

The background of the entire page is a grayscale photograph of a wall covered in graffiti. The graffiti consists of various styles of letters and symbols, some of which are partially obscured by the text overlay. The overall texture is rough and urban.

**2012**

**Project Safe**

**Annual Report**

**Counting Our Achievements**



# 2012 Program Outcomes

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.

82%

of clients achieved their housing goal or safe housing.

64%

of clients achieved their employment goal.

77%

of clients achieved other goals they set for themselves.



“The butterfly is breaking out of the cocoon.”

93%

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

95%

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

91%

of clients reported they are satisfied with services received.

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.



## Board of Directors

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### Executive Director

Joan Prittie

## To Our Friends,

It is an honor to present to you the 2012 Annual Report of Project Safe. This remarkable organization continues its mission to combat domestic violence through education, outreach and emergency protection of victims. This home-grown organization is staffed by 23 dedicated full- and part-time employees, whose work was supported last year by over 20,000 hours of service by volunteers from the community.

While our hotline, which operates on a 24-7 basis every day of the year, received 2,166 calls during 2012 (an 11% increase over the prior year), Project Safe does not focus solely on a passive approach which awaits victims coming to us. Outreach is central to how we confront domestic violence. In 2012, trained outreach advocates contacted almost 800 individuals identified as domestic violence victims in police arrest reports. 185 presentations and training events were conducted, an 80% increase over 2011, with about 1/6 oriented toward kids and teens.

It seems clear from data collected in anonymous surveys of our clients upon the conclusion of the receipt of services that we are effective in the work we do. A total of 95% of our clients reported that they were given training in how to manage their safety; 93% reported being assisted in meeting their immediate needs; 91% were satisfied with the services they received and over 80% achieved their housing goal or safe housing.

In these stressful economic times for individuals (which increases the rate of domestic violence) and for our potential funders (public and private), it is important to recognize that Project Safe is a careful steward of its resources. In 2012, we once again spent only one penny of every dime for operating and fund-raising expenses. We think it is important to demonstrate to our funders that we are efficient and not wasteful.

As you read this report, please keep in mind that domestic violence is not limited to one group in our community. It appears in all socio-economic groups, without regard to educational levels. A donor or a volunteer can become a victim. After looking at the facts and figures for the year 2012 (and the illuminating and eloquent client-created images which illustrate the report), please give careful consideration to how you can help us in our mission to do whatever is necessary to end domestic violence.

Sincerely,

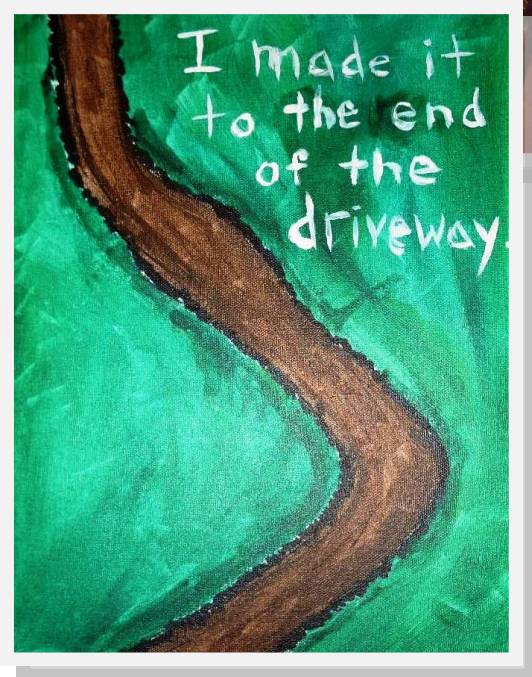
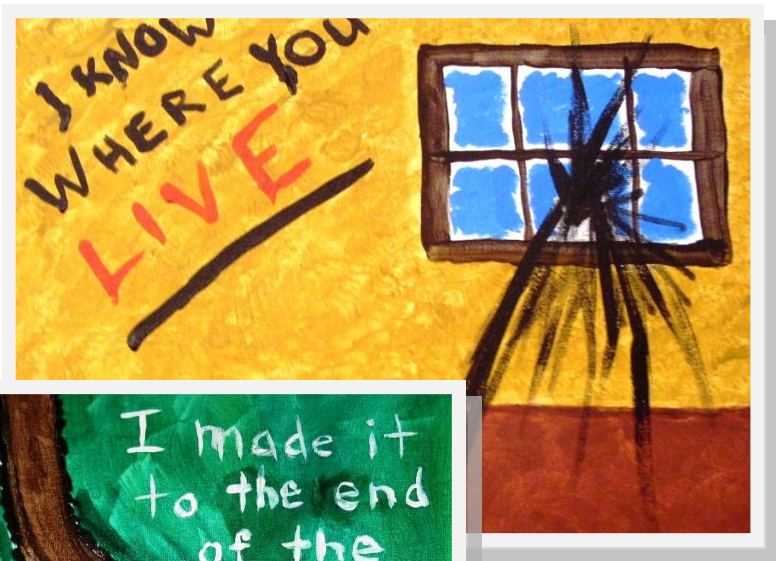
Paul M. Kurtz, Board Chair 2011-12

