Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County supports individuals affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and sexual exploitation and leads the community towards ending these abuses of power.

We believe...

All people have the right to be in a safe, non-violent community.

It is individuals who choose to abuse and they are responsible for their behavior.

Volunteers empower the community to help and care for itself.

Personal empowerment is essential to an individual’s growth and healing.

All people have the right to be free from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.

Community-based solutions are essential to ending violence.

We believe in a community free from violence.

“I came to the shelter feeling broken and afraid. I leave knowing how capable and strong I am. I will be forever grateful.”
41 Years of Advocacy

Executive Directors
Alex Whitehead 1979-1984
Kathleen Casey 1984-1996
Karen Burke 2007-2019
Nicole Berman 2020- Present

1979
Whatcom County Crisis Services opens, a merger of Sun Crisis Center, Rape Relief, and Battered Women’s Project.

1984
Built BINGO 262 in Ferndale. Bingo earnings: $21,666.

1985
Developed mission statement and agency vision.

1989
Bingo net earnings peak at $754,700.

1990
Began legal advocacy program.

1991
Purchased and renovated 1407 Commercial Street, services relocated.

1994
Transitioned out of general crisis services to focus on domestic violence.

1996
Sexual assault program earned state accreditation.

1999
Started agency endowment fund.

2000
Sold BINGO 262, sale netted $239,600.

2002
Changed name to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS).

2006
Formalized partnership with county-wide law enforcement agencies.

2007
Began on-going advocacy, along with walk-in services.

2013
Formalized partnership with county-wide law enforcement agencies.

2014
Assumed operations of the Womencare emergency domestic violence shelter. Budget exceeds $1,000,000.

2016
Safe Housing Program expanded by 66% with the opening of Baker Place campus.

2018
Expanded agency mission to include serving victims of sexual exploitation.

DVSAS Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services
At its core, the DVSAS organization is focused on helping individuals and society move from points of crisis to transformation and, in 2019/2020, unplanned changes in executive management coupled with a world-wide health crisis tested that focus. Over the course of the year, every member of the DVSAS family -- volunteer, staff member, Board member and donor -- made deeply personal sacrifices of time, talent and money to stay the course. While individuals and organizations across the globe faltered, the DVSAS family continued to support those for whom the pandemic increased their need of support and services. As a DVSAS Board member, I am humbled by and proud of the passion, creativity, kindness, flexibility and resilience of the DVSAS family."

• Maryann Renzi, DVSAS Board of Directors, Secretary

"COVID-19 has made it clear that domestic violence and sexual assault still persist in our community. It is more important than ever that we continue the important work of sheltering survivors, treating and assisting victims and educating our neighbours and families about the resources that DVSAS provides."

• Dan Hammill, DVSAS Board of Directors

A word from some of our Board members:

Claudia Murphy • President
Lieutenant/Public Information Officer, City of Bellingham

