



The Willow
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
CENTER
SHELTER. HELP. HOPE.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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SHELTER.



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Willow
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
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HELP. HOPE.



Crisis shatters lives into numerous pieces. Abuse destroys the sense of safety, of one's whole self. When people are most in need, we are here.

We are not just a shelter. Not anymore. We seek to help all survivors, regardless of gender identity, not only get help at the time of need but to provide continued support, work with folks in court, in the community to help provide stable living and emergency funds. We present to school kids the importance of healthy relationships and boundaries.

We have grown from a patchwork of volunteer homes to an agency with two shelters, transitional housing programs, a crisis hotline, and a host of community services dedicated to keeping folks going as they build lives free from abuse. Now, more than ever, with COVID isolating people and making it harder for survivors to leave, we are needed.

Our agency works to break the cycle of abuse at every point. But while we may support folk at different times in their relationships, we are united in one effort. We stand together, with our agency and with our community, to build violence-free communities. We are proud to have you be a part of that.

We're all together in our effort to **break the cycle of domestic violence.**

All Together



Financials & Board Members



Income

Federal and State Grants	\$1,197,710.27
Local and Foundation Grants	\$105,491.92
Contributions and Fundraising	\$397,964.57
Other	\$69,780.22
Total Income	\$1,770,946.99

Expenses

Staff	\$1,432,739.05
Fundraising Events	\$21,659.04
General Operating	\$385,063.82
Total Expenses	\$1,839,461.91

Board of Directors

John Connolly, President, University of Kansas

Jacqlene Nance-Mengler, Vice President, US
Citizen & Immigration Services

Christy Blanchard, Secretary, Blanchard Psychological Services

Angela Motsinger, Treasurer, Motsinger Tax & Accounting

Lua K Yuille, University of Kansas

Beth O'Neill, Washburn University

Shannon Portillo, University of Kansas

Melia Stockham, Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Meghan Heriford, Ladybird Diner

Julie Kelly, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Patrick Brown, Edmund Duncan Financial Services

Amy Fleisher, BCBS of KS

Mud & Lotus and Lawrence
Acupuncture
Appanoose Baptist Women
HSNI LLC
Axis Specialty U.S. Services, Inc.
Sunfire Ceramics
Hallmark Cards
Kroger
Trinity Episcopal Church
Oread Monthly Meeting
Lawrence Central Rotary Club
Bartlett & West
Dunlap Family Foundation
Susan Riley Family Foundation
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Lawrence
First Baptist Church
Alpha Chi Omega
Commerce Bank
Pawshwash
Lava Yoga Lawrence
Benevity Community Impact Fund
United Way of Greater Topeka
Integrity Midwest Insurance LLC
James Hasselle, MD
Sigma Psi Zeta
Bright Funds
Trivedi Wine
Julia S Vlock Charity Fund
T-Town Nutrition
Basehor-Linwood High School

First Presbyterian Church
Tenants to Homeowners
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Worden UM Church
Charities Aid Foundation of America
The Chiropractic Element LLC
Edie Insurance Group Ltd
Franklin County Health Dept.
Gaslight Tavern
Circle S Ranch
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
Lawrence Country Club
Westminster Presbyterian Church
The Korean Presbyterian Church
Dr. N. Daniel Ranjbar, DDS
River City Engineering
Hope Anthem Church
Kellogg Sisters Feed and Seed LLC
The Salon
Eisenbarth, Glassman, McEntire &
Jarboe, LLC Sloan
Alpha Chi Omega Foundation
Mabee Foundation
Wellsville High School
Tallgrass Studio
RPG (Restaurant, Pub & Games)
The Churchill Foundation
Cider Gallery
Westar Energy Foundation

Lawrence Beer Company LLC
KB's Smokehouse
Kent E. Dobbins OD and Jacob W.
Letourneau OD PA
Kizer Cummings Jewelers
Wonder Fair
Pelican Reef Canvas
Lone Star Church
The Community Mercantile
Intrust Bank
The Roost
Jungle House
Plymouth Congregational Church
Lawrence Arts Center
JE Dunn Construction Company
Charitable Fund
Jedel Family Foundation
EPR Properties
Stranger Creek Pools Inc.
Meritrust Credit Union
Delta Dental
United Way of Greater Triangle
Grantville United Methodist Church
FHL Bank of Topeka
Lawrence Trail Hawks
Just Give
Pickleman's
Good Coin Foundation
Evergry Metro, Inc.