**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.**



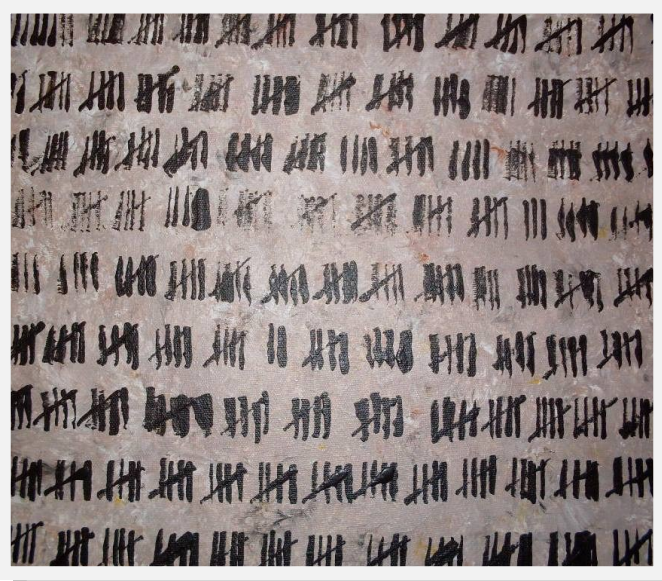
# Images of Domestic Violence

The images throughout this report were created by people whose lives have been touched by domestic violence. Nearly 200 paintings hang in the emergency shelter to inspire and challenge residents, volunteers and staff.



**ON THE COVER**

**The Number of Times I Wished I Could Leave**



"I could actually fill the wall with tally marks. There were so many times I prayed he would get better. After five years, I prayed to get out once and for all. I had moved out several times and he always talked me back. Economic factors also weighted heavily on me, and I felt I had no choice but to stay...I finally left and I am so grateful to Project Safe for their counseling and services."

# Counting Our Achievements: Crisis Intervention

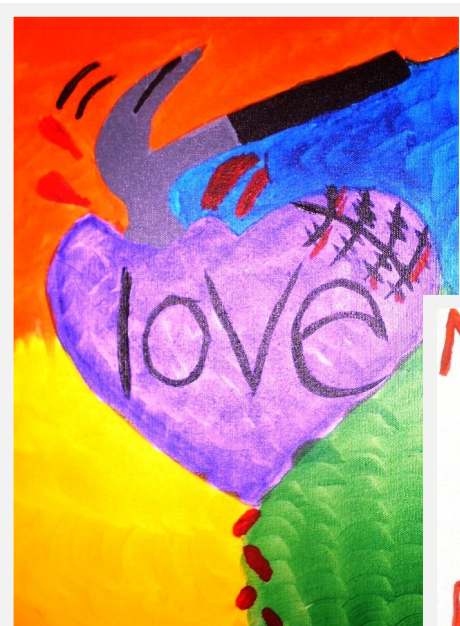
Project Safe offers crisis intervention services to victims of domestic violence in the form of a 24-Hour emergency hotline, confidentially located emergency shelter, safety planning, legal & social service advocacy, and emergency financial assistance.

The emergency shelter maintained a **96% occupancy rate**.

**114 individuals** were sheltered in the emergency shelter or in a motel.

During the calendar year, Advocates answered **2,166 hotline calls**—an **11% increase over the previous year**.

Outreach advocates contacted **795 individuals** who were named as victims of domestic violence in police arrest reports.



know your thoughts by writing comments on the back of this survey. Thank you!

