

The Sojourner Truth

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF SOJOURNER

Inside This Issue:

- 1 :: A Year of Impact: Supporting Survivors, Strengthening Communities
- 2 :: Gratitude for Our Generous Supporters
- 2 :: Thank You, Donors
- 4 :: 2025 So Far...
- 5 :: James' Journey to Safety and Justice
- 5 :: Financial Report
- 6 :: Critical Role of Federal Funding

Sojourner's 2025 Board of Directors

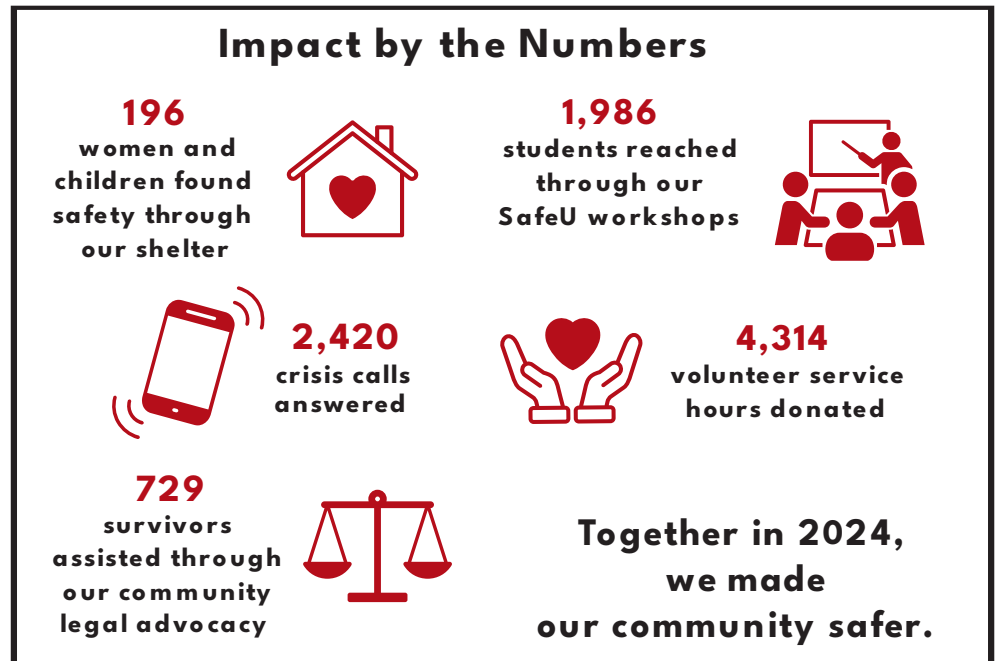
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A Year of Impact: Supporting Survivors, Strengthening Communities

In 2024, Sojourner made remarkable strides in supporting victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Through direct services, educational outreach, and advocacy, we connected with thousands of individuals and community members, offering the resources and support they needed to heal and rebuild.

Our dedicated team of staff, interns, and volunteers navigated challenges, celebrated successes, and tirelessly advocated for our clients and stronger policies to reinforce our life-changing, life-saving work.

The infographic below highlights the reach and impact of our programs, including the Emergency Shelter, 24-hour Crisis Line, Community and Legal Advocacy Department, and Outreach and Education Department. These numbers illustrate the critical role our services play in helping survivors regain safety, stability, and independence.



- Advocates for victim safety;
- Supports the transition from victim to survivor;
- Educates for the prevention and elimination of domestic violence.

Your support has directly changed lives—providing survivors and their families with essential resources, compassionate care, and the tools to move forward. Your belief in our mission fuels our work, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership in building a safer, more supportive community.

Together, we are making a lasting difference.

Sincerely,
Laura Sisterman,
Executive Director

Gratitude for Our Generous Supporters

At Sojourner, we are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our donors, partners, and volunteers. It is because of you that we are able to continue our critical work in providing safety, support, education, and resources. Your generosity enables us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families in our community.

Every donation plays a crucial role in helping us create lasting change. We are honored to have such a dedicated group of supporters who believe in our mission and work alongside us to build a safer, stronger future for all.



Thank you for being a vital part of our journey.

Thank you to all our 2024 Donors

We are proud to recognize and celebrate your commitment to making our community a safer place for all.

