

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 2013 Annual Report

Since 1981, Albion Fellows Bacon Center has assisted thousands of people in finding safe shelter, crisis intervention, referral and support. Through the years, the Center has not only experienced growth and a higher demand for service in virtually all of our program areas, but we have gained the support of many and built community partnerships that are critical to our mission achievement. We are dedicated to improving the quality of life for victims and their children in need of comprehensive services. Our agency's mission is to prevent domestic and sexual violence and empower victims through advocacy, education, support services and collaborative partnerships. All services are free, confidential, and although we accept victims from any geographic area, we have an 11-county service area.

**Our numbers** speak for themselves; our staff of 21 never hesitates to go the extra mile to help meet the growing demand for service. To assist us meet those demands, we are also very fortunate to have the assistance and dedication of numerous volunteers and student interns who contribute countless hours of service. The following is an overview of our 2013 accomplishments:

- 10,780 nights of shelter (an increase of 2,406 nights) were provided to 464 women and 303 children (410 unduplicated). As an emergency shelter, women and their children may stay with us for up to 45 days.
- The Outreach Program assisted 974 adults and 4 children throughout our eleven county service area.
- The Legal Advocacy Program provided services to 619 residents of Vanderburgh County.
- Sexual Assault services were rendered to 513 primary and secondary victims of sexual abuse. (17% increase)
- Crisis Response services reached 527 individuals in Vanderburgh County.
- Calls to our two 24-hour crisis line totaled 3,248 (27% increase); and 1,187 (52% increase) individuals requested safe shelter.
- 3,202 students received valuable information on dating, domestic and sexual abuse.
- Community education and training sessions reached 4,344 individuals throughout southern Indiana.
- Primary Prevention efforts reached 493 (2,577 duplicated) in multi-session formats, completing 124 sessions of prevention curriculum.

Awareness events continued to provide invaluable opportunities to reach various populations and age groups throughout southern Indiana. Crime Victims' Rights Week, Stalking, Teen Dating Violence, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness Months activities not only attract hundreds of participants, but allow for systemic conversation and ultimately... change. Our intention is to not only reach those who are suffering in silence, but to educate the public in order to change public opinion on these issues and increase sensitivity. Collaborative partnerships are vital in bridging gaps in our community to increase the likelihood that victims will be better served. We work tirelessly to foster strong working relationships with social

service agencies, law enforcement, the Department of Child Services, the medical and criminal justice communities. We are active in several task forces and committees throughout our eleven-county service area, as well as an agency member of Evansville-Vanderburgh County Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

**Cutting Edge Examples:** In 2013, we have continued the movement of building our Prevention Education programming and I am proud to announce the 2014 creation of a dedicated program of Primary Prevention! Historically, (and nationally) domestic violence and sexual assault agencies have focused on awareness to ensure that the public learns about the dynamics and signs of abuse and awareness of existing services. As time has passed, we have learned it is also imperative that we get in front of the problem of both issues of domestic and sexual violence. We must put focus on ways of preventing victimization from occurring. In the past three years, we have committed ourselves to providing this type of education through the addition of specific, evidence-based curriculums (Safe Dates and In Their Shoes), as well as social marketing and social norming campaigns (White Ribbon and Red Flags). Nearly 5,779 youth and 4,344 adults took advantage of our educational programs and services.

Voluntary services project--Project to Empower has arrived! In 2013, Albion was one of the first in the state to test a new type of shelter management joining five other Indiana domestic violence shelters, and a growing number nationwide, to embrace a new approach where residents no longer follow predetermined rules during their stays. Albion's new model focuses on individual case management and relationship building with the victim, rather than rule enforcement. Throughout 2013, Albion and the 5 other pilot shelters, tracked our residents' (and our) success rate. Later in 2014, the shelters will present their findings to the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Since embarking on this journey, all domestic violence agencies of the coalition have joined in cohorts, to make similar changes in their shelter protocol. Albion is looking to be a future mentor to the rest of the state.

We have joined the growing state-wide campaigns presented by the Indiana Coalition against Sexual Assault: [www.endviolencetogether.com](http://www.endviolencetogether.com) which is the specialty license plate generating funding to benefit programs throughout Indiana that provides services, care, and treatment to victims of violent crime; and the Indiana Coalition against Domestic Violence: "NO more" campaign. [www.indianasaysnomore.com](http://www.indianasaysnomore.com), a new logo that ties all Indiana domestic and sexual violence agencies together with two simple words; together they state the goal of the Coalition.

**Our thanks** to local media outlets that continued to be so very good to us throughout 2013. From covering fundraising events, creating the many articles and features in the Courier and Press, to the airing of a "No More" campaign PSA created by WFIE 14 specifically designed to use during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, to the overwhelming donation given by Townsquare Media of a PSA focused on those in need and those hoping to volunteer for us. PSAs ran through the year and brought countless people to services and made the community aware of our mission. South Central Media highlighted our Gala and services by creating a

promotional PSA and including us in a texting campaign. We cannot thank our local media enough for the many connections we have been able to make with our community in need.

