

# ALL KINDS OF HELP.

2015-16 Report to the Community



The background is a solid dark green color. Overlaid on this are several large, stylized, light green shapes that resemble leaves or petals. These shapes are elongated and pointed, with smooth, curved edges. They are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, with some shapes appearing to overlap others. The overall effect is a modern, organic, and minimalist design.

Photography courtesy of Backstory Photography - [backstoryphotography.zenfolio.com](http://backstoryphotography.zenfolio.com),  
Trina Baker Photography - [trinabakerphotography.com](http://trinabakerphotography.com), Crazybananas Photography - [crazybananas.com](http://crazybananas.com),  
and Yvonne Saenz - [yvonnesaenzdotcom.com](http://yvonnesaenzdotcom.com).

**T**he Willow Domestic Violence Center opened in 1976 as a safe haven for victims of domestic abuse. Our safe home was the first domestic violence shelter in Kansas. Over the past 40 years, our services have evolved to meet the comprehensive needs of survivors of violence. We are leaders in the intervention, awareness, and prevention of domestic abuse and human trafficking.

This report details what has been done with your support – the programs, the people, and the numbers show enduring impact because of your partnership. Your gifts of dollars, time spent volunteering, and in-kind donations help keep a caring light in the window.



# 2015-16 ALL KINDS OF HELP.

## Seeking Shelter

- 188 women
- 2 men
- 126 children
- 7,013 safe nights of rest

## Getting Help

- 3,369 calls to hotline
- 305 court advocacy contacts
- 368 families served in Douglas County
- 43 families in Franklin County
- 14 families in Jefferson County

## Human Trafficking

- 38 women
- 2 men
- 4 children

## Trainings & Presentations

- 663 professionals
- 3,668 adults
- 2,867 youth

The Willow earns the trust of survivors when we help them find paths to safety and empowerment. Likewise, financial transparency has earned us the trust of donors and partners who help us save lives. The Willow creates social change – and that change begins with you. We treat our staff and volunteers with respect and dignity, the same way we treat victims. We make deliberate hires, focusing on training and retention to meet the unique needs of our survivors. Our staff creates an environment that is the opposite of what victims know: safe, calm, and peaceful, where everyone is appreciated. This atmosphere of hope and assurance is the core of our culture.

Our Finance Committee meets monthly to review The Willow's financials and provides a report to the Board of Directors. An independent auditor is commissioned by the finance committee to conduct a full audit at the end of each fiscal year. The auditor presents the result directly to the Board of Directors, prepares the annual 990 filing, and submits it to the IRS.

We welcome any questions you may have regarding our financials, policies and procedures, or any other area in which you have interest or concern.

## Transparency. Integrity.Trust.

### Income

Federal and State Grants	\$757,571.79
Local grants	\$108,154.32
Contributions and Fundraising	\$121,725.68

**Total \$987,451.79**

### Expenses

Staff	\$744,567.08
<i>Payroll, insurance, etc.</i>	
Fundraising Events	\$9,992.83
<i>Advertising, mailings, etc.</i>	
General Operating	\$167,068.91

**Total \$921,628.82**



## 24 Hour Crisis Assistance

Whether for you or a friend in need, we are always here for information, support, and creating a plan for safety. 785-843-3333

## Emergency Shelter

A confidential, healing environment for adults and their children to find help and hope. Every year, over 300 victims of domestic violence and human trafficking seek safety at our residential shelter home.

## Support Services

Individual safety plans, basic needs, medical resources, and support groups at locations across the community are available for both adults and children. We provide assistance with housing, employment, legal resources, finances, and positive parenting.

## Children's Services

We provide a range of services for children, both in our shelter home and in the community, ranging from art and music programs to healthy parenting classes and information about the effects of domestic violence on children. We focus on letting kids be kids in a trauma-informed environment. We provide a range of services both in shelter and in the community, ranging from art and music programs to healthy parenting classes and education about the effects of domestic violence on children.







### **Court and Systems Advocacy**

We attend court proceedings and other important meetings with clients. We help navigate the court process, including filing protection orders and making legal referrals.

### **Employment Services and Work Program**

Our employment services address trauma recovery while teaching skills for long-term employment. Our HOPEworks program serves recipients of state cash assistance.

