

United Way of Laramie County End-of Year Report  
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Agency Name: Safehouse Services Program: Victim Advocacy Program Reporting Period: Jan - Dec 2009

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Agency Mission/Vision:	To promote safety and well being of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking by providing shelter and support services.
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Community Issue Program Targets:	Helping Neighbors in Crisis and Strengthening Families
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Program Target Population:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safehouse provides services to Laramie County citizens who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking.</li><li>• Services are provided to any victim regardless of age, gender, race, religion, financial status, ability, disability etc...</li><li>• The increase of clients and the services needed to help the victims move towards self-sufficiency has been a continued trend for Safehouse.</li><li>• Domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking are not crimes against any particular group of people. The need to problem solve is what influences the delivery of our services.</li></ul>

Program Significance to the Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This Safehouse program directly ties to the United Way Investment team priority by assisting Laramie County citizens living in crisis due to domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking. The needs of these victims are well documented and increasing. The United Way funding is necessary for Safehouse to promote the safety of victims by providing trained advocates that respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week to the needs of victims.</li><li>• In the last fiscal year Safehouse assisted 579 un-duplicated victims, these are victims that come to Safehouse for the first time for assistance.</li><li>• Safehouse advocates provided services to 3,206 victims, new and returning clients.</li><li>• Safehouse provided shelter services to 191 victims for 4,034 bed nights; this was an average of 21 nights per person.</li><li>• We know the impact on those sheltered at Safehouse ..... they received a safe and secure place to stay while they worked on a growth plan towards safety and self-sufficiency.</li><li>• Additionally those clients working with a Safehouse advocate receive assistance in filing protection orders, gaining needed referrals, assisted with working through the legal system, safety planning and much more.</li><li>• The collaboration with the other Laramie County service providers has impacted our community with the strength of the cooperation. Safehouse facilitates a monthly Coordinated Community Response Team meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. At these meeting we work to assure the needs of the victims are being met with quality services from each of our partners.</li><li>• The most significant trend we have found in Laramie County has been an increase of victims identified within the elderly and teenage communities. The victims from these identified groups have increased primarily due to the networking within our community. The victims have a better understanding of where to get help and what kind of help is available. They are feeling more comfortable seeking assistance with the violence in their lives.</li></ul>

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Program Resources		Program Activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This program staffs two full-time employees to provide services in the evenings and weekends at the Safehouse shelter.</li> <li>Additionally this program supervises four volunteers that assist the full-time employees with the evening and weekend shifts.</li> <li>A Coordinated Community Response Team consisting of other Laramie County agencies meets monthly to collaborate on providing the best services necessary.</li> </ul>		<b>Victim Safety and Growth Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety need determination</li> <li>Shelter/housing needs obtained</li> <li>Growth plan established</li> <li>Support groups and referrals offered/obtained</li> <li>Continued support</li> </ul>	
Outcome	Performance Measure	Method of Measure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of the Safehouse clients seeking protection orders or residing at the shelter will be offered support group with a min. of 20% attending at least one group setting.</li> <li>85% of those seeking services from Safehouse will discuss a safety plan with the client advocate and feel comfortable with that plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In year 2009—297 victims requesting a protection or stalking order and 191 total sheltered victims were all offered support group with 21% of those actually attending a support group.</li> <li>In year 2009—Safehouse served 3,206 total victims with 2,789 of those reviewing a safety plan for an 87% total.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The intake process for Safehouse indicates whether a client was offered support group or reviewed a safety plan. These totals are reflected through a monthly report with the WY Division of Victim Services. Those attending a support group are documented through a sign in process.</li> </ul>	
Program Results		Results Analysis and Next Steps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The total number of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking that received services from Safehouse in year 2009 was 3,206.</li> <li>191 victims received safe shelter for a total of 4,034 bed nights in year 2009.</li> <li>297 victims requested a protection or stalking order from the Courts with the assistance of a Safehouse advocate.</li> <li>Statistics show that a victim of domestic violence leaves the abusive relationship seven times before they leave for good. We know that even those victims returning home after receiving our services have a safety plan in place and know they can return to us for future assistance and safety needs.</li> <li>By collecting data performance measures we are able to continue to provide the quality services to the victims because we are continually improving on our day to day services and referrals. By collecting this data we have noticed the increase of services requested from the elderly and teenage population.</li> <li>This program is important for victims choosing to flee an unsafe and abusive environment. They are in need of immediate victim-centered support services including shelter that will meet their safety needs and help them establish a growth plan for the future.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We had hoped and strived to get a minimum of 20% of the victims we worked with to attend a support group. To accommodate our clients we offer eight different support groups throughout the week. We met our goal by having 21% of those victims attending a minimum of one support group. Although we did meet this goal we found that of those attending a support group 68% of that number attended only one support group. We found that this past year keeping the interest in support group has been more difficult.</li> <li>We have notably continued to provide safety planning to our clients to assure they understand their safety needs and how to obtain them.</li> <li>According to our data analysis we believe we need to continue improving our services to two identifies groups—the elderly and teenagers. We are striving to make our services more available to the elderly as they often have the inability to report the abuse or because the abuser is often a caretaker they are not comfortable reporting. The same can be said for the teenager that feels they cannot report because the abuser is a boyfriend/girlfriend and they feel trapped. Another issue that Safehouse is working on is regarding immigrants. This is often a cultural or communication issue. We are working to address this issue by seeking translation services and training on cultural differences and how to relate.</li> </ul>	