



2019

advocates of lake county

annual
report

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to report 2019 was an exciting year of growth for the Advocates of Lake County. We implemented a new rental assistance program, further developed our legal services program, and continued to improve our crisis service and diversity service programs. Now, in addition to the crisis services which offer safety in the short-term, our clients can rely on programming which helps them leave abusive situations and achieve self-sufficiency. We are thrilled to finally offer this more extensive support for survivors as they move toward safe and stable lives. To support this programming growth and ensure its continued success, we also acquired a new administrative office and hired additional administrative staff. What a year!

Our 2019 success positioned us well to face the trials of 2020. This year, we have responded to unprecedented challenges related to COVID-19 and racial unrest, and nimbly adjusted our practices to continue victim and survivor services unabated. We are so honored to work alongside our dedicated and enthusiastic staff, board, and volunteers; the achievements outlined in the report to follow would not have been possible without them!

Thank you, all, for your support in 2019. We look forward to working alongside you as we continue to offer quality victim services in this changing world.



Jenny Abbott
Executive Director



Janeen McGee
Chair of the Board

advocacy



IN 2019:

289

survivors served

24/7/365

crisis line coverage

361

crisis calls answered

The backbone of Advocates of Lake County's services is advocacy to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Survivors know they can call our crisis hotline, covered 24/7/365, whenever they need resources or just a listening ear. Survivors fleeing dangerous perpetrators work with advocates who provide crisis intervention, safety planning, and emotional support at a time when they might have no one else in their lives who can offer support. With the help of our advocates, survivors connect to the resources they need to start over: shelter, food, transportation, emergency financial assistance, child-care, rental/utility assistance, civil legal representation, and legal advocacy.

"We appreciate all of your help more than words can express. Also a big thank you to those who sponsor the wonderful work y'all do here!" -ALC Client

housing



IN 2019:

905

*emergency shelter
nights provided*

\$48,579

*rental/utility
assistance given*

15

*Leadville landlords
partnered with ALC*

In 2019, we unveiled our newest program: Housing First. Survivors participating in this program receive up to a few months of rental or utility assistance to help them get back on their feet in a new home after leaving their abusers. Participants also learn how to budget to cover rent costs alone, decreasing the need to return to their abusers for help. We paired this program with our existing short-term emergency sheltering options, and we can now shelter survivors, providing the support, resources, and training they need to escape, from the moment they leave through the first months of establishing a new home.

“Estoy muy satisfecha porque no me preocupe este mes en pagar la renta (I’m very satisfied because I don’t have to worry about paying rent this month)” - Housing First Client

"I get to listen to and help clients in need while also maintaining confidentiality so that I can be trusted to help members of the community." - Adrian Luna, 2019-2020 Promotora

Our Diversity Services Program focuses on training Promotoras, or youth community ambassadors, as volunteer advocates. High School students train as Promotoras during the school day, and earn credit for their training hours. Once trained, they help our full-time staff by serving as peer educators and advocates. Through this program, we serve a range of diverse populations, including Latinx survivors, youth and elderly survivors, deaf survivors, survivors with disabilities, and survivors who identify as LGBTQ+. The program offers these often-marginalized survivors advocacy services tailored to their experiences.

5

Promotora participants

66%

Crisis line responders were Spanish-English bilingual

40

hours of training in the Promotora curriculum

diversity services



"A great support system when things are falling apart, great resource for starting over" - Legal Program Client

Our Legal Services Program has become one of the most innovative legal programs for domestic violence survivors in the state. In 2019 we offered free civil legal representation in six different types of civil cases that domestic violence survivors often have to navigate, a much more diverse offering than average. Survivors participating in this program have a much greater chance of success in their cases than those who are not able to afford representation. Additionally, all of our clients can choose to have our advocates accompany them to court, reducing the trauma of an often unfamiliar system.

IN 2019:

54

*survivors received
legal advocacy*

\$14,950

*Paid on behalf of survivors
receiving representation*

3

*Leadville attorneys who
partnered with ALC*



community work



Photo Source: Herald Democrat Photographer: Sean Summers

8

**meetings of the
SART and DVRT**

25

**total DVRT
participants**

10

**agencies represented
on the DVRT**

While we always maintain a presence in the community as the experts on domestic and sexual violence, we took it further in 2019 by proactively seeking out opportunities to regularly partner with other community organizations. Our advocates began participating in the new Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) initiated by the District Attorney's Office, and we spearheaded the creation of a Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT, pictured). Both teams are now successful partnerships between the District Attorney's office, law enforcement, local government, and community-based organizations.