Organizations that donated to The Willow

THANK YOU

Willow 100 Monthly Donors

We have a group of 33 donors who donate on a regular monthly basis to our Willow 100 recurring donation program. These small donations make a huge impact. Some of our donors choose to remain anonymous, but we'd love to take a moment to celebrate those who are happy for us to do so. Thank you for your continual donations. **You make a big difference!**

Willow 100



Ashea Finch
Brian Moss
Emily Dague
Jeanne Averill
Kathia Antillon
Mia Gonzalez
Shade Keys Little
Shannon VanLandingham



Our Vision



Mission Statement

The Willow Domestic Violence Center builds safer communities through shelter, support, and services to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking in Douglas, Franklin, and Jefferson counties.

Values

Equity

The Willow promotes equity in our services and community by supporting the needs of a diverse population while being inclusive to people of all identities.

Community

The Willow is committed to healthy partnerships, prevention work, outreach, collaboration, and education.

Advocacy

The Willow is committed to advocacy that is confidential, trauma-informed, low-barrier, and individualized.

Empowerment

The Willow works to empower survivors through peer support and respect while honoring the dignity of those we serve.

Support

The Willow supports survivors and advocates' well-being via self-care, education, innovation, and research-based practices.



Practices

A watercolor illustration of a butterfly with intricate patterns on its wings. The colors are a mix of purple, blue, green, and yellow, with fine lines and dots creating a detailed texture. The background is a soft, blended wash of these colors.

Trauma-Informed Care

The Willow practices trauma-informed care, looking at survivors not as problems to be solved but as the experts of their own lives. We believe that taking survivors where they are and building relationships and agreements, rather than rules and plans, helps heal the damage done by trauma. By focusing on what adaptive behaviors have accomplished, we can help survivors through a crisis.

Commitment to Diversity

The Willow seeks to break cycles of violence in our community, whether inside a family or systemic. The Willow regularly educates both staff and board on cultural humility and competence. The agency maintains a Survivor Access program to ensure that we continue to break down barriers marginalized communities face in accessing our services and works to create safe spaces for those who have faced racism, discrimination, and systemic oppression.

24-Hour Crisis Hotline

Our 24-hour hotline allows survivors to speak with trained advocates whenever they are in need. Hotline staff answer questions, provide safety planning, arrange shelter, and provide referrals to survivors.

This vital service ensures survivors can access our shelter at any time, not just 9-5. This year, due to COVID, we have increased our services to include hotline assistance through Facebook and Email.

"I had to get them out right away - the kids. I didn't know what to do or where to go. It was 3:00 a.m., and luckily she answered the phone. She was so kind and talked to me for an hour and helped me remember what to get and what to bring. We were there around 5:00. The kids got food. They slept."

Important Numbers

- 3,797 calls to our 24-hour helpline
- 675 number of clients
- 499 safety planning sessions
- 4748 nights of safe rest
- 675 clients, 74 children
- 282 children's services, including art classes, advocacy, and support groups
- 113 protection orders filed



Shelter

Our emergency shelter typically allows 90-day stays for 28 survivors and their families. Due to COVID, we reduced that number to comply with COVID group living best practices this year.

Despite the public health restrictions, we have tried to get everyone housed – in apartments, hotels, or safe spaces with family in other states.

