



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
**SOLUTIONS**  
SAFETY, SHELTER, SUPPORT

# IMPACT REPORT 2025

**Administrative Office:**  
805.963.4458

[dvsolutions.org](https://dvsolutions.org)  
[info@dvsolutions.org](mailto:info@dvsolutions.org)

**24/7 Crisis Hotline:**  
805.964.5245



## Executive Staff

**Ken Oplinger**  
*Executive Director*

**Tina Ballue**  
*Director of Development*

**Cristina Caratachea**  
*Director of Administration*

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

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

**Jimmy Poggione**  
*Director of Facilities*

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This past year has been one of both profound challenge and unwavering resilience. At Domestic Violence Solutions, we continue to witness the bravery of survivors who choose safety, healing, and hope in the face of unimaginable hardship. Each story of courage reminds us why our mission, to end domestic violence and promote healthy, respectful relationships, remains more important than ever.

In 2025, the need for our services continued to grow. Economic pressures, housing instability, and the impacts of federal activities have intensified the barriers many survivors face when seeking help. Yet amidst these challenges, our community has stepped forward with remarkable generosity. Thanks to your support, DVS provided emergency shelter, counseling, housing, education and case management to thousands of individuals and families across Santa Barbara County. Behind every statistic lies a story of safety restored, a future reclaimed, a voice rediscovered.

Our work is grounded in a belief that every person deserves to live free from fear and abuse. This belief fuels our efforts not just to respond to crisis, but to prevent violence before it begins. Through school-based education, community outreach, and partnerships with local organizations and law enforcement, we are building awareness and shifting the cultural norms that allow domestic violence to persist. Prevention is long-term work, but it is how we create lasting change.

This year also marked important growth within our organization. We made significant investments in safety and security across all our facilities thanks to groups like the Women's Fund of Santa Barbara and strengthened our unique bilingual advocacy to include staff that speaks Mixteco and other indigenous languages. We are committed to making sure that every person who reaches out to us, no matter who they are, where they come from, or how they identify, meets an open door and a compassionate heart.

As we look ahead, our priorities remain clear: deepen our survivor-centered services, advance prevention and education, and advocate for systemic change that addresses the root causes of violence. These goals can only be realized through collaboration with our partners and the continued support of donors, volunteers, and allies who share our commitment to safety, justice, and equity.

To every survivor who has trusted us on their journey, thank you for your courage. To every partner and supporter, thank you for standing with us. Together, we are creating a Santa Barbara County where families thrive, relationships are rooted in respect, and homes are places of peace.

With deep gratitude and hope,



Ken Oplinger





# HOW WE HELP



## Information & Crisis Line

Trained staff provide counseling, information, referrals, and access to confidential shelters. 24 hours a day, seven days a week. DVS Hotline: 805.964.5245

## Therapy & Counseling

DVS offers initial clinical counseling to help stabilize survivors from the trauma they have experienced. In addition, we offer virtual educational groups classes and art workshops for all ages.

## Domestic Violence Emergency Response Team (DVERT)

DVS Advocates respond to calls from law enforcement and medical professionals to domestic violence calls and provide survivors with support, advocacy, and access to safe confidential shelters.

## Job & Life Skills

Our Job & Life Skills team provides comprehensive support to empower survivors on their journey to success. These include:

- Resume writing and interviewing
- Growing knowledge about financial safety and wellness
- Looking for work and new careers

## Housing First

The Housing First program supports survivors in securing and maintaining permanent housing.

- Financial Assistance: Including temporary financial assistance for rental application fees, security deposits, rental fees, and utilities.
- Housing Focused Case Management: Advocacy throughout the process of applying, securing, or maintaining housing. Appropriate internal and external referrals are offered.



# LEARN MORE ABOUT DVS

## Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing

Survivors and their children may stay in one of our confidential emergency shelters for up to 60 days. While in shelter, they can access case management, learn about community referrals/resources and be connected to other service providers. In addition, temporary financial assistance with emergency food and children's needs can be provided.

DVS also offers permanent project-based section 8 housing for 15 survivors and their families. Our housing program is an essential part of our commitment to empowering survivors as they transition towards independence and safety.

## Outreach & Education

DVS provides community education and outreach activities throughout the county. We participate in community events, conduct the State of California 40-Hour Domestic Violence Training program, and provide interactive teen education in schools and community organizations. Outreach and education presentations are available upon request and can be presented in English and Spanish.

