



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network, Inc.

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Agency History and Overview

Peaceful Paths, Inc. is the state certified center that serves adult and child survivors of intimate partner violence in Alachua, Bradford, and Union counties. Peaceful Paths provides a wide range of free and confidential programs including emergency shelter, supportive housing, crisis helpline, trauma counseling and support groups for adults, teens, and children, high risk victim advocacy, child welfare advocacy, financial literacy and economic empowerment programs, legal services, professional education and training, violence prevention education, and community awareness. Peaceful Paths leads the Coordinated Community Response to domestic violence in this region, and engages a comprehensive group of partners who collaboratively address system services and gaps. The agency promotes an empowerment-based philosophy of service delivery aimed at creating safety, support and a path to self-sufficiency for survivors and their children. Using advocacy and intervention, Peaceful Paths strives to create social change that impacts survivor safety and batterer accountability.

History of the Agency

Peaceful Paths began its mission in the Gainesville area in 1974 as the Rape Information and Counseling Service (RICS), a grassroots organization that was formed to fight against sexual violence. In 1976, RICS began to expand its services to include battered women, and in 1977, established a spouse abuse hotline. In September of that year, the name of the organization was changed to the Sexual and Physical Abuse Resource Center to better reflect the changing mission. In January of 1978, SPARC was granted a lease on a shelter site and the shelter opened with its first client on March 30 of that year. In 1997, the agency acquired a transitional housing facility that expanded focus to include supportive housing for survivors. In October of 2000, SPARC underwent another name change to refocus the community on the mission of ending domestic violence. In October of 2015, Peaceful Paths opened the Dutton-Schilling Emergency Services Campus, a 72 bed housing community for shelter and supportive housing for survivors and their children. Peaceful Paths continually works to expand comprehensive services to adult and child victims and survivors of intimate partner violence.



Peaceful Paths
Campus

A Word from our Executive Director Dr. Theresa Beachy



Each day, our organization provides a space for survivors and their children to find safety, support, and develop a path to self-sufficiency. Advocates strive to meet victims where they are, understanding their unique needs and shared trauma. Children come and play in rooms designed for them while their parent receives much needed help. There is a food pantry, a clothing closet, and a shower. There are couches and Kleenex. Sometimes there are kittens, and always there is a shared sense of urgency and purpose. It is in this environment that I have been blessed to work for 22 years. Saving lives and creating change in small but critical ways every single day. A life of service is one that faces challenges, frustrations, and sometimes, anguish. It is also filled with inspiration, courage, and excitement when those you work for experience the “wins”. Every new job, safe home, reconnection with family, children’s laughs, and confident smile is cause for celebration.

This past year, there have been wins, big and small. Big wins included securing funding to complete some much-needed renovations and repairs that will increase the security of the Outreach Office and provide expanded service spaces. The completion of the Land Sale culminated a 10-year plan for securing reserves resulting from the gift Dr. Dutton and Dr. Schilling provided in 2011. Housing over 100 families in community was a new milestone and demonstrated that our commitment to expanding services and taking risks for new funding was worth the effort. Small wins included a new truck, better technology equipment, and new furniture throughout the Campus. Staff turnover created new opportunities for fresh perspectives and energy that has reinvigorated our programs at every level.

These wins have counteracted the difficult cultural environment all of us have faced this year. Our work always functions within systems, beliefs, and practices that undermine our values and success. This year, every week seemed to bring a new, or old, obstacle back into our world in ways that harm victims and make life harder for vulnerable people seeking safety and support. It hasn’t been easy to keep positive outlooks and optimism alive, for staff and survivors alike. The thing that carries us through is the ongoing generosity and support from so many allies across our community who believe and act on our behalf. They keep our safe space growing and thriving despite complications that arise in the legal and cultural landscape. It keeps us centered, and grateful, knowing that our jobs and our work align – and that we have thousands of voices lifted in agreement. We hope that you will join us in the coming year as a voice for saving lives and creating change, and keep encouraging us to do the bigger work at hand.

"It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent." *Madeleine Albright*



“

Peaceful Paths gave me hope and a sense of real security. They allowed me to find myself again. I attended groups and also one on one counseling. They helped me believe in myself again.

I am truly grateful for all the help and genuine kindness that has been given. I am hoping I can help other women who are going through bad situations feel confident again and do better because we all deserve to live peacefully.

