

DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
WAS A
PANDEMIC
LONG
BEFORE
COVID-19.

LOVE  ALIVE
shouldn't hurt. can help.

ALIVE (Alternatives to Living in Violent Environments)
www.alivestl.org

CONTENTS

Mission & Programs	2
Critical Services	3
Program & Service Outcomes	4
Client Impact Story	4
Resources & Fiscal Management	5

2020

Mission

ALIVE's mission is to provide counseling, emergency sanctuary and other critical services to adults and children impacted by domestic abuse, as well as to increase awareness in order to create a supportive community.



Programs

Nights of Safety

Unique in the St. Louis area, this emergency sanctuary program, which partners with confidentially located area motels, is utilized when there are no available beds in St. Louis area domestic violence shelters. Domestic violence shelter space is very limited and area shelters are often filled to capacity. When a survivor has several children, it makes finding shelter space even more difficult. Because of the flexibility of using area motels, ALIVE's program is scalable and can accommodate large families. Our sanctuary is never full: the only limitations are staff capacity and funding.

Individual Adult Counseling



Our adult counseling is designed to be crisis-oriented and open-ended, continuing until the client goals are met. Most clients in individual therapy receive one-hour sessions weekly. ALIVE is fortunate to have licensed therapists specializing in domestic abuse-related issues to conduct our adult counseling services. During individual counseling sessions, clients formulate personal goals and objectives. While being affiliated with ALIVE's services, clients consistently report increases in their levels of self-esteem, satisfaction with life, and the amount of control they feel they have over their lives.



Children's Treatment Program

ALIVE started the first and only non-residential counseling program in the St. Louis area specifically designed for children who have been affected by domestic violence. Most other programs take place within a shelter environment. However, the greater St. Louis area provides a very limited amount of shelter space for children exposed to domestic violence. The overall goal of our Children's Treatment Program is to enhance the psychological well-being of the child, adolescent, and parent(s). Treatment often includes play therapy or art therapy and individual and family counseling.

Lethality Assessment Program

ALIVE partners with the St. Louis County Police Department and Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis, for the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). The LAP is a multi-pronged homicide prevention intervention designed to identify victims of DV at the greatest risk of being seriously injured or killed by their partners and connect these high-risk victims to ALIVE, which is designated as the immediate DV services LAP partner.



Critical Services

Crisis Hotline and Crisis Intervention

Professional staff and trained volunteers provide immediate assistance to victims of family violence 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The initial crisis call is often the first time someone will listen to a victim's story without criticizing or passing judgment.

The ALIVE advocate answering the crisis line can:

- Complete a safety plan with the victim
- Give information about victims' legal rights, including the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund
- Provide information about ALIVE's services
- Answer questions the victim might have
- Make appropriate referrals
- Schedule an intake

Our crisis line, answered by ALIVE Crisis Intervention Specialist staff, ensures that victims have immediate access to well-informed advocates who explore options and offer appropriate referrals. Assessment and safety planning provide callers with the necessary tools to establish physical safety for themselves and their children. Victims feel less isolated, less responsible for the violence, and more empowered when they have spoken to advocates who are available for support.

This year we launched the only domestic violence-focused live chat crisis line option in our area. This essential tool for those confined at home with abusers and/or with limited privacy to place a voice call during pandemic stay-at-home orders/recommendations enables domestic violence survivors to reach out for help without saying a word.

Emergency Transportation

When victims call ALIVE's 24-hour crisis line for emergency shelter, they can be assured that they will not have to spend another night in danger, despite a lack of personal resources or local shelter availability. ALIVE provides transportation to adults and children in crisis- using cab, busses, and gas cards.

Court Advocacy

Understanding the court process can be difficult in a nonviolent situation, and when an emotionally charged domestic violence situation is added to the equation, the issue can become even more confusing. Once clients have decided they need an Order of Protection, an ALIVE court advocate can help them understand and maneuver through the court system. We also advocate with clients during divorce and child custody hearings.

Program & Service Outcomes for FY 2019/2020



Client Impact Story

ALIVE's Adult Counseling addressed trauma recovery and challenges brought on by the pandemic for clients like Gina.

