



2021

IMPACT

A MESSAGE FROM MICHELE E. BORONKAS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2021.

Another year of learning, expansion, and transformation for Safe+Sound Somerset, and our passion continues to be showing up as our “best selves” for our clients, our organization, and our communities.

Commitment to survivors took on another dimension this year, as we expanded to become the lead organization for sexual assault services in Somerset County. We now bring the same survivor-centered crisis intervention, counseling, and advocacy services to those impacted by sexual abuse as we have for survivors of domestic violence since 1978.

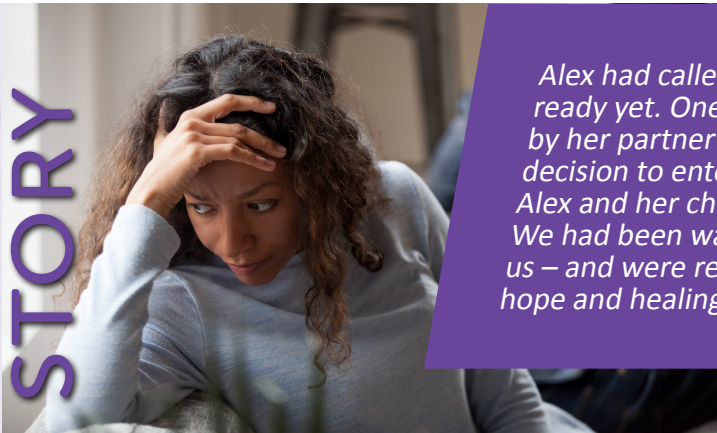
Transformation did not stop there. Our traditional transitional housing program became one of New Jersey’s first Domestic Violence Housing First programs. The hallmark of this national evidence-based model being the integration of mobile advocacy services and financial resources to support survivors and their children in their own safe and stable housing – with wraparound services, education and community connections needed to attain a self-sufficient life, free from violence.

We expanded our work with marginalized communities based on our core values, which urge us to continually create a sense of deeper “belonging” for survivors, staff, and volunteers.

This has all taken place while meeting a **69% increase in demand (2019 to 2021)** for our progressive, survivor centered services. While the real and ongoing challenges of the pandemic, staff shortages, and limited financial resources are ever present, we will stay the course because survivors need a safe place turn.

HEALING BEGINS HERE! I invite you to join us on this journey by supporting Safe+Sound Somerset. Thank you.

ALEX'S STORY



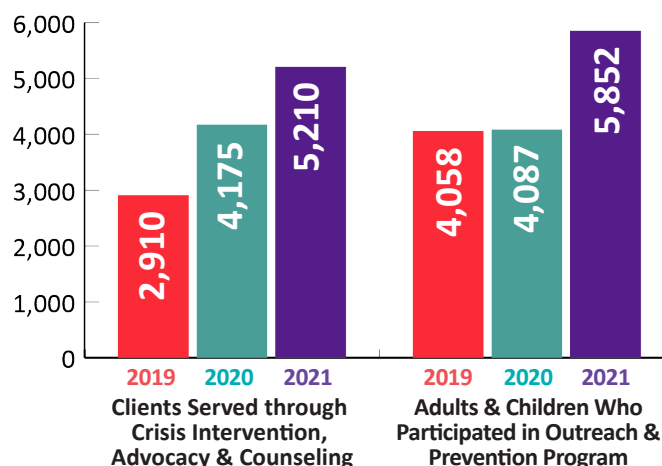
Alex had called the Helpline several times before but wasn't ready yet. One night, after being yelled at, put down and slapped by her partner in front of her kids, she called again and made the decision to enter our Safe House. Feeling desperate and afraid, Alex and her children arrived not knowing what awaited them. We had been waiting – for Alex or whoever might have needed us – and were ready to offer safety, warm beds and a path to hope and healing.

Continue reading for more of Alex's story.

Safe+Sound Somerset believes everyone has a right to a life free from violence. Our trauma-informed, evidence-based programs provide survivors of domestic and sexual violence with the support and tools they need to reclaim their power and control to build independent lives free from abuse.

