



MSU

Safe Place

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Annual Report
October 2021- September 2022



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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Dear Spartan Campus, Community Partners, and Friends,

I am proud to present our 2021-2022 annual report, highlighting services and updates from MSU Safe Place, the shelter and support program at Michigan State University for survivors of relationship violence and stalking.

This past year has been an exciting time for the MSU Safe Place staff and those we serve! Thanks to receiving VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funding in the fall of 2021, we were able to hire three new full-time staff, doubling the size of our team! These three additional staff include an advocate, therapist, and volunteer coordinator. Having a third advocate has meant our program has been able to better meet the diverse safety and support needs of those receiving shelter and non-residential services. We now offer more modalities of trauma-informed counseling and additional support groups tailored to the needs of varied survivor interests and identities, thanks to having a licensed therapist on our team. In addition, we are able to create new services. Our Volunteer Coordinator has expanded our volunteer and intern program to increase career development and mentoring opportunities for students. Having more paid and volunteer staff is making it possible to enhance outreach efforts to connect with "minoritized" communities that are affected by relationship violence at higher levels, and increase awareness and educational opportunities to all members of the MSU community. All of these efforts directly benefit our campus community's safety and wellbeing!

In March of this year, we received the devastating news that we had lost a dear friend, and the founder of MSU Safe Place, Joanne McPherson. Joanne was responsible for establishing MSU Safe Place 28 years ago. As First Lady at the time, she determined that a program like MSU Safe Place was needed after consulting with residence hall staff, MSU police, and students about gaps in services and priority needs. Joanne was passionate, creative, persistent and collaborative. She rallied campus and community support to provide in-kind and financial donations and organize the logistics required to establish what is still the only comprehensive shelter and support program on a college campus in the country. We continue to follow Joanne's vision, by serving students, staff, faculty, their partners, and minor-aged children. While Joanne is no longer with us, her legacy lives on each day in the work we do to support those who are struggling with the pain, isolation, trauma and dangers associated with experiencing relationship violence and stalking.

This year has also resulted in MSU Safe Place being placed under a new organizational structure, University Health and Wellbeing. We look forward to working collaboratively with this new unit, as we focus on addressing the safety, health and wellbeing needs of our Spartan community.

On behalf of my staff and the clients we serve, I want to express appreciation for the support we continually receive from members of the campus and surrounding communities.

With gratitude,

Holly Rosen

Holly Rosen, LMSW
MSU Safe Place Director
(she, her, hers)



MISSION

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The primary purpose of MSU Safe Place is to ensure the personal safety, welfare, and dignity of those who experience relationship violence and stalking within the MSU and greater Lansing communities. Goals include:

Providing temporary and safe shelter, advocacy, support and referrals for MSU students, staff, faculty, or their partners, as well as greater Lansing community members, including the minor children of those who are victimized

Increasing community awareness about relationship violence and stalking to improve prevention efforts and community responsiveness.

Offering a learning environment for members of the community through volunteer and internship opportunities.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF JOANNE McPHERSON

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The creation of MSU Safe Place came about from the efforts of Former MSU First Lady, Joanne McPherson. As she first set foot on campus, Joanne sought to improve the lives of MSU students. In 1994, she was struck by the lack of a safe place for students who were experiencing domestic violence to go, and she spent the better part of the next year working diligently to change that. Thanks to her leadership, MSU Safe Place became the first - and still the only - university-based shelter where students, staff, faculty and their partners experiencing abusive relationships can find refuge and support.

Sadly, Joanne passed away in 2022; she was at her home surrounded by family. Joanne will be remembered for her tireless support for domestic violence survivors and the life-changing impact her efforts have had on thousands of Spartans and their families.

“Joanne is the reason we have a relationship violence and stalking shelter and support program on our campus today,” said MSU Safe Place Director Holly Rosen. “I have always valued her compassion and commitment to meet the needs of our campus community and her ability to bring together donors and campus partners to create the program that exists today. She will be greatly missed! My heart goes out to her family and to all the lives she has touched.”



