**2017 Annual Report**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2018, Albion Fellows Bacon Center proudly celebrates its 37th year of helping thousands of people find emergency shelter, crisis intervention, and referral and support services. As we reflect on 2017, we want to acknowledge that, through the years, we have not only experienced growth and a higher demand for service in virtually all of our program areas, but we have gained the support of many and built community partnerships that are critical to achieving our mission. We are dedicated to improving the quality of life for victims and their children. Our mission is to prevent domestic and sexual violence and empower victims through advocacy, education, support services and collaborative partnerships. All services are free and confidential. Although we accept victims from any geographic area, we have an 11-county service area.

**Our numbers** speak for themselves. Our staff never hesitates to go the extra mile to help meet the growing demand for service. We are also very fortunate to have the assistance and dedication of numerous volunteers and student interns who contribute countless hours of service. The following is an overview of our 2017 output accomplishments:

* 9,527 nights of shelter were provided to 488 adults and 202 children (344 unduplicated.) As an emergency shelter, clients and their children may stay with us for up to 45 days.
* The Non-Residential Program assisted 3,242 (2,426 domestic violence, 755 sexual assault, 44 stalking and 17 human trafficking) adults throughout our 11-county service area.
* The Legal Advocacy Program provided services to 721 residents of Vanderburgh County, Warrick, Spencer Posey, Dubois and Gibson counties.
* Sexual Assault services were provided to 755 primary and secondary victims of sexual abuse.
* Non-Residential staff and Crisis Response Volunteers responded to 136 on-site interventions to local businesses, hospitals, and law enforcement agencies.
* Calls to our two 24-hour crisis line totaled 3,424 and 966 individuals requested safe shelter.
* 5,631 students received valuable single information on dating, domestic and sexual abuse through single presentations.
* Primary Prevention efforts reached 1,308 people (8,239 duplicated) in multi-session formats, 385 sessions of evidence-base Safe Dates prevention curriculum were completed with an additional 251 youth, community and professional members receiving prevention focused training and resources.
* Community education and professional training sessions reached 4,600 individuals throughout southern Indiana.

**Our outcomes** demonstrate our impact. Follow-up surveys from Safe Dates participants reported a 74% increase in their ability to identify what constitutes unhealthy relationships; a 66% decrease in acceptance of gender stereotyping beliefs; an 86% increase in skills in intervening to help a friend in a dating violence situation; and, a 67% increase in their ability to identify ways to prevent sexual assault. Shelter residents reported 77% felt very safe while 21% reported feeling mostly safe while staying in the Shelter. Ninety percent (90%) of shelter residents and 88% of non-residential clients indicated an improved understanding of the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence through Albion’s service delivery. Community presentation post results reported 97% of participants understood what services Albion offered to domestic and/or sexual violence victims and how to connect them to these services and 92% reported they knew what to do to assist in preventing domestic and/or sexual violence.

**WHO WE ARE**

Our **vision is our goal**: Albion Fellows Bacon Center will transform our community’s awareness of and attitude towards domestic and sexual violence to build a community of advocates that works to eliminate the generational cycle of abuse, and actively supports victims. Our **mission—**to prevent domestic and sexual violence and empower victims through advocacy, education, support services and collaborative partnerships—**will take us there. Our core values** are: Mission-Driven, Compassion, Advocacy, and Respect.

Our agency is named after a historical pioneer of human rights, Albion Fellows Bacon, who lived in Evansville in the late 1800’s-early 1900s. Our logo is symbolic, extending an invitation to a violence-free future for all. It represents all of the words we use to describe our agency, as well as our prevention education and outreach efforts.  The wording is bold to depict strength and empowerment, the umbrella maintains part of our origins, but serves as a reminder that we are working to shield, protect and empower those in need of our services.  The female in our logo is poised and confident outreaching her hand to those in need. We serve all victims—men, women and children.

Today, our board and staff are focused on a brighter future for our community. We are creating a strategy to see significant and meaningful change for our organization, our clients and the community. We are investing in infrastructure and capacity. We are working diligently to research evidenced-based approaches to programming and evaluation. We have devoted the few government grant increases that we received in 2017 into the capacity building to properly and safely staff our residential facility, and to maintain an adequate number of responding advocates.

**Our Strategy (Theory of Change)**

Albion Fellows Bacon Center believes that victims of domestic and sexual violence must be supported and empowered in order to make a personal choice to end the cycle of violence in their lives. Support for victims must be provided in many forms. Providing emergency shelter to victims and their children helps ensure their physical safety and provides them time to heal, both physically and emotionally. Victims and their children also require emotional support and encouragement. Victims need to be connected with resources to build the tools required for self-reliance. As victims recognize their personal strengths, their self-reliance grows and they build the necessary skills to break the cycle of violence. Albion equips victims to make a personal choice for safety; however, the choice must ultimately be theirs.

We believe that education about domestic and sexual violence is essential to breaking the generational cycle of abuse. By educating our community, Albion builds a community of advocates and eliminates apathy regarding domestic and/or sexual violence. Breaking the cycle of violence requires passionate advocates determined to change the status quo. A community of advocates must include adults and children, victims and service providers. Community also plays an essential role in empowering victims. As our community acknowledges the realities of DV and SV, victims feel supported and are more readily connected with resources needed to end the cycle.

