



**SURVIVOR ADVOCACY
OUTREACH PROGRAM**
SOUTHEAST OHIO

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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WHO WE ARE

The Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program is an impact organization dedicated to preventing and responding to sexual violence, domestic violence, human trafficking, and stalking in Southeast Ohio. We do this by implementing a diverse range of programming informed by evidence-based public health strategies and approaches.

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*. Survivors are the masters of their own story and healing process. Because of this, we strive to empower survivors to make the choices they see as pivotal to their own path to 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.



Letter from the Board President

After years of expansion into creating programs that address the conditions which enable interpersonal violence (for example the lack of jobs, housing, and childcare), 2024 gave the staff, board, and volunteers at the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program (SAOP) the opportunity to re-center on our core mission: empowering our communities to live free of sexual violence, domestic violence, human trafficking, and stalking.

This summer, as we expanded our efforts to address the shortage of affordable housing in Southeast Ohio by developing properties in innovative ways, we got briefly dazzled by all the good we could do if we focused most of our efforts on economic development. However, we soon realized that if we did not remain focused on the “why” behind our work, the “what” we accomplished would not matter as much. In our decisions and deliberations, we reaffirmed SAOP’s primary commitments to addressing the

systems that allow violence to occur and working to remove the barriers that prevent people from leaving it behind. In short, this year gave us all the opportunity to remember and re-center on the “who” that gives our work such meaning: our neighbors of all backgrounds and experiences who live through trauma and reach out to us for support.

The data behind SAOP’s work during the 2023-24 fiscal year confirms this commitment to providing excellent direct services to the people of Southeast Ohio. For instance, this year our advocates provided 541 hours of direct service to 511 clients, driving through our 5 county service area to meet people in their local environments. We contracted to offer a 24-hour hotline, and continuously offered safety planning, accompaniment to hospitals and court, and filing services to meet survivors’ immediate needs. We are also thrilled to announce that our Child Advocacy Center is currently under renovations, that our partnership with Nationwide Children’s Hospital is strong, and that we plan to open by May 2025 so that families will no longer need to travel hours to access specialty care and report and respond to abuse.

In addition, SAOP continued to honor trauma’s long timespan by addressing the less immediate but still meaningful needs through our New Leaf Justice Enterprises programs, which served 12 colleagues, provided # workforce development and financial training sessions, and supported 9 program participants engaged in substance misuse and mental health therapy. We are happy to report we have graduated our first cohort of colleagues who are able to manage their employment, housing, and financial needs thanks to the training and investment they received in the New Leaf Programs.

Finally, SAOP’s work continues to promote the reality that preventing violence and trauma with all its downstream effects could protect entire communities, save millions of dollars in support and response efforts, and protect future generations from trauma’s contagious ill effects. To support this prevention work, we offer trainings in schools, clubs, and other community venues that explore healthy relationships, appropriate boundaries, trauma-informed practices, and teach about healthy masculinity and allyship to stop violence before it ever occurs.

Add to all this SAOP’s commitment to respond to the complex interplay of factors that enable violence which leads to our ongoing commitment to housing, employment, and economic development, and you can see why it’s been such a busy, productive year. We also established new partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, HAPCAP, Vitruvian, the Hocking Hills Garment Center, Unified Bank, Fairfield Inn, and Passionworks to serve our communities better.

As we look towards all the work of 2025, SAOP’s board, staff, and volunteers will continue our rigorous programs that approach the causes and outcomes of violence holistically while always remaining centered on the wrap-around, trauma-informed direct services that are at the heart of why we exist. With support from businesses, foundations, individuals, and several large federal and state government grants we will continue to prevent violence, to respond to the acute and immediate needs it causes, and to address its long term, downstream financial, behavioral health, and familial effects. We will continue to prevent and respond to violence at every level: from the individual up to the communal, and we will work to promote systems changes that will decrease violence’s multiple causes. We turn towards the 2024-25 fiscal year with our eyes trained on the reason we exist; remembering that the “who” we serve is our priority, and that the “why” must always drive the “what” of our important work.

Rebekah Perkins Crawford
Board President

Board of Directors 2023 - 2024



Rebekah Perkins Crawford
Board President
She / Her



Mak Olaker
Board Treasurer
She / Her



Ryan Collins
Board Secretary
He / Him



Tonya Conrath
Board Member
She / Her



Cat Esperanza
Board Member
She / Her



Sarah Jones
Board Member
She / Her



Sarah Jones
Board Member
She / Her



John Molinaro
Board Member
He / Him



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As the new Executive Director, it is my privilege to share with you the progress and aspirations of our organization in this year's annual report. This year has been one of remarkable milestones, persistent challenges, and unwavering dedication from our team. It is an honor to take on this role and to have the opportunity to work alongside such a talented and committed group of individuals. Together, we have continued to build a stronger foundation for our programs and services while striving to meet the diverse needs of the communities we serve across our five-county region. As I step into this position, I want to acknowledge the challenges our organization has faced over the past year. It has not been easy, but it has been deeply inspiring to see our team's resilience, commitment, and passion shine through during

difficult times. Their unwavering dedication to our mission and the communities we serve has been nothing short of extraordinary.

