

# Nurturing Resilience and Hope for Children & Families

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## **Reflecting on 2024**

#### A word from Executive Director, Mo Basenberg

While we find ourselves comfortably settled into the co-located space we know there is more to do! As many of you know, Safe Passage and our partners have enjoyed a deeply collaborative relationship with community based mental health provider, The Family Center for most of our thirty years. However, the time has come for Safe Passage to launch our own in house mental health program. This is an agency first- full time mental health staff dedicated to initial crisis and on-going long term therapy for children who have experienced child abuse.



I am remarkably proud that our entire team as well as our partners have embraced this next phase of hope and healing for our community.

I look forward to 2025 being the year that the mental health program is nurtured and takes root as Safe Passage continues to change systems to create healing for generations to come.

"They listen and they are the kindest people and they really care about their patients and they make me feel comfortable. They are like friends to me because they have really good respect for me and they care and I am so blessed to talk to them about this situation. They make me feel like a new person. Thank you and God bless you guys."

"The staff excelled with professionalism and provided such great support in a difficult time like this. We feel better knowing what to expect throughout this investigation and how we can support my daughter in the future"

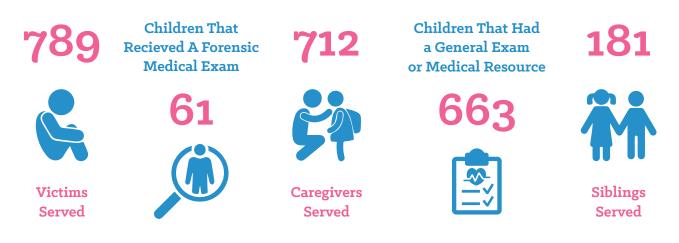
- Caregiver

# Impact by Numbers

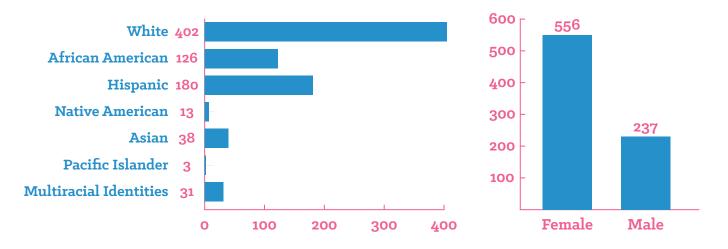
**At-A-Glance Stats** 



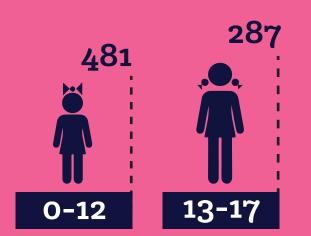
### **Number of Victims Served**



### **Race and Genders of Victims Served**



### Age of Victims Served









# Those at the Heart of our Mission

Our staff works intense child abuse cases daily while providing care, compassion, and quality services. They are dedicated, resilient, and courageous, and we are so proud to call them our Safe Passage Team!





Courtney



Emily





**Janette** 



Laura



Mo



Morgan



Nicole



Stephany

"What I liked about the center is, they all were very nice and I know they keep kids safe and healthy."

- Child



"Everyone is very welcoming. They made my child feel comfortable enough to talk about something traumatic. The playroom was a bonus for her siblings to stay entertained."

- Parent

# **Resilient Voices**

## Story of Impact





A concerned member of the community contacted the police department with a report regarding a 7-year-old child named Alexia (changed for confidentiality). The individual expressed concern for Alexia's wellbeing after a recent interaction with the child. According to the report, Alexia's home was described as being covered in feces, which raised concerns about the living conditions and potential neglect. Additionally, there were concerns that Alexia was being sexually abused by her father based on some statements that Alexia had made.

Alexia was brought into Safe Passage for a forensic interview. During her interview she did not disclose any instances of abuse.

However, upon further review by the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), with significant input from the Department of Human Services (DHS), a history of neglect by Alexia's father was identified. This included concerns related to medical neglect in relation to her past leukemia diagnosis. Additionally, further investigation revealed that Alexia had never been enrolled in school, raising additional concerns regarding her well-being and care.

Based on these findings, DHS took immediate custody of Alexia on the day of the interview and placed her in kinship care with a relative in the area. Alexia also received a Sexual Assault Nurse Examination (SANE exam), which revealed injuries consistent with a potential history of sexual abuse. Alexia is currently safe and being cared for in her kinship foster care placement with a family member.

This story highlights the critical role of the MDT model of care and the power of collaboration in ensuring the safety of children. Without the thorough investigation and insights from DHS and our other team partners, we would not have been able to ensure Alexia's safety on that day. It is vital to work together across disciplines, combining expertise and resources to make informed decisions that protect children. In this case, the cooperation between our team members and DHS was pivotal in gathering crucial information and providing the support Alexia needed.

## **Sustaining Our Mission**

#### **Community Support**

#### 30th Anniversary Celebration: Timeline Reveal



On April 10th we celebrated our 30th Anniversary by revealing a timeline displaying the 30 years of service Safe Passage has provided to children and families in our community. It was a wonderful day of reflection, honor and celebration!

