



growing together.



domestic abuse project
D A P

about us



MISSION: *We build communities free from violence by providing holistic healing for every member of the family.*

VISION: *Domestic Abuse Project envisions a community free of domestic abuse where families experience healthy, safe, and equal relationships.*

DAP believes that to create real change in our communities we must support the unique needs of each member of the family, across the lifespan. We have three primary services offered to clients:

ADVOCACY: Advocates provide support to survivors of domestic violence in navigating the criminal and civil court systems and making critical community referrals to meet basic needs. Advocates assist in writing Orders of Protection, safety planning, conduct community outreach, reach out to all domestic violence victims identified in Minneapolis police reports, and attend criminal and civil court hearings in support of victim/survivors.

CASE MANAGEMENT: Case managers offer support services to individuals struggling to meet their basic needs. They provide referrals for food, shelter, transportation, employment services, legal aid, mental and medical health, chemical dependency, among others. Services are offered through drop-in, intermediate, and long-term targeted case management. Case managers facilitate access to, coordinate, and ensure holistic care with an understanding of the complexities of domestic abuse.

INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, AND GROUP THERAPY: Long-term healing is available for every member of the family. In group therapy, victim/survivors process their experiences of abuse and create safety plans, youth witnesses learn abuse is not their fault and they are not alone, and men who use abuse learn to change their harmful behaviors. Individual therapy is available on an as needed basis.

All services are either free of cost or on a sliding fee scale.

TRAINING

DAP also believes it is essential to train others to support victim/survivors and intervene when domestic abuse is occurring in their community. We provide many different trainings on the complexities of domestic violence.

WHO WE SERVE

Domestic abuse does not discriminate by families of different races, religions, or class. We serve all domestic violence victims, perpetrators, and witnesses. As an agency that does not require insurance and has a sliding fee scale, the overwhelming majority of our clients have low income status. We work with any individual who comes to our agency for services, but the majority of our clients reside in the Hennepin County area.

dear friends,

As we reflect on this past year, we're proud of the remarkable stability, growth, and innovation we have sustained. It's been a challenging year with so many community tragedies rooted in violence, both nationally and locally. In the wake of this, we have found both solace and drive in our foundation in the feminist movement and in social justice.

With this grounding, we have spent this past year strengthening and expanding programs in order to provide greater depth of care and a stronger coordinated community response. We are mindful of the impact that race, class, gender, and sexual orientation, among so many other issues, has on each member of the family. This dynamic highlights the complexity of gender-based violence and the many facets that we must continually address.

A coordinated community response model requires systems change, as well as agencies and government entities working in partnership, to end domestic violence in our communities. One example of this is our work with the City Attorney's office and the Minneapolis Police Department in the Hot Spots Project. This project has focused on increasing opportunities to build relationships with and get critical resources in the hands of families challenged by domestic violence.

In these pages you will find other highlights of our work from the past year: expanding our youth services to include children ages birth to three, as well as launching our case management program – becoming the only domestic violence agency in the state with an embedded, domestic violence and trauma-informed case management program.

Also this year, board and staff developed a new strategic plan to continue on the path of our history of growth and innovation. Our phenomenal staff and board ensure that we are providing quality programs to the families who need them every day. And as responsible stewards of your investment in this work, we have ended the year financially stable, poised to carry out our strategic plan and deepen our impact in the years to come. It continues to be an honor to grow together with you to serve this community and work towards mission fulfillment to end gender-based violence.

In the words of Senator Paul Wellstone, "We all do better when we all do better."

With gratitude,

Sarah Clyne
Executive Director

Jessica Wiley
Board Chair



“From the immediate assistance with finding safety, to the case manager helping me find some stability for my turned-upside-down life, I didn’t have to explain myself at DAP. They believed me and understood all the messiness of why my life was the way it was.”

— SHAWNA
DAP Client

growing smarter.

IDENTIFYING INNOVATIONS

Shawna came to Domestic Abuse Project searching for guidance filing an Order for Protection to protect her from her abusive partner.

During Shawna’s intake, she shared that since fleeing her abuser, she had been couch hopping and did not have the resources she needed to provide for her most basic needs. And the instability was causing even more problems – Shawna has an autoimmune disorder and now wasn’t able to see her doctor for the regular check-ups and medications necessary to manage the disorder. The advocate completing the intake immediately referred Shawna to a DAP case manager.

After having only one case manager for several years, in 2016 DAP was able to significantly expand case management programming through a research partnership with the University of Minnesota. Through the partnership the case manager trains and builds relationships with healthcare providers in the MHealth Network in order to test the impact of screening for domestic abuse victims in a healthcare setting. This case manager also provides care to our youth and caregiver population. Additionally, the Medica Foundation funded a dedicated case manager for our adult victim/survivor clients, allowing us to study the impact of case management on increasing retention and engagement in our Women’s Therapy Program.