### **Presentations and Trainings**

We provide education and prevention training to faith communities, businesses, and community groups. Specialized training is offered to law enforcement, mental and physical health providers, school staff, and other professionals.

### **Youth Violence Prevention**

Youth ranging in age from elementary school to college learn about healthy relationships with friends, classmates, and dating partners through our SAFE Program.

# Volunteer

Our volunteers provide thousands of hours of valuable service to survivors and to our organization every year. Volunteering at The Willow is a rewarding and enriching experience and there is something for every schedule, skill set, and passion.

Here are a few of the ways to get involved:

**Direct Service:** Our safe shelter and hotline are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Volunteers are needed to assist residents and answer the hotline - anytime night or day.

**Court Advocacy:** Help victims of domestic violence and human trafficking navigate the court system, provide legal referrals, and assist in filing protection orders.

## Community Advocacy:

Individuals who would like to assist survivors who do not require our shelter services in healing and achieving their goals can work in this program on a very flexible schedule.

**Support Groups:** The Willow conducts support groups at various locations every week. We are always in need of volunteers to assist with those groups and provide children's activities.

**Indirect Service:** There are many ways to support The Willow's mission. We appreciate the help of volunteers in our administrative office, with our youth prevention program, and increasing our visibility at community events.



**983 active Willow volunteers**  
**8,512 hours of service**  
**\$114,912 value to our mission**

# Willow Advocate

*A survivor who has stayed twice in the shelter and currently participates in outreach services has, after a yearlong journey, obtained stable employment. She frequently talked about how she had the education, but not the confidence, to pursue her dreams and goals.*

*Her abuser and the father of her youngest child repeatedly told her that education is a waste of time. Physical violence was part of his abusive behavior, but he worked for years to dismantle her self-esteem with words. One of the reasons supportive services are so important is that, after having someone whispering—sometimes for years—into your ear that you aren't good enough, that you will never be good enough, it takes multiple people repeatedly telling you that you are good enough before you believe they are telling the truth.*

*This month, she told me, "I'm awesome, actually. Look what I can accomplish without abuse in my life."*

*One of the most beautiful things in my opinion is when survivors begin to thrive. Sometimes they are in a unique position to help other survivors of trauma, because they can honestly say, "I get it. I've been there too. It can be better."*





# Survivor Story

*My abusive relationship is the reason why I called The Willow for services. I got information about domestic violence, and referrals to places around the community. I was able to get glasses while I was at the shelter with an advocate's help, as well as get vouchers for clothes so I could get back on my feet. They had a job board that helped me to get a new job that pays well. In the future, I'm going to take their Financial Literacy classes so I can stay independent.*

*The staff was very supportive and helpful when I stayed in the shelter, and so were the other residents. Being able to have that connection and communication was so important for me.*

*I started working my third or fourth day there and was able to save money. Having only my name on my lease is such a blessing. It's the first time I have ever had my own place. I just love my new place!*

*This experience has impacted me positively. The advocates were very encouraging and always saying positive things to me. That really gave me a boost, knowing that someone cares. That's a good feeling.*

## Survey Says

We ask residents for feedback as they transition out of our shelter home. We use this information to improve the shelter and our programs for future residents and their children.

Surveys Provided: 176  
Collected: 59  
Completion Rate: 34%

Were your needs met?  
*Yes 55      No 3*

Did advocates meet your children's needs?  
*100% of residents with children said yes.*

Did you feel safe at the shelter?  
*Yes 51      No 7*

Was the shelter home comfortable?  
*Yes 55      No 2*

## Destination After Leaving Shelter

Return to same situation they left - 9%

Undecided - 9%

Move to a new environment - 78%

Return Undecided New Environment



# 2015-16 Board of Directors

Janet Dehnert, President  
*Retired*

Mark Simpson, Vice President  
*Douglas County District Attorney's Office*

Emily Hartz, Secretary  
*Sloan Law Firm*

Edwina Glass, Treasurer  
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*McGrew Real Estate*

Kelly Calvert  
*The World Company*

Allen Ford  
*University of Kansas School of Business*

Cody Howard  
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Gina Vervynck  
*HR Consultant*



## ALL KINDs OF HELP.



Joan Schultz  
*Executive Director*



Becca Burns-Spielman  
*Director of  
Survivor Services*



Kristine Chapman  
*Director of  
Community Engagement*



Paul Ladipo  
*Director of  
Survivor Access*



Nikki Richardson  
*Director of  
Employment Services*



Liz Stuewe  
*Shelter Manager*



Megan Stuke  
*Director of  
Volunteer Services*

We are grateful for our generous supporters who invest in the safety and health of our community. Listed here are organizations and businesses who contributed to The Willow in 2015-16. The many individual and family donors are not listed out of respect for confidentiality.

