



“AWARE empowers survivors of domestic and sexual violence by providing, shelter, services and programs.”

Annual Report

October 2015 - September 2016



P.O. Box 1526
Jackson, MI 49204-1526
www.awareshelter.org



(517) 783-2861 Shelter Crisis Line
(517) 783-2660 Shelter Fax Line

(517) 783-1638 Administration Business Line
(517) 990-6769 Administration Fax Line

Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/awareshelter](https://www.facebook.com/awareshelter)



Donors 2015-16



Celebrity Chef Dan Casillo and Amanda Casillo



Celebrity Chef Jason Erb



Celebrity Chef Ruben Pritchard

Annual Board President's Report

Greetings,

I would like to take the time to review all of the accomplishments this year of AWARE, Inc. staff under the leadership of the Executive Director.

We experienced great success with our Domestic Violence and Sexual Awareness Month events by raising awareness on these issues, and much needed operating support. AWARE, Inc. received continued corporate and foundation support, receiving new grants from UPS Charitable Foundation, Frank and Irene M. Myers Foundation and Weatherwax Foundation to purchase big ticket items such as new appliances, new beds, and to complete much needed plumbing, electrical and HVAC repairs to improve the safety and appearance of the shelter.

The Governance Committee of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director worked diligently on developing a staffing structure, and aligning job descriptions with activities to create a modest budget to get us closer to financial stability.

These, like most changes, were difficult and the Board of Directors appreciates the staff for proceeding forward and maintaining high quality care for our residents during this challenging time.

While we ceased providing SANE services at the end of fiscal year 2015, AWARE, Inc. continues to provide 24-hour crisis line, advocacy, support groups, shelter services, and legal and medical advocacy to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault thanks to the ongoing support of our funders. With their continued support the AWARE, Inc. Board of Directors looks forward to next year's success in providing crisis services to families in Jackson County.

Sincerely,

Stacey Phelps

Stacey Phelps
AWARE, Inc. Board President



Board of Directors

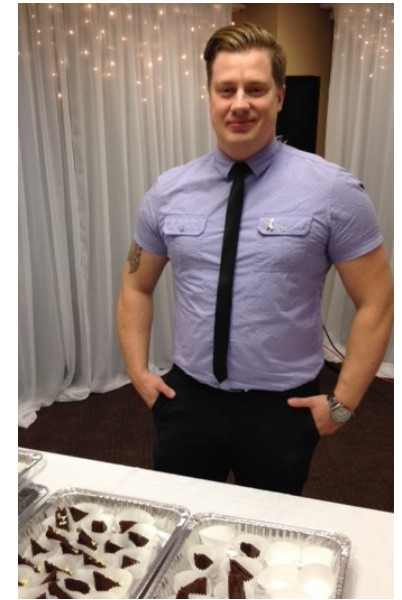
- Stacey Phelps, President
- Marc Stanley, Co Vice-President
- Amber McKee, Co Vice-President
- Debra Faust, Secretary
- Steve Morrison, Treasurer
- Barbara Mierzwa, Member at Large
- Jeremy Norwood, Member at Large
- Desiree Hughes, Member at Large
- Ama Agyemang-Larsen, Member at Large
- Ashley Zuzelski, Member at Large
- Kathy Davis, Member at Large
- Liz Raduazo, Member at Large

On-call Volunteers/Interns

- Bobbie Borowski
- Linda DeVore
- Courtney Fleming
- Cameron Hohman
- Sofia Johnson
- Molly Kennedy
- Badrina Kuhl
- Brittany Lemmen
- Maggie Reynolds
- Sarah Stanham
- Christine Trine
- Christine Wright



Donors 2015-16



Clockwise, Celebrity Chefs Prosecutor Jerry Jarzynka, Jeff Drake, Davan Gerding, Steve Morrison, and Tim McEldowney (not pictured)



Donors 2015-16



Bart Hawley with Celebrity Chef Mike Smajda



Celebrity Chefs Chad Kennedy and Steve Kutyna

Letter from the Executive Director

Greetings Friends of AWARE,

During the 2015-16 fiscal year, AWARE, Inc. successfully weathered continued change, and began steps to strengthen overall agency operations and core services to fully integrate sexual assault comprehensive services into our current infrastructure.

