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**SURVIVOR ADVOCACY  
OUTREACH PROGRAM**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

OCTOBER 2019 - SEPTEMBER 2020

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**AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE  
PREVENTION AND HEALING OF SEXUAL AND  
RELATIONAL TRAUMA IN SOUTHEAST OHIO**

# OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

## ADVOCATE MEET & GREET AT THE LIBRARY

If you or someone you know has been affected by domestic violence, you are not alone. Call our 24-hour helpline at **740-591-4266** or come during the meet and greet to speak with an advocate.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND  
10:00AM-1:00PM  
HERBERT WESCOAT MEMORIAL  
120 N MARKET ST, MCARTHUR, OH 45651.**



SURVIVOR ADVOCACY  
OUTREACH PROGRAM  
CONFIDENTIAL RAPE CRISIS CENTER

SURVIVOR ADVOCACY OUTREACH PROGRAM

# WINTER VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE TRAINING

Join us to learn more about how to support survivors of sexual violence in our community!

## TRAINING DATES:

January 20, 21, 22, from 4-8 pm

January 25, from 9 am-5 pm

January 27, 28, 29, from 4-8 pm

\*8 hours of this training is take-home\*



## Breathwork & Meditation for Healing

A free, beginner's class for survivors of trauma to inspire healing through deep breathing, meditation and optional movement

When: Saturday, September 12th at 10am

Where: Kachelmacher Park (Logan, OH)

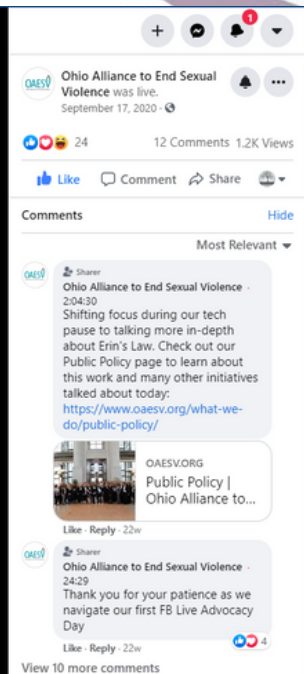
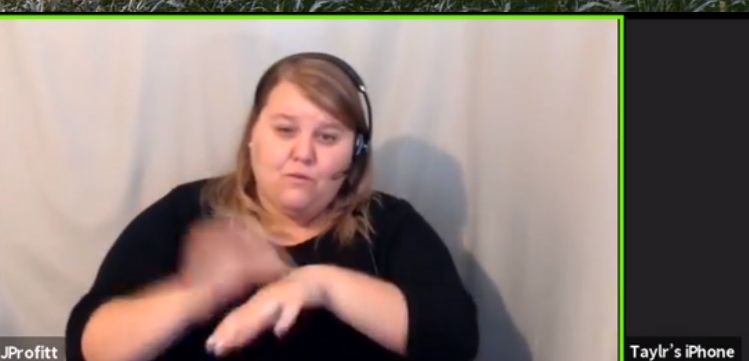
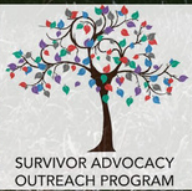
What to bring: A chair, towel or yoga mat

For questions contact René Redd at (740) 331-9171 or at [rene@saopseoh.org](mailto:rene@saopseoh.org)



Dr. Jen Seifert

"Everyone in our society is socialized to believe that some groups of people are superior to others. All violence, including sexual violence is about power and control and that's the tool that's used to reinforce these unequal hierarchies."




zoom



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# SURVIVOR ADVOCACY OUTREACH PROGRAM

## WHO ARE WE?

We are a confidential rape crisis center/non-residential domestic violence program serving survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, sex trafficking, and stalking in Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Meigs, Morgan, Perry, Jackson, and Vinton counties throughout Southeast Ohio.

We believe that everyone should have the support to live a life free of relational violence. We realize this in our communities by educating about trauma and healthy relationships, empowering our communities to have abuse-free relationships, and helping individuals and communities to enact change.

