

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2014 Annual Report

For 34 years, Albion Fellows Bacon Center has assisted thousands of people in finding emergency shelter, crisis intervention, referral and support. Through the years, the Center has 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 our mission achievement. We are dedicated to improving the quality of life for victims and their children in need of comprehensive services. Our agency's mission is to prevent domestic and sexual violence and empower victims through advocacy, education, support services and collaborative partnerships. All services are free, confidential, and although we accept victims from any geographic area, we have an 11-county service area.

Our numbers speak for themselves; our staff of 21 never hesitates to go the extra mile to help meet the growing demand for service. To assist us meet those demands, we are also very fortunate to have the assistance and dedication of numerous volunteers and student interns who contribute countless hours of service. The year of 2013 was a record-breaking year of service delivery for our agency, having increased 22% in nights of shelter supplied, 27% in crisis calls received and 52% in requests for shelter. What is remarkable is our 2014 continued to be very similar in numbers. We maintained a high level of service for a second consecutive year of high need. The following is an overview of our 2014 accomplishments:

- 10,348 nights of shelter were provided to 436 women and 331 children (438 unduplicated). As an emergency shelter, women and their children may stay with us for up to 45 days.
- The Outreach Program assisted 917 adults throughout our eleven county service area.
- The Legal Advocacy Program provided services to 631 residents of Vanderburgh County.
- Sexual Assault services were rendered to 502 primary and secondary victims of sexual abuse.
- Crisis Response services reached 606 individuals in Vanderburgh County.
- Calls to our two 24-hour crisis line totaled 3,173; and 1,097 individuals requested safe shelter.
- 2,157 students received valuable information on dating, domestic and sexual abuse.
- Community education and training sessions reached 4,780 individuals throughout southern Indiana.
- Primary Prevention efforts reached 684 (4,771 duplicated) in multi-session formats, completing 244 sessions of prevention curriculum.

Over the course of 2014, wonderful and exciting steps have been taken to propel us to a higher plateau. During our 2013 Gala: A Time of Celebration, we introduced a new logo. The importance of doing so was more than simply modernizing our look; it was where a journey began. We took a very long and deep look into our agency's soul. Who are we? How do we define this agency? Are we really doing what we are meant to do? This logo represents all of the words we use to describe this 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 men, women and children, all victims. Our logo is symbolic, extending an invitation to a violent free future to all.

The logo change was just the first step. A new look accompanies a renewed commitment to our services and mission. It is for our community that we have redefined our mission and vision in 2014 and created core values by which to serve internally and externally. Our **New Vision is our goal:** Albion Fellows Bacon Center will transform our community's awareness of and attitude towards domestic and sexual violence into a community of advocates that works to eliminate the generational cycle of abuse and actively supports victims. Our **New Mission will take us there:** The mission of Albion Fellows Bacon Center is to prevent domestic and sexual violence and empower victims through advocacy, education, support services and collaborative partnerships.

Core Values: Mission-Driven. Compassion. Advocacy. Respect.

We (board and staff) have been and continue to be so committed to this process of re-defining ourselves that we have given the process a name. We are "Strategically Transforming Albion for Real Sustainability" ("STARS") and focused on a brighter future for our community; creating a plan of strategy to see significant and meaningful change for our organization, our clients and the society we live in. I want you to feel very proud to be a part of this journey. We are building upon and creating a legacy together.

Sustainability for Albion involves a multi-level plan to not only diversify our funding streams, since we cannot continue to rely on decreasing government grants, but to focus on agency impact for our clients and our community; how this agency can drive change and be a better, version of its self. We are committed to defining that impact and to aligning our resources strategically behind the vision, which drives the outcomes necessary for sincere, positive, and deliberate change on agency and community levels.

For our agency, we have worked to deepen our relationships with the community and have enhanced our plan for strategic recruitment of premiere board members who are deeply committed to our mission. Although not alone, our statistics continue to increase every year just as other domestic and sexual violence agencies in our state. For this reason, we must think of reducing and preventing violence through prevention efforts for our community. I am proud to say that Albion has invested in this effort. I see our Primary Prevention Program (which we created in January of 2014) having the potential to be the most robust of programs that 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 my staff. They are ready to make impactful, life changing progress toward prevention!

Awareness events continued to provide invaluable opportunities to reach various populations and age groups throughout southern Indiana. Crime Victims' Rights Week, Stalking, Teen Dating Violence, 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 not only reach those who are suffering in silence, but to educate the public in order to change public opinion on these issues and increase sensitivity. 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, the medical and criminal justice communities. We are active in several task forces and committees throughout our eleven-county service area, as well as an agency member of Evansville-Vanderburgh County Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Indiana Coalition Against 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 of both issues of domestic and sexual violence. We must put focus on ways of preventing victimization from occurring. In the past four years, we have committed ourselves to providing this type of education through the addition of specific, evidence-based curriculums (Safe Dates and In Their Shoes), as well as social marketing and social norming campaigns (White Ribbon and Red Flags).

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

We have joined the growing national “NO More” campaign, incorporating the message into local public service announcements that are reflective of the national public service announcements that have been shown during the 2015 Superbowl by the www.NoMore.org organization.

We extend **our thanks** to local media outlets that continued to be so very good to us throughout 2014. From covering fundraising events, creating the many articles and features in area newspapers, to the airing of a “No More” campaign PSA created by WFIE 14 specifically designed to use during Awareness Months, to the overwhelming donation given by Townsquare Media of PSAs focused on those in need and those hoping to volunteer for us. PSAs ran through the year and brought countless people to services and made the community aware of our mission. Midwest Media (formerly South Central Media) highlighted our Gala and services by creating a promotional PSA and including us in a 12 Days of Sharing campaign. We cannot thank our local media enough for the many connections we have been able to make with our community in need.

The generosity of our community continues to encourage and empower our agency. The kindness shown through donation of time, talent and treasure makes it possible for our agency 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 (thank you St. Mary’s for all that you help us accomplish at this event and beyond), the David Duell Memorial Golf Outing, and Westside Nut Club Fall Festival. Businesses such as Alcoa 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 and 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 holiday time with gifts, food and toys are too long to mention, but made it possible for 21 Outreach families and 25 shelter residents to be helped during the holidays....and so very appreciated.

Highlights to our funds development plan included the continued commitment of “community partner” level giving. We are thrilled to have built such lasting partnerships with Old National Bank, Deaconess Hospital, TJ Maxx and Toyota. These businesses have shown great investment in our mission and our service.

In 2014 we were very proud recipients of funding and partnership from Old National Bank’s One Hundred Men who Cook event (raising \$104,000.00), the Welborn Baptist Foundation, West Side Nut Club, The Evansville Endowment Fund, Gibson Community Foundation, Gibson County Women’s Fund, Toyota Foundation, Sally Cares grant and a Junior League of Evansville grant that allowed us to renovate an office space into an additional bedroom for special population residents. These are just a few of the wonderful contributors who made it possible to continue important service provision in our 11 county service area. For a list of contributors, visit our website (www.albionfellowsbacon.org).

We must continue to be inspired on our journey. Though stretched at times with serving 24 hours a day, every day of the year, with 16 full time and 5 part time employees and operating on a budget of only \$848,567.00 we have met many challenges. From responding to victims at Holly’s House, area hospitals, and law enforcement offices to courtrooms to provision of outreach and safe shelter, our counselors, advocates, volunteers and board members continue to lend their support and expertise. Albion would not be the effective, comprehensive agency that it is without your dedication, support and love of humankind. I invite you to join our effort in honor...and memory of all victims. We are reaching for the “STARS” and focused on the services that we provide; 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.

Candice L. Perry
Executive Director

SHELTER PROGRAM 2014 Annual Report

The Shelter Program provides safe shelter and a variety of services to domestic and sexual violence for victims and their children. Such services are provided to achieve the ultimate goal of helping victims and their children identify, prepare and strive toward the final goal of living in a violent-free relationship.

Victims and their children are accepted into shelter, not only from our eleven-county area, but from anywhere in the United States. As a shelter, we also maintain communication with shelters nationwide in the event a resident would need to be transferred to a safer location.

24-HOUR CRISIS LINE: When a person requests shelter, an assessment is conducted via our 24-hour crisis line to determine eligibility. In 2014, 3,173 crisis calls were received and 1,097 individuals requested shelter.