We raised funds to complete significant maintenance and repairs. Thanks to generous donations from Frank and Irene M. Myers Foundation, Weatherwax Foundation, and UPS Charitable Foundation we were able to complete plumbing repairs, replace appliances, mattresses and bedding for 30 beds, update lighting, and our AC unit.

Transitions

AWARE, Inc. says farewell to Kathryn Hall, former Clinical Director, who decided to leave the agency after nearly seven years of service. Thank you and we wish you the best!

The Board created a maintenance fund, and committed seed money from investments to the fund for future maintenance/repairs and capital improvements.

We begin our next fiscal year with a clear vision to strengthen our foundation, and collaborate with community partners to meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

I thank all of our friends and supporters for your continued support and for investing in our mission.

Sincerely,

Angelita Velasco Gunn

Angelita Velasco Gunn, Executive Director

2017 will mark 40 years of providing crisis support services to families in Jackson County.

Staff

Angelita Velasco Gunn, Executive Director
 SeQuita Brown, Shelter & Facilities Manager
 Leighanne Rappaport, Resource Director
 Kathryn Hall, Clinical Director
 Alyssa Duhr, Program Manager
 Nina Thomas, Housing Advocate
 Shawn Corlew, Counselor
 Valerie Daft, Counselor
 Courtney Fleming, Client Advocate
 Heather Hunter, Client Advocate
 Nancy Hoffman, Client Advocate
 Jacquelynn Ion, Client Advocate
 Sandra McPherson, Client Advocate
 Alma Morgan, Client Advocate
 Kristian Oeschle, Client Advocate
 Sue Griswatsch, Legal Advocate
 Karis Tripp, Legal Advocate
 Kevin Rogers, Legal Advocate
 Neva Wenman, Monitor
 Loraine Smith, Monitor
 Terri Schempf, Monitor

Professional Development

A well-trained staff is essential to meeting the complex needs of those we serve. During this fiscal year, staff attended 33 training events with a combined total of 200 hours of training on evaluation, trauma-informed services, online activism, integrated sexual assault services, ethical decision making, economic justice, technology and stalking, domestic violence and children, survivor-centered principles of advocacy, vicarious trauma, self-care, sexual assault on college campuses, brand identity, and fundraising.

Donors 2015-16

Unity Church Of Jackson
 Universalist Unitarian Church Of
 East Liberty
 UPS Charitable Foundation
 VanOrder, Janet P.
 Vieta, Joanne
 Vista Grande Villa
 Walker, Beverly
 Warner, Martha
 Eric B. Walton Family
 Endowment Fund
 Weatherwax Foundation
 Wilson, Ward and Judith
 Wolfe, Joseph & Judith
 Women Of The Moose #389
 Womens Association Presbyterian
 Church
 Worden, Jane
 Young Professional Network
 Jackson Area Assoc. of Realtors
 Zion United Methodist Church
 Zuzelski, Ashley



