

"Hope" is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.

J've heard it in the chillest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

~ Emily Dickinson

Hope

2024 Annual Report



Migrating Through Lessons of Hope

Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to share Project Safe's 2024 Annual Report. Our theme is Hope, the ever-present song that chimes and chirps through every facet of Project Safe.

I see Hope in survivors, their children, and their goals. They continue to rebuild their lives, even after the painful setbacks abuse can cause. Abusers combine physical, verbal, mental, sexual, financial and more types of abuse together to viciously gain and maintain control, with no regard to the damage it does to the victim. But survivors are strong.

It takes a tremendous amount of courage to call a hotline, enter a shelter, meet with an advocate or even to admit that you need a helping hand. When we as an organization offer help to survivors, we hear that soft song of hope within them. No matter how hard an abuser might try to convince them otherwise, they believe they deserve better than the abuse they've braved, and we believe that everyone deserves to feel safe in their home and safe in their relationships.
—Joan Prittie



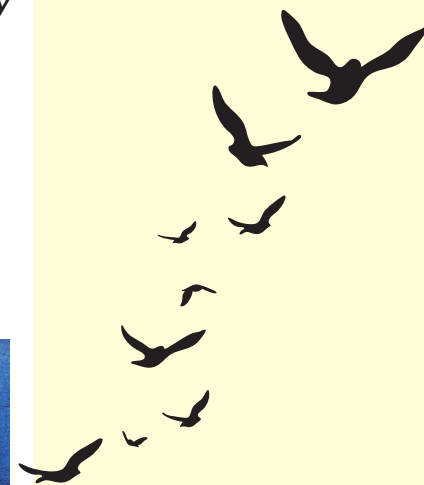
In August, 2024 Joan was appointed to the Georgia Commission on Family Violence by Governor Brian Kemp.

2024 Board of Directors

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Jean Mullis, Secretary
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Dawn Clarke
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Julia Richardson
Joan Prittie



Associate Director Tangela Ferguson holds the Friend of Panhellenic Award, which we were proud to receive in 2024 from our partners at Alpha Chi Omega.



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.

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"'Hope' is the thing with feathers That perches in the soul."

Soaring to Greater Heights and Services

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

85% achieved their safe housing goals

66% achieved their employment goals

95% achieved their other goals

94% reported they increased their knowledge of community resources

99% reported they learned strategies to enhance their safety

In 2024...

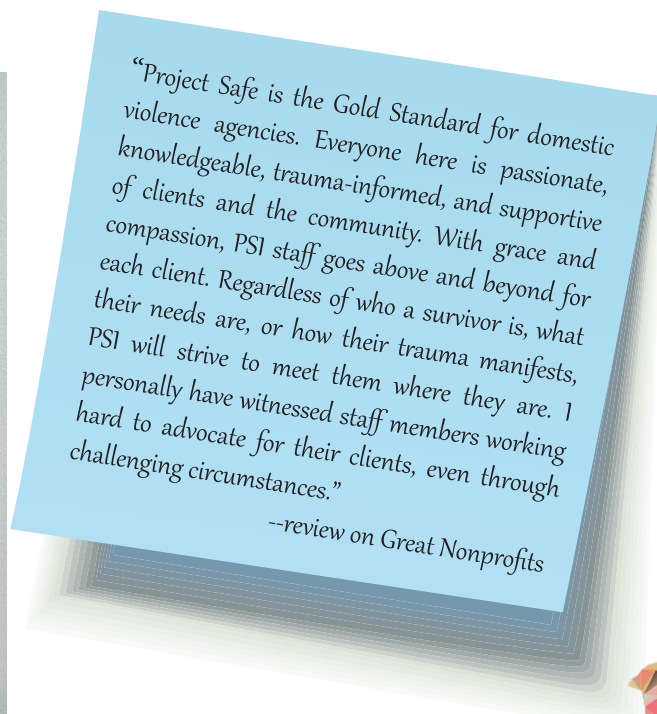
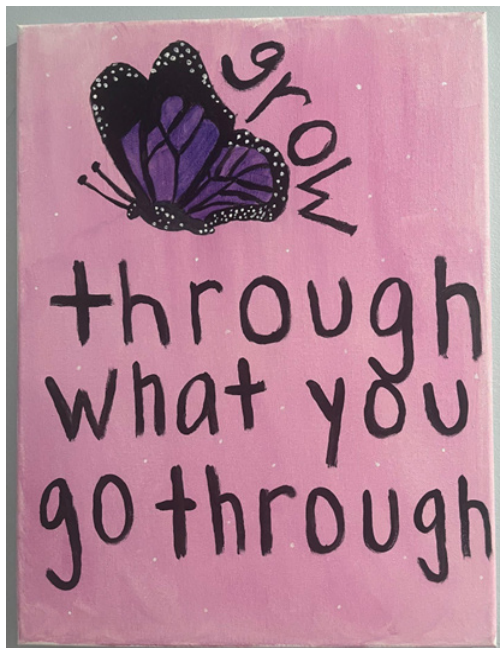
3399 Hotline Calls Answered

