

# Journey

Center for Safety and Healing



ANNUAL REPORT  
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# Message from our CEO

Dear friends,

I write this letter with mixed emotions. My last day at Journey will be January 31, 2024 as I have taken another position. I'd like to take this opportunity to not only give you an update on fiscal year 2023 but also to recap the last six years and briefly report on the 2019-2023 strategic plan.

I am grateful for my time at Journey. The talent and dedication of the team here has inspired me every day. Journey's leadership team and Board of Directors (listed herein) are strong, passionate, and dedicated. They will do an amazing job navigating Journey through this transition. I am also heartened by the community's support of this mission. It truly takes a community response to end child abuse and domestic violence. Journey is honored to be here for survivors in our city and county.

I joined Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center (now Journey Center for Safety and Healing) in January 2018 and these six years have been a period of great change – both in our society and at Journey:

- Journey served 16,762 individuals last year – 27% more people than the previous year.
- Canopy Child Advocacy Center (the first successful child advocacy center in Cuyahoga County) opened in November 2018.
- Journey survived drastic financial cuts from our largest federal funder as well as fierce competition for philanthropic dollars. 65% of Journey's revenue comes from government sources; in the past 5 years, this has declined by more than \$1,400,000.
- The COVID pandemic created an alarming trend for domestic violence victims, who were suddenly isolated at home with their abuser. In fact, domestic violence experts say rates remain high three years after the pandemic spike. Journey never ceased operations. In fact, Journey staff pivoted quickly to meet the new and increased demands: new agency partnerships were developed to provide clients with changing needs; because we had to cut the Shelter census in half, Journey utilized hotels for victims and staff found ways to serve clients seamlessly; Journey launched a housing program to help families move directly into safe, independent housing and bypassing the need for a Shelter stay; and Journey created an onsite classroom to educate school-aged children living in Shelter when schools are closed.
- One initiative of the strategic plan was to deepen our focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). George Floyd's murder and the systemic racism exposed by COVID fueled our efforts to embrace anti-racism in our culture, services, and advocacy.
- Journey invested in external relations to build awareness of domestic violence and child abuse and to make sure the community knows about us.
- Funding allowed us to re-introduce case management services for clients and complete some deferred maintenance at our facilities.
- We developed Community Advocate positions to better connect with and support victims.
- The Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement (DA-LE) is an evidence-based lethality assessment designed to identify victims at the highest risk of lethality or severe/near-lethal assault in order to connect them with supportive services. Another 12 police departments were trained in FY 23.

Since Journey does not charge for any service (we never want cost to be a barrier to those impacted by abuse), we rely on private donations from donors like you. Your gifts help victims like Bri, who was fleeing an increasingly violent abuser, or Rachel, who used the visitation center to allow her children's father to visit his children without putting them – or her – at increased risk, or Tiffany, who, with therapy, has improved her self-sufficiency to create a better life for her and her daughter. Thank you for your generous support of those impacted by domestic violence and child abuse.

In peace and service,  
Melissa K. Graves  
CEO



# Did you know?



On average, **24 people per minute** are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the U.S. – that is more than 12 million people over the course of a year.

**1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men** 18+ in the U.S. are the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner.

Domestic violence crosses racial, cultural, socioeconomic, and religious lines and occurs in all types of intimate relationships – it happens to people of all genders. However, **women are the most frequent victims of domestic violence.**

**Females ages 16 – 34** generally experience the highest rates of domestic violence.

From 1994 to 2010, about **4 in 5 victims** of domestic violence were **female.**

**Nearly half of female homicide victims** are killed by a current or former male intimate partner.

**Women of color, and women who are immigrants/refugees,** are over-represented among victims of severe domestic violence and domestic violence-related homicides, disproportionate to their representation in the population.

More than half of women murdered with guns are **killed by a family member or intimate partner.** Guns and domestic violence are a deadly combination.

The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it **5 times more likely** that a woman will be killed.

Female intimate partners are more likely to be **murdered with a firearm** than all other means combined.

The percentage of Ohio children who have witnessed domestic violence is **28% higher** than the national average.

