

# The Sojourner Truth

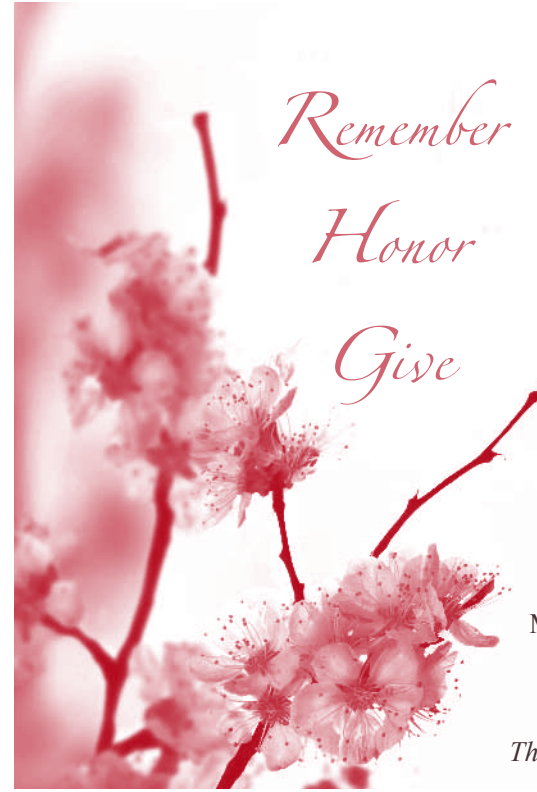
A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF SOJOURNER

## Thank You for Your Donations

*(If we have misspelled or omitted your name on this list, please accept our sincere apologies and let us know for future publications.)*

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## Mother's Day Appeal Donor Recognition



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 Carolyn Blesi given in memory of Michael J. Blesi, son  
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 Helen Chargo in honor of Susan Chargo and Melissa Siegel  
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 LeJeune Family Foundation  
 Mary Ann and Richard Pedtke given in honor of Vera Eagleson, mother, Cecilia Pedtke, mother-in-law and Judy Golz, friend  
 Barbara Weingarden

*Thank you to all of our donors who honored special people in their lives by helping others through our Spring appeal. We appreciate your care and support.*

**If you would like to receive future newsletters and communications by email or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the Program Support Coordinator at 952-351-4062.**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
 www.sojournerproject.org  
 24-Hour Crisis Line: 952-933-7422  
 952-933-7433  
 P.O. Box 272, Hopkins, MN 55343



**Inside This Issue:**  
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**Sojourner's Board of Directors**  
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## Volunteers Make it Happen

### Making a Difference in 2009

In the midst of tough economic times, volunteers and donors reached out to support Sojourner in some incredible ways. The economic crisis intensified the challenges for many of our program participants trying to rebuild their lives. Advocates reported that approximately 90% of our clients faced serious multi-layered crisis situations. Victims struggled with poverty, unemployment, inability to afford legal assistance, lack of medical assistance, eviction and foreclosure, lack of affordable housing, interrupted child support, loss of childcare services and traumatized children.

In-kind donations helped advocates respond to increased requests for basic needs support as participants reported difficulty obtaining food, paying utilities and meeting other critical expenses. Food, gas cards, clothing, linens, diapers, and personal products eased the burdens of many families.

- In 2009, Sojourner provided:*
- Emergency shelter for 187 women and 178 children for 6,052 bed nights*
- Response to 1,332 crisis line callers and 616 calls for Information and Referral*
- Served 19,669 meals in the shelter*
- Community based legal advocacy and support to 666 women and 35 men*
- Transition support, parental coaching and services to 273 mothers to increase family stability for children*
- 13,334 hours in direct client advocacy*
- 68 presentations which included four volunteer trainings and 13 professional trainings reaching almost 3,000 people in the community to increase information and awareness about domestic violence. More than 1/2 of these presentations were offered in schools, faith communities and colleges.*
- Service opportunities for 67 volunteers and 22 services groups that included 357 individuals for a total of 8,084.5 hours of contributed service time.*

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**Our Mission:**  
 To provide safe shelter for women & children, advocacy and education for individuals and communities victimized by domestic violence.

