



2017 Report to Funders

About Sojourner

Established in 1975, Sojourner is the largest non-profit provider of family violence prevention and intervention services in Wisconsin. Our mission is to transform lives impacted by family violence. Our primary goals are to ensure the safety of victims of family violence and provide a pathway out of violence for survivors and abusers through opportunities to make positive and lasting changes for themselves and their children.



Mission

Transform lives impacted by domestic violence.

Vision

Communities where all people live peacefully.

Beliefs

- People have the right to safety and to live free from violence.
- People have the right to maintain equality in their interpersonal relationships.
- People have the right to choose how to change their lives.

Clients Served

Last year, Sojourner made 79,190 contacts with 11,346 women, men, and children in Milwaukee. Of those served, approximately 59% were African American, 22% Caucasian, 12% Hispanic and 7% Asian, Native American, mixed race or other. Nearly 80% of survivors reported an annual household income of less than \$15,000, and the vast majority of Sojourner clients resided in Milwaukee's poorest neighborhoods on the north and south sides of the city.

2017 Accomplishments

Crisis Response Services

- Coordinating services for 18,520 callers through the Sojourner 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline
- Providing 18,425 nights of crisis housing to 280 women and 277 children fleeing abuse
- Providing more than 59,000 meals across all program areas

Systems Advocacy

- Assisting 4,892 survivors with safety planning and filing a restraining order through our onsite partnership with the Milwaukee County Courthouse

- Advocating for 3,706 survivors who reported abuse to law enforcement through our onsite partnership with the Milwaukee Police Department and other suburban law enforcement agencies
- Advocating for 1,383 survivors who worked with the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office to hold their abusers accountable
- Facilitating free weekly legal consultation opportunities for survivors in collaboration with Marquette University Law School and Legal Action of Wisconsin

Individual and Family Support

- Providing case management services, life skills education, job readiness training, workforce development and economic empowerment education to 2,208 survivors to support their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and freedom from abuse
- Engaging 627 abusers to eliminate violence in their interpersonal relationships
- Helping 352 children understand that family violence is never their fault and teaching them non-violent strategies to resolve conflict peacefully
- Implementing innovative new programming for children who have witnessed abuse in collaboration with First Stage Milwaukee, the Next Door Foundation, Pearls for Teen Girls and Artists Working in Education



Community Education and Outreach

- Organizing 13 school-based teen dating violence summits that reached 500 youth from 13 MPS middle and high schools
- Conducting 195 education and outreach events attended by 7,823 people
- Implementing VOICES, a survivor leadership development program aimed at empowering survivors of family violence to share their stories with the community
- Hosting 3,060 meetings and events for other community organizations at Sojourner's Education Center

2017 Client Outcomes

A sample of outcomes from surveys collected in 2017 point to the positive impact Sojourner has on the lives of the survivors we serve:

- 99% of survivors who worked with Sojourner Advocates reported they were able to develop strategies to keep themselves safe
- 98% of abusers who completed our Beyond Abuse program acknowledged responsibility for the abuse
- 95% of abusers who completed our Beyond Abuse program committed to remaining violence-free
- 98% of survivors who worked with Sojourner Advocates reported that they were more confident in their decision-making skills
- 97% of shelter residents surveyed reported they were living in safe, independent housing one year after leaving the shelter
- 97% of shelter residents surveyed reported that they felt safe and supported while in shelter
- 96% of survivors who worked with Sojourner Advocates reported increased knowledge regarding available community resources
- 96% of survivors reported they were extremely or quite satisfied with the services they received

Programs and Services

Sojourner assists more than 11,346 women, men and children annually through programs and services that focus on safety, healing, prevention of repeat victimization, life skills for survivors, and community education and awareness through crisis housing, system advocacy, and individual support.

Crisis Housing and 24-Hour Hotline

Sojourner provides crisis housing, support, and assistance to women and children fleeing violence in their homes. Residents of Sojourner Truth House, our 54-bed crisis housing facility, receive a broad array of supports and services during their stay that are focused on helping them achieve freedom from violence. Sojourner Truth House also houses our Sojourner 24-hour domestic violence hotline.



