RESILIENCE
ADVOCATES FOR ENDING VIOLENCE

Strength in Solidarity

Empowering Voices. Leading Change.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

ANNOUNCING

New Leadership Strengthens our Resilience

We are happy to announce that our Board has selected **Megan Hennessey** to become Resilience's permanent Executive Director.

FULL STORY >

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Empowering Voices

SURVIVOR STORY

"I'm fighting for a life.
But not in the way that you might think..."

READ GABBY'S STORY >

Leading Change

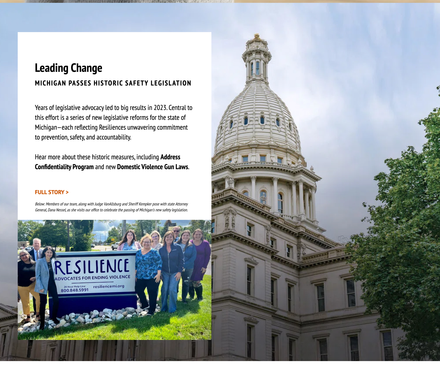
MICHIGAN PASSES HISTORIC SAFETY LEGISLATION

Years of legislative advocacy led to big results in 2023. Central to this effort is a series of new legislative reforms for the state of Michigan—each reflecting Resilience's unwavering commitment to prevention, safety, and accountability.

Hear more about these historic measures, including **Address Confidentiality Program** and new **Domestic Violence Gun Laws**.

FULL STORY >

Below: Members of our team, along with Judge Kinkoidzsyng and Sheriff Kempker pose with state Attorney General, Dana Nessel, as she visits our office to celebrate the passing of Michigan's new safety legislation.



IMPACT 2023

Thanks for your generous support to survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and stalking.

We walk alongside survivors at all stages of their healing, offering expert guidance, critical resources, and compassionate care.

Take a look below at the impact we've made together this past year.

Survivor Services

In the United States, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. We walk alongside survivors at all stages of their healing, offering expert therapy, critical resources, and compassionate support.

SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMS	SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES / ADVOCACY	WALK-INS SERVED	24/7 HELP LINE CALLS
66	73	464	3,463
EMERGENCY SHELTER NIGHTS	**SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ADULTS**	**SUPPORTIVE HOUSING CHILDREN**	**SUPPORTIVE HOUSING NIGHTS**
6,522	46	97	21,936

Prevention Programs

Resilience is at the forefront of educating our communities about domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking. We empower individuals with knowledge of prevention strategies and guide youth in fostering healthy relationships.

538

INDIVIDUALS WERE TRAINED ACROSS 23 COMMUNITY WEBINARS AND TRAININGS

TOPICS INCLUDED:

94% *of training participants agreed that they have a **better understanding** of domestic violence and/or sexual violence.

96% *of training participants agreed that they are **more confident in their ability to intervene and respond** to domestic violence.

*approximately

EVENTS

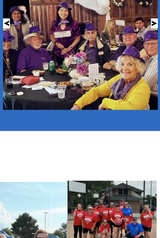
Join Us

The highlight of our year is when our community comes together to demonstrate unwavering support for survivors through our three annual events. Each of these key events features a unique theme, inspiring stories from survivors, amazing prizes, fantastic food, drinks, and music, and more!

Thanks to our generous sponsors and your faithful participation, these events generate more than $140,000 annually for Resilience, sustaining our mission and providing critical resources and advocacy for survivors in our community.

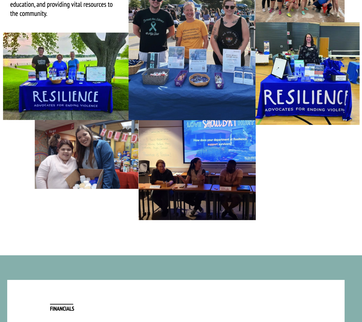
Be sure to join us for each of this year's unique events: Denim & Desserts (April), **Blue Star Bash** (July), and **Purple Party** (October).

EVENT DETAILS



Community Outreach

Resilience maintains a consistent presence throughout Ottawa and Allegan County, actively promoting violence prevention, education, and providing vital resources to the community.



FINANCIALS

Stewarding Our Mission

Resilience is committed to transparent reporting and ensuring the long-term sustainability of our organization.