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 Douglas & Dominica Bernard
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 Dave Beson & Pat Trask
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 Michael Bjorgan
 Ellen Blonigen
 Julie Bomstad
 Maureen & Brian Booth
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Fingerhut Family Foundation
Frog Crossing Foundation
Golden Valley Community
Foundation
Golden Valley Community
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Grace Upon Grace Mooty
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Stark Clan Foundation
Tankenoff Families
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Community Collaborative

BUSINESS, CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS AND FAITH GROUPS

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Assistance League
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Bad Dog Antiques
Baird Wealth Management
Ballard Spahr
Barr Engineering
Beckhoff Automation
Believe in Minnesota
Political Action
Committee
Bolton & Menk
Bonfe
Calmoseptine
Calvin Presbyterian Church
Cargill Edible Oils
North America
Caribou Coffee
Celarity
Church of the Cross
City of Minneapolis -
Women's Employee
Resource Group
Cosmopolitan Women's
Club
Cross of Glory
Baptist Church
Destiny Hill Church
Driskill's Downtown Market
Eden Prairie Community
Center
Edina Federated
Women's Club
Excelsior Lions Club

Fairview Center for Women
Family of Christ Lutheran
Church
Fitger's Inn
Genereau & Co Jewelry
Gethsemane Lutheran
Church
GoBros
Hopkins Elks
Hopkins Noon-Time Lions
Indigo the Label
JCI Hopkins
Lake Minnetonka Excelsior
Morning Rotary Club
Liberty Diversified
International
Minnesota Roadways Co.
Minnetonka Employees
Fund
Minnetonka United
Methodist Church
Minnetonka United
Women of Faith
Mom's Club of
Minnetonka-West
Mount Calvary Lutheran
Church
Noah's Ark Child
Development Center
Osseo Book Club
Pentair
PEO Chapter CT Hopkins
Precision Gasket Company
Shepherd of the Hills
Signature Retail Solutions
Smack Shack
Snap Print
Spirit of Peace
St. Therese Early Learning
Center
Starbucks
Stone Arch Gifts
Surmodics
Tailwind Voice & Data
Target Corporation
The Hutton House
The Mills Church
The Parish of Saint Gabriel
Thrivent Financial
Trimble
Trinity Lutheran Church
Twin Cities Kappa Delta
Alumnae Chapter
United Health Care
Veritext
Waytonka Club
Wayzata Rotary
West Suburban Women's
Club
Westwood Lutheran Church
Zion Lutheran Church of
Hopkins

2025 So Far...



Action Day at the Capitol



Staff Retreat



Clothing Closet Volunteers



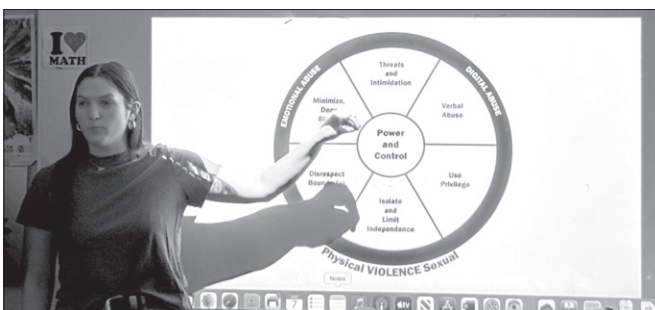
Essential Donations for our Clients



Meal Prep Volunteers



Shelter Volunteers



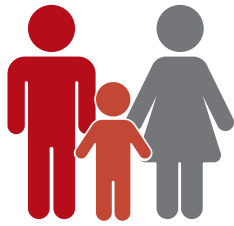
SafeU Training for High Schoolers



Training for Bethel University Students

James' Journey to Safety and Justice

Sojourner's Community Program supports women, men, and children in the western suburbs of Hennepin County who have experienced domestic and/or sexual abuse. In recent



years, the number of male victims seeking our services has steadily increased. One such client, James, has relied on our support for more than two years due to the ongoing abuse he and his sons faced from his former spouse.

After James and one of his sons were assaulted, and his ex-wife was arrested, the police referred them to Sojourner's Intervention program through our standard protocols. A Sojourner advocate reached out to James to explain the criminal court process and assess his family's safety needs. Our advocate attended court on James' behalf, where the judge issued an order for his abuser to stay away from their home and have no contact with him. However, James' sons were not initially protected, so our advocate assisted him in securing an Order for Protection (OFP) for both him and his children.

Despite the court orders, James' ex-wife continued to contact him in violation of legal restrictions and continued to torment their children. Like many victims, James initially hesitated to report these violations. Victims often minimize the significance of violations, fear retaliation, or doubt that reporting will make a difference.