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## SAOP STANDS WITH BLACK LIVES MATTER

(ORIGINALLY RELEASED IN JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER)

The Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program (SAOP) stands in active solidarity with the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and anti-racist work in Southeast Ohio. Rape Crisis Centers (RCCs) were born out of a grassroots movement led and inspired by Black women such as Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, and Frances Thompson. It is an honor to continue their work, but there is still much to be done to support Black survivors/activists/women. This is evidenced by the experience of survivors/activists like 19 year old Oluwatoyin 'Toyin' Salau who was recently murdered as she fought for racial justice. The Tallahassee movement leader was found murdered on June 13th, 2020 just days after speaking out on Twitter about her experience of sexual violence.

Even though this movement was sparked by the courageous voices of Black women, as an agency, we recognize the concerning ways that systemic racism have shifted the rape crisis movement. Such shifts have led to the professionalization and institutionalization of advocacy for survivors which enabled the hiring of white women as RCC administrators and staff. This shift encouraged involving white women as board members and increased attention given to white clientele. We are invested in taking a step back from our current practices and reevaluating how our actions as white people have caused harm systemically, professionally, and inter-personally to communities and people of color. SAOP recognizes that anti-oppression work is inextricable from anti-racist work and must be prioritized as Black lives are being taken, harmed, and denigrated at alarming rates.

We know that lasting change happens over time, through a multitude of avenues, and demands persistent and consistent effort. Our team continues to learn how to confront systemic injustice in order to succinctly understand the nuances of implicit bias, police violence, mass incarceration, and the intricate histories of genocide and sexual violence committed against black and brown people. We are not only learning where we haven't done nearly enough but we are also interrogating our role as a Rape Crisis Center in this movement and looking to how we will carve a path forward to contribute to the end of white supremacy.

As a trauma-informed agency we recognize that the path to healing is slow, nonlinear, and, at times, all-consuming. We commit to transparency in our process of transformation from an organization that identifies as simply "not racist" to one that is actively anti-racist by reporting on our progress in quarterly newsletter updates.

Additionally, while we do not expect anyone to do this work for us, we are open to feedback, particularly from BIPOC. We know that it is only through humility, collaboration, and a willingness to listen and learn from the experiences and perspectives of others that we may grow and respond accordingly to the needs of our black and brown communities. We can do better. We must do better. Black lives depend on it.

## FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

For many reasons, 2020 has been a remarkable year that many of us will tell stories about for years to come. Despite political turmoil, a worldwide pandemic, and our society's reckoning with centuries of structural racism, SAOP's 2020 narrative will largely be one of progress and growth. Despite COVID-19's social distancing protocols, SAOP was still able to provide 579 service hours to 269 clients. Since our last annual report, the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program has made key changes to improve its organizational, staff, and clients' resiliency. It emerges from this year stronger, more committed to its mission, and with greater capacity to serve its clients.

One key change that has improved SAOP's capacity and stability has been purchasing our own building in Nelsonville, Ohio. Funds earmarked for capital investment coincided with a real estate opportunity that would both expand our presence outside of Athens and allow us to generate rent income to support our mission. We purchased a building one block away from the historic town square in Nelsonville, created a limited liability company in July, began remodeling the ground floor offices in January 2021, and rented the two upstairs apartments. We expect that owning our own office building will improve our financial viability and communicate a permanent commitment to our region.

Though the pandemic paused many of our prevention events, programs and support groups, SAOP was still able to expand both the reach and the types of services it offers. A new partnership with the Hocking County Sheriff's Office brought an advocate's position and a stronger presence in the northern counties. Being awarded the Rural Programs Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant allowed us to expand our service programs from crisis response to include support for long term needs created by domestic violence. This expansion acknowledged client needs that our advocates were already addressing. It also proved to be timely since, the pandemic increased the overall share of domestic violence clients SAOP served. Another key change implemented this year that supported the organization's resilience was transitioning weekend coverage of the rape crisis line to on-call employees in order to prevent full-time employee burnout. Despite disruption and challenges, our organization connected with more communities in Southeast Ohio and expanded its services.

Though so much feels uncertain this year, I am happy to report that SAOP has proven to be nimble and resilient in 2020's changing landscape. I attribute most of this success to the passion, skill, and commitment of our staff, our executive director, and our Board of Directors. I know big changes await us on our shared path ahead. I feel excited and hopeful about the ways that SAOP will continue to evolve and grow in its commitment to its mission and its capacity to provide these crucial services to our communities.



