



Annual Report

2023



A Message from our CEO

As I look back on 2023, I reflect on the challenges we faced this year. The human services sector has confronted cuts in funding, laws that protect the safety and wellbeing of survivors have been challenged, and there has been a surge in violence globally.

But there are two things that I have learned in my forty years of anti-violence work: that the antidote to pain is healing, and that we humans heal through our connections with each other.

In 2023 we launched two campaigns that underscore the importance of healing and connection, The Things We Carry and #MySafeHorizon. We shared stories about why we do what we do, and how we decide to move forward in our most challenging moments. Through these campaigns, we raised up and shared the voices of our client and staff experiences.

Our policy and advocacy initiatives focused on a range of issues in 2023, from commenting on cases set to appear before the Supreme Court, to advocating on a federal and state level for sustainable funds for victim services as a matter of public safety, to successfully urging the Governor to implement more flexible and realistic access to victim compensation, and finally, to leading public and survivor awareness of the historic Adult Survivor's Act.

I am so proud of the way Safe Horizon programs have welcomed thousands of New York City new arrivals in 2023 (more on that later in the report!). In this way, Safe Horizon continues to be New York's beacon for survivors seeking safety and refuge.

Internally we also had a meaningful year. We filled two key leadership roles – our Chief Financial Officer and Chief Program Officer – to complete our executive leadership team. Both roles were filled by long-serving internal candidates and by women who have dedicated their careers to supporting survivors. I am inspired by both of these women daily and so proud of the work they do to lead Safe Horizon. The promotions of these two staff members demonstrate our commitment to meaningful career pathways for our staff, particularly women of color. We also began work on our 2024-2029 strategic plan. I am excited to report more about that this time next year.

The events of 2023 underscored the urgent need for our collective efforts in building a safer, more compassionate society free of violence. At Safe Horizon we show up every day to prevent violence, support survivors, and press for change. As we begin the work of 2024, our vision feels more critical than ever: a society free of violence. Together, we can get there.

In partnership,



Liz Roberts
Chief Executive Officer



Our Impact

Safe Horizon is the nation's largest victim service agency. Every year we help a quarter of a million children, teens, and adults experiencing domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, exploitation, and other forms of violence.

We offer immediate and practical support like a hot meal, a place to sleep, someone to talk to, and lock replacement; as well as deep, ongoing services such as mental health counseling, help finding a place to live and work, and assistance navigating oppressive

and often racist systems. In addition, we engage in advocacy work to ensure that all survivors have the access to justice and healing they deserve.

Our community is comprised of thousands of partners who are advocates, survivors, professionals, and donors who come together and support the 250,000 New Yorkers who find safety and hope through Safe Horizon each year.

Together in 2023, we:

Hotline advocates answered

100,485
calls



265

trafficking survivors advocated for safety and justice through ATP



Connected with

13,948
young people experiencing homelessness



12,777

children and caregivers sought healing at our CACs



2,031

survivors and children found support and safety through our shelters



1,006

chats through SafeChat



79,767

people received assistance through our courts and precinct programs



1,152

people sought help at our Community Programs



2,003

domestic violence survivors received legal services from DVLP, and nearly 822 clients were aided by ILP



351

clients received mental health services at our Counseling Center



THE THINGS WE CARRY

A SAFE HORIZON PROJECT
WITH KELLY MARSHALL + PHILIPPA BRATHWAITE

For many of the 250,000 survivors Safe Horizon partners with each year, a few minutes is all they have to decide what to take with them as they're fleeing a violent situation. Those few possessions represent a bridge for some, from an old life to a new beginning; for others, those objects helped them, simply, to survive. In 2023, during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Safe Horizon launched a photography-centered storytelling campaign called The Things We Carry.

The campaign visually explores what survivors are able to bring with them as they start their journey toward healing. We partnered with critically acclaimed photographer, Kelly Marshall, and stylist, Philippa Brathwaite, to capture the items in a new, thought-provoking way. The photographs were shown in a three-day pop up gallery exhibit in Nolita, New York City.



The stories and artwork are available to view here: safehorizon.org/ttwc or by scanning this QR code. Limited edition prints are available for purchase at the same link.



The Intersection of Domestic Violence and Gun Violence

Gun violence has become more prevalent in New York City and across the country. Gun violence and domestic violence are intrinsically linked – abusers with firearms are five times more likely to kill their victims (*Source: everytownresearch.org/domestic-violence*) – which is why we raised this as a core awareness issue in 2023.

