
2024

ANNUAL REPORT



www.FamilyViolenceProject.org

24/7 Helpline: 1.877.890.7788

DIRECTOR SUMMARY

As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply grateful for the strength of the individuals we serve and the unwavering support of our community. Together, we have helped survivors of domestic violence begin their healing journeys, rebuild their lives, and reclaim their power.

Thanks to the generosity of our community partners, we've provided critical services to hundreds of survivors, expanded outreach, and strengthened local partnerships for a more coordinated response to domestic violence.

While we are proud of our progress, our work is far from finished. In Maine alone, 18 people tragically lost their lives to this horrific crime in the past year.

Domestic violence continues to impact far too many in our communities across the state, and we are committed to doing more to meet this urgent need. Every person deserves a life free from violence, and together, we can make that a reality.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff, board members, and volunteers. Your commitment and hard work are the heart of this organization. I am honored to work alongside you in our shared pursuit of a just and peaceful world.

As we look ahead, we remain united in our vision for a future where everyone is safe and free. Our strength lies in knowing that we are not alone. Together, we will continue to break the cycle of violence and empower survivors to build the lives they deserve.

— *Pamela Morin*

FY24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Mike Pike **Vice-President:** Joanne Mason

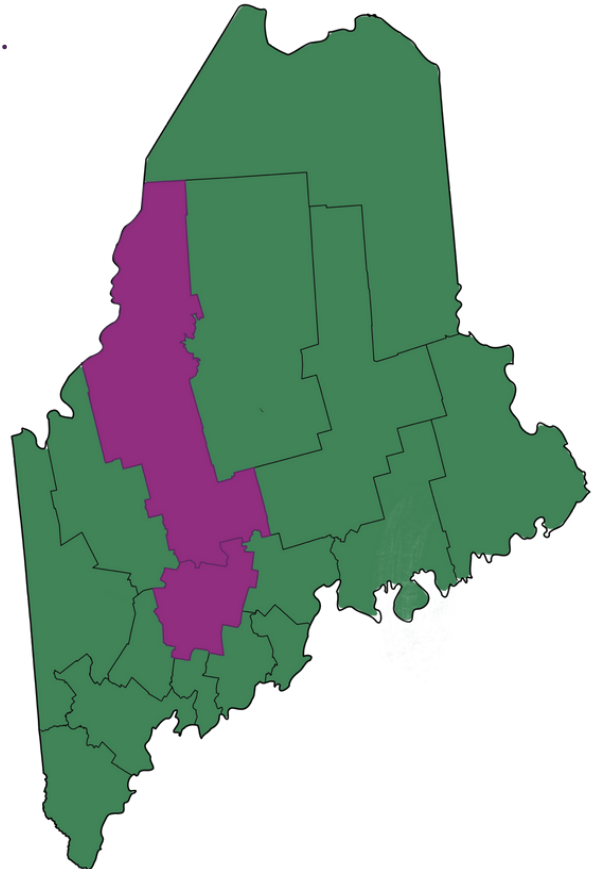
Treasurer: Dan Howard **Secretary:** Charlotte Warren

Standard Members: Eric Bottaro, Cathy Bourque, Tiffany Comis, Emily Fortin, Raymond Moinester, Donna Russell, & Tori Tracy

ABOUT US

Family Violence Project (FVP) is the victim services organization based in Augusta, Maine whose mission is to end domestic abuse in Kennebec and Somerset counties.

FVP is a member of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. FVP services include emergency sheltering, 24/7 helpline, civil legal assistance, certified domestic violence intervention programming, school-based prevention education, community education and trainings, support groups, housing navigation assistance, and individualized safety planning.



FY 2024 AGENCY LEADERSHIP

Executive Director: Pam Morin

Administrative & Finance Director: Heidi Hall

Outreach Programs Director: Shawna Lund

Violence Intervention Director: Richard Langley

Advocacy Director: Jaime Mooney

Residential Programs Director: Kim MacDonald

Education Director: Jon Heath

Development & Community Engagement Director: Nathan MacDonald

PROGRAM UPDATES

SHELTER & HOUSING PROGRAMS

This year, we're proud to share that, following extensive renovations, our Kennebec shelter reopened in January 2024. With two shelter locations, the Family Violence Project (FVP) is now able to serve even more survivors in our community. Our shelters offer safe, inclusive spaces for individuals and families fleeing domestic violence, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, religion, or cultural background, in accordance with the Maine Human Rights Act. Here, survivors can find the immediate safety and support they need to begin their journey toward a more stable and independent life.