VIEW REPORT >

New Leadership Strengthens Our Resilience

ANNOUNCING

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Since the Fall of 2023, our Board has been hard at work on the search for our next Executive Director. During that time, they selected our Program Director, Megan Hennessey, as our Interim. **We are happy to announce that our Board has selected Megan to become Resilience's permanent Executive Director.**

Megan's journey with Resilience began as a college intern, where she discovered her passion for advocacy. Over the past 16 years, she has dedicated herself to the cause, serving in various capacities, including Clinical Services Supervisor and, most recently, Program Director.

As Interim Director, Megan admirably steered us through a time of transition, ensuring the continuity of our mission and operations. From her legislative lobbying efforts to securing crucial grant funding, she has been instrumental in championing the rights and well-being of survivors in Michigan.

Throughout her time at Resilience, Megan has displayed an unwavering commitment to trauma-informed care, empowerment, and organizational leadership. Megan has undergone extensive training for Executive Directors in preparation for this role and her expertise helps those beyond our organization. As a Peer Reviewer for Michigan's Department of Victim Service's Quality Assurance program, Megan provides other domestic and sexual violence service agencies with valuable insights and guidance on best practices.

With Megan at the helm, we have no doubt that Resilience will continue to thrive and lead the charge in ending violence in our communities. Her passion, expertise, and unwavering dedication to our cause make her the perfect choice to lead us into a new era of violence prevention and survivor empowerment.

Please join us in congratulating Megan Hennessey on her appointment as Executive Director!

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Empowering Voices
SURVIVOR STORY

Leading Change
MICHIGAN PASSES HISTORIC SAFETY LEGISLATION

EMPOWERING VOICES | SURVIVOR STORY WRITTEN BY GABBY DUNAI

I'm Fighting for a Life...

Share

Content Warning: Gun Violence

I'm fighting for a life.

But not in the way that you might think.

I'm fighting for the life of my son.

I'm fighting a perpetrator threatening to end the hope I have for my son's life.

That seems to be the foundation of our relationship, my son and I.

To fight a perpetrator threatening to end life.

My life.

Our lives.

If the threat was not pointed directly at my temple, it was in the hands of the father of my son as he assured my son that if he were to tell a teacher, a therapist, CPS, or a police officer anything negative—if he was to speak the truth of what was happening in our family—**I would be killed.**

The father of my son was the largest perpetrator I've known. From the moment my pregnancy began. When a gun, which I thought my ex always kept locked in a case in his vehicle, appeared in his hand from a drawer in the bedstand when I was five months pregnant. After he pushed me onto the bed and then held me at gunpoint while he proceeded to sexually assault me.

From that moment forward, I never knew where the gun was located. Until it appeared in his hand when he shot holes in our furniture.

In pillows.

In my personal items.

In the wall of our garage inches from where I stood.

In the split seconds between hand raised, pointing, and pulling the trigger, I thought I was in the bull's eye. I thought my life and the life I was carrying would soon be over.

It is over ten years later and I can still feel a bruise inside my chest cavity from my rapidly beating heart. I can still smell the gun powder and I can still hear the gun going off. It was just three days before I was induced into labor to bring my son into this cruel world. With the hope that my son would not be exposed to an abusive environment as he grew up. I didn't want his childhood to resemble mine. I had the intention the cycle would stop with me, and my son would know a safer world. I still hold onto that hope. That my son will know a safer world. If only I could have realized my intention for my son's childhood.

I tried.

Three weeks after my son was born, **I left my ex with just a diaper bag of his items. I never physically went back. But my ex saw to it that not physically returning didn't matter. For nearly a decade.**

Multiple assaults, stalking, property damage, text messages, incessant litigation, and showing up at my work with death threats affirmed **I didn't need to be sharing a home with the father of my son to endure abuse.** My ex, willing my son to know with an unwavering belief that his mom would be killed, sealed a certainty that I was not free from this individual who relentlessly wanted me to know my footsteps were unwanted on this planet.

Weaved into almost a decade of these actions was the ever-present gun, appearing suddenly, like when my son and I were ambushed passing by a stairwell in our apartment complex. The gun pressed against my temple.

My son, the witness.