With these expanded resources, Shawna finally received the care she needed at DAP, in the way she needed it—with an understanding of the havoc domestic violence had wreaked in her life.

As she told us, “From the immediate assistance with finding safety, to the case manager helping me find some stability for my turned-upside-down life, I didn’t have to explain myself at DAP. They believed me and understood all the messiness of why my life was the way it was.”

WHY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TRAUMA-INFORMED CASE MANAGEMENT?

Case management is a collaborative process between case managers and their clients to assess what is needed for the client to live a safe, stable, and satisfying life. Case managers then help the client fulfill these needs, monitoring progress and evaluating options. Without an understanding of the complexities of domestic violence and trauma, case management programs may give well-intentioned, but misguided advice, such as suggesting a client leave their abusive partner before they are ready, or misunderstanding the true cause of a mental illness. With the University of Minnesota and the Medica Foundation we are pioneering the integration of case management within a complete spectrum of services for the whole family experiencing domestic abuse. These services are vital to our existing clients who have pervasive challenges like stable housing, employment, and childcare.



“Hennepin County is honored to be working alongside DAP, a leader in the field for treating the effects of trauma related to domestic violence. We are hopeful that through the development of this early childhood program, other domestic violence agencies will follow suit and begin to serve our most vulnerable, yet most resilient residents.”

— EMILY WOLFE
Senior Social Worker, Hennepin County
Children’s Mental Health Collaborative

growing closer.

CLOSING THE GAP: GROWING EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

For decades it was generally believed that exposure to trauma and exposure to domestic abuse did not impact young children. They were too young to remember, or be aware of the experience. We now know the opposite is true.

Research focused on brain and child development shows that experiences of trauma, like domestic violence, can have a greater impact long-term on infants than it does on older children.

Families who come to DAP often have several children. Because therapy with the youngest child requires specialized training, children ages birth to three have been relegated to child care while their older siblings received therapy that helped them heal after the abuse. Years later many of these children come back to DAP, now old enough to receive services, but with more deeply held trauma and mental illness symptoms because they could not receive care earlier.

With support from our donors, the Sheltering Arms Foundation, and the Hennepin County Children’s Mental Health Collaborative, we have been able to expand our services to include all youth. A Sheltering Arms Foundation grant funded training in Child-Parent Psychotherapy – an intervention specifically for children ages birth to 5 who have witnessed domestic violence. As Youth Program Supervisor Sarah Lockhart describes, “Child-Parent Psychotherapy is an approach where intervention occurs within the relationship between the young child and mother. CPP increases the attachment between caregiver and child, directly influencing a child’s capacity to reach developmental milestones

related to eating, sleeping, communication, and self-regulation, ultimately setting children up to succeed at home, school, and within their relationships.” With Hennepin County, a social worker is embedded within DAP to bring the county’s expertise to develop our early childhood program, such as creating a screening procedure and identifying other interventions that can further enhance services for very young children.

Now, we can stop the intergenerational cycle of violence earlier. We can remove the harmful effects of trauma so young children can avoid a lifetime of suffering. This expansion enhances our existing services and rounds out our continuum of care for the entire family.

And with this growth and expansion, DAP is building another specialized area of expertise. Our staff has trained over 400 childhood professionals on the effects of domestic violence on children. These professionals have included child care workers, Head Start staff, and preschool teachers, among others. We are helping build our community’s collective capacity to identify the presence of domestic violence in a child’s life, respond in a trauma-informed way, and connect the child to the care she or he needs and deserves. This early intervention is vital to the long-term health and vitality of our community.



“The Minneapolis Police Department, in partnership with DAP, has created true innovations in its work to end domestic violence with a community coordinated response. Together with the Minneapolis City Attorney’s Office, we brought many innovative processes to life. Over my career, I’ve seen dramatic improvement in how we respond to families who are experiencing domestic violence. We couldn’t have done this without the expertise and collaboration of DAP.”

— KRISTINE ARNESON
Assistant Chief, Minneapolis Police Department

growing stronger.

STRENGTHENING COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE

A coordinated community response model requires systems change, as well as agencies and government entities working in partnership to end domestic violence in our communities.

At Domestic Abuse Project we believe our work can only be effective when it is deeply rooted in the community. We show up at the table, representing the families we serve, to identify ways to improve coordination among service agencies, police, judges, and health care providers, in the work of ending domestic abuse.

One example of this is our work with the City Attorney’s office and the Minneapolis Police Department in the Hot Spots Project. This project has focused on increasing opportunities to build relationships with and get critical resources in the hands of families challenged by domestic violence. With a uniformed officer, a DAP staff member visits homes that have made domestic violence related 911 calls, but have not filed a police report. We connect outside of the tension of a 911 call and let residents know that there are options for safety or resources to meet their basic needs.