We have made every effort to ensure each gift is properly recorded. If your group is listed incorrectly or inadvertently omitted, we sincerely apologize. Please advise Kristine Chapman at 785-331-2034 x105 or [kchapman@willowdvcenter.org](mailto:kchapman@willowdvcenter.org).

A&M Towing & Recovery  
Alpha Chi Omega  
Alpha Chi Omega Omicron  
AmazonSmile  
American Endowment Foundation  
Biemer's BBQ  
Bill Self's Assists Foundation  
Brooks Point Foundation  
Capital City Bank  
Central Lawrence Rotary  
Chapter JP of P.E.O.  
Circle of Compassion Initiative  
Commerce Bank  
Dillon's Food Stores  
District H FCCLA  
Douglas County Community Foundation  
Dow Janes  
Eagle's Rest Natural Mattress and Furniture  
Envista Credit Union  
First Baptist Church  
First Christian Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
First United Methodist Church  
Free State High School Young Feminists Club  
Free State High School Renaissance Committee  
Girl Scout Troops 1213, 4306, & 2018  
Graham Enterprises

Grantville United Methodist Women  
Hallmark Cards  
Hestia Study Club  
Hill's Pet Nutrition  
Hutchinson Community Foundation  
Hy-Vee Inc.  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Intrust Bank  
Jewish Community Women  
Kansas Athletics, Inc.  
Kansas Prairie Quilters  
Kroger  
KU Department of Music  
KU Women in Law  
Ladies Auxiliary to FO Eagles  
Lawrence Alumnae Association  
Lawrence Burlesque Showcase  
Lawrence Printing and Design  
Lawrence Rotary Club  
Mary the Impala  
McDonald's  
McLouth 1st Baptist Church American Baptist Women  
Morningstar Family Foundation  
National Christian Foundation  
Neosho County Community College RCW Club  
NPC International  
Oliver Electric Construction

Oread Monthly Meeting  
Ottawa University  
Peoples Bank  
Piersol Foundation  
Pinnacle Career Institute  
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation  
Schuff Steel Company  
Solomon & Associates  
The Merc Coop  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Trinity Lutheran Women of the ELCA  
Truity Credit Union  
Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence  
United Methodist Women  
United Rentals  
Velocity Church  
Welcome Club of Lawrence  
Westar Energy



Allison, a student at The University of Kansas, completed her 40 hour training at The Willow in March of 2016.

She knew rather early on in her work with The Willow that her interest and passion lied in helping survivors of human trafficking.

Allison's soft-spoken and under-stated personality is no indication her powerful will to make changes in lives and systems in order to protect and defend people who have been exploited by trafficking. She works fiercely for the people she supports and often needs to be reminded that she has studies and a life to tend to outside of The Willow. Her willingness to go the extra mile and take on work as it needs to be done is inspiring.

Allison works with survivors of human trafficking at The Willow approximately 40 hours a month. She has served six survivors since she began her with the HT program in May, and countless other survivors of domestic violence in her tenure.

Kristen Tebow, The Willow's Human Trafficking Program Coordinator, says "Allison is a great listener! When a survivor needs to talk to someone, she's always willing to be a safe person to listen. She always helps survivors make plans and empowers survivors to overcome difficult barriers."

Allison is a big believer in metaphors. She sees her work with survivors as one of quiet support in finding safety. "When I work with survivors," she says, "they are the captain of their own lives and I'm only there to guide them when needed."



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2015-2016 Report to the Community



[www.willowdvcenter.org](http://www.willowdvcenter.org)  
24 hour hotline 785-843-3333

The Willow Domestic Violence Center  
PO Box 633, Lawrence, KS 66044

[facebook.com/willowdvcenter](https://facebook.com/willowdvcenter)  
Twitter & Insta @WillowDVCenter

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PO Box 633  
Lawrence KS 66044



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