



2019

REPORT TO FUNDERS



*Transforming lives impacted by
domestic violence*

Overview

Established in 1975, Sojourner is the largest non-profit provider of family violence prevention and intervention services in Wisconsin.

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 equality in their interpersonal relationships.
- People have the right to choose how to change their lives.

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Clients Served

Last year, Sojourner made 80,569 contacts with 11,885 women, men, and children in Milwaukee.

Of those served, approximately 58% were African American, 20% Caucasian, 13% Hispanic and 9% 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.

Accomplishments

Crisis Response Services

- Coordinating services for 17,952 callers through the Sojourner 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline
- Providing 15,014 nights of crisis housing to 515 people fleeing abuse

Systems Advocacy

- Assisting 4,380 survivors with safety planning and filing a restraining order through our onsite partnership with the Milwaukee County Courthouse
- Advocating for 4,283 survivors who reported abuse to law enforcement through our onsite partnership with the Milwaukee Police Department and other suburban law enforcement agencies
- Advocating for 1,653 survivors who worked with the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office to hold their abusers accountable

Individual and Family Support

- Providing case management services, life skills education, job readiness training, workforce development and economic empowerment education to 1,997 survivors to support their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and freedom from abuse
- Engaging 102 abusers to eliminate violence in their interpersonal relationships
- Helping 1,003 children understand that family violence is never their fault and teaching them non-violent strategies to resolve conflict peacefully
- Offering innovative 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

- 4,393 people learned about domestic violence, workplace impacts, teen dating, healthy relationships and more through our community education and outreach efforts.

- Continued supporting VOICES, a survivor leadership development program aimed at empowering survivors of family violence to share their stories with the community

Programs and Services

Sojourner assists more than 11,800 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 our 53-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. Our emergency shelter also houses our 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.

Family Peace Center Advocacy

Services include:

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

For nearly 50 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 prosecutor
- 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

Board of Directors

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Cecelia Gore
Executive Director
Brewers Community Foundation

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Kira Lafond
Market President & Publisher
Milwaukee Business Journal

Vice President

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SVN/Hintze Commercial
Real Estate

Socorro Gonzales

Account Manager, Retired
We Energies

Holly Haseley

Director of Corporate
Communications
A O Smith Corporation

Dessa Johnson

Diversity & Inclusion Leader
Manpower Group

Carlene Julius

Director of Business
Development
New Resources Consulting

Abim Kolawaole

Vice President, Benefits
Northwestern Mutual

Michelle Mettner

Corporate Vice President,
Government and Legal Affairs
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

Chief Tom Poellot

Chief of Police
Cudahy Police Department

Marylou Schripke

Senior Vice President
Wintrust Commercial Banking at
Town Bank

Andrea Schneider

Professor of Law, Director of
Institute of Women's Leadership
Marquette University Law School

Mary Schuler

Director, Private Wealth Advisor
BMO Private Bank

Thelma Sias

Vice President of Local Affairs,
Retired
We Energies

J. Darrell Thomas

Vice President and Treasurer
Harley Davidson, Inc.

Shary Tran

Executive Program Manager,
Inclusion & Diversity
Amazon (Remote)

Benjamin Wagner

Partner
Habush, Habush & Rottier S.C.

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. 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.
• 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.
• 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.
• 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.
 - 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)
 - TFFV established the Legal Emergency Assistance Project (LEAP) in collaboration with Legal Action of Wisconsin.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - SFPC organized a major conference on abuse in later life in collaboration with the Milwaukee County Department on Aging.
 - 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.
 - SFPC joined Milwaukee Public Schools and other partners in major prevention efforts within public and private schools.
 - 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.
 - SFPC, the District Attorney’s Office and all 20 law enforcement agencies in Milwaukee County implement the Lethality Assessment Program.
- 2016**
 - Residents move into the new Sojourner Truth House at the FPC.
 - Carmen Pitre becomes President and CEO of SFPC.
 - Family Peace Center opens! Partnership includes 18 partner agencies providing services to survivors.
 - Residents move into the new emergency shelter at the FPC.
 - All partners are moved into the FPC and are providing full services to clients.
- 2017**
 - SFPC hosted the International Family Justice Center Conference.
- 2018**
 - Hosted Alliance for Hope FJC Leadership Summit.
 - The first Hope Lives Here annual report is published to showcase our work and impact.
 - Camp HOPE America – Wisconsin runs its first week of camp for 42 children ages 7-11.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

SOJOURNER Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Statement of Activities
Nine Months Ended September 30, 2019
(Audited)

	Foundation	Family Peace Center	Consolidating Entries	Consolidated
Revenues:				
Grants	\$ -	\$ 2,247,907	\$ -	\$ 2,247,907
Contributions	2,496,879	-	-	2,496,879
United Way	196,545	-	-	196,545
Sojourner Foundation	-	3,646,760	(3,646,760)	-
Special Events	300,310	-	-	300,310
Family Peace Center Partner Lease Revenue	-	305,222	-	305,222
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	6,211	-	6,211
Program Fees	-	5,086	-	5,086
In-Kind Contributions	22,800	177,113	-	199,913
Net Gain on Investments	501,019	-	-	501,019
Interest & Dividends	52,348	2,008	-	54,356
Total Revenues:	\$ 3,569,901	\$ 6,390,307	\$ (3,646,760)	\$ 6,313,448
Expenses:				
Distributions to Agency	\$ 3,646,760	\$ -	\$ (3,646,760)	\$ -
Salaries & Fringe Benefits	-	3,756,085	-	3,756,085
Occupancy Costs	2,375	971,068	-	973,443
Public Relations	-	21,053	-	21,053
Supplies	-	114,585	-	114,585
Equipment	-	162,153	-	162,153
Fundraising/Special Events	-	127,608	-	127,608
Telephone	-	28,528	-	28,528
Client Resources/Needs	-	214,279	-	214,279
Professional Fees, including Audit	9,430	973,767	-	983,197
Staff Costs	-	97,181	-	97,181
In-Kind Expenditures	22,800	177,113	-	199,913
Total Expenses:	\$ 3,681,365	\$ 6,643,420	\$ (3,646,760)	\$ 6,678,025
Other Income/Expense				
Interest Income New Market Tax Credit Loan	\$ 111,392	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 111,392
Interest Expense New Market Tax Credit Loans	-	(217,386)	-	(217,386)
Total Other Income/(Expense):	\$ 111,392	\$ (217,386)	\$ -	\$ (105,994)
Change in Net Assets:	\$ (72)	\$ (470,499)	\$ -	\$ (470,571)

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.

Additional Information

Visit us online at familypeacecenter.org to learn more about our work and for news and events. Follow SojournerMKE on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

If you or someone you know is impacted by domestic violence, call our 24-hour hotline, (414) 933-2722, to speak with an Advocate. All calls are confidential.

