

THE WOMEN'S SAFE HOUSE

2009 Annual Report to the Community



P.O. Box 63010
St. Louis, MO 63163
314-772-4535
www.TWSH.org

*The mission of
The Women's Safe House
is to provide safe shelter
and support services to
battered women and their
dependent children and to
empower women to make
informed choices about
their futures.*

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

Why don't women just leave? Sometimes simple questions have profoundly complex answers. Victims of domestic violence find themselves trapped in a cycle of abuse where their abuser holds all the power and control. Just leaving isn't easy. Each woman served by The Women's Safe House has her own unique story of domestic violence. Since 1977, they have come to us for a lifeline to safety, and a place where they are empowered to make informed choices for their families.

The Women's Safe House provides programs and services designed to meet the complex needs of families that have lived in an environment of abuse. Our dedicated staff and volunteers work every day to help women and their children feel safe and to provide opportunities and the means to escape the cycle of violence.

In 2009, The Women's Safe House provided shelter and professional services to 225 women and 278 children, the vast majority with incomes below \$10,000 per year. Thirty-two families participated in the AfterCare program. Our staff also fielded 1,500 Hotline calls from across the St. Louis region.

Honors and achievements from 2009 include:

- The Women's Safe House was selected as the only shelter in St. Louis to participate in a statewide initiative aimed at establishing a coordinated domestic violence prevention program. This project is sponsored by the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence.
- We were one of only two St. Louis organizations invited to participate in the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women initiative designed to develop culturally competent programs.
- The Women's Safe House was selected to participate in a local multilingual access program.

On behalf of our Board of Directors please accept my sincere thank you. With your support The Women's Safe House continues to fulfill its mission to help survivors of domestic violence find hope and build a better life for themselves and their families.

Sincerely grateful,

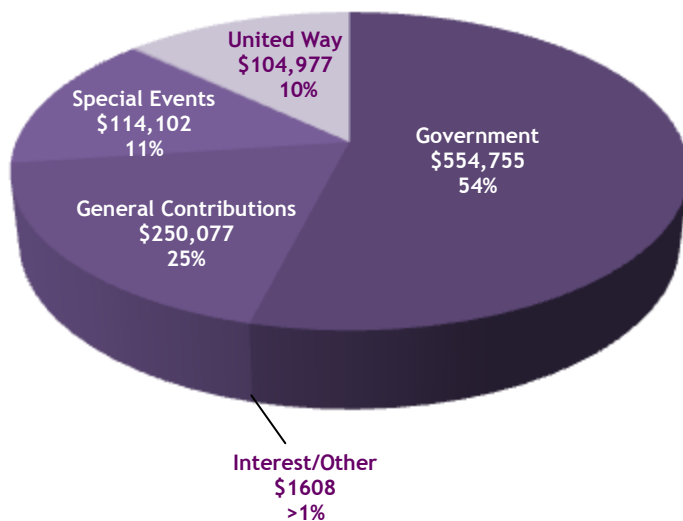
Donna Coble
President, Board of Directors

In 2009...

- **17,693** bednights were provided by The Women's Safe House (an 8% increase from 2008).
- **1,500** crisis calls were answered with compassion and care by trained staff and volunteers.
- **323** families were turned away because The Women's Safe House was full.
- **503** victims of domestic violence were given safe shelter.
- **90** women and children received ongoing support through the AfterCare Program.
- **35 days** average length of stay.
- **Over 2,061** people were educated about domestic violence through **23** community presentations.
- **973** volunteers provided **5,194** hours of services to victims and their children.
- **97%** of the families served had an annual income of **under \$15,000**.
- **82%** of our residents were from St. Louis City and St. Louis County.

2009 Revenue

\$1,025,519

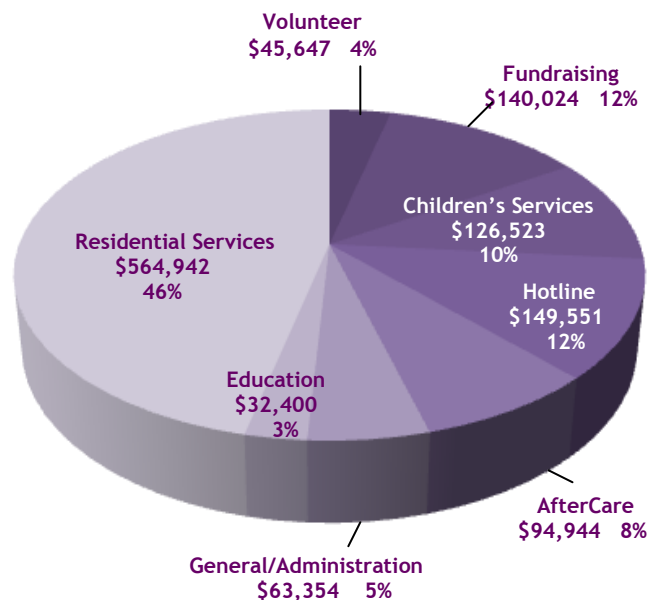


Decrease in Net Assets
-\$191,866

Total Ending Net Assets
\$1,118,241

2009 Expenses

\$1,217,385



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