This year, we celebrated significant achievements, most notably securing the final pieces of funding needed to complete critical capital projects. The largest award came through the AMLER program, facilitated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, totaling \$2.7 million. This grant was instrumental in completing the capital stack for our projects in Glouster, including the renovation of the Glouster Memorial Park and the Knights of Pythias building. These improvements not only enhance community spaces but also expand opportunities for workforce training and housing for survivors, aligning with our mission to create sustainable, supportive environments.

In addition, progress on our ACGP-funded projects has been notable. The expansion of the Athens Child Advocacy Center stands out as a pivotal initiative. By enhancing the safety and privacy of our facility through minor renovations, we are creating a space that will serve as a cornerstone for advocacy services, addressing the unique needs of children and families in crisis, in partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital. We look forward to welcoming the community to this space early 2025!

Equally transformative is the development of new affordable housing units in Athens County. Through the power of community partnerships, we are excited to work with Habitat for Humanity to fund the building of 11 homes in the region. Looking forward to next year, we will be utilizing innovative construction methods like 3D-printed concrete and insulated concrete forms. This project not only addresses the urgent need for affordable housing but also integrates workforce development opportunities. A portion of these units, managed by SAOP, will provide safe and supportive housing for our clients. This initiative reflects our commitment to economic innovation and sustainability, ensuring a lasting impact on the communities we serve.

At the heart of our success is our dedicated team of 18 full-time staff members. Each one of them plays a critical role in delivering services and managing programs that make a tangible difference in people's lives. Looking forward, I am eager to collaborate to build on our strengths, explore new opportunities, and continue making a meaningful impact. My goal as Executive Director is to support our team in every way I can, ensuring that everyone has the resources, tools, and guidance needed to succeed. Together, we have laid the groundwork for a brighter future, and I am confident that we will achieve even greater things in the year ahead.

None of this would be possible without your continued support and belief in our mission. Whether through partnerships, volunteer efforts, or financial contributions, you are an integral part of our success. Together, we are creating stronger communities and brighter futures for those we serve. I am excited about the journey ahead and the great work we will do together in the new year. Together, we can make 2025 a year of healing, progress, and hope.

With gratitude and enthusiasm,

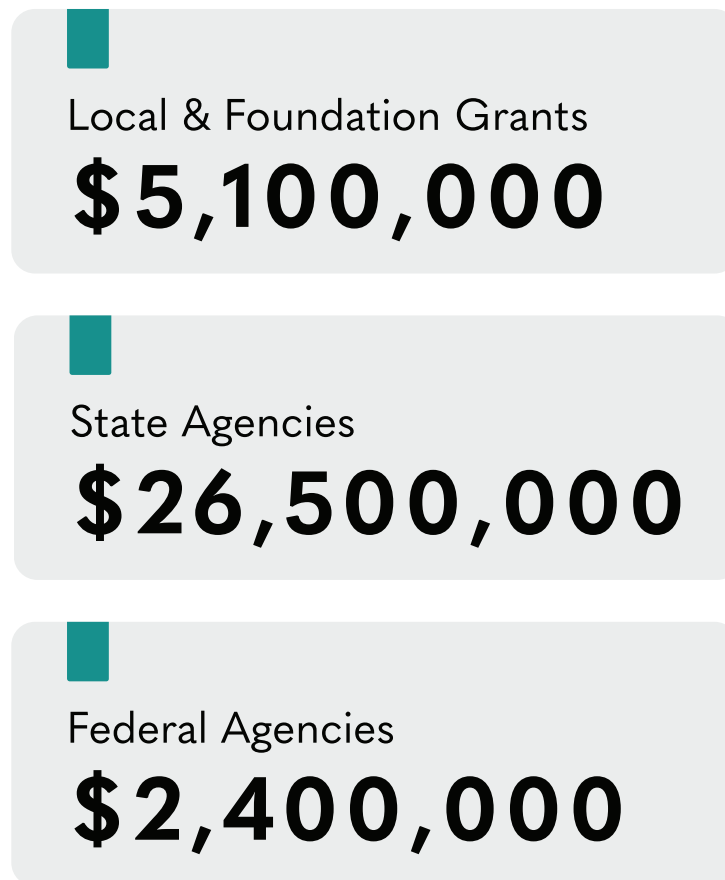
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madison Trace". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Madison Trace
Executive Director

FINANCIAL POSITION

In FY 2023–24, SAOP managed \$34 million in funding. This funding was instrumental in expanding survivor advocacy services, supporting workforce development, and strengthening community outreach programs.