Rebekah Perkins Crawford  
President of the Board



**Rebekah  
Crawford  
President**



**Chris Linscott  
Vice-President**



**Patty Stokes  
Board Secretary**



**Denise  
O'Donnell  
Board Treasurer**



**Hanan Al-  
Shadadi**



**Elizabeth  
Dennis**



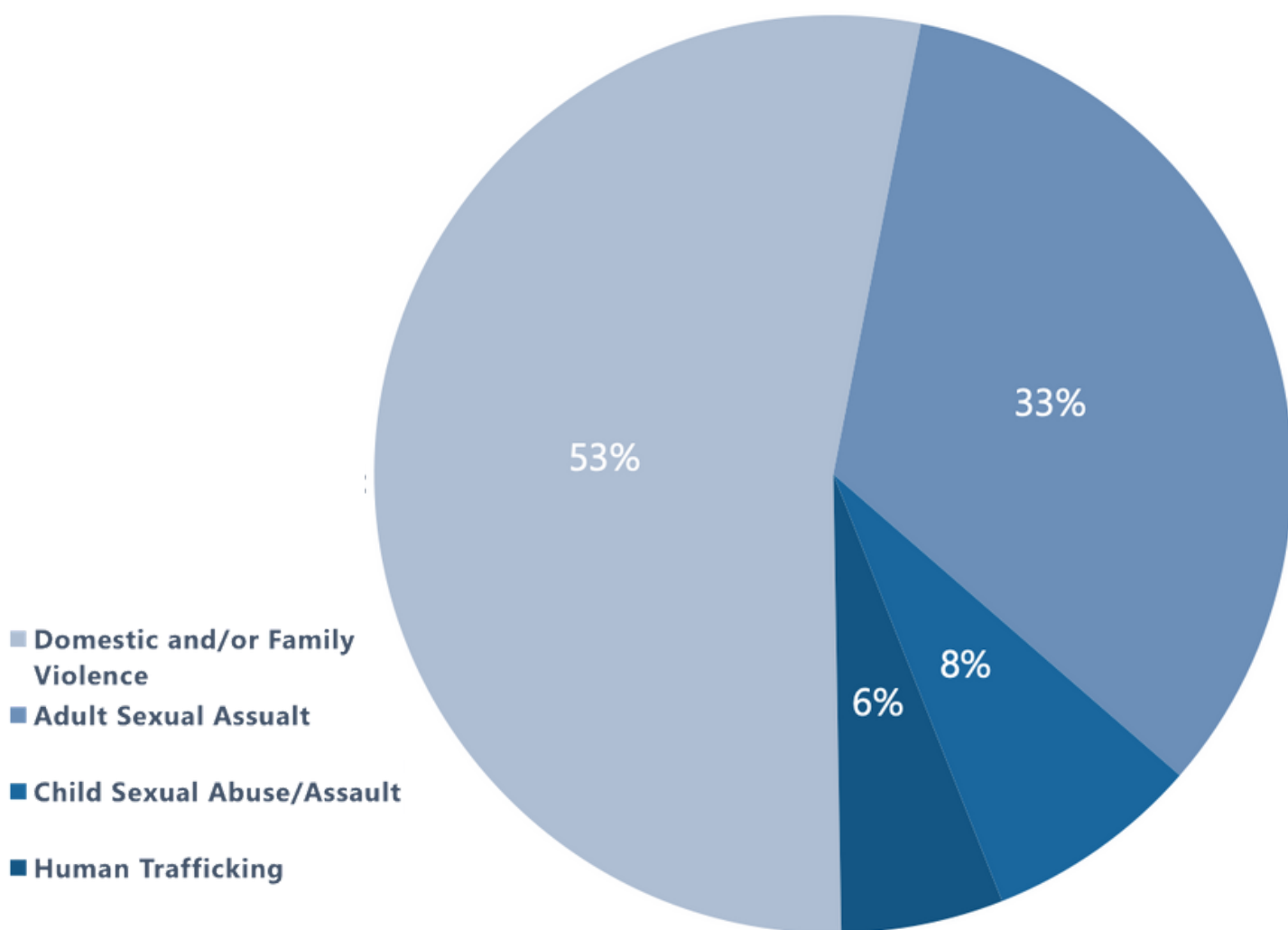
**Allison  
Hunter**



**Regan  
Neviska**

**2019-2020 BOARD MEMBERS**

# WHO WE SERVE



## 269

Total clients served during the fiscal year

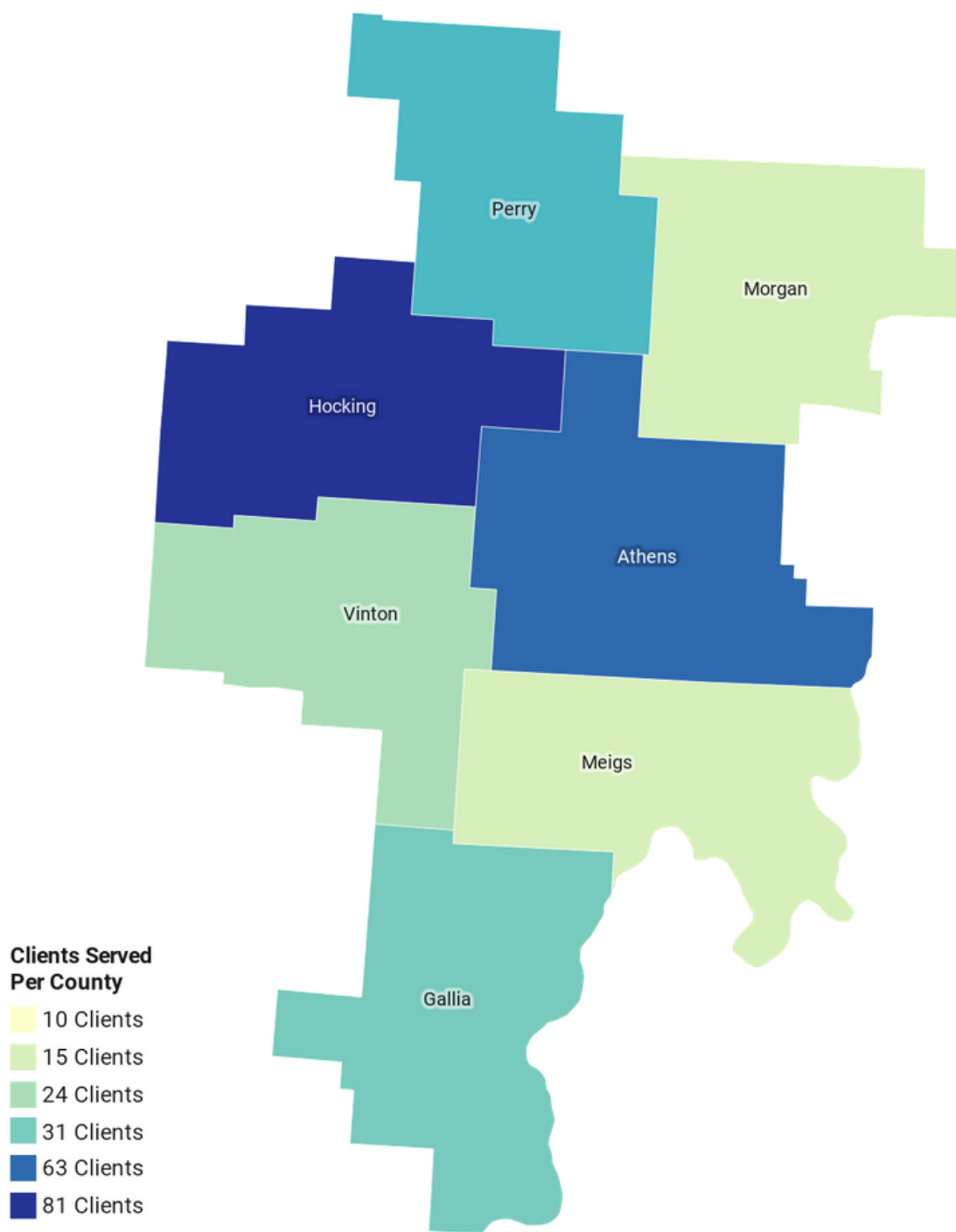
## 579

Total hours of advocacy with and for clients

## 42

Total clients provided emergency financial assistance





35 clients were from other counties or chose not to disclose their location

**\$1,296**

Amount of emergency financial support provided to clients

**29**

Total clients provided transportation

**25**

Clients assisted in obtaining a civil protection order

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**1386**

Total hours donated by  
volunteers and interns

**22**

Total hours of  
empowerment groups  
conducted

**80**

Total hours of volunteer  
training conducted

**23**

Total number of  
volunteers trained

**13,651**

Miles traveled by staff  
delivering services and  
other related activities

**69**

Total Clients who  
participated in  
empowerment groups

**19**

Multi-disciplinary team  
meetings attended/  
facilitated

**89**

Hours of prevention  
programming conducted

# FINANCIAL POSITION

In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, SAOP received \$171,587 in revenue from government/foundation grants and individual donors. Since then, SAOP revenues have increased from year to year- growing nearly 600% in the past 5 fiscal years.

