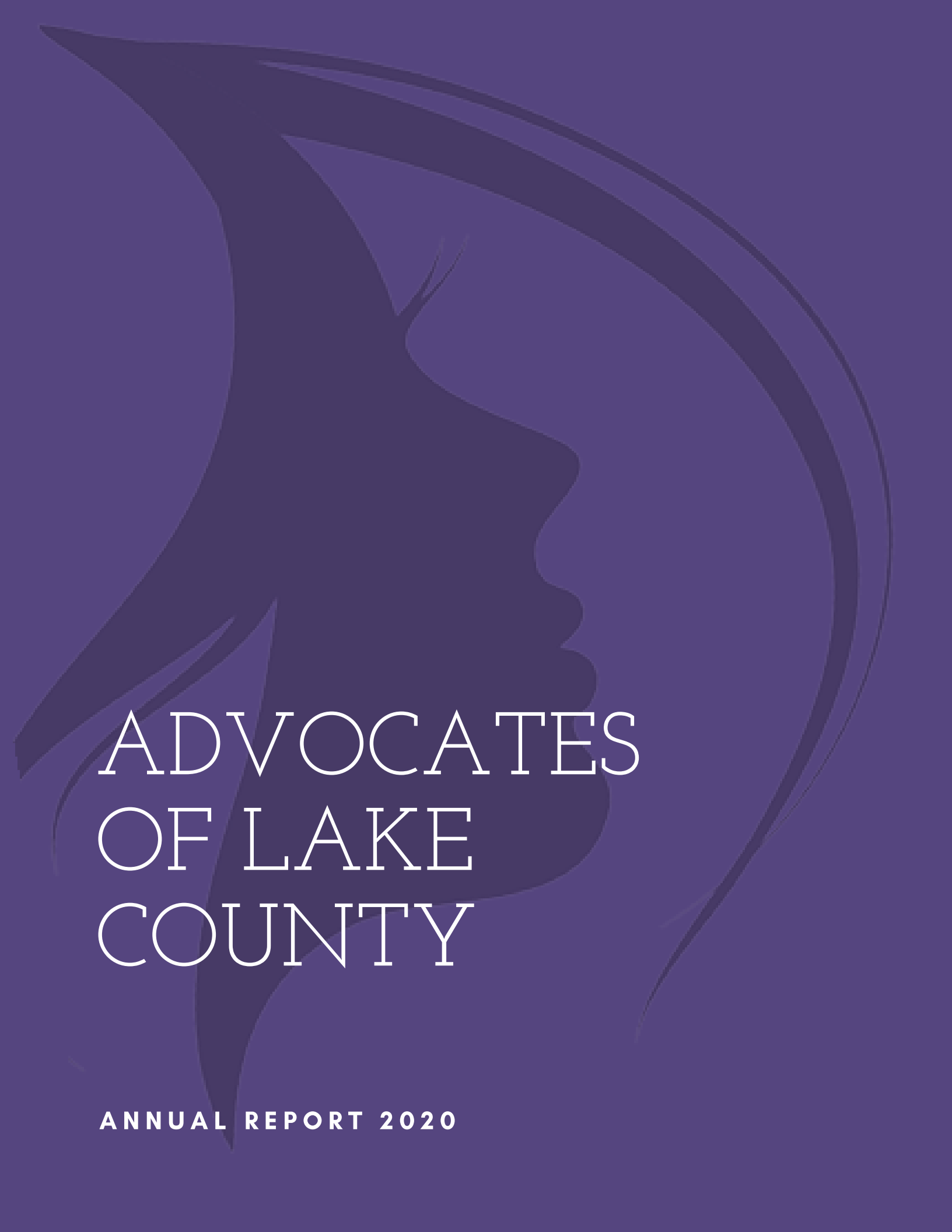


ADVOCATES OF LAKE COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR STATEMENT

Dear Friends,

In January 2020, we were rolling out a new prevention project and planning creative and innovative expansions of our core advocacy programs. We were thrilled to be serving our community in new ways and excited to continue to our expansion. Then, in March 2020, we were forced to re-direct our energy and face the unprecedented challenges associated with COVID-19.

Our board, staff and volunteers did not falter for a moment and before long we were thriving, not merely surviving, as we navigated our pandemic workplace. Many details of service delivery were altered, but we continued to provide trauma-informed, empowerment-based services for survivors through the worst of the pandemic. We are so grateful that our amazing board, staff and volunteers were willing and able to adapt so that services could continue. We are also amazed and humbled that our dedicated donors stuck with us and helped us achieve our goals.

We returned to the office in Spring 2021 and have resumed our goals from January 2020. Our prevention project is well under way, and our core advocacy programs are bigger and better than before. Moreover, the wheels are turning on some exciting new initiatives in service delivery and social justice work.

