

Project Safe Superheroes



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Superhero Power of Changing Lives

These outcomes are self-reported by clients at the conclusion of Project Safe's services:

87% of clients reported that the services they received from Project Safe met their needs.

95% of clients gained knowledge about available resources.

94% of clients learned strategies to enhance their safety.



We believe in empowering clients to set their own goals and supporting them through the process of working to achieve them:

80% of clients achieved their housing goal or safe housing.

58% of clients achieved their employment goals.

73% of clients achieved their other goals.



We Are All Superheroes

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"Project Safe is an outstanding organization. The staff and management are professional, and excellent at what they do. Dedicated to ending domestic violence, Project Safe works tirelessly going above and beyond what might seem possible. I am proud to have been a part of this organization and the work that they do."

Dear Friends,

When most people think of superheroes, fictional characters such as Superman, Wonder Women, Batman or Captain America are usually the first to come to mind. In comic books superheroes possess supernatural powers and are dedicated to protect the public from the evils in society.

I have to admit that I have not read many comic books or watched the Avenger movies, but I have daydreamed about having special powers to overcome something hard or that is hurting me in my life. The truth is, you don't need to be able to scale buildings or become invisible to have super powers. The best super powers are those that we have within that we can use improve ours and others everyday lives.

Project Safe is full of superheroes, all taking action to conquer domestic violence.

Survivors of domestic violence are true superheroes. These individuals have conquered fear, pain and danger. They use strength to leave an abusive relationship while facing real obstacles - including safety, legal and financial obstacles. Each day, they fight to save themselves and their families, often having to rebuild their lives completely with hope, courage and confidence.

Project Safe advocates and workers spring to action to provide support, counseling and education. Employees, interns and volunteers work 24/7 through crisis intervention, ongoing support, systems change advocacy, prevention and education.

Our community, volunteers and donors are all heroes. Last year, Project Safe finished the shelter renovation which allows us to shelter at least 20 more people each year. It is the donated time, financial support and resources, and commitment of the Athens and surrounding communities that allow Project Safe to continue provide services necessary in this fight against domestic violence.

I am proud to share this annual report with you. All the powers of the survivors, advocates and of the community of donors and volunteers are stronger than any comic book superhero powers. We all want everyone to be safe in their homes and their relationships. As you read through this report, I invite you to consider the superhero powers that you have, and how you can use these powers to help in our mission to end domestic violence.

Thank you for your support.

Sharon Elliott, Board Chair

2017-2018

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.

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Superhero Power of Vision

We believe that everyone deserves to be safe in their homes and in their relationships, and that love shouldn't come at a cost of abuse or control. We put this belief into practice through our mission: working to end domestic violence through crisis intervention, ongoing supportive services, systems change advocacy, and prevention and education in the community. We can envision a world without violence, and we work everyday toward the creation of that world.

Ongoing Support

Outreach services are provided to survivors of domestic violence who are in need of support and help to move on from unhealthy relationships and heal from the pain of experiencing abuse, but don't necessarily need shelter. After working with Project Safe, 98% of outreach clients report they have strategies to enhance their safety, and 99% report knowledge of community resources.

Prevention and Education

In 2018 Project Safe delivered 250 presentations and trainings.

If you would like to request a presentation or professional in-service training, please email the Community Involvement & Volunteer Coordinator, Kendall Worman, at

kworman@project-safe.org.

Crisis Intervention

In 2018 advocates answered 2733 hotline calls. Interns operating our teen text line had 239 text conversations in 2018, responding to text inquiries from all over the state of Georgia.

Systems Change

In 2018, Pat Peterson, our Community Response Coordinator, led a committee of our local domestic violence task force in its examination of four serious closed cases of near-fatalities, making recommendations to improve victim safety and abuser accountability.

