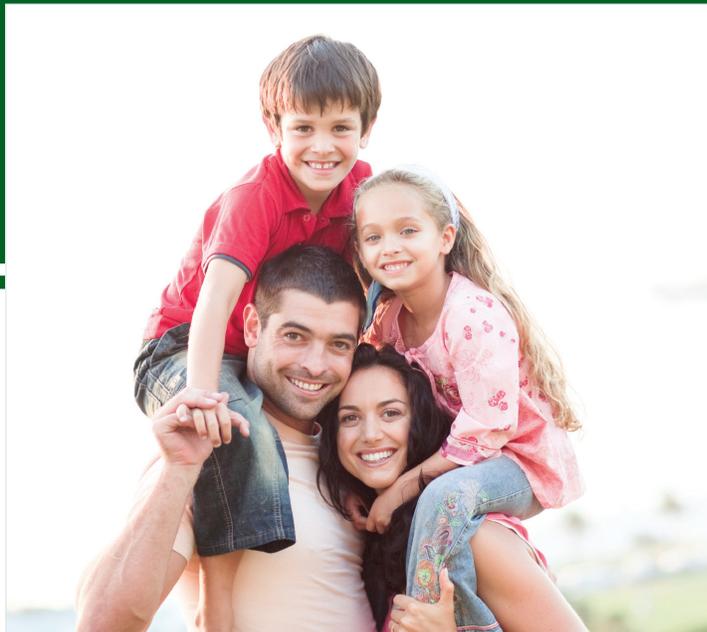


# ANNUAL REPORT

JAN. 1, 2015 – DEC. 31, 2015



Sexual Assault Services  
of Calhoun County

Dear Friends of Sexual Assault Services and Residents of Calhoun County,

We had an eventful and busy year in 2015!

Highlights from 2015 include:

- Continued expansion and restructuring of our Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program to a regional model. Our collaboration with the YWCA of Kalamazoo allows us to provide a coordinated response to victims including one of our SANEs and an advocate from the YWCA. We have worked closely with Dr. Sarah Brown at the Bronson Children's Hospital to provide comprehensive child abuse assessments in Kalamazoo.
- A successful quality assurance site visit provided by the National Children's Alliance was completed in August at the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) in Calhoun County. The CAC was officially reaccredited for the next five years, without any findings for correction or action. Our multi-disciplinary team, facilitated by Dannielle Kostrab, CAC coordinator, was commended for its excellence and recommended as a model for other centers to emulate.
- Our volunteer program was honored at our annual April community awards banquet and at the Governor's Service Awards in June. One of our long-time volunteers, Pat Graw, received an outstanding volunteer award from Battle Creek Hands On.
- Increased funding from the Michigan Crime Victims Service Commission was received with a specific request for us to broaden our regional programming to a larger area of southwest Michigan. We have begun to implement services in Van Buren County and strengthen community response in other counties in the region.
- Sexual Assault Services (SAS) staff members have worked at the state level as expert training faculty for law enforcement, prosecutors, advocates and medical providers. SAS staff members have worked on state level task forces and committees to advance policies in Michigan that will enhance services for survivors and collaboration with multi-disciplinary teams.

Sexual assault prevention work continues to be the one area of programming that is not fully or consistently funded through state or local grants. Currently, the program is sustained with multiple grants from local community foundations and the Marshall United Way. Donations from individuals also support this program and the very important prevention work.

We are always thankful for the many individuals and organizations that support our work. Many of these people are also great support to us as a team. As we enter 2016, it is with much amazement that we realize 20 years have passed since SAS was founded in 1996. We look forward to a new year of continued growth, reflection and recognition of all that our community has done to partner with us in our work to assist victims and end sexual violence.

