



October 1, 2006 - September 30, 2007

ANNUAL REPORT

**First Step: Western and Downriver
Wayne County Project on Domestic
and Sexual Violence**

**24-hour help line
734.459.5900
Toll Free: 888.453.5900**

**Administrative and
Survivor Services,
Western Wayne County
44567 Pinetree Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170
734.416.1111**

**Survivor Services,
Downriver Communities
26650 Eureka Rd, Suite E.
Taylor, MI 48180
734.955.3850**

**Survivor Services, Redford
27150 Westfield
Redford, MI 48239
734.416.1111**

www.firststep-mi.org

**WORKING FOR VIOLENCE FREE
HOMES AND COMMUNITIES
SINCE 1978.**

Dear Friends:

This year has been filled with sorrow as well as great achievements. Women have died, some are still missing, and children traumatized. The domestic violence homicide rate rose a startling 74% in Michigan. These women were our friends, our sisters, our mothers, and our daughters.

This means that we must continue our work, to educate the community, and to provide safety and options to victims and their families. We cannot stop until all women, children, and men live in homes and communities that are safe.

This annual report highlights our accomplishments as well as our vision for the future. First Step provides a critical service and safety net for thousands of families each year. There are many successes to build upon and together, we can continue to make great strides while never forgetting those who have lost their lives.

I thank you for your commitment and encourage you to stay involved. Each and every one of us is needed, now more than ever, to stand up against violence and surround those victimized with hope for healing and most importantly, hope for change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Judy Ellis', is written over a light background.

Judy Ellis
Executive Director

Thanks & Salutes!



All civic groups, religious organizations, businesses, service clubs, youth groups, professional organizations and individual donors who have contributed funds to support First Step's mission.

IKEA-Canton, Brian Duggan, the Zonta Club of Farmington Novi, EMU Women's Center, the Elizabeth Fagan Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, The family of Patricia Bevak Alford, 3-D Fit and Confetti's Liquor Box for conducting First Step's fundraisers.

The Salvation Army, The Plymouth Lions Club, The Mandell L. Berman Foundation, The Sydney and Elizabeth Ross Family Foundation, The Canton Community Foundation, Charter One, The Colina Foundation, The Conrad Charitable Foundation, Daimler Chrysler, The Livonia Community Foundation, The Oakwood Healthcare System Foundation, The Karen Colina Wilson Foundation, the McGregor Fund and Verizon Wireless Foundation.

United Way for Southeast Michigan and The Plymouth Community United Way including the Non-Profit Facility Center and all United Way donors for support of First Step's mission.

All of the generous donors who bring goods such as food, cell phones, household items, print cartridges, hygienic supplies and other necessary items that help to keep First Step's expenses low.

First Step's volunteers who give their precious time. Your commitment extends the work of our staff and sends survivors a message of support and encouragement.

The First Step staff who proudly serve each day to make a difference for families.

The First Step Board of Directors, who invest their time and talent guiding the agency, setting direction and securing resources for the agency.

The survivors whose strength and courage give us hope for a better world.

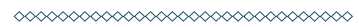


FIRST STEP
TOUCHED THE LIVES
OF OVER

14,000

PEOPLE IN 2006-2007

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Officers:

Executive Director: Judy Ellis
President: Carla O'Malley
Vice President: Jeff Gielniak
Secretary: Dorinda Hughes
Treasurer: Paul Kolinski

Members:

Peter Camilleri
Miki Goldener
Jennifer Hartke
Meghan Kennedy Riordan
Barbara Marsiglio
Heidi Naasko
Linda Padgett
Tracie Dominique Palmer
Zerin Rao
Loren Wadington Treadwell
Karen Wilson

Programs and Service Statistics:

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programming:

In 2006-2007, First Step staff and volunteers provided around-the-clock crisis intervention, emergency shelter, supportive counseling, and legal support to almost **10,000** survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. In summary, First Step assisted survivors by providing:

- ◇ Safety planning and emotional support on **17,607 crisis calls**
- ◇ **10,473 shelter nights** for 322 adults and 417 children
- ◇ **32,950 hours** of individual and group counseling
- ◇ Legal information and safety planning for **6,524 survivors** through our Community Response Program
- ◇ An additional **3,348 shelter nights** through First Step's Transitional Supportive Housing Program
- ◇ In-person crisis intervention for **118 victims and their significant others** in emergency rooms and other safe places

Children's Programming:

In 2006-2007, First Step staff and volunteers provided crucial services to children of all ages whom have witnessed and/or experienced violence in their homes. Children's Advocates help break the cycle of violence and reverse the psychological and emotional trauma that regularly witnessing violence can create. Advocates also emphasize safety measures that children can take when living in a violent home. First Step also conducts domestic violence awareness and prevention services for children ages 8-18.

