

BLUE WATER SAFE
HORIZONS

ANNUAL REPORT

2024/
2025



Our Mission

To increase awareness of intimate-partner violence and elder abuse and the effects on the community, to empower those victimized by providing advocacy and safe and effective services, and to work for social change through education and community collaboration.

Message from our Executive Director

MELISSA JACOBS

Looking back at the last year, we are reminded of how desperately our community is in need of specialized services for survivors of domestic violence and elder abuse. We work tirelessly to make a difference in St. Clair County, bringing education and awareness to these important issues, all while providing an open door to those who have been victimized by interpersonal violence. With each survivor we serve, we are thankful to be able to offer the level of individualized care and advocacy for their unique circumstances. Our advocates strive to provide the best practice in trauma-informed care.

None of this would be possible without the kindness, dedication, and support of our staff, board of directors, donors, and volunteers. We couldn't make this impact without your continued support and contribution, you are helping to change the lives of some of the most vulnerable individuals and children in our community.

THANK YOU!

Message from our Board Chair

MARTHA JOHNSTON

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors of Blue Water Safe Horizons, I would like to thank all of those in the community who have helped make this organization an empowering safe haven and facilitator of support for survivors of domestic violence and elder abuse.

For over forty years, Blue Water Safe Horizons has been providing shelter, advocacy, education, and support to those who have fallen victim to domestic and elder abuse. With the support of the financial partners in this community, a hard-working staff and team of volunteers, and a conscientious collaboration with other social service and public safety providers, that Blue Water Safe Horizons has been able to maintain its important mission to serve those who are in need.

It is through this overwhelming show of support that this organization is poised and directed to continue ahead in this important mission. We appreciate you!

Board of Directors

- Martha Johnston, Board Chair
- Brian Kerrigan, Co-Chair
- Ignacio Villalobos, Treasurer
- Cortney Carl, Secretary
- Rachel Farquhar, Director
- Sara Schoenberg, Director
- Mandy Chrzanowski, Director

Executive Leadership

- Melissa Jacobs, Executive Director
- Gadd Business Consultants, Finance

Our Services

24/7 Crisis Hotline and Text Line

Blue Water Safe Horizons offers 24/7 access to trained crisis advocates through a dedicated phone line and text line. Whether someone is seeking shelter, would like a referral for crisis intervention or advocacy, or simply needs someone safe and confidential to talk to, our advocates are there to answer the call or text around the clock.

Call (888) 985-5538 or Text (810) 824-7948

BWSH Emergency Shelter Program

BWSH Emergency Shelter Program provides temporary, emergency housing for survivors of domestic violence as well as their dependent children, and also to victims of elder abuse and exploitation. Survivors are housed off-site in private, confidential suites and each have their own advocate to work with for the duration of their stay. All services are free of charge, including their stay, crisis intervention and advocacy, legal advocacy, support groups, and enriching scheduled activities. We are working on getting them back on site currently.

Outreach Services

The Outreach Department provides numerous services to survivors of domestic violence and elder abuse. Supportive services provide survivors with specialized, trauma-informed crisis intervention and coping strategies, as well as support groups. Legal advocacy provides guidance and accompaniment to assist survivors in navigating the legal system, writing victim statements, and filing for protection orders. The Elder Advocate is well-versed in elder abuse and exploitation and provides support and assistance for obtaining resources that are helpful at overcoming unique situations. All of our advocates are there to support and encourage the survivor every step of the way on his or her journey of healing.

Program Impact

24/7 Crisis Hotline / Text Line

- Advocates assisted 154 **individuals** who called or texted our crisis line in 2024/2025. Equaling 1878 hours of service.

Emergency Shelter Program

- Provided 42 heads of households and their children with 1529 services with an average of 76 nights per client (this includes elder and SA)

Outreach Services

- 81 heads of households participated in Outreach services equaling 690 hours of service with 779 services.

Support Groups

- 19 individuals participated in Support Groups equaling 65.5 hours of service.

These numbers only reflect what can be extracted from our reporting system. It does not calculate the number of hours spent decorating, planning birthday parties, holiday parties, collecting gifts, making cakes, tiding the building so it is comfortable and calming for the survivors, hours of phone calls to secure housing, food resources, utility resources and new resources, meetings, awareness events, fundraising events, putting away donations or the time to rest and rejuvenate for the next survivor.

Community

Blue Water Safe Horizons prides itself on developing lasting relationships with other community organizations that enhance our mission. These agencies provide much-needed resources to survivors, which enable us to deliver more complete assistance to those in need. Here are just a few of our valuable community partners:

- MI Dept of Health & Human Services (MDHHS)
- United Way of St Clair
- Community Mental Health
- Blue Water Community Action
- The Community Foundation
- Salvation Army
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Kids in Distress Services (KIDS)
- Community First Health Centers
- Blue Water Allies Center
- Port Huron Area Landlord Association (PHALA)
- Guardians Office
- St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA)
- Harbor Impact Ministries
- Odyssey House
- *BWROC*
- *SOS Pantry*
- *Kingdom Authority Church*
- *Port Huron Police Department*
- *St Clair County Sheriff Department*
- *Acheson Foundation*
- *Many more!*

Financial Management

REVENUE

MDSVPTB	\$276,040
VOCA	\$164,107
Other Grants	\$125,441
Fundraising	\$6014
Direct Contributions	\$57,100
Goods/Services	\$29,699

TOTAL REVENUE: \$658,400



EXPENDITURES

Direct Services	\$533,455
Administration	\$158,989
Facility Operations	\$75,666

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$768,100

Thank You!

Our staff and Board of Directors wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the many supporters, donors, and volunteers who make our life saving work possible. THANK YOU!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Dept of Victim Services (DVS), Michigan Dept of Health & Human Services (MDHHS), United Way of St. Clair County, St. Clair County Commission on Aging / Senior Citizens Millage.

Connect with Us!

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www.bwsh.org