Neither my son nor I felt safe to call the police after my ex got scared and ran off. We didn't know the next time or where a hand holding a gun would appear suddenly out of the shadows and my ex would make good on his threat. Neither my son nor I wanted to play Russian Roulette. Weaved into this time were Personal Protection Orders. My ex saw those as sheets of paper to target practice with. Well, maybe not literally. I don't know. But certainly, he didn't adhere to them. **The PPOs didn't stop the threats to kill me. Nor did they take the gun away.**

That gun was a barrier to reaching out to law enforcement. As long as I knew my ex always had that gun within reach, I needed to take his death threats seriously that if my son or I talked, my son would be without the only parent who had his back, fighting for life to keep him safe.

ADVOCATES CALL FOR PASSAGE OF FIREARMS BILLS

Fighting for him to know a safe environment. Home. School. Community.

Fighting for the hope I hadn't lost that my son would become an adult, feeling safe in the state he lived in and that his footsteps on this planet were worthy and wanted. I didn't want my son to experience being afraid to share he was being hurt. There have been enough hidden stories through enough generations because of the fear of repercussions or because of feeling ashamed or unworthy. Or because of the fear for one's life. Or that of one's family.

I didn't want my son to ever witness a gun being held to the temple of his mother's head, both my son and I holding our breath waiting. Would this be the last time I looked into my son's eyes? And his, into mine?

I know you can't walk in my footsteps. I hope you don't know what it is to have a barrel of a gun against your temple. The best you can do is what you are doing now:

To learn and listen.

Empathize.

Advocate for and support.

I don't want what happened to me to happen to anyone else. Don't ignore our stories and our pain any longer.

—

Thank you, Gabby, for boldly sharing your story and for your courageous, policy-changing advocacy.

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Leading Change
MICHIGAN PASSES HISTORIC SAFETY LEGISLATION

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New Leadership Strengthens Our Resilience

LEADING CHANGE

Michigan Passes Historic Safety Legislation

Share

Years of legislative advocacy led to big results in 2023. Central to this effort is a series of new legislative reforms for the state of Michigan—each reflecting our unwavering commitment to prevention, safety, and accountability.

Resilience is proud to have played a leading role in the implementation of these six critical measures for our state this past year:

1. Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) Launch
2. Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO)
3. Universal Background Checks
4. Safe Storage Law (Public Act 17)
5. Prohibition for Domestic Violence Offenders: Senate Bill 471
6. $30 Million of State Budget Allocated for Victim Services

1. Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) launch

The Address Confidentiality Program, signed into law by Governor Whitmer in December 2020 and launched this past September, stands as **a lifeline for survivors facing threats of physical harm**—offering a pathway to safety and empowerment by safeguarding their home address from public records.

Ahead of its launch, Resilience was **honored to host Michigan's Attorney General Dana Nessel**, who met with members of our team and our Survivor Advisory Council, along with other key community partners, to discuss the program's implications and collaborative efforts to better protect survivors.

Join us in celebrating the Address Confidentiality Program launch as a significant step towards safeguarding survivors and holding perpetrators accountable.

READ MORE ABOUT ACP ON OUR BLOG >

NOTE: Resilience advocates are ready to assist any survivor needing relocation with the complex application process.

ADVOCATES CALL FOR PASSAGE OF FIREARMS BILLS

Comprehensive Gun Safety Laws:
2. Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO)
3. Universal Background Checks
4. Safe Storage Law (Public Act 17)
5. Prohibition for Domestic Violence Offenders (Senate Bill 471)
Universal background checks

Michigan has enacted robust new gun safety laws designed to protect our communities from gun violence.

The **Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO)** law, enacted on February 13, 2024, allows law enforcement, families, household members, and healthcare providers to petition civil courts to temporarily remove firearms from individuals deemed a threat to themselves or others. This proactive measure helps prevent potential tragedies by addressing imminent risks. Resilience's advocates are deeply involved, providing hands-on support to secure ERPOs in Ottawa County. We recommend pursuing a Personal Protection Order (PPO) alongside an ERPO in cases of domestic violence for comprehensive protection.

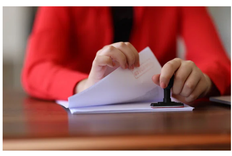
Universal background checks ensure that every firearm purchase is thoroughly vetted, reducing the risk of dangerous individuals obtaining guns.