Donors 2015-16

McKee, Amber
 McLaughlin, John & Catherine
 Michigan Community Credit Union
 Michigan International Speedway
 Mick, Craig
 Mierzwa, Barbara & and Raymond
 Monhollen, Ann
 Moore, Matt
 Morrison, Steven & Bune
 Morrow, Shanda & Robert
 Moul, Bradley & Pamela Moul
 Mroczka, Margaret
 Mumby, Linda
 Frank and Irene M. Myers
 Foundation
 Napoletano, Celia
 Newland, John & Beth
 Nite Lites of Jackson
 North Jackson Lions Club
 North Parma United Methodist
 Women
 Norwood, Jeremy & Amber
 Old National Bank
 Osborn, Janet
 Osmond, Stephen & Melissa
 Padbury Periodontics & Implant
 Dentistry
 Parker & Adams, P.C.
 Pascal, Walter & Shirley
 Philo, Beth
 Porter, Mark & Michelle
 Potts, Beverly
 Powers, John & Mary
 Presbyterian Church
 Presbyterian Church Womens
 Association
 Purvis, Randy
 Queen Of The Miraculous Medal
 Parish
 Raduazo, Elizabeth & Anthony
 Radzwion, Duane & Margaret
 Rappaport, Jennelle
 Reddy, Sadasiva & Vijaya
 Risner, Alisa
 Roberts, Clayton
 Robidoux, Robert & Nancy
 Romberger, Christine
 Rozensky, Linda A & Anthony A.
 Rudolph, Eugene
 Rumors Salon
 Russell, Eleanor
 Samuel Higby Camp Foundation
 Sargent, Richard & Marilyn
 Savick, Cecily Simon
 Schaufler, Gary & Pamela
 Schell, Lisa
 Schlecte, William & Laura
 Second Missionary Baptist Church
 Seymour Ford Lincoln
 SMT Employees Club
 Snyder, Gerald and Anita
 Sosnowski, Nicholas and Dana
 South Central Credit Union
 Southwell, Edward R
 Speckhard-Knight Charitable
 Foundation
 Spicer, Cassandra
 Bill and Vi Sigmund Foundation
 Spring Arbor Free Methodist
 Church
 St. Michael's Circle
 Starkman, Sylvia & Miriam
 Stough, Norman & Dorothy
 Strang, Helen L
 Strong, Holly
 Syrjamaki, Stephen & Kathleen
 Tassie, Donald R
 The CMS Club
 Tripp, Karis
 Turner, Erma

Core Values

Collaboration

We recognize that our mission requires working successfully with clients, funding units, donors, the community, the court system, and other non-profit agencies. We encourage staff initiative, innovation and leadership. We promote teamwork with our clients as we strive for excellence in facilitating the best possible results for the survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Impact

We are committed to making a difference and effecting change in our community. We will do this by supporting and empowering survivors, and being leaders in the movement to eliminate domestic and sexual violence. We take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to educate residents of all ages in Jackson County about our mission, services and programs.

Empowerment

We believe in the right of everyone to live a violence-free life. Our dedicated staff and volunteers use all available resources to improve the lives of survivors and empower them to create an independent life free from violence and fear.

Commitment

We are dedicated to and passionate about our mission of empowering survivors of domestic and sexual violence. We treat our clients with compassion and acceptance. We will always exhibit professional and personal integrity, and adhere to high ethical and professional standards in our work.

Agency Goals

Provide quality housing and support services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Enhance resources to enable staff and volunteers to carry out the agency's mission.

Evaluate and coordinate preventative programs designed to eliminate domestic and sexual violence.

Help individuals cope with crisis and empower them to achieve violence-free lives.

Facilitate education and collaboration within the community to promote social change.

Program Services

Jackson County Family Visitation Center

Jackson County Family Visitation Center (JCFVC), a collaborative project of AWARE, Inc. and Jackson County, provides supervised visitation and exchanges to families where domestic violence has occurred and parenting time has been ordered.

During this fiscal year the Center provided 570 supervised visits, and 532 exchanges, serving 38 families a month on average.

Residential Services

AWARE, Inc. provided 5,256 nights of shelter nights to 163 adults and 118 children during this fiscal year. While in our shelter, advocacy staff work with survivors on self-identified goals such as, employment, childcare access, education and training, to facilitate rebuilding a foundation toward healing and self-sufficiency.

Our residential services provide families in crisis with temporary respite from violence, and are funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Jackson Area United Way, the Jackson Community Foundation and other private sources.

Transitional housing program, funded by the Community Action Agency, bridges the gap between short-term crisis shelter and long-term housing. Survivors of domestic and sexual violence may live in transitional housing for up to two years.

During this fiscal year, 10 women and 19 children received supportive services such as rental assistance, transportation assistance, help with utilities, clothing and food vouchers while in transitional housing.



24-hour Crisis Line Services

During this fiscal year, 3,899 crisis calls were received by our advocacy staff who provided supportive listening, intake for shelter, and referrals for other services.