Sustainability for Albion involves a multi-level plan to diversify our funding streams (since we cannot continue to rely on decreasing government grants) and to focus on agency impact for our clients and our community. We are committed to defining that impact and to aligning our resources strategically behind our vision, which drives the outcomes necessary for sincere, positive, and deliberate change on agency and community levels.

As an agency, we have worked to deepen our relationships with the community and have enhanced our plan for strategic recruitment of outstanding board members who are deeply committed to our mission. Like other domestic and sexual violence agencies in our state, demand for our services continues to increase every year. That is why we must think about reducing and preventing violence in our community. I am proud to say that Albion continues to invest in prevention efforts. Our Primary Prevention Program (which we created in January of 2014) has the potential to be the most robust program we offer. Just think of all the lives spared if we can get on the front end of this monstrous issue! I feel so inspired hearing the commitment of our staff. They are ready to make impactful, life changing progress toward prevention!

Awareness events continue to provide invaluable opportunities to reach people from all walks of life throughout southern Indiana. Crime Victims’ Rights Week, Stalking, Teen Dating Violence, Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness Months activities not only attract hundreds of participants, but allow for systemic conversation and ultimately change. Our intention is to reach people who are suffering in silence, and also educate the public in order to change public opinion and increase sensitivity to the issues of domestic and sexual violence.

Collaborative partnerships are vital in bridging gaps in our community to increase the likelihood that victims will be better served. We work tirelessly to foster strong working relationships with social service agencies, law enforcement, the Department of Child Services, and the medical and criminal justice communities. We are active in several task forces and committees throughout our 11-county service area, as well as an agency member of the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Indiana Coalition against Domestic Violence and the Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault.

**Cutting Edge Examples:** Historically, and nationally, domestic violence and sexual assault agencies have focused on awareness to ensure that the public learns about the dynamics and signs of abuse, and awareness of existing services. As time has passed, we have learned it is also imperative that we get in front of the problem to prevent domestic and sexual violence. Albion Fellows Bacon Center believes that everyone deserves healthy and respectful relationships. The Prevention Program at Albion works to achieve this by addressing root causes of violence, building skills, promoting healthy relationships and shifting cultures to promote respect. These efforts include providing evidence based programming to youth (Safe Dates), working with universities, and collaborating with community partners to address risk factors and promote protective factors of multiple social issues. One area our team focused on last year was building connectedness (a protective factor of multiple social issues) through the development of the Unity Project and facilitation and promotion of the 40 Developmental Assets.

Being one of the first of Indiana’s domestic violence shelters to incorporate “voluntary services” programming—focusing on empowerment through individual case management and relationship building with the victim, rather than rule enforcement—we have served as a mentor agency. With the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Albion has made intentional changes and efforts toward accommodating the needs of special populations as well as training to serve with a trauma-informed perspective.

The generosity of our community continues to encourage and empower us at Albion. The kindness shown through donation of time, talent and treasure makes it possible for us to serve more victims in our community. We are a proud member of the United Ways of Southwestern Indiana, Posey and Gibson counties. Again this year, we benefited from events such as the “Time of Celebration” Gala (our premiere fundraiser) that brought almost 350 friends together, the David Duell Memorial Golf Outing, and Westside Nut Club Fall Festival. Businesses such as Alcoa and Mead Johnson came forward to give much-needed donations that allow our dollars to be stretched further so we may ensure that vital service provision is possible. Scheduled employee work days and the United Way’s Day of Caring help us with our unending “to do” maintenance list. The list of donors who remember our families at holidays with gifts, food and toys are too long to mention, but made it possible for 16 adults/children in shelter and 52 adults/children outside of shelter to be helped and loved during the holidays.

In 2017, community partners empowered us to serve. Some of those partners include: the Welborn Baptist Foundation, Old National Bank, West Side Nut Club, United Way of SWI, Gibson and Posey counties, Toyota Foundation, TJ Maxx Foundation, Mead Johnson Nutritional, Holiday Management Foundation, The James and Adelaide Duncan Foundation, Alcoa Foundation (Christmas and assistance) and Junior League of Evansville. These are just a few of the wonderful contributors who made it possible to continue important service provision in our 11-county service area.

**We must continue to inspire and be inspired on our journey**. Albion is one of the 48 domestic violence shelters in Indiana. We are the only agency in the area serving both domestic violence and sexual assault with residential and nonresidential programs. Though stretched at times, serving 24-hours a day, every day of the year, and operating on a budget of $1,104,854 we have met many challenges. From responding to victims at Holly’s House, area hospitals, law enforcement offices and courtrooms, to provision of outreach and safe shelter, our counselors, advocates, volunteers and board members continue to lend their support and expertise passionately. Invisible, lifesaving work of advocates and domestic violence programs happens at Albion. And we would not be the effective, comprehensive agency that we are without your dedication, support and love of humankind. I invite you to join our effort in honor…and memory of all victims. We are focused on the service provision; we are focused on those we serve; we are changing lives, and you are a part of that success. Thank you for being a special part of making our community a safer place, one person, one family at a time.