

MSH 2021 **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

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MY SISTER'S HOUSE

LOWCOUNTRY LEADERS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVAL

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MSH | 2021 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

2021 presented daunting challenges within our Lowcountry community, increasing already-steep barriers for the clients and victims we serve. ***In response, My Sister's House developed and launched programs and initiatives designed with survival at the forefront. All decisions, big and small, came back to service – how are we reaching more victims, how are we diminishing barriers, and how are we optimizing our programs to support our survivors in establishing lives free from abuse?***

*I'm honored to share with you the following highlights from our most recent impact report, **demonstrating and contextualizing the outcomes of your commitment to as a supporter of MSH.** As a service agency we forge ahead, rarely taking time for reflection. **This report stands as a testament to the growth, strength, and vitality of our programs and services** as we work to serve our local victims of domestic violence.*

Intimate partner abuse in South Carolina continues to take a devastating toll. Recently published research paints a picture of statewide impact both shocking and difficult to comprehend. Of the counties highlighted in the study, our Lowcountry service area is a region of the state most severely damaged by the effects of domestic violence. These numbers, though sobering, clarify even more strongly the value of the work we do and the importance of your support.

*While we endeavor to reach and support all victims on their path to survival in Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley counties, we cannot succeed on our mission alone. **You, our valued advocates, supporters, and donors, are the backbone of our agency and the reason we recently celebrated forty years of service to survivors in the Lowcountry.** Thank you for continuing to champion the recovery and rights of victims, thank you for continuing to further our cause, and thank you for the ways in which you will do even more in 2022. Our community needs us, and we, in turn, need you.*

With deep gratitude,

Tosha Connors, CEO
My Sister's House

A STATE IN CRISIS

SOUTH CAROLINA CURRENTLY RANKS **SIXTH IN THE NATION** FOR THE RATE OF WOMEN MURDERED BY MEN

6

65% OF THOSE WHO KNEW THEIR MURDERER WERE GIRLFRIENDS, WIVES, COMMON-LAW WIVES OR EX-WIVES.

SOURCE | Violence Policy Center



82,379

ANNUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS STATEWIDE



42%

OF SC FEMALES WILL EXPERIENCE IPV DURING THEIR LIFETIME

SC SUSTAINS OVER **\$358 MILLION** IN ANNUAL ECONOMIC LOSSES DUE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



EVERY 24 HOURS

SOUTH CAROLINA AVERAGES

555 DV VICTIMS ASSISTED

109 DV HOTLINE CALLS ANSWERED

SOURCE | The Economic Impact of Domestic Violence in South Carolina, 2020, Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage

A LOWCOUNTRY EMERGENCY

CHARLESTON, DORCHESTER + BERKELEY COUNTIES

802,122 COMBINED POPULATION
12,834 ESTIMATED ANNUAL DV VICTIMS

\$11.2 MILLION
ANNUAL PHYSICAL HEALTH CARE COSTS

\$5.1 MILLION
ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH CARE COSTS

\$2.4 MILLION
ANNUAL POLICING COSTS


\$3.7 MILLION
ANNUAL COURT COSTS

\$57 MILLION
TOTAL ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

SOURCE | The Economic Impact of Domestic Violence in South Carolina, 2020, Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage



A shocking series of domestic violence homicides in early 2021 galvanized a new wave of programmatic shifts to increase community awareness of our critical services. **MSH teams developed and implemented a monthly 'Break the Silence' event series, wide-reaching Partner Pledge Program, and an increased outreach agenda.** Collaboration with first responders, Law Enforcement, and victim service partners intensified, with the goal of easing access to cross-functional programs and resource referrals.

 **4,935**

COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED THROUGH **76 EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND OUTREACH EVENTS**



MSH CEO TOSHA CONNORS
NORTH CHARLESTON POLICE DEPT
PRESS CONFERENCE
JAN. 2021

 **1,156**
CRISIS CALLS
ANSWERED

Our crisis and intake hotline operated all day and all night, every day of the year. Our compassionate domestic violence experts provide victims in crisis with resources, safety planning support, referrals, and - when appropriate - immediate intake for our emergency shelter program.

"You matter and are valuable to this world. You are a survivor and beacon of strength. You can have the life you want and we hope that My Sister's House can provide you the tools to reach your goals. Never give up hope because MSH is here for you and cares about your wellbeing and success. You have already done so much and we are so proud of the courage you have shown."

NATALIE CAULA HAUFF
MSH BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COMMUNITY SUPPORT MESSAGE

 **21%**

21 PERCENT OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYED ADULTS SAID THEY WERE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

CORPORATE ALLIANCE TO END PARTNER VIOLENCE

Established in February, 2021, our **free, easy-to-implement Partner Pledge program is designed to facilitate access to domestic violence victim support services for local employers.**

There is **NO** charge for partnership or services and taking the pledge can change lives.

Signing the Partner Pledge provides companies and their employees:

- Access to our confidential services as a named partner;
- Resources and referrals sheets, including customized materials by request;
- Executive and management training for recognizing and managing the effects of domestic violence on employees; and
- Company-wide trainings on the effects and impact of domestic violence and what to do if you or someone you know are currently a victim.

"I choose to work for My Sister's House because I believe in the mission of breaking the cycle of domestic violence. I believe the only way to break the cycle is to address the whole client. This holistic approach gives our clients the opportunity to address all aspects of their lives in order to choose a life free from violence."

KHALILAH SUMNERS
MSH DIRECTOR OF VICTIM SERVICES



Our sheltering model underwent dynamic shifts throughout the unpredictable year, impacted by public health guidelines. Throughout the challenges, **the MSH staff responded with agility, creativity, and dedication to ensure that our housed and community-based clients and their children continued to receive supportive care for their daily safety and comfort.**

790 

HOURS OF INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP **CLINICAL THERAPY**

“I am so thankful you are in a place like My Sister's House; I know the people there want to help you in every way possible. This is a note to encourage you to continue daily in your attempt to have a better life for you and your family. You will make it!”

12.1.2021 | R.K.V.
COMMUNITY SUPPORT MESSAGE



92 

CASES OF **COURT ADVOCACY - ORDER OF PROTECTION ASSISTANCE**



129 

CLIENTS AND CHILDREN RECEIVED **EMERGENCY SHELTERING SERVICES**

“Clinical Therapy – both our individual and group programs – continues to be the most utilized and fastest-growing service we offer. This speaks to the importance of growing this program area as we endeavor to better serve current victims and recovering survivors.”

TOSHA CONNORS, CEO
MY SISTER'S HOUSE

For many victims, the unseen wounds – mental health trauma – are the hardest to heal. Our dedicated team of clinical therapy professionals serve our sheltered and community clients through individual and group therapy programs. Using domestic violence trauma treatment best-practices, employing a number of clinically-proven therapeutic techniques, **our mental health services continued to be a critical piece of the long-term recovery and survival of our clients.**



563

HOURS OF CLINICAL THERAPY FOR **COMMUNITY-BASED CLIENTS**

117

COMMUNITY SUPPORT **GROUPS HELD**

