

2008 Annual Report

giving victims a voice and families a future

Mission: to reduce domestic violence and family conflict through advocacy, empowerment, violence prevention and intervention, services and education.

Vision: to assist in ending violence in the lives of all people.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of the WCFOC:

Looking back over 2008, there are some high points that I am proud to share with you.

•**Inclusiveness:** Although the WCFOC has always been a welcoming place for people with diverse backgrounds; the staff, board and volunteers worked diligently this past year on developing goals to better target diverse populations with unique needs. Each program identified and met outcomes to weave inclusiveness throughout the agency.

•**Administrative Addition:** The WCFOC completed its first capital improvement project by connecting our two administrative offices. This project allows for easier communication between staff, provides a common place for internal meetings and community workshops, increases office space, and gives us a larger storage area for the daily essentials necessary to operate the shelter and support our clients most in need.

•**Services and Programs:** Although some might define this as a tragedy versus a highlight, the WCFOC served over 15,000 individuals in 2008. Specifically in the last quarter, we experienced a significant increase in crisis calls, requests for non-residential therapy, and people seeking legal support. It is a sad reality that so many are in need; however, it is a blessing that the WCFOC is here to provide comfort, education, and exceptional services to ultimately improve the quality of life for this region.

Now it is time to look at the future, one filled with awesome possibilities and greater requests for your support.

•**In April 2009**, the WCFOC broke ground on its new 28-bed shelter and in January 2010 the new facility will open, ready to assist those in the most dire need for safety, confidentiality, and shelter.

•**In order** to complete the shelter, the WCFOC must raise \$2.2 million - \$450,000 coming from our existing and new individual and business donors.

•**In 2010**, operational expenses for the new shelter will increase by \$150,000 as staffing must accommodate the expansion and provide valuable services to more than double the clients currently sheltered. It may seem daunting to know that we need more from you – our most dedicated supporters – in order to see our successes continue. It is sometimes overwhelming to me as well. And then I talk with a client who has risked it all to step into the unknown and completely start a new life. If this client is willing to face the challenges, overcome the barriers, and take these difficult steps to completely trust us – we too have to show our own strength and take that leap of faith.

We relish and truly appreciate your past gifts of time, talents, and money. Now, with your on-going commitment, we can sustain and expand upon the accomplishments of 2008 and make SUCCESS to those we serve become a reality. Please join us in our awesome future.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Walker, Executive Director

2008 Service Summary

Programs at the Women's Crisis & Family Outreach Center (WCFOC) include our 24-hour Crisis Line; 12-bed Emergency Shelter; residential and non-residential therapy and legal advocacy for women, men and children, as well as community outreach including specialized trainings for law enforcement and other victim services providers, skills-building and parenting classes, a school-based violence prevention initiative, educational presentations, and volunteer opportunities. In addition, the WCFOC offers clients access and referrals to resources including our food bank, donations of clothing and household goods, mental health/medical/dental support, and pro-bono legal assistance. In 2008, the WCFOC experienced increased demands for services in Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln Counties and into the eastern plains of Colorado. These demands are particularly evident in our Clinical Therapy program. In addition, the WCFOC's shelter continues to collaborate with facilities in Metro Denver, all over Colorado, and across the nation as women seek a confidential and safe location for themselves and their children. Sadly, we had to turn away as many families as we were able to house in our shelter last year due to over capacity. Below is a summary of services provided and the numbers reached for 2008:

SUMMARY OF SERVICES	
Crisis/info calls	8,190
Nights of shelter	2,140
Women/children in shelter	142
Counseling and advocacy contacts	28,160
Prevention contacts with at - risk children	1,942
Legal Advocacy - clients served	524
Victims turned away because shelter was full	121
Community Presentation attendance	6,457
Volunteer hours	3,701

Evaluation Results

Of shelter clients served, **87%** went on to permanent or transitional housing options separate from their abuser.

On the exit survey question, "Did you and your children receive the services needed to become violence free and self-sufficient," – **87%** agreed, **86%** felt they had a social support system in place, and **82%** developed a written safety plan.

On the statement, "Because of my stay here, I feel I have learned more about domestic violence," – **89%** learned more about DV and **81%** felt better able to handle life than before counseling. **100%** of the mothers observed their children being encouraged to believe that the abuse was not their fault and observed their children coping better after being a part of the Youth Advocacy Services.

Of non-residential clients served, **92%** of the women agreed they are more self-sufficient now than they were before receiving services. In order to become more self-sufficient;

33% of respondents now have a personal bank account

40% of respondents now have a personal cellular phone

23% of respondents now have a personal vehicle

33% of respondents now have independent housing

40% of respondents now have a job or a personal income

26% of respondents have started/restarted school.

Further, when asked about changes in their child's behavior: **70%** of respondents agreed they had seen positive changes in their children and **91%** were satisfied with the children's therapists.

