

# PROJECT SAGE

*Support • Advocate • Guide • Educate  
to end relationship violence*

## THE STORY OF OUR COMMUNITY



**BI - ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2022**



**BOARD MEMBERS as of June 1, 2023**

- Barbara Kahn Moller, Chair
- Thomas J. Connell, Vice Chair
- Jeb Breece, Treasurer
- Amy Cox Hall, Secretary
- Susan DeMelle
- Elizabeth Demetriades
- Richard Lambertson
- Sarah Maltby
- John Nelson
- Carolyn Winterich Piccirelli
- Edie Dao Schechter
- Ileene Smith
- Pamela Kling Takiff
- Anna Traggio
- Elizabeth Webb

**STAFF MEMBERS as of June 1, 2023**

- Dr. D. Elizabeth Mauro, Executive Director
- Yamile Leal Baron, Adult Advocate
- Linda Ciano, Director of Community Engagement
- Brenna Doyle, Trade Secrets Planning Assistant
- Thom Dunlavy, Office Administrator & Development Assistant
- Sarah Ford, Primary Prevention Educator
- Virginia Gold, Director of Client Services
- Amanda Gregg, Hotline Counselor
- Rachel Grieco, Hotline Counselor
- Anna Kallman, Hotline Counselor
- Jahnesha Lewis, Family & Child Advocate
- Shelly Ross Robbins, Director of Development
- Kaitlyn Robitaille, Director of Special Gifts & Events
- Kelly Rybczyk, Director of Operations
- Jesi Sarno, Housing Advocate Specialist
- Alison Schweizer, Hotline Counselor
- Lisa Waldron, Family Violence Victim Advocate

**Contact Us:**

PO Box 717  
 13a Porter Street  
 Lakeville, CT 06039  
 Hotline: 860.364.1900  
 Office: 860.364.1080

**Find Us Online:**

- [www.project-sage.org](http://www.project-sage.org)
- [@Project.SAGE.Connecticut](https://www.facebook.com/Project.SAGE.Connecticut)
- [linkedin.com/company/projectsage](https://www.linkedin.com/company/projectsage)
- [www.tradesecretsct.com](http://www.tradesecretsct.com)
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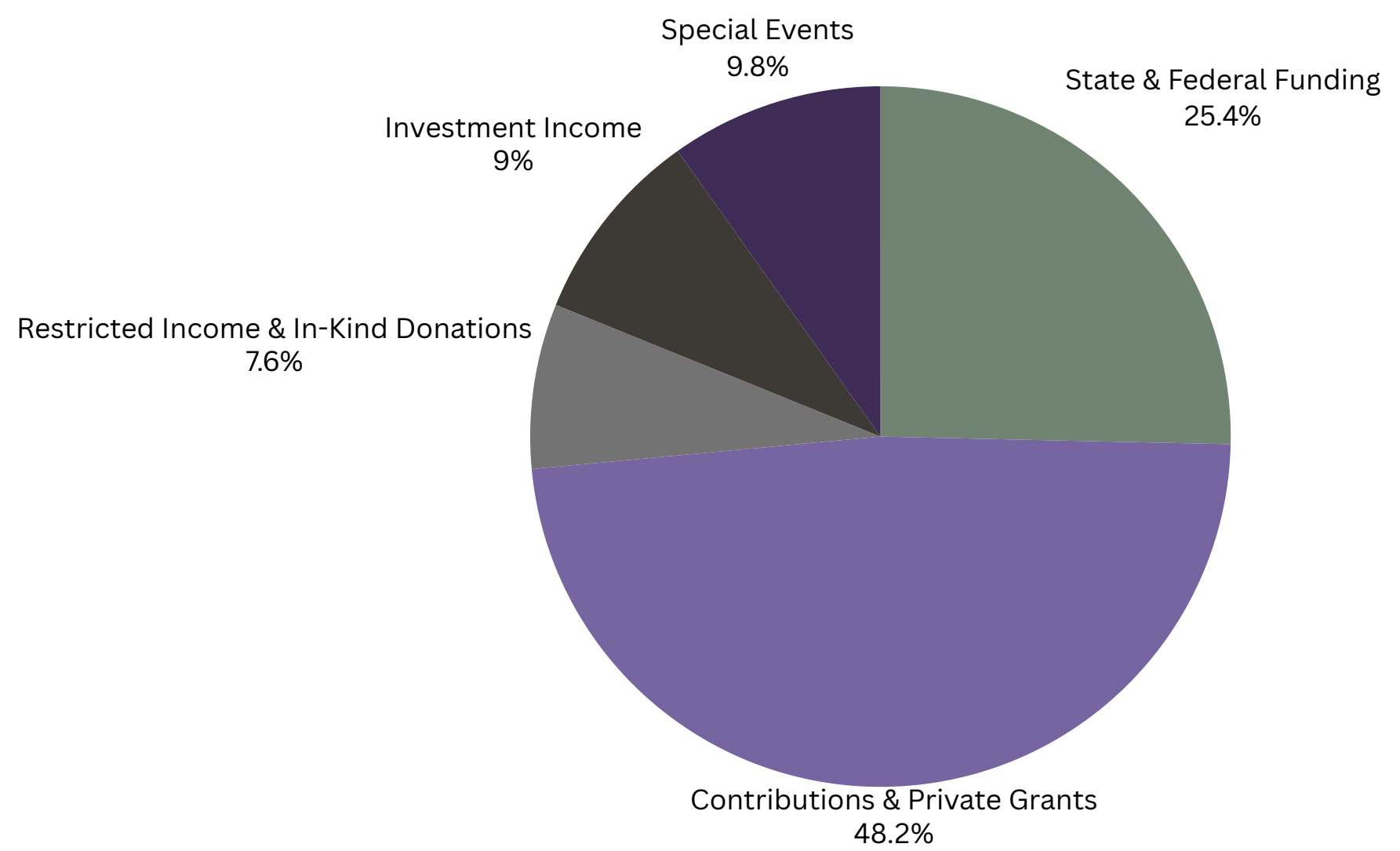
# How are we funded?

Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022

State & Federal Funding	\$418,528
Contributions & Private Grants	\$795,249
Restricted Income & In-Kind Donations	\$125,689
Investment Income	\$149,214
Special Events	\$162,215

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**TOTAL** **\$1,352,467**



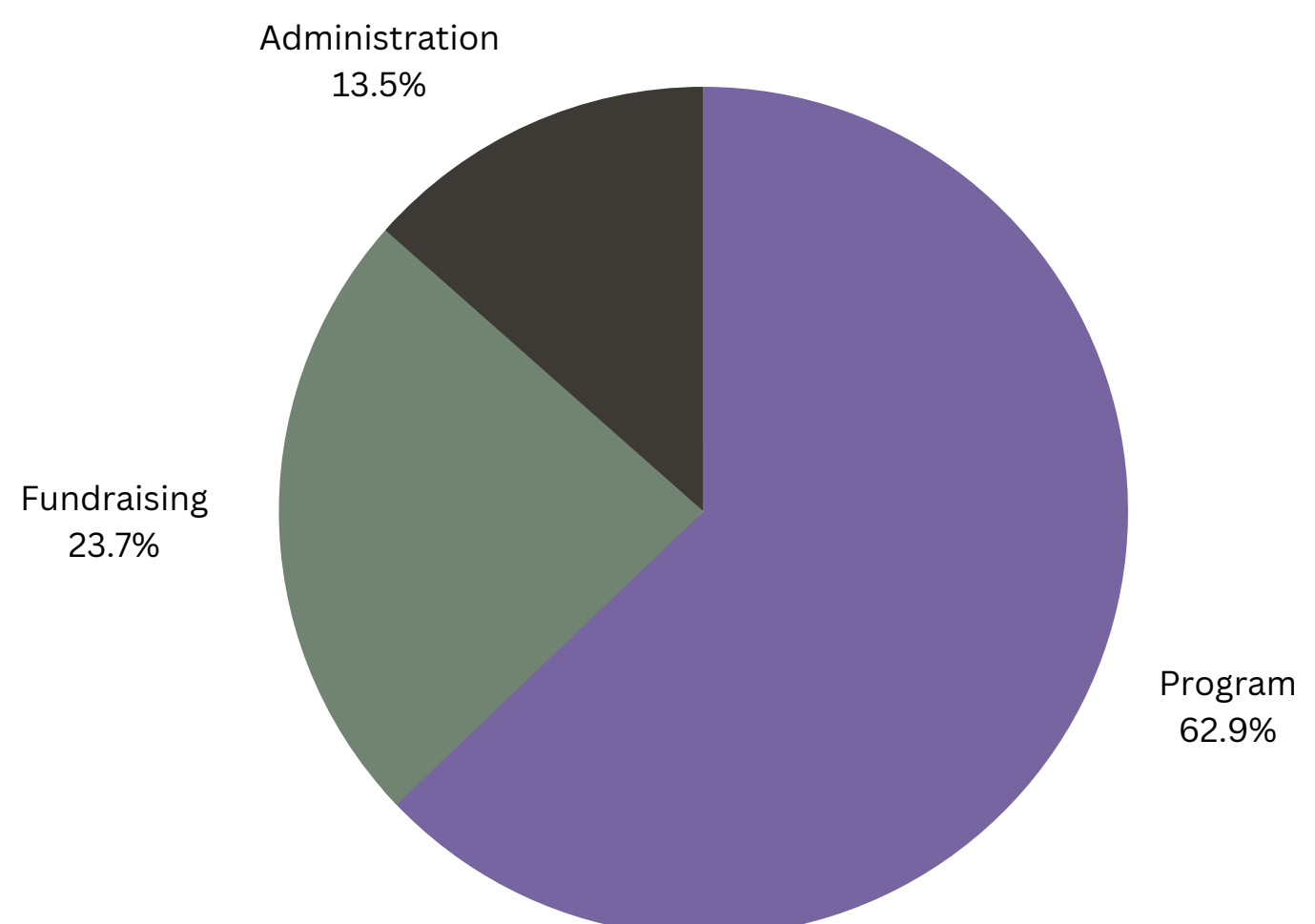
# How are funds spent?

Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022

Program	\$798,101
Fundraising	\$300,435
Administration	\$171,110

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**TOTAL** **\$1,269,646**





# Renewal and Growth

Project SAGE (formerly known as Women's Support Services) was greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Domestic violence increased to record highs as a result of lockdown measures, which meant the need for our services was greater than ever before. While the staff divided to work remotely during quarantine, they came together in their dedication to our clients and mission to create a stronger agency that grew despite many challenges and unknowns. From expanding shelter services with the launch of Project SAGE's interim housing project, 'La Casita,' to fostering stronger relationships with community partners, the understanding that we had to continue with our strategic goals remained clear. To celebrate this growth and commemorate over 40 years of service, the community gathered at The Grove in Lakeville where the former Chair of the Board of Directors and current CT State Representative, Maria Horn, presented Executive Director Betsey Mauro with an Official Citation from the State of Connecticut General Assembly.

Having recognized a capstone in the agency's history, we continued ahead knowing there is still more work to be done. At the start of 2022, we moved from our longtime home in Sharon, CT to our new, larger office building in Lakeville. The Porter Street offices provide warm, welcoming spaces in which to receive clients and have more space for an expanding staff. Shortly after the move, another major change was announced - a new name! Project SAGE (Support - Advocate - Guide - Educate) was chosen to honor the wisdom and experience of our clients and their capacity to make their own choices. While we have always welcomed all who have reached out to us, our new name illustrates that domestic violence affects everyone and we serve people of all ages, identities, and backgrounds.

Even now, our sights are set on the future. Our current focus is on Phase 2 of our Porter Street building renovations. Phase 2 will allow us to expand client services while acting as a dynamic space for training, engagement, and community collaboration. Recognizing that we still have much work to do, let's take a moment to celebrate how far we've come - and we couldn't have done it without YOU!

***Celebrating 40 Years  
of Support!***







The past several years have been a time of enormous challenge, growth and change as Women's Support Services navigated the complexities of COVID, moved to a bright, new office at 13a Porter Street, changed its name to a more inclusive Project SAGE, expanded staff and programs and reinvigorated the Board. It has been a privilege and honor to lead the board and to support Betsey Mauro and her talented staff as they strive to meet the evolving needs of our community. With a combination of federal and state funding and financial contributions from committed donors, the agency has significantly expanded shelter options as well as prevention education and other vital forms of community outreach. Thank you to all Project SAGE constituents for enabling us to become a more valuable and effective community partner as we seek to fulfill our mission to end relationship violence.

Barbara Kahn Moller  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

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## YOU can make a difference...