As part of Safe Horizon’s advocacy for survivor-informed legislation, we convened two roundtable discussions about the United States vs. Rahimi Supreme Court Case, in partnership with New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, former Commissioner of the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) Cecile Noel, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, and Safe Horizon staff and clients. The decision in this case will determine whether persons charged with domestic violence offenses may be permitted to retain ownership of firearms. If the court decides in favor of Rahimi, it will immediately affect the safety and well-being of domestic violence survivors and their families in New York, and across the country.

The roundtable discussions brought domestic violence survivors’ voices to the public conversation and drew attention to our deep concern about pending legislation and how it will put the safety of survivors at risk. The decision is due in Spring or Summer 2024. We call for the Supreme Court to prioritize the safety of domestic violence survivors instead of enabling the inevitable increase of intimate partner and family violence homicides at the hands of abusive spouses or partners having the right to own guns.

In a continuation of gun violence advocacy and education, we also convened a virtual event to talk about solutions to gun violence. The event covered the scope and impact of gun violence, current and urgent calls for legislative and advocacy efforts to protect victims, and the rapidly increasing need for community-based support and resources for survivors.

Thanks to our Safe Horizon staff and supporter community, each day we are helping survivors, families, and communities impacted by gun violence in NYC. We provide comprehensive services, ranging from emergency support – like safety planning and counseling – to long-term care and advocacy.



Safe Horizon CEO Liz Roberts with New York Governor Kathy Hochul and survivors at the Albany Roundtable



Safe Horizon Advocacy in 2023

VOCA Advocacy on The Hill and At Home

In 2023, Safe Horizon played a crucial role in advocating for the sustainability of victim services and anti-violence organizations amid the challenges posed by the decline in deposits into the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). VOCA is the largest funding source supporting New York's crime victims, enabling thousands of New Yorkers to access shelter, housing, legal assistance, counseling and more. New York's federal VOCA grant has declined \$121.6 million in the past five years, losing 61% of its value. Prior state appropriations covered only 23% of the shortfall.

Throughout the year we simultaneously advocated in Washington, D.C. to find a more permanent, sustainable solution to this systemic national funding problem and in New York State, urging the state to invest state-originating dollars to make up these shortfalls. The sustainability of the victim services and anti-violence sector is an issue of public safety. Public safety is not solely about law enforcement; public safety is about housing, economic security, access to healing, and so much more. Safe Horizon programs provide shelter, food, immediate financial support, and other essential safety needs. And our programs help survivors, their families, and their communities find healing. We will continue to advocate for Governor Hochul to secure resources for the safety net that essential programs like ours, and others, provide.



Safe Horizon Worked to Increase Options for Justice and Healing for Sexual Assault Survivors

E. Jean, Drew, James, Cassie, Julia, Alexandria, Sheila, Jasmine, Kelsey, Caron, Jane. These are just some of the thousands of survivors who have come forward to sue the person or institution that caused them harm under the Adult Survivors Act (ASA), a New York State law that expanded pathways to justice for people who were sexually assaulted as adults.

Safe Horizon led a statewide, multi-year campaign to pass the ASA through the state legislature and deliver it to the Governor for her signature. The ASA opened a one-year lookback window to allow survivors who were 18 or older at the time of the abuse to file civil lawsuits even if the statute of limitations had expired. The window opened in late 2022 and closed on November 23, 2023.

During the year the window for filing was open, an incredible **3,000+** suits were filed - the majority filed on behalf of formerly incarcerated individuals. We hope that these lawsuits will finally spur lasting, meaningful change in how our jails and prisons address the epidemic of sexual assault that takes place in their facilities.



We are proud of our years-long partnership with a coalition of advocates, survivors, and lawmakers to pass the ASA; we could not do this work without their steadfast support, courage, and determination. At Safe Horizon, we are committed to creating more pathways to justice for survivors and we know that #traumatakestime.

As 2023 came to a close, we stood with many of these same organizations as part of the Survivor Justice Coalition to launch the Survivor's Justice Agenda (SJA). The SJA builds on the ASA (and the Child Victims Act before that) and will further expand access to pathways of safety, healing, and justice for survivors across New York. We look forward to continuing our work with this powerful coalition in 2024.

