



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Seedlings of Hope

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Joan Prittie

To Our Friends:

I'm pleased to share Project Safe's annual report for 2022. Our theme is Cultivation—working hard to create something that will not come to fruition right away. When someone calls the hotline, or creates a safety plan, or comes to the shelter, or attends one of our support groups, or gets a protective order, or moves to a new home, or testifies against their abuser, or files for divorce, or leaves the state, or even changes their name—we don't know for sure what will happen next, what their abuser will do, what the impact of the abuse has been on the family, or even how long we'll be working with them.



Domestic violence involves patterns of abusive behavior repeated over time, and it takes time for a survivor to recognize those patterns and take steps to find safety. It's typical for those steps to include many separations and reconciliations over months and even years. So we don't measure our success by whether someone leaves their abuser. (It has little to do with safety anyway, as danger often increases after the relationship is over). We look instead at the ways we can empower and support survivors to increase their safety and sense of well-being. We work to create trusting relationships so they will call on us now, and again in the future if needed.

Whether it's our individual work with survivors and their children or our efforts to educate the community or change systems that allow domestic violence to persist, we often describe that work as "planting seeds." We plant seeds with our clients and in the community, believing they will take root and grow but knowing that we may not see the end result. And just like a good arborist or gardener, we don't simply wait, but work hard in the meantime—doing everything we can within our power with the belief that events beyond our power will turn out alright.

As always, I'm grateful to our staff, board, and generous supporters who come together to cultivate a community where—someday—everyone can be safe in their homes, and safe in their relationships.

--Joan Prittie, Executive Director



Cultivating Changes for the Better

Project Safe is committed to evaluating the efficacy of our services. These outcomes are self-reported by clients on anonymous surveys turned in upon the conclusion of services.

Among clients who set advocacy (case management goals)...

- 87% achieved their means of support/employment goals
- 89% achieved their other goals
- 88% achieved their housing goal or safe housing

96% of clients reported they increased their knowledge of community resources.

98% of clients reported they learned ways to manage their safety.

"Everything I experienced was great. Groups worked very well and they protected us. Staff were professional and their level-headedness was much needed. Staff brought me resources even when I didn't know I needed them."
--former client