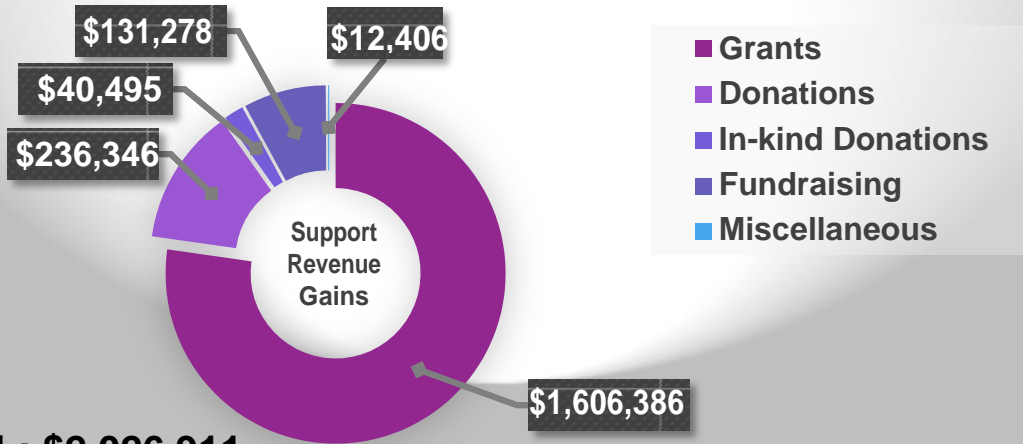


Gina works at a local non-profit's afterschool program. Due to the stay-at-home orders and school closures, the program was suspended in March. Gina and her co-workers were furloughed. She is not eligible for unemployment benefits. On top of that, her stimulus check was deposited into her abusive ex's bank account. She had a court date set to increase the meager child support she receives, but the hearing is delayed due to court closures.

She is at home with her two children, ages 7 and 12, trying to manage their homeschooling and keeping them safe at home. Gina's ex has visitation rights every other weekend. When the kids spent last weekend with him, he chose not to follow social distancing rules. He and the children visited his mother/their grandmother, where they played with several cousins. This unnecessary risk clearly caused a great deal of concern when the kids returned home to Gina.

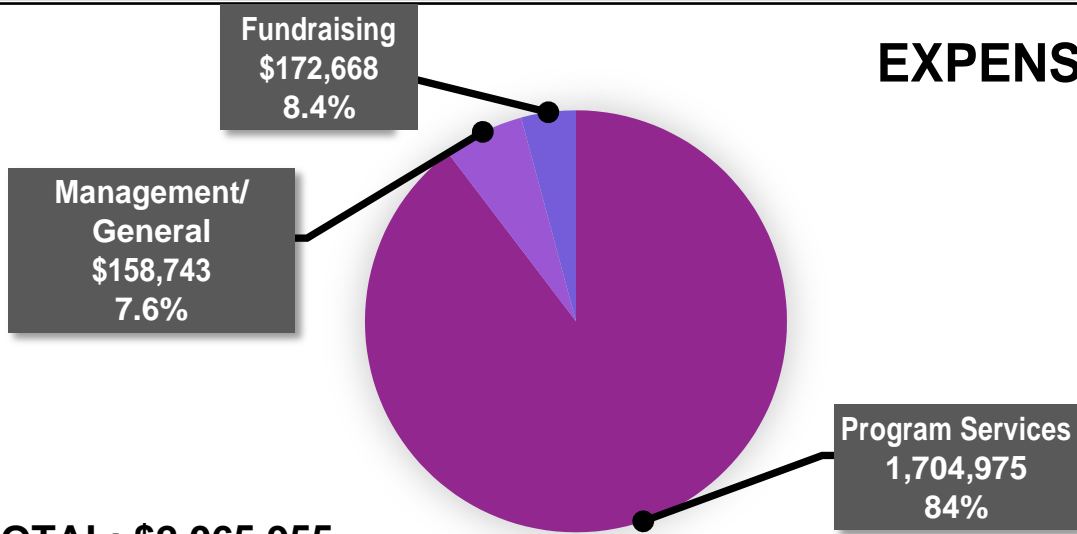
Although Gina tries her best to keep up with her ALIVE telehealth counseling appointments via phone or video, that too has been challenging. Finding the time and space to do so while the kids are home is difficult, but she recognizes the value her counselor is providing to support both domestic violence recovery and now COVID-19 issues. She does her best to keep a weekly therapy session despite sometimes being unable to speak freely or needing to get off the phone before the session is scheduled to end.

Resources & Fiscal Management



TOTAL: \$2,026,911

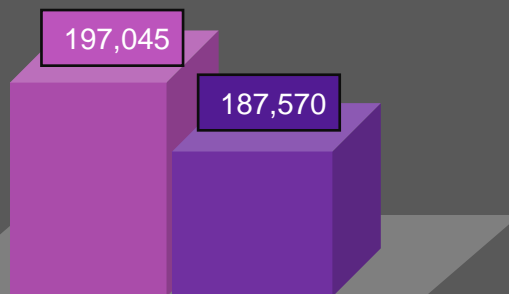
EXPENSES



TOTAL: \$2,065,955

Net Assets FY 2018/19

Net assets-start of year Net assets-end of year



Total decrease in net assets: \$9,475

2020

Annual Report



SHELTER • HEALING • HOPE

Connect With Us!



(314) 993-7080 | alivestl@alivestl.org