124 Survivors Sheltered

26 Clients in Transitional Housing

767 Outreach (Non Sheltered) Clients Served

10 Pets Housed



"And sings the tune without the words"



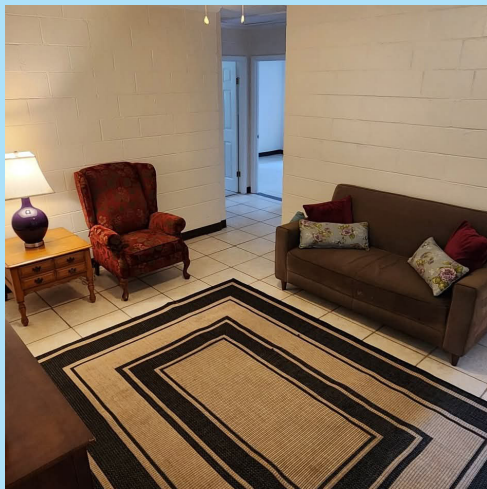
Building a Birdhouse

Ongoing Supportive Services

We acquired a new Transitional Housing Unit in 2024. Transitional Units are for families that need ongoing support after exiting our shelter program. These fully furnished homes offer more privacy and independence, but still allow families to work with our shelter and children's advocates for supportive services while they work to rebuild their lives.



One of our THI units



Autonomously Empowered

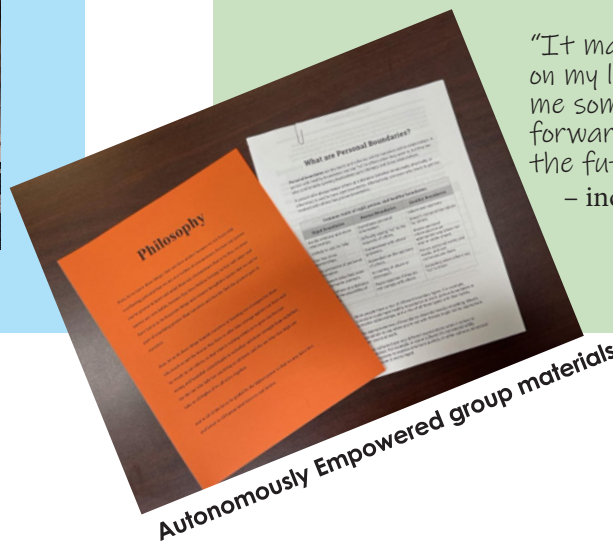


Legal advocate Tiara McRae facilitates the group at A-CC Jail

Project Safe offers many services to help survivors heal from their pain and trauma. One of our newer offerings is a support group called Autonomously Empowered for incarcerated women who have experienced domestic violence. The group aims to equip those attending with knowledge and skills to make positive life decisions freely and independently, and members have shared that this learning community is something they've needed for a long time.

"It makes me look back on my life, and it gives me something to look forward to changing in the future."

– incarcerated survivor



Autonomously Empowered group materials



"And never stops at all,"

Early Bird Gets the Worm

Systems Change Advocacy

In addition to our work with clients, Project Safe works to improve larger systems at the community and state levels to better protect survivors and hold abusers accountable.