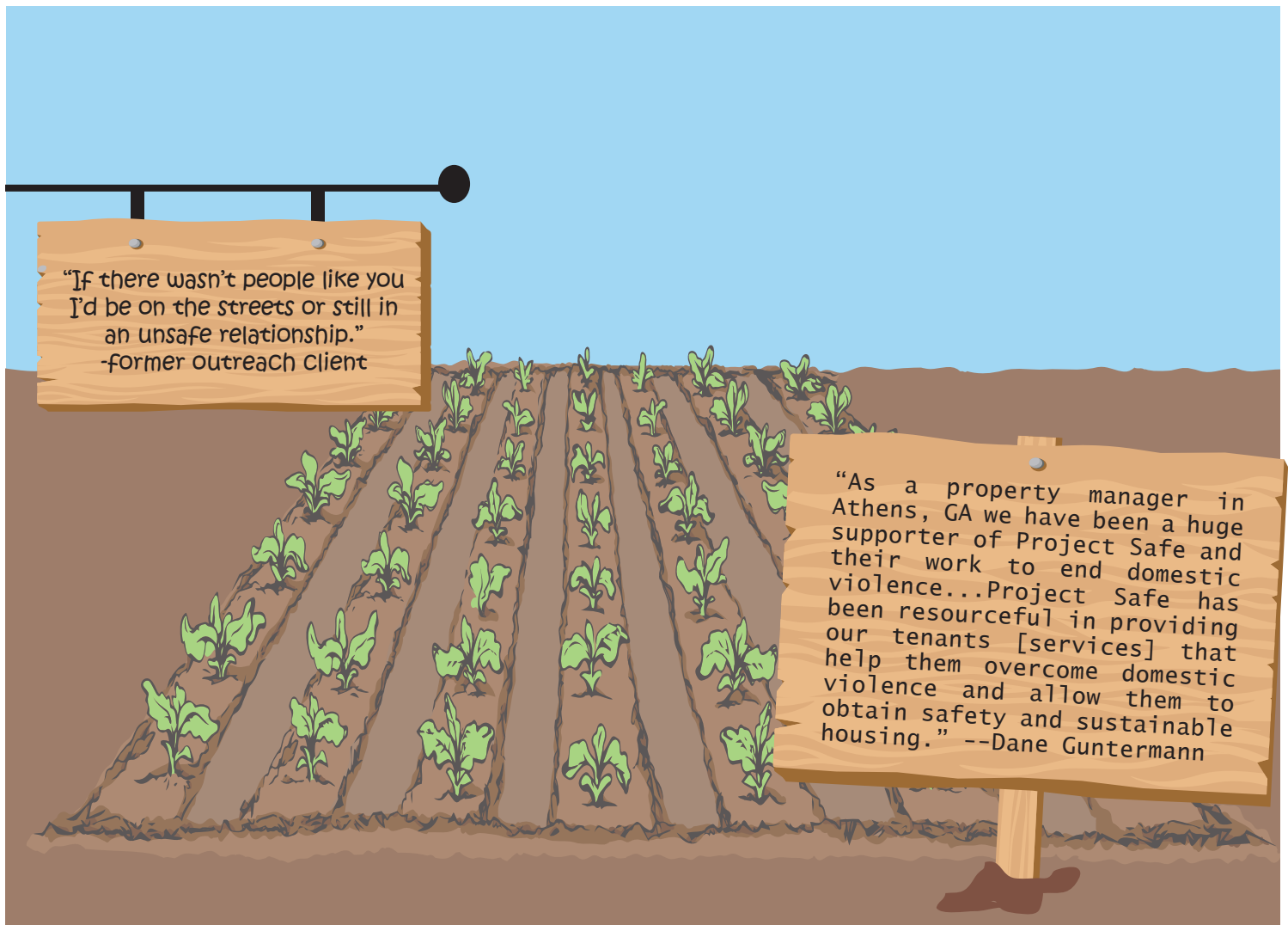
"Each staff member energetically works to assist any and all potential clients. While working as an intern, I have been able to see first-hand how much of a positive impact the organization has on domestic violence survivors, as well as the city of Athens as a whole."--review on Great Nonprofits

Mulching for Long Term Protection

Ongoing supportive services are designed to help people move on from unhealthy relationships and heal from the pain of experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse. It can take months or even years to become finally free from the emotional, physical and financial ties of an abuser. Our services such as support groups, advocacy, case management, and longer term housing help people discover their own strength and put their lives back together.

In 2022, Project Safe served 616 survivors through our outreach office, and provided longer term housing (up to 12 months) to 33 individuals.

Thanks to a CDBG-CV grant through Athens-Clarke County in fiscal year 2022, Project Safe was able to give substantial housing resources to 69 individuals in 26 families. Through this grant, all 26 households were able to access safe housing, and all increased their knowledge of area resources as well as their ability to manage their own safety.



Nurturing the Forest Ecosystem

through Systems Change Advocacy

In addition to our work with clients, Project Safe works to improve the legal and social service systems on local and state levels to better serve the individuals who need them.

2022 saw the passage of the federal Safer Communities Act which includes expanded protections for victims of dating violence. Project Safe took advantage of several opportunities to educate people across the state about the impact of that important legislation.

At the state level, we worked to help extend civil dating violence protections to people who had been in a dating relationship within the past 12 months (previously the window was 6 months). Since abuse can continue and often escalates after a relationship ends, this is an important change to help survivors obtain safety.

Locally, Project Safe worked with our judiciary to establish a process for efficiently entering criminal protective orders into the Georgia Protective Order Registry, making it easier for law enforcement to hold abusers accountable when such orders are violated.

