

A TIME FOR COURAGE

2021 Annual Review



Creating a safer tomorrow, today.

Sojourner Family Peace Center
619 W. Walnut Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212



2021

Dear Friend,

It is with great appreciation for all you do to help Sojourner that we share with you the lifesaving impact of your support for survivors of domestic violence.

2021 was another difficult year under COVID as we worked to find new ways of serving those who needed us most amid these disruptive and isolating times. We introduced a textline as an additional way for people seeking services to contact us, and we continue to evaluate the most effective outreach opportunities through community campaigns and donor engagement.

Thanks to your generosity, 8,142 people received services from staff, 143 children received care, and nearly 52,000 contacts were made with people in need.

Our shelter was once again tasked with housing women, children, and families during a global pandemic, providing 13,557 nights of emergency shelter to 379 people. Sojourner's Advocacy Team assisted 2,834 people seeking restraining orders as the High Risk Team reviewed 756 cases at the highest risk for homicide.

Despite the uncertainty of an evolving pandemic and escalating violence, Sojourner has endured as a constant source of hope and safety in our community. We are committed to serving the most vulnerable in our society through action, education, and advocacy.

This past year's accomplishments would not be possible without you. Thank you for being a partner in our pursuit of peace.

Gratefully,



Cecelia Gore
Board President



Carmen Pitre
President & CEO

2021

Our Work



Sojourner Family Peace Center is a comprehensive nonprofit provider of domestic violence prevention and intervention services in Wisconsin, serving thousands of clients each year. Sojourner provides an array of services aimed at helping families affected by family violence achieve safety, justice, and well-being.

Our primary goals are to ensure the safety of survivors of family violence and provide a pathway out of violence for victims and families through opportunities to make positive and lasting changes for themselves and their children.

Our Core Values



Our core values guide every aspect of our work with clients and the community. We are committed to serving all individuals and families with dignity, dedication, and care.



"I will not allow my life's light to be determined by the darkness around me"

-Sojourner Truth

2021

Family Peace Center

Our Co-Located Partners



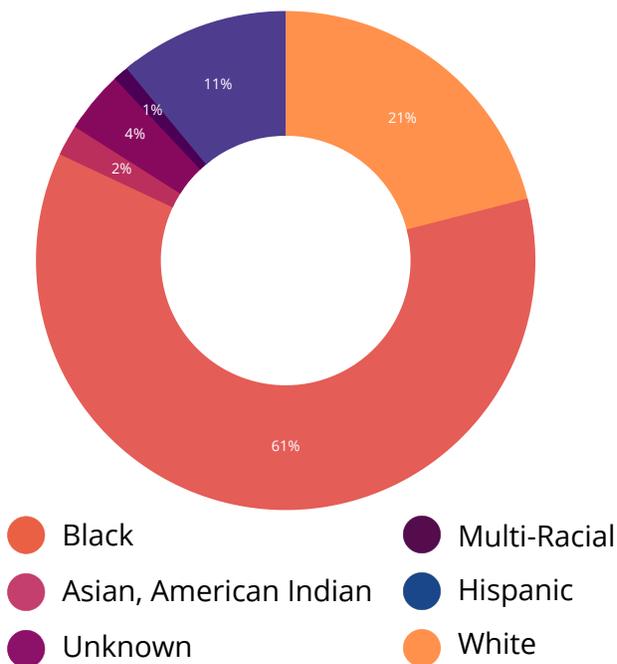
Our Services

- Restraining Order Assistance
- Emergency Shelter
- Safety Planning
- Case Management
- 24-Hour Hotline
- Children's Programming
- Hope & Healing
- Support Groups
- Community Education
- Systems Advocacy