Thank you so much  
For saving my life

NOWHERE



ELSE  
TO GO

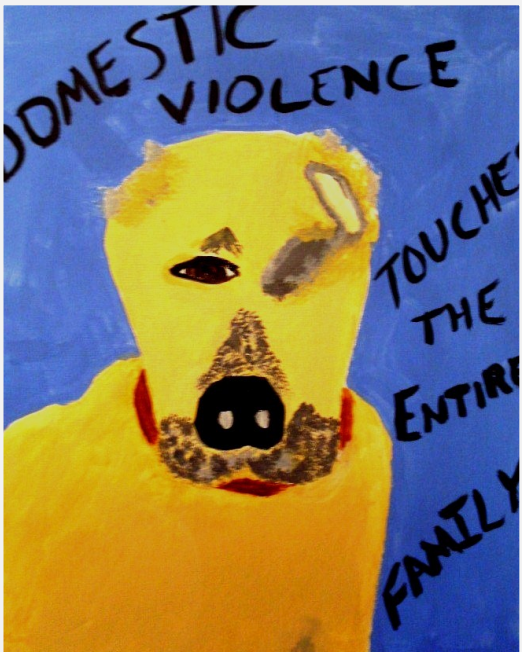


“Project Safe saved my life!”

“They came out to my house and they didn’t waste anytime in filing for the TPO. These ladies saved my life!”

-Former Clients

# Featured Program: Vets for Pets & People



Project Safe provides shelter for our clients' pets through a partnership with the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. Students, staff and faculty serve as temporary foster homes. Survivors of domestic violence are often hesitant to leave an abusive home if it would mean leaving their pets behind. And sadly, neglect or abuse towards pets can be a means of mentally abusing another. Thanks to the UGA Vet School, people **and** their pets can find safety, healing and hope.

Project Safe provided **1,061 nights of pet shelter** in 2012.

"I just wanted to send a big thank you for all you have done for me and my daughter...The work you do here is admirable. I know this is the line of work you were meant to do. You are so passionate."

-Shelter Resident

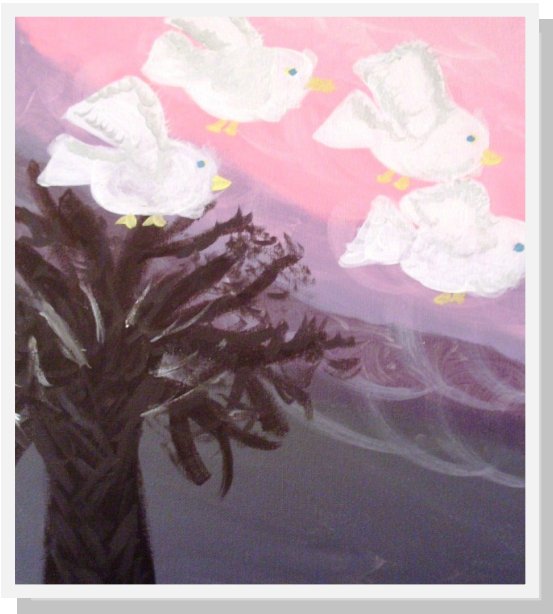


Everything looks beautiful on the outside, but look inside and see the prisoner.



# Counting Our Achievements: Ongoing Support

Outreach services are provided to survivors of domestic violence who are in need of support but not necessarily shelter. After working with Project Safe, **95%** of outreach clients report that they have strategies to enhance their safety.



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.

From your darkest place, you can FLY FREE with support and strength from others and with your own courage and bravery.

"I found Superheroes to be a rewarding experience for the children and mentors involved. Having the ability to be a positive influence on a child's life during an integral time in their development, specifically turning a negative event to a positive one, is more of a gift to the mentor than just a volunteer experience."  
-Ryan Michaels  
(Child Mentor)

**1228 women, children and men**

were served in our outreach offices at the Family Protection Center.

Project Safe counselors provided

**433 individual counseling sessions**

in the calendar year 2012



# Counting Our Achievements: Prevention & Education

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. If you'd like to request a presentation or in-service training for your group, please email the Community Involvement & Volunteer Coordinator, April Byrne at [abyrne@project-safe.org](mailto:abyrne@project-safe.org)

**185 presentation & training events took place in 2012.**  
**Of those, 31 were oriented to kids and teens.**

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.