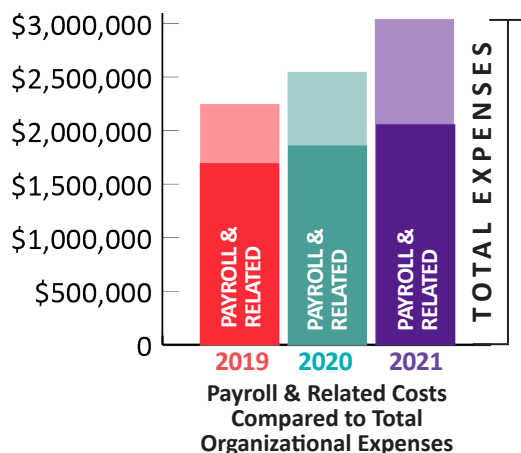
All programs are provided at no cost to clients; no survivor is ever turned away. Our core values embrace equity, and we welcome any survivor regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, gender expression or economic background. Confidential services are not limited by geography as they are fully accessible remotely and available in English, Spanish and other languages as needed.

INDIVIDUALS SERVED (2019-2021)



*In 2021, Safe+Sound Somerset impacted the lives of **11,062** individuals, an overall increase of 69% from 2019 with direct services growing by 79% and outreach and prevention expanding by 44%.*

EXPENSES (2019-2021)



During this same period, total salary and payroll expenses increased by 21% and total organizational expenses increased by 35%.



ALEX'S STORY



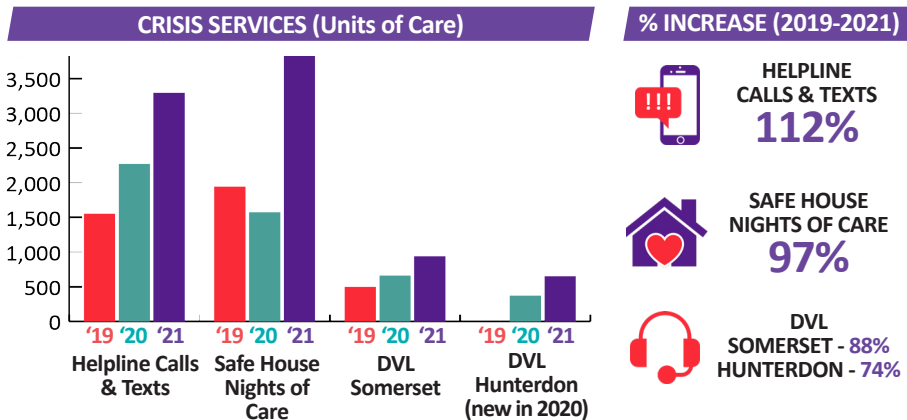
Slowly, Alex and her children began to settle into life at the safe house with other families. Early on, Alex worked with Legal Advocacy to secure a restraining order and started group therapy. The kids enrolled in the local school and a few activities. Soon after, they all started individual and family counseling to heal from the trauma of abuse. Within months, they were beginning to feel safe and hopeful. With a new sense of stability and security, Alex was ready to plan for a future free from violence.

Continue reading for the rest of Alex's story.



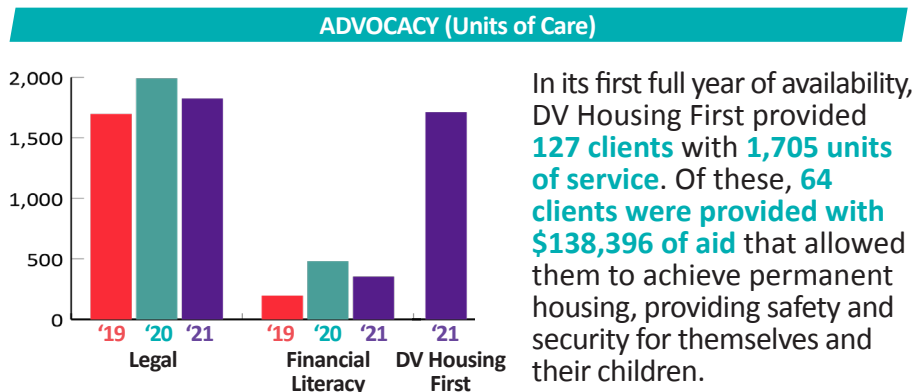
CREATING SAFETY

Our core services focus on providing immediate safety to adults and their children who are at physical, emotional or other risk related to domestic or sexual abuse. Once safety and stability are established, survivors can achieve lasting and greater levels of hope and healing.