EXPANDED STAFFING AND SERVICES

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From 2012-2021, MSU Safe Place's 24/7 shelter and support services were provided by three staff members:

- Director (since 1994)
- Advocate and Volunteer Coordinator (since 2001)
- Advocate (since 2001)

Thanks to expanded staffing, we now have these additional positions:

- A third Advocate (since 2022)
- Therapist (since 2022)
- Volunteer Coordinator (since 2021)

Volunteers and interns play a crucial role in staffing MSU Safe Place.

NEW SERVICES

Thanks to new staff joining our team, we have been able to expand our services this past year to include:

An increased number of openings for shelter and advocacy services

Trauma informed counseling, including the ability to offer Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) interventions

Multiple educational and interactive in-person workshops scheduled for Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October 2022)

A more in depth, comprehensive volunteer and intern training

Staffed drop-in events, with activities that took place throughout campus

More volunteer and intern opportunities and supervision

Multiple support groups, for survivors of diverse identities or with varied focuses, needs or interests

The creation of many new brochures, including topics such as Stalking, Unique Needs for Survivors Dealing with Immigration Issues, How to get a Personal Protection Order, Issues affecting LGBTQAI+ Communities, Self-Care Tips and Volunteering at MSU Safe Place

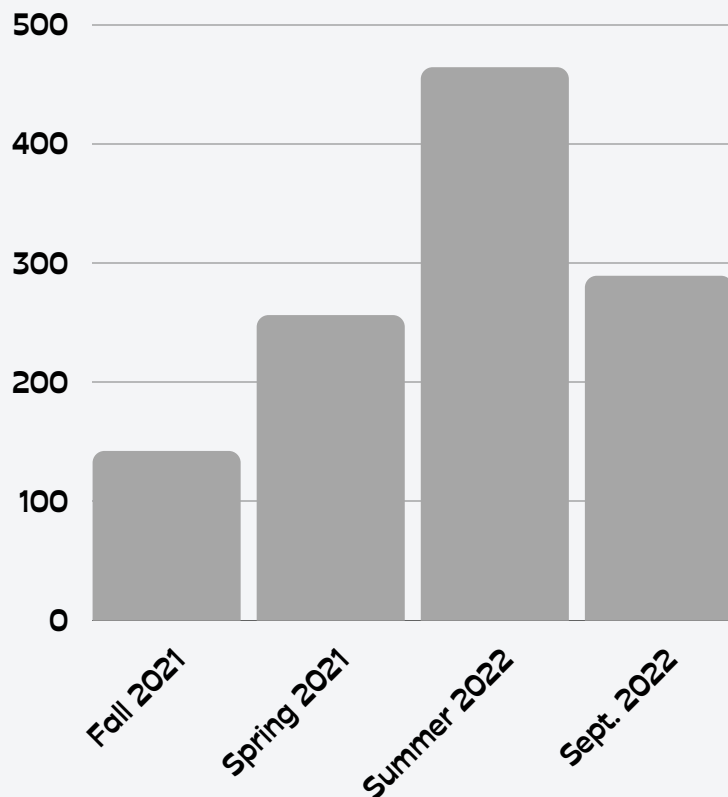
Outreach efforts to minoritized communities and others, to increase awareness on our campus about MSU Safe Place services

VOLUNTEER STAFF DATA

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Utilization of volunteers and interns increased in 2022 after Safe Place had suspended training new volunteers during 2020-2021, due to COVID. Since January 2022, Safe Place offered the first expanded volunteer training with our new full time Volunteer Coordinator, who recruits, trains, and supervises these valued staff members.