**FY 2017-18  
INCOME**

**FY 2018-19  
INCOME**

**FY 2019-20  
INCOME**

**PROJECTED  
FY 2020-21  
INCOME**

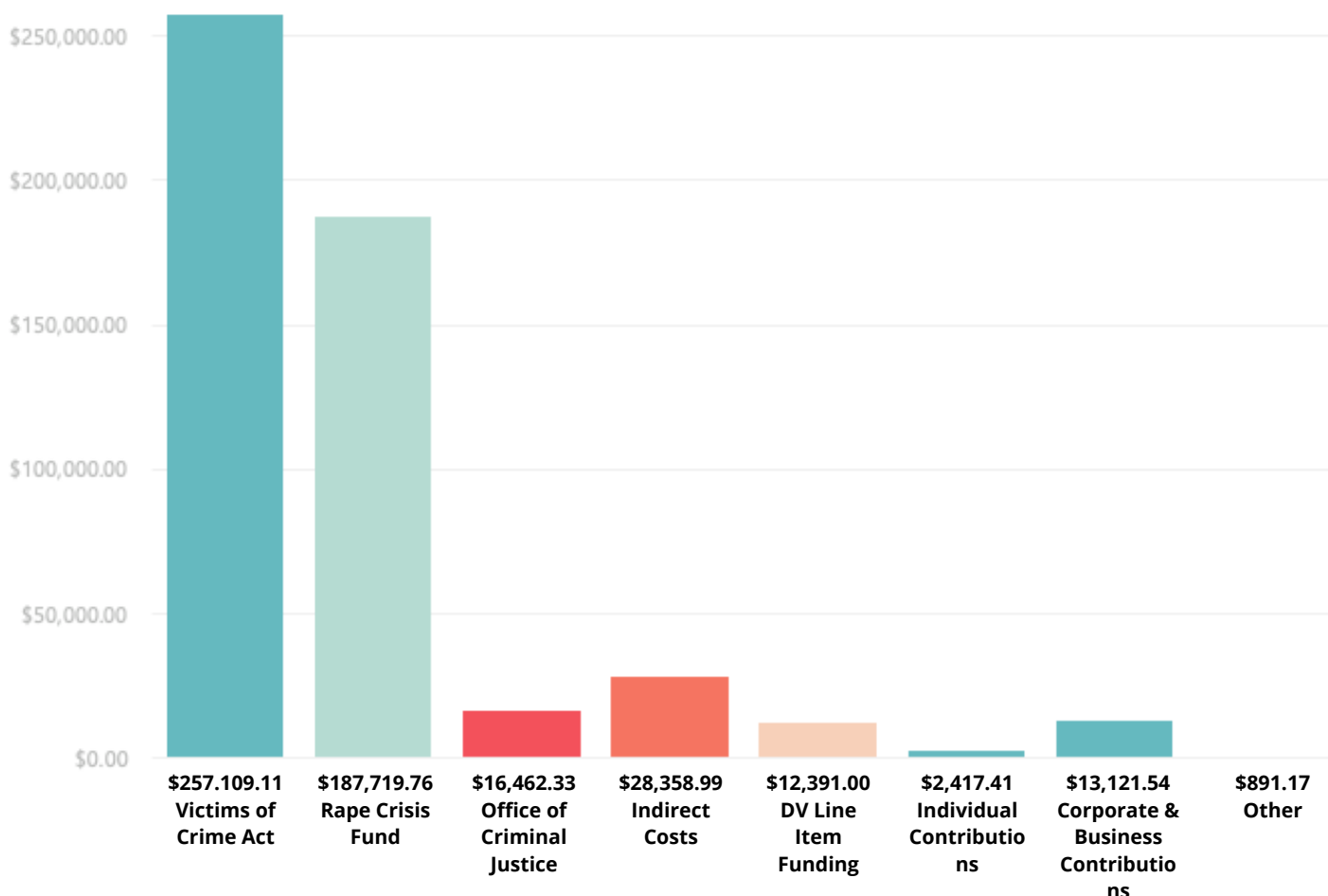
**\$292,710  
70%  
INCREASE**

**\$351,916  
20%  
INCREASE**

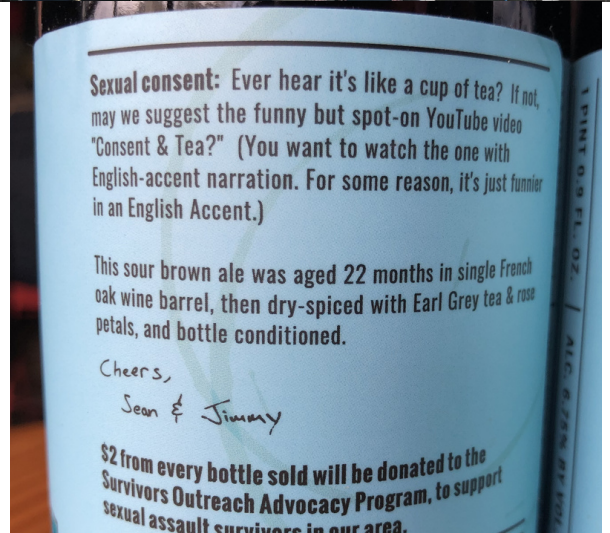
**\$518,836  
47%  
INCREASE**

**\$1,025,141  
97%  
INCREASE**