ASSESSMENT: When a person enters shelter, an intake is done; following the intake, a service plan is completed to determine the client's needs. Based on that assessment, referrals are given to other community agencies and the client is encouraged to follow up and progress is charted. In 2014, 760 referrals were provided to our women and children in shelter. Referrals were made to forty-four (44) agencies (local and partnering agencies). Client goals are set on a weekly basis and are re-evaluated at these times.

LEGAL ADVOCACY: The Legal Advocacy Program Coordinator and Crisis Response Advocate provide information concerning the legal system and how it may relate to the individual situation of each client. These advocates also help clients file protective orders, pro-se divorces, police reports, and victim crime compensation claims. The advocates refer shelter clients to other agencies which are more appropriate to handle a victim's immediate needs, such as legal assistance (also see Legal Advocacy Report). The Program also provides vital support necessary to shelter clients when accompaniment is requested to the Prosecutor's Office, Police/Sheriff's Departments, attorney appointments and to court.

Legal advocacy was provided to 97 residents; 133 were assisted in obtaining protective orders. Personal advocacy was provided 186 times. Court accompaniment was provided 113 times to residents.

FAMILY SERVICES COUNSELOR: The Family Services Counselor meets with clients within 72 hours after entering shelter. This person conducts an initial interview in which she interviews the client in depth as to her family of origin, and full history of abuse beginning in childhood. In 2014, 125 initial interviews were conducted with residents without children.

The intention is to establish an emotional bond between the Family Services Counselor and the client that enables both of them to set the needed goals and case management ensues. The

Family Services Counselor meets with the client on a daily basis to chart her emotional progress and to offer support as needed. In 2014, the Family Services Counselor provided 754.75 hours in individual sessions. The Family Services Counselor meets with each client individually to formulate three written safety plans based on the client's situation. These safety plans may prove invaluable to the client should she choose to return to her abuser. In 2014, 190 safety plans were completed. The client is given a copy of her safety plans to keep with her. Assistant Director provided 519 hours in individual sessions with residents.

In 2014 the Family Services Counselor provided 92 support groups to 400 duplicated women in shelter. The topics included: "The Cycle of Violence", "Power and Control", "Why Women Stay", "Facts and Myths of Abuse", "Generational Cycle of Violence", "Tactics Used by Batterers" and documentary films. The support groups provide knowledge, which in turn empowers victims to be survivors.

The Family Services Counselor will provide the client with referrals to community agencies based on the client's needs, including, but not limited to housing, healthcare, education, public assistance, etc. In 2014, 452 referrals were provided to shelter clients.

The Shelter Staff continues to play an important role in the community as well, and is recognized around the many tables that we partner with. The Homeless Healthcare Network, Coordinated Entry Task Force, Homeless Prevention Coalition, HELP, Regional Peer Review Team and the Homeless Service Council are just a few of the areas of representation provided by staff.

Throughout the year, interested individuals and businesses wanting to learn more about our agency take part in informational meetings and site visits. Community speaking engagements are also an essential component, bringing awareness of the Shelter Program services to the community. Thirty-seven (37) presentations were provided to 1,064 community participants.

CHILD ADVOCACY: Many of the children, to whom we provide shelter are victims of physical, emotional or sexual abuse. They will often be witnesses to violence in the home as well. We have continued to keep statistics on the children who come into the shelter as a means of giving us a more in-depth profile of a child living in an abusive environment.

Most domestic violence advocates agree that education equals intervention, leads to prevention and prevention is the only way to break generational violence that permeates our society. It is vital that children be educated as to what a healthy relationship is and how to handle their feelings of anger, shame and guilt. It is just as important that these children know who to go to for help if there is a violent incident, whether it's between adults or directed at them. We offer a comprehensive children's program that addresses all of the above issues using excellent assessment tools that include information not only from the parent but also the child. The abuse may come from one or both parents. We may observe some abuse from the victimized parent if the family remains in shelter long enough. Our goal is to assess and provide immediate intervention for the child.

CHILD ADVOCATE: The Child Advocate meets with the child, if age appropriate, and completes the intake. She then meets with the mother to obtain a more in-depth view of the abusive history and target any behavior problems the child may have. The Child Advocate will make the appropriate referrals based on that complete assessment.

In 2014, 186 unduplicated children entered shelter. There were 73 initial interviews conducted with mothers; 572.5 individual hours spent in sessions on mothers; 94 safety plans on mothers; 283 referrals were made to outside agencies based on the Child Advocate's assessments regarding the needs of both—the mother's and the children; 130 safety plans on children and mothers were completed. The Child Advocate facilitated 52 children's groups.

Subjects included but were not limited to the following topics:

Welcome Group	Art Groups
Feelings Are Important	Healthy Relationship
Hands Are Not For Hitting	Choices
What is Abuse	Emotions
Call For Help (911)	Conflict Resolution
Self-Esteem	Scary or Safe

Our Children's Program served 331 children, (186 unduplicated) this past year. In order to maintain those numbers we continue to nurture our most valuable relationships with volunteers and other community agencies. In 2014, 126 volunteers donated 608 hours of service to the shelter program. Our residents and children were able to participate in the following activities:

- Teen Power Easter Party
- YMCA Programs
- Christmas Party and Visit with St. Nick
- Valentine's Day Party

In 2014 the Child Advocate also took interest in services and prevention of human trafficking. The Child Advocate joined the Indiana Prevention for Abused and Trafficked Humans (IPATH) task force. The task force has a subcommittee for youth prevention which the Child Advocate was able to be a part of. She was also trained by IPATH to give community presentations about human trafficking to educate the community and raise awareness. The Child Advocate was able to present to several area groups such as the staff at Ireland Home Based Services and the HELP meeting, where she reached about 30 providers from several area agencies. The Child Advocate collaborated with members of IPATH to begin discussions for further training in our area in 2015.

Our shelter staff also spearheaded, "Operation-Christmas". Letters were sent out at the end of October to announce our plea to provide Christmas for those in and outside of shelter who may not otherwise have a Christmas. We partnered with 118 businesses/groups and individuals who donated to the cause. We received all we asked for and more. On Christmas morning, 18 women

and 8 children celebrated in a mighty way at the shelter. Thirty-four (34) adults and children were served outside of the shelter.

STATISTICS: In an attempt to provide a more in-depth profile of the women and children we shelter, the following is a 2014 unduplicated statistical report that contains information regarding age, income, ethnic identity and geographical information about our clients. This profile represents 252 women and 186 children, who were sheltered one time only from January through December, 2014.

<u>County and/or State</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Sheltered No. of Nights for Women</u>	<u>Sheltered No. of Nights for Children</u>
*Vanderburgh	203	149	2,481	1,883
*Warrick	6	5	85	77
*Posey	8	8	97	18
*Gibson	4	4	40	51
*Perry	1	0	9	0
*Dubois	1	0	18	0
*Spencer	8	7	102	158
*Pike	3	0	12	0
*Orange	1	2	2	4
Daviess	3	1	11	3
Knox	1	0	6	0
Martin	2	1	19	17
Tippecanoe	1	0	17	0
Out of State	10	9	82	54
TOTAL	252	186	2,981	2,265

* In Service area

We also want to provide a realistic glimpse of our duplicated facts. The national statistic states that a battered woman may leave her home for safe shelter seven - nine times. This Annual Report reflects the unduplicated statistics, but, we would be remiss if our duplicated numbers were also not highlighted regarding the women, children and nights of service. The gratification comes as we witness women returning to our shelter on numerous occasions during the year, for their safety. Each time they come into shelter, another layer of comfort, awareness and building of self adds to the foundation of their worth.

<u>2014</u>	
Duplicated Women.....	436
Duplicated Children.....	331
Total.....	767
Nights of Service.....	10,348

Of the 252 women and 186 children who were sheltered in 2014:

80% from Vanderburgh County

3% from IN counties not in our service area

13% from Warrick, Posey, Gibson,
Dubois, Pike, Perry, Spencer

4% from out of state

<u>Race</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
Caucasian	79%	54%
African-American	17%	25%
Multi-Racial	3%	20%
Native American	1%	1%

Out of the 100% race count 1% of those were Hispanic.

