

*"...they showed me there is life after
the abuse."*

mg

Anna Marie's Alliance
July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010
Annual Report

MISSION

To provide a safe place for victims of domestic abuse and to achieve

VISION

We are leaders in providing innovative services for victims of domestic abuse and in creating a community where violence is not tolerated.

Board of Directors

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"When I first arrived at Anna Marie's my kids and I had nothing and now we have more than we could have asked for and we are very grateful."
M.

If requested, this publication can be made available in an alternate format.

A woman can leave Anna Marie's with:

Hope

that life can be different,
a vision of what life could be, and
new tools for making changes in her life

Support and Connection

in understanding that her life is about connections
and finding support and affirmation through
community agencies and systems

Greater Sense of Self

by having faith in her ability to make changes in her
life and to be more in touch with their own power.

Message from the Board Chair & Executive Director

Fiscal year 2009-2010 began with the wonderful celebration of our accomplishments over the past thirty years. More than two hundred community members joined us for dinner, music, a nostalgic look at where we've been and where we are going, and of course lots of reminiscing about times past. It was also an opportunity to thank all of you for the many ways you partner with us through your generous donations of time, talent and financial support.

While this past year was one of substantial accomplishment, as seen in the number of services provided in this report, it was also one of internal growth and development. The Department of Public Safety (Minnesota Center for Crime Victim Services) directed Anna Marie's to examine in-depth the 'Best Practices' in all areas of our operation. In reviewing our financial controls, direct services, community partnerships, business practices, governance, and leadership we spent many hours documenting our strengths and examining ways we can improve in each and every area. This extensive examination process was, and continues to be, well worth the effort. It is amazing to recognize the breadth and depth of the work we do, and to strategize practices that will enhance initiatives in the future. The Department of Public Safety ultimately concluded that Anna Marie's Alliance is one of the model programs in the state.

The Connect: Growing a healthy relationship community™ Initiative is also going well. Our passion at Anna Marie's is to eliminate relationship violence. We continue to work with businesses, the faith community,

government, health care systems, education, and the non profit sector in creating cultures that promote positive, healthy relationships between and among co workers. Our mission is " to inspire intentional public action to cultivate healthy relationships".

Finally, we have been pursuing a plan for safe, affordable housing for families leaving Anna Marie's. Chrysalis House (the project we hope to develop) will be a 30 unit apartment building with on site supportive services. We are currently working with developers and the City of St. Cloud to create a viable plan for this much needed resource.

Anna Marie's Alliance is grateful to you, our donors, staff, and community partners for your support. For thirty years you have assisted us in developing the programs needed to provide safe shelter for those in need and to continue to make a broad impact in creating a safe community for all. As you can see by the numerous accomplishments detailed in this report, together we are making a difference.

Sincerely,

Maxine Barnett

Executive Director

David Warne

Board Chair



Programs & Impact



The new Mom and Me Library at Anna Marie's Shelter—Re-connecting mother's and their children through the act of reading.

One mom had been in an extremely sexually abusive childhood until age four, at which time she was removed from her parents and put in foster care. She is terrified of her child having a similar experience as hers – but doesn't seem to be able to develop relationships with healthy men who will not abuse her. She has used this program as an opportunity to work on strengthening her relationship with her son, and to receive support in changing her parenting behaviors in order to break the cycle of abuse that she has experienced.

Anna Marie's Shelter provides safe emergency shelter, advocacy, information and referral for women and their children who are experiencing domestic violence. Key services also include assistance with Orders for Protection, Harassment Orders, parenting and support groups, and health assessment services. Advocates also assist women and children from the community at large. The shelter serves six counties in central and east central Minnesota; Benton, Mille Lacs, Pine, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright.

Total Served = 1,787

Total Residents at the Shelter = 375

Having an impact

Of women completing an exit survey

- 90% indicated they know more about community resources.
- 94% indicated they know more ways to plan for their safety.
- 88% indicated they were more confident in their decision-making.
- 86% indicated they were more hopeful about the future

Children's Program/Children Exposed to Violence Initiative

works to provide a sense of normalcy and stability allowing mother and child an opportunity to reconnect. The Children Exposed to Violence Initiative provides immediate on site help for children experiencing trauma due to witnessing domestic abuse. Services include childcare, recreational activities, mental health assessments, support groups, and parent educator services.