Randy Cantrell • Mortgage Loan Officer, Caliber Home Loans

Sharon Robinson • Vice President
Principal at Zervas Architects, Retired

Jono Manion • External • Data Analyst, WompMobile

Christina Byrne • Program • Prof of Psychology, Western Washington University

Mike Good • Treasurer
Assistant City Attorney, City of Bellingham

Colleen Maguire • Physician’s Assistant, Retired

Julie Ranson • Bank Manager, Umpqua Bank

Eric Richey • Prosecutor, Whatcom County

Allison Trimble • Owner, Broker, Coastal Realty

Keith Wallace • Partner, Rice Insurance

Maryann Renzi • Secretary
Chief Human Resources Officer, Retired

Mike Good • Treasurer
Assistant City Attorney, City of Bellingham

O fficers

Committee Chairs
Pete Dworkin • Internal • Attorney

Jono Manion • External • Data Analyst, WompMobile

Christina Byrne • Program • Prof of Psychology, Western Washington University

Randy Cantrell • Mortgage Loan Officer, Caliber Home Loans

Dan Hammill • Council Member, Bellingham City Council

Lindsay Knaus • Project Manager, North Sound Accountable Communities of Health

Colleen Maguire • Physician’s Assistant, Retired

Julie Ranson • Bank Manager, Umpqua Bank

Eric Richey • Prosecutor, Whatcom County

Allison Trimble • Owner, Broker, Coastal Realty

Keith Wallace • Partner, Rice Insurance

Maryann Renzi • Secretary
Chief Human Resources Officer, Retired

A word from some of our Board members:
Claudia Ackerman • Support Group Coordinator
Katie Akin • Program Admin Specialist
Renee Barry • Accounting Technician
Shoshana Bass • Prevention Ed Specialist
Nicole Berman • Executive Director
Nancy Blume • Finance Director
Meryl Connolly-Chew • BH Program Coordinator
Devon Connolly • Rural Advocate
Brooke Elam • BH Program Coordinator
Norma Esperance • Family Support Specialist
Aaron Foss • Safe Housing Manager
Liz Groda • Temp- Office Assistant
Leeda Ghassemi • Safe Housing Advocate
Meg Hansen • Safe Housing Advocate
Elizabeth Hart • Support Services Manager
Jessica Heck • Development Director
Megan Heishman • Program Assistant
Mary Holton • Legal Advocacy Coordinator
Rochelle Hollowell • Events & Marketing Coordinator
Amber Icay • 24-Hour Services Manager
Isabella Kent • AmeriCorps VISTA
Marina La Luz • Safe Housing Advocate
Kevin Lee • Legal Services Advocate
Senovia Lehman • Development Director
Damiana King • Children & Family/Rural Advocate
Susan Marks • DSV Commission Director
Blanca McCreary • Bilingual Advocate
Malia McIntosh • On-call Relief Advocate
Michelle Meyer • Children & Family Services Coordinator
Donna Moreno • Finance Director
Michelle Meyer • Children’s Program Coordinator
Tess O’Reilly • Behavioral Health Program Coordinator
Oliver Sebren • Safe Housing Advocate
Rochelle Scoggins • Safe Housing Advocate
Lisa Sloan • Receptionist & Office Coordinator
Kailee Manske • Safe Housing Advocate

"Coming on-board with DVSAS has been a great experience. The team accepted me immediately which has allowed me to work with them in supporting survivors, themselves, and the organization. I’m looking forward to continued opportunities to create meaningful change and growth within the organization while focusing on providing quality services to survivors."
• Nicole Berman, Executive Director •

A big welcome to our new Executive Director!
**Immediate Help**

Immediate services are available through the DVSAS 24-hour helpline. Advocacy counselors provide crisis intervention, emergency safety planning, emotional support, and referrals over the phone and in-person. Additionally, advocates respond to PeaceHealth hospital during forensic sexual assault exams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helpline calls answered by volunteers and staff</td>
<td>930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survivors accessed DVSAS services throughout the year</td>
<td>13,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survivors supported during forensic sexual assault exams</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Support Services**

Support services include long-term advocacy counseling; support groups for women, men, LGBTQ+ survivors, incarcerated survivors, and teens; legal advocacy; and a children’s program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal advocacy clients supported through court-support</td>
<td>599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours of serving children in the Safe Start Children’s Program</td>
<td>372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours of support groups to help 149 survivors</td>
<td>1297</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Safe Housing Program**

Survivors of violence can access safe, confidential housing for up to 90 days through this program. Three shelter facilities house families and singles and their house pets. Safe hotels are also provided.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survivors sheltered in the Safe Housing Program</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survivors moved into transitional or supportive housing upon leaving our program</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents escaped homelessness through the support of the Beyond Shelter program</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prevention Education Services**

DVSAS offers trainings and education on domestic violence, sexual assault, and sexual exploitation at schools, community groups, and businesses. Education, awareness, and training is a positive step towards preventing domestic and sexual violence and empowers victims to find help.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle &amp; High School students received prevention education*</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools in Whatcom County engaged with DVSAS*</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classrooms participated in the Empowerment Project*</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Despite Covid-19, DVSAS was able to successfully provide additional services through an online self-paced Education Prevention training.
Volunteers provide advocacy counseling in person and over the phone on our 24-hour helpline. In addition, they help with court support, advocacy at forensic exams, and during our fundraising events.

Thank you 2020 volunteers for 6,320 hours of service.

We would not have made it through this unprecedented year without you!
Financials

Revenue:
- 72.36% Government Grants
- 7.66% Special Events & Community Donations
- 10.70% Corporate Gifts & Foundation Grants
- 4.16% Rental Income & Interest
- 5.13% Endowment Income

Expenses:
- 88.05% Program & Services
- 7.9% General Administration
- 4.05% Fundraising Expenses

Corporate Partners

2020 Presenting Sponsor
DVSAS has been honored to be supported by Sanitary Services Company for the past 21 years. They are an incredible community partner in the fight against domestic violence and sexual assault. Thank you SSC!
Tournament of Hope Golf Classic • August 27, 2020

102 Golfers
$379.18 Average Donation
$20,855 Raised

Sponsored by:

2020 brought with it many challenges, but also many opportunities for growth. DVSAS Fundraising Events were tremendously impacted due to COVID-19 Public Health mandates, including stay-at-home orders and restriction on public events.