"I want to share with you that the girls really enjoyed your presentation and were happy to know that Project Safe exists for them. They were excited to know that they can text if they need your services. You made a difference in someone's life that day."  
-Senior Program Manager  
(Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia)





Project Safe Presents  
**A New Initiative  
for Teens**



**Breaking Silence**  
706-765-8019

Txt 4 tips on healthy relationships  
or concerns about dating vio-  
lence! Or email us at  
[teensbreakinsilence@gmail.com](mailto:teensbreakinsilence@gmail.com).



@BrkingSilence



Facebook.com/  
brkingsilence



In December 2012, with support from Verizon, Project Safe launched Breaking Silence, a texting line and awareness campaign designed to meet the needs of a younger generation. Under the guidance of staff, trained student interns respond to texts and emails from teens.



# Counting Our Achievements: Systems Change Advocacy

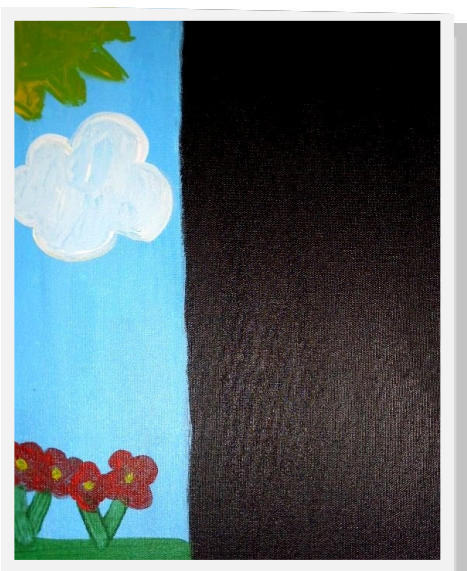
In addition to the services provided directly to clients, Project Safe also works to **improve the legal and social service systems** within our community to better serve the individuals that need them.

**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.

“Project Safe's commitment to tracking compliance with court orders in our community has had an impact on my work as a probation officer, helping me to hold domestic violence offenders more accountable by reviewing all cases to determine that consistent sanctions are initiated for noncompliance. The close collaboration between my office and Project Safe outreach staff has improved the safety of victims in Athens. “

-Jason Kelley (Senior Probation Officer)

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.



## Day and Night

I was confused when he would be nice at times and a cold-hearted, abusive person the next.

# Staff Leadership & Recognition



Executive Director Joan Prittie (pictured left with Board Chair Paul Kurtz) accepted the **Coca-Cola Helping Hand Award** on behalf of Project Safe at the National Football Foundation awards banquet. That same month, Joan was named **Field Instructor of the Year** by the UGA School of Social Work. (She won that award previously in 2002).



In September, the Domestic Violence Task Force of Athens Clarke and Oconee Counties was named **Task Force of the Year** by the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. The Task Force is co-chaired by Joan Prittie and Clarke County Solicitor General, C.R. Chisholm.

Everyone at Project Safe works together to find the best solution for each person we come in contact with... My favorite part of my day to day activities is the confidence I have that no matter what situation is presented, Project Safe will find some way to help each victim of domestic violence that we come in contact with to reach their goals.

-Hannah Parker (Social Work Intern)



Project Safe Staff and volunteers sporting purple capes for the superheroes fighting domestic violence in Action Ministries' Action Dash 5k and Fun Run!



"I was honored to join the board in 2007 and continue to be amazed and humbled by the work and overall good that Project Safe provides to Athens and beyond."  
-Megan Haley (Board Member)



Project Safe volunteers won Best Chili at Athens Area Humane Society's Chili Cook-off, winning \$300 in Project Safe's name!

Reaching out to the Latino Community at Casa de Amistad's LatinoFest





# Project Safe in the Community



Project Safe was named a top rated nonprofit for 2012 by Great Nonprofits!



“I can't say enough about Project Safe and I am always so moved by this organization. Our community is a better place for having them in it and I hope P.S. grows in leaps and bounds. “  
-Review on [greatnonprofits.org](http://greatnonprofits.org)

Survivors and staff speak out against domestic violence at the 2012 Athens Human Rights Festival.

The Project Safe Agents of Change Step Team show off at a Youth Step Show in March 2012.