Thank you, All, for being our champions! We are honored to partner with you and serve survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual violence in Lake County.

Jenny Abbott
Executive Director

Janeen McGee
Chair of the Board

ADVOCACY

Our advocacy work is the foundation of everything we do and the primary way we serve the Lake County community. Our advocates provide support to our clients via emergency crisis support and long-term advocacy services to help clients find independence and safety. Our hotline is covered 24/7, every day of the year, and survivors know they can call to receive emergency services, assistance safety planning, or just have someone to talk to any time of day. After advocates have assisted a client through a crisis, they provide emotional support and connect clients with resources needed to start over and maintain long-term safety, including assistance navigating the civil legal system, food, transportation, rental/utility assistance, childcare, and shelter.

"Everyone was super helpful and made me feel less alone throughout this entire situation."
- ALC Client

IN 2020:

228
survivors served

274
crisis interventions

24/7/365
crisis line coverage

IN 2020:

915

emergency shelter nights provided

$60,330

provided in rental assistance

20

Lake County landlords parternered with

HOUSING

Since our Housing First program started in 2019, we have continued to help survivors find stability through rental assistance. A lack of safe, affordable housing can be a major barrier for survivors trying to leave an abusive situation. The Housing First program addresses this barrier through rental or utility assistance, and helps survivors navigate the search for housing. Our advocates also help survivors budget and determine how to cover the rental costs on their own, making it less likely that they will need to return to their abusers for financial assistance. The Housing First program supplements our emergency safehouse, so we can help survivors have a safe place to live from the moment they leave an abuser until they establish a new home.

"I am so blessed that they were able to give me a safe place to stay and provide my kids with a safe place as well."
- ALC Housing First Client

DIVERSITY SERVICES

In 2020, the Diversity Service Program continued to work with previously trained Promotores, who are youth ambassadors and high school advocates. The Promotores each complete training, which earns them school credit and allows them to provide their peers and community members advocacy and support regarding sexual health and dating violence. This year, Promotores also assisted with research to identify opportunities for prevention of teen dating violence, and they provided information for revising the Lake County School District sexual education curriculum. Promotores help the Advocates of Lake County reach survivors from all communities in Lake County, including youth, Latinx, elderly, LGBTQ+, and individuals with disabilities.

IN 2020:

5

Promotores

40 Hours

training in Promotores curriculum

71%

crisis line responders who are bilingual

IN 2020:

63

clients received legal advocacy

$6,400

paid on behalf of survivors receiving representation

4

local attorneys partnered with ALC

LEGAL SERVICES

ALC's Legal Services Program continues to grow and provide life changing support for survivors of violence. The civil legal system can be daunting to use and difficult to navigate, especially for survivors of violent crime who might have to face their perpetrator in the court room. Our advocates and Civil Legal Services Coordinator ensure survivors understand their options and have a lawyer to provide advice and representation. In 2020, ALC contracted with attorneys and paid for legal services ranging from mediations to protection orders.

"The Advocates were always there when we needed them. They helped us get a lawyer and protection order. We really needed the help bevause we had never done this before. We wouldn't have known what to do or where to start."
- ALC Legal Services Client

COMMUNITY WORK

The Violence Prevention Team (formerly called Domestic Violence Response Team) brings together community organizations to create a program to address violence in Lake County before it begins. The team, headed by our Violence Prevention Manager, meets to discuss cases to learn how best each organization can assist survivors of violence. ALC advocates continue to attend other coalitions that bring together agencies in Lake County, including the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), Multi-Disciplinary Treatment Team (MTT), Adult Protection Team (APT), Child Protection Team (CPT), and Community Evaluation Team (CET). ALC maintains relationships with various organizations in Lake County to ensure that a robust referral network can help people access ALC's services when needed and that ALC's clients can be referred to necessary services as well.

"It's a pleasure to convene with folks who are so dedicated to the prevention of violence and the seeking out of preventative options and strategies."
-John Nelson, Lake County Wraparound, VPT Member

IN 2020:

6

coalitions ALC participates in

14

agencies participating in VPT

33

individuals participating in VPT

OUR PEOPLE

ADVOCATES OF LAKE COUNTY 2020 BOARD

Janeen McGee - Chair
Department of Human Services

Lynn Hall, Vice-Chair
Writer, Speaker, Activist

Jenelle Stefanic - Secretary
US Bureau of Reclamation

Whitney Johnson - Treasurer
Social Worker

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: Catherine Lopez

Catherine Lopez has been with the Advocates for two years, starting as the Housing Advocate and recently transitioning to Housing Coordinator. In her current position, Catherine offers rental assistances to victims who are struggling to get back on their feet. With Catherine's help, victims are able to find safe housing, which relieves a tremendous burden. Catherine also provides emotional support and general advocacy to her clients, assisting them to become self-sufficient after experiencing violence. Catherine enjoys working at the Advocates because of the organization's connection to the community and life-saving resources it offers.