Services include:

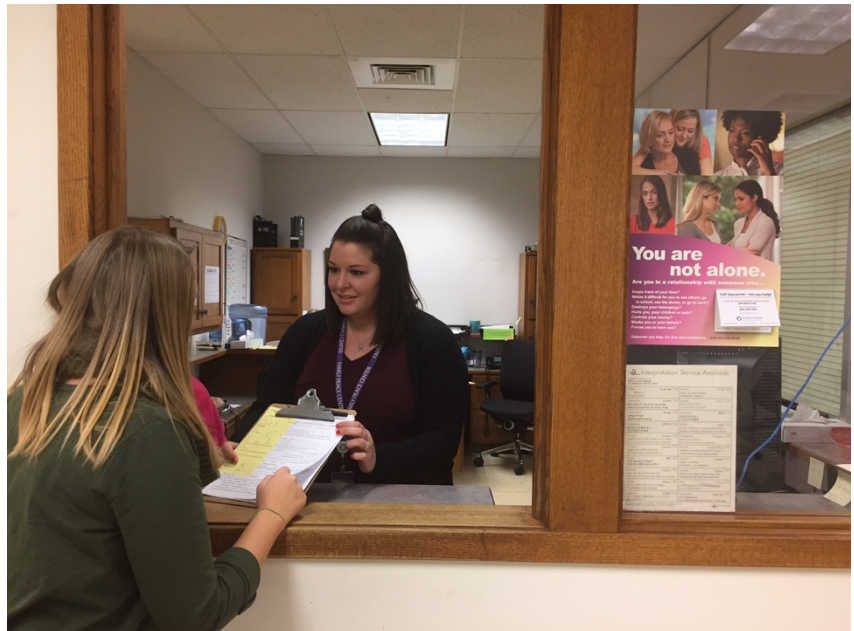
- Individual and group support
- Basic needs assistance: food, transportation, clothing
- Assistance in securing safe and affordable housing
- Linkage to medical and mental health services
- Legal assistance
- Job readiness

System Advocacy

Sojourner assists families impacted by domestic violence as they navigate the many systems (e.g. criminal justice, healthcare, child welfare, education) that impact their lives. Our advocates work with families to address barriers and provide support as they work within these systems.

Services include:

- Assistance filing for and obtaining a restraining order
- Support for survivors whose cases are referred to the criminal justice system
- Support for military families experiencing domestic violence
- Safety planning for families at all risk levels
- Support and advocacy for survivors when meeting with police and prosecutors
- Support and resources for families impacted by domestic violence homicides



Individual Support

Sojourner provides individual and group support for survivors of domestic violence and people who use violence in their relationships.

Services include:

- Individual and group support
- Domestic violence prevention and education for all ages
- Job readiness
- Parent education
- Legal advocacy
- Housing assistance
- Financial literacy

Activities in each of our core program areas in 2017 included:

Crisis Response/Basic Needs	Systems Based and Legal Advocacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinating services and providing immediate assistance to 18,520 callers to the Sojourner 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline ▪ Providing 18,425 nights of crisis housing at Sojourner Truth House to 280 women and 277 children fleeing abuse ▪ Providing more than 59,000 meals across all program areas ▪ Distributing more than 12,000 bus tickets and taxi vouchers to survivors to access services and appointments to support their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assisting 4,892 survivors with safety planning and filing a restraining order through our partnership with the Milwaukee County Courthouse ▪ Advocating for 3,706 survivors who reported abuse to law enforcement through our onsite partnership with the Milwaukee Police Department and other suburban law enforcement agencies ▪ Advocating for 1,383 survivors who worked with the Milwaukee County District Attorney’s Office to hold their abusers accountable ▪ Facilitating free weekly legal consultation opportunities for survivors in collaboration with Marquette University Law School and Legal Action of Wisconsin
Individual and Family Support	Community Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing case management services, life skills education, job readiness training, workforce development and economic empowerment education to 2,208 survivors to support their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and freedom from abuse ▪ Engaging 627 batterers to eliminate violence in their interpersonal relationships ▪ Helping 352 children understand that family violence is never their fault and teaching them non-violent strategies to resolve conflict peacefully ▪ Implementing innovative new programming for children who have witnessed abuse in collaboration with First Stage Milwaukee, the Next Door Foundation, Pearls for Teen Girls and Artists Working in Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organizing and conducting 13 school-based teen dating violence summits that reached 500 youth from 13 Milwaukee Public Schools middle and high Schools ▪ Conducting 195 education and outreach events attended by 7,823 people ▪ Implementing VOICES, a survivor leadership development program aimed at empowering survivors of family violence to share their stories with the community ▪ Hosting 3,060 meetings and events for other community organizations at the Sojourner Education Center ▪ Conducting targeted outreach in Spanish-speaking and Russian-speaking communities to raise awareness about family violence