Of the 252 women sheltered, thirty-seven (37%) percent entered shelter with children and sixty-three (63%) did not have children, or did not have them with them.

Additional information gathered from intakes on the children is:

<u>Children's Ages</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
0 -- 12 months	10%
1 -- 5 years	48%
6 -- 12 years	35%
13 -- 18 years	7%

<u>Female Children</u>	<u>Male Children</u>
51%	49%

<u>Adult Client's Age</u>	
3%	18-19
40%	20-29
29%	30-39
18%	40-49
9%	50-59
1%	60 +

<u>Relationship to Abuser (abused by):</u>	
6% Ex-Spouse	8% Family Member
21% Spouse	5% Other
60% Boyfriend	

<u>Client's Income</u>		<u>Abuser's Income</u>	
64%	0 - 5,000	27%	0 - 5,000
26%	5,000 - 15,000	18%	5,000 - 15,000
6%	15,000 - 25,000	6%	15,000 - 25,000
2%	25,000 - 40,000	3%	25,000 - 40,000

0% 40,000+
2% Unknown

1% 40,000+
45% Unknown

Follow-Up:

6% Returned to Abuser
4% Own Home without Abuser
11% Friends
1% Transitional Housing

12% Separate Residence
24% Another Shelter
18% Relatives
24% Unknown

Fifty-four (54%) percent of the clients polled stated they had been abused as children.

Abuse was always emotional, often physical, sometimes sexual, or a combination of all three. In gathering information regarding their abuser, thirty-nine (39%) percent related that their abuser had been emotionally, physically or sexually abused as a child or a combination of all three.

Substance abuse continues to be interwoven into the fabric of domestic violence. Whether the victim uses alcohol or drugs to survive the abuse or the abuser uses alcohol or drugs as an excuse for the violent behavior, the result is the same. The issue of domestic violence cannot be addressed until substance abuse issues have been dealt with. What we can and do offer is safe shelter and emotional support to the victim and refer her to the appropriate agencies for help. Clients are provided a support group on substance abuse monthly. These are provided by other community agencies that are experienced in that area.

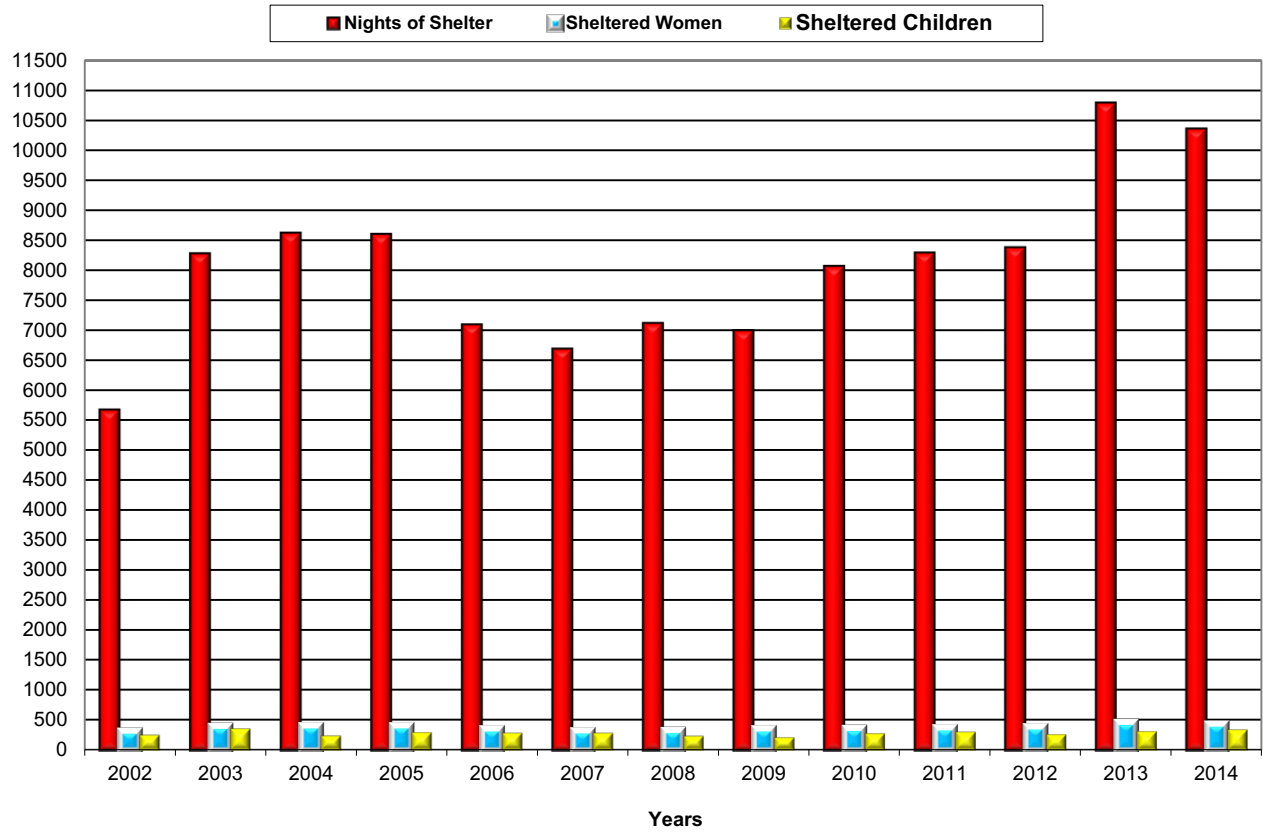
Twenty-one (21%) percent stated they have substance abuse problems and sixty-eight (68%) percent stated their abuser has a substance abuse problem.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: Of the clients polled, we received the following information:

37% stated they contacted the police during a violent situation
1% stated their abuser was arrested
6% stated they filed charges against their abusers
2% stated that they had contact with the criminal justice system in some way but not with arrest or charges filed
54% nothing done

Jenny Ballard
Assistant Director

SHELTER PROGRAM



LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM 2014 Annual Report

The Legal Advocacy Program provides a range of comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The program offers support and advocacy and is designed to assist victims throughout the court process.

Services include (*but are not limited to*):

Information and referrals (shelter, counseling, access to legal services)

Crisis intervention

Safety planning

Court accompaniment to hearings

Court advocacy and assistance in applying for civil protective orders

Information about the criminal justice system

Victims Compensation

Victims' Rights Information

In addition, the advocates monitor the response of the court system and advocate for changes that are a benefit to domestic violence and sexual assault victims. We are a certified trainer for the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and provide training to criminal justice professionals. We also attempt to educate the media and the community to the needs of domestic violence victims.

The Crisis Response Program falls under the umbrella of the Legal Advocacy Program. This is staffed by one coordinator, Gina Gist, and one Crisis Response Advocate, Leslie James, who maintains a volunteer staff of crisis response advocates. The following are additional services provided by the Legal Advocacy Program (crisis response numbers are in a separate report):

Approximately **923** clients utilized the Legal Advocacy Program's services in 2014. The Legal Advocacy Program Coordinator met with **632** clients and the Crisis Response Advocate met with an additional **291** legal advocacy clients.

Of the 632 Legal Advocacy clients:

429 clients were new

49 were male

76 were Shelter residents

9 were Crisis Response clients

31 were Outreach clients

5 were Sexual Assault clients

30 were Misdemeanor Court Contacts (attended 27 times)

DIRECT SERVICES

220 hours were spent providing phone/crisis counseling

135 hours were spent in individual counseling

381 hours, were spent in court
801 agency referrals provided to clients.