## The Project Safe Thrift Store

on Hawthorne Avenue not only raises revenue for the organization, but also serves as the distribution center for our clients in need of clothing, furniture and household items. Over the course of the year, the thrift store gave away more than **5,460 items to 360 individuals and families.**



# Crediting Volunteers



"I am truly blessed to have had the opportunity to serve at the Project Safe Thrift Store. The staff and volunteers truly embody the special mission of Project Safe and the true meaning of selfless service to others...The staff's passion for the work they do inspires me to give back through my service."

-Joseph Cooper (Thrift Store Volunteer)

**In the 2012 calendar year, 337 volunteers donated 20,200 hours of service to Project Safe.**

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.



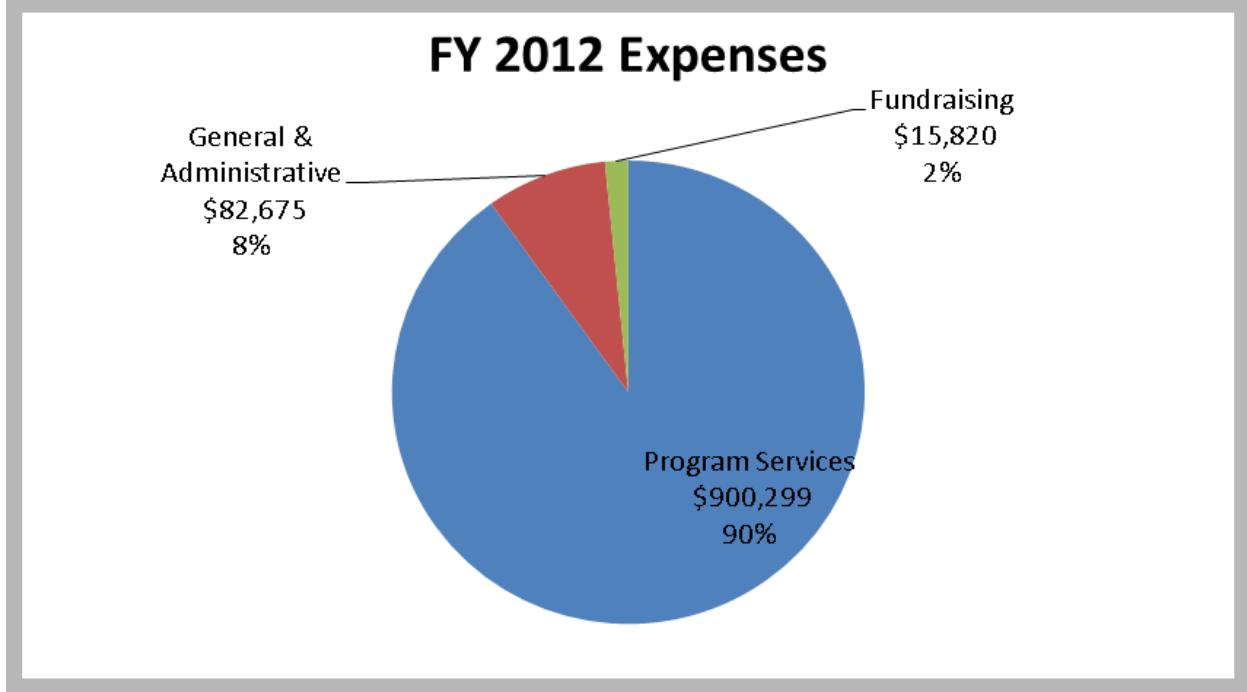
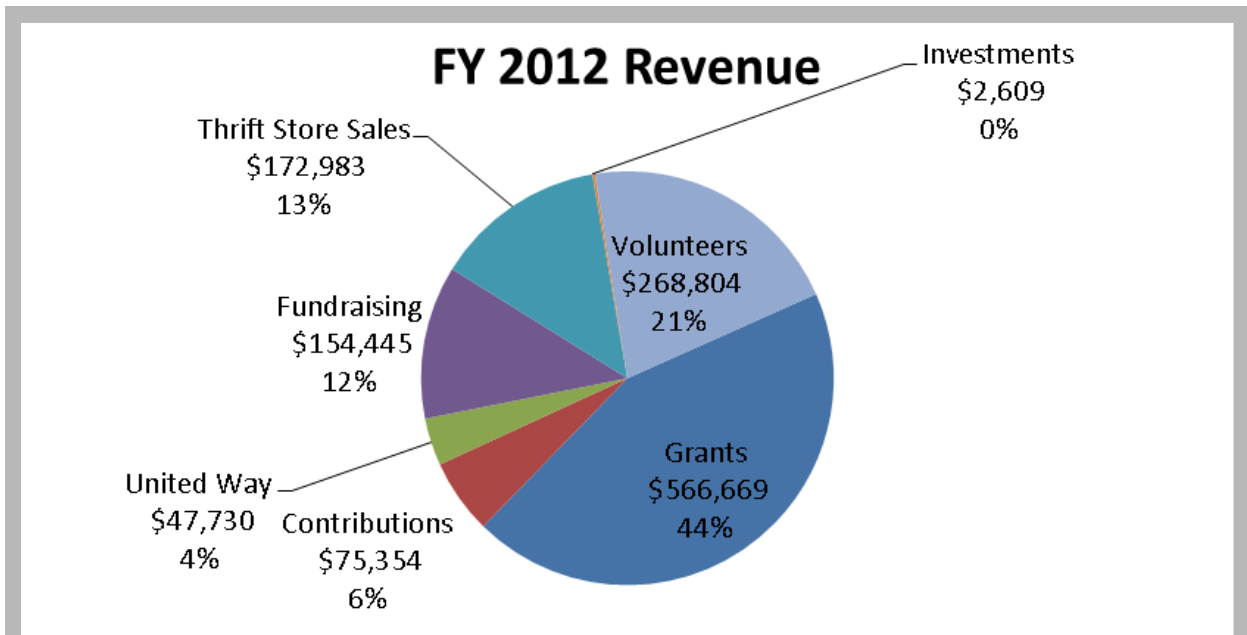
"Project Safe is much more than just a physical shelter, it is a loving community dedicated to helping each other get the most out of life...I have never felt more appreciated and loved than when I teach classes at the shelter. I am honored to work with some of the most competent and caring people I know to fight for the lives these wonderful women were meant to have."

