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# Domestic And Sexual Abuse Services Annual Report 2007

June 2008

## Our Impact:

Recently, a past client dropped off a donation for the women and children who use our agency. She said she would always remember the way she felt when she first came to us for services, "so ashamed and lost". She then felt devastated to have to tell someone, especially a stranger, that the person she loved and had children with, the person she thought she could trust beyond anyone else had betrayed that trust and treated her so badly. The woman is now in a healthy relationship, but she says it still amazes her that after all these years, she remembers how the **staff** person seemed to understand and help lift her shame by telling her she was not alone and that she had every right to feel the way she did. She said, "she told me it was ok, that I was ok". That person changed my life and I never told her, so I want you to know that you, (the agency) are so appreciated.

Our staff worked with a young teen assaulted and coerced by an older boy. Since working with DASAS she has stayed in school rather than being continually suspended and is able to talk about the assault and her family issues, whereas before she did not recognize it as an assault and handled problems through angry outbursts.

## From the Executive Director

Since the last report from the Domestic Assault Shelter Coalition in 2006, many changes have taken place with the organization.

A new Executive Director in February of 2007, a new name in April 2007. In September of 2007 we named our shelter Hillmann House, in honor of former Executive Director Patricia Hillmann's 17 years with DASC; we launched our website [www.dasasmi.org](http://www.dasasmi.org); revealed our new logo; released our new brochures; and instituted our Annual Community Appreciation Awards. We included input and involvement from survivors, staff and community partners throughout the process and while the changes were an adjustment they have been welcomed and embraced by everyone.

Our staff is wonderful and continues to provide outstanding quality services in



Cass and St. Joseph Counties. They also enjoy an excellent reputation with our survivors and community partners.

I am continually amazed by the passion and dedication of our staff, volunteers, and donors and am honored to be a member of the DASAS family.

Our work, sadly, continues to be a necessity as you will see in the facts and statistics provided in this report. Like others, we

continue to struggle to make ends meet in these uncertain economic times.

DASAS extends its thanks to you for your continued support of our important work. Your support gives us the opportunity to assist survivors and their families and provide much needed services for the horror that is domestic violence and sexual abuse.

*Mary Lynn Falbe*

## Where our clients came from in 2007

Burr Oak Vill/Twp.	12	Jefferson Twp.	3	Ontwa Twp.	19
Calvin Twp.	5	Jones	2	Penn Twp.	5
Cassopolis	24	Lagrange Twp.	16	Pokagon Twp.	20
Centreville	11	Leonidas Twp.	3	Porter Twp.	3
Colon Vill./Twp.	14	Lockport Twp.	11	Sherman Twp.	7
Constantine Vill./Twp.	34	Marcellus Vill./Twp	9	Silver Creek Twp.	8
Decatur	2	Mason Twp.	9	Sturgis City/Twp.	113
Dowagiac	58	Mendon Vill.Twp.	14	Three Rivers	87
Edwardsburg	14	Milton Twp.	7	Vandalia	7
Fabius Twp.	9	Moorepark	4	Volinia Twp.	3
Florence Twp.	8	Newberg Twp.	4	Wayne	10
Flowerfield Twp.	8	Niles	9	White Pigeon Vill./Twp.	28
Howard Twp.	15	Nottawa Twp.	9	Out of our area	44

# How DASAS helped in 2007

In the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, we provided shelter for **101** families with **141** children fleeing abuse at home. We provided **4,405** nights of shelter (1 night of shelter = 1 person staying 1 night), with the average length of stay being 24 nights. We provided an array of non-residential services to **581** non-residential clients (women, children and men) in our domestic violence, sexual assault, transitional housing, and courthouse-based legal advocacy programs. These services include:

- Immediate in-person emergency response to **58** domestic violence and sexual assault victims.
- Our 24 hour hotline (1-800-828-2023) fielded **964** crisis calls from domestic violence and sexual assault victims.
- We helped **476** victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking get or modify Personal Protection Orders.

- Our Advocates helped clients develop personal safety plans for themselves and their children.
- Weekly support groups brought clients together to help one another.
- Individual supportive counseling helped survivors self assess the seriousness of their abuse and self determine options for their lives.
- We offered legal advocacy, accompaniment to court hearings, assistance with Personal Protection Orders, and help applying for the Crime Victims Compensation Fund.
- Healthy Relationships Program was provided to students in 7th through 12th grades in six schools in Cass and St. Joseph Counties through the 2006-2007 school year serving **602** students.