“FVP shelter is not like the other shelter I was in. I am cared about here; the shelter advocates go above and beyond to make sure I have all that I need.”

Former FVP shelter resident

While our shelters are essential, they are meant to be a temporary step for residents working toward safe, independent housing. Unfortunately, the national housing crisis has deeply affected our ability to help survivors move from shelter into their own space. Many now face longer stays due to limited affordable housing options, which impacts their mental health and our ability to serve other survivors seeking shelter.

FVP remains dedicated to providing support and resources for survivors as they navigate their path to safety, stability, and independence. With continued community and legislative support, we can overcome these challenges and sustain this vital work for those in need.

PROGRAM UPDATES

PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Tabitha Ryan serves as our DV/CPS Liaison, bridging the relationship between DHHS and victims of domestic abuse. She helps survivors navigate the often-daunting DHHS and reunification process while also supporting caseworkers through daily interactions and annual trainings for new CPS staff. Tabitha works directly with survivors during Family Team Meetings, facilitates Domestic Violence Education Groups (highlighting the impact of abuse on children and parenting), and connects survivors to additional supports at FVP, such as Protection from Abuse orders and support groups, as well as to community resources for basic needs. Survivors often share that Tabitha helped them better understand the dynamics of abuse, moving them one step closer to liberation. Caseworkers also report that she models a trauma-informed approach in every interaction.

Nancy Provost is our School-Based Prevention Educator. Her interactive, respect-focused approach helps students and community members connect lessons to real-life situations and relationships, inspiring positive change. Nancy's presentations often spark meaningful conversations among teens, who ask questions like:

- Can not getting medical attention for a kid be considered abuse?
- Is denying someone the chance to walk away from a situation abuse?
- Does getting thrown through a wall count as abuse?

Students gain a much-needed understanding of domestic abuse laws and our available services. Many share stories about how our work has helped them or their families:

- I told my mom about the helpline you mentioned—you saved our lives.
- Thank you for explaining the different types of abuse.
- There was a lot I didn't know was considered abuse.
- I wish more adults were like you and seemed interested in our lives.

PROGRAM UPDATES

CHANGework

CERTIFIED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The ChangeWork program embodies two core goals: Increasing safety in our communities, and holding people accountable for their actions when they've harmed others.

This is a collaborative effort to engage men in violence intervention work and to create opportunities for healthier relationships and families. The focus of the group work is on real engagement – substantive, truth-based interactions, with honesty and accountability the goal in every session.

For our purposes, partner violence has to be understood as more than physical violence alone. Emotional and psychological abuse, and controlling and coercive behaviors, can destroy relationships and families. All of these types of abuse terrorize families, undermine trust, inflict trauma, and create dynamics of ongoing harm that can be passed from generation to generation.

The ChangeWork program works with men to develop sensitivity and awareness of the serious harm these behaviors cause. We work to challenge the dysfunction of families and cultures where abusing and mistreating others – physically or emotionally – is accepted as commonplace, normal, or traditional masculinity.

This is fundamentally a project based in optimism. We can't compel people to change, but we can help create opportunities for them to embrace a nonviolent, noncoercive, and noncontrolling way of living with partners and children.

We often talk in groups about the legacies we wish to leave behind as men. It can be a powerful exercise in self-reflection. ChangeWork strives to help men explore their thinking and beliefs and to work toward creating a life and legacy they can be proud of.

PROGRAM UPDATES

HELPLINE AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Helpline work has continued in much the same way over this past year as it has in the past, with our advocates answering calls as they are dispatched to us by an answering service, regularly connecting with callers within 15 minutes of their initial call. We have three paid staff who are dedicated helpline advocates; they handle calls during business hours while our full time staff, along with an amazing team of trained volunteers, handle calls during night and weekend hours. We are thankful for our volunteers, many who have been involved for several years, if not a decade or more! Our volunteers consistently express appreciation for how their remote helpline work fits into their lives, sharing that what keeps them in this role is two-fold – knowing that they are a supportive listening ear for people in their time of need (something many of our advocates can personally relate to), and knowing that they have the ongoing support of the agency since, admittedly, this work can be emotionally demanding. Callers regularly share with us how comforting it is to hear a familiar voice on the other end of the phone, and how having the support of helpline advocates decreases their isolation and strengthens or grounds them. Our advocates share our own services information with callers, along with that of other local resources and agencies. While the unmet needs of our communities remain high (affordable housing, legal assistance, transportation, etc.), victims/survivors will never be short on support thanks to our amazing team!

Survivors who worked with FVP shared:

"Our family will never forget all you have done for us."

"Thank you for everything. Just knowing you were there has been a big relief and help. I am really grateful."