# WE CARE ABOUT SOLUTIONS



## Our Mission:

We 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.



## Our Vision:

All people take personal responsibility for promoting zero tolerance of domestic violence.



## Who We Serve:

Domestic Violence Solutions for Santa Barbara County proudly serves everyone regardless of race, religion, citizenship status, income, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

We welcome all survivors in the LGBTQIA+ community and stand unified, ensuring their growth and empowerment. We believe in equality and healthy love for all.

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 full-service provider of 24-hour emergency shelter and services for survivors of domestic violence.



*"DVS matters because they show up when it matters most. They provide safety, understanding, and real support to those facing unimaginable circumstances. I support DVS because no one should face fear alone - and when we support DVS, we become part of a community that protects, empowers, and heals. There are so many ways to support DVS, whether through financial contributions, volunteering time, or simply helping raise awareness. Every form of support makes a difference.*

*- Suzanne Fawcett, 2025 Event Chair*



# IMPACT IN ACTION



## 5525 safe nights

Of shelter provided refuge, security, and a place for survivors to breathe, recover, and rebuild.



## 122 adults and 146 children

Found safety, stability, and compassionate care through DVS's emergency shelter programs.



## 1546 therapy sessions

Delivered trauma-informed healing, emotional support, and renewed hope to survivors.



## 100% of clients

Reported meaningful improvement in their mental health or coping skills.



## \$177,839 in housing-related financial assistance

Helped survivors overcome critical barriers to safety, stability, and independence.



## 102 survivors

Strengthened their employment readiness and financial stability through DVS's Job & Life Skills program.



## 4127 crisis calls

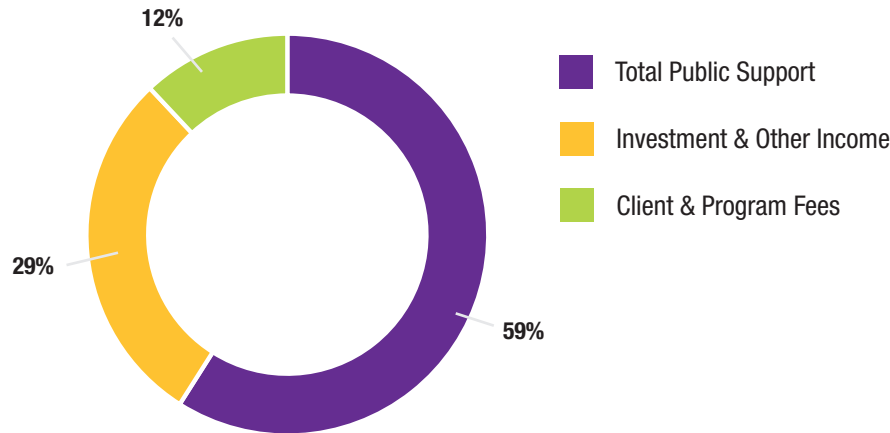
Were answered with immediate, compassionate support.



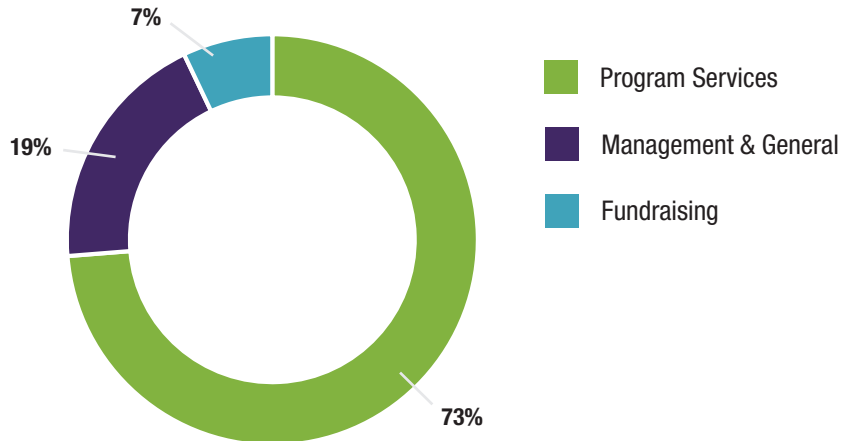
# FINANCIALS

July 2024 – June 2025

## Support & Revenue: \$2,708,687



## Total Expenses: \$2,708,626



## WATCH THE VIDEO



**Your generosity has done more than provide shelter**

Maria's journey from fear to freedom is a testament to the power of inner strength—and the life-changing support of people like you.