This year we added a 20-bed shelter that will nearly double our standard capacity and provide much-needed extra space through the pandemic.

"The best thing was, there was an advocate there. It was hard living with a group. But every day, I could talk to someone, make plans, get assistance, and feel like I belonged to something. It was a hard step, but an important step for me and my life."





Advocacy

Community Advocacy

Not all survivors need shelter. Some may need assistance with employment, housing, access to services, and help in the early stages of living, along with rent and utilities. Our community advocacy team meets with survivors and helps plan, refer, and transport them to necessary appointments and meetings.

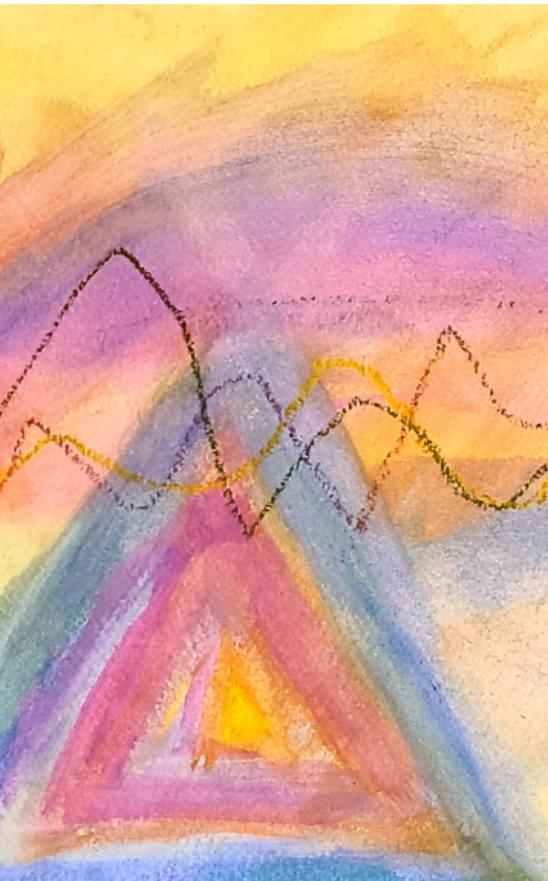
"We met at the Library till we couldn't, then we talked back and forth on the phone. [My advocate] was helpful, and when she couldn't meet, someone else could sometimes help. We got me set up with an interview, and I got the job. I'm making my own money now. That's a first in years."

Court Advocacy

Navigating legal systems can be incredibly stressful, and for many survivors, the court is the first time they will have to face their abusers since they initially left. The first 72-hours after leaving are the most dangerous, and protection orders can often help survivors during this time.

The Willow's court advocates attend every domestic violence docket, introduce themselves, offer support for survivors at court, and assists with protection orders and referrals to legal services.

"She introduced herself and said she was from The Willow. I didn't know what that was, but it was nice to have somebody there. She asked if I had questions; my mind was a mess. I couldn't think. But that didn't matter. I had somebody."





Outreach

Our outreach team provides:

- Training.
- Resources to the community and businesses.
- Educational presentations for schools and partner programs.
- Information on The Willow and its services.

We have also worked with our partner, Be More Like Claire, to create a full-scale community education program based on training adult mentors who work with youth in our community. They will learn about Healthy Relationships and boundaries and work with students to increase their knowledge of relationships' red flags.

"We teach about sex in schools, but we often overlook dynamics in relationships. We often talk about the physical abuse in domestic violence but overlook the years of power and control which have built to that abuse."



Children's Services

The Willow has a full-time Children's Program Coordinator helping with a full range of activities, wellness events, and support for survivors' children.

Children's services provide education and enrichment opportunities, connect with our kids in shelter, and start the healing process through programs and play.

Art Program

Art can be a powerful tool in healing and transformation. Our Art Program works with adult survivors and our kids in shelter to practice self-expression through drawing, painting, clay sculpture, and words.