We will make every effort to come back strong in 2021 with continued outlook on life following the Pandemic. There is light and life on the horizon and we plan to seize the moment in 2021.
A big thank you to the many local businesses, community groups, and foundations that are helping end domestic and sexual violence in our community.
Kevin Pike
Steve Pogline
Lacey Polocnik
Ethan Potts
Shannon Preece
James Prendergast
Walter Pritchard
Carol & Alden Quimby
Linda Quinn
Daniel & Deborah Raas
Tally Rabatin & TJ Tipton
Anthony & Judy Ranallo*
Julie Ranion
Ann Reading
Linda Redmond
Wendy & Scott Reid
Pauline Renick
Maryann Renzi & Thomas Piasecki*
Douglas Revelle
Jessica Rhodes
Genissa Richardson
Jonathan Richardson
Michael Richardson
Eric Richey & Quenby Peterson
Chuck Rinehart
John & Brenda Riseland
Amanda Robbins
Sharon Robinson
Sue Rodgers
Michelle & Lorenzo Rodriguez
Scott Ronvig
Peter & Gaige Ruffato
Steve & Sarah Rydman

Jelena Sacharoff
Stephanie Sakowski
Dare Sjab
Justin Saver
Jeffrey & Melinda Sawyer
Kathryn Schets
Mark & Erin Schlachting
Paul & Zemfira Schwartz
Carrie Segera
Cyarah Sell
Amanda Sell-Sand
Ann Sewold*
Lee Shapiro
Dan Shawley
Jerrie Sheaffer*
Kathy Sheehan*
Elliott & Angela Sherburne
Lora Sherman*
K Shirley
Celeste Siebenbaum
Erik Signor
Flo Simon
Eric Simons
Rick Slater
Brian Small
Jamie & Kevin Smeall
Chuck & Joanna Snyder
Andrew Sona
Ana Soto
Leslie Spurrer
Deanna Starcher
Lynn Starcher
Randy Steele
Joan Steidl
Ashley Strasburg*
Dennis Stremler
Cheyanna Strickland
Pat Strupp
Dana Stuth
Kim Summers
Shaun Tawes
Kathy Taylor
Hope Thompson
Hilary Thomson
Shawn Thornton
Mary Pat & Joel Thuma
Kevin & Meghan Tinsley*
Michael Titous
Cody Touchette
Pete Tran
Sonja Trecker
& Devra Krenz
Allison Trinkle
Julia Tronson
Mark Turner
Kristi Tyrar
Chloe Valor
Manca & Kjell Valum
Bruce & Becki Van Glub
Rudy & Anna Van Ry
Leah Van Zee
Lester VanMersbergen
Brodie VanNoy
Dean Vanderlacht
Lettie Vigorell
Leah Volland
Jordan Wagner
Ed & Stephanie Wahlgren
Ashley & Brandon Waldron
Scott Walker
Keith & Jodi Wallace*
Rachel Wallace
Elizabeth Waltman
Liz Washburn
Aamber Wasisco
Seth Weissman
Amiee Wermemerey
Blake Westhoff
Ian Weydert*
Heather Whikster
Pat White
Tate White
Veronica Whitley & Grant Resick
John & Kathryn Whitemer*
Curtis Whittle
Richard Windhearth
Kaitlyn Wilhelm
Allison Williams & Kevin Burke
Dave Willingham
Tracy Wilson
Dick Winchip
Pete Wolk
Andrew Wood
Catherine Wright
Jeff & Delores Wright
Taryn Wright
David & Andrea Yake
Brandon & Abby Yates
Linda Zemler
David & Rena Ziegler
Heather Ziegler*
Lynette & Kurt Ziegler
Chantel & Nick Ziemkowski

*Circle of Hope donor

DVSAS is celebrating all existing donors to DVSAS! Resilience in the face of COVID-19 during 2020 would not have been possible without you.

Thank you to every donor who has prioritized victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and contributed to their safety and security through your donation to DVSAS.

Acknowledgments

Contract Funding Acknowledgments: https://dvsas.sharepoint.com/:w/s/Development/Ea24C3Gj66GcX7xkxKm1vBFc477WVi4997L.png?e=qv0wq