

# ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

---

Dear Friends of SAS,

2020 was a very challenging year for our Sexual Assault Services (SAS) team and even with the uncertainty and safety needs, we understood how critical it was for us to continue our essential services to survivors and their loved ones throughout the region, but now with additional protocols implemented, we continued to provide comprehensive services with safety as a top priority. During this time, technology helped us meet the needs of survivors, team members and the community. We started utilizing telehealth as an option for counseling services, virtual platforms for our prevention programming and community awareness trainings, and secure video conferences for team members at the Child Advocacy Center. We continued to provide forensic medical exams and victim advocacy for acute sexual assault survivors throughout the region. Despite all the challenges, our team has demonstrated resiliency, creativity, dedication and hope.

Though there were some challenges, there were several notable highlights during 2020 including the Calhoun Area Career Center criminal justice students choosing SAS as their service learning project. As a result, the students raised awareness of SAS services and money for our facility dog, Matty; collected donations to create comfort care bags for survivors; and donated needed supplies. Another highlight was that S.A.F.E Place and SAS were awarded a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. These funds will expand efforts to educate about and prevent sexual abuse, dating violence and stalking and support kindergarten through 12th grade students who have been affected. We are very excited for this partnership with S.A.F.E Place.

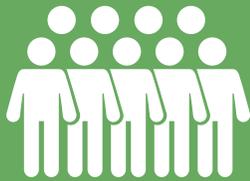
In 2021, we are looking forward to new opportunities for growing our prevention programming, increasing awareness of SAS services, strengthening outreach efforts to underserved populations and implementing a resiliency plan for our department. Also in 2021, we will be celebrating our 25th anniversary of providing services. This will be a time of reflection and celebration of the amazing work we have accomplished in partnership with our multidisciplinary team members, community partners and supporters. We recognize the privilege and honor it is to walk alongside survivors in their journey for safety, healing, justice and hope. We continue to challenge ourselves to grow in the work, advocate for the needs of survivors and be a safe and inclusive space for all survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide survivor-centered and trauma-informed services to survivors, their loved ones and our community.



*Dannielle Kostrab, LMSW  
SAS System Manager*

# 2020: A Year in Review



**1,412** persons  
affected by sexual assault  
received support from Sexual  
Assault Services



**209** children and  
**172** family members  
received specialized services  
from the Child Advocacy Center



**434** victims  
received specialized  
medical services

**397**  
survivors and  
family members  
received free  
counseling from  
a SAS therapist



**27** victims and family  
members received SAS-assisted  
support during the court process



**23** volunteers gave  
**5,552**  
volunteer hours to  
assist victims



**2,769** youth and adults  
received sexual assault  
prevention education

SAS works in collaboration with the YWCA of Kalamazoo and the Domestic Violence Coalition in Van Buren County to provide advocacy and counseling services in our region. Statistics from these organizations are not included here.

**Sexual Assault Services**

## Education and Prevention

### School-Based Education Sessions

SAS provides school-based programming for children and youth, preschool through college, to prevent sexual abuse and assault. Pre-K and elementary aged children learn that they are in charge of their body, parts of their body are private, they can say no to touches that make them uncomfortable, and what to do if someone tries to touch them inappropriately. Middle and high school students learn the warning signs of unhealthy relationships, the concept of sexual consent, what to do if they are sexually assaulted, and bystander intervention. Adults learn steps to protect children such as minimizing opportunity, having age appropriate conversations about bodies, sex, and boundaries, recognizing signs of abuse, and reacting responsibly to suspected abuse. Professionals learn how to identify interpersonal violence and connect survivors to appropriate services. In 2020, prevention education transitioned to a virtual format due to COVID-19 restrictions. A new training, Keeping Our Children Safe, was provided virtually to youth serving professionals and parents in response to concerns about increased risk of abuse and interpersonal violence due to pandemic related isolation, stress, and financial insecurity.

Number of Participants at Prevention Presentations	
Preschool-aged children	29
K-5 Students	1,351
Middle School Students	51
High School Students	1,188
Adults	150*

**\*Community-Based Awareness Events.** During this reporting period, there were 11 community-based awareness events held for adults, including both parents and professionals. At these events, 98 individuals were in attendance.