Volunteers and Interns Hours at Safe Place



Number of Volunteers and Interns

| Time Period | # Volunteers | # Interns | Total |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|-------|
| Fall 2021 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Spring 2022 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Summer 2022 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Fall 2022 | 6 | 2 | 8 |

VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

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Volunteers and graduate-level interns have helped us in many different ways:

- Provided crisis counseling and support
- Transported shelter and non-residential clients
- Completed shelter intakes
- Helped screen clients interested in attending counseling or support groups
- Assisted with facilities management
- Helped stock and organize offices, shelter and program areas
- Picked up and helped sort donations
- Facilitated support groups
- Provided counseling services

Here is what our volunteers and interns enjoyed about working at MSU Safe Place this past year:

"Having the opportunity to work with clients and see how even just the little things I do can be helpful to them."

"The staff was very supportive, and it helped me enjoy my time there."

"The wonderful, friendly, helpful, kind staff."

"The training that helped teach us how to interact with clients, which I think was really helpful overall, not only for Safe Place."

SERVICES PROVIDED

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The following free and confidential services are provided to MSU students, staff, faculty, their partners, and minor-aged children. Services are offered to the Greater Lansing community when staffing and shelter availability allows.

ADVOCACY
COUNSELING
SHELTER
CRISIS SUPPORT
SUPPORT GROUPS
PARENTING SUPPORT
EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY
DROP-INS & WORKSHOPS
RESOURCE FAIRS AND SPECIAL
EVENTS

CLIENT-DRIVEN SERVICES

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ADVOCACY

Advocacy is specifically tailored to meet each survivor's needs, including safety planning; referrals; accompaniment at court or to meetings with the Office for Institutional Equity (OIE), police or prosecutors; assistance accessing documents and completing applications; providing emotional support and validation; and reviewing options.

