Domestic *and* Sexual Violence Services

POWER UP SPEAK OUT!

A Program of DSVS

2021 Annual Report

This is DSVS

Founded in 1999 on a belief that everyone deserves healthy relationships, Domestic and Sexual Violence Services provides free and confidential support to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Carbon and Stillwater counties. DSVS also provides violence prevention education through Power Up, Speak Out!, teaching kids the basics of healthy relationships.

Our Mission

To empower those impacted by violence and foster healthy relationships.

Our Vision

DSVS strives for the day when violence is no longer part of our lives.

With Change Comes Opportunity

A messsage from our Co-Directors, Jenn Battles and Libby Johnson

This past year, DSVS welcomed three new staff members and adopted a shared leadership model as we said goodbye to Kelly Heaton, who was Executive Director for almost 10 years. We are excited by the ways that collaborative decision-making aligns with our organization's values and we are grateful for the opportunities 2021 provided to grow and learn. We are confident that these opportunities will continue as an inherent part of the shared leadership model, and we are committed to exploring them with courage.

As we do, we will deepen our services for clients and the community. In 2021, our direct services team served 131 clients and our volunteers answered 588 helpline calls. We provided free parenting classes to give families tools to disrupt the cycle of generational violence, and revived our school mentoring program after a year-long hiatus. We delivered dozens of Power Up, Speak Out! lessons in local schools, and reconnected with our community partners.

DSVS also renewed our federal financial support for our direct services for survivors, and expanded our legal services and sexual assault programs with new federal funding. Rounding out our grant support, your generous donations to DSVS and income from our Home Again Thrift Store both set records in 2021. We thank all of our supporters for their commitment to our mission and for contributing to our financial resilience.

Our foundation remains strong and our outlook for 2022 is bright!

With gratitude,

Jenn Libby

Helpline: 406-425-2222, office: 406-446-2296, www.dsvsmontana.org

Direct Services Update

In 2021, DSVS direct services staff helped 131 clients, providing shelter, transportation, food, safety planning, temporary financial assistance, and help navigating the legal system, as well as other personalized services. The number is down from previous years. However, we know domestic violence and sexual assault continue to be serious problems in our area. The drop in client numbers follows regional and national trends seen since the pandemic started.

While our client numbers may be down, our work with clients has intensified. Our advocates are seeing more violent physical abuse. For example, reported strangulation has increased. Of those survivors we served, at least eight perpetrators were charged with felony strangulation. Clients are also coming to us with more complicated needs, and our advocates have stepped up to the challenge with even more creative problem solving. Another trend we're observing is the influx of newcomers to our area. A fair number of them have needed our services.

We can't predict the circumstances that bring people to our doors, or the number that we'll serve in 2022, but we remain committed to providing free, confidential, high-quality services to those in need.

Free Parenting Classes

With a goal of building healthy communities by supporting families, DSVS partnered with the Boys and Girls Club to host free parenting classes. The eight-week course, taught by local educator Maureen Kampfe, was based on the program Conscious Discipline, which provides parents with easy-to-apply methods that build connection and resolve conflict. The concepts are particularly well-suited to parents of children pre-k through elementary. Seven families participated, and it was so well-received that we're already planning another session in April and May. For details call 406-446-2296. Maureen is pictured above with children whose parents attended the class.

By all our calculations, YOU are amazing!

Your generosity made a difference in 2021.

During the Fun Run, our largest fundraiser, you gave more than $28,500 and then, during our end of year campaign, you gave again, adding almost $11,600 in additional support.

Your giving will help us serve individuals and families who are making the brave decision to leave a life of violence, and your donations will also support programs that teach youth the basics of healthy relationships.

That you trust us with this important work means the world to us. Thank you!

Red Lodge High School students listen to a presentation on consent.