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2008: a year to remember

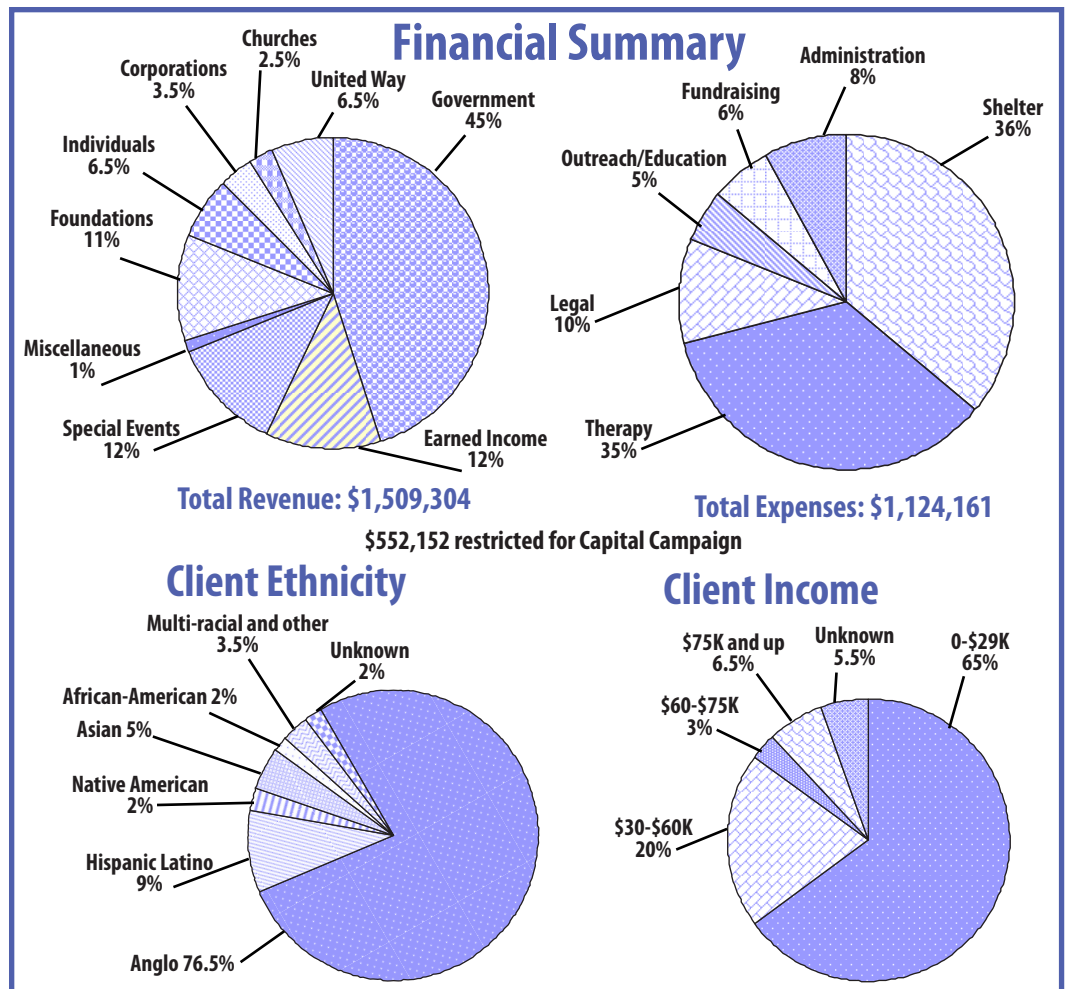
For the United States, 2008 will go down in history as a very memorable year. After an amazing political journey, we broke records in the total number of people involved in and contributing to the electoral process, including every demographic of voter. Yet, before the news of this historic election had even "cooled," the U.S. began a tragic and significant economic down-turn, affecting literally millions of people as they lost their homes, their jobs, and their self-esteem.

For the Women's Crisis & Family Outreach Center, 2008 will also go down as a very memorable year. In September, we were given an acre of land, on which our new and larger shelter will be constructed - our Capital Campaign was formally launched. Yet, as the realities of the economic crisis trickled down, our crisis line calls doubled, our waiting lists for services tripled, and the severity in the nature of the crises being faced by our families escalated like never before.

Now many may ask - why would we pick such a tumultuous year to commit this agency to a \$2.2M capital project and move forward with the growth that will more than double our bed space and further stretch our operational budget in the future? Well, frankly, that's an easy one to answer: it's the Cynthia's, the Bobby's, the Morgan's, and the Ashley's. They all need us, and we don't want to turn a single one of them away because our shelter is full.

Cynthia came to us from the streets; she had not slept indoors for seven years - homeless, jobless, and physically and emotionally abused by her partner on an ongoing basis. Her friends did not recognize her without bruises on her face. But during her 3-month stay at our shelter, Cynthia began to learn the true nature of domestic violence and realized it was not her fault. She received intensive counseling, attended support groups, and obtained needed medical and dental attention. She began meeting with a volunteer job coach who helped her put together a resume, practice interviewing, and gave her the courage to attend job fairs. Cynthia has now left our facility, and we all miss her. We know that the road ahead for Cynthia will be a difficult one, but she was an inspiration to us all and the literal definition of why we do what we do.

Yes, 2008 is an historic year for us all.



Donor Recognition

Thank you to the 2008 donors contributing \$750 or more to support our programs.

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 Sky Ridge Medical Center
 Wells Fargo

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 Ava Maria Catholic Church
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 Crossroads Community Church
 Democratic Party of Douglas County
 God's Grace Community Church
 Highlands Ranch Community Association
 Highlands Ranch Rotary
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