-Jay Bowers (Cardio Boxing Instructor)

**To volunteer, please contact the Community Involvement & Volunteer Coordinator, April Byrne, at 706-549-0922 or [abyrne@project-safe.org](mailto:abyrne@project-safe.org)**

# Financial Information

FY12 income and expenses are shown below. Project Safe received \$1,019,820 in cash and \$268,804 through donations of time with the value of a volunteer hour estimated at \$12. Client services accounted for 90% of all spending.



“I don’t know how I could have done it without the help and support of Project Safe and its donors.” -Outreach Client



# Special Events



Dancing with the Athens Stars is the community's premiere fundraiser, with a net total of more than \$417,000 raised in its first five 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



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





# Major Donors & Sponsors

A I Insurance Group  
 Accounting Payroll Services  
 Alana Feuerhahn  
 Allergy Partners  
 Anita Blaschak  
 Arbor Salon and Spa  
 Arnold & Maria Cardarelli  
 Ashford Memorial Methodist Church  
 Athens Area Commencement Center  
 Athens Area Health Plan Select  
 Athens First Bank & Trust  
 Athens Regional Health System  
 AT&T Telecom Pioneers  
 Barbara Benson  
 Barbarito's  
 Bertis & Katherine Downs  
 Bill Overend  
 Bill & Tammy Kemper  
 Brian Brodrick  
 C R Elliott  
 Camila Pardo  
 Carson Advisory  
 Catholic Center at UGA  
 Chanda Tacto  
 Chops & Hops  
 Classic City Chefs and Cooks Association  
 Classic City Orthodontics  
 Covenant Presbyterian Church  
 David & Dawn Meyers  
 David Shipley & Jenny Coleman  
 Debbie Benson

Dermatology of Athens  
 Dr. Brent Nail  
 Dr. Randall Dishaw  
 Dr. Rajiv & Mrs. Desai  
 Elizabeth Marchant  
 Ethelyn Simpson  
 ETL Construction  
 First American Bank & Trust  
 First Presbyterian Church of Athens  
 First United Methodist Church of Athens  
 Five Points Optometrists  
 Frameworks Unlimited  
 George & Cindy Kuhlman  
 Georgia Power Foundation  
 Georgia Theatre  
 Glickman Family Foundation  
 Greenspring Charitable Fund  
 Hilltop Grille  
 Hopeline South  
 J.A. & H.G. Woodruff Charitable Trust  
 Jackson EMC Foundation  
 Jessica Herzig  
 Joan Prittie & Sandy Berry  
 Joan Yantko  
 Johnson & Johnson  
 K. Paige Carmichael  
 Kenneth & Margaret Phillips  
 Kimberly Knotts  
 Lacy Camp  
 Landmark Properties  
 Law Offices of John Lyndon  
 Louise Shearon