Impact of Family Violence in Milwaukee

Family violence has a devastating impact on the lives of survivors, their children, and our community. After two full years of collaborative programming provided by the partners at Sojourner Family Peace Center, we are pleased with the progress we have achieved in expanding and streamlining services for survivors. At the same time, we are mindful of the severity of family violence in our community:

- The demand for services provided at Sojourner Family Peace Center continues to grow; in 2017, Sojourner served 1,600 more survivors than the previous year – an increase of 16%
- The Milwaukee Police Department reports that family violence-related calls for service continue to climb each year
- The Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office reports that the number of domestic abuse cases prosecuted in 2017 increased by 25%
- Approximately 72% of survivors served reported they have been physically strangled by a partner
- Approximately 68% of survivors served reported they experienced unwanted sexual contact
- Approximately 76% of survivors served indicated their children witnessed domestic violence in the home
- Approximately 44% of survivors served reported they had been abused during pregnancy
- Approximately 40% of survivors served reported they experienced a head injury.
- An increasing number of survivors require legal assistance to address family law, immigration, bankruptcy and other legal matters
- Access to safe and affordable housing is a primary obstacle for many survivors seeking independence from abuse

Sojourner Family Peace Center

For more than 40 years, Sojourner has committed to providing collaborative and comprehensive programming for survivors of domestic violence. In 2016, we opened Sojourner Family Peace Center – one of the most comprehensive family justice centers to date in the world – to give survivors and their children a one-stop resource center for seamless access to an array of ancillary support services all under one roof and in partnership with 14 local organizations.

Services include:

- Onsite access to law enforcement and prosecutors
- Child advocacy services and child and family counseling provided by Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
- Mental health counseling provided by Jewish Family Services
- Crisis counseling for victims of sexual assault provided by Aurora Health Care
- Legal assistance provided by Marquette University Law School, Centro Legal and Legal Action of Wisconsin
- Employment and financial education assistance provided by Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin
- Educational support and assistance for children, to ensure a child's education is not disrupted, provided Milwaukee Public Schools social worker liaison
- Supervised children's programming to ensure parents can meet with advocates privately and without their children present
- Health and wellness services provided by CORE EI/Centro
- An Education Center that provides meeting space to local organizations

One client noted, "As soon as you walk in here, it's really calming. You feel safe."

Another said, "I actually feel really safe in this building and so happy. It's a safe and comforting environment."

Evaluation and Outcomes

Sojourner has established outcome goals and target indicators for each of its programs. Results from exit surveys and follow-up interviews are reviewed quarterly and annually by the leadership team and the Sojourner Director of Outcomes and Evaluation, Erin Schubert, PhD. Results are used to make program modifications as needed. A sample of outcomes from surveys collected in 2017 indicates the positive impact that Sojourner had on the lives of the survivors we served:

- 99% of survivors who worked with Sojourner advocates reported they were able to develop strategies to keep themselves safe.
- 98% of batterers who completed our Beyond Abuse program acknowledged their responsibility for the abuse and 95% made a commitment to remain violence free.
- 98% of survivors who worked with Sojourner Advocates reported that they were more confident in their decision making skills.
- 97% of shelter residents surveyed reported they were living in safe, independent housing one year after leaving the shelter.
- 97% of survivors who resided at the shelter reported that they felt safe and supported while in the shelter.
- 96% of survivors who worked with Sojourner advocates reported an increase in their knowledge about community resources.
- 96% of survivors were extremely or quite satisfied with the services they received.



Sojourner Board of Directors

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Organizational History

1975 – The Women’s Coalition founded Task Force on Battered Women (TFBW).

