

SOUTH SUBURBAN FAMILY SHELTER, INC.
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017

Mission

The mission of South Suburban Family Shelter, Inc. is to provide comprehensive, coordinated services for families in which domestic violence exists without imposing any one solution. The Shelter is a not-for-profit, non-sectarian, social service agency which is accountable and accessible to all segments of the community. To that end, competent professional and/or trained volunteers will help clients identify options in their life situations without imposing any one solution.

History

South Suburban Family Shelter, Inc. was formed in 1980 as a direct result of a needs assessment survey conducted in the southern suburbs of Chicago by members of the National Council of Jewish Women – South Cook Section, and graduate students from Governors State University. The survey revealed that, at that time, there were between 500 to 600 known victims of domestic violence and there were no services available for them.

Services

Services are available in Spanish and in English to victims of domestic violence and their families. All services provided to victims are provided free of charge. There is a sliding scale fee for abuser relearning groups. Last year SSFS provided services to over 2,400 victims (adult and child). These services included:

- ◆ A 24-hour hotline – Spanish/English – 708 335-3028
- ◆ Emergency shelter, transportation, food
- ◆ Transitional housing
- ◆ Counseling for adult victims (group and individual)
- ◆ Counseling for child victims/witnesses (group and individual)
- ◆ Court advocacy
- ◆ Medical advocacy
- ◆ A school based prevention program
- ◆ Professional trainings
- ◆ Speaker's bureau,
- ◆ Abuser re-learning groups
- ◆ the Sanctuary Program

24-Hour Hotline

The purpose of the 24-hour hotline program is to provide information and advocacy to domestic violence victims whenever it is needed. This program was staffed by bilingual/bicultural staff that have completed a 40-hour training on: domestic violence issues, South Suburban Family

Shelter programs and services, the Illinois Domestic Violence Act and related laws, and referral information for related issues that domestic violence victims may have. Because it is the only bilingual hotline in the southern suburbs, program staff are also trained on referral information for a wide variety of issues including homelessness, substance abuse, suicide, etc. To give the hotline staff additional skills and confidence, they were given opportunities to role-play typical phone calls they may be receiving.

Last year 1,515 hotline calls were taken by bilingual/bicultural staff. Of these, 893 were domestic violence victims seeking information, support and referrals; and 658 were non-domestic violence victims using the hotline to obtain other referrals.

Emergency Shelter, Transportation, Food

The purpose of the Emergency Shelter-Transportation-Food Program is to provide a safe place for domestic violence victims who are leaving their homes in fear of immediate physical harm for themselves or their children. Shelter was provided through the use of hotels and motels and the length of stay was generally one to three nights. Transportation was provided to victims who had no access to a car. Food, clothing, toys, snacks, and other needed items were provided to clients to make their stay in the shelter as comfortable as possible.

After the victim is placed in emergency shelter, South Suburban Family Shelter sent a member of the staff, called a Crisis Intervention Advocate, to meet with the victim and help her identify her options. The Crisis Intervention Advocate and the victim prepared immediate and short-term goals. Information was presented on the other services that South Suburban Family Shelter provides as well as how to access them.

Last year South Suburban Family Shelter provided 160 nights of emergency shelter to 26 adult victims and 41 children.

Transitional Housing

South Suburban Family Shelter's Transitional Housing Program is called Project R.E.N.E.W. This Project provides assistance with rent and/or utilities to insure that domestic violence victims are not made homeless due to domestic violence. The Project R.E.N.E.W. Advocate also assisted with the preparation of budgets, related financial issues, resume writing, and job search skills.

Last year South Suburban Family Shelter provided 32 months of rent to adult victims and their children, and 180 hours of educational, economic, housing, and employment counseling.

Counseling for Adult Victims

The purpose of the Adult Counseling Program at South Suburban Family Shelter is to provide adult victims of domestic violence with the information and the skills that they need to recover from domestic violence. SSFS Counselors have their Masters Degree in Counseling or Social Work.

Last year SSFS Counselors provided:

- 1,058 hours of group counseling and therapy
- 2,093 hours of individual counseling
- 1,083 hours of advocacy,
- 372 hours of child care/parental services
- 142 hours of family counseling, and
- 403 hours of evaluation/assessment/case management

Counseling for Child Victims/Witnesses

The purpose of the Counseling Program for Child Victims/Witnesses is to provide children with the advocacy, support and skills that they need to recover from witnessing domestic violence. Like the Adult Counseling Program, SSFS Counselors in the Children's Program have their Masters Degree in Counseling or Social Work.

Last Year SSFS Counselors provided:

- 412 hours of individual counseling,
- 142 hours of family counseling,
- 163 hours of evaluation/assessment/case management, and
- 247 hours of advocacy to children affected by domestic violence.