The distribution of funds is as follows:



Utilization of Funds

These funds have allowed SAOP to:



Primary Funding Sources

The following agencies contributed significantly to our efforts:

Appalachian Community Grant Program	\$22,000,000
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Athens County Commissioners via CDBG	\$5,000,000
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Ohio Department of Natural Resources	\$2,700,000
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U.S. Department of Labor	\$1,500,000
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Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services	\$1,000,000
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U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women	\$950,000
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Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	\$250,000
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Ohio Attorney General's Office	\$213,000
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Ohio Domestic Violence Network	\$143,000
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Just Transition Fund	\$100,010
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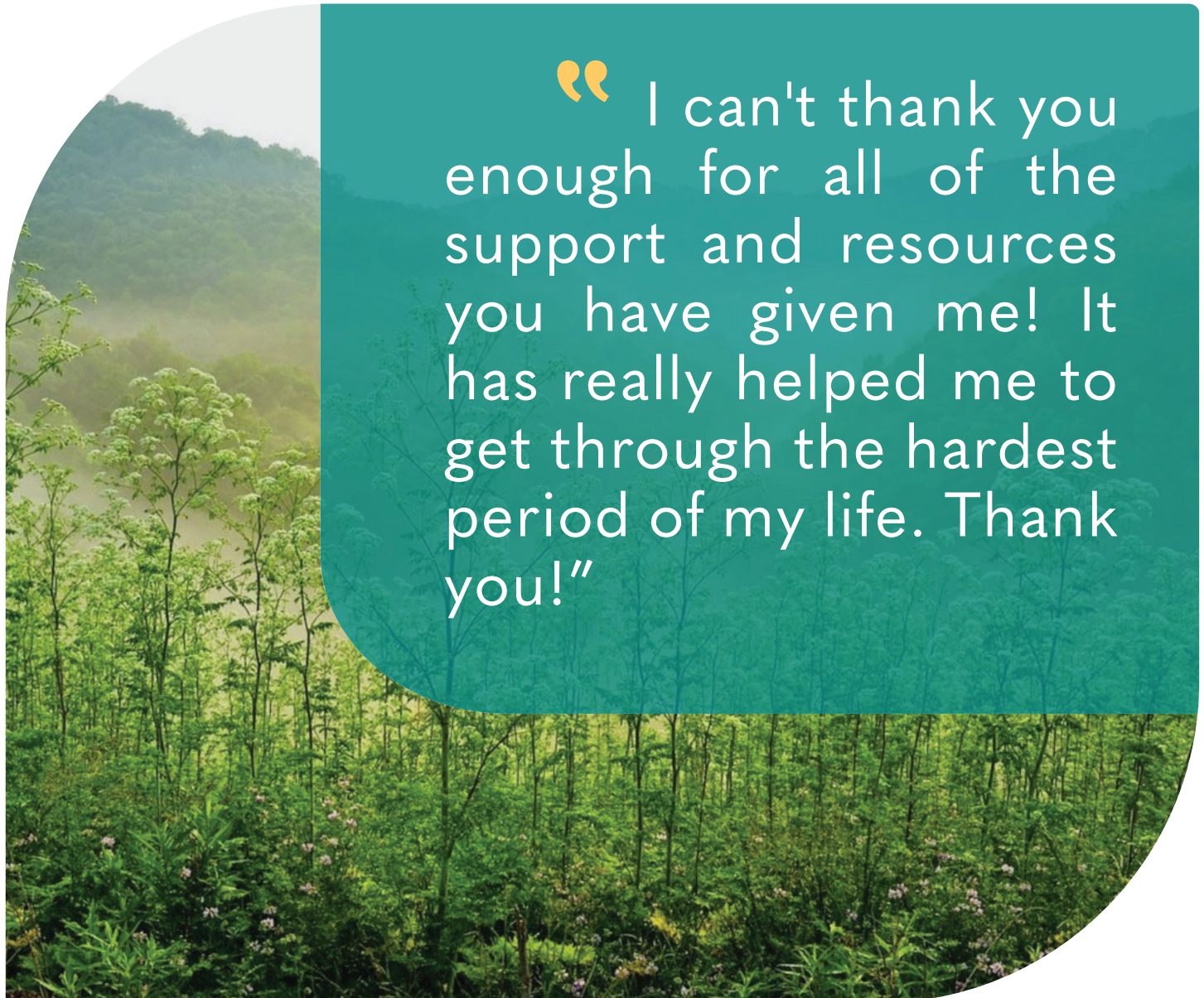
Ohio State Capital Budget	\$100,000
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Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers	\$55,000
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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Survivor Services