The generosity of our community continues to encourage and empower our agency. The kindness shown through donation of time, talent and treasure makes it possible for our agency to serve more victims in our community. We are a proud member of the United Ways of Southwestern Indiana, Posey and Gibson counties. Again this year we benefited from events such as the “Time of Celebration” Gala (our premiere fundraiser) that brought almost 300 friends together (thank you St. Mary’s for all that you help us accomplish at this event and beyond), the David Duell Memorial Golf Outing, and Westside Nut Club Fall Festival. Businesses came forward to give much-needed donations that allow our dollars to be stretched further so we may ensure that vital service provision is possible and scheduled employee work days and the United Way’s Day of Caring help us with our unending “to do” maintenance list. The list of donors who remember our families at holiday time with gifts, food and toys are too long to mention....and so very appreciated.

Highlights to our funds development plan included the creation of community partnerships. We are thrilled to have built such lasting partnerships with Old National Bank, Deaconess Hospital, and Toyota. These businesses have shown great investment in our mission and our service.

In 2013 we were very proud recipients of funding and partnership from the Welborn Baptist Foundation, Verizon Foundation, West Side Nut Club, the Vanderburgh Community Foundation, Gibson Community Foundation, Toyota Foundation, Sally Cares grant and a Junior League of Evansville grant that allowed us to enhance our Legal Advocacy Program with the creation of court care packages for those navigating their way through the justice system. These are just a few of the wonderful contributors who made it possible to continue important service provision in the tri-state. For a list of contributors, visit our website ([www.albionfellowsbacon.org](http://www.albionfellowsbacon.org)).

**We are redefining ourselves.** In 2013 a new logo was created and rolled out in an agency-wide branding project. A new look accompanies a renewed commitment to our services and mission. It is for you, our community, that we have redefined our mission and vision and created core values by which to serve internally and externally. We are Strategically Transforming Albion for Real Sustainability (“STARS” is our sustainability project title) and a brighter future for our community; creating a plan of strategy to see significant and meaningful change for our organization, our clients and the society we live in.

**Our New Mission:** The mission of Albion Fellows Bacon Center is to prevent domestic and sexual violence and empower victims through advocacy, education, support services and collaborative partnerships.

**New Vision:** Albion Fellows Bacon Center will transform our community’s awareness of and attitude towards domestic and sexual violence into a community of advocates that works to eliminate the generational cycle of abuse and actively supports victims.

**Core Values:** Mission-Driven. Compassion. Advocacy. Respect.

**We must continue to be inspired on our journey.** Though stretched at times, we have met many challenges. From responding to victims at Holly’s House, area hospitals, and law enforcement offices to courtrooms to provision of outreach and safe shelter, our counselors, advocates, volunteers and board members continue to lend their support and expertise. Albion would not be the effective, comprehensive agency that it is without your dedication and support. I invite you to join our effort in the honor...and memory of all victims. We are reaching for the “STARS” and focused on the services that we provide; we are focused on those we serve; we are changing lives, and you are a part of that success. Thank you for being a special part of making our community a safer place, one person, one family at a time.

Candice L. Perry  
Executive Director

## **SHELTER PROGRAM 2013 Annual Report**

The Shelter Program provides safe shelter and a variety of services to domestic and sexual violence for victims and their children. Such services are provided to achieve the ultimate goal of helping victims and their children identify, prepare and strive toward the final goal of living in a violent-free relationship.

Victims and their children are accepted into shelter, not only from our eleven-county area, but from anywhere in the United States. As a shelter, we also maintain communication with shelters nationwide in the event a resident would need to be transferred to a safer location.

**24-HOUR CRISIS LINE:** When a person requests shelter, an assessment is conducted via our 24-hour crisis line to determine eligibility. In 2013, 3,248 (a 27% increase) crisis calls were received and 1,187 individuals requested shelter.

**ASSESSMENT:** When a person enters shelter, an intake is done; following the intake, a service plan is completed to determine the client's needs. Based on that assessment, referrals are given to other community agencies and the client is encouraged to follow up and progress is charted. In 2013, 1,003 referrals were provided to our women and children in shelter. Referrals were made to forty-four (44) agencies with three (3) of those being new contacts. Client goals are set on a weekly basis and are re-evaluated at these times.

**LEGAL ADVOCACY:** The Legal Advocacy Program Coordinator and Crisis Response Advocate provide information concerning the legal system and how it may relate to the individual situation of each client. These advocates also help clients file protective orders, pro-se divorces, police reports, and victim crime compensation claims. The advocates refer shelter clients to other agencies which are more appropriate to handle a victim's immediate needs, such as legal assistance (also see Legal Advocacy Report). The Program also provides vital support necessary to shelter clients when accompaniment is requested to the Prosecutor's Office, Police/Sheriff's Departments, attorney appointments and to court.

Legal advocacy was provided to 73 residents; 14 were assisted in obtaining protective orders. Personal advocacy was provided 89 times. Court accompaniment was provided 39 times to residents.

**FAMILY SERVICES COUNSELOR:** The Family Services Counselor meets with clients within 72 hours after entering shelter. This person conducts an initial interview in which she interviews the client in depth as to her family of origin, and full history of abuse beginning in childhood. In 2013, 104 initial interviews were conducted with residents without children.