The following services were provided:

379	Crisis counseling -- in-person crisis intervention, emotional support, guidance and counseling.
471	Follow-up contacts -- in-person contacts, telephone contacts and written communication with victims to offer emotional support, empathetic listening, check on a victim's progress, etc.
548	Crisis hotline counseling – phone counseling which provides counseling, guidance, emotional support, information and referral, etc.
41	Shelter/safe house -- referral to both short and long term housing
253	Information and referral (in-person) -- in-person contacts with victims during which time services and available support are identified.
187	Criminal justice support/advocacy -- support, assistance and advocacy provided to victims at any stage of the criminal justice process.
25	Emergency financial assistance -- cash outlays for transportation, food, clothing, emergency housing, etc.
119	Emergency legal advocacy – assisting clients with filing protective orders, elder abuse petitions and child abuse petitions
19	Assistance in filing compensation claims -- making victims aware of the availability of crime victim compensation, assisting the victim in completing the required forms; may include follow-up contact with the victim compensation agency on behalf of the victim.
835	Personal advocacy -- assisting victims in securing rights, remedies and services from other agencies, intervention with employers, creditors and others on behalf of the victim, accompanying the victim to the hospital, etc.
561	Telephone contacts -- contacts with victims during which services and available support are identified.
76	Transportation – assisting clients with location transportation or providing transportation to a client.
443	Safety Plan – assisting clients with creating written or verbal safety plans
176	Civil Court Accompaniment – accompanying clients to non-criminal court proceedings (protective orders, small claims, divorce, etc.)
13	Attorney Meeting Accompaniment – accompanying clients to attorney appointments

Community Education:

Students

UE Student Nurses	2	Vanderburgh
Harrison College Nursing Class	15	Vanderburgh

Community

Holly's House Employee Orientation	1	Vanderburgh
Junior League of Evansville	85	Vanderburgh
Branchville Correctional Facility x3	144	Perry
Girl Scout Troop 199	10	Vanderburgh
St. Matthews UCC Youth Group	12	Vanderburgh

Law Enforcement/Security

Southwestern IN Law Enforcement Academy x2	25 attending	Vanderburgh, Knox, Warrick, Posey, Gibson
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Health Fairs/Pamphlets Distributed:

- Ivy Tech (Let's "Act Out" for a Change Trainings) Vanderburgh
- Court's Building (NCVRW/Week) Vanderburgh
- Holly's House Spring Fair Vanderburgh
- Wayback Burgers Vanderburgh
- University of Evansville Vanderburgh
- Legal Aid Vanderburgh
- Southwestern Indiana Law Enforcement Academy x2 Vanderburgh, Warrick
Posey, Knox, Gibson,
Dubois
- Branchville Correctional Facility x3 Perry
- Judge Shively's Office Vanderburgh

Conferences/Workshops Attended: The Legal Advocacy Program Coordinator attended the following trainings on various topics to enhance the services provided to clients. The following trainings were attended:

Training Received:

- National Crime Victims' Rights Week Webinar
- Lethality Assessment Webinar
- Self Defense
- Understanding Subpoenas, Collaborative Law and Parenting Coordination
- Judicial Perspectives on Supervised Visitation Webinar
- AMENDS information
- LGBTQ Training
- Client Track
- Prevention Training
- Advocacy for Battered Women Charged with Crimes
- Client Track Webinar

Awareness/Media Activities: Legal Advocacy workers are involved in raising awareness through media campaigns and community events throughout the year, especially during Domestic Violence Awareness Month and National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The following are some of the highlights.

- **Courier & Press**
 - Domestic Violence Awareness Month series of articles
- **Eyewitness News (Fox 7 & News 25)**
 - Protective Orders
 - Let's "Act Out" for a Change Training
 - National Crime Victims' Rights Week Proclamation
 - Ray Rice Incident
- **WFIE 14**
 - Let's "Act Out" for a Change Training
 - National Crime Victims' Rights Week Proclamation
 - No More PSA
- **WIKY**
 - Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- **WJPS**
 - Albion Services and Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities

- Candlelight Vigil (planned, but rained out)
- Cultural Responsiveness in DV & Mental Health Settings (30 attended)
- Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day (Pain Management Clinics)
- Give Back Days – Wayback Burgers, Spudz n Stuff, Chick-Fil-a
- Flowers on the Lake (USI)
- Fall Festival Booth
- Peace on Earth Begins at Home (poster & essay contest at Caze and Harper Elementary Schools)
- Peace on Earth Pinwheel Project
- Flowers on the Lake (Gibson County)
- "Three Simple Words" – (Social Media Campaign)
- Purple Light Nights in Gibson County

National Crime Victims Rights Week

"30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice." (April 6 – 12, 2014)

- Held proclamation kick-off ceremony at Ivy Tech (114 people attending) Presented Evansville Police Department and Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office each with 500 resource cards. Chief Billy Bolin read the proclamation.
- NCVRW information table was displayed throughout the week at the Court's building. Bags, pens, mousepads and resource sheets were distributed along with information from victim service providers

- Electronic billboards displayed information throughout the week. In every 24 hour period the billboards were viewed 3000 times
- Theater psa (No More) at the Showplace Cinemas. Approximately 7000 movie tickets are sold weekly.
- Distributed “thanks-a-lots” cookies to Evansville Police Department, Vanderburgh County Sheriff’s Office, Prosecutor’s Office, Victims’ Assistance and the Clerk’s Office to thank them for their work with crime victims.
- Information table at Ivy Tech Community College and University of Southern Indiana
- Submitted After-Action Report

Stalking Awareness Month:

- Pamphlets distributed (3 agencies)
- Website
- Facebook

Fundraisers:

- Collected Cell Phones for Shelter Alliance Recycling Program
- Attended and assisted with A Timeless Celebration Gala
- Attended and volunteered at “100 Men Who Cook”

Task Force/Meetings Attended:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • Staff Meeting | Vanderburgh |
| • Supervisors meeting | Vanderburgh |
| • Cross County Meetings (bi-monthly) | Vanderburgh |
| • Awareness Committee | Vanderburgh |
| • Enforcement/Treatment (secretary) | Vanderburgh |
| • National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Committee (NCVRW) | Vanderburgh |
| • Child Protection Team Meeting | Vanderburgh |
| • Safe Haven Meeting | Vanderburgh |
| • Candlelight Vigil Meeting | Vanderburgh |

Special Events/Activities/Projects:

16th Annual Awareness Training (2 one day trainings)

Let’s “Act Out” for a Change

Featuring The Act Out Ensemble and Kerry Hyatt Blomquist

April 7th & 8th, 2014

- **14 Legal agencies** represented: Evansville Police Dept, Vanderburgh Co. Sheriff’s Office, Ft. Branch Police Dept., Gibson County Sheriff’s Office, Mt. Vernon Police Department, Vanderburgh Prosecutor’s Office, Gibson Prosecutor’s Office, Warrick Prosecutor’s Office, Spencer Prosecutor’s Office, Indiana Dept. Natural Resources, Vanderburgh Juvenile & Adult Probation, Posey Probation, Vanderburgh Juvenile Drug Court

- **32 Social Service agencies** represented (Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Posey, Spencer, Knox and Henderson counties)

Sponsored by:

Albion Fellows Bacon Center
Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office

Contributors:

Deaconess Cross Pointe
Dunn Hospitality Group
Gibson County Sheriff's Office
Gibson County Prosecutor's Office
Holly's House
Ivy Tech Community College
Posey County Prosecutor's Office
Warrick County Prosecutor's Office
YWCA