"It has been rewarding to work collaboratively with other community partners toward a system-wide response which is trauma-informed, prioritizes victim safety, and ensures offender accountability." - Mandy Trollip, DVRT Representative from Solvista Health

our people

Advocates of Lake County Board

Janeen McGee, Chair
Department of Human Services

Lynn Hall, Vice-Chair
Writer, Speaker, Activist

Jenelle Stefanic, Secretary
Bureau of Reclamation

Whitney Johnson, Treasurer
MSW Graduate Student

Jenelle Tosaya, Member-at-Large
Google

Jenny Delcher, Member-at-Large
Full Circle of Lake County

Tom Schwander, Member-at-Large
Front Line Medical Specialists, LLC

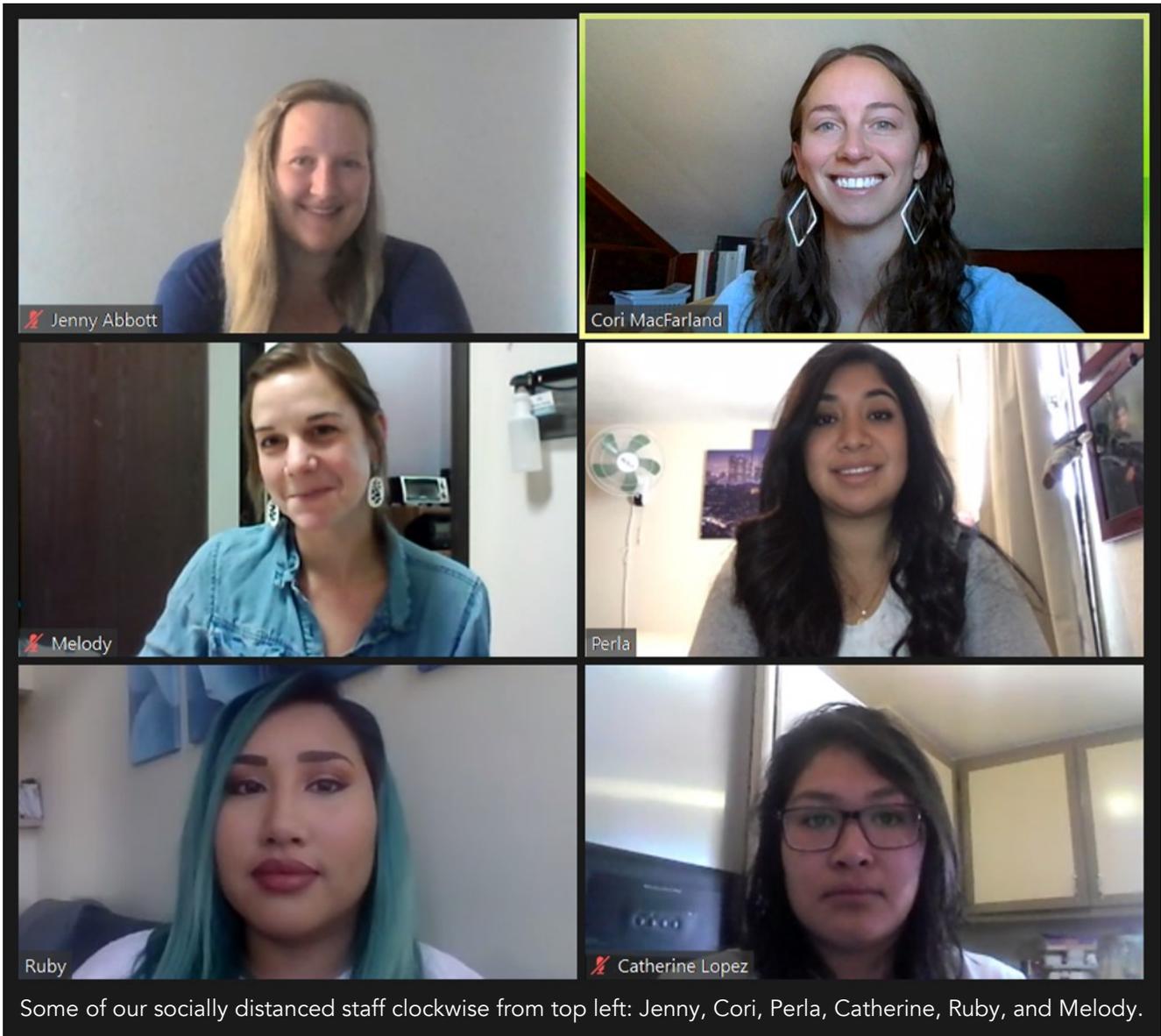
Staff Spotlight - Perla Flores, Advocacy Manager

Perla joined the Advocates in 2016 as our Latina Outreach Coordinator, training Promotora volunteers to serve Lake County's Latinx population. Now in her fourth year of advocacy work with ALC, she has moved up to the position of Advocacy Manager. She supervises all of ALC's full-time advocates and oversees the day-to-day operations of all of our client-centered programs.