Power Up, Speak Out! Programming Expands

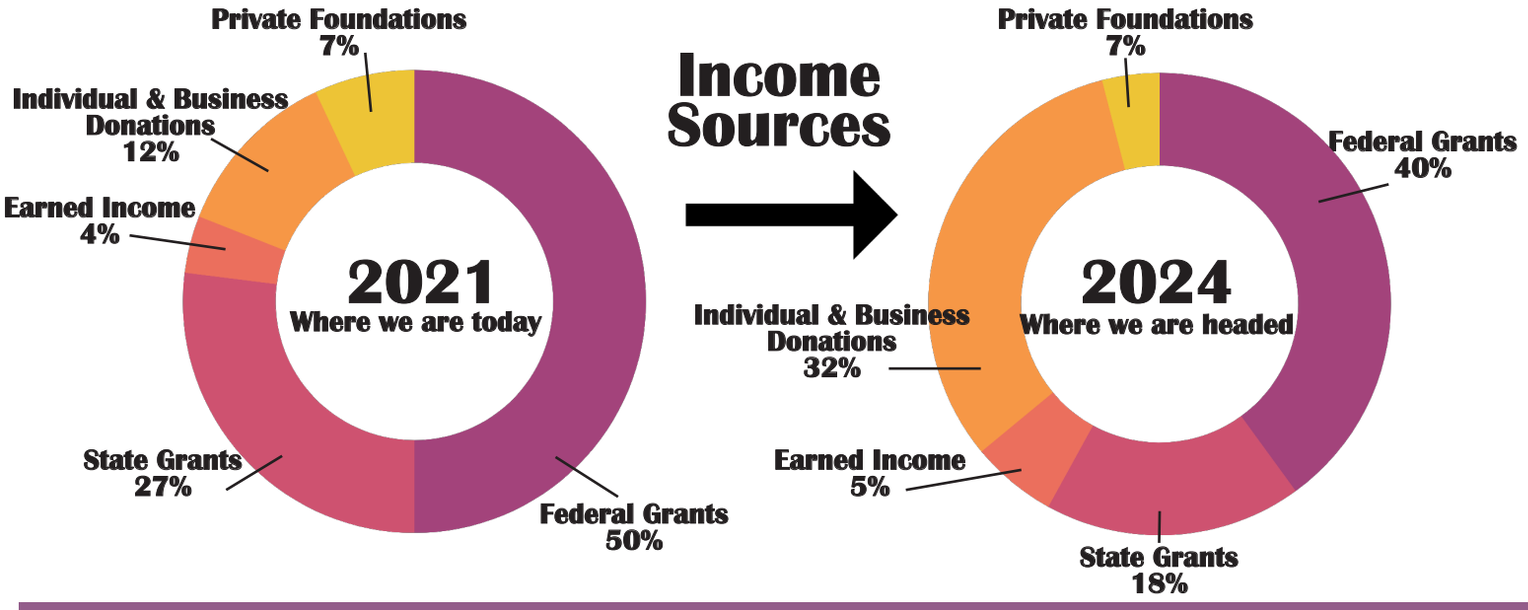
Power Up, Speak Out! continued to grow in 2021. The five-lesson toolkit is in use in schools across Montana and in 22 other states, and we estimate that at least 8,000 middle school students receive the training every year. That's exciting, but what may be more exciting is the expansion of Power Up, Speak Out! in our service area.

In 2021 our education team started working with high school students in Red Lodge and Bridger. During health classes, staff are building on the concepts of Power Up, Speak Out! and giving students information on a variety of topics including enthusiastic consent, teen dating violence, breaking up, bystander intervention, body positivity, toxic masculinity, Title IX, and rape culture. Many topics were requested by teens in the classes, who take part in meaningful discussions.

Our work also continues with weekly presentations for elementary students in the Boys and Girls Club, and 16 adult mentors volunteer in the Red Lodge high school and middle school, offering young people a caring and non-judgmental connection. We know these programs work. Feedback from educators has been positive, and they've all said they see a difference in school climate.

If you're interested in learning about Power Up, Speak Out! go to www.powerupspeakout.org.

Your Ongoing Support is Making DSVS More Resilient



2021 Program Costs

Direct Services
$351,024

Coordinated Community Response
$7,335

Education
$133,119

For more detailed financial information, please contact DSVS Finance and Human Resources Director Amanda LaPlante at alaplante@dsvsmontana.org or visit our website at dsvsmontana.org.

