



SURVIVOR ADVOCACY OUTREACH PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT



2024-2025

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

As I reflect on this past year at Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program, I am filled with immense gratitude and overwhelming pride. The heart, dedication, and resilience of our staff, partners, and supporters have made this one of the most impactful years in SAOP's history. Together, we have continued to show what is possible when a community comes together to believe in survivors and invest in hope.

Through our Appalachian Community Grant Program, made possible by the generous support of the Ohio Department of Development, we have experienced truly transformative growth across our programs and region. One of the most significant milestones of this year was the opening of the Athens Child Advocacy Center in April. Since its doors

opened, the Center has already served numerous families during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. Through our collaborative partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital, local law enforcement, and Athens Children Services, we are now able to provide coordinated, compassionate, and trauma-informed care, ensuring children and families receive the support they deserve when they need it most.

Another incredible highlight of this year has been our growing partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Through the Appalachian Community Grant Program, we have been able to fund the building of 15 homes across our region. Even more meaningful, some of these homes will be going to graduates of our New Leaf Program, making this project especially close to our hearts. Our staff have also had the opportunity to volunteer on-site, helping to build these homes alongside future homeowners. This partnership represents not just housing, but stability, dignity, and a fresh start. We are deeply grateful for this collaboration and look forward to growing this relationship for years to come.

This fall also marked a groundbreaking moment for our region as Vitruvian began 3D-printing the first homes in our area. Being able to support and stand alongside this innovative technology is a tremendous accomplishment for our community and for SAOP. Even more exciting, Vitruvian's workforce development digital masonry program has gained significant traction in area schools. Watching students engage with this emerging technology and preparing for new career pathways has been inspiring. We are thrilled to see this program grow and bring new job opportunities to our region.

All of these accomplishments build on the momentum shared in last year's report and reflect the unwavering commitment of our team to walk beside survivors every step of the way. None of this work would be possible without our staff, board, volunteers, community partners, and donors who show up every day with compassion, courage, and an unshakable belief in our mission.

Thank you for being part of the SAOP family. Your continued support allows us not only to respond to crisis, but to help build safer, stronger futures for survivors and our entire community. The impact of this year will be felt for generations to come, and we cannot wait to see what the next chapter holds.

With deep appreciation and excitement for what's ahead,

Madison Trace, Executive Director

Letter from the Board President

Dear Friends of SAOP

After the stormy events of 2024, 2025 has been a year of smooth sailing on (mostly) calm waters.

Last year Rebekah Crawford, my predecessor as board chairperson, talked about 2024 being a year of SAOP refocusing on its core mission. With the promotion of Madison Trace from interim to permanent Executive Director, SAOP completed the transition to a leadership team and structure that always puts the needs of survivors first. At the same time, we continue to pursue innovative programming that helps survivors beyond their initial crisis through the transition to stable, secure, violence-free lives.

Our New Leaf program continues to provide a comprehensive suite of services and supports helping clients make this transition. Participants in New Leaf receive two years of housing, childcare, employment training, supported employment and advocacy to help them build a better, more sustainable, future for themselves and their children. I am proud to announce that, in 2025 two “graduating” New Leaf participants were able to become homeowners through SAOP’s partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

Our partnership with Habitat for Humanity is also helping make inroads into one of the chief challenges facing survivors – as well as many other families in our region – the lack of sufficient decent and affordable housing.

If you have read past SAOP Annual Reports, you know that we received approximately \$20 million in funds from Ohio’s Appalachian Community Grant Program (ACGP). Most of that support was earmarked for development of affordable housing for both survivors and other low- to moderate- income families.

In 2025, SAOP refocused a significant portion of its ACGP award on a partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Habitat serves as general contractor and recruits teams of volunteers to help build affordable housing. Habitat homes are sold to families at below-market prices, and Habitat provides a no-interest mortgage keeping payments much lower than a conventional loan.

SAOP used ACGP funds to purchase materials used to construct Habitat homes. This allowed the ACGP funds to create substantially more housing than would have been possible without Habitat’s help, and to far exceed the ACGP grant’s housing goals. SAOP staff and volunteers, including the survivors selected to receive some of these homes, provided hundreds of hours of volunteer labor and learned useful home construction and maintenance skills. It was a win for SAOP, Habitat, ACGP and especially the families receiving these homes.