88% of children staying at least 2 weeks completed an initial mental health screening.

43% of children completing the assessment were found needing further crisis diagnostic assessment and were referred.

93% of mothers and their children followed recommendations for mental health services

100% of parents with children ages 0-5 working with the parent educator indicated they gained/increased their knowledge of their child's needs and methods for caring for them.

105 children received 5,771 childcare services

102 children received preliminary mental health assessments

28 mothers with 57 children participated in the First Steps Program facilitated by Parent Educators

458 Personal Advocacy services on behalf of resident children were provided to secure rights, remedies, and services from other agencies.

Jill Eckhoff Transitional House provides a safe, supportive and secure environment for women and their children who are moving from the Shelter to the community. Women begin to stabilize their lives and receive additional support to achieve long-term success.

4 female headed households with 5 children and 4 single women resided at the House.

Average length of stay was 208 days.

Of those completing the survey:

- **100% stated they were more confident in their decision making skills,**
- **80% were more self-sufficient because of the time they spent at the House,**
- **Six months after departing the House 100% of those completing the program goals had maintained permanent housing.**

School Youth Project provides early intervention to prevent or reduce violence in relationships.

The focus is on teaching healthy relationship skills through educational support groups, individual support, and classroom presentations. This program operates in Benton and Stearns county school districts.

480 elementary, middle and high school students participated in 80 healthy relationship skill building groups. 3,944 elementary students participated in 396 presentations on peacekeeping/safety/bullying.

1st-3 grade students:

- **81% said they felt better about themselves**
- **96% said they had learned safe ways to handle their angry feelings**
- **65% had used their "stop and think" skills more often**

4th-6th grade students:

- **86% said their self-esteem was much better**
- **86% said their respect for others was better/much better**
- **68% said their problem solving skills were better/much better**

7th -12th grade students:

- **90% stated they had learned skills to leave an abusive relationship**
- **83% indicated improvement in 3 or more areas of self-esteem, expressing feelings, self respect, respect for others, listening and problem solving skills.**
- **75% of those who had used violence in the past stated their use of violence had decreased.**

Hospital Based and Health Systems Advocacy

Program closed March 31, 2010. Statistics are for 9 month period.

This program provided free and confidential consultation and advocacy for patients and employees of the St. Cloud Hospital. Working in partnership with the hospital, the advocate facilitated groups and offered training opportunities for health care professionals.

84 victims (82 women and 2 men) were served and 101 health care staff attended 10 trainings.

674 adults/adolescents participated in 52 group sessions on domestic abuse

103 information and referral services provided to 68 victims in person..

From survey of group participants:

- **92% felt the information was useful**
- **87% planned to use what they had learned in their personal lives.**

Programs Impact

Criminal Justice Intervention Program CJI advocates offer victims assistance and education about their rights. They provide insight into navigating the criminal justice system in Stearns and Benton counties. System policies, procedures and response to victims of domestic abuse are monitored and training for law enforcement officers is conducted.

1,217 individuals were served, (1090 female, 126 male)

99 victims received information and referral by phone

371 received written information about their rights and available services

1,105 criminal domestic abuse offenses were monitored through the courts.

996 hearings were attended by Advocates on behalf of victims

Of those completing the survey:

- **94% stated that the CJI advocacy services made a positive difference for them**
- **97% reported increased knowledge of their options and rights**
- **73% were satisfied with the criminal justice systems response to their assault.**

Community Education Department The focus of this department is to build individual and community awareness about domestic abuse in order to grow a healthy relationship community where domestic violence is not tolerated and healthy relationships are the norm.



Working with organizations in the community, we create and/or improve environments at work, at church, in businesses, medical facilities, and public places that encourage people to connect in healthy ways.

In FY 2009-2010, Connect trainings were completed for Branch and Division Managers of Bremer, The Executive Department Team for the City of St. Cloud and The River Cluster which is comprised of three St. Cloud Catholic churches clergy and parish staff.

- **77% said they felt comfortable approaching a co-worker, employee, or colleague who was in a violent relationship**
- **82% found the positive conflict resolution techniques very helpful**

136 community presentations and trainings were attended by 2,924 individuals

Information booth set up at 8 community events

Volunteer Services Department encourages and coordinates opportunities for women, men, young adults and children to contribute time, talent, and treasure to the needs of battered women and their children.