Courageous



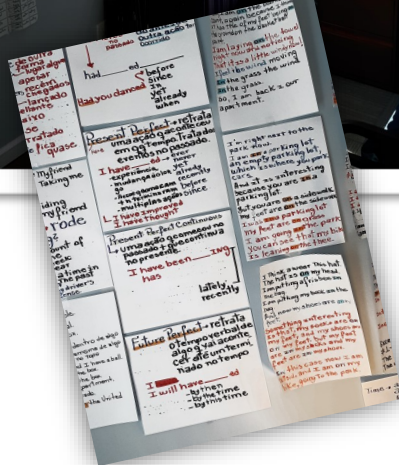
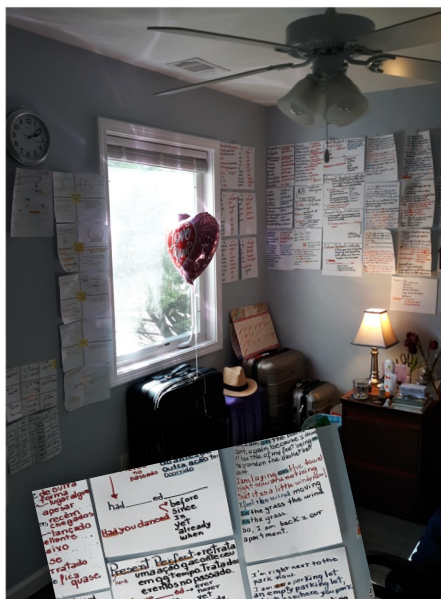
In 2018, Executive Director Joan Prittie was one of 13 people featured in *Everyday Georgia*. Through the coupling of photographs and interviews, the project shares the personal stories of Georgians – their challenges and accomplishments, and their vital role in Creating the Next with Georgia Tech. Project Safe and Georgia Tech collaborated to develop the Safeline software for our teen text line.

Superhero Power of of Bridge-Building

*Sobre todo, he aprendido a quererme a mi misma. "
(I have learned above all to love myself.)
--former shelter client*

When someone calls on Project Safe, we answer. Domestic violence can affect anyone, so Project Safe is prepared to help everyone. Our services are meant for all who need them, regardless of language or other factors. Project Safe's mobile bilingual advocate, Lizeth Montoya, is a bridge-builder--dedicated to connecting with Spanish-speaking survivors, who often face many barriers to accessing the services they need.

All of our services start with access, and access is at the core of what our bilingual advocate adds to Project Safe. Access means more than accommodation. Access is about creating systems that are designed to serve survivors "where they are". It is about building bridges to the people who need us, rather than expecting them to find a way here themselves.



A resident of the emergency shelter decorates her room with lessons as she improves her English.

Project Safe has always cared about the quality of services we provide. We have grown in scope in recent years; the shelter is bigger, we house more clients, and we perform more services. Less visible, but equally important, are the ways in which Project Safe has grown in depth. The bilingual advocate is a symbol of Project Safe's deepening commitment to serving domestic violence survivors by meeting clients where they are, equipped with the tools they need to find safety, justice, and freedom.



Lead Shelter Advocate Tanya Wingfield and Bilingual Advocate Lizeth Montoya help a survivor move on a rainy day.

Superhero Power ^{((of, Resilienc^e))}



It's been more than three years since Kasundra was shot in front of her three daughters by her then-husband. Although it was a defining moment *for* them, that moment does not *define* them. The moments that define Kasundra and her daughters are all the moments of resiliency before and after that night.

Resilience cannot be measured. It is most evident during times of immense distress. Resilience moves you forward in the midst of chaos, fear, and uncertainty. I saw the resilience in Kasundra when my coworker and I went to the hospital the day after she was shot. Kasundra was alive. We saw resilience in her daughters who we sat with in the waiting area. A day or two after the incident, Kasundra's daughters (then ages 11, 9, and 4) came to our offices. We saw resilience in them

when they wanted to have a spelling contest, have their nails painted and dance. We saw their resilience in the conversations about the incident. We saw their resilience in the support each of those girls provided to their sisters. We saw it in the hugs and "We'll get through this" statements they exchanged with each other.

As she recovered from her injuries, Kasundra and her daughters entered Project Safe's longer term housing program, and continued to work closely with our advocates. The girls attended Project Safe's Superheroes camp for child witnesses of domestic violence. In the years following the incident, there were numerous phone calls, meetings, doctors' appointments, surgeries, hospital stays, court hearings, and her ex-husband's trial. It was during these events and the moments scattered between them that Kasundra's resiliency was most evident to those around her. In the midst of all of this, Kasundra never complained. Instead she continued to express gratitude for her life. At the end of the trial, her two oldest daughters shared their victim impact statements. These girls are following in their mother's footsteps.