Another major accomplishment for SAOP during 2025 was the opening of its new Child Advocacy Center in conjunction with Nationwide Children’s Hospital. When evidence of abuse, trafficking or exploitation emerges, this custom designed, state-of-the-art facility allows local families and children to receive critical assistance without having to travel to Columbus. It is designed to reduce the trauma of forensic interviews by allowing law enforcement personnel to observe and ask questions without being visibly present in the room. Nationwide provides expert staff support for this process, and SAOP provides case management and counseling support for the children and their families.

Before I close, I would like to share one major problem that emerged this year that you – as a



supporter of SAOP – can help us with. Across the state and nationwide, grant funding has become increasingly competitive, with fewer resources available to meet growing community needs. As a result, the funds that organizations like SAOP do receive are more scarce than ever and must be stretched further to continue providing critical services.

In 2025, a grant-funded program that SAOP relied on to meet the emergency physical needs of survivors ran out of funding and was discontinued. In response, friends and community supporters have generously stepped up to help fill some of the gap by providing personal care items, food, cleaning supplies, beds and bedding, grocery and gas gift cards, kitchen equipment, and other necessities. While this support has been vital, the ongoing need continues to exceed available resources, and additional funding is urgently needed to ensure survivors receive timely and comprehensive support. You can use the donate button on our website www.saopseoh.org to help financially or email us at info@saopseoh.org if you have questions about how you can help or have items to donate.

I want to personally thank you all for your support. Without the generosity of its volunteers and donors, SAOP would find it far harder to help survivors rebuild their lives.

Sincerely,

John Molinaro, Board President

Board of Directors 2024 - 2025



John Molinaro
Board President
He / Him



Tonya Conrath
Vice President
She / Her



Sarah M. Jones
Secretary/Treasurer
She / Her



Rebekah Perkins Crawford
Board Member
She / Her



Sarah E. Jones
Board Member
She / Her



Patty Stokes
Board Member
She / Her



Peggy Garcia
Board Member
She / Her



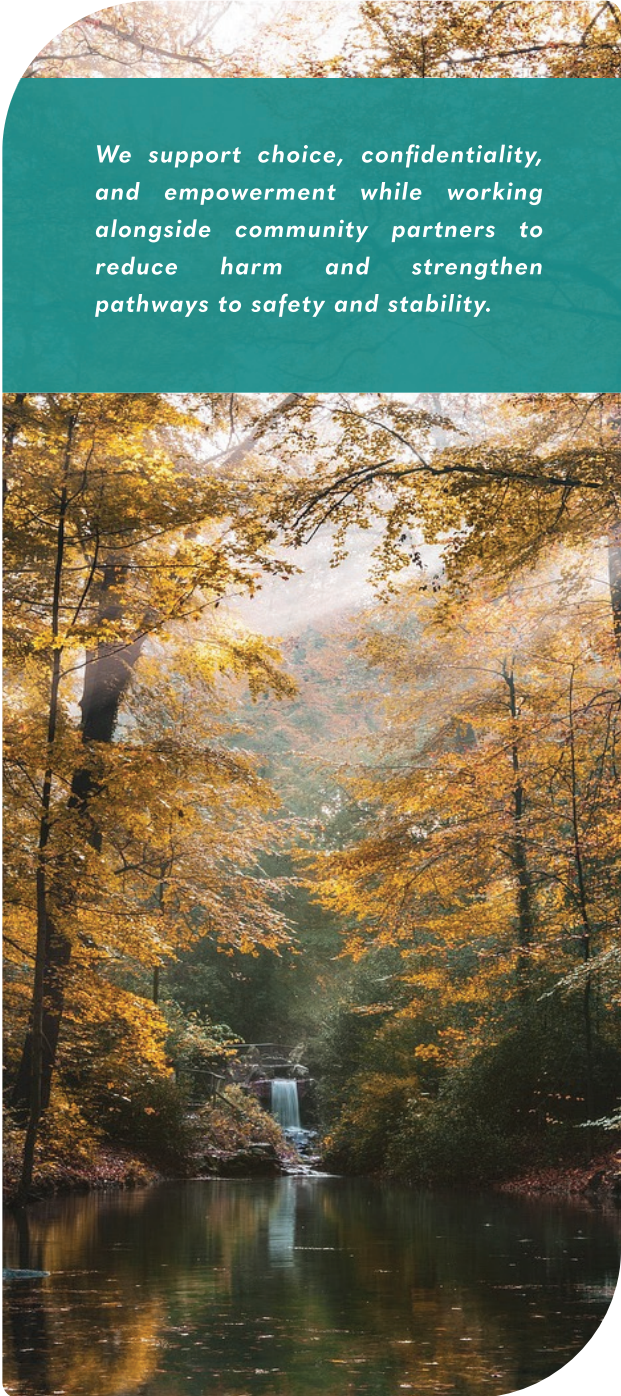
Stephanie Russell
Board Member
She / Her



Shelly Lackey
Board Member
She / Her

WHO WE ARE

At Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program, we believe survivors are the experts in their own lives. Our role is to provide support, advocacy, and education that reduces barriers and increases access to safety and stability. Through survivor centered services, prevention programming, and strong community partnerships, we work to address both immediate harm and the systems that allow violence to persist.