South Suburban Family Shelter also provided parenting classes to adult victims whose children are seen in the Counseling Program. The parenting classes teach the skills needed for non-violent parenting. Last year 32 clients participated in parenting classes.

Court Advocacy

The purpose of the Court Advocacy Program at South Suburban Family Shelter is to provide domestic violence victims with information and support as they attempt to obtain relief from the domestic violence through the criminal or civil court system. This protection is generally in the form of an Order of Protection allowed through the Illinois Domestic Violence Act. South Suburban Family Shelter Court Advocates were present in the 6th Suburban District Courthouse five days a week, 52 weeks a year to provide the advocacy, information, and support that domestic violence victim's need.

Last year the South Suburban Family Shelter Court Advocacy Program provided information and assistance to 707 domestic violence victims and assisted 366 victims in obtaining an Order of Protection.

Medical Advocacy

The purpose of the South Suburban Family Shelter Hospital Advocacy Program is to: provide outreach to the community about domestic violence and the services available, identify domestic violence victims who come into the emergency room of area hospitals, and provide identified domestic violence victims with information, support, and advocacy. The area hospitals that collaborate with South Suburban Family Shelter on this project last year were:

- ◆ Advocate/South Suburban Hospital and Medical Center, Hazel Crest
- ◆ Franciscan St. James Hospital and Medical Center, Chicago Heights campus
- ◆ Ingalls Memorial Hospital and Medical Center, Harvey
- ◆ Franciscan St. James Hospital and Medical Center, Olympia Fields campus
- ◆ Ingalls Urgent Care in Calumet City
- ◆ Ingalls Urgent Care in Flossmoor
- ◆ Ingalls Urgent Care in Tinley Park

During the past year, South Suburban Family Shelter Hospital Advocates talked to 24,897 men and women who came to the emergency room of the collaborating hospitals and identified 4,302 of them as domestic violence victims. Of these, 460 requested additional services through South Suburban Family Shelter. All patients who were identified as victims were assisted in developing a safety plan and advocacy.

School-Based Prevention Program

The purpose of the School-based prevention program is to help students identify dating violence and domestic violence and to give them information on the services that are available to help. Last year presentations were given to 3,390 students in the primary schools, 66 students in the post-secondary schools, 3,730 students in the junior high schools, and 3,993 students in the area high schools. Additionally, 397 parents, educators and concerned community members received information about how children and teens are impacted by domestic violence. Eleven BRO (Boys Respecting Others) groups were held with junior high to high school age boys who have been exposed to violence.

Speaker's Bureau

The purpose of the Speaker's Bureau at South Suburban Family Shelter is to provide education on domestic violence related issues to professionals, community leaders, and the general public. During the past year, trainings and outreach events were conducted to 3,327 individuals in the south suburban area including police officers, medical and social service providers in addition to community members.

Abuser Treatment Groups

The purpose of the Abuser Treatment Program is to provide re-learning opportunities for abusive individuals. These groups consisted of 30, two-hour classes. Last year 272 abusive men and women attended abuser relearning groups. Of these who attended the groups, 80 completed the program and 111 are still attending the groups.

The Sanctuary Program

The purpose of the Sanctuary Program is to provide housing and supportive services to homeless women with children to help them with their transition to permanent housing. The Sanctuary Program consists of a 10 unit apartment building with supportive services on-site. Thirteen families resided at the Sanctuary in fiscal year 2017.

Governing Board

South Suburban Family Shelter is governed by a Board of Directors that meets 10 times a year. The meetings are held at South Suburban Family Shelter's Administrative Office, Homewood, Illinois beginning at 6pm. South Suburban Family Shelter's Board of Director members and officers are elected for a 2-year term.

South Suburban Family Shelter's Board of Directors is made up of individuals representing the communities that we serve. Last year's board included:

President – Verlon Johnson
Vice-President – Esther Jenkins
Financial Officer – Teri Gaby
Secretary – Glenna Elvery

Members at Large – Cynthia Brassea, Beverly Bucur, Marydale Donald, Michael Hicks, Vernell Johnson, Ray Suoranta, Dai Zhang

Advisory Board Members include – Sen. Toi Hutchinson, Diane Kessler, Paul Kessler, Dory Machtinger, Denise McGrath, Kimberly Rowe-Barney, Isabel Simard, Val Warner, Linda Williams, Jessica Colon-Sayre, Deb Sedberry.

South Suburban Family Shelter's Executive Director is Jennifer Gabrenya.

Financial Statements – Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017)

Total Income	\$1,832,808
Total Expenses	\$1,865,142
-Hospital Advocacy	\$203,686
-Court Advocacy	\$195,043
-Counseling	\$603,867
-Abuser Treatment	\$134,924
-Emergency Shelter	\$119,558
-Sanctuary	\$296,495
-Fundraising	\$161,974
-Administrative	\$149,595
Total Assets June 30, 2017	\$1,939,578