Peace in the New Year,



*Joyce Siegel*

*Program Manager*

*Sexual Assault Services of Calhoun County*

## Special Points of Interest

### Helping Survivors

- 1,012 people who were affected by sexual assault or abuse that received services from SAS personnel.
- 343 victims received specialized medical services; 92 victims benefited from an expert nurse phone consultation and 100 victims received medical-forensic examinations at our Oaklawn, Bronson Battle Creek and Fieldstone Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) sites; YWCA of Kalamazoo; or Bronson Children’s Hospital.
- Victim advocates assisted 318 friends and family members of victims during the time of the medical forensic exam.
- SAS advocates (either paid staff or volunteers) assisted 55 victims and family members/friends during the court process.
- 213 children and 174 family members received specialized multidisciplinary team services at the Child Advocacy Center.
- 286 survivors of sexual violence received individual, group or family counseling by trained, masters-level therapists.
- 35 trained community volunteers donated 7,076 hours to assist victims at hospitals, police departments and courts.

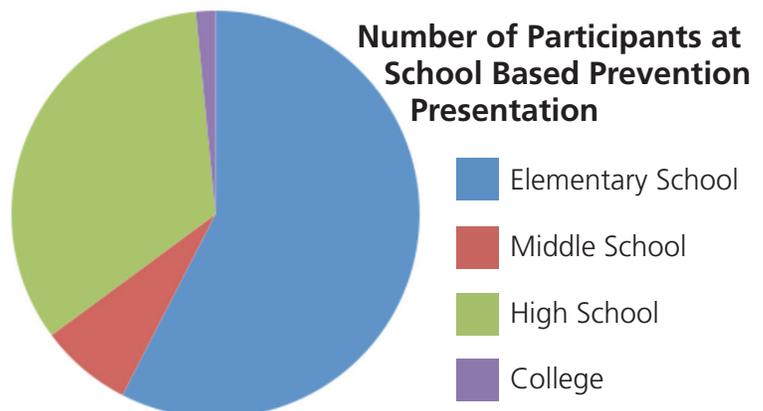
### Education and Prevention

- Five girls and boys attended Summer Fun Camp at Sherman Lake YMCA.
- Over 6,000 youth from kindergarten through high school received sexual assault prevention education and materials.
- Over 3,500 adults and college students received sexual assault prevention education and materials.

## Community Education

### School-Based Education Sessions

During this reporting period there were 91 school-based, prevention and educational presentations. At these presentations, we had 3,482 elementary school participants, 443 middle school participants, 2,030 high school participants and 94 college participants. Training topics include dynamics of sexual assault, safe dates/healthy relationships, bullying prevention, sexual harassment prevention and sexual abuse prevention.



**Prevention Education Student Feedback:**

- "...I am guilty of sexual harassment. Now I must own up to it."
- "I recognize dating abuse now."
- "You have to get consent."
- "Personally I was bullied quite a bit, and this I know will help a lot of people."
- "I learned about dating abuse. I learned a lot for my own relationship."
- "Now I know what to do if I get bullied."
- "I can find the courage and stand up for the victim."

**Community-Based Awareness Events**

During this reporting period, there were 56 community-based awareness events held for adults and professionals alike. At these events, 2,860 individuals attended.

**Systems Change Activities**

SAS staff participates in community interagency workgroups and committees including:

- Calhoun County Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
- Committee on Adolescent Sexual Health
- The Coordinating Council
- Great Start Collaborative Workgroup
- Youth Services Workgroup
- Marshall Chapter: Half the Sky
- Kalamazoo Alliance Against Sexual Assault
- Kalamazoo County Coordinated Community Response Team
- Calhoun County Sex Offender Management Team
- Calhoun County Child Death Review Team

**Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)**

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.

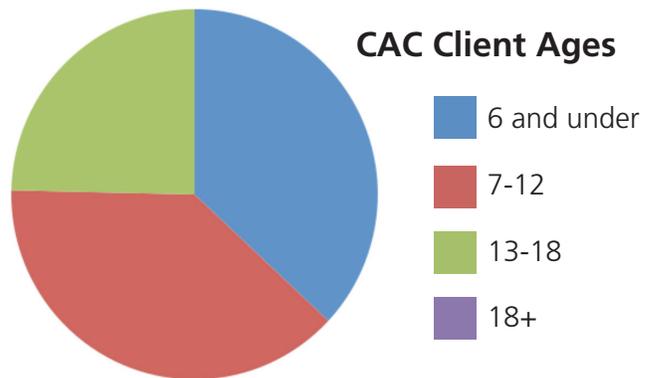
**During this reporting period:**

- 213 children received specialized forensic interviews, and 145 non-offending family members received support and advocacy.
- There were 153 female children and 60 male children interviewed.
- 82 children were 6 years old and under, 82 children were between the ages of 7 to 12 years old and 49 children were 13 to 18 years old.