"It was nice knowing I had support with things to help me get back on my feet, like food, or work clothes"

"Family Violence Project really was a life saver for me."

"Bruises heal and go away, but vicious words cut like a knife and stay in my memory forever."

PROGRAM UPDATES

OUTREACH AND COURT ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

Advocates are successful when we meet a survivor of domestic abuse wherever they are in their experience and stand alongside them offering support, information, and connections to resources. We routinely serve people who are working with more than one advocate and across the spectrum of FVP advocacy services. In some circumstances we may safely collaborate with other community-based resources and service providers with and on behalf of those we serve. A court advocate learns about a survivor from the FVP helpline advocate, who received a referral from a local police officer who assisted the victim after they were assaulted by their partner. In conversation with the survivor, the court advocate learns about ongoing sexual coercion and threats by the abusive partner against the victim. The advocate introduces the survivor to an advocate at the Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center through a warm hand-off process; each advocate along the way signaling their ongoing readiness to provide support as it is needed or wanted. The FVP advocate joins with the survivor as they navigate challenging, often confusing, civil, family, and criminal court cases and appearances. As requested by the victim/survivor, advocates may make a referral to a legal organization or support the survivor regarding how to communicate with a landlord, employer, or personnel at their child's school.

There is not one success story; each time a victim/survivor of domestic abuse reaches out, there is progress toward safety and liberation. It may be one call, this time. Each step is the journey, and FVP advocates want to be there, walking alongside.

I learned the skills from your education group, to identify the things to look out for if I get into another relationship.

Survivor who worked with FVP

PROGRAM UPDATES

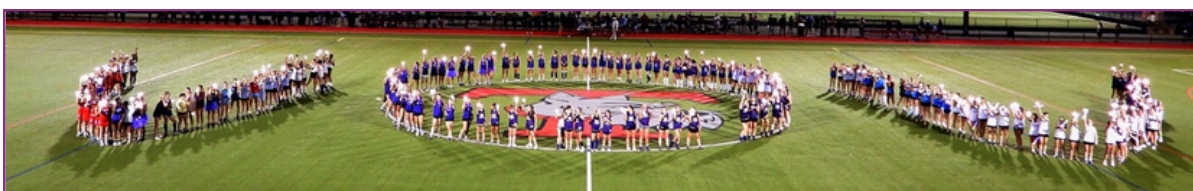
DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As the Development and Community Engagement Director of Family Violence Project, I am honored to reflect on a year filled with deep impact, growing partnerships, and heartfelt community connection. Our work to end domestic abuse is only possible because of the shared commitment of individuals, organizations, and supporters like you.

This year marked the second annual Paint the Town Purple Gala, which raised nearly \$10,000 and was a resounding success, not only in financial support but in raising awareness and honoring those who make a difference. We were proud to recognize the following award recipients: Somerset Outstanding Community Member Rob Rogers, Kennebec Outstanding Community Member Emily Fortin, Somerset Outstanding Community Organization, Centenary United Methodist Church, and Kennebec Outstanding Community Organization Augusta Food Bank.

We also celebrated the incredible success of our fourth annual Charity Field Hockey Tournament, where 11 teams came together to raise nearly \$60,000 to support Family Violence Project and two fellow Domestic Violence Resource Centers. The event engaged hundreds of student athletes and spectators, creating invaluable opportunities for education, awareness, and action.

Through these events and ongoing outreach, we continue to foster community-driven change while strengthening our direct services. Every dollar raised and conversation started brings us one step closer to a world where everyone can live free from fear.