We support choice, confidentiality, and empowerment while working alongside community partners to reduce harm and strengthen pathways to safety and stability.

Our Mission & Vision

SAOP empowers the community and all survivors to live free of sexual violence, domestic violence, human trafficking, and stalking. We envision a world where everyone has the support and right to live a safe life free of violence.

Our Values

We value *empowerment, integrity, and community*. We use an empowerment model of service when working with survivors. Survivors know their stories best and because of this, we strive to empower them to make the choices they see as being important on their path towards justice and healing.

Individuals who experience interpersonal violence do not exist in a vacuum. Rather, survivors are situated in relationships and communities. As such, we value community and recognize how a supportive community, or lack thereof, can affect a survivors' healing and/or create environments that support interpersonal violence.

Finally, through our work with survivors, we are entrusted with extremely personal and sensitive information. Because of this, we operate under stringent practices to keep such information secure and confidential on behalf of our clients.

SAOP Staff 2024 - 2025



Madison Trace
Executive Director



Heather Mitchell, LISW-S
Director of Programs



Krystal Rogols
Director of Finance



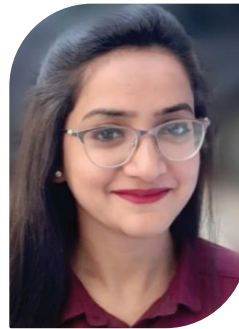
Gretchen Gregory
Grants Manager



Diane Stock, LSW
CAC & Youth
Program Manager



Chelsea Dodson
Workforce Development
Program Manager



Roshni Ashiq
Supportive Services &
Residential Program Manager



Jody Whaley
Facilities Manager



Brandon Thompson
Prevention & Training
Coordinator



Morgan Bycofski
Administrative & Intake
Coordinator

FINANCIAL POSITION

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, SAOP managed federal, state, and local grants supporting housing, advocacy, prevention, workforce development, and child advocacy services. Grant funding remains the primary source of organizational revenue.

While housing related programs generate the greatest financial sustainability, direct services and workforce development require continued investment beyond revenue generation. SAOP continues exploring long term strategies to strengthen sustainability while maintaining mission driven services, including potential future Medicaid reimbursement.

Primary Funding Sources

The following agencies contributed significantly to our efforts:

Appalachian Community Grant Program	\$18,000,000
Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization Program	\$2,800,000
U.S. Department of Labor	\$1,500,000
Office on Violence Against Women Rural Program	\$950,000
Rural Community Fund	\$885,470
Community Violence Intervention Program	\$559,810
Office for Victims of Crime State Services	\$500,000
Victims of Crime Act	\$213,168
Ohio Domestic Violence Network Flexible Financial Assistance	\$186,374
Domestic Violence Legal Assistance Program	\$135,000
Ohio Domestic Violence Network Mobile Advocacy	\$80,000
Ohio Domestic Violence Network REACH Rapid Rehousing	\$31,000

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Survivor Services

Survivor Services remained the foundation of SAOP's work, providing crisis intervention, safety planning, advocacy, and support to hundreds of survivors across the region. Advocates supported survivors through immediate crises while helping navigate legal systems, medical care, and long term safety planning.

Services were delivered in community settings, hospitals, courts, and correctional facilities, ensuring survivors had access to support regardless of circumstance or location.



"SAOP gave me room to breathe and kind of slow down mentally and move out of the survival mode and start to learn how to thrive."

Survivor and Program Participant

548

SAOP provided support to 548 survivors this year, offering critical advocacy, practical resources, and guidance.

500+

Advocates provided over 500 hours of crisis intervention to support survivors in crisis.

15

Staff attended 15 SAFE exams to ensure survivors received advocacy and support during forensic medical exams.

30

The program successfully secured 30 Civil Protection Orders (CPOs) to enhance survivor safety.

145

SAOP provided support to 145 survivors at the Southeast Ohio Regional Jail (SEORJ).