Now Kasundra is back in school studying criminal justice. Her oldest daughter wants to be a psychologist, her middle daughter a lawyer, and the youngest dreams of becoming a ballerina. **They all still have their Superhero capes from camp.** There have been moments over the years that have left us in awe at the resiliency Kasundra and her daughters continue to display. What an honor for us to witness it.

--Sarah Nitz, Legal & Community Advocate



superhero Power of Growth

Project Safe continues to grow and change to better meet the needs of survivors in our community. Through our rapid rehousing program funded by grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, we pay rent, childcare, counseling and other costs for up to 12 months for survivors working to stabilize their lives after leaving an abusive relationship. However we noticed that there were some survivors of domestic violence who were unable to meet the basic qualifications of most rental agreements due to credit issues, past evictions, criminal histories or other barriers. To meet the needs of these clients, in 2018 Project Safe leased additional space to serve as longer term, transitional housing. Families living here work closely with Tanya Wingfield, our lead shelter advocate, to save money, repay debt, repair credit, and ultimately transition to independent living in their own apartments. The transitional housing unit is comfortable and home-like, and frees up space in our emergency shelter for people initially leaving unsafe situations.



Superhero Power of Giving

Last year, Project Safe completed major interior and exterior renovations at our emergency shelter in order to provide more services for our clients and increase capability for our staff and volunteers. Our expansion in 2017-2018 included the addition of six bedrooms, a resource room, private advocacy rooms, a playroom, and a new outdoor playground for our clients and their children, as well as a large renovation to our main office for staff and volunteers. During the process of construction, The Athens Area Homebuilders Association was a particular champion, and we recognize here their members and friends who gave their time, labor, and materials to the project.



"The people I have worked with are clearly passionate about what they do. They have challenged me to grow, but have shown a great deal of compassion as well. It has been a joy getting to watch every single person involved do something they love, and walk alongside people that often feel they are not worthy of being heard."--review on Great Nonprofits

- * **ABC Installations**
- * **AKO Signs**
- * **All Bright Electric**
- * **Athens Exterminating**
- * **Athens Refrigerator & Appliance**
- * **Athens Window & Door**
- * **Ben's Painting**
- * **Chandler Surveying**
- * **Creative Floorworks**
- * **Dalton Carpet One**
- * **DeVore & Johnson**
- * **Donald Sartain Masonry**
- * **Granite Countertops Unlimited**
- * **Harbin Lumber**
- * **Hills Custom Cabinets**
- * **House Electric**
- * **Jackson's Drywall**
- * **JOMA Construction**
- * **Lessard Design Associates**
- * **Load Star Structural**
- * **Rowe Insulation**
- * **Superior Air Management**
- * **Tredwell Construction**



Superhero Power of Shared Truth

Every Monday at 6:30, survivors of emotional abuse attend a group facilitated by Project Safe called New Beginnings. Once snacks are had and pleasantries exchanged, participants begin speaking a shared language about their experiences. They speak openly about subjects that are otherwise unspoken in their lives, and in doing so, powerful bonds emerge.

In 2018, a group of women who had been attending New Beginnings recognized a power among them. They had shared their experiences and truths with one another, and in that shared meaning they derived so much strength. Bonnie, Linda, Nora, Ellen, and Christy are a group of women that have far more differences than similarities. They met in New Beginnings, all in different stages of life, career, and relationships.

"Without New Beginnings and YOU, I don't know what things would look like now."--Nora

Each of them experienced emotional and verbal abuse from their partners, and some experienced physical abuse as well. Nora was going through a contentious divorce with her husband while Bonnie was processing the aftermath of a violent incident that resulted in her

husband's long-term incarceration. Ellen was open about her addiction and recovery, and Christy was working to understand relationship patterns in which her caretaking nature had been exploited. Linda was at a crossroads in trying to make some important long-term decisions while trying to maintain normalcy for her three young children.

Each woman's story and personality was so different, yet their lives shared so much truth. They began referring to their group as "the girls," and kept in contact through a lively group text message thread. When Bonnie had to go to court for the criminal case against her husband, "the girls" enthusiastically offered to be there in solidarity. When Nora was ill and unable to attend group, they offered meals and company. They all had days in which their responsibilities and burdens felt heavier than they could bear, and on those days, they reminded one another of their worth and strength.