The **Safe Storage Law (Public Act 17)** mandates secure storage of firearms, preventing accidents and unauthorized access, especially by children.

Prohibition for Domestic Violence Offenders (Senate Bill 471) prohibits individuals convicted of domestic violence offenses from owning firearms for eight years, significantly reducing the risk of intimate partner homicides. These comprehensive measures collectively enhance public safety and protect vulnerable populations.

READ MORE ABOUT THESE HISTORIC MEASURES ON OUR BLOG >

NOTE: For those needing support or guidance in filing an ERPO, Resilience offers assistance during Walk-In Advocacy Hours, Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5PM



6. $30 Million Budget Approval for Victim Services

Michigan is making a historic $160 million investment in public safety, addressing the root causes of crime and fostering safer communities. This landmark funding will support comprehensive programs that enhance policing, community engagement, and mental health services, ensuring a brighter, more secure future for all residents.

Within this budget, $30 million is specifically allocated for victim services, marking a milestone in the state's commitment to supporting crime victims and survivors. **Amid potential federal funding cuts, this state-level investment will help sustain Domestic Violence and Children's Advocacy Centers, enhancing our ability to support those in need.**

Resilience's Executive Director, Megan Hennessey, has been instrumental in advocating for this critical funding, ensuring that domestic violence agencies are included in the state budget for the first time. With this support, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide unwavering assistance to our community, helping survivors rebuild and creating a safer Michigan for all.

READ MORE ON OUR BLOG >

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By advocating for these measures, Resilience is proud to lead the charge in creating a safer, more accountable Michigan. Each legislative reform is vital for the prevention and protection of victims and survivors, strengthening our community at large.

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2023 Revenue & Expenses

FINANCIALS

Revenue

CONTRIBUTIONS	$745,436	27%
GRANT REVENUE	$1,793,276	65%
FEES	$6,110	0.2%
DESIGNATED AWARDS	$201,662	7%
OTHER REVENUE	$13,355	0%
TOTAL REVENUE	**$2,759,839**	

Expenses

PROGRAM SERVICES	$2,087,688	65%
FUNDRAISING	$232,480	17%
GENERAL ADMIN	$490,278	0.2%
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$2,810,446**	

NET RESULT	-50,607	

Programming Breakdown

3% 24-HOUR CRISIS RESPONSE (A)

16% ADVOCACY & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (B)

10% PRIMARY PREVENTION & SYSTEMS CHANGE (C)

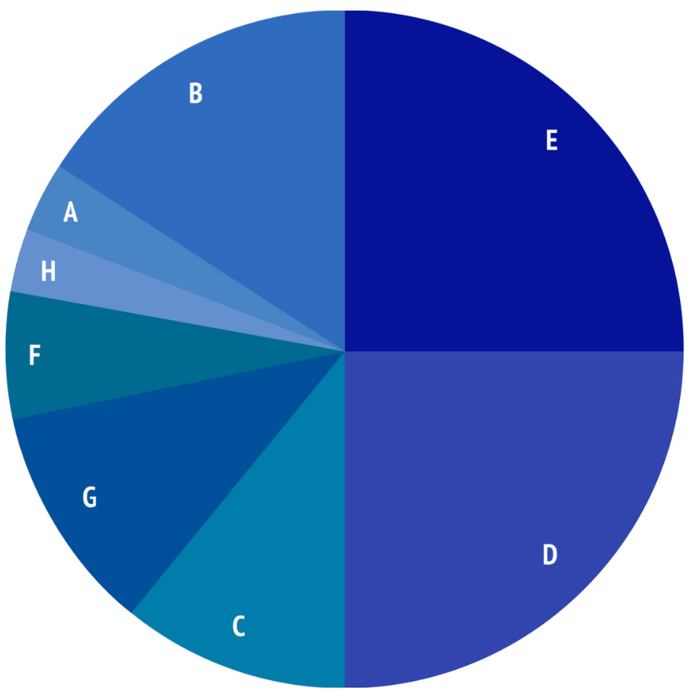
24% EMERGENCY SHELTER (D)

25% SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (E)

7% SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAM (SANE) (F)

11% TRAUMA THERAPY - ADULT (G)

3% TRAUMA THERAPY - CHILD (H)



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