- Make a secure donation at [www.project-sage.org/donate](http://www.project-sage.org/donate), or send a check to: Project SAGE at PO BOX 717 Lakeville, CT 06039. We also accept donations of securities. Contact Kaitlyn Robitaille at [KaitlynR@project-sage.org](mailto:KaitlynR@project-sage.org) for more information.
- Shop at LaBonne's Market and send us your receipts, they'll donate a percentage of the sale!
- Drop off your used cell phones for clients in need. Through the Shelter Alliance program, phones are updated and distributed to shelters throughout the state for survivors who need them. We also accept laptops and tablets!
- Donate your car! Due to our rural setting and lack of public transportation, personal transportation is a critical need for many of our clients. Make a life-changing difference by donating your car to our Calling All Cars program. Contact Yamile Leal Baron at [YamileL@project-sage.org](mailto:YamileL@project-sage.org) for more information.
- Consider donating items that help our clients in need: Phone, Gas or Grocery cards.
- Create a fundraising campaign at GoFundMe - [charity.gofundme.com/projectsage](http://charity.gofundme.com/projectsage).
- If you are a local business, consider joining our Main Street Partners Program. Contact Linda Ciano at [LindaC@project-sage.org](mailto:LindaC@project-sage.org) for more information.
- Consider Project SAGE in your planned giving. To learn more about the Jane Doe Society, contact Kaitlyn Robitaille at [KaitlynR@project-sage.org](mailto:KaitlynR@project-sage.org).



# Your Support Transforms Lives....

Project SAGE provides programming and support services throughout the northwest corner of Connecticut and we shelter clients from across the state. We also serve the surrounding communities of New York and Massachusetts.

## Impact Statistics from July 2020 to June 2022:

- 1498 clients - including 781 new clients and 56 children - benefitted from our support services.
- 329 prevention workshops were held with children and teens in local schools and daycare programs - Project SAGE is now active in every public school in Region One!
- 1214 victims of family violence received support from our Family Violence Victim Advocate in criminal and civil court.
- 2719 hotline calls and crisis requests were answered.
- 52 adults and 23 children received emergency shelter - for a total of 4976 nights in shelter.



***It is extremely rewarding working in an environment that recognizes that abuse comes in many forms and victims/survivors often need a range of supports on their journey.***

Jesi Sarno  
*Housing Specialist Advocate*



Wherever I have lived in life, I have volunteered my time and energy to causes that typically help others in their time of need. Eight years ago, I looked for such an opportunity in the Northwest Corner. Through Trade Secrets, I found Project SAGE. I was attracted to its mission to create social change to end interpersonal, relationship violence. As a Board Member and Co-chair, I had a unique opportunity to collaborate with a caring, dedicated staff and a talented and passionate board to implement our strategic vision.

The statistics speak for themselves; an exponential rise in those receiving emergency shelter, prevention education workshops now in all schools, increased court advocacy and support services. What Project SAGE does is indeed worthwhile and valuable, and I feel honored to be a partner in helping create a safer community for all.

**Alexandra Lange**  
*Former Co-chair, Board of Directors*





# Become a Volunteer!

Contact Linda Ciano, Director of Community Engagement for more information - [LindaC@project-sage.org](mailto:LindaC@project-sage.org)



Project SAGE relies on the support and commitment of more than 250 volunteers each year. Whether supporting clients at court, helping families relocate to safe housing or shepherding our guests at our signature fundraiser, Trade Secrets, there are so many ways to get involved! Volunteers assist in teaching important lessons on communication and emotion regulation through our Early Years Program, provide critical administrative support in the office, and so much more. We would love to welcome you to our growing community of volunteers!

For more information visit:  
[www.project-sage.org/volunteer](http://www.project-sage.org/volunteer)



# A special thank you...

Dear Friends,

At the close of 2022, I finished my 7th year as Executive Director at Project SAGE. While the agency has grown in service delivery, adapted to changing community needs, and navigated the challenges of a world-wide pandemic, it is not these successes that I count as most important. Rather, it is the incredible community relationships and support, making these successes possible, that fill me with gratitude.

We cannot do this work without you. Your generosity allows us to respond to the ever-increasing need for our services. Your encouragement enables the incredible staff at Project SAGE to meet the ever-increasing needs of our clients who have suffered interpersonal, relationship violence. Your commitment makes it possible for us to deliver programming in our schools to help children and youth create healthy relationships as they grow into adults.

We are proud to be in the community, with the community, and for the community. And we are grateful that you stand with us in this critical and transformative work. Thank you for helping us create opportunities for everyone to live happier, healthier and safer lives.

With gratitude,



Dr. D. Elizabeth Mauro  
Executive Director  
Project SAGE





## Contact Us:

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[www.tradesecretsct.com](http://www.tradesecretsct.com)  
 @TradeSecretsCT  
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*We create social change to end interpersonal, relationship violence by challenging attitudes and beliefs about power, control, and gender norms and by advocating for victims and survivors.*

## **CONTACT US**

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We serve anyone, regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, race or ethnicity.

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