## Volunteer Recognition

In 2009, volunteers shared 8,084.5 hours of their time and talents with Sojourner Project. We depend on volunteers to help staff the crisis and intervention lines, organize donations, do art and reading projects with the children, help keep the toy rooms clean and organized, coordinate special events, landscape, cook, coordinate item drives for us and so much more. We appreciate you sharing your time and talents with the staff and clients of Sojourner, and for all that you do to help promote safety and healing in our community. Recently, two of our volunteers were highlighted in the community for their work with Sojourner.

In March, high school senior Amanda Abrahamson was honored at the Caring Youth Recognition award, a program that celebrates youth who have demonstrated their commitment to responding to the needs of others in their communities by serving others. Beginning in May of 2008, Abrahamson was the primary childcare worker for one of our weekly support groups. Amanda says that volunteering at Sojourner "really opened up my eyes to see how many people even in our community are faced with life and death decisions in their households. I wasn't aware of all the domestic abuse in our town."

She was nominated for this recognition by Judi Nelson, Sojourner's Community Education Coordinator, who notes that "Because the children in her care have been (or are being) exposed to domestic abuse, her position demands a solid understanding of domestic violence and its impact on children, their mothers

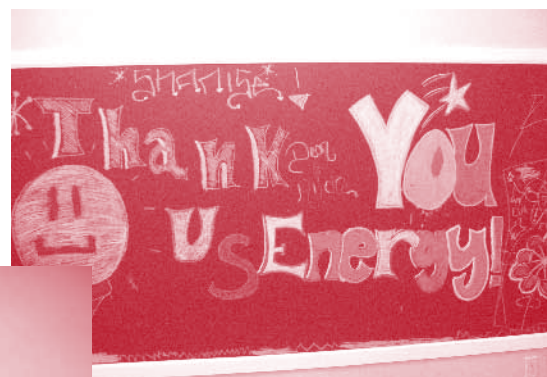
and their communities. (She) has distinguished herself as a reliable and responsible worker displaying a warm and supportive manner with the children in her care; she demonstrates good judgment and insight, and is an



Amanda Abrahamson & Judi Nelson

excellent role model for the children, often helping them with their homework and mentoring them with her attention. She is trusted and well liked by the mothers, the children and by other volunteers who have assisted her from time to time." In addition to her direct role with Sojourner, Nelson said, Abrahamson worked in her community to provide other support for the shelter and community programs. She recently led a donation drive and collected a "huge" amount of cleaning, paper and hygienic products for Sojourner's Women's Shelter worth several hundreds of dollars.

In March, U.S. Energy was featured as one of the nominees in the "Greater Twin Cities United Way Best Of Awards" for their "Caring Connection Project." As part of that project last summer, employees of U.S. Energy



Thank you U.S. Energy

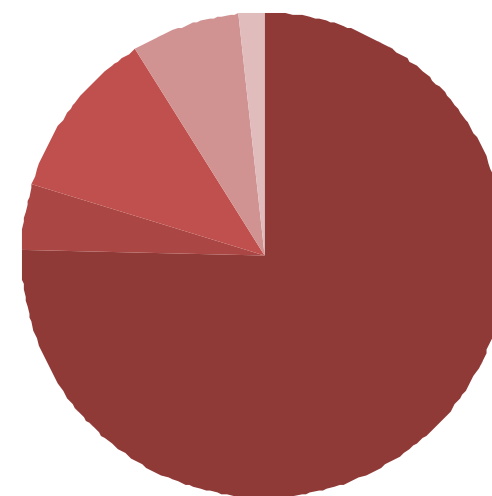
completed several impressive structural projects around Sojourner to help our space look more inviting/be more functional. On a recent visit to discuss an upcoming volunteer project, Bill Bathe, US Energy's President, said that one of the reasons the company contributes to Sojourner is because he "believes that making a difference in the community is important. There are lots of reasons and places that people give to and Sojourner's mission is one that resonates well with the company." Roberta Lane also sees value in volunteering and enjoys doing so with her coworkers on projects for Sojourner because its a "good team building opportunity centered around a good cause in our community."

