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.

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.

“The butterfly is breaking out of the cocoon.”

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.
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
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.

“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.
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 abyme@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)
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.

Txt 4 tips on healthy relationships or concerns about dating violence! Or email us at teensbreakinsilence@gmail.com.
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.
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
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.

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

“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

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

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

“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

Check by Mail:
P.O. Box 7532
Athens, GA 30604

Become an Annual Sponsor:
E-mail 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

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.
“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