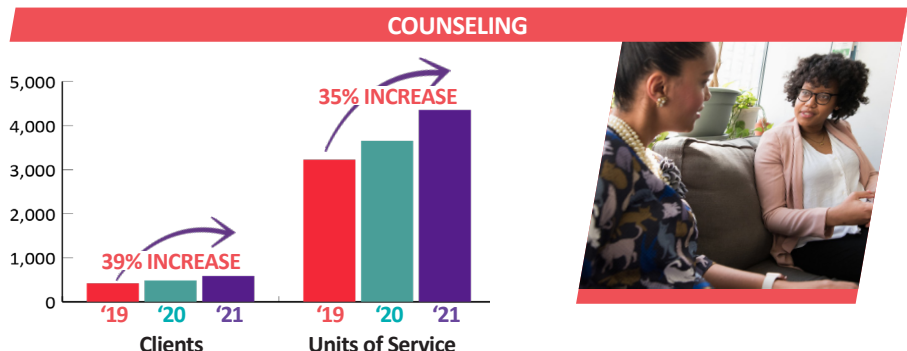
BUILDING HOPE

By supporting clients with needed skills, education, and resources, they gain the power and control to build vibrant lives for themselves and their families.

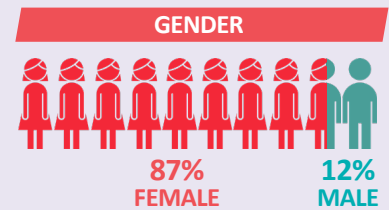


EMPOWERING HEALING

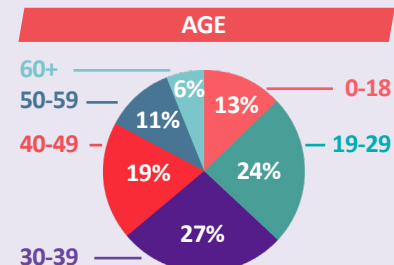
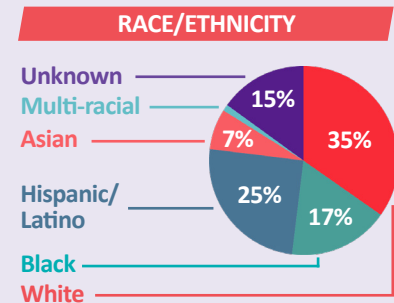
We use a progressive array of evidence-based and trauma-informed modalities to help survivors on their path to healing.



OUR CLIENTS



These gender statistics reflect the attributes that are required for public funding. Because of our commitment to welcoming all who need our services, we are currently working to add attributes that more accurately reflect those we serve.



O U R I M P A C T

OUR FUTURE

We are excited that Safe+Sound Somerset will offer more and better support to survivors of domestic and sexual violence to support them on their path to safety, hope and healing.

Following is a list of a few things planned for 2022:



A chat feature will be added to our website to provide a seamless option for individuals already on the website seeking information to speak with an advocate on the helpline who can provide additional information and support.



We will offer an updated 60-hour volunteer training curriculum incorporating topics related to sexual violence. This is the first step in volunteers being able to work with clients through the Domestic Violence Response Team or Sexual Assault Response Team.



We have formed two new group counseling programs dealing with the trauma of sexual violence.



We will be hiring an Intake and Family Advocacy Manager to streamline the intake process for all direct services, enhancing the client experience and reducing the time to access services.

ALEX'S STORY



*Towards the end of their stay at the Safe House, Alex began working with the Financial Empowerment Center to create a financial safety plan for her family. With her new financial and employment skills, she was able to secure a full-time job with an increased salary – and that, with the advocacy of our DV Housing First, allowed her to sign a lease for a 3-bedroom apartment. **Today, Alex is self-sufficient and able to provide for herself and her children. When she was ready, we were there to help her take the first steps to safety, hope and healing – creating a life free from abuse.***

If you are interested in helping, please consider a gift to support our mission. All gifts make a positive impact. A monthly donation provides consistent funding for the programs that offer safety, hope and healing to survivors.

Visit safe-sound.org/donate to donate online or mail your contribution to:
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(908) 359-0003, ext. 201

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