## FY 2019-2020 REVENUE BY SOURCE

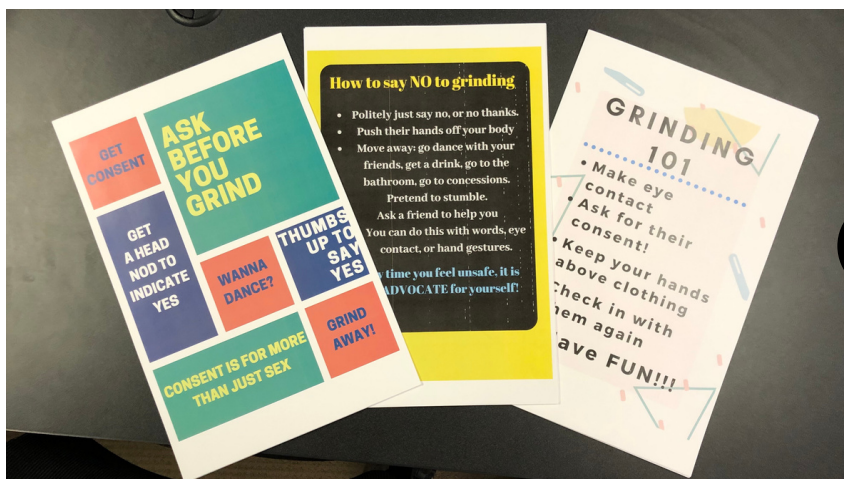


# OUTREACH & EVENTS





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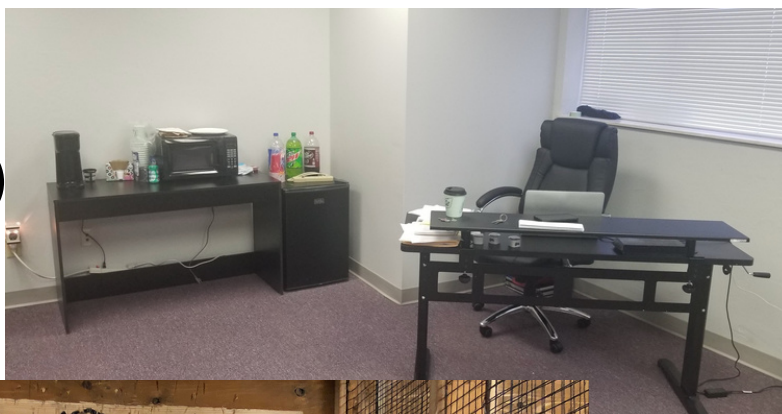


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SAOP hosted, planned, and/or attended many outreach and fundraising events. Here are images and descriptions of just a few.