2021

Our Clients

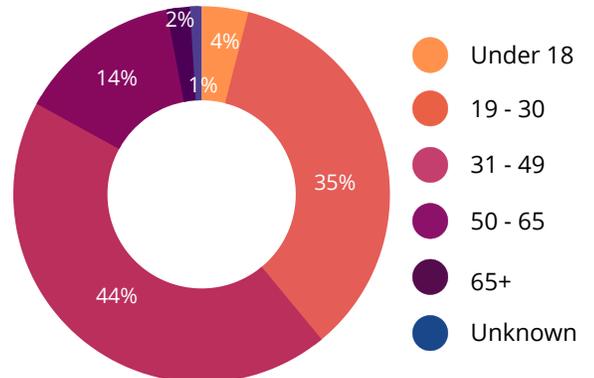
Ethnicity



Gender



Age



It's important to acknowledge that domestic violence cuts across all racial and economic boundaries, and survivors come from every walk of life. No one ethnic group or economic class is more susceptible to domestic violence than another. All clients are assisted free of charge and largely come from the city of Milwaukee.

The demographics shown in this report do not reflect those of families affected by domestic violence on the whole, but do describe the backgrounds of those served by Sojourner.

2021

At a Glance



SUPPORT

- 8,142 people received services from Sojourner staff
- 52,938 contacts were made with people in need
- 143 children impacted by family violence received care and support

CRISIS RESPONSE

- 12,029 calls from police officers, community members, and survivors were made to our 24-hour domestic violence hotline
- 14,563 nights of shelter were provided to 406 people fleeing violence



ADVOCACY

- 2,834 people seeking restraining orders received support
- 3,954 people seeking safety via law enforcement received follow-up support from a Sojourner Advocate located in the police district station

HEALING & SUCCESS

- 344 survivors took control of personal development through Hope & Healing programs
- 195 people participated in weekly support group sessions



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HIGH RISK TEAM

- Sojourner and our partners from law enforcement, prosecution, and corrections reviewed 756 cases identified as the highest risk for homicide, crafting targeted interventions and support in real time

Survivor Spotlight



Constance

My journey to self-awareness and healing began about 8 years ago. I was going through the end of a difficult marriage full of mental, emotional and financial abuse. At the suggestion of my Pastor, I reached out to Sojourner. There, I found encouragement and non-judgmental support to let me know that my feelings matter. Now, with the ability to empower myself, I've started taking steps toward better self-esteem.

My children and I participated in numerous programs including Camp Hope, Child Witness to Domestic Violence, The Lullaby Project, Hip Hop Music, CORE, and VOICES. Allowing my children to go to Camp Hope was scary. I couldn't imagine them being away from me for a week. At the insistence of an advocate, I allowed them to go. I am so glad I did. They were able to learn how to swim, hike, complete trust exercises, and camp.

I wasn't aware of the impact that domestic violence had on my children. I thought I was able to hide most of it from them in hopes of protecting them, but I learned my son remembered all of the arguments in my relationship. I didn't realize the toll it took on them and the way it impacted their self-esteem. They took responsibility in situations it wasn't theirs to take. I requested counseling for them and that's when I became aware of exactly how they were affected. I found out my daughter was self-harming. Through a psychologist at Sojourner, she was able to heal from suicidal thoughts.

The Lullaby Project and the Hip Hop Music classes were two of the most impactful things we were blessed to enjoy. My children and I are very musical, so these opportunities were right up our alley. I co-wrote and recorded a song with a musician from the Symphony Orchestra. Two years later, I still keep in contact with him. He was a great source of support and collaboration. My children were able to co-write and record a song with the Hip Hop Music class. It was awesome to see their excitement in creating their own song. It gave them validation and showed them that there are other things they can achieve. It allowed them to be able to express their creativity and boosted their confidence. I am eternally grateful for our experiences.

Healing from domestic violence and being a single parent are completely exhausting and overwhelming. My focus was on making sure my children were okay. I had to realize I can't care for my children if I don't care for myself. Having CORE available helped me practice self-love and made me aware that I matter.