Perla loves working at ALC because she enjoys helping people and working to make a difference in her local community. She finds it very rewarding to see survivors' transformation to happiness after she has helped support them in their journey.

In her free time, Perla loves running, working out, and spending time with her parents, brothers, and pets. She is working toward getting her Associate's Degree, and expects to finish in the spring of 2021.





Advocates of Lake County Staff

Jenny Abbott
Executive Director

Cori MacFarland
Program Sustainability Director

Perla Flores
Advocacy Manager

Ruby Luna
Diversity Services Coordinator

Mary Duran-Gonzalez
Housing Coordinator

Catherine Lopez
Housing Advocate

Melody Reeves
Administrative Assistant

Steven O'Connor
Legal Services Coordinator

our supporters

You make it possible for survivors in Lake County to start down the path to self-sufficiency. To all of these amazing, generous supporters who contributed in 2019 and to 2019's year-end campaign, as well as to those who wished to remain anonymous:

Empowerment Express

Our newly re-named train ride fundraiser moved to June in 2019. Attendees enjoyed a summer night's ride on the rails in support of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Lake County. This event benefitted from many fantastic donations from our amazing local business sponsors. The Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad contributed event space, and many others listed here donated food, desserts, drinks, and silent auction items.

Pictured from left: our lovely board, event attendees, and the view from the train



Adam and Rene Giffen
Al and Jean Beckmann
Al and Laila Dawson
Alpine Furniture
Andrew Purdy
Ann Stanek
Anne Livingston Garrett
Arapahoe Basin
AVA
Bob and Ginny Smith
Buchi
Casa Sanchez
Cheryl Wells
Chris Floyd
Ron and Cindi Erb
City on a Hill
Clint and Connie Yant
Cold Nose Warm Heart
Cookies with Altitude
Delta Kappa Gamma
Diane Groban
Donna Childress
Dr. Gary Owens
Dr. Lance Schambeger
Edward Stege and Michelle Mueggler
Ellie Solomon
Emily Bartzten
First Baptist Church
First Mountain Bank
FREIGHT
Full Circle of Lake County, Inc.
Gaby Burkham
Gary and Linda Campbell
Gary Sandoval
George Weissman
Grateful Paws

THANK YOU!

Greg and Jackie Johnson
Harold Elliott
Harry Camp
Helping Hands of Lake County
High Mountain Pies
Jack Saunders
Jacob Smith
Jane Gowing and Bob Agan
Janeen McGee
Janny Planting
Jean Wilson
Jeffrey T. Maddex
Jenelle Stefanic
Jenny Delcher
Jeri Chavez
Jerry and Cathy Cerise
Lee Blackwell and Joan Vandenbos
Joe Franzen
Joelyn Linn
John and Joann Cirullo
John McMurtry
Mark and Judy Cole
Keith and Mickey Stegall
Kelly Bruett
Knights of Columbus
Kris Husted and Jane Harelson
Lake County Department of Human Services
Laura Eide
Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad
Leadville SDA Church
Leadville Veterinary Clinic, Inc.
Lee Rimel
Steve McCauley and Leslie Gamez
Lynn Hall
M.E. McDonald
Marcia Martinek

Mary Ann Graham Best
Melanzana Mountain Gear, Inc.
Merilee Maupin
Mount Massive Liquors
Nancy Boeve
Nancy Cazier
Periodic Brewing
Robert Olson
Robin Deister
Ruth Spencer
Safeway
Sangre De Cristo Electric Association

Sawatch Guides
Sean Peterson
Steve Whittington
Steven Kappes
Susan Estes
Susan Fishman
Tennessee Pass Café
Tennessee Pass Nordic Center and Cookhouse
Treeline Kitchen
Whitney Johnson
Wild Bills Restaurant

Funder Spotlight - Office for Victims Programs



COLORADO
Division of Criminal Justice
Department of Public Safety

An office of the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice's Department of Public Safety, the Office for Victims Programs (OVP) was our key funder in 2019. OVP distributed federal funds from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to us through its Crime Victim Services program.