”

- Survivor of Domestic Violence & Former Client of Peaceful Paths



“

I am beyond grateful for the last year I have spent here and all for the healing and growth that you have helped me accomplish. I have found a wonderful place to call home.

Here's to new beginnings!”



- Survivor of Domestic Violence & Former Client of Peaceful Paths

MISSION AND THEORY OF CHANGE

MISSION STATEMENT

Peaceful Paths exists to save lives and create change

Value Statements

*Autonomy*Choice*Communication *Community*Courage*Diversity*Empathy *Equality*Flexibility

*Growth*Honesty & Integrity *Hope*Independence*Innovation*Patience*Peace

*Respect*Safety*Teamwork*Trust

THEORY OF CHANGE

- Expert Safety Planning process
- Collaborative advocacy
- Community resources and referrals
- Innovative outreach, residential, and prevention programs
- Connecting with survivors where they are to meet needs and identify barriers
- Open to change and feedback to close gaps
- Robust community partnerships
- Non-traditional approaches
- Stewardship of resources to maximize client benefits
- Strong community reputation and presence

SERVICES UTILIZED FOR 2022

Total New Intakes	1112
Total adults on Campus	158
Total children on Campus	161
Total pets on Campus	17
Individuals housed in the community	247
Nights of Safe Housing	40,679
Outreach clients served	1002
Safety Plans Completed	5466
Hours of Counseling	7616
Youth served in prevention programs	11064
Legal Clients served	759

Total Client Contacts

49727

Program Highlights

- The High-Risk Team model, suspended during COVID, has been re-established and has begun formally reviewing and collaborating for victim safety once again.
- Lead Attorney Brittani Melvin worked with the Alachua County Commission to secure renter rights for survivors by successfully advocating for an ordinance that guarantees landlords will change locks when domestic violence has occurred.
- Prevention Programming expanded to include new sites, created Zoom programming that can reach an entire school population, and developed educator training that ensures the longevity of the project. These efforts allowed them to reach their biggest annual audience ever - nearly 11,500 students and educators across the tri-county region.
- The Supportive Housing project served 22 families last year, a new record. The Rapid Rehousing project placed 123 families in safe, community-based housing. Permanent housing support is a vital link to long term victim safety, and our team works to evaluate and place families as quickly as possible.
- The agency provided \$491,000 in direct financial assistance, supplies and in-kind support to over 500 individuals. This was another record in the nearly 50-year history of the agency.
- The Abuse in Later Life Project was renewed, allowing our dedicated advocate to continue serving this vulnerable, elderly population. This past year, Emily Anderson provided critical safety and advocacy services to 154 victims facing homelessness, medical neglect, isolation, and financial abuse. Elder abuse is a significant issue in our community and this collaboration remains a priority.
- The Child Welfare Project served 170 survivors with involvement in dependency programs, ensuring that their voice was not lost in the process. Thanks to dedicated advocates who encourage these survivors, 75% of them came in for additional services for themselves and their children.
- Public Awareness efforts have dramatically increased and our Social Media reached over 200,000 people last year. Professional Education and Training was provided to 33 groups totaling 988 people, another free and valuable service that the agency offers the community.
- This year, monthly donors in our Allies in Action program rose to 32, providing a steady source of funding for client expenses and operations.
- In November 2022, the agency was honored with the Nonprofit Legacy Award from the Community Foundation of North Central Florida in recognition of our Transformational Leadership.



Fundraising Highlights

Amazing Give 2022

\$25,000 Raised in 12 hours!