72

Advocates facilitated 72 support groups at SEORJ to provide ongoing support and skill building.

New Leaf Justice Enterprises

New Leaf Justice Enterprises continued supporting survivors through wraparound supportive services designed to reduce barriers and promote long term stability. Services addressed housing, transportation, legal advocacy, medical access, childcare, and emergency financial needs while honoring survivor autonomy and goals.

Partnerships expanded opportunities for permanent housing and reinforced survivor defined success beyond crisis response.

- Wraparound supportive services delivered through 284 sessions totaling 300 hours
- \$6,472.40 in emergency financial assistance disbursed to 8 participants
- 3 participants graduating into homeownership through partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio
- Participant milestones included reunification with children, purchasing vehicles, and homeownership approval

New Leaf's workforce development programming focused on individualized goal setting, continuing education and certification, and skill development that supported participants in envisioning and achieving stable, self-directed futures.

Workforce partnerships strengthened opportunities for meaningful employment and economic mobility beyond program completion.

- 8 participants completed a Community Health Worker certification, including 100 hours of didactic education
- All participants completed a financial education series delivered in partnership with Unified Bank focused on credit, debt, and long-term financial planning
- All program graduates secured sustained employment allowing reduction or elimination of government benefits

"Once they get through that door, they get the key at the dedication, and they start moving in. They gain a sense of empowerment and the want to grow, to contribute to their community, make a difference in people's lives and just it's just an all empowering program."

Debbie Gibson, Habitat for Humanity Southeast Ohio





Child Advocacy Center

The Athens Child Advocacy Center opened on May 6, 2025, increasing access to coordinated, trauma-informed services for children and families affected by abuse and neglect across Southeast Ohio. Operated through a partnership between SAOP and the Center for Family Safety and Healing at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, the CAC delivers a multidisciplinary response that prioritizes child safety, minimizes retraumatization, and supports family stability. Services include forensic interviews, medical assessment and treatment, and supportive services for non offending caregivers, coordinated in collaboration with community partners.

During its first months of operation, the CAC introduced caregiver support services using the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework, an evidence based model that supports family resilience and healthy child development. These services focused on caregiver resilience, child development, social connections, and concrete supports

From May through September, children and families were served through coordinated forensic and medical care. All referred children received comprehensive medical exams through the partnership with Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

- 17 children referred for forensic interviews and or medical forensic exams
- 14 caregivers received supportive services and referrals
- All referred children received comprehensive medical exams

“I truly appreciate all of your help and support with ‘my child.’ Your team was absolutely wonderful, and ‘my child’ shared that she felt supported and safe throughout the entire process. She even followed through with the exam, and Dr. Cho was phenomenal in ensuring she remained comfortable the entire time. Thank you again!”

Parent of a Child Served by the Athens Child Advocacy Center



Outreach and Prevention

Outreach and Prevention efforts emphasized relationship building, education, and community engagement. The number of partnerships and events increased, strengthening long term community impact. Programming reached students, professionals, bar staff, and community members through trainings focused on consent, healthy relationships, sexual violence prevention, and trauma awareness.

2,613

A total of 2,613 individuals were reached through SAOP's prevention and outreach programming.

933

SAOP delivered prevention training to 933 adults through community based education efforts.

1,660

SAOP provided prevention training to 1,660 youth across the region.

260

A total of 260 community partners attended prevention and outreach meetings and trainings during the reporting period.

20

SAOP attended 20 multidisciplinary team meetings across five counties.



THANK YOU

to Our Supporters & Funders

SAOP is deeply grateful to the individuals, businesses, and community partners who provided financial support and in-kind contributions throughout the year. Your generosity helps ensure survivors and families receive timely, compassionate, and effective support.

Athens County Commissioners

Athens County Foundation

Athens Dental Arts

Casa Nueva

Tanya Conrath

Governor Dewine's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Governor's Office of Appalachia, Ohio Department of Development

Sarah E Jones

Sophia Karageorge

Little Fish Brewing

Deborah Lowe

John Molinaro

Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Ohio Attorney General's Office

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers

Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

Kathleen Riestenberg

Structure Gym

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women

U.S. Department of Labor

West End Ciderhouse

Stephanie Wood



**SURVIVOR ADVOCACY
OUTREACH PROGRAM
SOUTHEAST OHIO**

145 Columbus Road, Suite 201
Athens, OH 45701



DONATE

from your
smartphone

At SAOP, we educate survivors on their options and empower them to enact their choices. We also conduct prevention programming to stop 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.



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