"New Beginnings through Project Safe has helped me through one of the darkest times of my life. People that I've met at Project Safe understand what I've suffered from abuse more than any of the many people that I've sought help from, and they've helped me more than any therapy or counselors."--Linda

"The girls" have since transitioned out of attending group and sought other activities to build their community and continue their healing. They remain in touch, notifying one another of their successes, struggles, and the evolving truths of their lives and selves. It took courage to attend their first group. It took courage to disclose every intimate detail they shared with one another. And it took courage to create space outside of group to harness the power of their shared truth. Their relationships remain transformative, taking new shape as they encounter challenges, deriving strength from one another all the while.

--Casey Heermans, Community Advocate

she was powerful;
not because she
wasn't scared, but
because she went
on strongly despite
the fear.



Superhero Power of Collaboration



**Mediation Working Group Members (L-R)
Judge Charles E. Auslander, III; Raye Rawls;
Joan Prittie; Judge M. Cindy Morris; Tracy B.
Johnson; Stephanie Woodard; Peggy Wilson;
and Jennifer Thomas**

"Teamwork makes the dream work!" is something staff hear frequently from Project Safe's Associate Director, Tangela Ferguson, and it's something we all take to heart. Teamwork and cooperation within our organization leads to innovation and better quality services. Collaboration in the community leads to an improved coordinated response to domestic violence. At Project Safe, we value our relationships with others and look for ways to work together.

In 2018, Project Safe staff collaborated with the University of Georgia's Institute for Leadership and Advancement Fellows through the Terry College of Business to plan, create, and implement individualized training videos to aid future interns and staff in their work at Project Safe. ILA Fellows and staff created training videos and quizzes related to topics ranging from hotline calls to direct advocacy, and the collection even features in-depth roundtable discussions about organizational values and how we authentically express them in our daily work with survivors. In total, ILA Fellows and staff created over **7 hours** of

training content. These videos are paired with our 40-hour in person training--ensuring that all interns and staff are well prepared to work with clients in all our settings.

Another collaborative effort in which Project Safe was proud to participate was the creation of new rules for mediating cases with domestic violence. Two years of concerted effort by a statewide multi-disciplinary team to draft the proposed rules culminated in 2018 with an endorsement by the Georgia Commission on Family Violence and adoption by the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. These rules--which go into effect January 2021--will be used by court Alternative Dispute Resolution programs to screen cases for intimate partner violence/abuse in domestic relations cases. The rules require that these sensitive cases be carefully screened by especially skilled mediation court staff to determine whether the case should proceed to mediation, and, if appropriate, that the case be mediated only by state-registered mediators who have demonstrated proficiency in both practice and training.



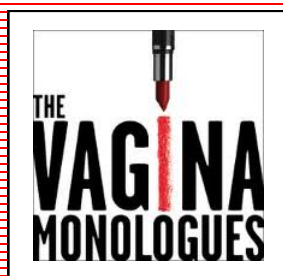
ILA Fellows present their work to Project Safe staff and UGA professors.



The Superhero Power of Community



Dancing with the Athens Stars is one of the community's best loved events, with a net total of more than \$1,163,000 raised in its first 11 years.



Eve Ensler's award winning play challenges, entertains and inspires audience members to take action to stop violence against women.



Groovy Nights disco and silent auction is Project Safe's longest running event. Groovy Nights disco now features a lip sync battle of songs from the 1970's and 80's.