1976 – TFBW organized the first Wisconsin conference on battered women. Over 200 participants from 20 states attended. This conference led to the creation of the National Coalition against Domestic Violence in 1978.

1977 – TFBW developed the Advocates for Battered women Project, housed in the District Attorney’s Office, in collaboration with the Junior League of Milwaukee.

1977 – TFBW helped create the Wisconsin Coalition against Women Abuse.

1978 –The Women’s Coalition and TFBW create Sojourner Truth House (STH), the first shelter for battered women in Milwaukee. STH, incorporated as a non-profit and funded by a grant from the Community Development Agency, opened as the city’s first shelter for battered women and their children in a renovated duplex on Wisconsin Avenue.

1980 – TFBW assisted in writing and publishing “Survival: A Handbook for Battered Women” in collaboration with the Milwaukee Young Lawyers Association’s domestic violence committee and Milwaukee Insurance company.

1980 – STH purchased a new, larger facility. Capacity was increased to 38 beds in 1999 but later lowered to 37 beds in 2004 in order to become wheelchair accessible.

1981 – TFBW organized the “Battered Women: A Moral Dilemma,” the second national conference on domestic violence.

1981 – In response to the need to help abusers change their destructive behaviors, STH established Batterers Anonymous-Beyond Abuse (BA). Participation in the confidential 23-week program is often mandated by the courts or child protection.

1982 – TFBW and the Junior League of Milwaukee produced and premiered the film, “Domestic Violence: The All-American Crime.”

1986 – TFBW moved to the Courthouse to provide restraining order advocacy.

1986 – The City of Milwaukee Police Department implemented a mandatory arrest policy for domestic violence crimes and designated STH to operate the 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline.

1987 – TFBW established the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, an 18-week educational program for batterers.

1989 – The State of Wisconsin enacted the mandatory arrest law. Law enforcement officers from throughout Milwaukee County also began calling the 24-Hour DV Hotline.

1993 – STH begins to staff a Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate program in the Domestic Violence unit of the Milwaukee County District Attorney’s office.

1993 – STH and TFBW participated in a collaborative five-year study, entitled “*Safe at Home*,” sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

1994 – The Violence Against Women Act is passed by Congress.

1997 – The Task Force on Battered Women changed its name to the Task Force on Family Violence of Milwaukee, Inc. (TFFV)

1997 – TFFV established the Legal Emergency Assistance Project (LEAP) in collaboration with Legal Action of Wisconsin.

1997 – STH established the Belle Resource Center for Women and Children. Children’s program services and the After School Homework Tutoring program operate from this facility.

1999 – TFFV established the Children’s Advocacy Program in collaboration with Legal Action of Wisconsin.

1999 – The U.S. Department of Justice names Milwaukee County as one of three sites involved in a collaborative five-year, Judicial Oversight Demonstration project, a national effort geared toward the development of an effective and coordinated judicial response to domestic violence. TFFV and STH are both active partners.

2002 – TFFV was a founding partner of Milwaukee’s Child Abuse Response Team (CART) and began providing advocacy services at the Child Protective Center of Children’s Hospital.

2004 – In response to feedback from survivors, TFFV started the Life Skills Program to address financial literacy, employment, education and healing.

2006 – TFFV began providing comprehensive services to Russian speaking victims through the Refugee Family Strengthening Program.

2007 – STH and the TFFV participate in a large-scale Milwaukee County collaborative effort entitled *Grants to Encourage Arrests*. This effort results in police district-based domestic violence prosecutors and advocates.

2009 – TFFV and STH merged to form Sojourner Family Peace Center, Inc. (SFPC) We continue to call the shelter “Sojourner Truth House.”

2010 – SFPC purchased property at 619 W. Walnut and began planning to create a new model of addressing family violence.

2011 – SFPC demolished existing building at 619 W. Walnut in preparation for the new facility.

2012 – SFPC began the *Courage Campaign* to build support for the new center.

2012 – In collaboration with the Wisconsin Humane Society, SFPC begins the “Safe Haven” program to raise awareness of the link between animal abuse and family violence and provide foster homes for pets of fleeing victims.

2013 – SFPC started specialized case management for families of homicide victims, near fatal domestic abuse and co-occurring child maltreatment and family violence.

2013- SFPC organized a major conference on abuse in later life in collaboration with the Milwaukee County Department on Aging.