Our newly formalized High Risk Team is a multidisciplinary collaboration that brings together advocates, law enforcement and others to address the most dangerous and complex cases of domestic violence. After identifying high risk cases, a Project Safe advocate and detective go to the scene to follow up with the survivor, build rapport, and offer services. Research shows that the more complicated, controlling, and severe the abuse, the less likely a victim will contact an organization for help. However, over two thirds of survivors who meet face to face with HRT advocates on scene continue to work with Project Safe.

We also have increased our outreach efforts in Madison County. Our Rural Advocates Tiara McRae and Melissa Balta have been hard at work providing services to rural survivors. Melissa Balta has been working with law enforcement, court officials, and attorneys to establish a High Risk Team in Madison. Stay tuned in August of 2025 for the opening of our new Thrift Store in Danielsville to complement these efforts!



High Risk Team advocate Brittney Potter and detective

"Victims who experience high trauma and chronic high intimate partner violence do not reach out. This is why a team like this works."

*- Donna Bracewell,
Community Response &
Outreach Services Director*

"And sweetest in the gale is heard;"



Spread Your Wings

Crisis Intervention Services

Our shelter has made numerous security improvements to increase the safety of our residents' stays. We now have installed backup generators in case of emergency power outages, so that our alarm system, door locks, and surveillance systems can keep running, no matter what. We installed more cameras around the shelter property, as well as monitors in more locations throughout the shelter so residents and staff alike can see who is outside. We also have increased our budget for security equipment for clients not in shelter. We offer security bars, ring cameras, and other items to help survivors feel safer in their homes.



A survivor's escape to freedom

"Y'all made
me feel alive
again."
--former shelter resident

"I gained
independence
and a sense
of peace."
--former shelter resident



"And sore must be the storm"

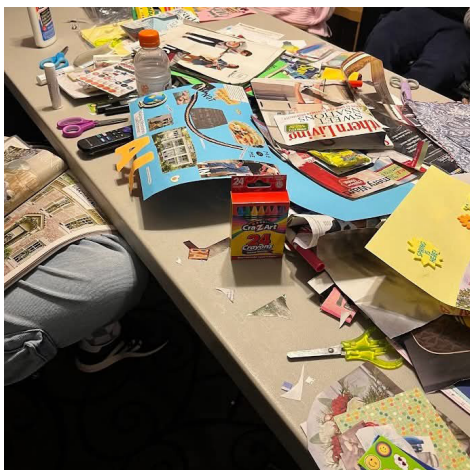
Wise as an Owl

Healing Through Fun

Superheroes Camp is offered to children in our shelter and outreach office to learn about healthy relationships and coping skills over the summer. Studies show that enriching and fun experiences can help trauma survivors heal, and our staff goes above and beyond to offer children those opportunities. This year, they went to Rush Trampoline Park for dodgeball games and trick flips, had a fin-tastic time with a pool visit and ended with a cookout and Field Day. They also had a support group each morning, where they talked about boundaries, safety plans, and self-care. Our staff members even set up a buffet of prize boxes with books, stuffed animals, fidget toys and trinkets for kids to make their very own self-care boxes.



Artistic expression can help help kids work through traumatic experiences.

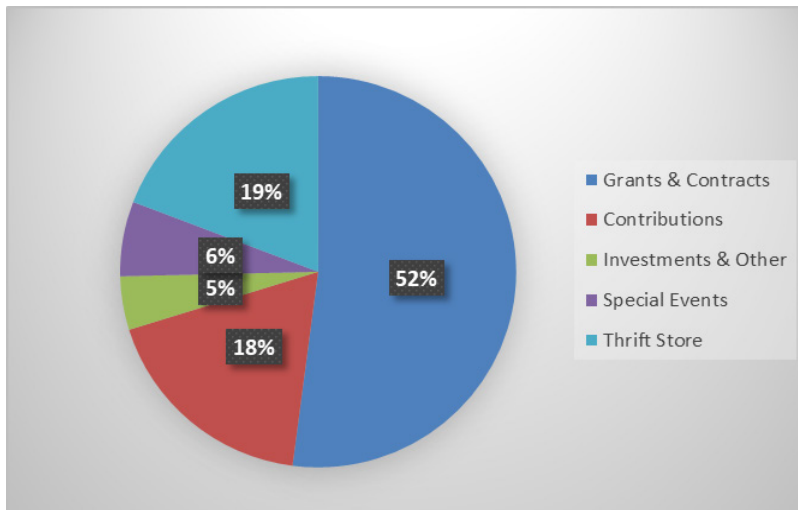


"That could abash the little bird"