We have also been able to partner with the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Police Department on projects to test a 24-hour hotline for police to call with victims’ information after a 911 response, as well as following up with “Gone on Arrival” domestic violence cases. But our coordinated community response does not end there. One of our advocates, Rhonda, a Native American and an enrolled member of Ho-Chunk Nation, has been building relationships in the

Little Earth community to increase Native women’s access to resources in finding safety and healing after abuse. And our Spanish-speaking therapist, Lucy, with the community organization, Centro, hosted a Spanish language women’s therapy group this year.

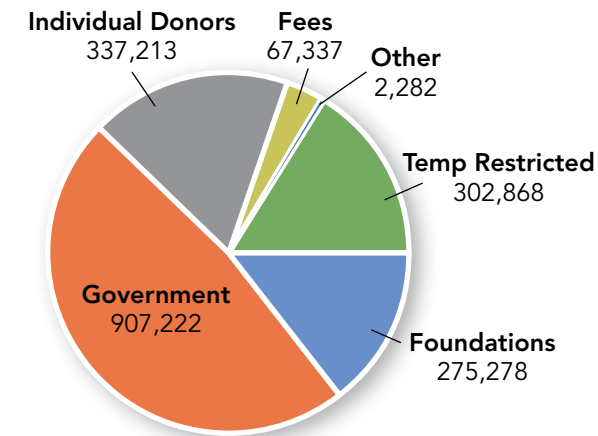
And this coordination is working. People who we leave our card with on Hot Spots visits call us back. Advocacy services provided at Little Earth have increased. And our wait list for individual therapy for Spanish-speaking women has grown. When the community works together, we provide the best, most informed level of care we can, and families feel more at home at DAP.

WHAT IS COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE?

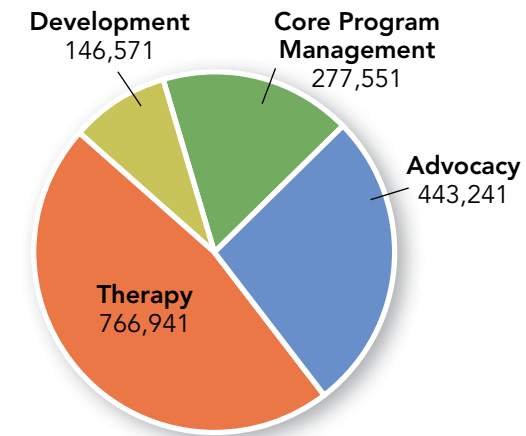
Coordinated Community Response was first pioneered by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project in Duluth. It began as a method for coordinating the work of domestic violence shelters, police departments, and human service agencies as a more effective way to intervene in domestic violence. Today, at Domestic Abuse Project, we understand CCR to mean that everyone must be engaged in the work of ending domestic abuse. This epidemic will only end when we identify and respond to its impact in all facets of our community.

financial statement

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings	\$ 301,989.77	40,797.69
Accounts Receivable	561,134.82	577,289.53
Other Current Assets	14,021.65	65,838.04
Total Current Assets	877,146.24	683,925.26
Fixed Assets	55,859.28	65,855.48
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 933,005.52	749,780.74
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	\$ 75,950.45	185,024.69
Long Term Liabilities	140,343.16	149,397.99
Total Liabilities	216,293.61	334,422.68
Equity	716,711.91	415,358.06
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 933,005.52	749,780.74



INCOME



EXPENSES

LEADERSHIP STAFF

- Executive Director**
Sarah Clyne
- Director of Client Services**
Angela Lewis-Dmello
- Director of Development and Communications**
Anna Zaros
- Finance Manager**
Carolyn Van Nelson

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DONORS

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2016 by the numbers



3,254
CLIENTS SERVED



94%
OF MEN WHO GRADUATE FROM OUR MEN'S PROGRAM HAVE NOT USED ABUSE AGAIN



96%
OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO HAVE COMPLETED OUR ADVOCACY OR THERAPY PROGRAM HAVE CREATED SAFETY PLANS (A KEY PROTECTIVE FACTOR IN REMAINING SAFE FROM ABUSE)

ADVOCATES MADE

3,748

CALLS FOLLOWING UP WITH VICTIM/SURVIVORS WHO FILED A POLICE REPORT



ADVOCATES PROVIDED

1,226

VICTIM/SURVIVORS CRITICAL INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO NAVIGATE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

416

VICTIM/SURVIVORS RECEIVED SUPPORT WITH AN ORDER FOR PROTECTION

56

THERAPY GROUPS OFFERED

1,946

INDIVIDUAL THERAPY SESSIONS PROVIDED

our supporters

Thank you to all of our 2016 donors.
Every day, your generosity heals families.
Your investment ends domestic abuse.

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Transformation Society members pledge gifts of \$5,000 and above over five years. Their level of support and commitment is vital to the sustainability of our work to end abuse.

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