Macy's  
 Malon Mimms  
 Mama's Boy  
 McDonald & Manus, LLP  
 Megan Haley  
 National Football Association —UGA Chapter  
 National Bank of Georgia  
 Newland Family Foundation  
 Paul & Carol Kurtz  
 Peachtree Medical Billing  
 Princeton United Methodist Church  
 Regina Quick PC  
 Richard & Angela Meltzer  
 Robin Shelton  
 St. Mary's Healthcare System  
 St. Mary's ER Physicians  
 Scott Magnuson & Sonya Kimsey  
 Silver & Archibald  
 Sophie Jean Cox  
 Stoltz Business Services  
 Sunshine Lady Foundation  
 Sherry Surra  
 The National  
 Town & Country Garden Club  
 TSAV  
 Ulm Family Foundation  
 United Way of NE Georgia  
 Verizon  
 Walton EMC Foundation  
 Zolinda Stoneman  
 Zygmunt Gasiorowski

\*Donors listed gave \$500 or more in FY12 or calendar 2012.

"We give a great deal of our sponsorship budget to Project Safe because the need for domestic violence assistance in Athens and the surrounding communities is staggering. We have found Project Safe to be one of the most fiscally responsible organizations out there. Their ability to run such a lean organization to ensure that sponsorship money is allocated directly to clients is quite impressive. We love knowing that \$.90 of every dollar we donate goes directly to helping victims right here in our area." —Dr. Tradd Harter, Classic City Orthodontics

## 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



# How Your Money Counts

One night at a motel under an assumed name when the shelter is full: **\$78**

Emergency lock change for a small apartment: **\$150**

Attorney fees and advocate time for temporary protective order: **\$370**

Cost to shelter a client for one month including meals and basic needs, transportation, medications, case management, support group, on-site therapy, and 24-hour staff: **\$1,550**

“Joan Prittie made a presentation to United Methodist Women years ago regarding Domestic Violence and the services of Project Safe. I felt Project Safe was providing a great service for victims of domestic violence and wanted to help support PS efforts...The UMW has provided funds for me to purchase milk, juice, and eggs for the shelter twice a month for the past 10 years.”  
-Debbie Golden (Supporter of Project Safe)

# How To Donate

More than ever, Project Safe relies on the generosity of the community to support our work. 90 cents of every dollar goes towards client services. Donations can be made in the following ways:

**Online:**

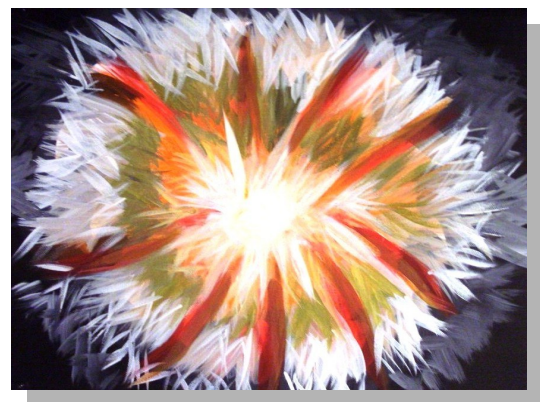
[www.project-safe.org](http://www.project-safe.org)

**Check by Mail:**

P.O. Box 7532  
Athens, GA 30604

**Become an Annual Sponsor:**

E-mail [jprittie@project-safe.org](mailto:jprittie@project-safe.org)



Transformation: After every dark tunnel change the bulb. It may be as colorful as you could imagine.



# 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



Walking towards the light: Survivor sees light through the foggy mist of her circumstances.



## CONNECT

Project Safe, Inc.  
P.O. Box 7532  
Athens, GA 30604  
Business: (706) 549-0922  
24-Hour Crisis Hotline:  
(706) 543-3331  
Teen Texting Line:  
(706) 765-8019  
Fax: (706) 354-6161  
[www.project-safe.org](http://www.project-safe.org)



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 [abyrne@project-safe.org](mailto:abyrne@project-safe.org).



“I’m so grateful to Project Safe...I was young and relied on others for practically everything. They taught me how to be independent, and that I can do it myself.”

-Shelter Resident