

Creating Hope
Healing Lives
Changing Community



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Thank you so to our incredible staff, board, supporters, volunteers, community partners, and Henderson County for another year of supporting survivors. Our dedicated and remarkable staff help people in some of their darkest hours. Your passion is why we are able to continue providing safe, full-service programs in this community.

Because of you, last year, Safelight created safer, faster services for survivors with the build of our new facility. We are now working through huge renovations to make our shelter space more accessible, comfortable, and safe. Our new onsite kennel for shelter residents is opening December 1, 2023. We had our largest fundraiser to date, which will help us pay off our mortgage next year. We hope to see you at our mortgage burning party in 2024, as we celebrate this accomplishment and our 40th anniversary serving survivors in Henderson County!

As we celebrate our accomplishments, our work is far from over. Safelight is working with The Free Clinics, AdventHealth, and UNC Health Pardee to create a community-based option for adult forensic interviews and exams in our new facility. We are implementing the national Camp Hope America model in our community to help children who have been exposed to trauma find pathways to hope and healing. We will have our weeklong summer camp next year at Green River Preserve. And we are renovating our resale store in the early winter to create a more open and safe space for our job training services.

This life-changing work is not done in isolation, we continue to need the support of our amazing volunteers, community partners, and our neighbors like you. Your generous investment allows our mission to grow as we continue to transform the lives of survivors every day. Your one-time gift, multi-year commitment, gift of stock, or estate planning gifts have an immediate impact. Every dollar raised supports survivors. We could not do this without you!

By partnering with us, you help change lives in Henderson County. Please continue to tell people you meet about Safelight. Volunteer, eat at Dandelion Café, and shop at our resale store! Come take a tour with me and Trinkka to see what we are building. You are all a part of this journey, helping us serve over 45,000 individuals since 1984.

I am so grateful to be a part of this incredible community. Thank you for supporting Safelight. Thank you for believing in what we do. Thank you to our incredible board members, donors, volunteers, partners, and community. Together we create change, we heal lives, we change our community.

LAUREN WILKIE

Executive Director



Every **10 seconds** a report of child abuse is made

Board of Directors

Anna Conner, *President*

Clint Holt, *Vice President*

Chris Scruggs, *Treasurer*

Rafe Westbrook, *Secretary*

Marilee Arnold

Mariah Cassum

Crystal Cauley

Joe Fishleigh

Chief Blair Myhand

Ruth Simons

Christy Sneller

Michael Willey



ANNA CONNER

Board President

Anticipating client needs. Thinking outside the box. A non-profit's work exceeds expectations when leaders and staff feel empowered and supported to become innovators and change-makers. It's one of the many things I am so proud of here at Safelight. This past year, we added new pet kennels to our shelter, giving survivors the ability to bring their beloved pets with them when leaving their abusive environment. In the past three years, Safelight has doubled our budget, allowing our team to provide more and more crucial services as needs increase. Thanks to our amazing staff, board, partners and volunteers, we continue to create hope, heal lives and change our community for the better.