Misdemeanor Court

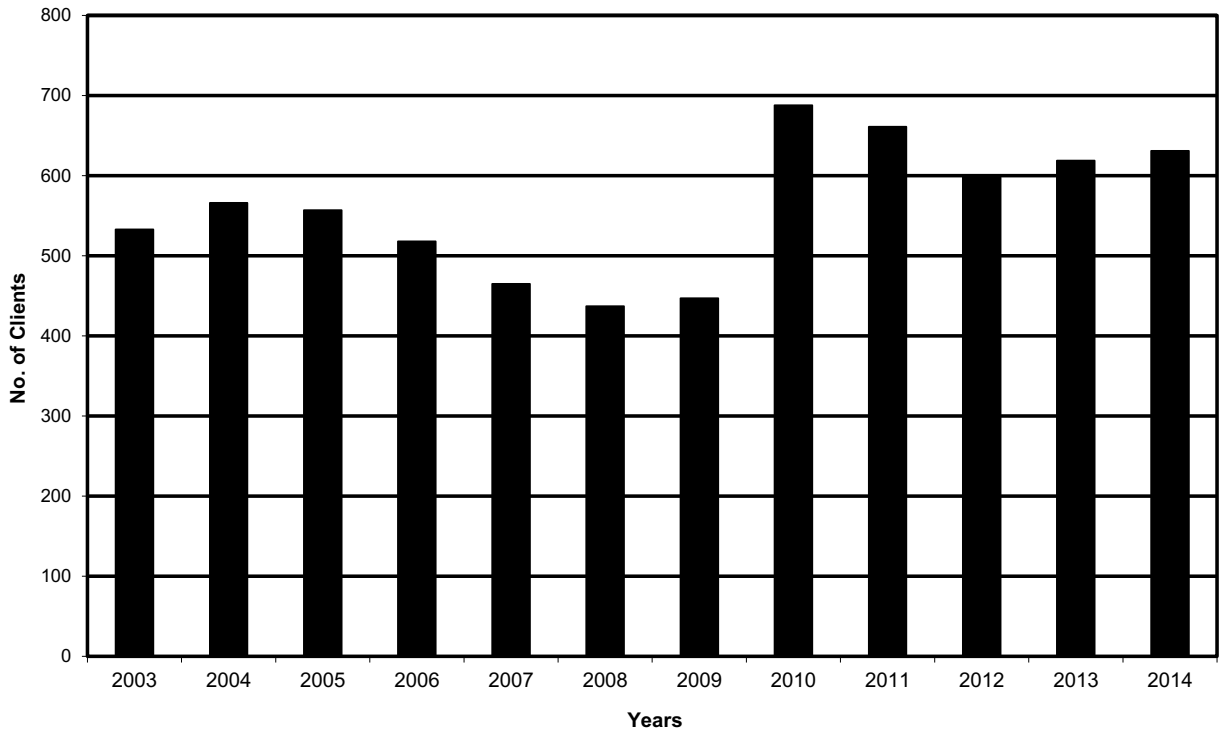
The Legal Advocacy Program Coordinator continued to attend **Misdemeanor Court** on Wednesdays (domestic violence trials) to speak to victims about options, services and what to expect with the legal system. Attended Misdemeanor Court 27 times and met with 30 victims.

Court Care Packages

The Legal Advocacy Program received a \$2500 grant from the Jr. League of Evansville in 2013 to provide Court Care Packages to clients. These packages included items to help clients deal with the stress and intimidation of dealing with the legal system. Kleenex, stress balls, pens, calendars, sticky notes and information cards were included in the packages. The packages were distributed to clients with court proceedings.

Gina L. Gist
Legal Advocacy Program Coordinator

LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM



CRISIS RESPONSE ADVOCACY PROGRAM 2014 Annual Report

The Crisis Response Advocacy services, formally known as Peer Advocacy Program, was created in 1996 in partnership with the Evansville Police Department and continues to work closely with the Department. The Vanderburgh County based program is designed to provide information, emotional support and advocacy to victims of domestic violence during the post-crisis period. The primary goal of the Crisis Response Advocacy is to increase the number of domestic and sexual abuse victims working towards violence-free futures. Crisis Response Advocates play an important role in this goal by offering appropriate follow-up services to victims.

Crisis Response includes utilizing volunteer advocates to provide services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. After completing the required training, the volunteer advocates provide coverage during on-call shifts. Each volunteer receives approximately 18 hours of issues training on topics including crisis counseling, victim's options and available services, legal/personal, sexual assault advocacy and the dynamics of domestic violence. By learning about and being able to offer different types of follow-up services within the community, the volunteer crisis response advocates are able to make Crisis Response Advocacy a truly community-wide service.

The Crisis Response Advocate also assists with client loads for the Legal Advocacy Program, assisting with Protective Order filings and court accompaniment. In addition to completing follow-up visits with a Detective from the EPD Domestic Violence Unit, the Crisis Response Advocate works closely with the Prosecutor's Office and the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office in contacting victims of domestic violence for follow-up and to offer services.

For 2015, the Crisis Response Advocacy Program hopes to reach the following goals:

- ◆ Increase community awareness concerning services offered by the program
- ◆ Increased utilization of the program by the community, including hospitals, EPD, Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office, doctor's offices, churches, businesses and other community agencies
- ◆ Strengthen follow up program with Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office
- ◆ Continue working to strengthen volunteer program
- ◆ Continue to increase Crisis Response Advocate's contact with media
- ◆ Expand the DV Education Class outside Vanderburgh County

The following is a breakdown of activity that occurred in the Crisis Response Advocacy Program in 2014.

Client Services:

A total of 606 people received services through the Crisis Response Advocacy Program in 2014.

- ◆ 291 Legal Advocacy Clients
- ◆ 503 primary domestic violence victims (31 male)
- ◆ 53 secondary domestic violence victims (12 male)

- ◆ 49 adult sexual assault victims and secondary sexual assault victims
- ◆ 1 child sexual assault victims and secondary sexual assault victims
- ◆ 9 batterers (male/female)

These numbers do not necessarily add to the total served, as one person may fall into more than one category.

During 2014, a total of 2,605 referrals were made. Of these, 1,482 referrals were made to intra-agency services and 1,123 referrals were made to outside service providers.

Services provided to clients:

- ◆ 610 Crisis Counseling
- ◆ 336 Follow-up Contacts
- ◆ 292 Crisis Hotline Counseling
- ◆ 357 Shelter
- ◆ 2605 Information and Referral
- ◆ 537 Criminal Justice Support/Advocacy
- ◆ 12 Emergency Financial Assistance
- ◆ 86 Emergency Legal Advocacy (protective orders)
- ◆ 763 Personal Advocacy (including securing services from other agencies, intervention with employers, creditors or others, accompanying to hospital)
- ◆ 150 Phone Counseling/Contacts
- ◆ 140 Other Services (including spiritual concern need initiated by the client, photographing injuries, etc.)
- ◆ 44 Residents of Shelter
- ◆ 434 Safety Plans
- ◆ 66 Peer Advocacy Interventions (including 111 hours medical advocacy)
 - Holly's House: 7
 - Deaconess ER: 35
 - Deaconess Gateway: 10
 - St Mary's ER: 7
 - Echo Clinic: 1
 - By Phone: 1
 - Southwest Indiana Career and Tech Center 1
 - Southwest Indiana Behavioral Health 1
 - Gibson County Pros Office 1
 - EPD Headquarters 2

In addition, the Crisis Response Advocate spent 172 hours in court providing Legal Advocacy.

The Crisis Response Advocate attempted to contact 217 total victims referred by the following services:

- ◆ 28 by the Evansville Police Department
- ◆ 180 by the Prosecutor's Office
- ◆ 9 by the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office

The Peer advocate successfully contacted:

- ◆ 203 primary victims
- ◆ 15 secondary victims
- ◆ 9 batterers

Literature concerning Albion's services was sent by mail or left at the home of the victim (when completing home visits with a DV detective) for those victims with whom the Crisis Response Advocate did not have personal contact.

Domestic Violence Education Program:

The Crisis Response Advocate continued collaboration with the Legal Advocate, YWCA, Vanderburgh County Victim Assistance Program, and Vanderburgh County Judicial Officers to facilitate the Domestic Violence Education Class. This two session class is for victims of domestic violence who appear before a Judge and request a No Contact Order be lifted or contact the Victim Assistance Office and request that charges against their abuser be dismissed. Before a decision will be made about either, the court and/or prosecutor's office will refer the victim to the DV Education Class. The class is divided into two sessions, each an hour long. Session One focuses on DV dynamics, defining domestic violence, Power and Control Wheel, Cycle of Violence, an examination of batterer behaviors and why it is difficult for victims to leave. Session Two focuses on Safety Planning and the Effects of DV on Children. Upon successful completion of both sessions, the participant is given a certificate to present to the Judge or Victim Assistance Office. The decision about how to proceed from there is up to the Judge and/or State.

During 2014, 140 people attended the DV Education Class (128 women and 12 men), and of those 133 successfully completed.

Volunteer Activity:

- 12 volunteers provided 11,148 hours of on-call coverage
- 92 volunteers provided 473 hours of indirect service
- 6 interns provided 1,335.75 hours of service
- Crisis Response Advocate provided 2,094 hours of off-duty on-call coverage
- Of the 66 Crisis Response Interventions in 2014,
 - staff responded to 44 and
 - volunteers responded to 22

The Crisis Response Advocate continued in the role of Volunteer Coordinator. The Crisis Response Advocate co-facilitated 7 new volunteer orientations for 13 volunteers and 6 interns. The Crisis Response Advocate also interviewed 12 potential volunteers, interviewed 7 potential interns, trained 3 new Crisis Response volunteers, provided training updates to 2 current volunteers, and supervised 6 interns including meeting with their professors for midterm and final evaluations. Also coordinated a job shadow opportunity for 1 USI Social Work student.