### Systems Change Activities

SAS staff participates in a variety of community interagency workgroups and committees, including:

- Calhoun County Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
- Maternal and Infant Health Commission
- SAS Youth Advisory Council
- Albion College Coordinated Community Response Team
- At the Crossroads Regional Human Trafficking Task Force

## Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)

**"The team was great. They were very gentle and the hospitality was awesome. The building was warm and child-friendly. I would recommend this team to anyone. I thank you all for your services."**

*– A caregiver of a child who received services.*

The CAC provides a coordinated, collaborative approach to addressing child sexual abuse and severe physical abuse in our community. A multi-disciplinary team works together to help minimize the trauma victims may experience by providing coordinated investigative team interviews, advocacy services, follow up contacts, referrals and information, therapy and monthly case review meetings.

### **In 2020:**

- 209 children received specialized forensic interviews and 172 non-offending family members received support and advocacy.
- There were 149 female children, 58 male children, and two transgender children interviewed during this period.
- 48 children were 6 years old and under, 83 children were between the ages of 7 to 12 years old, 76 children were 13 to 17 years old, and 2 were adults with intellectual disabilities.
- 209 children were interviewed and 23 of those children had multiple allegations of abuse or neglect. 195 children were interviewed for allegations of sexual abuse, 18 children for physical abuse, 12 children were interviewed as a witness to domestic violence, 7 children were interviewed as a witness to other violence, and 4 children were interviewed for allegations of neglect.
- One forensic interview was completed at our Marshall CAC site located at Crossroads Church and Ministries.

## Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) are available on-call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year as part of our crisis Sexual Assault Response Team. These specially trained registered nurses provide the medical forensic examination for victims of acute sexual assault.

### **In 2020:**

- 463 patients received a form of service from the SANE program.
- 312 of the patients received phone consultation from an expert nurse either directly or via consultation with their healthcare provider, law enforcement or other professional.
- 226 patients received acute medical forensic examinations, which included 142 adults and 84 patients under the age of 18.
- 14 male patients, 210 female patients, and 2 transgender patients received acute medical forensic examinations.

## Volunteer Victim Advocacy Program

SAS held volunteer advocate trainings in March and October 2020 with a total of 8 participants, which brought our total number of volunteer community victim advocates to 23. Our volunteers provided 5,552 hours of on-call time during this reporting period. SAS volunteer victim advocates offer emotional support and referral information to survivors and their loved ones. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact the SAS Volunteer Coordinator at (269) 245-3906.

## Counseling Services and Outcomes

Our counseling practice is based on a client-centered, empowerment focus. The counseling team is comprised of seven master's level therapists and one master's level intern. We work as a team with our clients, with the understanding that clients know themselves and their circumstances best. Our therapists have extensive education and training for providing services to survivors of the trauma of sexual assault. All therapists are trained in trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy and utilize trauma-informed, strengths-based interventions. Clients are now asked if there were any barriers to accessing SAS services. Some responses include transportation, hours of counseling services, and accessibility of services due to COVID-19.



### In 2020

- 97% of counseling clients agree that they have an increased understanding about the natural responses to trauma.
- 100% of counseling clients agree that after speaking with their counselor, they know more ways to plan for their emotional and/or physical safety.
- 100% of counseling clients agree that they received assistance in developing positive coping skills.
- 97% of counseling clients agree that SAS services were effective in helping them achieve their goals.

\* These results were based off anonymous surveys given to counseling clients, of which 34 were completed (8.56%).

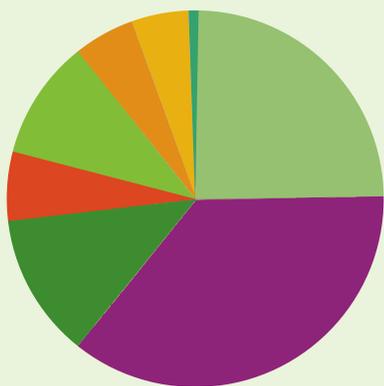
**“I do not trust many people. [My counselor] has been an absolute God send for me. I appreciate her and Sexual Assault Services so very much. The program here is outstanding and I thank you very much.”**  
 – A sexual assault survivor

## SAS Community Advisory Board

Tomika Bell - Calhoun County Prosecutor's Office  
 Nikki Clemens - Parent Representative  
 Ellen Collier - S.A.F.E. Place  
 Cheryl Czerney - Calhoun County Public Health Department  
 Melanie Hooker - Domestic Violence Coalition  
 Larry Juday - Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi  
 Steve Lamb - Michigan State Police  
 Clare Loughrige - Crossroads Church & Ministries  
 Dr. Sheila Matthews - Kellogg Community College