"Their unmatched passion to help others and incredible leadership set them apart. Their involvement in the community to not only reach people who may need help but also to spread awareness for the cause as a whole is breathtaking."--review on Great Nonprofits

Family Violence Updates – Law and Remedies

Vicky O. Kimbrell, vkimbrell@glsp.org
Family Violence Project Director
Georgia Legal Services Program
(833) 457-7529

Joan E. Prittie, jprittie@project-safe.org
Executive Director, Project Safe Inc.
Editor & Principal Author, Georgia Domestic Violence Benchbook
(706) 549-0922

2022



Georgia
Legal
Services
Program

Training on new federal and state legislation at the 2022 Superior Court Judges' Summer Conference

Building a Greenhouse

for Protection and Shelter

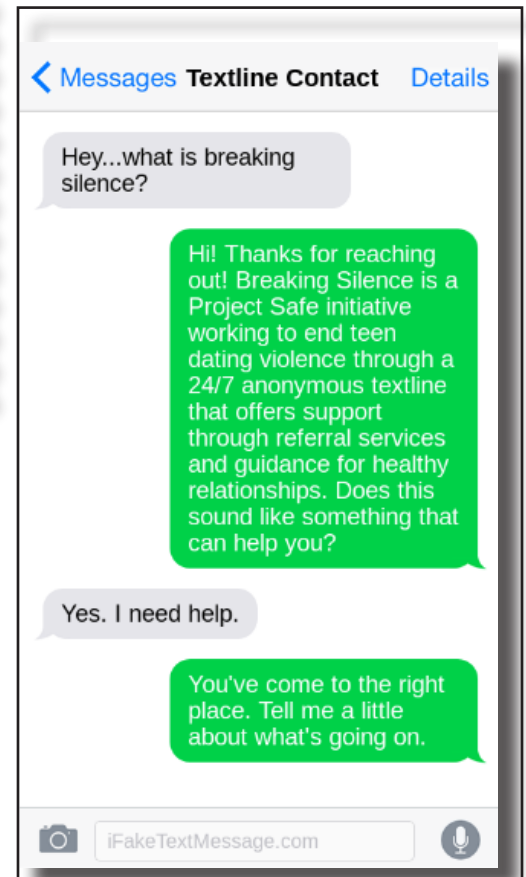
Project Safe offers crisis intervention services to survivors of domestic violence and their dependents in the form of a 24-hour emergency hotline, statewide dating violence textline, confidentially-located emergency shelter, safety planning, legal and social service advocacy, and emergency financial assistance.

In 2022, Project Safe...

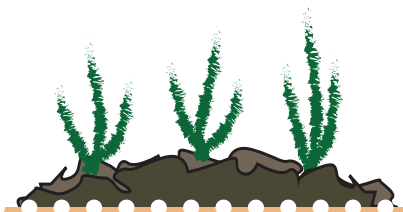
- Answered 2708 hotline calls.
- Held 313 Textline Conversations.
- Served 616 survivors in outreach.
- Served 113 survivors in emergency shelter.
- Served 30 survivors in longer term housing.



Pictured is Project Safe staff at a Fall 2022 meeting where we evaluated anonymous client surveys in order to make plans related to how we might better-serve our clients and survivors of domestic violence. Our goals were to (1) ensure services are easily accessible for all parties involved, (2) be mindful and intentional about our goals and choices, and (3) use a trauma-informed lens to crisis intervention.



Our Breaking Silence interns and staff held more text conversations in 2022 than any previous year.



"Project Safe is the best non-profit organization I have ever worked with! They do so many outstanding things for the community and survivors of violence. I greatly appreciate their Teen Textline that works to help teenagers who have questions about abuse and unhealthy romantic relationships in general. The members of Project Safe are all so friendly, hard-working, and driven to help people in need. Every time I attend an event for this nonprofit I am in awe of their greatness and level of care!"

