

# Annual Report

2021



Safety • Shelter • Support

## A Message from: Jan Campbell, Executive Director - Emeritus

### Dear Friends,

To many, it seems inconceivable that another year has come and gone and we are nearly two years into a pandemic that upended every aspect of life – health, employment, education, and relationships with children, partners, and friends. At DVS, in 2021, we have born witness to the best and worst of human nature.

#### Here's the best:

- Our staff stood up and showed up each and every day for our clients. We answered thousands of crisis line calls, provided 3,484 bed nights of shelter, and responded to 155 calls for assistance from law enforcement and emergency rooms.
- Our clinical staff supported survivors to understand the power and control of intimate partner violence and listened with empathy while tears were shed.
- Our Job and Life Skills program helped hundreds of individuals find jobs, return to school, and learn self-sustaining skills in finance and life management.
- Our Housing First program provided assistance to 65 individuals to locate permanent housing.
- Our amazing community partners worked with us to help with legal assistance, food, mental and physical health, and much more.
- Our generous donors and funders contributed over \$2,242,745 in monetary and in-kind contributions.

#### Here is the worst:

- The number of incidents and the level of violence have increased during the pandemic and the effect on children is disastrous.
- Overall, mental health of survivors has deteriorated.
- For those undocumented, the hurdles to getting support are greater than ever.

#### Here is the very best:

- Witnessing the grit and resilience of individuals who come to an understanding that they don't have to be a victim, they can be a survivor – and with our help and the help of many others in the community – they can build an independent life free from abuse.

Together with all of our community partners, we hope for a brighter 2022, and we look forward to continuing to meet and exceed the needs of our clients and their families in the coming year. I want to thank our donors, funders, volunteers, board of directors, and the amazing staff of Domestic Violence Solutions for the support and commitment that make this work possible.



**Jan Campbell**  
Executive Director  
2018 - 2021



### Executive Staff 2021

**Marilyn Simon-Gersuk**  
*Executive Director*

**Jan Campbell**  
*Executive Director – Emeritus*

**Norman Colavincenzo**  
*Director of Finance*

**Carolina Najera-Magana**  
*Clinical Director*

**Teresa Pichardo-Urbina**  
*Director of Operations*

**Susan Gonzalez**  
*Director of Programs and Client Services*

**Veronica Cubillo**  
*Asst. Director of Programs and Client Services*

**Jimmy Poggione**  
*Director of Facilities*

**Julia Black-DeVre**  
*Director of Marketing and Communications*

### Board of Directors 2021.2022

**Michelle Piotrowski**  
*President*

**Danielle Hazarian**  
*Vice President*

**Sarah Moray**  
*Secretary*

**Kristina Eriksen**  
*Treasurer*

**Lynda Dees**  
**Janet Drayer**  
**Layla Farinpour**  
**Meagan Harmon**  
**Mark Juretic, M.D.**  
**Brandi Redman**  
**Patricia Ritchie**  
**Christina Songer**  
**Morgan Steffen**  
**Brett Weichbrod**

## Welcome to the Team, Marilyn!

We are excited to welcome **Marilyn Simon-Gersuk** as our new Executive Director!

Marilyn comes to the agency with over 30 years' experience in nonprofit management and fund development – most recently as the Associate Executive Director for the American Friends of the Hebrew University and the Open Medicine Foundation where she served as the Director of Communications and Development. After an extensive search, DVS Board Chair Michelle Piotrowski voiced the enthusiasm of the Board, “We are very excited to have found a local, very experienced nonprofit executive that we believe will manage and represent DVS well in the community and work in the best interest of our clients.”

Marilyn has a B.A. and M.A. in Communications from California State University, Northridge. She lives in Santa Barbara with her husband David and her three dogs. She has three grown children.



## About DVS

Domestic Violence Solutions (DVS) for Santa Barbara County's mission is to provide **safety, shelter and support** for individuals and families affected by domestic violence and collaborate with community partners to raise awareness regarding the cause, prevalence and impact.

DVS is Santa Barbara County's only full-service provider of **24-hour emergency shelter and services** for survivors of domestic violence.

### 24-HOUR INFORMATION & CRISIS LINES:

**805.964.5245** – South County

**805.925.2160** – North County

### DVS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

411 E. Canon Perdido St. #12

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

805.963.4458

[dvsolutions.org](http://dvsolutions.org)



## DVS Serves ALL SURVIVORS of Domestic Violence



For the past **45** years, DVS has been proudly serving Santa Barbara County.

DVS is a community leader in domestic violence issues, offering training to families, friends, community members, law enforcement, and medical, social service, and therapeutic personnel on how to break the cycle of violence.

DVS welcomes **all survivors** regardless of race, religion, gender-identity, sexual orientation, or citizenship status.

## Our Impact in 2021

3,484  
safe  
nights

Thousands  
of crisis  
line calls

Permanent  
housing  
for 65  
survivors

122  
outreach  
presentations

Job & life skills  
guidance for  
over 200  
survivors

Sheltered  
more  
children  
than adults

155  
DVERT  
calls

1,205  
counseling  
sessions

# What We Do

## INFORMATION & CRISIS LINES

Trained staff provide counseling, information, referrals, and access to **immediate shelter**.

*24 hours a day, seven days a week*

DVS PROVIDES HOTLINES:

South County: **805.964.5245**

North County: **805.925.2160**



## THERAPY & COUNSELING

DVS offers **individual, group, child, and family counseling** for emergency shelter and non-residential clients. In addition, community education groups are offered.

**Virtual consultation services** are available to the public, free of charge.



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (DVERT)

DVS advocates respond with law enforcement to **domestic violence 911 calls** and provide survivors with support, advocacy, and access to safe, confidential shelter.