SERVICE NUMBERS

*Family Violence Project's Services Provided for
FY Ending September 30, 2024*

2,219

Unduplicated Persons Served

3,087  33%
Increase year
over year

Calls to the Helpline

61

Accessed Emergency Shelter

686

Received Court Advocacy

56

Attended Support Groups

102

Community Awareness Events

114

Student Presentations

1,954

Students Educated

303  17%
Increase year
over year

*Individuals Enrolled
in ChangeWork*

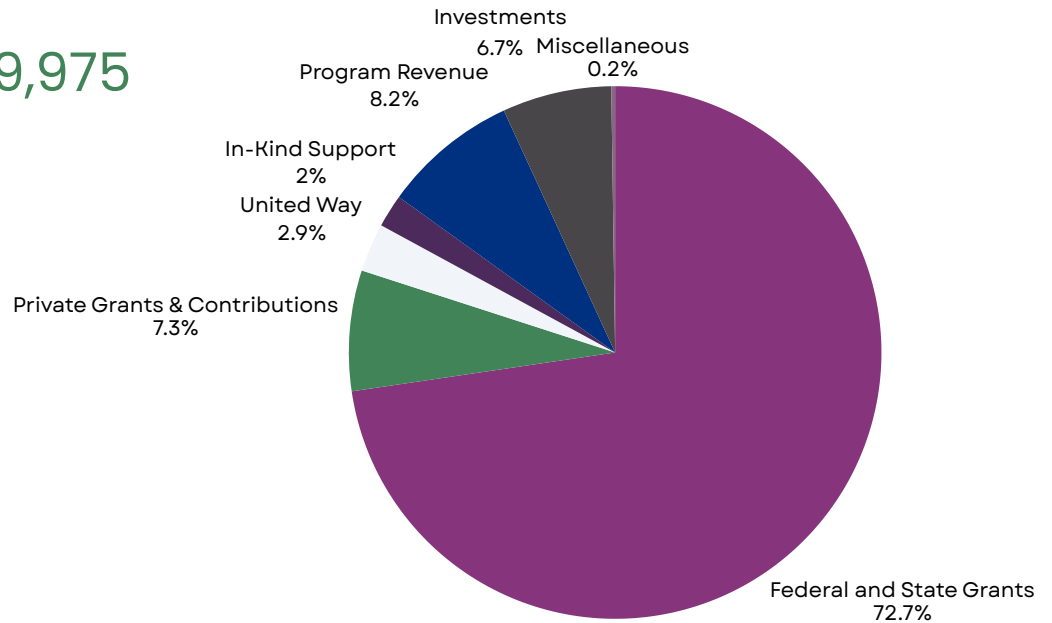
3,776

Volunteer Hours

FINANCIALS

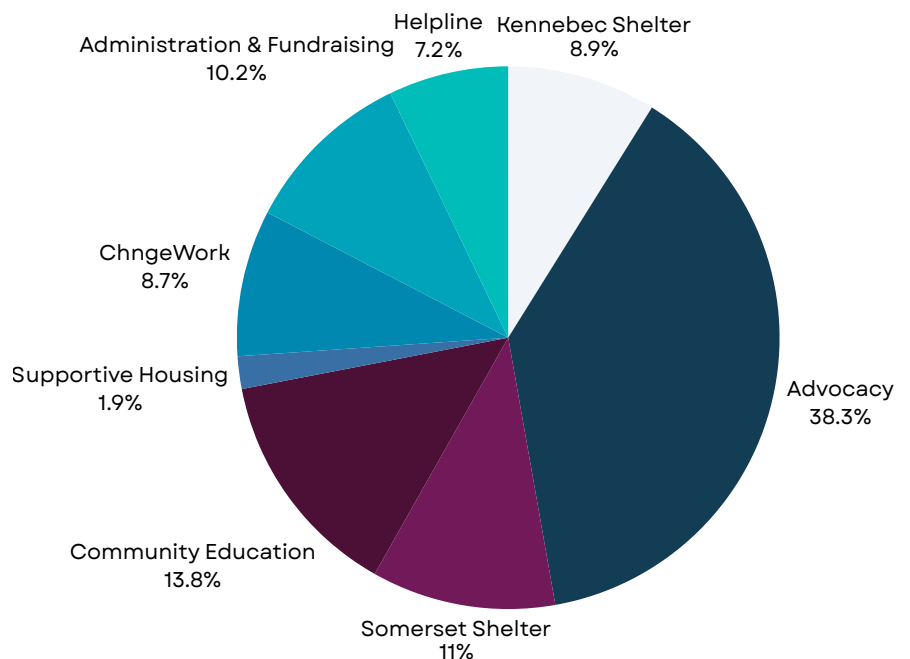
*Family Violence Project's Revenue and Expenses for
the fiscal year Ending September 30, 2024*

INCOME: \$2,399,975



EXPENSES: \$2,272,606

Recent federal funding cuts have put our financial stability at risk, but we've been proactive in working with the legislature to address gaps left by reduced federal support. Together, we're finding ways to secure the resources we need to continue providing essential services for survivors.



WORK WITH US

**MAILING ADDRESS**

PO Box 304. Augusta, ME 04332

**WEBSITE**

www.FamilyViolenceProject.org

**ADMINISTRATIVE PHONE**

207-623-8637



Local Business Partners:



Family Violence Project is supported through funding from US Office on Violence Against Women, Maine DHHS, United Ways of Kennebec and Heart of Maine, Maine State Housing Authority, municipalities, private grants, special fundraising events, and donations. Family Violence Project proudly serves anyone regardless of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, age, ancestry or national origin, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, or any other characteristic protected by law.