A Win for FAVC

Finally, 2023 saw a huge victory with the Fair Access to Victim Compensation act! In December 2023, Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation that expanded the eligibility and timeframes with which victims of crime can file to receive compensation. The bill removed the requirement that victims provide documentation from law enforcement in order to be eligible for compensation and expanded the window of time in which a victim can file a compensation claim. Our advocacy centered on the fact that the previous system of reimbursing survivors based solely on an accompanying police report left far too many New Yorkers without the financial support they deserve and need. We fought to reduce barriers to healing for New Yorkers across the state, particularly those who may have a historical distrust or fear of the police.



Safe Horizon Supports New Arrivals to NYC

In 2023, New York City witnessed a notable increase in new migrant arrivals, and Safe Horizon was right there to support new arrivals across our sites.

In the latter half of 2023 a growing number of migrant youth, fleeing persecution from West African countries and seeking asylum in the States, sought help at our drop-in centers and crisis shelters. We worked with translators, provided prayer rugs, connected visitors to resources and cultural connections, and even prepared West African dishes to serve to ensure that new arrivals felt not only welcome in our space, but that their culture was seen and celebrated.

Through a partnership with Trinity Commons we were also able to provide legal consultations and information sessions to many new arrivals from the southern border in 2023, with plans for more in 2024. Safe Horizon staff conducted one on one sessions that included a comprehensive assessment of an individual's unique history and situation, a thorough document review, information about available immigration options, resources, referrals and concrete next steps. We also provided a Know Your Rights presentation, in English and Spanish, including a Q&A section where participants could ask questions related to their personal situations.

Safe Horizon has always been, and continues to be, here for all New Yorkers, no matter how long they have been New Yorkers.

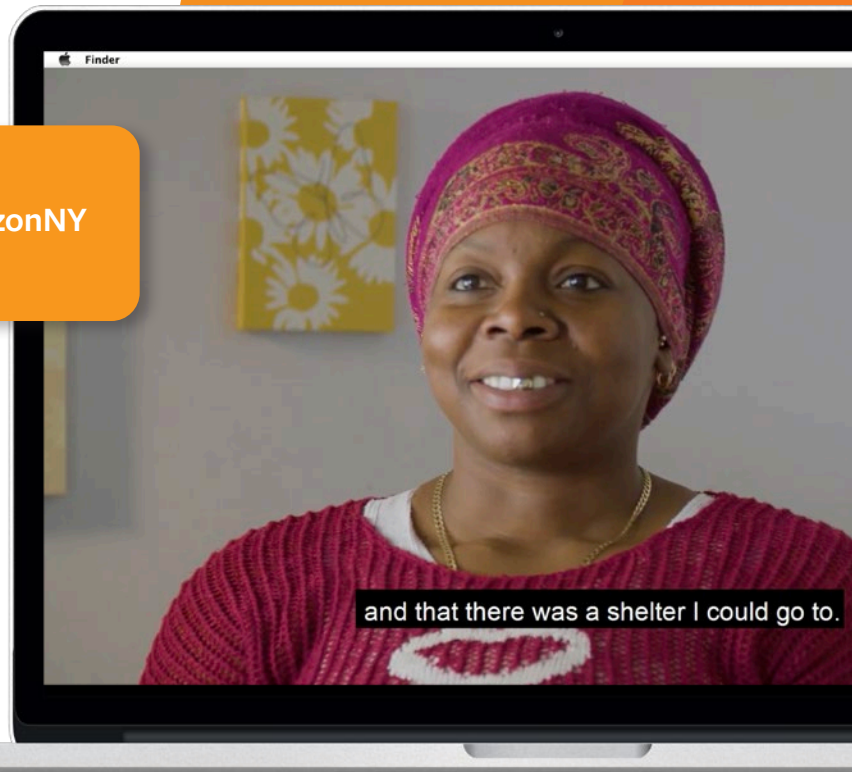


mySAFE HORIZON

At Safe Horizon, we know that every member of our community – survivors, staff, supporters – has experienced a turning point that led them to their “safe horizon.” For advocates it’s often a point in time when they decide to volunteer, learn more about the issues that impact survivors, invest in change, or launch a new career. For survivors, it can be when they decided to seek support, finally felt safe from violence, or looked to the future with a sense of hope. To unite our community in their shared stories, we created the #MySafeHorizon campaign to tell these inspiring stories in an engaging series of videos. The campaign featured passionate frontline staff and leadership as well as survivors who took us through their stories of overcoming abuse and finding their “safe horizon” moments. These videos premiered at our 27th annual Champion awards and marked the beginning of a campaign that showed the resilience, passion, and strength of our community and supporters.