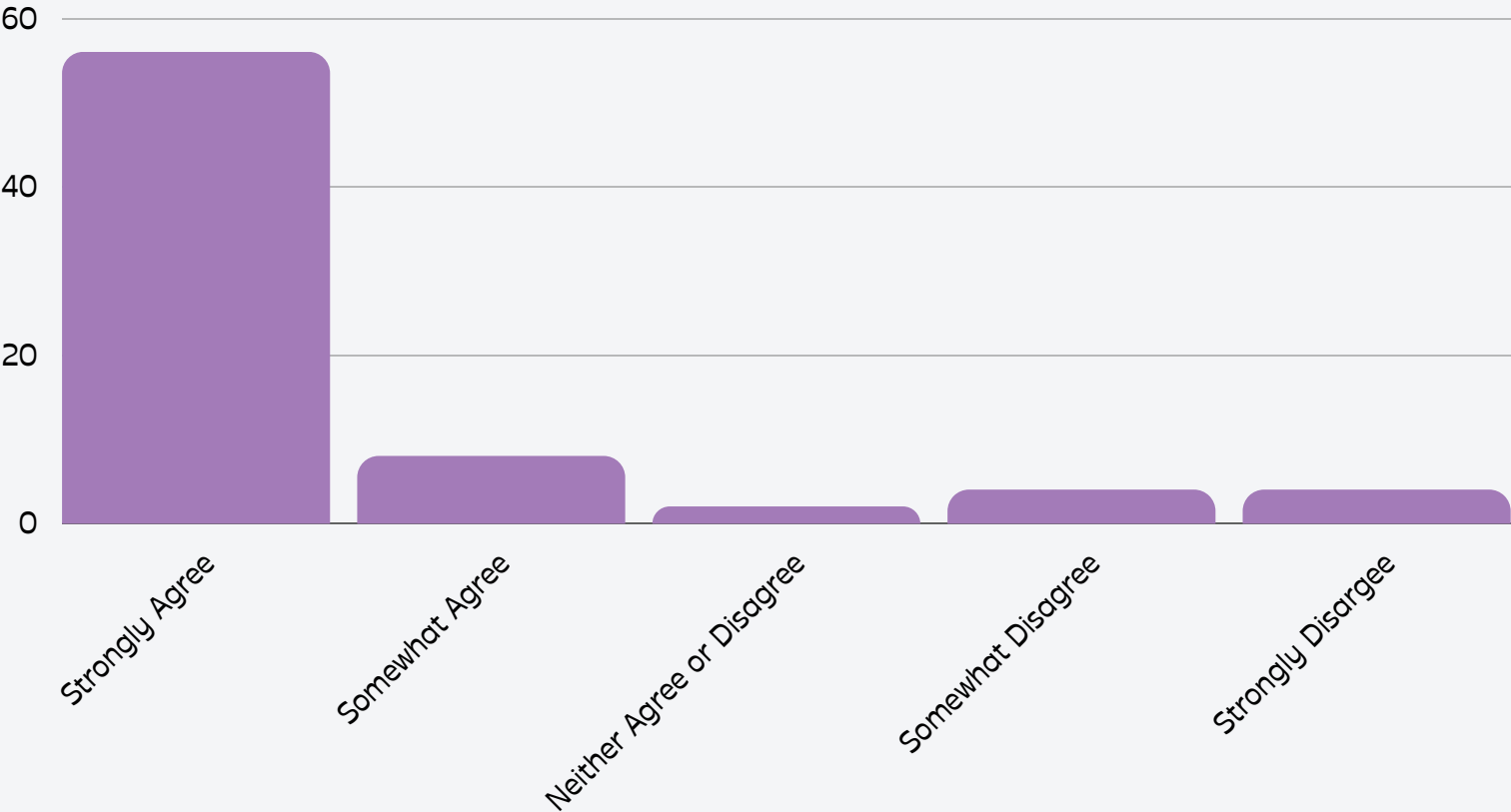


79
advocacy
clients served

OUTCOMES

ADVOCACY

Because of support from Safe Place I have an increased knowledge of my options



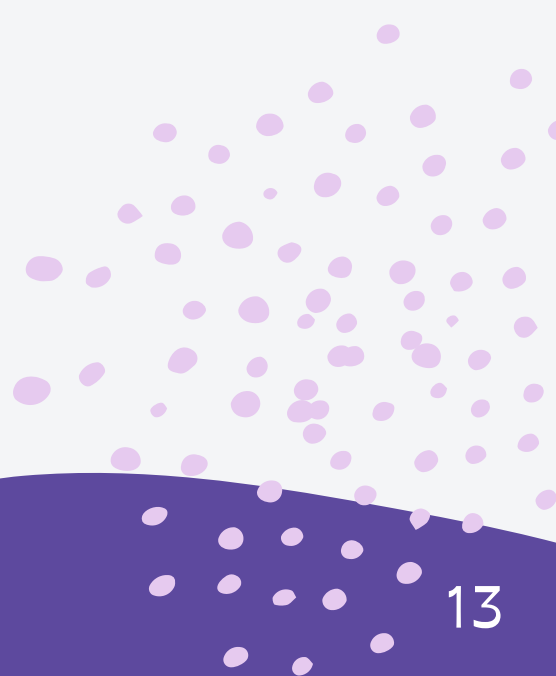
*MSU Safe Place began collecting data through quarterly surveys in April, 2022 to assess program gaps and strengths

COUNSELING

Weekly or bi-weekly trauma-informed therapy is provided by our licensed therapist or graduate students in the MSU Master of Social Work program, to help survivors process feelings and heal from abuse. Safety, suicide, and mental health needs assessments are completed as appropriate. Our licensed therapist is trained in both Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) interventions.