The Crisis Response Advocate/Sexual Assault Volunteer Programs have transitioned to a cross trained model utilizing Crisis Response Advocates who are dually trained and able to respond to both domestic violence and sexual assault crisis calls.

In 2014, the Volunteer Program has been updated. A new application has been created. New volunteer areas have been identified. They are:

Direct Service

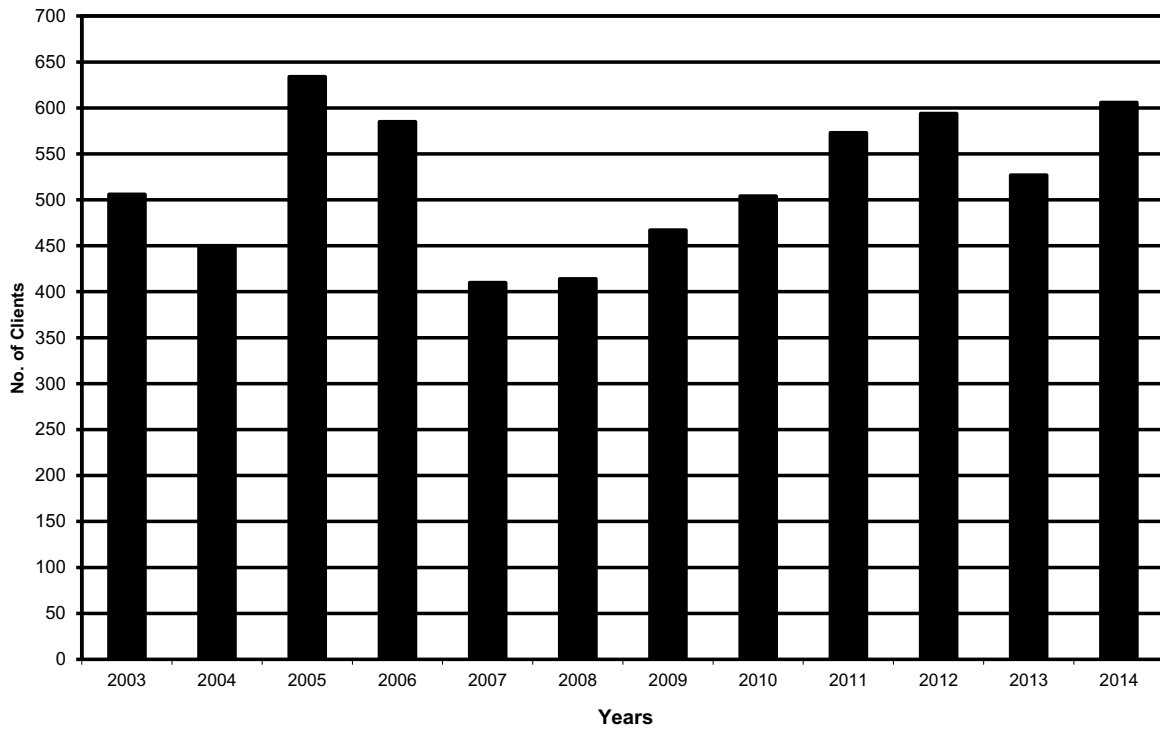
Crisis Response Advocate
Crisis Line Operator
Court Advocate
Support Group Assistant
Children’s Activities Volunteer

Indirect Service

Donations Volunteer
Shelter Volunteer
Community Education Volunteer
Special Events Volunteer
Administrative Volunteer

In 2014, the Crisis Response Advocate held a Volunteer Information Session at Central Library for those interested in learning more about Albion’s volunteer program. Seven people attended the information session. For 2015, these Volunteer Information Sessions will be held quarterly.

CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAM



OUTREACH PROGRAM 2014 Annual Report

The Outreach Program works collaboratively with communities to empower victims, survivors, and persons affected by domestic violence in the counties of Vanderburgh, Warrick, Posey, Pike, Gibson, Spencer, Dubois, Perry, Orange, Crawford and Harrison. This goal was accomplished through many different program outputs.

In 2014 the Outreach Program provided services to 502 Sexual Assault Victims, 348 primary victims and 154 secondary victims. There were 56 teens, 51 males, and 395 females receiving sexual assault services. Domestic Violence Services were utilized by 912 Domestic Violence Victims, 849 primary victims and 58 secondary victims. There were 5 teens, 16 males, and 891 females receiving domestic violence services from Outreach Program.

Client numbers decreased slightly, but service hours increased in 2014. Crisis Counseling is provided by phone or in-person to educate the client on the dynamics of domestic violence, sexual assault, understanding trauma responses, safety planning, offer emotional support and assist in exploring options. In 2014, Outreach program staff spent 337 hours providing telephone crisis counseling and 1,683 hours and 15 minutes of in-person individual peer counseling.

Support groups assist clients in working through the normal emotional reactions to trauma from abuse by helping to break down isolation and allow clients the opportunity to receive support and encouragement from other survivors. Two support groups were facilitated at Albion (once a week for outreach clients and once a week for shelter residents to introduce outreach services) as well as three additional outreach groups held at various locations holding 135 groups with 107 unduplicated participants. The Outreach groups were held at Lucas Place (a permanent supportive housing program), Counseling for Change (an outpatient substance abuse treatment program), and Deaconess Family Medical Residency (local family medical practice). We have been able to access a significant number of clients through these community support groups that had not utilized our services before they met us in group.

In 2014 we discontinued group at Deaconess Family Medical Residency in April and at Counseling For Change in June and at Lucas Place during several months. Each of these community partners was undergoing staff changes and needed to suspend group for a period in time. So with the decrease in support group offerings, participants and hours, outreach was able to begin to facilitate a weekly support group for shelter residents to introduce them to Outreach services and staff to increase shelter residents choice to transition to outreach services after exiting shelter. In 2014, 264 Outreach clients attended 121 support groups with staff providing 383 hours of support group services. After one year of running the shelter based groups we have had about a dozen clients from shelter transition to outreach services.

We started surveying clients after every group to gauge the effectiveness of our activities in group and to see what clients could identify that benefited them in group.

What did you like best?

- Learning the reasons and terms associated with experiences we go through at times like this.
- Being able to openly express my thoughts, feelings and opinions without feeling judged.
- How everyone feels safe here.
- The support of choices.
- The leaps of progress in other participants.
- Being around people who understand me.

After doing research for best practices and in an attempt to find curriculum materials for Sexual Assault Support group, Outreach staff completed a 3 cycle formatted group. Sexual Assault Support Group still functions on a closed model, but a selected group of participants now attend a three cycle group, 4 weeks of introductory group, 8 weeks of focused topics, and 4 weeks of conclusory activities. The first Sexual Assault Support group under the new model was held in spring 2014 with 6 participants being accepted into group and 5 completed all 16 weeks with staff providing a total of 24 hours of group. Sexual Assault Support Group participants took pre and post group surveys to gauge changes to knowledge, isolation, and support during each of the three parts of group. Below are some of comments group members made on the surveys.

What have you learned?

- I'm not alone and there is nothing wrong with me.
- Better self-esteem by being more positive and loving yourself and taking care of yourself.
- How judging myself hurts me. I need boundaries.
- I have learned great coping skills that helped me during challenging emotions.
- How to be more in control of my life.

Legal advocacy is designed to ease some of the stress and intimidation of dealing with the legal system. Accompaniment during civil / criminal processes and explanation of legal options is provided. This could include assistance with filing Protective Orders, emotional support for divorce and custody hearings, advocacy support for criminal prosecution of perpetrators, etc. In 2014 Outreach staff provided almost twice as much legal advocacy support as the year before with 191 hours and 45 minutes of legal advocacy.

Crisis response advocacy is provided by Outreach staff to Holly's House, to local hospitals, law enforcement agencies, colleges, schools, and safe neutral locations in Vanderburgh, Warrick and Gibson Counties. When we are able to bring services out of our building and into the community then victims are more likely to follow through with use of services at Albion.