There were 112 fatalities in Ohio due to domestic violence last year. On just one day in September 2022, 1,563 adult and child victims of domestic violence sought shelter in Ohio's emergency domestic violence shelters or transitional housing programs.

**Journey Center for Safety and Healing provides services that foster safety and healing to those affected by child abuse and domestic violence; and prevents abuse through education, advocacy, and systemic change.**

# A Look Back at 2023

Every person's journey is unique as they find a path toward healthy, thriving relationships.



**5,597** crisis interventions through our 24-Hour Helpline



**193** clients served in our Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter



**1,168** victims of intimate partner violence supported through the judicial process



**118** clients served through our Domestic Violence Housing First Initiative



**1,177** supervised visits and safe exchanges for children of separated parents



**89** victims supported through Trauma Therapy



**125** clients served in the Latina Domestic Violence Project



**87** support group sessions held to support survivors



**8,927** people educated about family violence & healthy relationships

**16,763** individuals were impacted by Journey Center's mission

Journey Center for Safety and Healing is Cuyahoga County's most comprehensive domestic violence agency. With nearly half a century of leadership, Journey's innovative approach addressing domestic violence and child abuse serves both children and adults to help break the cycle of violence.

You are  
not alone



# How We Support Survivors

## 24-Hour Helpline

Answered 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. Individuals can call or text to speak with an advocate. Advocates can assist callers with resources, referrals, and general information; crisis intervention and safety planning, legal information and/or options; intakes for services; and offer assistance to those experiencing abuse as well as friends/family.

## Domestic Violence Shelter

Operating in a confidential location, the shelter operates as a safe haven for individuals and families at high risk for re-victimization and stalking. Advocates provide crisis intervention, safety planning, group activities, art therapy, assistance with education, and connections to housing, employment and community supports.

## Domestic Violence Housing First Initiative

The Domestic Violence Housing First Initiative connects survivors and their children to independent housing so they can remain safe without entering shelter.

## Justice System Advocacy Program

Journey provides court advocacy for domestic violence victims involved in criminal and civil proceedings throughout Cuyahoga County. Journey's JSAP program currently works in 11 courts covering 43 municipalities. Advocates speak with each victim about their unique situation, explaining applicable court processes. Options are explored and considered, with an emphasis on safety and self-determination. Advocates also provide safety planning assistance, court escorts, and follow up to ensure that victims feel supported and informed during the court process.

## Supervised Visitation

Safe & Sound Visitation Center (SSVC) is the only one of its kind in Cuyahoga County helping high-risk, high-conflict families in need of safe, supervised visits and/or safe exchanges.

## Trauma Services

Therapy services for children, adolescents, and adults who have experienced trauma, grief, and loss related to child abuse, teen dating violence, domestic violence, and/or stalking.

## DV Education Class

This 7-week program provides education on the dynamics of domestic violence to help those affected by abuse make informed life decisions.

## Latina Domestic Violence Project

Offers culturally relevant advocacy and support services for Latina victims of domestic violence. All Advocates are bilingual in Spanish.

