S. Too

1055 Gaines School Rd.
Omni Shopping Center
Tuesday—Saturday
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Support Project Safe

Two nights at a motel under an assumed name: \$130

Two months of shelter including meals and basic needs, transportation, medications, case management, support group, on-site therapy, and 24-hour staff: \$4,800

Emergency lock change for a small apartment: \$150

Attorney fees and advocate time for temporary protective order: \$320

Your donation has a direct and meaningful effect on the lives of adults and children seeking to put the pain and humiliation of domestic abuse behind them.

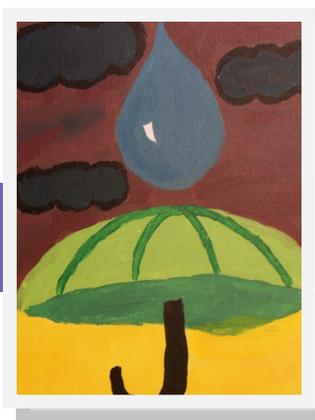
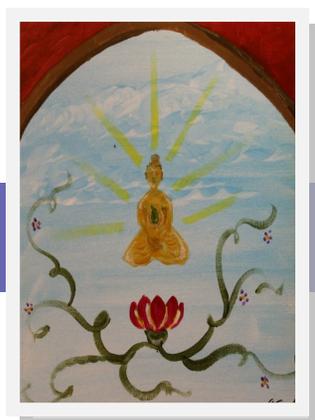
Thank You!

“Long before our incorporation in 1990, Project Safe existed as a network of safe houses. Our founders opened their homes to strangers so that people with nowhere else to go could escape the horror of abuse. Today, we ask ourselves as an organization, What is the equivalent act of courage that we must do

to end domestic violence?”

These words are a paraphrase of a conversation the board and I had many years ago. I've written them on our annual report every year since, and think about them every day. Only time will tell if we're as courageous as our founders, but every day we honor their effort and sacrifice, and every day we work to be worthy of the generosity, support and trust given to us by our community.

-Joan Prittie, Executive Director





“Project Safe has really changed my life and my child’s.
We are getting stronger every day and are
seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, finally.
I love everyone at Project Safe and admire them
for their dedication to
turning us into survivors.”

Project Safe, Inc.
P.O. Box 7532
Athens, GA 30604
Business: (706) 549-0922
24-Hour Crisis Hotline:
(706) 543-3331
Fax: (706) 354-6161
www.project-safe.org