Back to School Drive and Bingo

\$12,500 Raised

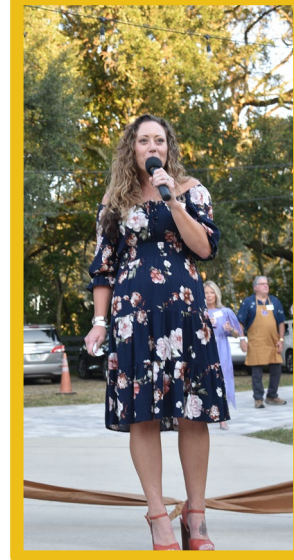


Power of the Purse

\$41,500 Raised



21st Annual Guest Chef \$102,000 Raised



Financial Overview

Peaceful Paths

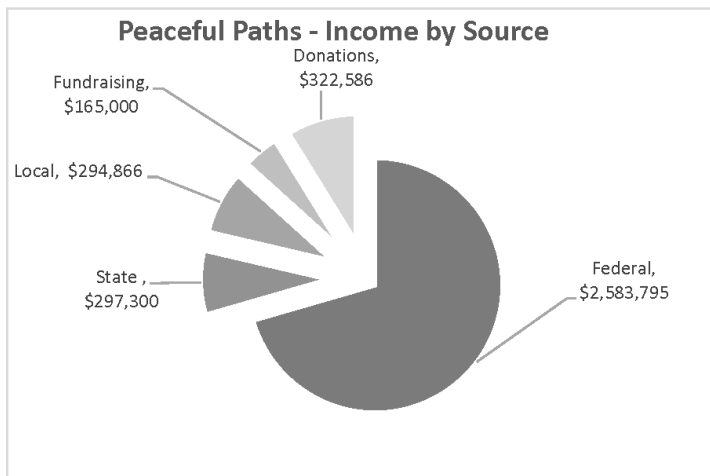
Agency Budget - FY22-23

INCOME

Grant Income	
Federal	\$ 2,583,795
State	\$ 297,300
Local	\$ 294,866
Grant Income SUBTOTAL	\$ 3,175,961
Fundraising	\$ 165,000
Donations	\$ 322,586
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 3,663,547

EXPENSES

Personnel	\$ 2,248,823
Professional Fees	\$ 215,135
Travel	\$ 12,500
Maintenance	\$ 87,045
Client Expense	\$ 468,762
Office Expense	\$ 236,575
Capital Outlay, Taxes & Licenses	\$ 290,900
Rent	\$ 9,800
Insurance	\$ 48,507
Interest	\$ 8,500
Fundraiser Expense	\$ 35,000
Misc. Expense	\$ 2,000
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 3,663,547



Highlights

- Find our full agency overview at <https://www.thephilanthropyhub.org/>
- Guidestar Approved Charity rating
- Funding growth consistently over the past five years
- Reserves of \$400,000
- Land Sale Completed that has created a debt-free future

Get Involved and Make an Impact



KG has been a participant with Peaceful Paths for quite some time. She completed many sessions of individual counseling and groups to help her move through the impact of her abusive relationship and bring her to a place where she was able to work on the aftermath of the economic abuse. She is employed full time, going to school and completed the LIFE classes. She has been able to rebuild her credit by addressing fraudulent accounts on her credit report, eliminating debt incurred by the abuser and establishing new credit. She is saving money for her IDA account and has met with our mentoring financial planner to prepare for the future and retirement. She was definitely an inspiration to other members in her class with her diligence, motivation and drive for a successful financial future.



Prevention Success: Following our *Diversity and Stereotypes* zoom, a middle school student messaged in the chat: "Thank you so much for teaching this! I learned a lot about how people are discriminated against by race." Another student commented: "Wow, I didn't know trans people faced this much discrimination at work." After an activity on red flags and the relationship spectrum, a high-schooler claimed: "That was fun! I look forward to this every Wednesday and make sure I come to school on presentation days."

*What will your
legacy be this year?*



Allies in Action

The work we do to save lives and create change is made possible by our generous community. Every donation, no matter what amount, helps us to provide a safe space for victims and their families as well as provide transformative programming to assist survivors and to educate local students on violence prevention and healthy relationships. It only takes a quick minute to donate,

but the impact is powerful. Please consider a monthly recurring gift as this steady and reliable gift provides us the stability to plan ahead and expand our programs & services. Regular monthly gifts also allow us to make long-term commitments to projects, producing sustainable change over time.

Holiday Giving

Each year, we provide opportunities for Holiday Giving. Pick the one that fits you. Adopt a Family: Each client who needs support during the holidays works with a Peaceful Paths advocate to submit a wish list of specific needs and preferences for their family. We then match clients with donors wishing to adopt a family. General Donations: Participate in our Holiday Giving Program and shop on our general Amazon Holiday Wish List today. These items will be used to fill wish list gaps for families in need. **Learn more at <https://www.peacefulpaths.org/donate>**



Peaceful Paths™

DOMESTIC ABUSE NETWORK

Hope Happens Here

*We exist to
save lives & create change.*

www.peacefulpaths.org

352.377.5690



@peacefulpaths

Volunteer

Donate

Needs List



Thank you for supporting survivors of
domestic abuse and their families.