- 188 children were interviewed for allegations of sexual abuse, 8 children for physical abuse, and 16 children as witnesses to violent crimes.
- 35 forensic interviews were completed at our Marshall CAC site located at Crossroads Church and Ministries.

### **CAC Clients have Access to Information about Child Sexual Abuse**

- Of the 81 clients who completed the survey, 78 clients (96.3 percent) strongly agree that they were given information about the various services and programs provided by the CAC and SAS.
- CAC family advocate case records indicate that 193 (100 percent) of children and families served received verbal information as well as a packet of information at the time of the CAC services.
- 64 clients (79 percent) surveyed report strongly agreeing and 12 clients (14.8 percent) agreed that they were given information about common reactions to child sexual abuse.
- CAC family advocate case records indicate that 163 of children and families served (100 percent) received information about next steps in the process verbally from the family advocate and the multi-disciplinary team members and in writing in the CAC family packet of information.



### **Caregiver comments in response to what they appreciated most about their experience at the CAC include:**

- “The friendly, safe atmosphere and caring staff.”
- “Kindness shown and answers given.”
- “The staff was very friendly and gave us good information.”
- “Great atmosphere, caring staff, respectful of sensitive topics.”
- “You were all very nice, understanding, and supportive. I appreciate all of you very much.”

### **Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program**

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) are available on-call 24 hours a day 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.

### **During this reporting period:**

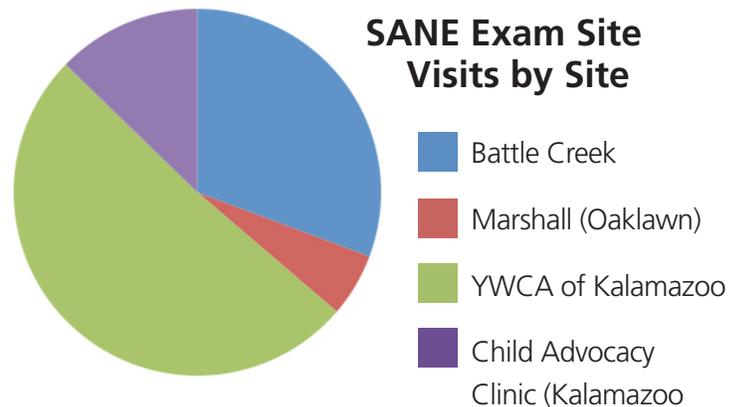
- The SANE program provided expertise to 343 patients.
- 92 of the patients received phone consultation from an expert nurse either directly or via consultation with their healthcare provider, law enforcement or other professional.
- 251 patients received medical forensic examinations.

- The age range for patients was quite broad with 125 adult patients and 126 patients under the age of 18.
- 28 male patients and 223 female patients received care.

### SANE Program Expansion

The regional SANE program continued through 2015, serving all of Calhoun County at Bronson Battle Creek and Oaklawn Hospital. In Kalamazoo County services were provided at the YWCA, the Child Advocacy Clinic at the Bronson Children's Hospital\* and Bronson Methodist Hospital Trauma & Emergency Center. In 2015, the regional SANE program of SAS employed four full-time nurse examiners. All of the nurses are IAFN SANE-Adult board certified. One examiner is also IAFN SANE-Pediatric board certified and three are board eligible. The SANE program provides 24-hour coverage, totaling 6,760 hours of on-call coverage for the two-county region. New expansion in 2016 will include increased staffing and services provided more broadly through southwest Michigan.