The videos can be viewed at
www.youtube.com/@SafeHorizonNY
or by scanning the QR code.



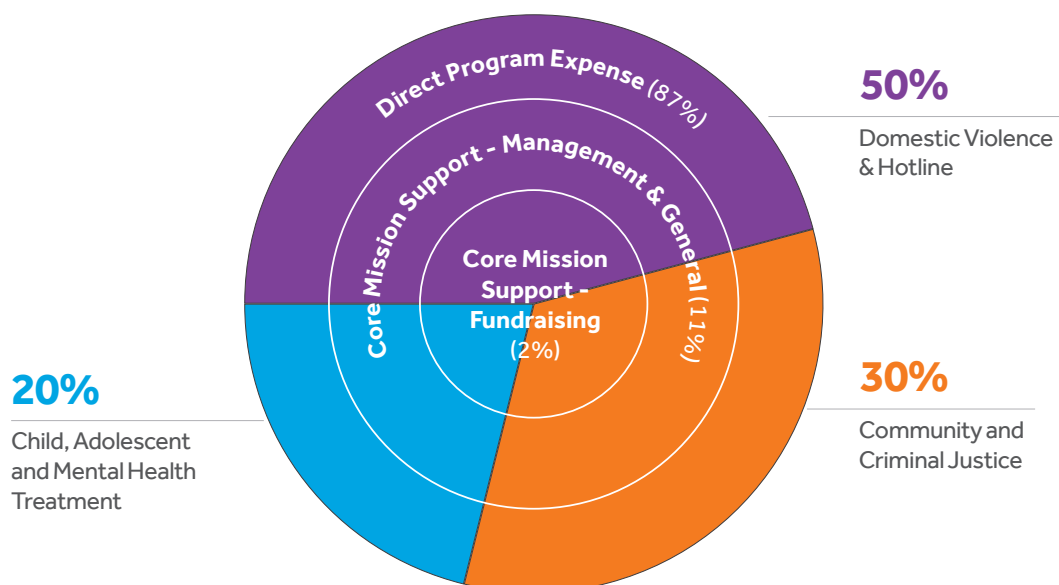
Financials

	2023	2022	2021
Net Assets			
Beginning of year	\$44,459,932	\$43,392,612	\$39,071,293
End of Year	\$45,514,497	\$44,459,932	\$43,392,612
Change	\$1,054,565	\$1,067,320	\$4,321,319

Where Our Funds Came From

	2023	2022	2021
Grants	\$85,125,666	\$83,344,323	\$81,049,117
Contribution	\$5,667,067	\$6,835,582	\$9,404,207
In Kind Contributions	\$2,809,916	\$2,642,664	\$2,476,869
Special Events	\$849,853	\$939,316	
Investments	\$681,719	-\$1,363,157	\$1,372,348
Fees	\$1,424,688	\$1,219,499	\$1,410,141
Gain (loss) on Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust	\$21,158	-\$155,081	\$203,127
Miscellaneous	\$786,211	\$657,235	\$617,815
TOTAL REVENUE	\$97,366,278	\$94,120,381	\$96,533,624

How We Spent Our Funds in 2023



Our Board and Leaders on The Horizon

Board of Directors

(as of December 31, 2023)

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Jeff Brodsky

Chair

Pamela N. Hootkin

Vice Chair

Sonia Sande

Vice Chair & Secretary

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Treasurer

Samantha Saperstein

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Adam Kudelka

Joann Lang

Mary Beth Marshall

Jo Natauri

Susan Reid

John Romeo

Dr. Ovita Williams

Emeriti

Michael C. Slocum

Steven C. Parrish

Brooke McMurray

Susan Solomon

Most Reverend Joseph M. Sullivan

Leaders on the Horizon

(as of December 31, 2023)

Audrey Nonemaker

Chair

Katie Bathgate

Nicole Bullock

Christine Daly

Kristina Faller

Andrew Jarombek

Arriana Marion

Heath Miller

Diana Mousally

Danielle Naer

Michael Nemirovsky

Deanna Paul

Shannon Rzeznikewicz

Abdul Sada

Tiffany N. Tipton

Kelleigh Whelan


safehorizon

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For support, call **1-800-621-HOPE** (4673)

or visit safehorizon.org | safehorizon.org/espanol

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