SAOP focuses on equipping survivors with the tools and knowledge necessary to make informed decisions. Advocates empower survivors to lead their own healing journeys, providing options and supporting their self-sufficiency. Feedback from survivors frequently highlighted the value of this approach, with one sharing:



“ I can't thank you enough for all of the support and resources you have given me! It has really helped me to get through the hardest period of my life. Thank you!”

511

SAOP provided support to 511 survivors this year, offering critical advocacy, practical resources, and guidance.

541

Advocates provided 541 hours of crisis intervention, offering survivors immediate support and addressing emotional, safety, and practical needs.

912

Advocates worked with survivors to create 912 personalized safety plans. These plans helped survivors mitigate risks and establish strategies to maintain their safety.

7

Advocates supported survivors during seven Sexual Assault Forensic Exams (SAFE), providing emotional support and advocacy throughout the medical process.

34

With advocate support, 34 survivors successfully secured Civil Protection Orders (CPOs).

154

Advocates provided emotional and practical assistance to 154 incarcerated survivors at the Southeast Ohio Regional Jail.

66

SAOP facilitated 66 support groups this year, creating safe spaces for survivors to connect, share experiences, and find healing. These groups emphasized empowerment, peer support, and community building.

New Leaf Justice Enterprises

At New Leaf, we understand that experiencing trauma and substance misuse uproots survivors from their community and support networks. New Leaf works to reestablish these connections so that those survivors can thrive and break the reinforcing cycle of trauma by providing individuals and their families with:



Free housing and utilities for up to two years



Wrap-around supportive services



Employment & workforce development training

By providing and expanding housing, creating living wage employment/job training, and providing mobile strengths-based supportive services, New Leaf is taking steps toward health equity, preventing violence before it ever occurs, and building resilience such that if someone does experience trauma, struggle with addiction, or experience incarceration, there is a coordinated community response to support that individual.



I have grown as an individual through my work experience and overcome social anxiety. I have learned discipline and reaped the rewards of this new skill I have. I now consider myself a successful member of society with skills that I have taken with me to rebuild and build new relationships.

5

participants graduated from the program

4

participants transitioned to employment aligned with their personal goals

Participants completed **230+** hours of certifications & training

Participants completed **300+** hours of case management

2

participants purchased vehicles to enhance their independence

8

participants completed financial literacy training

9

participants engaged in therapy

7

participants applied for HUD vouchers to support independent living



Through a partnership with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) and the CARE Financial Assistance program, participants accessed essential resources, including dental care, car repairs, gas cards, food security, housing supplies, driving course fees, glasses, work-related tools, probation fees, and debt resolution. These services empowered participants to overcome obstacles, move toward independence, and achieve greater stability.

Outreach & Prevention Program

The Outreach and Prevention Program is dedicated to raising awareness, fostering community engagement, and equipping individuals with the tools to prevent violence and support survivors. Through a combination of education, advocacy, and resource-sharing, the program works to build safer, more informed communities while addressing systemic barriers to prevention and support.

Healthy Relationships

Delivered education on healthy relationships and abuse prevention to sixth-grade classes in Athens City Schools.

Healthy Masculinity

Partnered with the Ohio Men's Action Network (OHMAN) to engage Hocking College's football team in discussions on healthy masculinity.

SAOP's outreach & prevention efforts expanded significantly in FY 2023-2024, reaching

3,500+

individuals

Staff Training

Provided specialized training to Morgan High School staff to recognize and respond to signs of human trafficking.

Prevention Education

Facilitated a series of prevention-focused sessions with students in Hocking County.



DVAM Wear Purple Day



Habitat Ribbon Cutting



DVAM Wear Purple Day



Nationwide Grand Opening



Staff Training

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS

Athens County Commissioners

Athens County Foundation

Brent & Sara Hartman

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

Governor's Office of Appalachia, Ohio Department of Development

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

Red Rover

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

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

U.S. Department of Labor

“ I continue to be inspired and empowered myself through the survivors that I work with. I feel very privileged to do the work that I do and always appreciate when the folks I work with feel safe with me and trust me to be a part of their journey.



**SURVIVOR ADVOCACY
OUTREACH PROGRAM**
SOUTHEAST OHIO

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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.



@SAOPSEOH