In her free time, Catherine enjoys spending time with her children, family, and friends. She also enjoys hosting cookouts and watching movies.

CURRENT ADVOCATES OF LAKE COUNTY STAFF

Jenny Abbott
Executive Director

Perla Flores
Advocacy Manager

Kylie Whitaker
Legal Services Coordinator

Amanda Fitzpatrick
Program Sustainability Manager

Catherine Lopez
Housing Coordinator

Lindsey Limoges
Housing Advocate

Kirstin Ayers
Bookkeeper

Alex Cutler
Violence Prevention Manager

Some ALC staff enjoying time together outside the office. From right to left: Alex, Amanda, Jenny, Lindsey, Perla, and Catherine

OUR SUPPORTERS

You make it possible for survivors in Lake County to start down the path to self-sufficiency. Thank you to all of these amazing, generous supporters who contributed in 2020, as well as to those who wished to remain anonymous:

FUNDER SPOTLIGHT

The 5th Judicial District Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) Board

VALE funds organizations that work with victims of crime in Lake, Eagle, Clear Creek, and Summit counties. VALE prioritizes organizations that provide direct services to victims and assist with the implementation of the Victims Rights Act, ensuring that victims of crime understand their rights and are treated fairly.

In 2020, VALE generously supported ALC's Housing, Legal Services, and Diversity Programs. Thanks to VALE, ALC was able to ensure survivors of violence have safe housing, survivors have access to life saving legal services, and that all communities in Lake County feel safe accessing ALC's services.

5th Judicial District V.A.L.E. Board
Alexandra Strom Foundation
Alissa Bourg
Andrew and Tracy Purdy
Ann Marsh
Ann Stanek
Anne Adolphson and Jerry Galloway
Anne Livingston Garrett
Anschutz Family Foundation
Anthony Vagnetti
Becky Edwards
Ben Flores
Bill and Heather Maffie
Bob Agan and Jane Gowing
Bob and Ginny Smith
Bob and Robin Deister
Brea Christopherson
Bri Golden
Caring for Colorado Foundation
Carolyn and John Perna
Cheryl Johnson
Cindi and Ron Erb
Cisco and Elsa Tharp
Clint and Connie Yant
Colorado 5th Judicial District Attorney's Office
Colorado Department of Human Services Domesctic Violence Program
Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment
Colorado Office for Victims Programs
Copper Mountain
Darryl Washington
Dave and Nan Anderson
Dennis Linemeyer
Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women
Destinee Yudnich
Dickson Pongrekun
Donna Childress
Donna Schaefer
El Pomar Foundation
Ellie Solomon
Fritz Howard
Gaby Burkham
Gary and Lisa Sandoval
Gary and Susan Estes
Gene and Emily Bartzen
Greg and Jackie Johnson
Harold "Bud" Elliott
Helga Andress
Jack Saunders
Janice Green
Janice Tessier
Jeffrey Sailor
Jenelle Stefanic

Jenelle Tosaya
Jenny Delcher
Jerry and Cathy Cerise
Jerry and Jeri Chavez
Joelyn Linn
John and Cheryl Wells
John and Joann Cirullo
John McMurtry
Julia Campbell
Karen Onderdonk
Katherine Williams
Katie Baldassar
Katie Kuhn
Kelly Bruett
Kevin Mastin
Kirsten Wysen
Knights of Columbus
Laila Dawson
Lake County Community Fund
Lake County Government
Lance Schamberger
Laura Eide
Leadville Trail 100 Legacy Foundation
Lee Rimel
Lynn Hall
Mabel Y. Hughes Charitable Trust
Malena Ohl
Marcia Martinek
Mark and Judy Cole
Mark Heyde
Mark Wadsworth
Marsha Carter
Mary Ann Graham Best
Melissa Leneweaver
Merilee Maupin
Michael and Sharon Utz
Michael McDonald
Miles McElhinney
Nancy Boeve
Nancy Cazier
Nancy Osborn
Noah Sosin and Stephanie Cole
Patty and Tom Miner
Rachelle Collins
René and Adam Giffen
Robert and Amy Tait
Rocky Mountain Health Foundation
Ruth Spencer
Scott and Patty Erchul
Sean and Emily Patten
Sharlene Hren
Shelley Hall
Shelly Brunjak
Skip and Jeri Lee
Steve and Christine Whittington
Steve McCauley and Leslie Gamez
Susan Fishman
Terry and Keri Ploot
The Colorado Grand
The Summit Foundation
The Women's Foundation of Colorado
Tom and Jean Wilson
TruScore
Walmart Foundation
Whitney Johnson

FUNDRAISING

COVID-19 prevented many beloved annual events in Leadville from occurring in 2020, including our annual fundraiser, the Empowerment Express, but ALC still felt the support of the community through an extremely difficult year. Our annual campaign and Colorado Gives Day raised over $11,000, not including in-kind donations and volunteer hours. The support of our donors, including individuals, private foundations, and government agencies is crucial to our ability to provide safety to victims of violence in Lake County, and is especially appreciated during challenging years like this one.