In 2014, 106 individuals received services from Albion at Holly's House, 97 sexual assault cases and 9 domestic violence cases. Albion spent 98 hours and 45 minutes at the facility with

82 hours of that time was spent in direct services to victims. We were able to connect families and victims to appropriate partner services through 155 community referrals. The position to cover these responses was a 24 hour a week position so we were not able to provide advocacy during 116 interviews (some may not have been appropriate because they were child sexual abuse situations), but we did make follow-up contact with 21 victims after the interview by phone. In 2015 we were able secure enough funding to move this position into a 40 hour full time employee.

Two of the five members of the Outreach team serve as back up for a 24 hour 7 day a week on-call volunteer advocacy schedule that allows us to meet victims at hospitals, law enforcement agencies, return crisis calls and arrange to meet at safe neutral locations in the evenings and on weekends.

Community Education is a way for Albion to raise awareness about our services and the two topics we cover, domestic violence and sexual assault. Community education presentations include workshops and trainings to schools, medical personal, law enforcement, community groups, and many others about domestic violence, dating violence, healthy relationships, cyber safety, sexual harassment, and sexual assault. Last year the Outreach Team provided 53 presentations to 29 agencies and groups with 1,281 participants. Outreach Team presented at 12 schools 46 times in 5 counties reaching 1,312 students.

We went through some exciting changes at Albion during in 2014. The agency was able to obtain funding that allowed us to create a prevention program and focus outreach personnel into client services, community education, and professional training. The value of this change can be seen so clearly when you look at the work our Prevention Education Coordinator and Prevention Education Specialist accomplished in 2014.

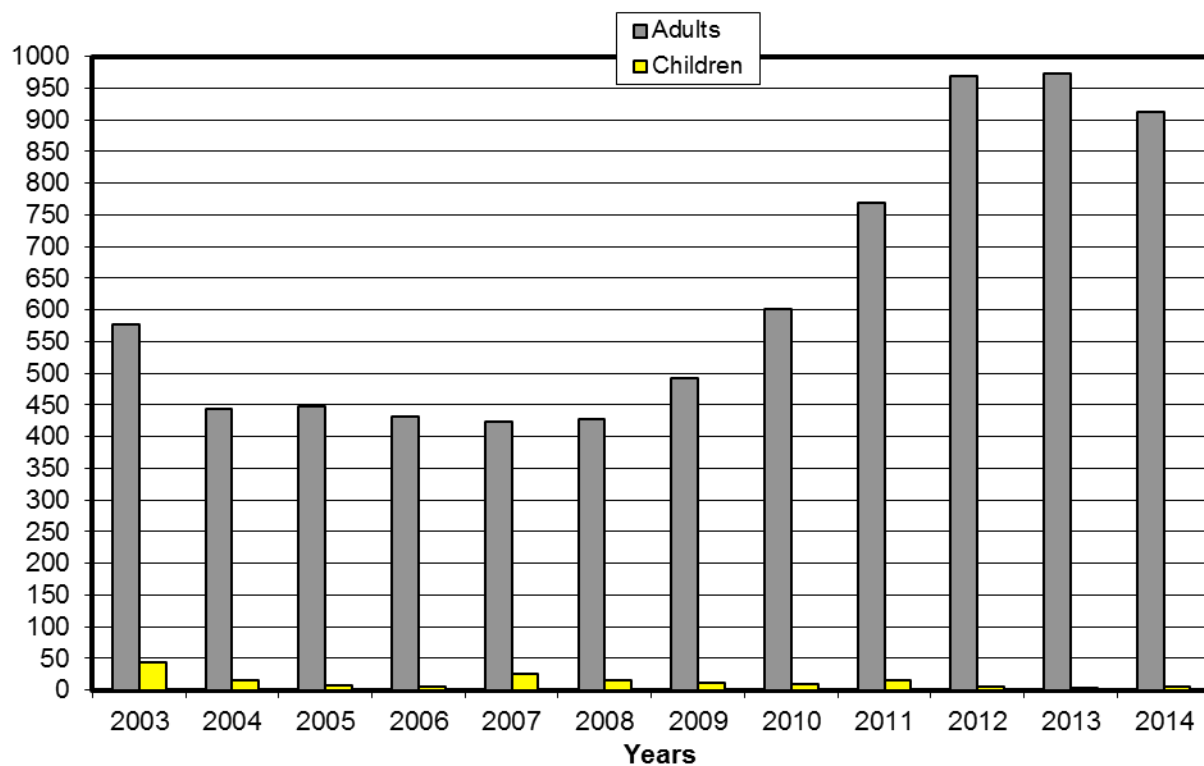
- Prevention Coordinator and V.S.S. provided an in-service to 39 Youth First social workers on Sexting basics and prevention recommendations for students, parents and schools.
- V.S.S. was able to provide SAFE prevention curriculum to indicated clients in Posey County as a contribution to the prevention program.

Staff coordinated activities during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October which included two different Flowers on the Lake events (a March and demonstration to break the silence surrounding domestic violence). Events were held in Gibson County by the Gibson County Task Force and in Vanderburgh County on the campus of the University of Southern Indiana by the Campus Sexual Assault and Gender Violence Task Force with coordination from Albion Fellows Bacon Center. Press coverage was present at both events after being notified by press releases. Also this year in Gibson County Albion coordinated an awareness campaign called Purple Light Nights which collaborated with area businesses and community members to shine purple lights on their porches and in their store fronts to support dialogue about domestic violence. Forty-eight businesses and 25 community members displayed purple light bulbs during the month of October. Gibson's two newspapers covered the awareness raising event for that community. Outreach also partnered with the

prevention education team at Albion to produce 25 yard signs with up-stander messages that were displayed during the Purple Light Night campaign.

Albion has a large service area which includes many rural counties such as, Gibson, Posey, Pike, Warrick, Perry, Spencer, Harrison, Orange, Crawford, and Dubois. Often clients in the rural counties we serve have limited resources and many barriers in seeking services. As example of a frequent barrier is transportation. There are not public transportation options for clients in our rural counties such as Gibson County, Posey County and Pike County. If a client wants to be able to receive services then we have to be able to bring the services to them. We have two vans available that can be driven by advocates to the county where the client resides to meet in a neutral safe location to provide services. Albion's Outreach efforts in our rural counties look very different than the Outreach efforts in Vanderburgh County. When transportation options are limited this can create an even greater safety risk as clients become more and more isolated. The development of strong collaborative partnerships in our rural counties allows Albion's Outreach Team to be able to reach more clients by posting information about services at locations that people might frequent. Plus the existence of Task Forces allows us to identify community, business, and agency partners who can refer potential clients in need of our services, but are too isolated to be able to learn about our existence. Our community partners also allow us to utilize their work spaces to safely meet with clients.

OUTREACH PROGRAM



PRIMARY PREVENTION PROGRAM 2014 Annual Report

Launched in 2014, Albion’s Primary Prevention Program (PPP) is an intentional effort to impact our community’s present and future health, focusing on the prevention of dating/domestic and sexual violence in our community. The program educates and engages youth and youth influencers, using multi-session instruction, evidence-based curriculum, enhancement through social-norm campaigns and purposeful, strategic discussion toward the objective of nurturing and developing positive attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors understanding that by focusing on prevention we can eliminate intergenerational cycle of violence. Preventing violence is at the core of Albion’s mission.

Historically, 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 to get in front of the problem of both issues of domestic and sexual violence and focus on ways of preventing victimization from occurring by focusing efforts on risk and protective factors that contribute to the prevalence of violence.

This year in addition to a Program Coordinator, we were able to expand our prevention program by hiring a part time staff member to focus on the Safe Dates program, a very important component of the prevention program. This employee focuses primarily on implementation and marketing the program to youth serving influencers, such as teachers, group leaders, etc. This has provided opportunities for the coordinator to focus on building foundation for the program by working on initiatives that incorporate primary prevention into the community. This includes building and cultivating relationships with schools, universities, workplaces, community partners as well as deepening the joint-partnership with area preventionists (Holly’s House) in order to saturate the community with prevention messaging, additionally, building and supporting primary prevention efforts.