#### 2024 Clay Shoot

Our annual clay shooting event was a success with the highest number of shooters we have ever had thus far coming out to support Safe Passage kids by shooting clays! The folks that come out every year

for this event mean so much to us. They are passionate about keeping kids safe in our community and we are grateful for their support and participation.





#### **Fundraising Luncheon 2024**

Our spring luncheon celebrated our **30 years of Listening and Believing** children in our community impacted by abuse. We were able to raise funds for the critical healing services we provide to children and families everyday.



#### **Empty Stocking Fund**

Safe Passage is one of 20 organizations chosen to be a part of the Empty Stocking Fund (ESF). ESF provides resources to local health and human service agencies in the pikes Peak region on the front lines of helping people in crisis and assisting others in attaining self-sufficiency. We are honored to be a part of ESF and ask that you support this essential initiative each vear that supports Safe Passage and other agencies in our community.



#### 2025 Save The Date



#### **Clay Shoot 2025** November 7, 2025

save the date!



Give the gift of Hope and Healing to Children and Families

1. Scan QR Code



2. Text to Give: (202) 858-1233 Shortcode: SafePassageCAC



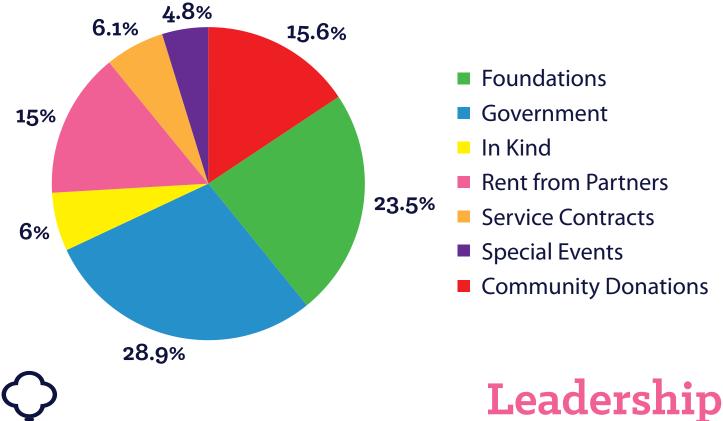
3. Visit Our Website: www.SafePassageCAC.org

Contact Emily at ebowker@safepassagecac.org or visit www.safepassagecac.org

## **A Year in Review**

#### **Organization Revenue Breakdown**





### **Our Dedicated Board of Directors**

PRESIDENT Anna de Wit Commercial Lending Officer ENT Credit Union VICE-PRESIDENT Jenny Johnson Community Member

**Stan Gradisar** 

Attorney

TREASURER Sean McKeown Partner Technical Manager Cisco Systems

Sachs Foundation

SECRETARY Jeannee "Jae" Sanders Nurse Practitioner CommonSpirit Orthopedics

**Kelson Castain** Deputy District Attorney, Special Victims Unit, 4th Judicial DA's Office

**Rob Giunta** Business Banking Relationship Mngr. US Bank

> Annie Snead Director of Community Advocacy Ent Credit Union

**Amy Cavender** Senior Loan Officer E Mortgage Capital

Ayonna Chappell Licensed Professional Counselor Monet's Counseling Services

Pamela Roberts-MoraJen SchreuderChief Operations OfficerSenior Communications Specialist

Senior Communications Specialist City of Colorado Springs

**Nick Stremble** Senior Director of Emergency Services UC Health Jared Veteto

President Cogitic Corporation

## Leading with Heart and Vision

#### A word from our new Board President, Anna de Wit



I am honored to step into the Board President role for 2025. To say I have big shoes to fill would be an understatement as the preceding Board President, Geoff Heim steps away. However, his legacy and footprint will be present in all that Safe Passage does in the future. His leadership and support lead the organization to new territories, and I am excited to keep that momentum going.

I've had the privilege of being a Board member since 2018, and it has been such a rewarding journey. Watching the organization grow from the smaller facility in downtown Colorado Springs, to the now co-located facility has been meaningful. As a mom of two children, I know how important a place like Safe Passage is in our

community. When I hear the stories of hurting children in our very own neighborhoods, my heart breaks. But I'm thankful there is a resource for them. A place of safety, love, and comfort.

One would hope the number of children Safe Passage serves would lessen year over year, but unfortunately that is not the case. In the time that I have joined the Board, over 6,000 children have needed assistance from Safe Passage, with 2024 being the second highest year. Although this number seems daunting, I am thankful for the partner agencies and the centralized services available to minimize the trauma and provide holistic healing. And thank YOU for helping make this comprehensive co-located approach possible by giving of your time and resources.

As a Board, we are preparing for 2025 and all that lies ahead. We are welcoming five additional Board Members this year, which is a testament to the good things Safe Passage is doing in our community and the further work that is needed. Our focus will continue to be supporting the Safe Passage staff and empowering them to do the daily hard work required to help the many abused children. On this front, we are pleased to have the addition of our own in-house mental health team which will further enchance the healing journey for the children we serve.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you. None of what Safe Passage does could be done without your support. I invite you to continue to be a participant in this new year with us. Whether this is through volunteering, donating, attending events, engaging in our social media channels, or stopping by for a tour, we'd love to include you.