\* *The Child Advocacy Clinic at Bronson Children's Hospital accepts referrals from a 9-county Bronson Healthcare Group service area in southwest Michigan.*



### Volunteer Victim Advocacy Program

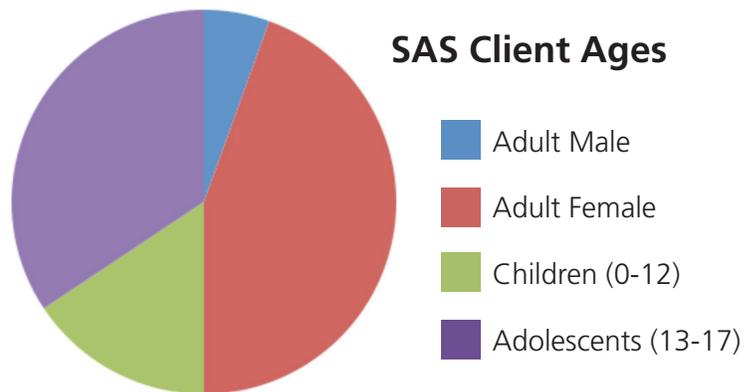
SAS held volunteer advocate trainings in March and October 2015 with a total of 14 participants, which brought our total number of volunteer community victim advocates to 35. Our volunteers provided 7,076 hours of on-call time during this reporting period. SAS volunteer victim advocates offer emotional support and referral information to survivors and their loved ones.

### Crisis Advocacy Survey Outcomes

SAS advocates provided surveys following crisis advocacy services. In 125 hospital/police department cases, 103 surveys were completed by victim advocates. This represents 82.4 percent of these SAS/SANE crisis response calls for services. Surveys indicate that 95 respondents (92.2 percent) report that information regarding the common effects of sexual assault was provided to the survivor and 90 respondents (87.4 percent) provided information regarding counseling support services in the community that the survivor may need.

## Counseling Services and Survey Outcomes

- The SAS counseling staff includes six master's level therapists, one Master of Social Work intern from Western Michigan University, and one Master of Counseling intern from Spring Arbor University.
- All counselors are trained in trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy and utilize trauma-informed, strengths-based interventions.
- 286 survivors and family members received free counseling at SAS last year.



### During this reporting period:

- Counseling clients are offered anonymous surveys of which 44 were completed (9.24 percent).
- Counseling client surveys report 21 clients strongly agree (80.77 percent) and three clients agree (11.54 percent) that they were assisted in identifying personal strengths.
- 21 (80.77 percent) strongly agree and four (15.38 percent) agree that they received assistance in developing positive coping skills.
- 21 clients (80.77 percent) report they would strongly encourage and three clients (11.54 percent) would encourage a friend to contact SAS for counseling services.
- Of 24 responding clients, 20 (76.92 percent) attended more than 10 counseling sessions; three (11.54 percent) attended six to 10 sessions; and one (3.85 percent) attended three to five sessions.
- Thirteen adult group member surveys indicated that 4 (30.77 percent) strongly agree and eight (61.54 percent) agree that people in the group understand what they are going through;
- Six (46.15 percent) strongly agree and seven (53.85 percent) agree that they would recommend the group to others.

### Comments from the Adult Women's Group

"I am not alone."  
"It is helpful to meet people who have gone through similar things."  
"It's a positive experience."  
"Facilitators keep the clients safety first in mind, always."

Five children, ages 8 to 13, participated in a week long day camp for child victims of sexual abuse funded by the Bronson Health Foundation. The camp experience allows the children to be with others who have experienced similar trauma, to practice healthy outdoor activities and build trust with others. The children at camp were asked by staff what the best thing about being with kids who have been through similar experiences. When asked what they liked best about the camp, the kids answered that they loved the activities (swimming, archery and games). When asked if it is good to be with other kids who had experienced similar things, they responded "others know what you are talking about," "good" and "friends."