During this year, the PPP was fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Diehl Consulting and Evaluation to improve our evaluation efforts pertaining to the multi-session interactive curriculum, Safe Dates (the only evidence based program to prevent dating violence). Through this partnership we were able to create a logic model, evaluation plan and a customized evaluation tool that measures changes we had identified. Our updated outcomes and outputs will accurately demonstrate what our program is working towards achieving. See results of this program below. Additionally, we have plans to measure and adhere to fidelity, student engagement and satisfaction with program and delivery of service.

The following schools/organizations took part in the Safe Dates program in 2014 educating 693 students and 40 parents, completing 98 sessions of programming:

◆ North Posey HS	136
◆ Castle HS	64
◆ Gibson Southern HS	144

◆ North HS	6
◆ Signature School	42
◆ Corpus Christi MS	57
◆ Resurrection MS	84
◆ Castle North MS	135
◆ Life Choices Youth Home	15
◆ Hillcrest Youth Home	10
◆ Resurrection (parents)	<u>40*</u>
	733

**Provided "Families for Safe Dates" program materials.*

The Safe Dates program provided the following results:

- 89.5% of participants increased their ability to identify what an unhealthy relationship is.
- 76% of participants decreased acceptance of dating abuse among peers.
- 63% of participants decreased acceptance of gender stereotyping beliefs.
- 92% of participants increased their ability to identify resources to help a friend in an abusive relationship.
- 90% of participants increased their skills in intervening to help a friend in a dating violence situation.
- 89.5% of participants increased their confidence in intervening to help a friend in a dating violence situation.
- 95% of participants increased their ability to identify calming strategies for anger control.
- 85% of participants increased conflict resolution skills.
- 91.5% of participants increased their ability to identify ways to prevent sexual assault.

We rely on participant feedback to ensure high quality of service delivery and student engagement. The following are direct quotes from participants from the Safe Dates program.

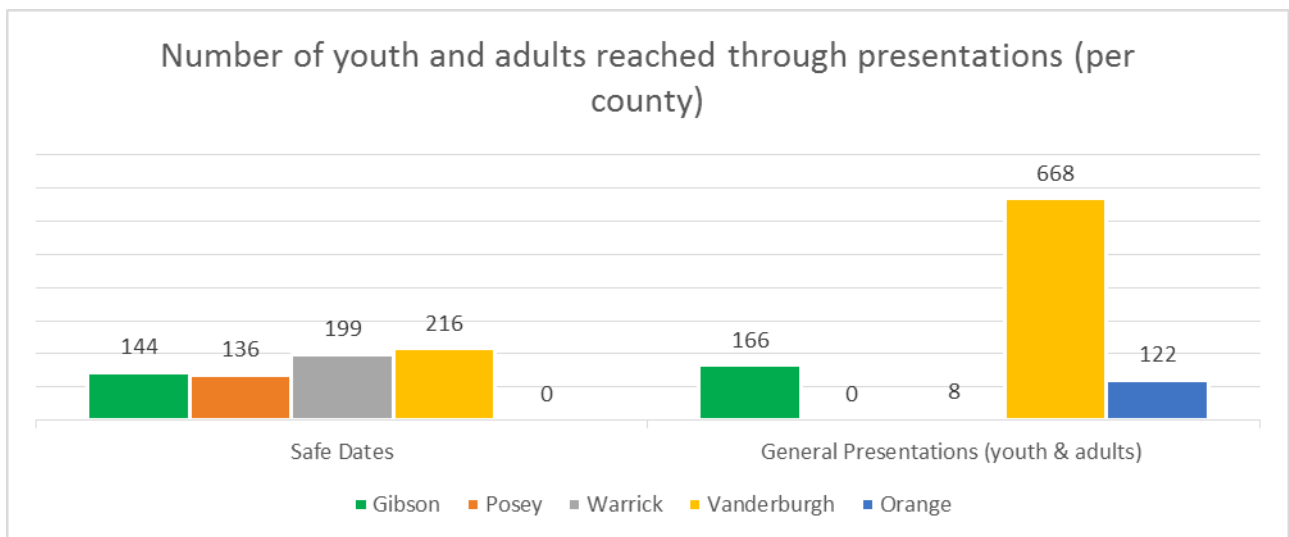
- "I enjoyed learning ways to cope with anger and skills to handle emotional, physical and sexual abuse."
- "I like that they included real life examples and scenarios so that we can see how these situations might actually happen."

- “I plan on using the information for as long as I can.”
- “I liked that we learned important stuff that we will actually need to know in the real world.”
- “I would tell another student that it is an eye opening class because I learned many things that I would never have known without the program.”

These questions demonstrate the importance of addressing these topic as students are eager to have the opportunity for open dialogue regarding relationships/issues.

- “If you want to break off a relationship but they won’t quit texting you after you tell them, how do you break it off.”
- “If your parents are abusive, is it more likely for the child to be in an abusive relationship?”
- “My boyfriend gets very jealous does that make him abusive?”
- “If I get abused (emotionally) by my parents, and I take it, will I be able to leave a relationship in my future if it’s emotionally or physically abusive?”
- “My 19 year old sister gets hit by her boyfriend of 4 years. He always cheats. She believes having a baby will solve everything.”

The PPP also provided 964 individuals (305 middle school, 290 high school and 215 college aged students and 154 adults) with single session education on topics relating to services offered, healthy relationships, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or cyber issues. The following chart is a breakdown of participants from each county who received programming (either through the multi-session program, Safe Dates, or our general single presentations).



The PPP partnered with three local universities, University of Southern Indiana, Oakland City University and University of Evansville to assist with prevention efforts and strategies regarding Title IX, Clery Act and Campus Save which mandates the inclusion of prevention on campus.

- At USI, staff sits on the Gender Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force and has assisted with male-led strategies including the White Ribbon Campaign. Additionally, staff developed a bystander survey that was distributed at the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event and received 199 completed surveys.
- At OCU, staff provided information to assist with creation of student information packets.
- A large emphasis was placed at UE with the creation and evaluation of bystander intervention and consent social norms. Staff partnered with the University's counseling department to develop a survey that was distributed to all students, resulting in 444 survey responses. Our survey also pinpointed which types of interventions are taking place, what barriers to intervening were present, and how often sexual assault or domestic violence was taking place. This data will be used to create a primary prevention plan to address the specific misperceptions.

Collaborative partnerships are vital in preventing domestic and sexual violence. We work tirelessly to foster strong working relationships with community partners. Staff co-chairs (with the Outreach Program Coordinator) the Gibson County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force. This year we piloted a community-wide project called Purple Light Nights and had over 50 businesses participate. Additionally, staff sits on the Caring Communities of Gibson County and is a part of the Youth Involvement subcommittee.

PPP staff was able to collaborate with community partners through strategic meetings to discuss how together we can collaborate to provide services across a child's lifespan in order to achieve change. Albion and Holly's House had 3 learning/development meetings in addition to two regional prevention meetings with community partners who were doing their own agency-defined prevention work in various programs (Holly's House, Ark Crisis Child Care Center, YWCA, Evansville Dioceses, Prevent Child Abuse-Vanderburgh County, The Villages, Regional Perinatal Advisory Board/USI) to discuss what type of prevention was being completed, what populations were being reached and identifying where the gaps were. Albion provided an in-service overview explaining CDC-defined primary prevention at one of the regional meetings.

Our staff felt that we had the responsibility as an agency to be a catalyst and a role model for other agencies by being informed and knowledgeable regarding prevention, and especially, primary prevention. For this reason, staff from the prevention program provided a capacity development training to 14 direct service staff of the agency (shelter, Outreach in addition to one staff member of Holly's House) on primary prevention as well as how to incorporate prevention elements into all aspects of intervention work.

PPP staff also manages and regularly updates our agency's website and Facebook page keeping community members informed of agency needs, events and articles related to domestic and sexual violence issues.

For 2015, the Primary Prevention Program hopes to reach the following goals:

- ◆ Engage new community partners and develop existing partnerships for the purpose of building and supporting primary prevention work
- ◆ Develop strategies to further develop a Primary Prevention focused agency
- ◆ Empower youth to be a part of the prevention movement.
- ◆ Evaluate the effectiveness of strategies.

Sophia Blaha
Primary Prevention Program Coordinator