During art class, our survivors have the time and space to speak with shelter staff and an outlet to express emotions and feelings in a way they don't feel comfortable doing in other circumstances. Survivors have described speaking honestly through art and process emotions and face challenges that they would not have been able to do otherwise.

Each year for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we highlight some of this art. These displays are potent reflections of survivors' trauma and the power of the healing process.

Transitional Housing Program

Leaving an abusive household is one of the most massive barriers survivors face. Our shelter helps those in immediate danger, but even ninety days is a short amount of time to regroup, build financial resources, access assistance if needed, and get into a new home.

Our transitional housing programs offer survivors and their families one to two-year leases at an affordable rate in either Restoration House, our flagship apartment, or one of six single-family homes. National statistics state that 80% of people in transitional housing programs move from that program to permanent housing. Although we are only in the early stages of the program, our numbers so far reflect this success rate.

"After a stay in shelter, Robert and his daughter moved into transitional housing. Robert could replace his documentation, ease his mind about immigration, get a position at a local restaurant, and begin training as a chef. They moved out into a new permanent apartment last month."



Foster Support Program

Though some services exist, not all foster care kids choose to access them, and upon leaving foster care, many can feel left with no safety net. This vulnerable period can be a difficult time for youth aging out of foster care. They could potentially end up homeless and vulnerable to traffickers or survival sex situations with abusive partners.

We are happy to have received funding to create Phoenix House, a 4-bedroom apartment that houses youth aging out of foster care at an affordable rate for one to two years. Our case manager, Morgan, works with them on job, education, and transportation goals.

JGVA & L.P.D. Partnership

The Jessica Gonzalez Victim's Advocate position has been a massively successful partnership for The Willow and the Lawrence Police Department.

The JGV Advocate follows up on domestic battery cases to ensure that survivors have the information they need about the agency. In addition, the advocate meets with survivors to help make them aware of how law enforcement processes work and what information they can provide to assist in building the best case. By meeting with survivors at the time of the incident, this partnership gets survivors access to the services they need at the time they need them. advocacy and support.



Development

Growing Forward

This year marked the completion of our Growing Forward capital campaign and the opening of our second shelter. Our new shelter will provide an additional twenty beds for survivors. This shelter allowed us to move to 90-day stays, which helps us provide better case management and gives survivors much-needed extra time to transition out of abusive situations.

This campaign was made possible by support from the Wint and Mary Winter Jr. Family Fund, the Sunderland Foundation, the Mabee, Foundation, the Deffenbaugh Foundation, and individual donors.

Garden Party

We celebrated the third year of our Garden Party this year, and we didn't let the pandemic stop us. Instead of the outdoor event initially planned, each donor was encouraged to host their own at-home Garden Party with various baskets, ranging from an afternoon tea to a complete evening champagne-and-cheese gourmet picnic. We then hosted an online auction with celebrity emcee Deja Brooks!

Along with the baskets were some fantastic auction items, including fabulous jewelry, a catered BBQ party, a romantic getaway at the Circle S Ranch, and a fully-loaded D&D adventure dinner party. We look forward to more Garden Party delights in 2022.



Public Health Impacts



A 2019/2020 project by the KU SELF program through the engineering department put together data on emergency services costs to our community versus the Willow shelter costs.

Looking at the costs per person, \$1 of shelter services equaled about \$9 spent on emergency services for one individual. The more money spent on prevention and shelter services, the less is spent on emergency services. Estimated Domestic Violence costs equal \$8.3 billion annually and account for over 8 million days of paid work lost by survivors.

Domestic violence is not just a family issue; it is also a public health issue.

We hope that this information will assist local officials and state lawmakers take a broader view of domestic violence and human trafficking issues.

With these numbers in mind, our communities should readily fund outreach, education, and prevention efforts for The Willow and The Willow for other agencies across the county.

For more information, check out willowdvcenter.org/public-health.





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