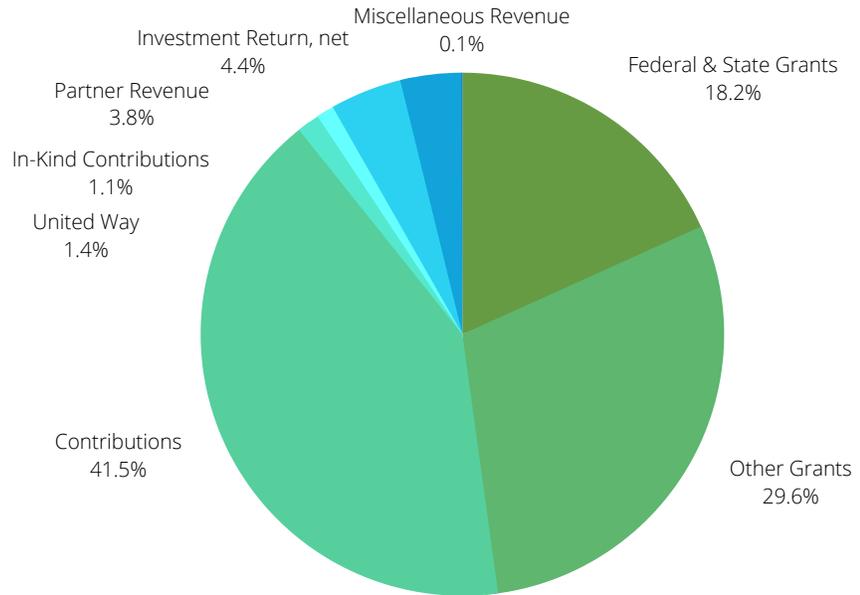
At the advice of my counselor, I joined VOICES. She felt it would allow me to stretch myself by doing something challenging. The first event I participated in was a virtual panel. In my relationship, I felt intimidated, unsure, ashamed, afraid, and invalidated. Having the opportunity to speak my voice is helping me to see my importance. My feelings and emotions are valid. Healing is possible.

Healing is a process and takes time. Through my most difficult days when I feel like it is not worth the struggle to keep going, I reach out for support from my church family or through counseling. I have to remind myself my children are worth it and so am I. Do not allow the shame to consume you. We are a work in progress. Keep pushing. Our healing from the shame and embarrassment is ours for the taking.

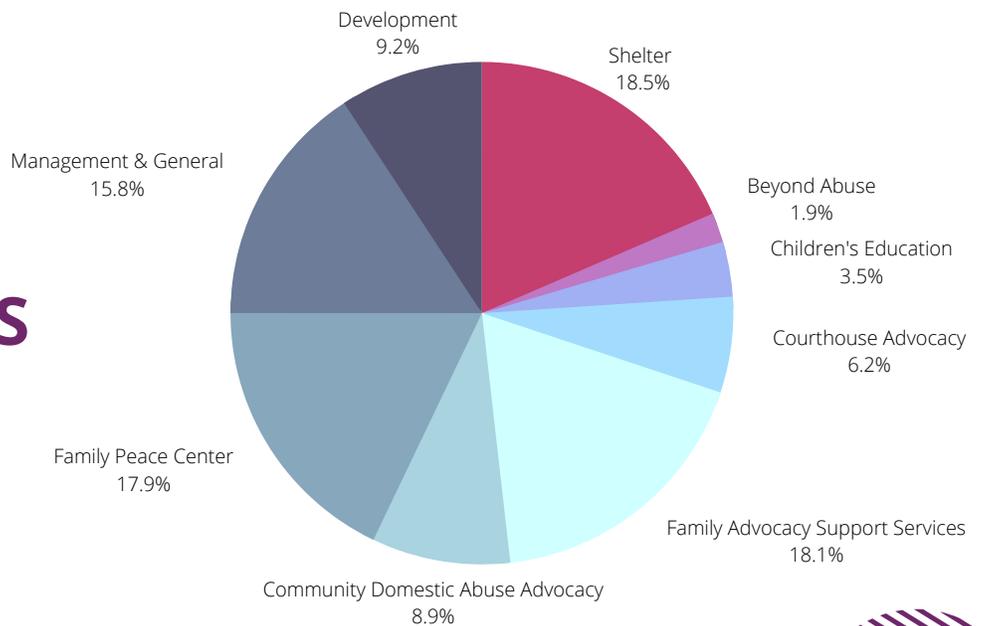
2021

Financials

REVENUE



EXPENSES



*Source: Annual Financial Audit - Consolidated Statement of Activities

2021

A Look Ahead



Sojourner continues to feel the impact of Covid-19. Innovation in our crisis response, system advocacy, and healing services programs is helping us continue to transform lives impact by domestic violence. Under COVID, we were forced to examine how we provide services to people who were also living in extreme isolation and with life barriers that prevented them from getting the help they needed.