## Support Groups

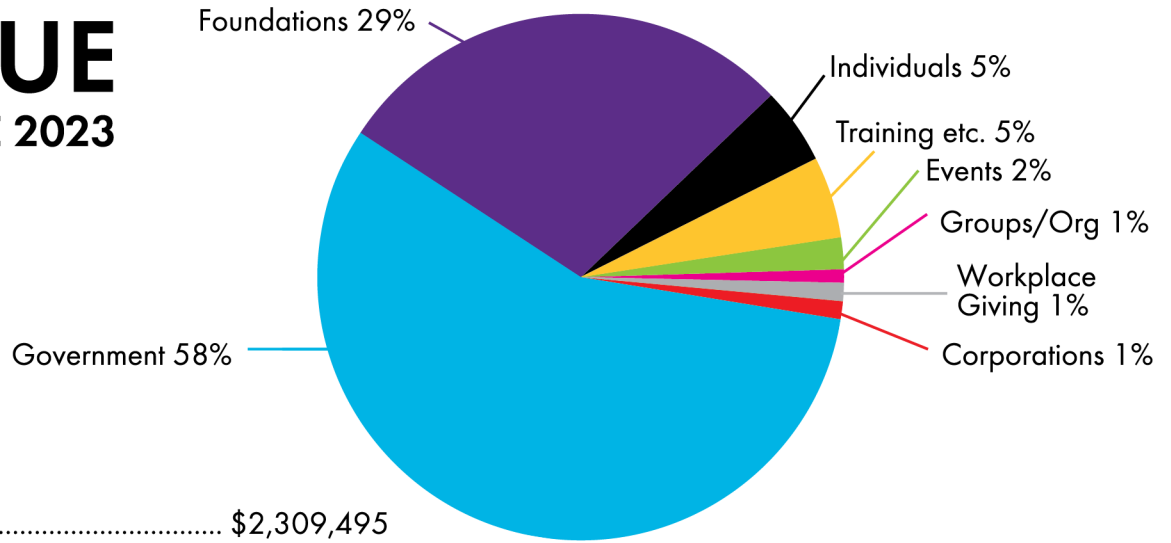
Support groups are available for individuals who have experienced abusive relationships. These free, weekly, facilitated groups offer a confidential setting for discussion, support, and healing.

## Training & Education

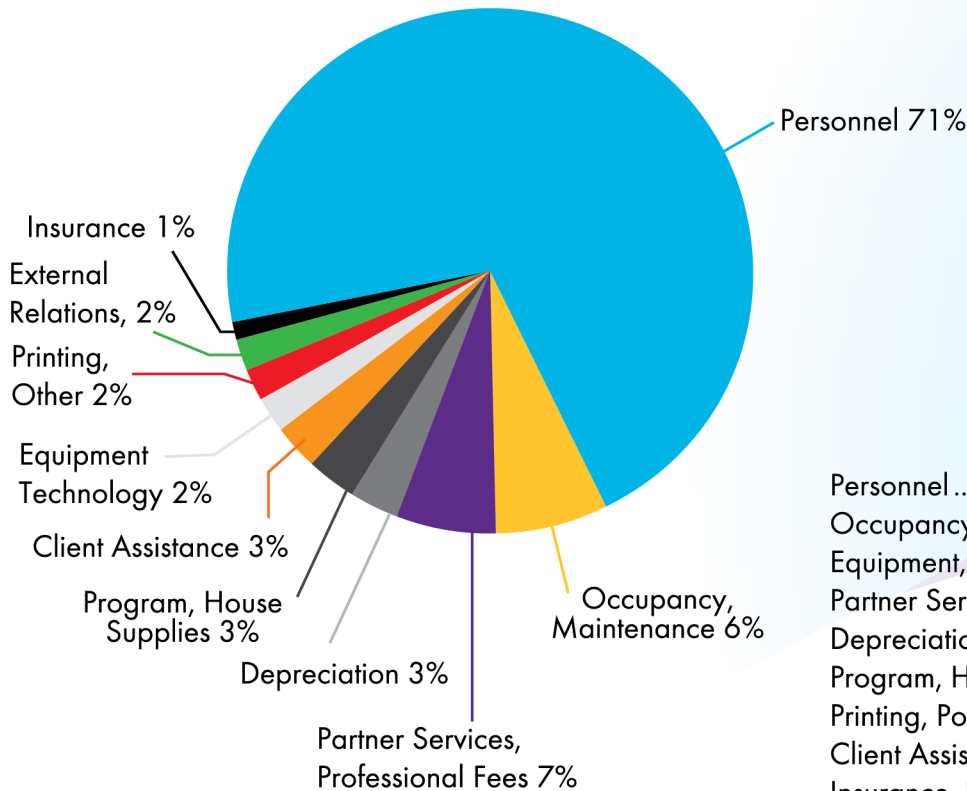
Journey Center offers educational presentations and a wide variety of professional training workshops to the greater Cleveland area. Topics include: domestic violence, dating violence, child abuse, and other related topics.