2013 – SFPC hired the project manager, architect, and contractor and began designing the new facility.

2014 – In collaboration with Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County Courts and the city of Milwaukee, SFPC opened the Milwaukee Visitation Center to provide safe exchange and supervised visitation for families with a history of domestic violence.

2014 – SFPC joined Milwaukee Public Schools and other partners in major prevention efforts within public and private schools.

2014 – SFPC and Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin broke ground for the new building on 6th and Walnut which includes partner space using the Family Justice Center model.

2015 – SFPC launched mobile app to connect victims and other community members to Sojourner and other resources.

2015 – SFPC, the District Attorney’s Office and all 20 law enforcement agencies in Milwaukee County implement the Lethality Assessment Program.

2016 – Family Peace Center opens! Partnership includes 18 partner agencies providing services to survivors.



Statement of Revenue and Expenses for 2017

SOJOURNER Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Statement of Activities
Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2017
(Audited)

	Foundation	Family Peace Center	Consolidating Entries	Consolidated
Revenues:				
Grants	\$ -	\$ 2,259,400	\$ -	\$ 2,259,400
Contributions	2,578,356	-	-	2,578,356
Capital Campaign Contributions	137,802	-	-	137,802
Children's Hospital Loan Forgiveness	190,000	-	-	190,000
United Way	322,268	-	-	322,268
Sojourner Foundation		4,165,877	(4,165,877)	-
Special Events	216,385	-	-	216,385
Family Peace Center Partner Lease Revenue	-	404,049	-	404,049
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	17,250	-	17,250
Program Fees	-	17,506	-	17,506
Gain on Sale of Fixed Assets	-	55,950	-	55,950
In-Kind Contributions	34,200	496,684	-	530,884
Net Gain on Investments	359,000	-	-	359,000
Interest & Dividends	56,653	3,182	-	59,835
Total Revenues:	\$ 3,894,664	\$ 7,419,898	\$ (4,165,877)	\$ 7,148,685
Expenses:				
Distributions to Agency	\$ 4,165,877	\$ -	\$ (4,165,877)	\$ -
Salaries & Fringe Benefits	-	4,279,247	-	4,279,247
Occupancy Costs	2,781	1,223,767	-	1,226,548
Public Relations	-	56,822	-	56,822
Supplies	-	143,519	-	143,519
Equipment	-	261,320	-	261,320
Fundraising/Special Events	-	112,923	-	112,923
Telephone	-	53,231	-	53,231
Client Resources/Needs	-	249,378	-	249,378
Professional Fees, including Audit	11,370	894,078	-	905,448
Staff Costs	-	115,630	-	115,630
In-Kind Expenditures	34,200	496,684	-	530,884
Total Expenses:	\$ 4,214,228	\$ 7,886,599	\$ (4,165,877)	\$ 7,934,950
Other Income/Expense				
Interest Income New Market Tax Credit Loan	\$ 148,523	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 148,523
Interest Expense New Market Tax Credit Loans	-	(278,433)	-	(278,433)
Total Other Income/(Expense):	\$ 148,523	\$ (278,433)	\$ -	\$ (129,910)
Change in Net Assets:	\$ (171,041)	\$ (745,134)	\$ -	\$ (916,175)

Sojourner Strategic Plan

The Sojourner Strategic Plan, approved by the Board of Directors in late 2017, sets the course for Sojourner from 2018 through 2022 and ensures the agency stays vibrant and strong, continues to meet the growing needs of clients and elevates the conversation about domestic violence in the community. The Sojourner Strategic Plan considers all aspects of the agency's work with clients, staff, the community and partners. Strategic goals for the agency are as follows:

1. Provide and enhance critical services and programs for people impacted by domestic violence.
2. Influence public and private systems for the betterment of people impacted by domestic violence.
3. Prevent domestic violence through support and education.
4. Secure and manage financial resources to advance the mission of the agency.
5. Support and enhance the well-being and professional development of staff and volunteers.
6. Ensure a strong, diverse, and inclusive organization.
7. Elevate the conversation to inspire and engage the broader community in creating peace.
8. Facilitate and support the Family Peace Center and any partnerships necessary to serve people impacted by domestic violence.