## OUTREACH & EDUCATION

DVS provides **community education and outreach activities** throughout the county. Together with a team of volunteers, DVS participates in community events, conducts the State of California 40-Hour Domestic Violence Training, and provides interactive teen education in schools and community organizations.

Outreach and education presentations are available upon request and can be presented in English and Spanish.



## EMERGENCY SHELTER

Survivors and their children may stay in one of our two confidential emergency shelters for up to **60 days**.

While in our shelters, they receive:

- Emotional support
- Food and clothing
- Goal planning assistance
- Advocacy for medical, legal, and financial resources
- Any other information and referrals they may need



## HOUSING ASSISTANCE

DVS offers **permanent project-based Section 8 housing** for 15 domestic violence survivors and their families.

Additionally, the **Domestic Violence Housing First** program offers temporary financial assistance, case management, career development, and financial literacy training, which prepares families to re-enter the housing market successfully.



## JOB & LIFE SKILLS

Our **Job & Life Skills Coordinator** helps with the following:

- Resume writing and interviewing
- Growing knowledge about financial safety and wellness
- Looking for work and new careers
- Financial planning in order to leave debt behind
- Planning for the future



# Survivor Story

"After graduating high school, **Janell** moved to Mexico and trained to become a doctor. She then met her partner, had a child, and came to the United States. Shortly after they settled here, the domestic violence began - physical, psychological, sexual, and financial in nature. Janell found our emergency shelter, felt safe, and decided to spend time there to organize what she needed to do next. She is very well-spoken, bright, exceedingly lovely, a joy to be around, and absolutely adores her child.

Unfortunately, her medical degree does not qualify in the United States; she would have to go back to school, and each school would decide if they would accept any of her past training/education. She would then have to pass the boards. The work history on her resume indicates she has primarily been a one-on-one caregiver to elderly patients with complicated physical symptoms/illnesses, as well as other impressive work. We have looked extensively for caregiving positions here, but we aren't having luck due to her lack of paperwork. She does not qualify for another Visa at this time, which makes everything more complicated. She has been encouraged to consider schooling here and become a part of the Dream program, as she is very bright and motivated.

We worked together in the past (about a year ago), and I am so grateful she is back and looking for more support. She had decided to give her partner another chance, hoping that he would change, but he didn't - so she left again. She doesn't feel she can take her son back to Mexico, but she is struggling without family support here in the United States. Together, she and I will keep hunting for jobs that will help her get closer to what she is looking for! We will keep looking at schooling options to help move her towards something like a Nurse Practitioner or a Physician's Assistant. She is interested and invested in this idea, so we are starting to gather information and create the necessary steps to achieve her medical dreams. We all feel optimistic about Janell's future, and we cannot wait to see what she accomplishes!"

— Betsy Phillips, Job and Life Skills Coordinator



## HOW TO HELP A FRIEND WHEN THINGS DON'T SEEM RIGHT

- \* Believe your friend. Tell them it is not their fault, and nobody deserves to be abused (no matter what the partner says).
- \* Don't try to force the person to break up. When the person is ready, they will leave.
- \* Offer your support, and refer your friend to the resources we offer.
- \* Educate yourself on abuse.

## Financial Information

July 2020 – June 2021

<b>TOTAL REVENUE:</b>	<b>\$ 2,990,327</b>
Total public support	75%
Investment and other income	24%
Client and program fees	1%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$2,226,740</b>
Program services	65%
Management and general	28%
Fundraising	7%

# We Thank Our Community

Domestic Violence Solutions would not be able to operate without support from our amazing local organizations and individuals.





## How You Can Help

Survivors of domestic violence and their families rely on **people like you** to help them in their time of need.

Here are just a few of the ways to contribute:

- Cash donations
- Monthly giving
- Organize a fundraising event with friends or at your workplace
- Employee matching gifts
- Donate appreciated stock
- Memorial and honorary gifts
- Planned giving opportunities
- A gift to our endowment
- Shop on Amazon Smile
- Attend one of our upcoming events
- Volunteer
- Engage with us on social media



To learn more, contact **Jenni-Elise Ramirez, Development Officer:**  
JenniEliseR@DVolutions.org • 805.963.4458 x1109 • dvsolutions.org

# Get Involved!

## OUTREACH AND FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

### Fundraisers



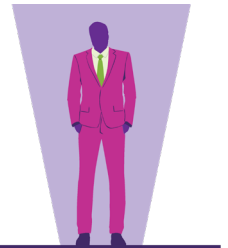
Every year, DVS hosts its **Annual Luncheon** fundraiser, bringing the community together while honoring brave and resilient survivors of intimate partner violence.

Please watch out for upcoming news on our 2022 Luncheon!

### Upstanding Man

**What is an Upstanding Man?**

*"A man who takes a stand against domestic violence... he does not stand by; he is part of the solution."*



THE UPSTANDING MAN



We are so grateful to all of the Upstanding Men who participated in our past campaigns.

Stay tuned for details on the 2022 Father's Day campaign and event!

### Awareness Months

First observed in October 1981 as a national "Day of Unity," **Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM)** is held each October as a way to unite communities across the nation in their efforts to end domestic violence. During this month, we honor survivors, remember those who have lost their lives, and raise our collective awareness about domestic violence to end abuse for good.



February is **National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month (TDVAPM)**. DVS reaches students in local schools, educating teens about relationships and warning signs.

### 40-Hour Training



DVS offers **Domestic Violence 40-Hour Trainings** throughout the county – now in a fully virtual format!

Upon completion, graduates will receive a certificate enabling them to pursue volunteer and employment opportunities.