Donors 2015-16

Dixon, Dawn & Daniel	Howell, Linda
Dunigan, Candace	Huff Auto Group
Dushane, Kay	Humayun, Naseer or Zarina
Easton, Bonnie & Gale	The Hurst Foundation
Eddy, Judith A	IRCO, INC.
Eicholtz, Cynthia	Jackson Area Association of Realtors
Ennis, Alek & Cheryl	Jackson Calvary United Methodist Church
Evans, Betty E	Jackson Chapter Medical Assistants
Extreme Dodge	Jackson Coffee Co.
Fagin, Sheryl L	Jackson Community Foundation
Gaynel Fausell Charitable Trust	Jackson District Dental Society
Fessel, Michael & Lynn	Jackson Host Lions Club
Fietsam, Ms Terry	Jackson Symphony Orchestra
Fleming & Fleming, PC	Jankowski, David & Joanne
Fraternal Order Of Eagles	Jukuri, Al & Nita
Furgason, Charles	Jukuri, Kathryn
G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility	Justin, James
Gaertner and Schock, Suzanne & Richard	Kaemming, David & Shirley
Gage, Ken & Nancy	Knight, David
Ganton, Scott & Nikki	Knight's Steakhouse & Grill
Gaynier, Mike and Wendy	Kops, Herbert & Mary
Geofurnace Heating & Cooling	Korotney, JoAnn & Frank
Gerdau – Jackson Mill	Lapinski, David
Gerdau Social Responsibility Committee	Laughlin, Jean
Louis Glick Memorial & Charitable Trust	Lefere, Carlene
Godlewski, Stan R	Legacy Dry Cleaners
Grant, Hilary	Lent, Carol & John
Grass Lake Lions Club	Levy, Bernard & Kathleen
Great Lakes Industry, Inc.	Lifeways Community Mental Health
Guernsey, Lynn	Lynk, Patricia
Gunn, Angelita Velasco	Mabel Harris Charitable Trust
Hanover-Horton Community Church Inc.	MACI – Michigan Automotive Compressor Inc.
Heady, Lois	Madden, Phyllis
Hillside United Methodist Women	Marcucci, Mark & Sandra
Hoffbauer, Brian & Elizabeth	Marron, Virginia
Home Depot	Marshall, Gretchen and Victor
Hoover, Jonathan & Susan	McCrimmon, Terry & Denise
	McGaugh, Theresa

Donors 2015-16

Abbott, William
 AccessPoint
 ACT Test Panels, LLC
 Advance Turning & Manufacturing Inc.
 Albertson, Robert & Katherine
 American Credit Union
 Arbor Grove Congregational Church
 Barden, Marjorie
 Barto, Thomas & harlotte
 Bath & Body Works
 Beiswenger, Ronald & Jane
 Dorothy Blakely Foundation
 Bloodworth, Carolyn A
 Brown, Justin and Akiko
 Brye, Michael & Diana
 Brys Estate Vineyard & Winery
 Buda, Michael & Barb
 Bullen, Lawrence & Valerie
 Butler, Marty
 Jack V. Butterfield Investments Co.
 Butterfield, John & Melisa
 Byerly, George & Kathleen
 Case, Larry & Barb
 CertainTeed Corporation
 Development Center
 Chelsea Milling Company
 Christmas Carol Purse Project
 Circle Of Stones
 Comerica Bank
 Commercial Exchange
 Commonwealth Associates, Inc.
 Conklin, Morris & Linda
 Consumers Energy Foundation
 Matching Gifts Program
 Allan B. Copley Charitable Foundation
 Cornerstone Christian Church
 Crownover, Debbie
 Cunningham, Margaret & Roger
 Curtis, Curtis & Brelinski, P.C.
 Cushman, Nancy
 Davidson, David & Connie
 Dawn Food Products, Inc.
 Decker, Russel
 Derby, Diane & Randall
 Devine, Emma & Michael
 DeWolfe, David M
 Dillon, Jeff & Vickie
 Diversified Precision Products
 Divine "Wings" Fellowship
 Spiritualist Church



GS Troup #60165 drop off donations. May 2016.

Program Services

Counseling Services

During this fiscal year, 127 survivors of domestic and sexual violence received crisis support through individual counseling services, and support groups.

Our counselors provide support to survivors shortly after a traumatic event, and focus on building the individual's capacity to heal.