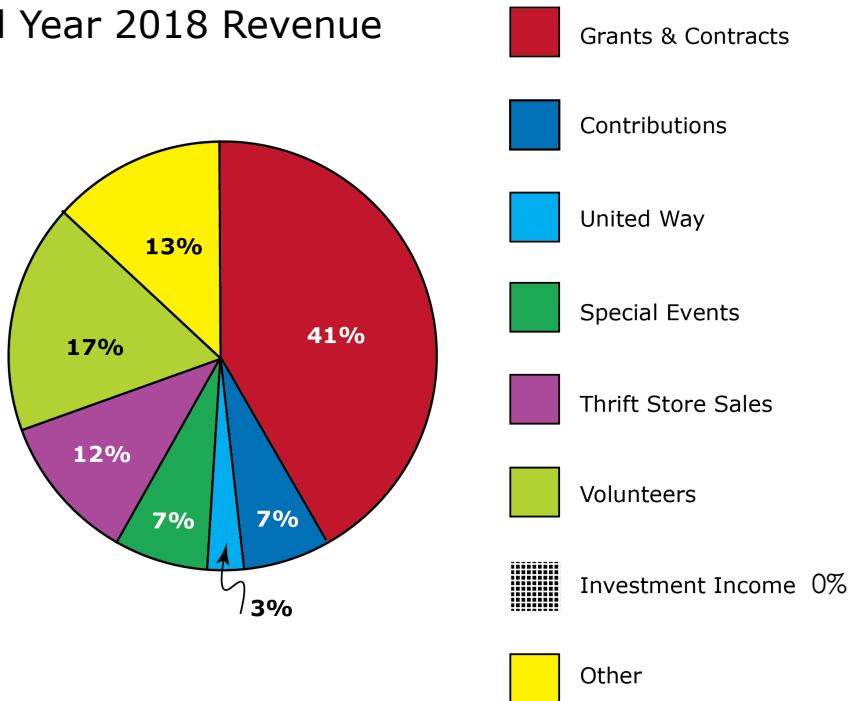


A spin-off of *Dancing with the Athens Stars*, Stomp Out Domestic Violence features teams of students paired with adult volunteers in a step competition.

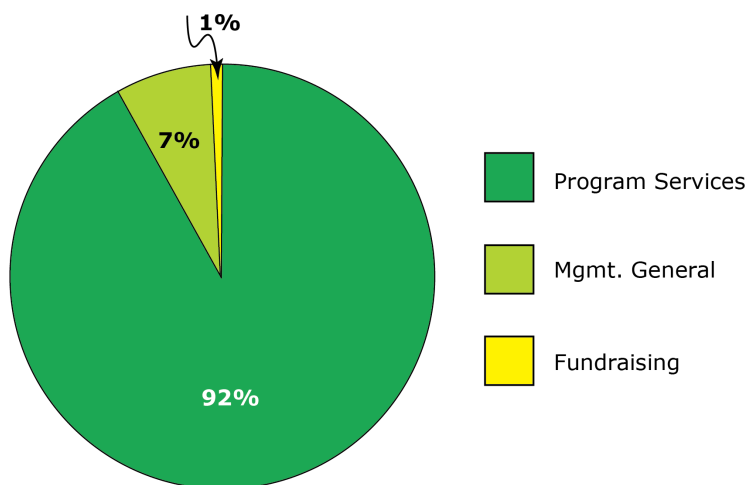
\$uperhero Power of Money Management

FY 18 income and expenses are shown below. Project Safe received \$1,770,759 in cash and \$369,908 through donations of time with the value of a volunteer hour estimated at \$15. Client services accounted for 92% of all spending. *Source is Audit 12/31/18 by Robert Baker and Associates, Certified Public Accountants.*

Fiscal Year 2018 Revenue



Fiscal Year 2018 Expenses



"Thank you for all that you do: putting a roof over my head, food in my belly, providing lovely Christmas gifts, being non-judgmental about my struggles with addiction, and most importantly to me, helping facilitate a visit to see my daughters. This was truly priceless!"
--former client

The Superhero Power of Generosity



Major Donors & Sponsors

1st American Bank
 1st Methodist Church of Athens
 1st Presbyterian Church of Athens
 Agora Vintage
 Abdulwahab & Naomi Alharoun
 Alpha Chi Omega Beta, Sigma Chapter
 American Endowment Foundation
 American Family Insurance Dreams
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 Classic City Pilot Club
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 Marathon Financial Services
 Katha Massey
 Jarrett Martin
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 James Morgenthaler
 Nancy Travis Childcare Project