- ◇ **1235 children** received individual and/or group counseling
- ◇ First Step's "Keeping Kids Safe" program reached **1,500** elementary aged children, their parents, and teachers
- ◇ **21,142 hours** of counseling were provided for children
- ◇ **3,576 hours** of nurturing child care were provided

Did you know?

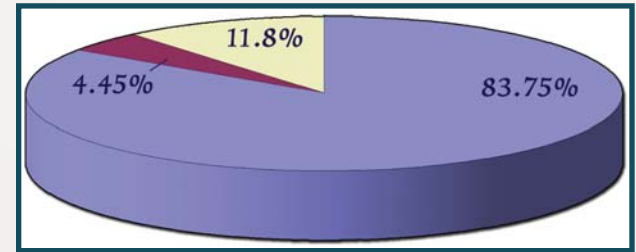
- ◇ First Step staff and volunteers conducted **202 community outreach sessions**, reaching over **4,000 community members**
- ◇ Almost **300 volunteers** contributed **12,000 hours of service**, ranging from clerical assistance to child care to answering the 24-hour help-line
- ◇ First Step works tirelessly to meet the needs of all survivors, regardless of age, economic background, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

In 2006-2007:

- ◇ 4,714 clients identified as African American, 3,440 as White, 323 as Hispanic/Latino, 229 as Arabic or Chaldean, 53 as Asian, 53 as Native American, and 33 as other multi-racial
- ◇ 173 clients were under 5 years old, 465 between 5-14, 597 between 15-19, 5,105 between 20-39, 1,907 between 40-59, 174 between 60-79 and 23 as 80 years or older
- ◇ 49% of clients earn less than \$10,000 per year and 21% earn between \$10,000-\$19,999
- ◇ 765 clients identified as having a disability
- ◇ 70 clients identified as being gay, bisexual, lesbian, or transgender

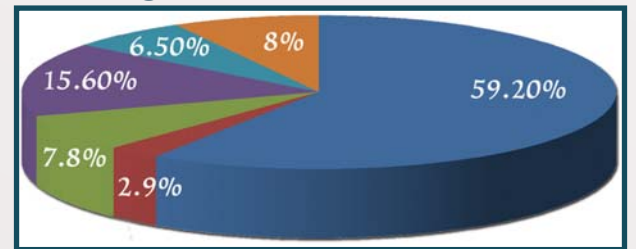
2006-2007 Financials

EXPENSES:



Domestic Violence Programming	\$2,222,814
Sexual Assault Programming	\$116,990
Supporting Services	
General & Administrative	\$293,402
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,633,206

REVENUE:



Federal Revenue	\$1,610,493
State & Other Revenue	\$79,350
Foundations	\$212,682
Contributions	\$424,470
United Way	\$177,451
Contributed Services	\$218,023
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,722,469

"Thank you First Step for being a beacon in the dark."

"This place is a blessing. I feel like I was meant to be here and learn what I've learned."

"Coming to First Step has been the most courageous thing I've ever done. It's proving to be a growing experience! This is such a great program. I am happy it exists. No matter what happens, I'm a stronger person."

VISION First Step envisions a community where respect, fair treatment, comprehensive support, and social justice are available to all survivors of domestic and sexual assault and their families.



MISSION The mission of First Step is to reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence and to provide services to individuals affected by these crimes. Prevention of domestic and sexual violence through education, advocacy and appropriate intervention is the ultimate goal of First Step.

Our Vision for the Future:



As many of you know, the current shelter building is deteriorating quickly and we must embark on the great adventure of building a new facility along with the establishment of an endowment program. You will find information about this campaign on our website (www.firststep-mi.org), by e-mailing jellisfs@aol.com or tbizoefs@gmail.com or by calling 734-416-1111. Our vision is a warm, welcoming facility where the needs of women, men, and children facing domestic violence and sexual assault will be met in a safe, nurturing environment. It is our hope that you will become involved in this campaign and will learn more about our needs, our hopes and our dreams for the future.

*"I feel safe here because there's a lot of good people here."
-8 yr old boy*

*"Since I have lived at the shelter, my self-esteem has built up. I like myself."
-10 yr old girl*

First Step Celebrates 30 Years

In 2008, First Step will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Thirty years of supporting survivors. Thirty years of working for justice. Thirty years of systems change. Thirty years of tears and hope. Thirty years of breaking the cycle of violence.

If you have been a part of this movement, as a volunteer, a board member, a staff member, a donor, a nurse, police officer, prosecutor, judge or teacher and have a story to tell about how First Step has helped you, I encourage you to contact our office. Most important, if you are an adult or child survivor of violence that has been helped by First Step, we would love to hear from you. First Step is compiling a book of stories and would like to invite you to our 30th Anniversary celebrations. Contact tbizoefs@gmail.com to share your story. Now, more than ever, our community needs stories of hope, stories of healing and stories of love to combat the negative, violent and sexist images that we see throughout the media.