**Watch Maria's story and see how your gift makes transformation possible.**

# BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

## Explore these opportunities to support our mission and empower domestic violence survivors:

- **Monthly Giving:** Create a lasting impact by becoming a monthly donor.
- **Sponsor an Apartment:** Help refurbish our apartment building with new floors and appliances, providing a safe and comfortable haven for those in need.
- **Endowment Giving:** Give the gift of endowment to secure long-term support for our mission.
- **Appreciated Stock Donations:** Maximize your contribution by donating appreciated stocks.
- **The 1977 Empowerment Legacy:** Plan for the future and leave a legacy by becoming part of the 1977 Society.
- **Amazon Wishlist:** Purchase items from our Amazon Wishlist and have them sent directly to us, meeting immediate needs.
- **Request Printed Material:** Place our business information cards and brochures at your place of work.

## Survivors count on us. We count on you.

For nearly 50 years across Santa Barbara County, Domestic Violence Solutions has provided a comprehensive crisis intervention program that includes counseling, shelter, permanent housing solutions, and job and life skills training for survivors of domestic violence. While we continue toward our goal of ending domestic violence, ensuring DVS is there for the community, and those in need is something you have always guaranteed through your generous support.

### To Learn More Contact:

**Tina Ballue, Director of Development**

805.963.4458 X 1109

tinab@dvsolutions.org

### Make Your Gift Today!

#### Online:

dvsolutions.org

#### Mail:

P.O. Box 1536, Santa Barbara, CA 93102.

#### Check made payable to:

Domestic Violence Solutions

#### Call:

805.741.4282



To learn more about making a difference and supporting DVS, point your phone's camera here.

# OCTOBER | DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

## 18th Annual DVS Fundraiser

**Save the date** – Sunday, October 11, 2026

Get ready for a truly unforgettable experience at our 18th Annual DVS Bruncheon, held during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This beloved signature event is more than a fundraiser. It is a celebration of hope, resilience, and the power of community coming together to create safety and healing for survivors.

As our largest fundraiser of the year, the Bruncheon plays a vital role in sustaining our life-saving programs from our 24/7 crisis & information line to our emergency shelters that provide safety and refuge for those fleeing violent situations.

Last year, thanks to our extraordinary community, we celebrated a record-breaking year, raising over \$200,000. Your ongoing sponsorships, silent auction donations, and event attendance ensure that DVS can continue meeting the needs of survivors with compassion and care.

With every story shared, every hand raised, and every gift given, we shine a brighter light on the path to a violence-free future.

## Get Involved

You can help shape the impact of this year's event:

- Become a sponsor
- Serve as a table captain
- Invite friends, colleagues, and community members
- Donate to our silent auction
- Your involvement strengthens our mission and inspires hope for every individual seeking safety.

## Why Domestic Violence Awareness Month Matters (DVAM)

Each October, communities across the nation unite to illuminate the often-hidden issue of domestic violence. Awareness Month is our opportunity to amplify survivor voices, educate our community, and honor the courage of those who have experienced abuse. By increasing visibility and deepening understanding, we strengthen our collective commitment to prevention, safety, and lasting change.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the community partners who help spread awareness throughout October and beyond. Your support ensures that more people know where to turn for help and that no one has to walk their journey alone.

## 2025 DVAM Community Partners:

- Bryan's Radio Lunch Truck
- Isla Vista Community Services District
- Jenni Kayne
- K-Lite Radio
- Mission Street Ice Cream & Yogurt
- New Image Thrift Store
- Pilates Brunch Club
- WaveCommSB

Your advocacy, generosity, and partnership truly make a difference. Thank you for standing with survivors.

## How to Get Involved in DVAM

Many local businesses and organizations choose to take part in DVAM by running special promotions or giving-back campaigns, hosting workplace drives for essential items, organizing mini-fundraisers, or finding creative ways to amplify awareness throughout the month. These efforts not only spark important conversations but also directly help survivors access the support they need.

# COMPANY MATCH PROGRAM

Maximize your impact at DVS by checking if your employer offers a matching gift program. With this program, your donation can be doubled, helping even more domestic violence survivors rebuild their lives. Generally, the employer will match the donation dollar for dollar up to a certain amount or percentage. This allows employees to support causes they care about while also giving their employer the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to giving back to the community.





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