2023-2024
Board of
Directors

Safelight's Timeline

- **1983:** Henderson County Child Abuse Task Force formed (later became FOCUS).
- **1984:** The Women's Crisis Ministry starts in a church basement in Hendersonville to serve women dealing with crises such as divorce and widowhood.
- **1984:** Mainstay is formed with the mission of helping battered women.
- **1985:** Women's Crisis Ministry becomes a part of Mainstay and operates in the basement of the City Office.
- **1986:** Mainstay purchases and moves shelter for battered women and their children into a house off Haywood Road.
- **1986:** Henderson County Rape Crisis Center as part of Buncombe County (later renamed The Healing Place) opened and provided services for those who experienced sexual assault.
- **1986:** First Batterers Intervention Program in NC (now called Domestic Violence Intervention Program).
- **1987:** Started financial support from Marriage license filing fees in NC (thanks to a board member).
- **1988:** A building adjacent to the Mainstay shelter is purchased for moving administration.
- **1989-1997:** Sawbones (Physicians) vs Jawbones (Lawyers) had four Basketball Games to raise the visibility of child abuse in our community and fundraise for the Child Advocacy Center (CAC).
- **1990:** FOCUS "Friends of Children United Services" (later The Healing Place) began accepting children as the first accredited CAC in North Carolina.
- **1990:** Mainstay opens the first resale store in Henderson County located on Barnwell Street.
- **1995:** Mainstay Shelter is destroyed by fire, and a temporary Shelter is set up downtown. A new facility at 125 S. Main Street opens April 21, 1996. The administrative offices, resale store and Shelter are located under one roof for the first time.
- **1996:** The Henderson County Rape Crisis Center merges with FOCUS "Friends of Children United Services" and change their name to The Healing Place, Inc.
- **2008:** Mainstay moves into its current location at 133 Fifth Avenue West. The new location allows for the expansion of additional services.
- **2008:** Mainstay shelter and resale store move to Fifth Avenue.
- **2011:** Mainstay rents the upper portion of 127 Fifth Avenue West.
- **2013:** Mainstay opens Dandelion Café at 127 Fifth Avenue West, starting the Job Training Program.
- **2014:** Mainstay and its partners, including Pisgah Legal Services, open the Family Advocacy/Justice Center (FAC) across from the courthouse.
- **2015:** Mainstay reopens the county's CAC.
- **2015:** Mainstay's job training program expands into the resale store.
- **2016:** Safelight, Inc. formed as Mainstay and The Healing Place merge to better provide essential services to all survivors.
- **2017:** The CAC regains national accreditation.
- **2017:** Safelight expands its job training program to include Sewing Our World Together.
- **2019:** Safelight opens a separate Counseling Center to accommodate additional therapists/counselors in a rental off Asheville Highway.
- **2021:** Safelight moves Counseling Center into Outreach/Admin area upstairs at 127 Fifth Avenue. Full Renovation of basement of 133 Fifth Avenue occurs adding a large meeting room, computer lab, and additional office for staff.
- **2022:** Washington Street office opens to house Administration, FAC, Counseling Center, Outreach and CAC. Rented upstairs of 127 Fifth Avenue offices to Pisgah Legal Services.
- **2023:** Pet kennels open for our shelter residents.

Creating hope and healing for families

FY23 Program Stats



24-Hour Emergency Shelter filled **7,234** beds for **185** survivors



Outreach for community advocacy and prevention education was given to **6,830** individuals in our community



Our **Counseling Center** saw **245** survivors for **2,275** sessions



24-Hour Crisis Hotline answered over **893** survivor calls



Child Advocacy Center assisted **254** children



Family Advocacy Center helped **243** survivors



Domestic Violence & Partner Intervention Program engaged **80** men and women



Community Engagement supported **41** survivors with financial literacy and employment to in our Safelight Resale Store and Dandelion Cafe

Every **9 seconds** in the U.S., a woman is assaulted or beaten.



Sponsors

Thanks to our over 900 donors, volunteers, and sponsors. We could not do it without you!

- Amanda Hill Real Estate
- Benton Roofing
- Carolina Spark
- Carolina Village
- Crate Wine Market & Project
- Duke Energy
- Dunlap Construction
- Fit Club, Inc
- Flooring America
- Flowers by Larry
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- LS Creative
- Morrow Insurance
- Norm's Mini Mart
- Van Winkle Law Group
- Vibrant Dental
- Well Adjusted Chiropractic & Wellness
- WilsonArt
- Xtreme Drywall

Thank you to our Annual Sponsors



FIRST CITIZENS BANK



SHAMBURGER ARCHITECTURAL GROUP



SOUTHERN ALARM AND SECURITY



Partnerships



Over 30 partners in excellence have signed memorandums of agreement with us including shared office space or funding together

Safelight collaborates with different community partners and agencies to ensure clients' needs are met



“Pisgah Legal Services provides direct legal services to survivors of domestic violence facing a variety of complex legal issues, including obtaining Domestic Violence Protective Orders, securing custody of their children, and pursuing a divorce from their abuser. Our partnership with Safelight, and specifically our work together at the Henderson County Family Advocacy Center, allows us to meet our clients' needs holistically and efficiently.

Further, our partnership not only allow us to serve our current clients well, but it also allows our organizations to work to address systemic needs of survivors as a whole in our community.”

--Pisgah Legal Services



“The Free Clinic's Phoenix Project is a medical clinic within Safelight's Family Advocacy Center. Through partnership with Safelight, Phoenix Project provides medical services to survivors of interpersonal violence.