We know that domestic violence thrives and grows more lethal in isolation. Research shows that when a victim of domestic violence reaches out for help, they are 94% more likely to survive violence. Since 2019, we have noted that most victims of domestic violence homicides are not connected with Sojourner or any of our partners. To make people aware of domestic violence risks and resources available, we are initiating a community outreach campaign focused on those facing the greatest threat of domestic violence homicide based on our High Risk Team case review. The High Risk Team is a group of professionals from the District Attorney's Office, Division of Corrections, law enforcement, and Sojourner who review active cases with the highest risk of domestic violence homicide.

Source: Sojourner Family Peace Center. (2022). *2021, A Year in Review*. Sojourner publication.

2021

Ways to Help



Donate

Your donation ensures thousands of domestic violence survivors have a safe place to sleep, an Advocate for support, and a community offering encouragement.

Annual Gifts

Your support every year enables us to continue our critical work in crisis response, system advocacy, and healing services.

Recurring Gifts

Deduct your recurring gift from your credit/debit card to ensure our legacy of building hope for survivors and their families will continue for decades to come. Monthly giving is the easiest way to make the largest impact.

Future Gifts

Planned giving is an investment in Sojourner's future, our mission, and the life-saving services we provide. Our legal name for estate plans is Sojourner Foundation, Inc., Tax ID: 46-5489434.

We could not do this important work without you.

Donate by mail (checks payable to Sojourner Foundation) to Sojourner PO Box 88987 Milwaukee, WI 53288-8987 or at familypeacecenter.org/donate.



Volunteer

Use Your Time and Talent to Transform Lives

Volunteers and interns strengthen our agency as a whole and significantly expand our reach to the clients we serve. We offer many volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups, whether you have a few hours to spare or would like to help on an ongoing basis. Go to familypeacecenter.org/volunteer for more information.



Join the Conversation

Follow **SojournerMKE** on social media for inspiring stories, agency news and ways you can get involved.



2021

Leadership

Executive Staff

Carmen Pitre - President & CEO
Tammy DuBois - Vice President of Operations & CFO
Cherie Paust Swenson - Vice President & CDO
Hector Hernandez - Senior Director of Advocacy
Liz Marquardt - Senior Director of Analytics, Grants & Compliance
Julie Yeado - Senior Director of Advocacy
Damien Mohorne - Senior Director of Human Resources, People & Culture

Board of Directors

BOARD OFFICERS

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Executive Director
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Market President & Publisher
Milwaukee Business Journal

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Vice President
Director of Business Development
New Resource Consulting

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Secretary
Deputy District Attorney
General Crimes, Community
Prosecution & Early Intervention

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Retired, Chief Financial Officer
Everett Smith Group, LTD

Carmen Pitre
Ex Officio
President & CEO
Sojourner Family Peace Center

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SVN/Hintze Comm. Real Estate

Socorro Gonzales
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We Energies

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Molson Coors

Dessa Johnson
Director, Emerging Markets & Inclusion
Froedtert & Medical College of WI

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Northwestern Mutual

Michelle Mettner
Corporate VP Government
& Legal Affairs
Children's Wisconsin

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Fox 6 Milwaukee

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Wintrust Commercial Banking at Town Bank

Andrea Schneider
Professor of Law, Director of Kukin Program for
Conflict Resolution

Mary Schuler
Director, Private Wealth Advisor
BMO Private Bank

Thelma Sias
Retired, VP Local Affairs
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.

Taryn Webb
Children's Wisconsin.

Alexx Zawada
Director of Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships
Potawatomi Hotel & Casino



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