Planting Seeds through Prevention & Education


How can we bring our community closer to ending domestic violence? We believe one way to do that is through preventative and educational measures. Our advocates provide professional in-service training to businesses, social services agencies, judges and attorneys, and also provide youth-focused educational presentations to school classes, church and community groups. In 2022, Project Safe gave **143 presentations and training sessions reaching 14,421 participants.**




Aysha Joyner, Youth Educator & Advocate, gives a talk to Clarke Central High School's Women's Literature Course students. Project Safe delivered 53 youth-focused presentations and 9 youth awareness events in 2022.




Breaking Silence provides presentations to teens and young adults in middle school, high school, and college.



For more about Project Safe, visit www.project-safe.org





DATING SHOULDN'T HURT

Dating violence can include physical, mental, emotional, and sexual abuse. If you or someone you know may be in an abusive relationship, Breaking Silence can help.

TEXT 706.765.8019

ABOUT US

Breaking Silence is a free and anonymous textline open 24/7. Text us to receive support for the questions you have about your relationship. We are here to help everyone understand what makes a relationship healthy, unhealthy, or abusive.

CONTACT US

- TeensBreakingSilence@gmail.com
- Facebook.com/breakingsilence
- Instagram.com/breakingsilence
- Twitter.com/breakingsilence

Project Safe's Breaking Silence Textline is overseen by two Textline Managers and operated by trained interns. One goal of this service is to provide a space for teens and young adults to open up about their experience with someone closer to their age. It is confidential and available 24/7.



Pictured above are local high school students showing off their wristbands after an in-school presentation.



Tilling the Soil for Healthy Growth

In 2022, Project Safe maintained a healthy mix of revenue sources to fund our varied programs and respond to the increased demand for crisis intervention and supportive services.



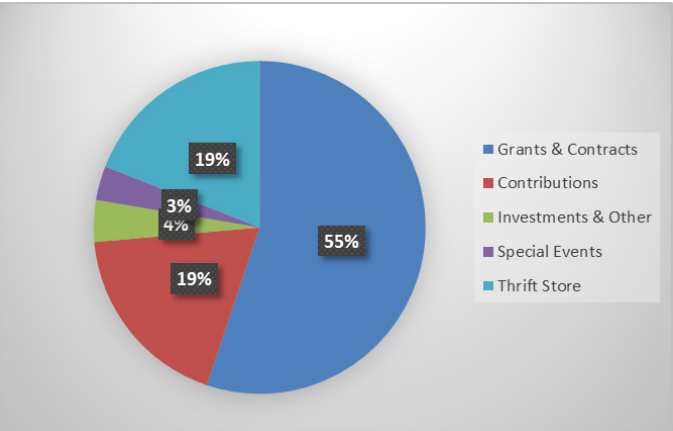
"This is truly an amazing organization. They have an abundance of resources for any possible situation."

--review on Great Nonprofits

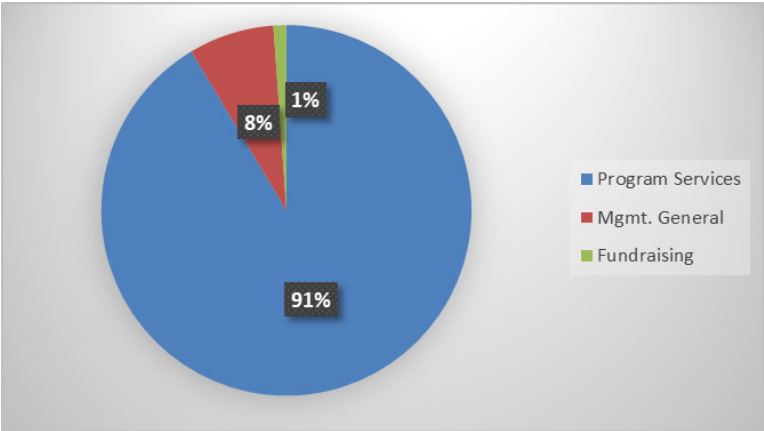


For the ELEVENTH year in a row, Project Safe was named a top rated nonprofit by Great Nonprofits!