Phoenix Project provides trauma-informed primary and urgent care to clients within Safelight's shelter and/or working with The Family Advocacy Center. Being housed within Safelight allows Phoenix Project to be an integral part of supporting clients in meeting their goals and succeeding. “ --Korah Schwab, FNP-C

6 Programs and Dozens of Services

We offer a continuum of services to help move clients from crisis to sustainability with housing, employment, case management, and counseling services.

A Thriver's Story

"I came to Safelight with nothing. They gave me all the resources that I needed and a space where I could find myself again. They embraced me. I was able to overcome my fears with counseling and build a foundation to begin to piece my world together. Safelight does so much to empower survivors, with many resources and community partners, some you are not aware of. I am so grateful to some of these partners, including Safelight's giving circle, First United Methodist Church, Pisgah Legal Services and Hendersonville Police Department.

I appreciate finding a safe space where I can lead a normal life. One thing I would tell other people in my situation, is about the importance of resources to help with financial independence. During my time at Safelight, I had a beautiful experience with Safelight's Job Training Program, had a tutor, got my GED, became a qualified CNA, and am now working on completing my college prerequisites. I encourage women to go for their college education to help break the cycles of abuse and violence. My financial independence has helped me break the cycle and soar. I fell and now I have risen."

--Safelight survivor, now thriver

Changing Community Campaign



Recently an 18-year-old and her mother came to our door because her dream college was requesting information from her dad for her financial application. She was a client 10 years prior in counseling due to abuse from her father and needed a letter from us so this could be waived. Safelight serves survivors throughout their lives, whenever we are needed. We live our mission of *Creating Hope, Healing Lives, and Changing Community*.

Safelight fills an essential need by creating safety. Since 1984, we have transformed to provide a continuum of programs and services, taking someone from crisis to sustainability with case management, counseling, housing, and employment services for survivors. What makes us especially exceptional is that we are one of only a few survivor-serving, community-based agencies in the world providing services for anyone (men, women, children, & families) who have experienced any type of interpersonal violence, abuse or exploitation.

To all our founders and former staff, thank you for building our foundation. I had the pleasure to meet with 5 of our founders recently to hear the stories that paved the way for the work we do today! We should all be proud of what we have created.

- We started the first Batterers Intervention Program in North Carolina now called Domestic Violence Intervention Program
- We started financial support from Marriage license filing fees in North Carolina to go to help survivors
- We started the first child advocacy center in NC accredited by the National Children's Alliance
- We started the first resale store in WNC
- We operate the largest survivor shelter in WNC

Over the past year we have continued to grow. We celebrated one year in our new facility. For the first time all of our programs are in walking distance of each other! In partnership with Blue Ridge Humane Society, we built and opened our new pet kennels so that individuals fleeing violence do not have to leave behind their beloved pets! We worked hard on our changing community campaign, and just met our fundraising goal! This will give us the ability to pay off our mortgage in 2024! Thank you for all of your support and for believing in what we do. We celebrate 40 years of service next year and we could not have done it without you!

Next year's campaign will have us working hard with The Free Clinics, AdventHealth and UNC Health Pardee to create a community-based option for adult medical exams in our new facility, operating our first Camp Hope America summer camp program for our kids, and renovating our resale store. I am so grateful to get to have such an incredible team and community. Thank you for supporting Safelight!

Thank you,
Lauren Wilkie, Safelight Executive Director

How to Give

Mail a check

317 N. Washington St., Hendersonville, NC 28739

Give online

<https://www.safelightfamily.org/donate.htm>

Make a Gift of Stock/Investments

A gift of stock is an impactful way to support us and make a smart decision for your taxes. By transferring stocks, you can avoid capital gains tax, lower your tax burden, and donate the full amount to Safelight.

Donate Through Your IRA

If you are 70.5 or older and you have a traditional IRA, you can support us this year with a tax-free gift from your IRA called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Giving from your IRA can lower your tax burden by using pre-tax funds for a gift.

Use your Donor Advised Fund to Give

If you have a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) with an organization such as the Community Foundation of Henderson County, please follow their guidelines for minimum contributions and recommending grants.

Text2Give

Text2Give makes it easy to give to Safelight! Simply text the amount of your donation to our Text2Give number: (828) 492-3322. Once received you can register the account you want to draw funds from, and you are ready to go!