163 individual and community group volunteers provided 9,060 hours of service to Anna Marie's Alliance.

"This is an excellent internship. We, at SCSU, are very happy that our Community Psychology students have a chance to be mentored at Anna Marie's".
Kim Schultz, Professor



In Her Own Words

“...I never thought that roughly five years later I would be writing a letter like this. I thought I was being a good wife. I thought he was a caring husband. You can’t imagine the horror I felt when I found out I had been a pawn for 18 years; I had been slowly molded to serve him. Apparently, his goal was to take everything I had—possibly even my life. His actions were calculated, cold, cruel , manipulative and demonic...

The recovery process from a violent relationship, whether it is physical or psychological may take years. The physical wounds, bumps and bruises may be gone in a few weeks or months, but the emotional trauma is only suppressed.

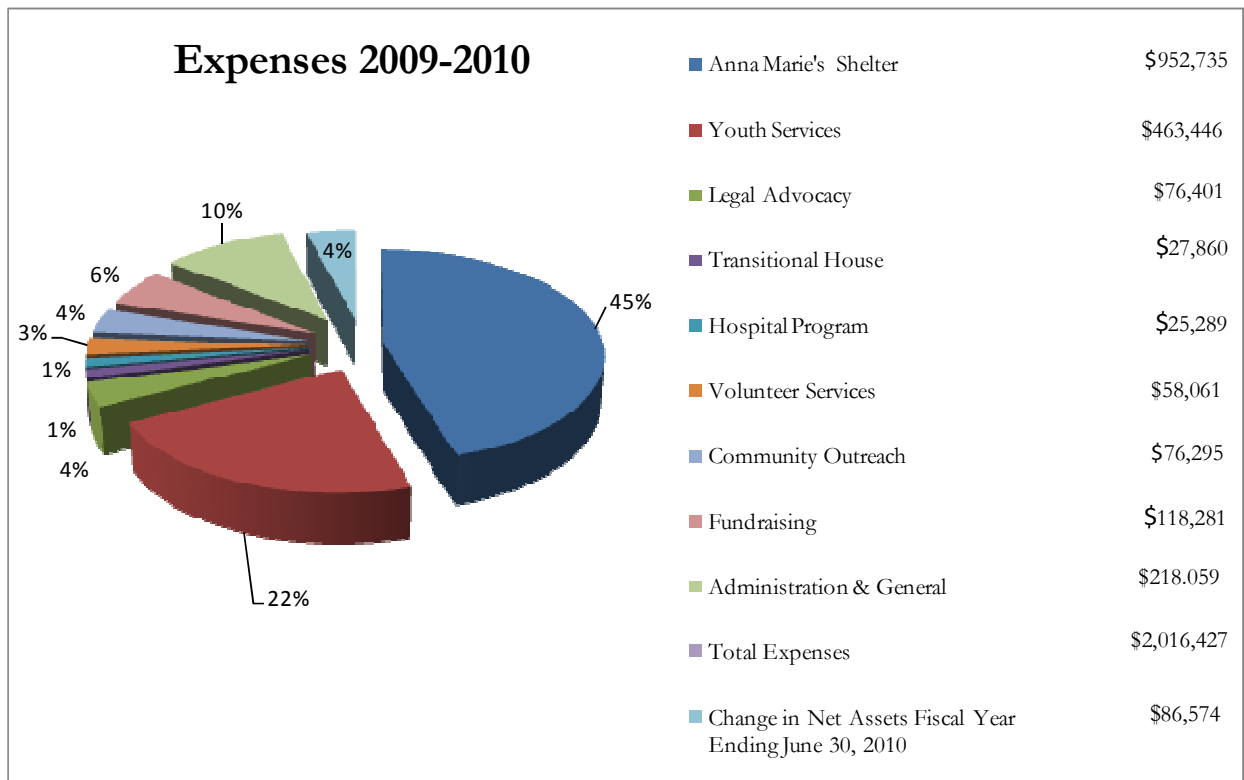
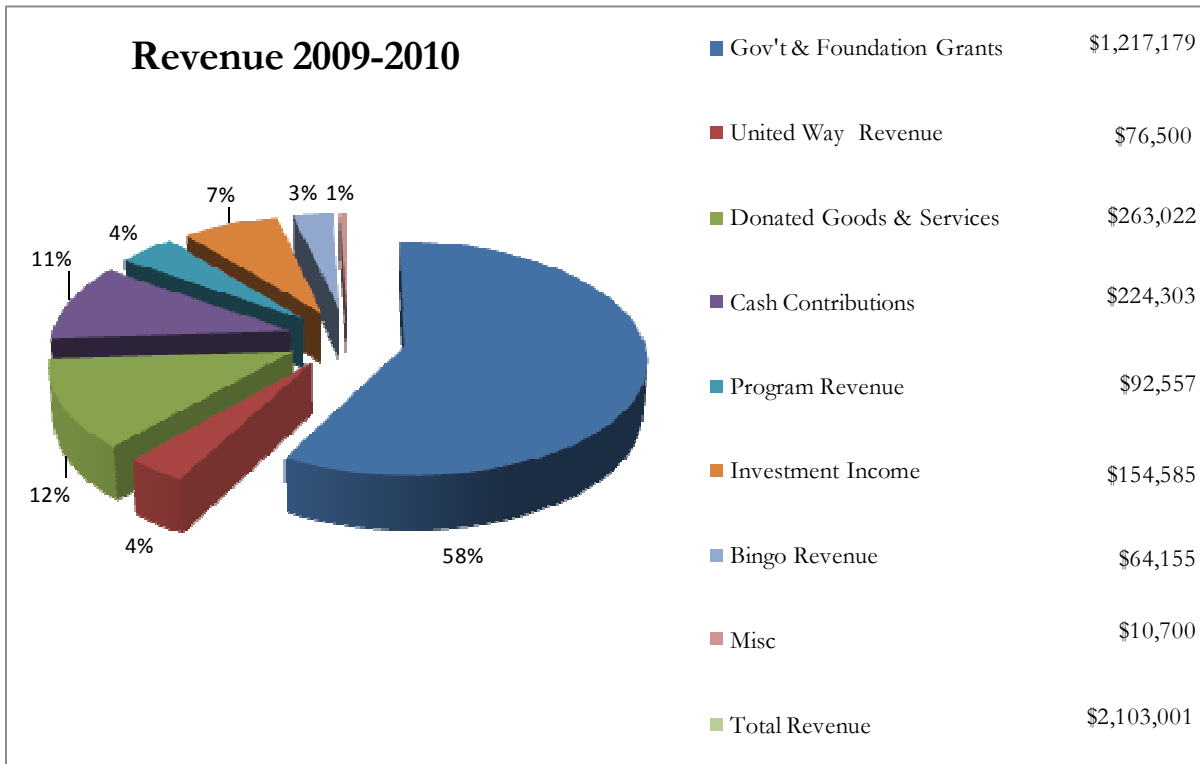
I am fortunate that I survived and I will survive no matter how many setbacks ...Anna Marie’s has been a blessing to me and hundreds of others. The staff is there for unprecedented support. I extend my thanks to Anna Marie’s Shelter and to the Court for granting me a 10-year Order for Protection.

Please let the victims know that they are okay, they are strong, intelligent, kind and beautiful on the inside and out. Allow them the freedom and peace of mind to move on to a better life. As a whole, we will make a difference!”

S.S.

Statement of Activities

Summary of Operations
and Change in Net
Assets for Fiscal Year
ending June 30, 2010



A full financial audit is available on our website at www.annamaries.org or by contacting the Finance Department at 320.251.7203

Financial Donors 2009-2010

Anna Marie's Alliance relies on a variety of sources for funding. With this support we are able to continue to provide advocacy services and programming to the women and children we serve.

In addition to the support we receive from you - our contributors, we also receive part of our funding from local, state, and federal government sources. Government sources include:

Emergency Food and Shelter Program (Federal)

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (Federal)

MN Center on Crime Victim Services, Dept of Public Safety

MN Dept of Education - Food & Nutrition Services

MN Dept of Human Services, Transitional Housing Program

Stearns, Benton & Sherburne Counties

\$25,000+

United Way of Central Minnesota

\$10,000+

Judith Knutson

Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation
Sexton Foundation

\$5,000+

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St Peter's Catholic Church

Lawrence and Stephanie Stracke

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St Cloud Westside Sertoma Club

St John's Episcopal Church

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**Anna Marie's Shelter,
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