With continued support from his advocate, James ultimately reported several violations, resulting in new criminal charges

against his ex-wife. He soon discovered that reporting the violations significantly reduced the threatening contacts from his ex-wife. Throughout the process, his advocate remained in regular contact, updating him on the outcomes of hearings, which occurred approximately every two months.

Initially, James' abuser was scheduled to go to trial for the assault and OFP violations, but at the last minute, she agreed to plead guilty to some of the charges. She was sentenced to two years of supervised probation, mandated to complete a domestic violence program, prohibited from using alcohol or non-prescribed drugs, and ordered to have no contact with James. If she violates any terms of her probation, she could face additional jail time.

To further solidify the boundaries set by the Order for Protection, his advocate helped James request a 50-year OFP due to the numerous violations. A judge granted the request, providing James and his children with a sense of safety and security that had been missing during months of frightening threats and harassment.

James expressed deep gratitude for the support and guidance he received from his Sojourner advocate, emphasizing how instrumental it was in bringing an end to the years of abuse his family endured. He is grateful to have not had to navigate this journey alone.

Sojourner's Intervention Program empowers parents with vital information and unwavering support to secure safety and justice for themselves and their children. James' story is just one example of the profound impact our program has on families, supporting their journey from fear to hope.

2024 Financial Report

2024 Statement of Functional Expenses

Shelter	\$762,393
Community Services	\$394,777
Education & Outreach	\$37,249
Administration	\$215,732
Fundraising & Marketing	\$105,665
TOTAL	\$1,515,816

2024 Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$2,278,554
Fixed Assets	\$3,278,013
Accumulated Depreciation	(\$1,774,677)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,781,890

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities	\$76,429
Long Term Liabilities	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$76,429
Equity	\$3,705,461
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$3,781,890

2024 Income & Expense Statement

INCOME

GRANT/CONTRACT REVENUE

Contracts	\$1,042,745
Foundations	\$206,715
Contributions	\$172,380
Other	\$185,947
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,607,787

EXPENSES

Business Expense	\$215,732
Program Expense	\$1,194,419
Fundraising	\$105,665
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,515,816
Total 2024 Profit or Loss	\$91,971



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

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Stay Connected

Follow us on **Instagram** (@sojournermn), **Facebook** (@sojournerproject1), and **LinkedIn** (@sojourner) for regular updates. Help is available 24/7 via our **Crisis Line** at 952-933-7422.



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 Outreach and Education Manager at 952-351-4062.

The Critical Role of Federal Funding in Sojourner's Work

Each year, Sojourner provides safety and support to nearly 1,000 survivors of domestic violence. Our outreach efforts reach 10,000 people annually, including almost 2,000 youth prevention education students. However, this transformative work is at risk due to potential federal funding cuts in the non-profit sector.

Sojourner's funding sources are diverse, with federal funding accounting for 15-20% of the budget. Government grants are a key component of many healthy nonprofit budgets. Sojourner receives support from sources such as the Office of Justice Crime Victim Services Grant and FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program. These grants help provide crisis intervention, emergency shelter, housing assistance, legal advocacy, and community outreach and prevention efforts.

A reduction or loss of federal funding could mean fewer available shelter beds, longer wait times for crisis intervention, reduced legal advocacy services, less opportunities for youth violence prevention and greater risk for first responders. For some survivors, these programs are the difference between life and death. Crime victim services also reduce repeat violence and assist law enforcement. Without these efforts, the community is less safe for everyone. Losing federal support would not just weaken our ability to help—it would put lives at risk.

How You Can Help

- 1. Contact Your State and Federal Representatives** – Urge them to support funding for crime victim services.
- 2. Donate to Sojourner** – Consider a one-time or monthly donation via check or online by scanning the QR code printed on the included donation envelope.
- 3. Check for Matching Gifts** – Many employers match employee donations—double your impact by checking with your HR department.
- 4. Recommend Us** – If you know someone with a donor-advised fund or a family foundation, encourage them to support our work.
- 5. Corporate & Business Sponsorships** – Advocate for your company to sponsor our programs and events.

You can provide the hope and support needed to transform the lives of those experiencing abuse. **Thank you for standing with Sojourner and creating a safer community for all. As a former client recently share, "Keep doing what you do. We need you!"**

QUESTIONS?

Reach out to Development Director, Becca Welna at Becca@sojournerproject.org or **952-351-4067**.