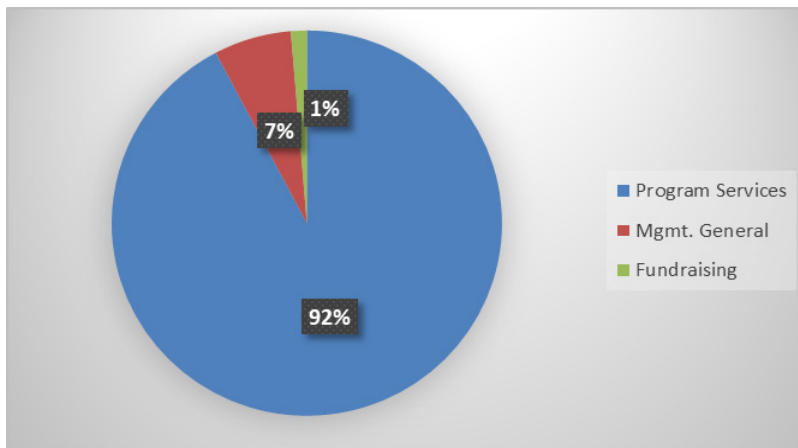


Nest Egg

Fiscal Year 2024 Revenue



Fiscal Year 2024 Expenses



For the 13th year in a row, Project Safe was named a top-rated nonprofit by Great Nonprofits!



"That kept so many warm"

Feathers in Our Cap

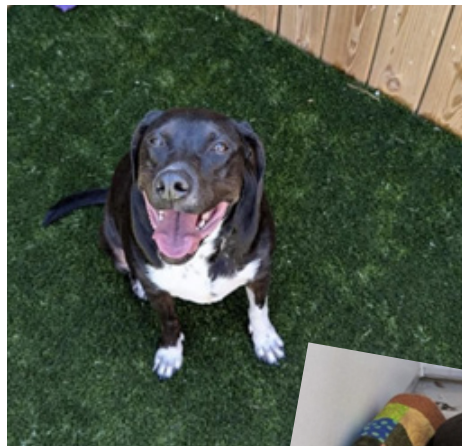
Safer Together

Pets are often a target of abusers. 71% of survivors entering a shelter report that their abusers had targeted their pet at some point. Pets are part of our family, and over 25% of survivors have reported staying in their abusive relationship to keep from leaving their beloved pets behind.

After months of construction and renovation, our shelter is now the pet-friendliest we can be. A fresh coat of scrubbable paint and new LVP bedroom flooring means we can easily house people and their pets inside the shelter. We also upgraded our pet yard. We have climate-controlled kennels for when residents need to go to work or leave shelter for the day, and turfgrass installed outside for furry friends to play in. In 2024, Project Safe housed 10 pets.



"Woof woof!"
-former PSI client after receiving a belly-rub from an advocate



"I was scared for my life, and scared he would hurt or kill my pets too! Project safe was the only shelter who could accommodate all of us."

--former client

"I've heard it in the chilliest land,"



Birds of a Feather Flock Together

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GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Athens-Clarke County

(5%, ARPA Homelessness, Community Partnership Program)

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

(Victims of Crime Act, Violence Against Women Act, Family Violence Prevention & Services Act, State of Georgia Domestic Violence Grants)

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development



"And on the strangest sea;"

Swan Songs

Community Events

Project Safe hosts several events throughout the year to increase awareness of our impact and raise funds for our mission while bringing together a wide cross section of the community.



Through an Open Window is a community painting project that showcases the artistic expression of people whose lives have been touched by domestic violence.



The 20th annual Groovy Nights retro lip sync battle and disco celebrates the era of Project Safe's and the domestic violence movement's formation.



Dancing with the Athens Stars has fueled Project Safe's growth, netting \$1.7 million dollars toward our mission.

"Yet, never, in extremity, It asked a crumb of me."





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Project Safe
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(706)765-8019

Project Safe
24-Hour Crisis Hotline
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