



safealliance™  
WHERE HOPE & HEALING BEGIN

# Annual Report FY 2016



# Safe Alliance: Where Hope & Healing Begin

We strengthen our community by building a continuum of shelter, advocacy and counseling services to empower those struggling with domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and emotional trauma.

## Our Vision

Communities where people are empowered to build and sustain respectful and healthy relationships, and enjoy lives free of domestic and sexual violence and child abuse.

## Our Mission

We provide hope and healing to people in crisis

## Our Logo



Our logo is the lotus flower that begins life in the mud at the bottom of a pond. It grows upward through the water's waves and currents and blooms into a beautiful flower when it surfaces. We believe this process is symbolic of the inspirational journey our clients travel with Safe Alliance. People come to us in a crisis that many would define as the worst of their lives. Clients utilize the knowledge, resources and tools gained through their engagement with Safe Alliance to empower themselves and blossom like the lotus flower. The petals of our lotus flower are the national awareness colors for domestic violence (purple), sexual assault (teal), child abuse (blue) and mental health (green).

### In Mecklenburg County, including Lake Norman:

- We served 911 adults and children at the Clyde & Ethel Dickson Domestic Violence Shelter.
- Our Shelter Hotline fielded 5,034 crisis calls.
- We provided domestic violence and sexual assault education for 3,378 women through the Mecklenburg County Jail.
- Our Victim Assistance Team accompanied clients to court on 5,135 separate occasions, and created 3,332 safety plans.
- Our Legal Hotline answered 3,789 calls.
- Attorneys represented 383 individuals seeking protective orders against their abuser.
- Counselors in Charlotte completed 1,699 sessions with children, teens and adults.
- We served 10,315 adults and children during a critical crisis.



We thank our Board, staff and volunteers at Safe Alliance for their unwavering commitment to achieve our vision of communities where people are empowered to build and sustain healthy and respectful relationships and enjoy lives free of domestic and sexual violence.

## Message From Karen Parker, President & CEO of Safe Alliance

We're grateful to all of our wonderful friends and community partners who work side by side with us every day to end sexual and domestic violence. With over 75 staff and several hundred volunteers, we truly made a positive difference in Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Lake Norman in 2016. At our Domestic Violence Shelter, we provided safe housing for 895 survivors. We provided free legal services for 433 survivors through our Legal Representation Program. Our Victim Assistance office provided 4,695 court accompaniments. Through our Domestic Violence and Sexual Trauma Resource Center programs, we developed 5,502 safety plans and answered 10,533 hotline calls.

Even more important than the numbers of services provided are our outcomes. 83% of shelter clients and 84% of sexual assault clients reported increased safety following services. 90% of counseling clients demonstrated symptom reduction, improvement in self-management, and restored or enhanced daily functioning by service completion. 90% of clients indicated increased personal safety after receiving protective order and court accompaniment services.

At the beginning of this year, the Safe Alliance team worked together to create a new strategic plan. Approved by our Board of Directors in March, the plan is being implemented over the next three years. The four priorities are to: solidify and invest in existing programs and geographic focus; implement a sustainable financial model; stabilize and invest in our staff, and position Safe Alliance to be a national leader in client-focused, trauma-informed programming.



This year, we've made significant financial improvements as a result of our sharpened focus and are anticipating positive results for our upcoming fiscal year. We've also created a capital expenditure plan for our Shelter, helping to ensure future sustainability.

Additionally Safe Alliance has increased our involvement in community conversations and action around dismantling oppressions. We've created position statements reaffirming our commitment to align with communities of color and the LGBTQ community to increase safety for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. We created an EDI (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) team and are providing training for our staff and volunteers around cultural competency and dismantling racism. We believe this work is critical for the wellbeing of the clients we serve as well as our staff, volunteers and the broader community.

We move forward with gratitude for your partnership and renewed dedication and perseverance; together we will end domestic and sexual violence for all!

Karen Parker  
President & CEO



## Programs and Services

Our staff is prepared to provide hope and healing for people in crisis. We do this through a continuum of trauma-focused programs and services:

- 24 hour sexual assault and domestic violence crisis lines.
- Safety planning for survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence and child abuse.
- Shelter for survivors of domestic violence.
- Hospital accompaniment for survivors of sexual assault (24/7).
- Trauma-informed counseling for adults and children who have witnessed or experienced physical or sexual abuse.
- Adult support groups for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.
- Teen support groups for survivors of sexual assault.
- Court advocacy/accompaniment, including assistance filing 50-B and 50-C orders, accompaniment to civil and criminal court and court-related meetings.
- Legal representation by pro-bono attorneys for domestic violence survivors.
- Domestic violence education and counseling for women who are incarcerated in Mecklenburg County.
- Assistance with applications for Crime Victim's Compensation.
- Case management including assistance accessing community resources, support networks and coordination of referrals.
- Education and systems advocacy around the issues of sexual assault and domestic violence.