# REVENUE

## JULY 2022-JUNE 2023



Government .....	\$2,309,495
Foundations.....	\$1,151,011
Individuals .....	\$186,050
Groups/Organizations.....	\$25,553
Workplace Giving.....	\$28,171
Corporations.....	\$53,380
Events.....	\$25,630
Training, Court Voluntary Fees, Other .....	\$185,563
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,964,853</b>



# EXPENSES

## JULY 2022-JUNE 2023

Personnel .....	\$3,358,169
Occupancy, Maintenance.....	\$297,678
Equipment, Technology.....	\$72,694
Partner Services, Professional Fees.....	\$316,715
Depreciation.....	\$144,254
Program, House Supplies .....	\$135,873
Printing, Postage, Supplies, Travel, Other .....	\$68,530
Client Assistance .....	\$134,359
Insurance, Fees .....	\$46,108
External Relations, Fundraising.....	\$90,472
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$4,664,852</b>

# Kathy's Story

Kathy and her siblings grew up in Parma. To the outside world, they lived a normal life. But behind closed doors, life was not normal. Her father was an alcoholic and abused her mother—physically, verbally and emotionally. Her parents divorced when she was five.

Kathy always dreamed of getting married and having children. At 24, she met Steve - he was charming, handsome and rode a Harley. Early in the relationship, Steve started to control who Kathy hung out with and what she wore. But she was in love and his charm made her not notice the controlling behaviors. As years passed, the couple had four children. The part of the dream Kathy could never have imagined was the abuse she and her children would endure. It included beatings, strangulation, punching, and threats with knives and guns. One night, Steve stood next to her bed and put a rifle in his mouth. Instead of using it on himself, he beat her badly. Kathy called Journey's Helpline the next day and she and her children moved into the shelter. Kathy also took advantage of Journey's Justice System Advocacy Program, support groups and therapy. The family used Journey services long after they left the shelter. Kathy continues to work toward her goal of creating a safe and sustainable home for her and her children but is hopeful for the future.



## Board of Directors

**Eric Logan (Chair)**  
**Jejuana C. Brown (Vice Chair)**  
**Lauren Backus (Treasurer)**  
**Kelly Woodard (Secretary)**  
**Michael Anderton**  
**Kellee Bacote**  
**Tanzalea Daniels**

**Margarita Diaz**  
**Michelle Fischer**  
**Brandon Griffin**  
**Julie Hershberger**  
**Sally Ingberg**  
**Sean Kilcher**  
**Melissa Kline**

**Jim Lawler**  
**Eva Love, MD**  
**Alison Magyari**  
**Andrea Martemus-Peters**  
**Caytie Matti**  
**Asha K. Montante**  
**Arbi Raina**

## Our Employees

Journey welcomed Samantha Justham as Director of Shelter and Crisis Housing Services. Journey is excited for the expertise Sam brings to the organization and her dedication to the mission of the agency.

We are immensely grateful to all of our incredible staff, whose dedication and talent are the cornerstone of our success. Your remarkable efforts are truly what make our achievements possible.

Journey Center for Safety and Healing is committed to modeling our work through a lens of anti-racism and equity. We know that, moving forward, we must remain grounded in the experiences of those most vulnerable in our communities, particularly survivors of color. Without their voices, we cannot begin to accomplish our work of serving all survivors. We are committed to an intentional examination of how our own internal structure and our community partners may be unknowingly reinforcing these systems of oppression that we wholeheartedly oppose. But most importantly, Journey Center for Safety and Healing is committed to action.

## Wondering how to support people experiencing abuse?

- Monetary Donation
- Planned Giving
- Employer Matching Gift
- Workplace Giving
- Used Cellphones
- Gift Cards
- Inkind Donations/Items from Amazon Wishlist



For more information or to make a donation, scan the QR code or visit [journeyneo.org/donate](https://www.journeyneo.org/donate)

*Journey Center Trainings 2024*

Feb 14	Teen Dating Violence
March 7	Dynamics of Family Violence Part 1: Impact on Families
2024	Lunch & Learn Series - Journey Center Programs & Services

To learn more or to register visit our website: [Journeyneo.org](https://www.journeyneo.org)



SUPPORTING THOSE IMPACTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE

### Contact Us

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<https://www.journeyneo.org/>

**216.391.4357 (HELP)**