With staff transition, we experienced a gap in ongoing Kids Club programming. Groups resumed in the latter part of the fiscal year, reaching a handful of children.

Kids Club is designed to enhance the child's sense of safety, and create a common vocabulary of emotions for making sense of violent experiences.

96% of victims who completed surveys reported that the counseling services they received were helpful.

96% of victims reported gaining increased understanding about the natural responses to trauma.

83% of victims reported gaining increased knowledge about community resources they might need in the future.



Annual Putt-Putt golf outing sponsored by Jackson Area Association of Realtors, Young Professionals Network. August 2016.

Program Services

Individual and Systems Advocacy

This fiscal year, 159 adults and 118 children received individual advocacy such as assistance with housing, employment, economic empowerment skills, childcare resources, transportation, and referral to other community resources through residential services.

During this fiscal year, staff assisted 253 adults and children received assistance through 299 instances of contact civil and criminal justice advocacy, court accompaniment, and victim notification or outreach.

AWARE received 15 calls from Henry Ford Allegiance Health forensic nurses, and responded to nine calls for advocacy at the emergency department

Education and Outreach

AWARE, Inc. provides education on domestic violence and sexual assault issues to area schools, community centers, churches, and other professionals. This fiscal year, we responded to 26 requests reaching over 506 adults and 435 youth and students, addressing issues such as healthy relationships, consent, and services offered by our agency. We responded to an additional 10 requests from local print, radio and television media.

Our social media presence has grown with 1,385 friends who like us on Facebook.



Diggers Garden Club beautifying our surroundings. June 2016

Financial Information 2015-16

Government Grants

U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women	
• Safe Havens Grant (Jackson County sub recipient)	\$ 96,237
• Legal Assistance for Victims (Legal Services of So. Central MI sub recipient)	\$ 4,763
U. S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (Community Action Agency sub recipient)	\$ 31,145
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services	
• Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board	
Domestic Violence Comprehensive	\$ 122,257
Domestic Violence Emergency Services (MSHDA and Salvation Army)	\$ 5,198
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/SACS	\$ 400
STOP (Services, Training, Officers & Pros.)	\$ 38,479
• Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission	\$ 103,946

Private Grants

• Jackson Community Foundation	\$ 31,465
• Weatherwax Foundation	\$ 19,375
• Speckhard-Knight Foundation	\$ 10,000
• UPS Charitable Foundation	\$ 10,000
• Dorothy Blakely Foundation	\$ 10,000
• Bill and Vi Sigmund Foundation	\$ 7,500
• The Hurst Foundation	\$ 7,500
• Frank & Irene Myers Foundation	\$ 6,323
• Samuel Higby Camp Foundation	\$ 5,000
• Allan B. Copley Charitable Trust	\$ 5,000
• Mabel Harris Charitable Trust	\$ 4,000
• Gaynell Fausell Charitable Trust	\$ 3,000

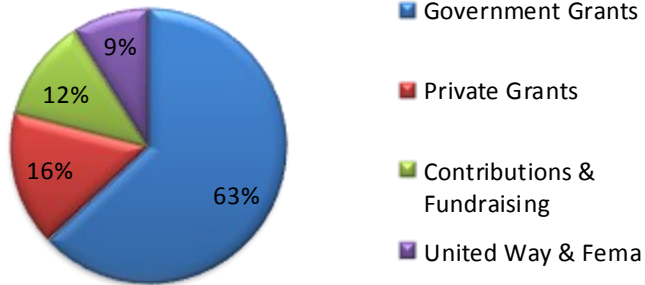
Contributions & Fundraising

• United Way	
Community Solutions Fund	\$ 59,972
FEMA	\$ 3,750
• Contributions	\$ 46,004
• Fundraising	\$ 37,666