Bill McClure – MDHHS - Calhoun County  
 Nancy Mullett - Clark Hill, PLC  
 Tha Par - Burma Center  
 Katy Reed - Legal Services of South Central Michigan  
 Megan Reynolds - 37th Circuit Court - Calhoun County  
 Robin Rogers - SAPR Defense Logistics Agency  
 Brad Wise - Battle Creek Police Department  
 Chandra Youngblood - Battle Creek Public Schools

### SAS Program Expenses

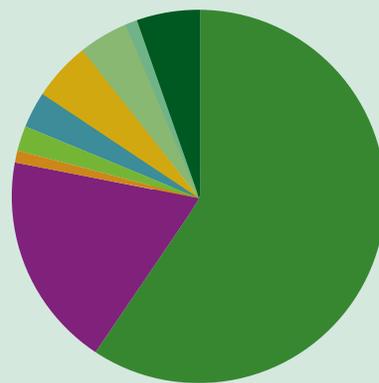


- SANE Program
- Counseling/Advocacy
- CAC
- Managment & Administrative
- Prevention Education
- Bronson In-Kind
- Volunteer Match
- Misc. Expenses

#### Programs/Services Expenses:

Program/Service	Amount	Percentage
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program	\$622,582.52	41%
Counseling/Advocacy	314,928.65	21%
Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)	\$201,347.82	13%
Management/Administrative	\$124,691.96	8%
Volunteer Match	\$85,508.00	6%
Prevention Education	\$82,399.66	5%
Bronson In-Kind	\$75,274.05	5%
Misc. Expenses	\$7,038.68	>1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,513,771.34</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 2020 SAS Funding Sources



- Federal Grants
- State Grants
- Bronson In-Kind
- Local & Foundation Grants
- Volunteer Match
- Foundation Grants
- United Way Grants
- Donations
- SAFE Fund
- Miscellaneous Funds

#### Funding Sources

Funding Source	Amount	Percentage
Federal Grants	\$900,054.22	59%
State Grants	\$281,851.06	19%
Volunteer Match	\$85,508.00	6%
SAFE Fund	\$69,174.50	5%
Bronson In-Kind	\$75,274.05	5%
Local and Foundation Grants	\$46,521.23	3%
United Way Grants	\$32,903.59	2%
Donations/Fundraising	\$15,446.01	1%
Miscellaneous Funds	\$7,038.68	>1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,513,771.34</b>	<b>100%</b>



Children's Trust Fund  
 Protecting Michigan's Children



Bronson Battle Creek is a major partner with Sexual Assault Services, donating space and in-kind services, making Sexual Assault Services a department of Bronson Battle Creek Hospital. This project is funded by Grant No. 2018-V2-GX-0067 awarded to Bronson Health Foundation, by the Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission. The agreement award of \$928,985 (80 percent) of the project comes from the Federal Crime Victims Fund, established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 administered by the Office of Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, and U.S. Department of Justice. Bronson Battle Creek provides the required match valued at \$232,246 by the use of volunteers and other local cash match. This project is also funded by the Sexual Assault Victim Services agreement award of \$81,554 for services in Van Buren County. Sexual Assault Services wishes to thank the Michigan Division of Victim Services and Michigan Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Prevention and Treatment Board for their financial support of this project. Sexual Assault Services is an accredited center of the National Children's Alliance (NCA)/Michigan Chapter of the NCA. Sexual Assault Services also receives in-kind support from Oaklawn Hospital and Crossroads Church and Ministries in Marshall, MI; and the Domestic Violence Coalition and Bronson LakeView Hospital in Paw Paw, MI. Sexual Assault Services is a United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region Community Solutions Partner. Other current funding sources include: Michigan Children's Trust Fund, Bronson Health Foundation, Marshall United Way, Battle Creek Community Foundation, Miller Foundation, Guido A. and Elizabeth H. Binda Foundation, Marshall Community Foundation, and Albion Community Foundation (Grant No. 20200120). Donations have been received from the Assistance League of Southeastern Michigan, Marshall Exchange Club, Canine Companions for Independence, and many generous individuals and organizations. All grant funding is expended according to allowable, restricted expenses for each grant.

Assistance with requesting Crime Victims Compensation is available to victims of crime who wish to apply. All services are free of charge.

#### Sexual Assault Services

36 W. Manchester St.,  
Battle Creek, MI 49037  
(269) 245-3925



**Crisis Line**  
**888.383.2192**

**Child Advocacy Center:** (269) 245-3835

[sacc.net](http://sacc.net)

0805 3/21

**Sexual Assault Services**