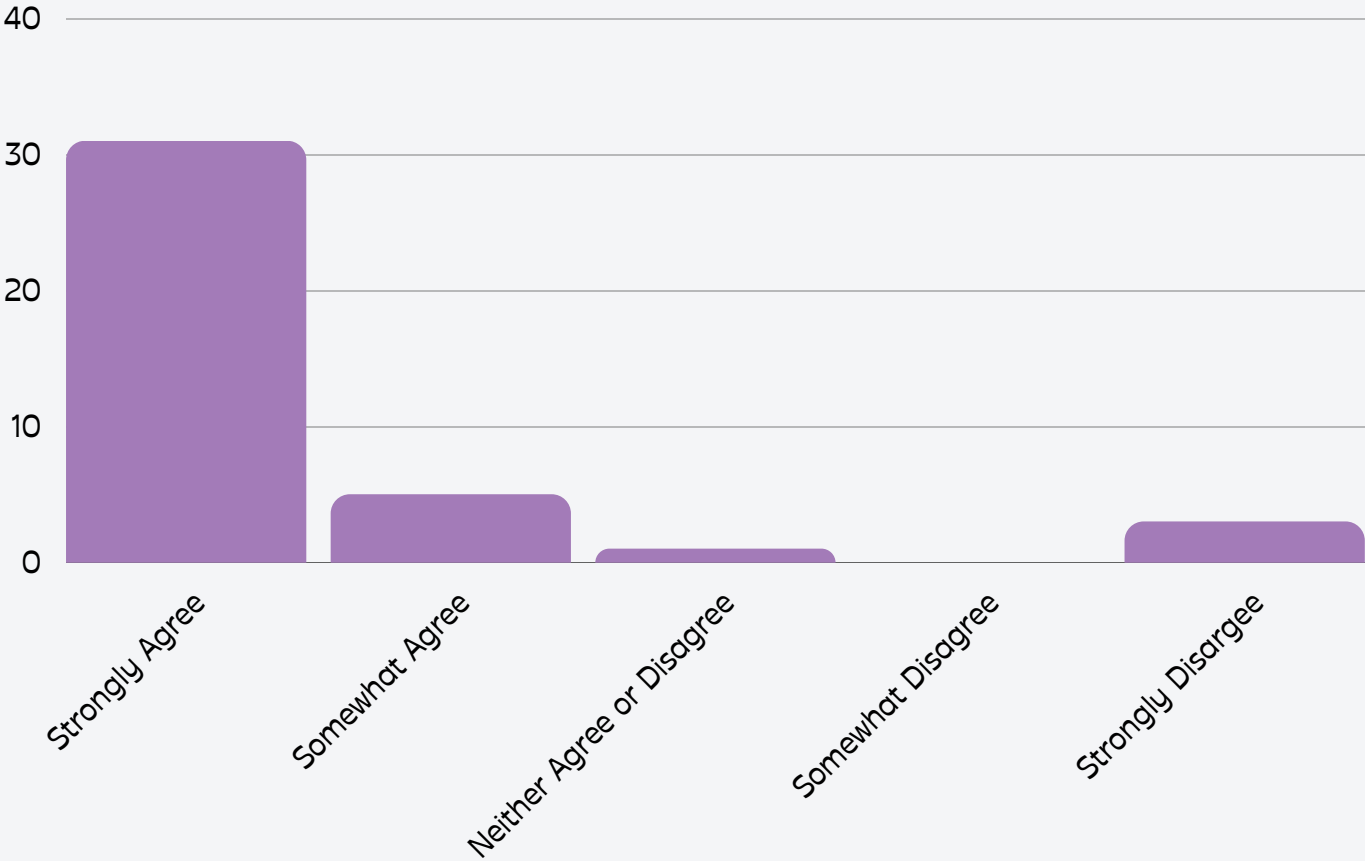
31
counseling
clients served



OUTCOMES

COUNSELING

Overall, I am satisfied with my therapy experience



*MSU Safe Place began collecting data through quarterly surveys in April, 2022 to assess program gaps and strengths

SAFE REFUGE

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SHELTER

Shelter is provided to survivors of any gender identity who are feeling unsafe due to relationship violence or stalking. Shelter is also provided to survivors with minor aged children, and those with assistance animals.