OVP dollars supported all of ALC's programs mentioned in this report: general advocacy (and the related emergency financial assistance), housing services, legal services, diversity service, and community awareness.

our organization

"Son una salvación, un rescate."



Sitting in her first meeting at ALC, Teresa* was nervous. She was here on the advice of law enforcement, but she didn't know what to expect. She tentatively began describing her situation to an advocate, and soon found herself regularly meeting with us. Teresa began to feel comfortable with her advocate, who spoke Spanish with her and provided constant support, and she started to open up more. She talked about her partner, who was regularly abusing her, despite her having just given birth to her first child. She said she didn't know where to turn, with limited English and her family all back in Mexico. Her advocate became a key support for her; listening, referring resources, and finally helping her return to Mexico to escape her abuser.

A year later, Teresa found herself back in Leadville, pregnant and with a one-year-old. She was with a new partner now, and when he first hit her, this time she knew immediately who to call. She began to work with us again, and we supported her through the abuse, until one day, Teresa worked up her courage. With our support, she asked him to leave.

Teresa has come a long way since that first nervous meeting with ALC. Even though she now lives violence-free, she still comes by to say hi. She is so appreciative of the support we have given her. *"Si quiere dejar a alguien, ellos pueden ayudar. Tienen todo que necesita. Son una salvación, un rescate. No tenga miedo. (If you want to leave someone, they can help. They have everything you need. They are a salvation, a rescue. Don't be afraid)."*

*Client name changed for privacy. Photo is not of client.

IN 2019:

\$540,414

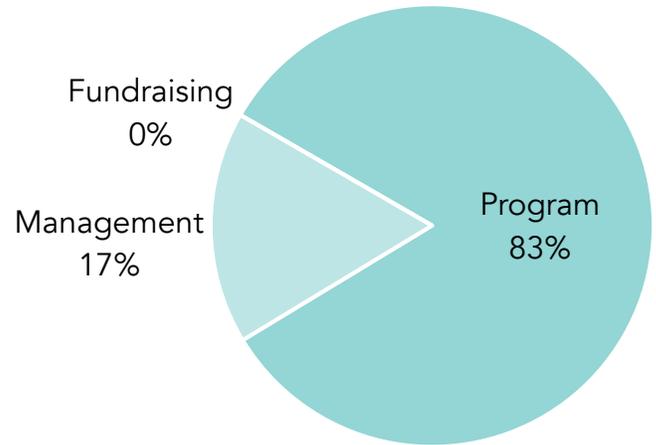
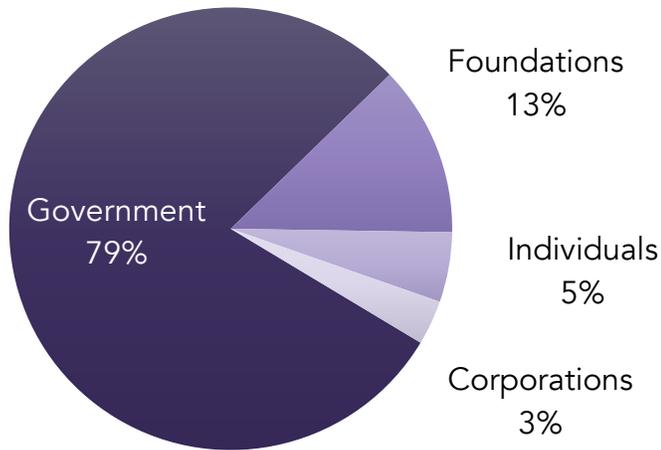
revenue

\$7,466

to our emergency fund

\$532,947

expenses



It's your turn—join us!

Teresa's story is not unique. Many of our neighbors in Lake County suffer violence at the hands of an intimate partner. You too can help survivors like Teresa - if you are able, please consider supporting the Advocates by:

- ◆ Donating items off of our wish list (advocatesoflakecounty.org/wishlist)
- ◆ Volunteering your time to survivors (advocatesoflakecounty.org/volunteer)
- ◆ Sending a donation to P.O. Box 325, Leadville, CO 80461 or donating online at advocatesoflakecounty.org/donate
- ◆ Looking for us during [Colorado Gives Day](#) on December 8th
- ◆ Following us on [Instagram](#), [facebook](#), or by [e-newsletter](#) to learn what we're up to year-round!



All information contained herein is complete and accurate as of October 1, 2020. The financial information was in process of professional audit at the time of publication.

