

CORNERSTONE'S 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Cornerstone's continuum of service helps to create communities where individuals and families are safe and children thrive. We advocate, educate and lead the way to social change.





PROGRAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DAY ONE®

Cornerstone's statewide Day One[®] program is a network of over 90 Minnesota domestic violence, sexual violence, anti-trafficking, youth advocacy and general crime agencies. Day One ensures victims across the state can get connected to safety and services with just one call, text, email or online chat. The program's call

center hosts the Minnesota Day One Crisis Line and the Minnesota Crime Victim Support Line with 24/7 telephonic interpreter services, operating a secure online database that provides real-time information regarding available bed space and services among network members. Day One is the recognized first point of contact for Minnesota's No Wrong Door/Safe Harbors Law, ensuring sexually exploited youth have access to support, safety and shelter. Day One also partners with ThinkSelf to better equip domestic violence and sexual violence organizations

across the state to serve Deaf and hard of hearing survivors. Day One's Minnesota Alliance for Family & Animal Safety (MNAFAS) program provides safe temporary foster care for the pets of families and individuals experiencing violence. *Last year*, *the Day One Call*

Center responded to 33,401 calls, texts and chat messages from people seeking safety, resources and support-more

than any other year.



Anyone in imminent danger of domestic/sexual violence and human trafficking can access Cornerstone's Emergency Services Program. It includes a 35-bed Emergency Shelter, 24 hours/7 days a week hotline, crisis intervention and advocate support, a Hotel/Motel Partnership, and assistance with all basic needs. Operating under MDH guidelines, Cornerstone provided 157 adults and children 4,529 nights of safe housing and 13,587 meals in 2021.

"I was very satisfied and was treated with respect and compassion anytime I met with my primary advocate, texted the cell or called the crisis line." — Shelter participant

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT SERVICES (CEES)

Through our Community and Economic Empowerment Services program, advocates are available to assist survivors with addressing economic barriers resulting from the violence to gain stable housing, build job readiness skills, address credit/debt issues, and meet safety needs. Services also include access to matched savings

accounts for cars, homes or continued education and Cornerstone's evidence-based financial literacy curriculum. Transitional housing services include two years of housing and intensive support for families. Staff also work on-site at two low-income housing complexes, ensuring families have access to support and resources to maintain stable housing. A Rapid Rehousing component supports women and families in Hennepin County who are experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence transition into safe housing. In 2021, our Community and Economic Empowerment Services Program served 387 persons through individual and

educational groups for victims and their families.

"Working with (my advocate) has been amazing. How she words things is very caring and validating. She has helped me so much." — CEES participant

group supportive services, safety planning, housing support and

PROGRAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

VICTIM ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Cornerstone's Victim Advocacy Program provides services to victims of crimes—both interpersonal violence and general crime. These services consist of criminal and civil justice systems navigation including—but not limited to—court accompaniment, assistance with restraining orders, and increased access to funding meant to mitigate victimization. In 2021, 1,877 victims of criminal domestic assault had direct contact with Criminal Justice Intervention staff and we assisted 155 victims with accessing Civil Orders for Protection. Cornerstone advocates also assisted with distributing nearly \$300,000 in emergency victim's assistance funds for general crime victims.

"The advocate and program was a very good help and relief from the hurt and pain of everything I've been through." — General Crime Victim Services participant

PREVENTION, EDUCATION AND CLINICAL SERVICES PROGRAM (PECS)

Cornerstone's PECS program is central to Cornerstone's mission; prevention, education, therapy, groups and training are critical to both building safe communities in which children thrive and to creating change.

School-Based Services (SBS): Staff conduct classroom prevention presentations in schools and provide individual advocacy and support groups. *Last year, nearly 10,000 students participated in in-person and virtual classroom*

presentations and 155 connected with Cornerstone staff in their building because they experienced or caused abuse, harassment or bullying.

NEW IN 2021

Cornerstone began

My Life, My Choice, an
adolescent girls' group that
follows a 10-week curriculum
focusing on the prevention of
commercial sexual exploitation of
adolescent girls. Grown and Flown also
launched in 2021, providing a space for
teens of color to connect, learn about
and discuss topics relevant to their
experience, including mental
health, healthy relationships
and adulting 101.

Support Groups: Cornerstone offers a variety of in-person and virtual support groups, including a specialized group for victims/survivors who identify as older.

"I was very apprehensive about coming to a group. I didn't know how or if I could trust or get anything from this group. I was so wrong! This group is amazing. I have learned so much and have received so much support and understanding. To be able to be with people and talk to them without judgement is an amazing and empowering feeling." — Adult support group participant

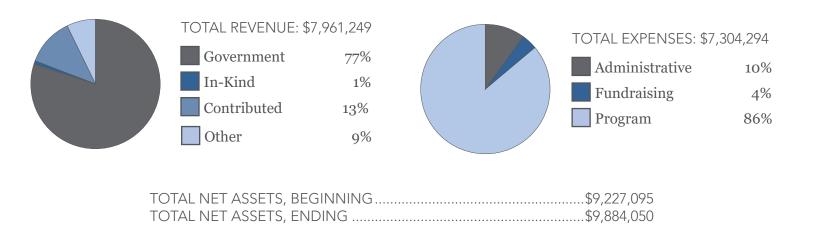
Prevention of Sexual Exploitation: Cornerstone provides training, educational support groups and advocacy for sexually exploited or at-risk youth, providing a safe place to share their story, receive support and explore resources.

Clinical Services: The Clinical Services team provide specialized, affordable therapy (\$0-\$30) to adults and children (ages 6-17) who have been impacted by abuse. The focus of their work is to help process traumatic events and provide healthy coping skills to assist with the healing journey.

"I have been able to process and release a lot of trauma. I have developed tools to safe guard my emotional and mental health." — Therapy client

Trainings and Presentations: Cornerstone shares our expertise with the community and provides educational opportunities to religious and civic groups, law enforcement and other social service organizations. We also facilitate a 40-hour online training for our staff, volunteers and community partners to become certified Sexual Assault Advocates. *In 2021, 56 individuals completed Cornerstone's comprehensive training series.*

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021



THANK YOU TO THE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO MADE A FINANCIAL GIFT TO CORNERSTONE IN 2021

Cornerstone's donor list is available on request. Please contact Courtney Poja, Director of Advancement, at Courtneyp@cornerstonemn.org or call 952.884.0376.

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Patricia Ogbeide-Ihama, Human Resources Manager 1000 East 80th Street Bloomington, MN 55420

7051 Brooklyn Boulevard Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

2241 and 2249 East 38th Street Minneapolis, MN 55407