- 1 Central Church's presentation of their Christmas Eve Donation
- 2 Our Northern Advocate hosting an outreach event in Hocking County
- 3 Consent: A Collaboration Beer with Little Fish Brewing
- 4 Members of SAOP attended Black Lives Matter Rallies this summer in Athens
- 5 Leaders of the Southeast Ohio Region at Critical Conversations Event hosted by OAESV about VOCA Cuts
- 6 Educational materials about consent created by Athens High School students
- 7 New office space in Square One in Gallipolis
- 8 Axe throwing staff self-care activity

7



8



# OUR SUPPORTERS



**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Sisters Health  
Foundation



*Thank  
you for your  
support!*



Adrienne Appel

*coral marie*  
designed for your lifestyle



Paramuthia #25

Donation Made in honor of  
Kristin Mazur



## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In crafting a review of our last fiscal year - most of which was dominated by converging pandemics/health crises - it's difficult to even know where to start. Then again, the uncertainty, ambivalence, grief, and overwhelm associated with the task seems to capture, albeit ironically, the sentiment of the year perfectly. What is clear is that the COVID 19 pandemic, a multi-faceted crisis in its own right, has exacerbated the other health crises of systematic racism, domestic violence, and youth sexual abuse. Yet, this unprecedented level of collective, community, and individual trauma has left us grappling with our roles not only within a trauma-informed agency dedicated to the safety and well-being of our staff, clients, and communities, but as individuals dedicated both personally and professionally to anti-oppression and anti-violence who also have very real physical, emotional, and spiritual limits.



A colleague, in one of our never-ending Zoom meetings, summed it up perfectly by saying “this whole year feels like one big riddle.” Indeed, our organization continues to (re)define how to address violence that thrives on disconnection in a time of social distancing - all the while keeping our staff and their families healthy. We also continue to struggle with how to ensure our financial stability and maintain our devotion to being responsible stewards of public funding while also watching many of those pools of funding dry up as demand for the services supported with those funds increases.

As dedicated as we are to solving these puzzles, we also must honor how incredibly difficult and taxing this toil has been by holding space for both of these truths; 1) that, as an essential service, we have and will continue to show up for our clients on what is for many the worst day of their lives and 2) that doing so during these multiple crises has taken an incredible toll on our staff, board, and community partners. While it's true that many meaningful endeavors are difficult, some experiences are difficult enough in their own right without the added stress of a pandemic. Advocacy and prevention are certainly such activities, but ones that pale in comparison to being a survivor in a time literally defined by trauma.

Although the challenges are great, another truth that we must honor is the incredible resilience of our staff, community, and clients. Our clients are powerful, resourceful, and are expert resource mobilizers! It has been an honor to bear witness to their journeys and watch as many forge paths forward even when it seems all odds are stacked against them. In our community, I have seen our friends and neighbors, who are no stranger to scarcity, give of themselves in ways that embody the very definition of grit. This grit is by no means unique to Appalachia, but its development is certainly a cultural rite of passage for anyone calling our region home. And finally, and most sentimental to my heart, is the strength of my colleagues and board members. You continue to be the essence of the organization and your grace and presence (albeit mostly virtual and always physically distant) throughout this journey has been truly inspirational. I continue to be humbled by your passion, revived by your vigor, and moved to tears by your relentless optimism. I don't know what the next year will bring, but I know together, we will persevere.

Jennifer Seifert  
Executive Director



JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR  
*Gentle yoga  
for healing*

A CLASS WITH RENÉ REDD  
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1-2 P.M.

Meeting ID:  
974 5154 7422  
Password:  
SAAM

THE PICARDY THIRDS PRESENTS  
**THE SURVIVOR  
ADVOCACY OUTREACH  
PROGRAM**  
BENEFIT CONCERT  
January 31st, 2020 • Baker Ballroom • 7:30pm  
Admission by Donation:  
Suggested \$3

## IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT WERE ABUSED, WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?

If not, you're not alone! No one expects to be a survivor of sexual abuse or in an unhealthy relationship. But that means that when it does happen, most don't know their options.

At SAOP, we educate survivors on their options and empower them to enact their choices. We also conduct prevention programming to stop the abuse from ever happening in the first place.

Help support this invaluable work by donating to SAOP. Your gift helps build resilience, support survivors, and create a healthier community for us all.

Donations can be:  
Mailed to 77 E. State St. Athens, Ohio 45701  
Made Via Paypal on our website [www.saopseoh.org](http://www.saopseoh.org)