Arleen Boyd, DSVS Volunteer of the Year

It takes courage for someone living with domestic violence to call the DSVS 24-hour helpline, and the answer of an empathetic listener can make all the difference. Arleen Boyd, a DSVS volunteer advocate, is frequently that kind and compassionate voice on the other end of the line. She's ready to listen and offer resources, no matter how complicated or difficult the situation may be.

"I'm that link between the victim and the amazing people at DSVS and throughout our communities who provide those needed services every day," Arleen said.

Arleen is the 2021 DSVS Volunteer of the Year, and she has graciously given hundreds of hours covering the helpline on evenings, weekends and holidays. She's also a DSVS board member who helps guide the organization and support the staff. Although Arleen had known about DSVS for many years, she was compelled to volunteer at DSVS about three years ago after hearing about the helpline opportunity.

"I've been stunned at the number of people who have experienced abuse," she added. "You help the ones you can, and you know there are others out there."

Arleen knows that the helpline isn't for everyone, but she still encourages people to become involved with DSVS.

"We all have the capacity to help in some way," she said.

2021 helpline stats

Active helpline volunteers: 17
Volunteer helpline hours: 5,555
Helpline calls: 588

One Caring Adult Can Impact a Child's Life Forever

The DSVS mentoring program continued in 2021 with 16 mentoring pairs meeting in Red Lodge middle and high schools. The program offers teens the opportunity to build a relationship with a caring, non-judgmental adult. Mentors meet with students once a week over lunch, and last year mentors gave more than 410 hours of their time. Thank you to all our mentors. We know you're having a positive impact on these students!

"It's a high point in my week. There's just a lot of laughter and I feel like I'm learning more about the world every time we're together,"
~ Tesla Palmatier, DSVS mentor

DSVS Mentor Tesla Palmatier and her mentee, Tate, during one of their lunches together.

Are you ready to make a difference? Become a volunteer!

DSVS has a variety of volunteer options to fit everyone's schedule and skillset. We are looking to add volunteers to our helpline team and volunteers to staff the Home Again store. During the school year, you can help by being a youth mentor. If you like to serve others, call 446-2296 or email info@dsvsmontana.org.

Home Again Sales Are Soaring

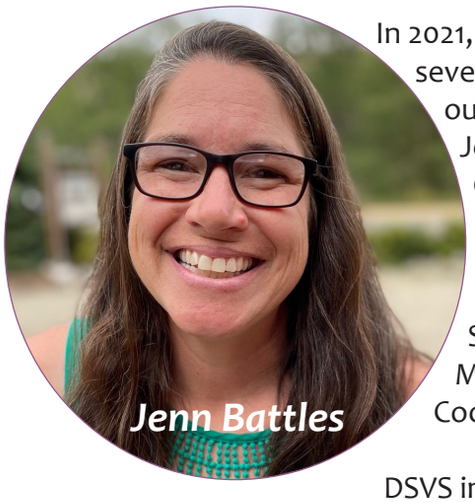
No one could have predicted how popular Home Again has become. The thrift store is staffed by volunteers and stocked with donated furniture that's either given to clients in need or resold. We're able to give old furniture a fresh start, and last year, the store received and resold about 365 items.

In 2021 the store brought in $23,721 and has provided $38,769 since it was launched in September 2019. These funds are just one piece of the puzzle as we aim to become more resilient and less reliant on grants.

If you haven't checked out the store, you should! It's located at 412 N. Broadway in Red Lodge and it's open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. As you'll see, we've outgrown the building, so if you know of a large retail or warehouse space to rent please contact us at homeagain@dsvsmontana.org.

In 2021, we took our message to the masses with a billboard south of Red Lodge. The billboard included our tagline, "Everyone Deserves Healthy Relationships" below a photo collage by local photographer Merv Coleman. Members of our community posed for the photo. The project was sponsored by a small group of DSVS supporters and was seen by thousands of people as they headed up Beartooth Pass to recreate. Feedback on the billboard has been positive and we're hoping to contract for another billboard this summer.