## SAS Staff

### SAS Staff, Credentials and Titles

Pam Buchko – Volunteer Advocate Program Coordinator  
 KrisAnne Cravens, RN, BSN, SANE-A, SANE-P – Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner  
 Krista Fletcher – Information/Financial Analyst  
 Amber Goodlock, LMSW – Therapist  
 Laurie Hartman – Community Educator & Resource Coordinator  
 Sherri Khillah, RN, BSN, SANE-A, SANE-P – Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner  
 Dannielle Kostrab, LMSW – CAC Program Coordinator/Therapist  
 Brenda Lamica – Forensic Interview Specialist  
 Jeff LaPonsie, LLMMSW – CAC Family Advocate/Therapist  
 Debra McEldowney, MSN, RN, SANE-A – Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner  
 Maureen McNamara, LMSW, DCSW – Therapist  
 Linda Nycum, LPC – Therapist  
 Joyce Siegel, LMSW – Program Manager  
 Allison Stacy – Administrative Specialist/Advocate  
 Laurie Sweet, RN, BS – Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner  
 Nicole Teumer, RN, BSN – Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner  
 Phyllis VanOrder, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P – Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program Coordinator  
 Diana Vescoso, RN, BSN – Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner  
 Selma Elstun, RN – Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

### SAS Community Advisory Board

Kristi Angelo – Trooper, Michigan State Police  
 Betty Christ – Community Member  
 Jennifer Fopma – Executive Director, SAFE Place  
 Nora Geiger – Director Victim Services, Calhoun Co. Prosecutor’s Office  
 Marcus Glass – Manager Patient & Outreach Services, Bronson Battle Creek  
 Clare Loughrige – Pastor, Crossroads Church & Ministries  
 Dr. Sheila Matthews – Professor, Kellogg Community College  
 Bill McClure – Child Protective Services, Calhoun Co. DHHS  
 Gwen Thomas – Department of Corrections, Calhoun County  
 Brad Wise – Inspector, Battle Creek Police Dept

## Mission Statement

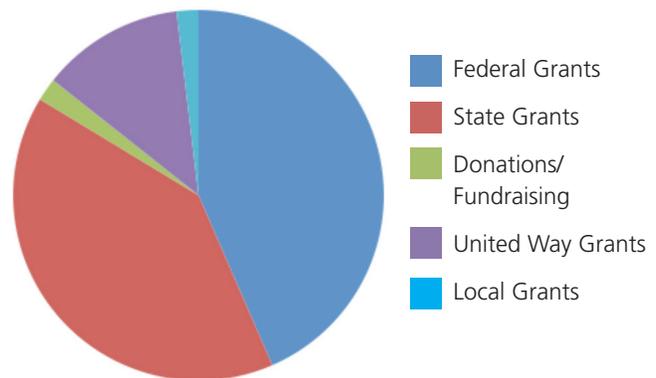
Sexual Assault Services of Calhoun County is committed to providing empathic, non-judgmental, comprehensive services, support and advocacy for survivors and others affected by sexual assault or abuse; raising awareness of sexual assault; and engaging others to help in holding offenders accountable and to achieve a community free of sexual violence.



HelpNet

### 2014-2015 Funding Sources

Federal grants	\$436,583
State grants	\$403,587
Donations/Fundraising	\$20,000
United Way grants	\$12,500
Local grants	\$19,000
Bronson Battle Creek In-Kind	\$120,000
Crossroads Church & Ministries In-Kind	\$12,000
Total	\$1,023,670



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. This project is funded by Grant No. 20448-18V14 awarded to Bronson Battle Creek, by the Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission. The agreement award of \$352,583 (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 \$77,544 by the use of volunteers. Sexual Assault Services wishes to thank the Michigan Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Prevention and Treatment Board for their financial support of this project. This project was supported by Grant No. 15-13002 by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, and U.S. Department of Justice (STOP GRANT). Sexual Assault Services receives an accredited center grant from the National Children's Alliance/MI Chapter of the NCA. Sexual Assault Services also receives in-kind support from Oaklawn Hospital and Crossroads Church and Ministries in Marshall. Sexual Assault Services is a United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region Community Solutions Partner. Other current funding sources include: Bronson Health Foundation, The Marshall United Way, Junior League of Battle Creek, The Battle Creek Community Foundation, The Miller Foundation, The W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Donations have been received from the Battle Creek Kiwanis Club, Marshall Exchange Club, The Battle Creek Woman's League and many generous individuals and organizations. All grant funding was expended according to allowable, restricted expenses for each grant.

Compensation assistance is available to victims of crime who wish to apply. All services are free of charge.

### Sexual Assault Services of Calhoun County

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



Child Advocacy Center: (269) 245-3835

sascc.net

0805 2/16

Sexual Assault Services  
 of Calhoun County