Sojourner congratulates Amanda and US Energy for their honors and thanks all who gave their time and energy to support our mission.

## 2009 REVENUE

■ Government	76 %
■ United Way	4 %
■ Foundations	11 %
■ Contributions	7 %
■ Other	2 %

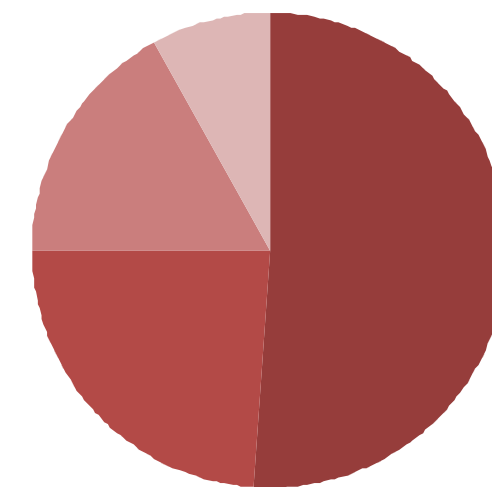
Government	\$757,707
United Way	\$44,349
Foundations	\$112,549
Contributions	\$74,413
Other	<u>\$15,896</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,004,914</b>



## 2009 EXPENSES

■ Shelter	
■ Community Services	
■ Management/Fundraising	
■ Depreciation	

Shelter	\$516,902
Community Services	\$250,254
Management/ Fundraising	\$168,952
Depreciation	<u>\$84,245</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,020,363</b>



**We are so grateful for Sojourner's volunteers. You are a great source of strength and support to our staff, clients and community. Thank you so much for all you do!**

## Helping with Meals at Sojourner

In March we launched a new meal prep service opportunity for volunteer groups at Sojourner. Groups of 2-5 people come in once a month to prep and serve dinner to our residents. It has been a great opportunity for businesses, religious organizations and groups of friends who enjoy cooking and serving together and we are really excited about how its been going. Board member Diane Beson brought some friends in on St. Patrick's Day and noted "We really enjoyed our time making the dinner, and were surprised how easy and simple it was to put together as Lawana (Sojourner's food coordinator) was so well organized." We have Wednesday and Thursday nights available for groups to come serve. If you're interested in being involved please contact Theresa at 952-351-4062 or thunter@sojournerproject.org for more information.

## "Heart of Hope" Wine Tasting & Silent Auction Fundraiser

Historic Grain Belt Building, Minneapolis

Mark your calendars! On Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, Sojourner's Board is hosting a wine tasting and silent auction fundraiser at the Grain Belt Brewery building in Minneapolis. We are currently collecting donations for the auction from individuals and businesses in our community. If you have an item or service to contribute or would like to volunteer at the event, please contact Theresa Hunter at 952-351-4062. It will be a great evening for a great cause and we hope that you can be a part of it!

## Thank You for Your Donations

(If we have misspelled or omitted your name on this list, please accept our sincere apologies and let us know for future publications.)

Caitlin Peterson  
Vicki Peterson  
Charlotte Phillipe  
Judy Popenhagen  
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Lee Radermacher  
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Barbara Ratner  
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ADC Foundation  
Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
April and Company Hair Salon  
Aveda Institute  
Authentic Life Church  
Bath and Body Works-Albertville  
Bath and Body Works-Knollwood Mall  
Bet Shalom Congregation  
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Chapel Hills Women Fellowship  
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ING  
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UnitedHealth Group  
US Energy  
WCA Foundation  
West Suburban Women's Club  
Westwood Lutheran Church  
Wireless Ronin Technologies, Inc.  
Zion Lutheran Church of Hopkins

## Thirty Years of Help, Support and Heart

2009 marked Sojourner's 30th year of commitment to supporting the efforts of victims of domestic violence to reclaim their lives. We have helped thousands of domestic violence victims achieve significant and lasting changes in their lives and we have lobbied for and worked hard for systemic changes that have increased the safety of women and children throughout our community, and we couldn't have done it without the help, support and heart of volunteers. Thank you!