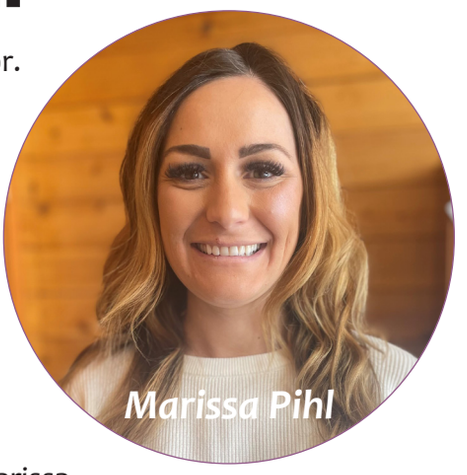
DSVS Welcomes New Staff



In 2021, DSVS welcomed several new people to our team including Jenn Battles, Co-Director (Operations), Tara McNabb, Direct Services Advocate, Stillwater, and Marissa Pihl, Office Coordinator.

Jenn came to DSVS in September after the Board of Directors adopted a co-leadership model. Jenn has 20 years of non-profit experience. She has lived in Red Lodge for several years and also sits on the Red Lodge City Council. Jenn shares leadership duties with Libby Johnson, who was promoted to Co-Director.

Tara McNabb joined the staff at the end of the year, stepping into the role of Direct Service Advocate for Stillwater County. Her office is in Columbus where she has strong ties to the community.



Marissa Pihl also joined the staff in December as our new Office Coordinator. She is the glue that holds the office together and keeps things running smoothly.

SUPAMAN

In December, DSVS partnered with the Red Lodge School District and Piccola Cuccina at Ox Pasture to bring renowned Native American hip hop artist Supaman to Red Lodge for three dynamic performances. The event allowed audiences a glimpse of Native American culture and history while offering a message of hope and resilience.

DSVS Staff

Jenn Battles, Co-Director (Operations)
Libby Johnson, Co-Director (Programs)
Laura Bailey, Communications and Outreach Coordinator
Kate Croft, Direct Services Manager
Joanne Handley, Transitional Services Coordinator
Amanda LaPlante, Finance & Human Resources Director
Tara McNabb, Direct Services Advocate, Stillwater
Marissa Pihl, Office Coordinator
Hayden Ramsey, Prevention Educator & Volunteer Program Manager

DSVS Board of Directors

Randy Dragon, Chair
Jacque Papez, Vice Chair
Debbie Brewer, Treasurer
Maryvette Labrie, Secretary
Arleen Boyd
JoAnne Coolidge
Suzi Pendergraft
Patty Wisneski

Domestic and Sexual Violence Services
PO Box 314, 1119 S. Broadway,
Red Lodge, MT 59068

Join our Circle of Hope

By investing as little as $10 a month you can help meet the most basic needs of survivors and their families and help prevent violence in our community. Automatic monthly giving is easy and convenient, and even the smallest donations can make a big impact.

Scan the QR code to join the DSVS Circle of Hope or go to at dsvsmontana.org/donate.

Sabrina's Story

When Sabrina's husband Rob screamed "If I can't have you then no one will," across the parking lot at her son's school, she immediately thought of the loaded gun he kept in his truck. She ducked into her car and sped away. His stalking was getting worse the closer they got to their court date, and Sabrina called law enforcement again. Then, she called her advocate at DSVS who provided some additional safety planning.

Sabrina first called DSVS in July after enduring more than 20 years of abuse. Rob was psychologically, physically and sexually abusive and never allowed Sabrina to have friends. Their children were older now and she was starting to see the effects Rob's abuse was having on them.

Her advocate shared with her that the most dangerous time for a survivor is when they are leaving or attempting to leave, and that factored into Sabrina's safety plan. When everything was in place and the time was right, Sabrina left Rob and filed for divorce. Since then, he has been obsessively stalking her and has tried to turn her children against her. It's a dangerous situation, but Sabrina is holding her head high and looking to the future. She can because she finally has support, which gives her the confidence and strength to keep going. Her future is uncertain. Sabrina still needs the services DSVS offers and probably will for awhile, but thanks to your support she is safe and building a new life on her own terms.