## Overwhelming Needs Remain...

- ◆ In 2007, a 24-hour survey of domestic violence programs across the nation found that 53,203 victims were served in one day. Unfortunately, due to a lack of resources, there were 7,707 unmet requests for services.
- ◆ In 2006 the National Domestic Violence Hotline received 236,907 calls, but over 29,000 of those calls went unanswered due to lack of resources.

## Startling Facts and Statistics...

- ◆ Approximately one-fifth of all rapes, one-quarter of all physical assaults, and one-half of all stalkings perpetrated against female respondents by intimates were reported to the police.<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ Nearly one in every four women are raped or beaten by a partner during adulthood.<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ Girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of nonfatal intimate partner violence.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ The costs of intimate partner violence annually exceed \$5.8 billion, including \$4.1 billion in direct health care expenses, 900 million in lost productivity, and \$900 million in lifetime earnings.<sup>4</sup>
- ◆ Between one-quarter and one-half of domestic violence victims report that they had lost a job due, at least in part, to domestic violence.<sup>5</sup> Almost 50% of sexual assault survivors either lose their jobs or are forced to quit in the aftermath of the crime.<sup>6</sup>
- ◆ Women who experienced domestic violence were more likely to experience spells of unemployment, have health problems, and be welfare recipients.<sup>7</sup>
- ◆ Domestic violence has been estimated to cost employers in the United States up to \$13 billion dollars each year.<sup>8</sup>
- ◆ New research shows that intimate partner violence costs a health plan \$19.3 million each year for every 100,000 women between 18 and 64 enrolled, justifying investment in intervention programs,<sup>9</sup> but hospital-based domestic violence interventions can reduce health care costs by at least 20%.<sup>10</sup>
- ◆ In the U.S., rape is the most costly crime to its victims totaling \$127 billion a year considering factors such as medical costs, lost earnings, pain, suffering and lost quality of life.<sup>11</sup>
- ◆ Abused women have a 50% to 70% increase in gynecological, central nervous system and stress-related problems even years after the abuse.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (July 2000). Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey. Washington, DC.: Tjaden, P., & Thoennes, N.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (July 2000). Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey. Washington, DC.: Tjaden, P., & Thoennes, N.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. (December 2006). Intimate Partner Violence Declined between 1993 and 2004. Washington DC.: Catalano, S.

<sup>4</sup> National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (2003). Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States. Atlanta, GA.

<sup>5</sup> General Accounting Office, Domestic Violence Prevalence and Implications for Employment Among Welfare Recipients 19 (Nov. 1998).

<sup>6</sup> S. Rep. No. 138, 103rd Congress, 2d Session 54, n. 69 citing E. Ellis, B. Atkeson and K. Calhoun, An Assessment of the Long Term Reaction to Rape, 50 J. Abnormal Psychology No. 3, 264 (1981).

<sup>7</sup> Lloyd, S., & Taluc, N. (1999). "The effect of male violence on female employment." Violence Against Women, 5(4), 370-392

<sup>8</sup> Bureau of National Affairs, Special Rep. No. 32, Violence and Stress: The Work/Family Connection 2 (1990).

<sup>9</sup> Rivara, F., et al. 2007. "Healthcare Utilization and Costs for Women with a History of Intimate Partner Violence." American Journal of Preventive Medicine. 32:89-96.

<sup>10</sup> Burke, E., Kelley, L., Rudman, W., & MacLeod, B. Initial findings from the Health Care Cost Study on Domestic Violence. Pittsburgh, PA. 2002.

<sup>11</sup> Miller, T., M. Cohen & B. Wiersma (January 1996) Victims Costs & Consequences: A New Look Washington, D.C.; National Institute of Justice Report, U.S. Department of Justice.

<sup>12</sup> Campbell J, Jones, et al (2002). "Intimate partner violence and physical health consequences." Arch Intern Med. May 27;162(10):1157-63

### MISSION STATEMENT

Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services will lead efforts to end domestic violence and sexual assault in southwest Michigan. DASAS will assist domestic violence and sexual assault survivors in clarifying their options, accessing community services that support personal choice, and will provide a safe place for survivors and their children.

## Why we do what we do...

In fiscal year 2006-2007 survivors who sought shelter and services from DASAS suffered many types of abuse in the course of their relationships. Not only do the actual victims experience the terror and torture that is going on behind closed doors in our community but children, family members, friends and community members also suffer from the effects of abuse.

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*Board Membership is a  
rewarding experience.*

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Light & Life Wesleyan Church  
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Riverside Church  
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