

DONORS

MANY THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY OF DONORS, PARTNERS AND SPONSORS FOR YOUR GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF ADVOCATE SAFEHOUSE PROJECT IN 2020.

MILESTONE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JULIE OLSON MARKS 25 YEARS AT ASP



In 1995, Julie Olson was living in Homer, Alaska with her husband Mike when she spotted a job posting for the position of Executive Director of Advocate Safehouse Project. The couple knew they wanted to return to the lower 48, but their move was dependent on finding work.

While Olson worked in human services in Alaska, it was only after making her move to ASP that she felt she had found her true home, both personally and professionally. "I love Garfield County," she said. "I love the recreation, the people and the diversity of thought that exists here. People are very open, accepting and welcoming." When asked what has kept her at ASP for 25 years, she explained, "If ASP was the same as it was in 1995, I'd be long gone. I need challenges, and we've had plenty of those over the years." She goes on to say, "Our programs have grown and contracted over the years for a variety of reasons. It's easy to get mission drift. In my time here, we have learned the art of staying focused by asking ourselves does this activity, program or fundraiser fit our mission?"

As for challenges, the pandemic was the most recent one. Olson noted that the agency was able to pivot quickly. "We had to figure out how to meet survivor needs and found that for a lot of people video conferences eliminated significant barriers." Going forward the agency plans to keep solutions that began during the pandemic such as virtual counseling, flexible schedules for staff and zoom meetings.

In 2020, ASP also formalized its Anti-Oppression statement. "We've always lived by these principles. It's not a new topic for us but we felt it was important to create a statement that was inclusive of as many people as possible," Olson explained. "This is not a 'diversity checkmark' for us," she emphasized, noting the need to continue to push for diversity, equity and inclusivity for all, and women in particular.

Olson acknowledges that one day she'll retire and hopes when that day comes it will be a smooth transition for the next in line and the agency. "I'm always aware that ASP is not 'my' place; it belongs to the community. I've always been a feminist and advocating for women is my life's work which is why ASP has been the perfect fit for me for over 25 years."

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ADVOCATE SAFEHOUSE PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS

2020 at a glance

428 CALLS

were received on the 24-hour Help Line, a 76% increase in calls from 2019. The number of survivors calling the 24-hour Help Line was up 30% in 2020 compared to 2019.



5,489 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Help Line Volunteer advocates provided 4,682 hours of service to ASP and other volunteers provided 807 hours for a total of 5,489 service hours.

64 YOUTH

survivors were provided with emotional support, individual counseling, advocacy, information and referrals via ASP's Youth Program.



583 SURVIVORS

were reached through ASP's Programs, 551 domestic violence survivors and 32 sexual assault survivors.

101 MONTHS

of rental assistance in a safe environment were provided to 28 adult survivors and their 43 children via ASP's Housing First Program.

1215

nights of emergency safehousing were provided to 42 survivors (26 families with 16 children).



22

educational presentations were given to 813 individuals in Garfield County, and 49 community awareness activities were provided with the focus on developing "healthy relationships."



134 LATINX

survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence were provided with services. 22 identified themselves as immigrants.

5 MEETINGS

were held with the Garfield County Domestic Violence Coalition and 30 individual stakeholder meetings were held.

Advocate Safehouse Project's mission is to promote healthy relationships free from violence through education, advocacy, empowerment, and safehousing.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

It's been quite a year with the spread of the pandemic in our communities. In 2020 the impact on survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence in Garfield County has been significant.

- ASP saw a 76% increase in the number of calls and a 30% increase in the number of survivors calling our 24-hour Help Line from 2019 to 2020.
- ASP experienced a 48% decrease in the number of nights of emergency shelter provided in 2020 because the Safehouse Program could only provide emergency shelter for two families at a time due to social distancing. To meet demand, ASP arranged emergency shelter at alternative locations for other families, but the length of stay was shorter than in past years.
- ASP provided services to 21% more survivors in 2020 than in 2019.
- In total, ASP provided 28 families with 43 children with 101 months of rental assistance through its Housing First Program in 2020. Compare this to 17 families with 30 children and 56 months of rental assistance in 2019.