Fiscal Year 2022 Revenue



Fiscal Year 2022 Expenses



FY2022 income and expenses are shown in these charts. Project Safe received \$1,792,590 in revenue. Client services accounted for 91% of all spending. The source is Audit 12/31/22 by Robert Baker and Associates, Certified Public Accountants.



Sunshine & Water

Donors listed here contributed \$500 or more in fiscal or calendar 2022

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ASHFORD METHODIST CHURCH
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GIVE BACK REAL ESTATE
THE HARRIS FOUNDATION
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THE JAMES E HUFFER & BETTY J HUFFER FOUNDATION
JAN & DAVID WEAVER FUND OF CENTRAL CAROLINA
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JOSE ATONIO GRIFOLS LUCAS FOUNDATION
KELLY FAMILY CUIDIU FOUNDATION
THE LAZARD FOUNDATION
LEE NELSON WEEKS CHARITY FUND AT AACF
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MARKEL CORPORATION
MARTI SCHIMMEL MEMORIAL FUND AT AACF
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ROBINS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
SMITH-TOMPOROWSKI FUND AT AACF
SILVER & ARCHIBALD LLP
STUDENT MERCHANDISING ASSN
TURNER FAMILY FOUNDATION
ULM FAMILY FOUNDATION
UNITED WAY OF NE GEORGIA
TARGET CORPORATION
TAQUERIA LA PARRILLA
TRINITY ACCOUNTING GROUP
TWO RS TWO TS ONE LLC
WATKINSVILLE 1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WELLS FARGO FOUNDATION

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Athens-Clarke County
(5%, Indigent Housing Assistance 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



Celebrating the Harvest

Family Dinners at Project Safe



Family dinner meals are usually donated by local restaurants and/or volunteers.

In 2022, Project Safe started a new initiative at the shelter: family dinners. Our Shelter Life Coordinator, Bridgette Roloff, said: "So much of our clients' lives at the shelter center their experiences with domestic violence. We hold weekly meetings with them to talk about their case. We meet when there are legal issues to discuss. We started family dinners the third Thursday of each month to give shelter staff and clients a space to share a meal and enjoy each other's company for the sake of just being together—without any agenda items to discuss. It has been a great way to foster community in our space."

"What I found: peace from the chaos. A refreshing safe home to begin to heal from years of pain and abuse. I rediscovered my strength here." – former shelter resident

Having family dinners at Project Safe's emergency shelter is important for several reasons:

- **Building a Supportive Community:** Family dinners provide a space where survivors of domestic violence and their families can come together as a supportive community. It creates an atmosphere of solidarity and understanding.
- **Cultivating a Sense of Normalcy:** Family dinners offer a sense of routine and normalcy during a time of crisis and transition. It reminds survivors that they can still experience moments of joy and togetherness despite their current circumstances.
- **Creating Lasting Memories:** Family dinners can create positive memories for survivors and their children during a difficult period in their lives. These memories may serve as a source of strength and encouragement in the future.
- **Building Relationships with Staff and Volunteers:** Family dinners allow survivors to interact with shelter staff and volunteers in a more relaxed setting. This can facilitate the development of trusting relationships, which are essential for providing effective support.

Growing Branches Through Community Events

After a two year hiatus, Project Safe was thrilled to host several large events during 2022.



Dancing with the Athens Stars returned in March. Through 2022, the event has netted over 1.3 million dollars for our services and programs.



The 19th annual Groovy Nights disco and lip sync battle celebrates the formative years of the movement to end domestic violence.



Project Safe marked National Crime Victims Rights Week by hosting a luncheon with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, elected officials, advocates and survivors.



Donate Online:
www.project-safe.org

Send Check by Mail:

P.O. Box 7532

Athens, GA 30604

Become an Annual Sponsor:

Email: jprittie@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 monthly e-newsletter, email: wmccranie@project-safe.org

"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

Project Safe
24-Hour Crisis Hotline
(706) 543-3331

Project Safe
24-Hour Text Line
(706) 765-8019

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