## Key Performance Outcomes



Every year Safe Alliance serves over 10,000 people and reaches an additional 8,000 through education, prevention and institutional advocacy.

Our mission is to provide hope and healing to people in crisis. Below you will find ways that we advanced our mission throughout 2016.



### PROVIDED SHELTER

Shelter was provided to 462 adults and 449 children. While staying with us clients accessed our advocacy and case management services, children's recreational activities, as well as our free medical clinic and cafeteria.



### ANSWERED HOTLINE CALLS

The Domestic Violence Hotline responded to 12,630 hotline calls and our Rape Crisis Hotline responded to 286 calls.



### CREATED SAFETY PLANS

Victims created 5,268 safety plans and participated in 1,834 counseling sessions to help them heal from the trauma experienced. Advocates accompanied 86 victims to area hospitals.



### PROVIDED LEGAL SERVICES

Provided court accompaniment to clients on 5,135 occasions. Provided free legal representation to 383 clients seeking protective orders.

**“Thank you for your kindness and professionalism.”**

“Thank you for all of your genuine support and guidance during my stay at Safe Alliance.”

**“Me and my kids have been so comfortable and welcomed by the wonderful staff. ”**

**“You all have been so patient, kind and understanding of the situation we face as women.”**

“Thank you for the nurturing meals that feed the soul and mind as well as our belly. It all starts from the love that it takes to prepare it.”

**“You always have a smile for me. I appreciate and respect you all.”**



# Statement of Financial Position

**SAFE ALLIANCE, INC.  
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015**

<b>ASSETS</b>	2016	2015
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,126,438	\$ 699,562
Beneficial Interest in Assets Held by Trustee	12,280	13,135
Accounts Receivable		
United Way Allocation	656,347	723,487
Grants and Pledges Receivable, Net	255,675	263,131
Capital Campaign Pledges Receivable, Net	139,330	419,472
Lotus Society Pledges Receivable, Net	115,516	156,544
Other	21,609	32,587
Prepaid Expenses	53,739	41,889
Other Assets	8,960	9,202
Property and Equipment, Net	5,980,894	6,375,675
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 8,370,788</b>	<b>\$ 8,734,684</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 6,288	\$ 18,751
Accrued Payroll and Benefits	77,452	104,918
Note Payable	500,000	500,000
Other Liabilities	14,925	18,558
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>598,665</b>	<b>642,227</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	6,680,146	7,087,676
Unrestricted - Board Appropriated for Operating Reserves	60,785	46,789
Temporarily Restricted	1,022,553	949,353
Permanently Restricted	8,639	8,639
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>7,772,123</b>	<b>8,092,457</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 8,370,788</b>	<b>\$ 8,734,684</b>





*Safe Alliance 2017-2020 Strategic Plan*

**Programming**

Solidify and invest in existing programs and geographic focus.

**Staff Development**

Stabilize and invest in our staff.

**Fundraising & Community Engagement**

Increase dollars raised through a comprehensive fund development strategy.

**Finance & Operations**

Implement a sustainable financial model, with a balanced budget.

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12/22/2016

A client approached me last week after the Time Management group and stated that she had an interview coming up and needed help preparing. The client and I met up the next day and went over some interview questions and how to respond to the questions. The questions that the client struggled with is the question about identifying strengths and weaknesses. I gave the client a homework assignment for the weekend to identify 2-3 strengths and weaknesses and be able to explain why they are her strengths and weaknesses, and with the weaknesses be able to talk about how she is working on those. I followed up on Monday with the client to go over what she worked on over the weekend. The client had the interview on Tuesday morning and came back and reported to me and her Advocate that she had gotten the job and that they asked her those same questions about her strengths and weaknesses. While working on the questions about strengths and weaknesses, the client made the comment that she has never been asked those questions in an interview....so she was definitely glad that we worked on those questions!

Tierra Kirkland, M.Ed, LPCA  
Community Living Advocate  
Safe Alliance



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