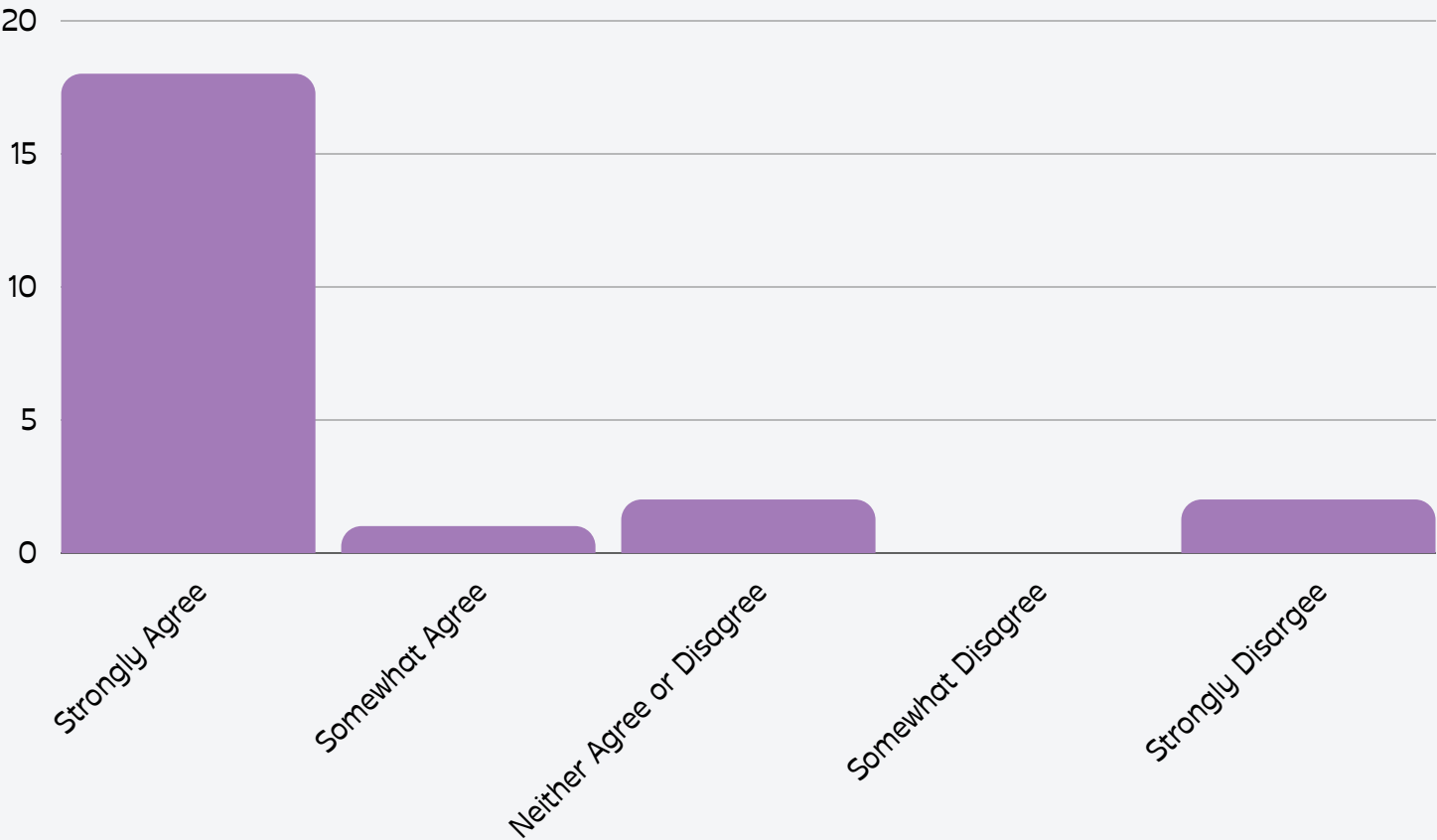
Shelter
provided to
31 clients

2,107
total shelter
nights

OUTCOMES

SHELTER

I felt safe staying in shelter



*MSU Safe Place began collecting data through quarterly surveys in April, 2022 to assess program gaps and strengths

SUPPORT PROVIDED

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CRISIS

Crisis intervention is provided to shelter, counseling, support group, and advocacy clients, as well as to survivors who contact us via phone, crisis chat, or email at noabuse@msu.edu.