Scan Our QR Code

1. Open the Camera app on your smartphone.
2. Hold your device so that the QR code appears in the viewfinder in the Camera app. Your device recognizes the QR code and displays a notification.
3. Tap the notification to open the link associated with the QR code.



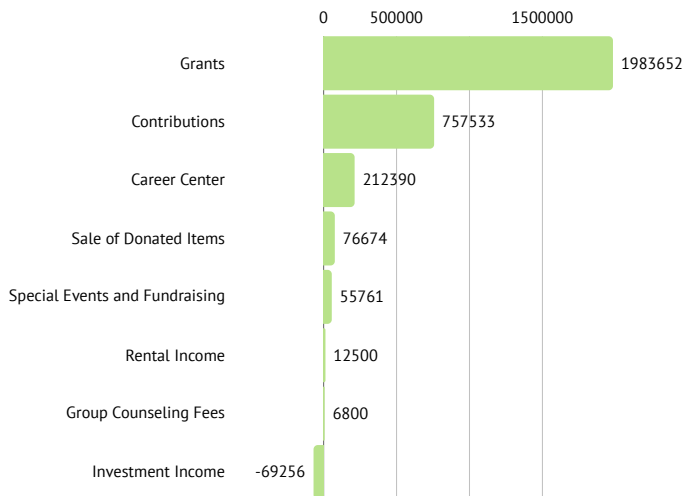
It costs about \$50/day to house someone fleeing abuse safely in our shelter

<u>FAMILY SHELTER STAY - 6 MONTHS</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>
Serve 3 families in our shelter for 6 months	
<u>24/7 CRISIS HOTLINE FOR 3 MONTHS</u>	<u>\$25,000</u>
24/7 Crisis Line staffed for 3 months	
<u>SCHOOL STAFF TRAININGS</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
Support education and advocacy training for elementary school teachers and administration	
<u>JOB TRAINING PROGRAM - 6 MONTHS</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
Paying a client in our job training program in our Dandelion café or Resale store for 6 months	
<u>COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
Support the expansion of our outreach for education and advocacy in our community	
<u>24/7 CRISIS HOTLINE</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>
24/7 Crisis Line staffed for a week	
<u>SHELTER STAY - ONE MONTH</u>	<u>\$1,500</u>
Serving a family in our shelter for one month	
<u>JOB TRAINING PROGRAM</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
Paying a client in our job training program in our Dandelion café or Resale store for one month	
<u>CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER</u>	<u>\$500</u>
Support the Child Advocacy Center	
<u>FAMILY ADVOCACY CENTER</u>	<u>\$250</u>
Support the Family Advocacy Center	
<u>SURVIVOR COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS</u>	<u>\$100</u>
Support a survivor receiving individual counseling and support groups	
<u>SHELTER STAY - ONE NIGHT</u>	<u>\$50</u>
Serving a family in shelter for one night	
<u>HOSPITAL ACCOMPANIMENT BAGS</u>	<u>\$25</u>
Emergency toiletries, clothing, and community resources	

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

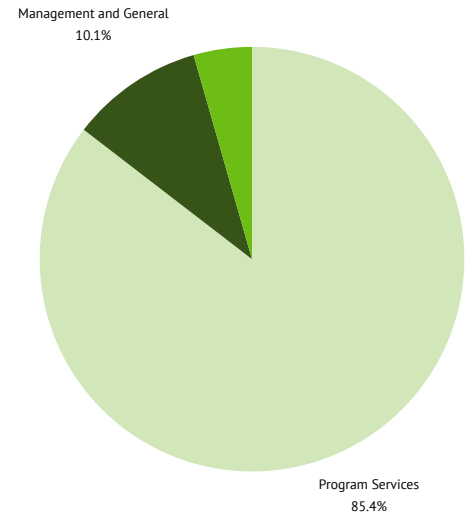
FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

REVENUES



TOTAL REVENUE: \$3,036,054

EXPENSES



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2,233,875

ASSETS



Current Assets	1,052,273
Property and Equipment	3,516,318
Investments	161,688
Beneficial interest in endowment fund	172,973
Unconditional promises to give	21,841
Total Assets	\$4,925,193

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	128,611
Long term debt – current position	47,014
Long term debt – noncurrent position	1,017,191
Total Liabilities	\$1,192,816





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(828) 693-3840**

www.safelightfamily.org

**Should you have any questions, please contact
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