OUR ANTI-OPPRESSION STATEMENT

Advocate Safehouse Project (ASP) recognizes survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence face discrimination and are victims of systemic oppression. ASP understands domestic violence and sexual assault as examples of how oppression plays out in day-to-day life. Violence, physical or verbal, against people or groups because of their gender, race, religion or sexual orientation is oppression. ASP values equity as an organization and is committed to working towards the common goal of justice for all – where no person or group is oppressed.

CLIENT LETTER

This letter was written from a woman who resided in our Safehouse Program. The note is written verbatim except for her name.

Dear Friends –

Before I came to the safehouse I was living in fear and I had no way out of it. When I met you all, you provided that for me. (All you did was listen) You literally saved my life and I am grateful to you all at the safehouse for providing me a safe way out of a 10 year hell. You all were my friends as well as my confidence.

Thank you so much
Love always,

Mia

HIGHLIGHTS

DIGITAL SCAVENGER HUNT TRANSITIONS FROM RAISING FUNDS TO MAKING FRIENDS



On April 25, 2020, ASP planned to hold the 2nd Annual Digital Scavenger Hunt (DSH), a fundraising event. Everything was in place to move forward when Colorado Governor Jared Polis issued Stay-at-Home orders in mid-March. Rather than cancel the event, ASP took a wait-and-see approach but it soon became clear that DSH would not be a “safe” and practical event with over 200 clues for participants to find throughout the community.

Rather than cancel the event, ASP reimagined it. Instead of a fundraiser, the event became a “friend-raiser,” and free to anyone who wanted to participate. ASP quickly got creative and re-developed clues so that they could safely be completed at home under the lockdown situation at the time.

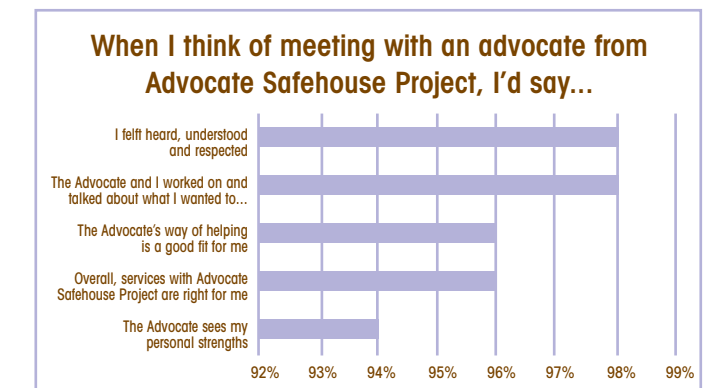
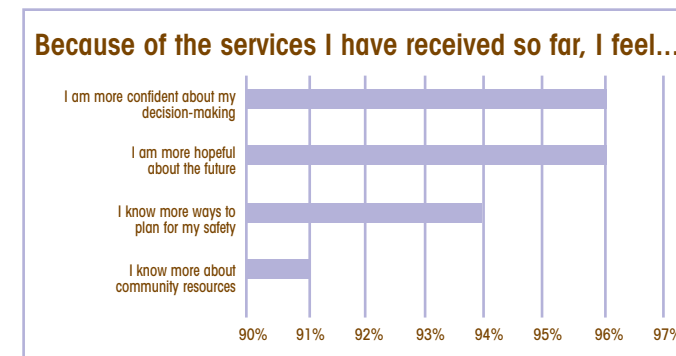
Our sponsors who had already committed funds were on board with the new idea. ASP was able to hold a scaled-down DSH on April 25, 2020. Incredibly, engagement was five times higher than in 2019.

SURVIVOR SURVEY SHOWS POSITIVE IMPACT OF ASP SERVICES

In 2020, ASP gathered “Survivor Surveys” from both English and Spanish-speaking survivors who worked with ASP. Participation was voluntary.

Survivors reported they received the help they needed or wanted in learning about their options, emotional and safety

competencies. In fact, 96% of survivors reported they became more confident in their decision-making and were more hopeful about their future as a result of working with ASP staff. Another encouraging statistic is that 98% felt heard, understood and respected. The chart below shows survivor responses to all the questions asked.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