SUPPORT

SUPPORT

GROUPS

Prior to expanding our team, MSU Safe Place only offered one support group. This service was discontinued during COVID and recently began again in the summer of 2022. Currently, there are three support groups offered: one for any survivor looking to begin their healing journey; an art therapy group; and a student-focused group. In the future, additional groups may be offered based on specific interests, needs and identities of survivors requesting this service.

ADDRESSING FAMILY AND LEGAL NEEDS

PARENTING

SUPPORT

Survivors of relationship violence with children often experience their ex-partners initiating post-separation abuse and domestic violence by proxy, which creates additional stress, anxiety, trauma, and health and safety issues for themselves and their children. Individual support is provided as needed to non-offending parents.

EXPERT WITNESS

TESTIMONY

Expert witness testimony is available to survivors, prosecutors, defense attorneys or family court attorneys. The goal is to educate those who are trier of facts (a judge, jury, or Friend of the Court referee) so they are more knowledgeable about perpetrator tactics, victimization responses, and the risk of harm to others when making decisions about cases that involve domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault.

OUTREACH



DROP-INS

Drop-ins were created by the recently formed Outreach Team. This service is intended to increase awareness, and provide activities for campus members to learn more about relationship violence and stalking. Drop-in activities are currently being scheduled in residence halls or buildings where classes occur. Future events will increase outreach to minoritized survivors, such as the students visiting the Gender and Sexuality Campus Center (GSCC) and other identity-based units or programs.



WORKSHOPS

Community education is provided to help campus and community members learn more about how to recognize relationship violence and stalking, and refer to our program or other resources. Programs are either initiated by MSU Safe Place, or are tailored to meet the needs of those requesting programming.



"Safe Place has saved me in so many ways, helped me survive what happened to me and supported me to push through to continue in school as well as gave me the courage to reach out for help from the people around me."

"I feel safe here."

"The support and advocacy has been invaluable."

Here is what clients had to say about their experiences with MSU Safe Place:

"[Safe Place] gave me the strength and confidence to help myself and ask the people around me for help. I also love that they are completely judgment-free on how you proceed, you can leave or stay, you can make mistakes, and no matter what they will be there to support you and to take the next step forward. "

COMMUNITY PRESENCE

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Staffing these types of events provides opportunities to connect with campus and community members to share information about MSU Safe Place and other community resources.

RESOURCE FAIRS &

SPECIAL EVENTS



IMPACT

MSU Safe Place participated in 60 outreach events and connected with 16,802 participants.