***Donors listed here contributed \$500 or more during either FY 2018 or calendar 2018.**

The Superhero Power of Generosity



Major Donors & Sponsors Continued

Teresa Nestor	Stonegate Counseling Associates	Woodruff Memorial Charitable Trust
Phyllis & Trey Niolon	Zolinda Stoneman	Michael Worth
Craig & Christina Osenberg	Reign Streiter	Kevin York
William Overend	Strong Girls LLC	York Family
Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity	Sunshine Lady Foundation	Dorian Zevos
Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center	Synovus Bank	
Pink Goblin Tattoo	Dr. and Mrs. William & Holly Tally	
Porterhouse Grill	Rick Tarleton	
Neal & Pat Priest	Taqueria La Parilla	
Princeton United Methodist Church	Trinity Accounting	
Helen Prittie	Tuckston United Methodist Church	
Joan Prittie & Sandy Berry	Turner Family Foundation	
F. Neal Pylant DMD	Two Rs Two Ts One LLC	
Regina Quick	Ulm Family Foundation	
The RFP Fund	United Way of Northeast Georgia	
Robins Financial Credit Union	Robert & Tammy Wall	
Gayle Rogers	Warriors for Women	
Anna Scheyett	Wells Fargo Foundation	
David Shearon	Frederick & Patricia Wiegert	
Sigma Delta Tau, Eta Chapter	James & Margaret Williamson	
Silver & Archibald	Patrick Winter & Mardi Schmeichel	
St. Mary's Healthcare System	Winterville Civitan Club	
Stadion Money Management	Women's Independence Scholarship Program	

"Something that I really admire is that they are not super rigid in their services and are willing to help in any way possible. Project Safe really does put the clients and the population served first, even when accepting funds from grants or other constituencies. I love that Project Safe also gets out into the community to help raise awareness for domestic violence and attempt to make real change happen."

--volunteer

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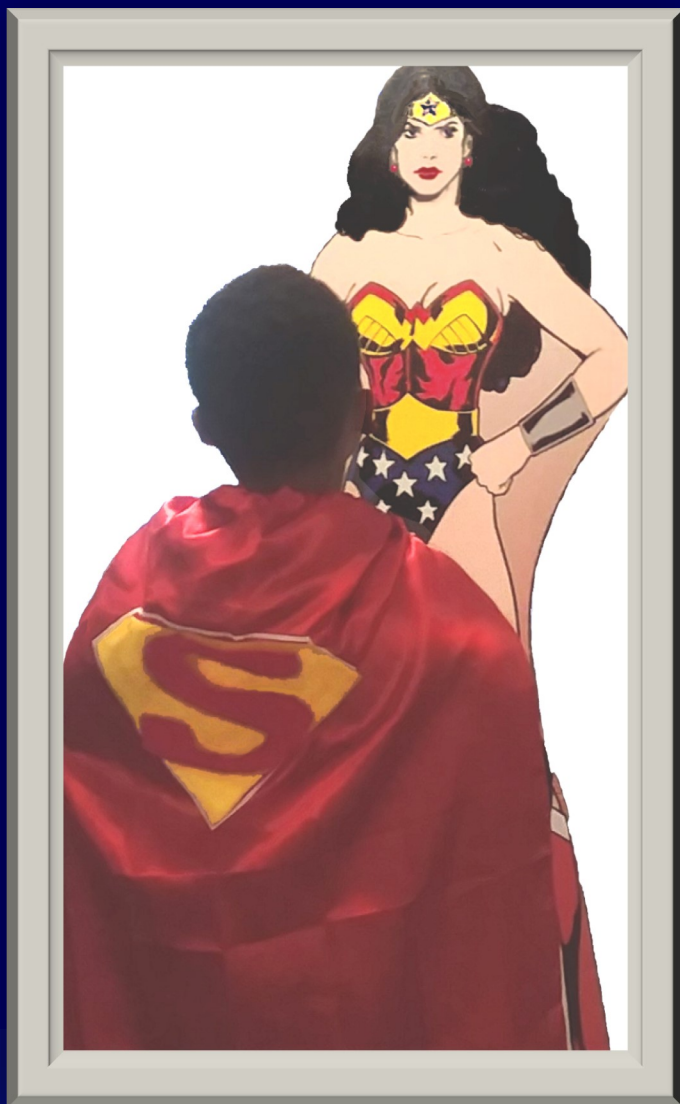
Government Grants

Athens-Clarke County (5% fund)
 Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (Victims of Crime Act, Violence Against Women Act, Family Violence Prevention & Services Act, State of Georgia Domestic Violence grants)
 Emergency Food & Shelter Program
 U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

For the SEVENTH year in a row, Project Safe was named a top rated nonprofit by Great Nonprofits!



The Superhero Power of Gratitude



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 paraphrase 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**

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 monthly e-newsletter, e-mail kworman@project-safe.org



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