OUR ORGANIZATION

A SURVIVOR'S STORY

ALC began working with Marie* when we were contacted by a Lake County High School social worker. Marie had disclosed to the social worker that she had been abused by her parents and did not feel safe returning home. Our advocates immediately welcomed her to our safehouse and made sure she understood that she could stay as long as necessary until a safe, long-term living situation was found for her. Marie began to open up to the advocates and shared about her home and social life as the advocates provided a listening ear and emotional support.

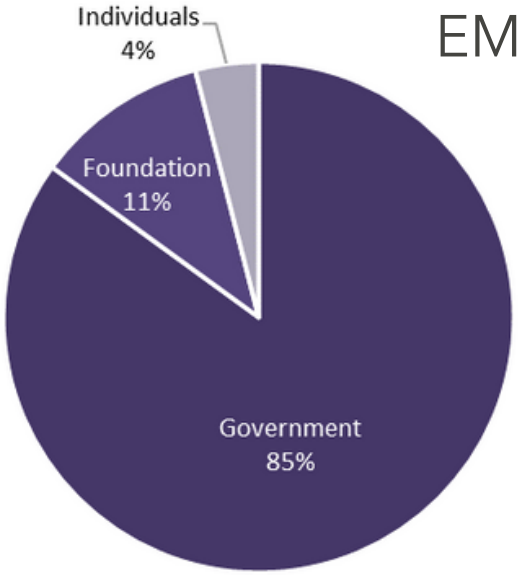
Throughout Marie's stay, the advocates worked closely with several different agencies including Child Protective Services, Lake County School District, and local law enforcement. This successful cooperation ensured that all of Marie's needs were met and each problem that arose was tackled by the correct agency. ALC crucially provided Marie a safe place to stay for over a month while advocates gave her a ride to school and meetings with other agencies. They also helped Marie file a report with law enforcement and understand her legal options. Given that ALC advocates have statutory privilege with their clients, the advocates only shared information with other agencies when Marie approved or if she was in danger, so they were able to be a confidential resource for Marie as she processed an extremely tumultuous month.

With the cooperation of many Lake County organizations and agencies, Marie's home was eventually made safe enough that she felt comfortable moving back. ALC advocates continued to check in with her and to meet with her privately to offer support after Marie left the safe house, and they will continue to do so as long as she needs. Marie's story demonstrates how effectively Lake County organizations can work together and the vital role ALC plays in assisting survivors of violence. Providing Marie a safe place to stay in the short-term gave other agencies time to carefully address her fears and work together to find a solution. ALC's long-term support of Marie will continue to provide her a confidential resource as long as she needs it.

*Name has been changed to protect client's privacy. Image is not of client.

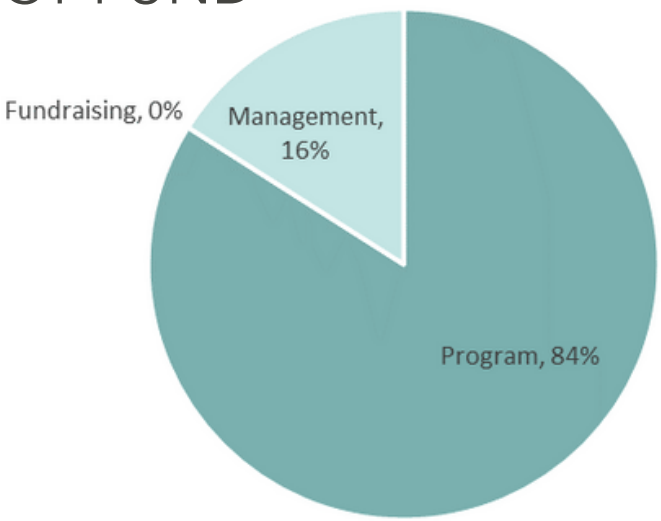
2020 FINANCES

$648,105
REVENUE



$105,378*
TO OUR EMERGENCY FUND

$542,727
EXPENSES



With the help of the Advocates of Lake County, survivors of violence like Marie are not alone and always have a safe place to turn. Many of our neighbors in Lake County experience violence, sexual assault, and harassment. You too can help survivors like Marie, and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault- 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
- Following us on Instagram and Facebook (@advocatesoflakecounty) or emailing amanda@advocatesoflakecounty.org to receive our e-newsletter to learn what we're up to year-round!

*In 2020, this number was unusually high due to funding for COVID-19 specific initiatives.