OUTREACH OVERVIEW

Volunteer/Intern Training
11

Resource Fairs
13

Vigil
1

General Presentations
7

Service Providers Trainings
10

Expert Witness Testimony
10

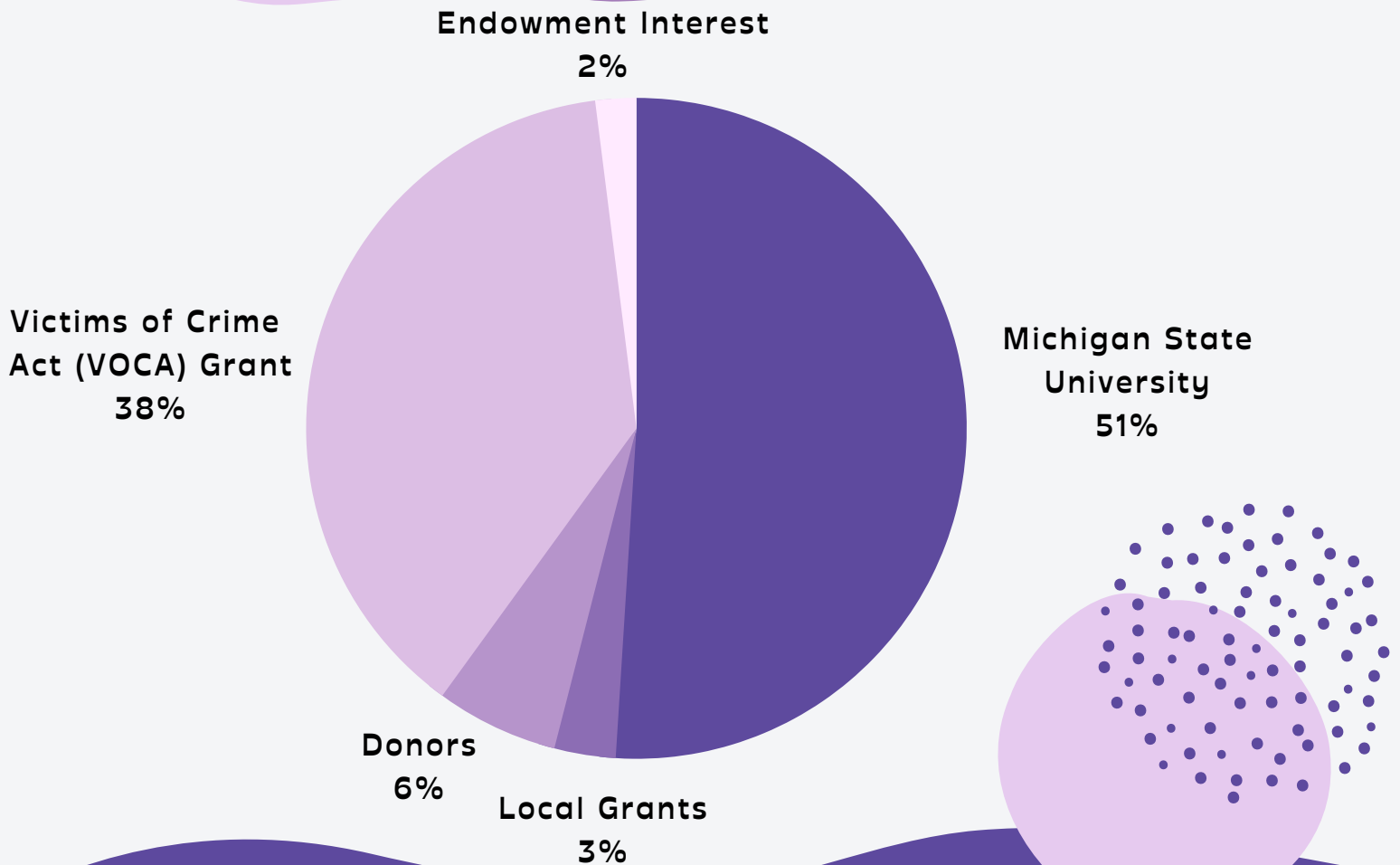
Safe Spaces
4

Other
4

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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We appreciate all of the individuals and groups who donate to us, both financially and in-kind. We also appreciate support from local, state and federal funding sources. Currently, MSU Safe Place receives funding from the City of East Lansing, Ingham County, and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which is overseen by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). If you want to learn more about our program, or how to get more involved in supporting Safe Place, contact us at noabuse@msu.edu or go to safeplace.msu.edu



COLLABORATIONS

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MSU Safe Place provides volunteer and intern training three times a year, collaborating with two other domestic violence programs in the Lansing area: EVE and the Capital Area Response Effort (CARE).

Staff also take part in coordinated community response efforts, including MSU's Violence Free Communities (VFC), the Capital Area Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Coordinating Council (CADSVCC), MSU Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), the Capital Region Housing Collaborative (CRHC), the reproductive rights group on campus (SR3-CAN), WILD planning meetings, and other campus and community groups. In addition, MSU Safe Place collaborates frequently with the Center for Survivors, Prevention, Outreach and Education (POE), Residence Education and Housing Services (REHS), and other campus programs.

We are thrilled to announce that this past spring MSU Safe Place joined several other units on campus under a newly formed department or MAU, entitled University Health and Wellbeing. We look forward to collaborating in new ways with these other units to meet the needs of our Spartan community!