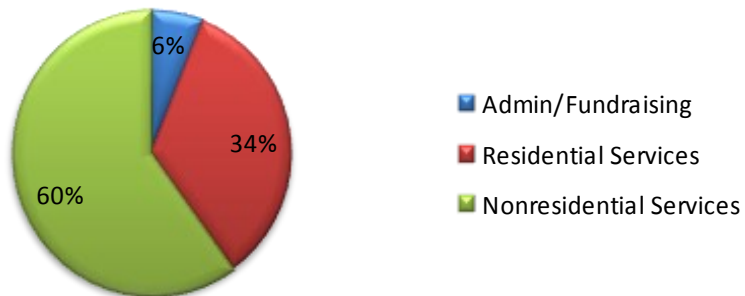
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$ 750,496
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Financial Information 2015-16

Income



Expenses



Program Services

Collaboration

AWARE is active in numerous collaborative activities to address the broader goals of social justice, supporting families in crisis and ending poverty and homelessness in Jackson County. We are the lead agency for the Jackson County Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordinating Council and participate in the following initiatives,:

- Jackson County Continuum of Care
- Human Services Coordinating Alliance
- Emergency Needs Coalition
- Legal Services of South Central Michigan Jackson Advisory Board
- Juvenile Justice Committee
- Financial Stability Network
- Supervised Visitation Network

AWARE and Turning Point, Mt. Clemens, trained 25 medical personnel and nurses from Henry Ford Allegiance Health. The training focused on patient-centered care and SANE services for survivors of sexual violence.

AWARE is an active member of the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, a statewide network of over 70 community based programs; and participates in agency director meetings hosted by the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board.



UPS presents check to AWARE, Inc. for facility repairs. May 2016.

Fund Development

Events

AWARE Inc., held its annual Spring Volunteer Recognition event in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month on April 20, 2016. Over 100 people attended the luncheon held at the Commonwealth Commerce Center. Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy delivered a powerful keynote on the nearly 10,000 untested rape kits discovered in Detroit in 2009.

October 27, 2016, AWARE, Inc. held our 5th annual “Lights, Camera, AUCTION!” during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Bart Hawley served as Master of Ceremonies and *Men Who Cook*, ten local “celebrity” chefs, donated their culinary fare. The event was attended by 130 guests and included both a live and silent auction, raising over \$17,000 in unrestricted funds. AWARE, Inc. thanks all the local and regional businesses, hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues that contributed to the auction.

Volunteers

Last fiscal year, over 150 volunteers provided over 1100 hours to AWARE crisis services, special events and fundraising efforts, grounds keeping and administration. THANK YOU to the following groups and individuals:

Shayne Allen
Donalda Antrup
Hannah Ainsworth
William Barnes III
Michelle Best
Bottom Line Systems

Suzanne McCloskey
Deb McEldowney
Joe Merritt
Mary Miller
Steve Morrison
Patricia Lynk



AWARE, Inc. Executive Director pictured here with Wayne Co. Prosecutor Kym Worthy. April 2016

Fund Development

Volunteers

Chris Boulter
Don Bravato
Marty Butler
Megan Cary
Amanda Cassillo
Dan Cassillo
Alexandria Cook
Margaret Cunningham
Elisabeth Cushway
Diggers Club
Kelly Daniels
Jeff Drake
Lindsey Edwards
Jason Erb
Janet Gage
Davan Gerding
Natalie Halsey
Beverly Halters
Connie Hobbs
Tom Heise
JAAR/YPN
Jerry Jarzynka
Adrienne Kanitz
Barry Kennedy
Chad Kennedy
Mandy Kennedy
Steve Kutyna

David Lubahn
Celia Napoletano
Jan Neiel
Northwest School students
Sean Nowaczyk
Sarah Paterson
Sarah Pesetsky
Tim Phelps
Sarah Pranger
Ruben Pritchard
Liz Raduazo
Meghan Rooney
Malece Sanders
JR Saucedo
Jack Shelby
Angie Shinos
Jessica Sirola
Mike Smjada
Char Smith
Beth Squire
UPS
Ernest Velasco
Lanni Velasco-Cook
Michael Villarreal
Lauren Wade
Morgan Wansky
Victoria Williams



Honored for their work on behalf of sexual assault victims, l-r, Jackson Co. Prosecutor Jerry Jarzynka, SANE Bronson Healthcare Deb McEldowney, Blackman Township Det. Chris Boulter (not pictured), and Blackman Township Det. Joe Merritt.. April 2016.