The intention is to establish an emotional bond between the Family Services Counselor and the client that enables both of them to set the needed goals and case management ensues. The Family Services Counselor meets with the client on a daily basis to chart her emotional progress and to offer support as needed. In 2013, the Family Services Counselor provided 982.5 hours in

individual sessions. The Family Services Counselor meets with each client individually to formulate three written safety plans based on the client's situation. These safety plans may prove invaluable to the client should she choose to return to her abuser. In 2013, 182 safety plans were completed. The client is given a copy of her safety plans to keep with her. Assistant Director provided 498 hours in individual sessions with residents.

In 2013 the Family Services Counselor provided 59 support groups to 434 duplicated women in shelter. The topics included: "The Cycle of Violence", "Power and Control", "Why Women Stay", "Facts and Myths of Abuse", "Generational Cycle of Violence", "Tactics Used by Batterers" and documentary films. The support groups provide knowledge, which in turn empowers victims to be survivors.

The Family Services Counselor will provide the client with referrals to community agencies based on the client's needs, including, but not limited to housing, healthcare, education, public assistance, etc. In 2013, 614 referrals were provided to shelter clients.

The Shelter Staff continues to play an important role in the community as well, and is recognized around the many tables that we partner with. The Homeless Healthcare Network, Coordinated Entry Task Force, Homeless Prevention Coalition, Steering Committee, Regional Peer Review Team and the Homeless Service Council are just a few of the areas of representation provided by staff.

Throughout the year, interested individuals and businesses wanting to learn more about our agency take part in informational meetings and site visits. Community speaking engagements are also an essential component, bringing awareness of the Shelter Program services to the community. Twenty-two (22) presentations were provided.

**CHILD ADVOCACY:** Many of the children, to whom we provide shelter are victims of physical, emotional or sexual abuse. They will often be witnesses to violence in the home as well. We have continued to keep statistics on the children who come into the shelter as a means of giving us a more in-depth profile of a child living in an abusive environment.

Most domestic violence advocates agree that education equals intervention, leads to prevention and prevention is the only way to break generational violence that permeates our society. It is vital that children be educated as to what a healthy relationship is and how to handle their feelings of anger, shame and guilt. It is just as important that these children know who to go to for help if there is a violent incident, whether it's between adults or directed at them. We offer a comprehensive children's program that addresses all of the above issues using excellent assessment tools that include information not only from the parent but also the child. The abuse may come from one or both parents. We may observe some abuse from the victimized parent if the family remains in shelter long enough. Our goal is to assess and provide immediate intervention for the child.

**CHILD ADVOCATE:** The Child Advocate meets with the child, if age appropriate, and completes the intake. She then meets with the mother to obtain a more in-depth view of the abusive history and

target any behavior problems the child may have. The Child Advocate will make the appropriate referrals based on that complete assessment.

In 2013, 162 unduplicated children entered shelter. There were 65 initial interviews conducted with mothers; 397.25 individual hours spent in sessions on mothers; 86 safety plans on mothers; 408 referrals were made to outside agencies based on the Child Advocate's assessments regarding the needs of both—the mother's and the children; 116 safety plans on children and mothers were completed. The Child Advocate facilitated 54 children's groups.

Subjects included but were not limited to the following topics:

Welcome Group	Self-Esteem
Feelings Are Important	Art Groups
Kindness to Animals	Healthy Relationship
Hands Are Not For Hitting	Dating Violence
What is Abuse	Choices
Say No to Drugs	Emotions
Call For Help (911)	Conflict Resolution
	Scary or Safe

This past year the Children's Program has teamed up with the staff and students from the Signature School to provide enrichment experiences for our children. These include:

- One-on-one mentoring
- Homework help
- Art projects
- Parties

Family outings are always a highlight for our children in the shelter. Places visited in 2013 include:

- Angel Mounds
- AMC Theater
- Evansville African American Museum

Our Children's Program served 310 children, (162 unduplicated) this past year. In order to maintain those numbers we continue to nurture our most valuable relationships with volunteers and other community agencies. In 2013, 75 volunteers donated 358 hours of service to the shelter program. Our residents and children were able to participate in the following activities:

- Teen Power Easter Party
- Mother's Day Celebration
- YMCA Programs
- Christmas Party and Visit with St. Nick
- Valentine's Day Party

Our shelter staff also spearheaded, "Operation-Christmas". Letters were sent out at the end of October to announce our plea to provide Christmas for those in and outside of shelter who may not otherwise have a Christmas. We partnered with 138 businesses/groups and individuals who donated to the cause. We received all we asked for and more. On Christmas morning, 12 women and 13 children celebrated in a mighty way at the shelter. Twenty-seven (27) families were served outside of the shelter.

**STATISTICS:** In an attempt to provide a more in-depth profile of the women and children we shelter, the following is a 2013 unduplicated statistical report that contains information regarding age, income, ethnic identity and geographical information about our clients. This profile represents 248 women and 162 children, who were sheltered one time only from January through December, 2013.

<u>County and/or State</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Sheltered No. of Nights for Women</u>	<u>Sheltered No. of Nights for Children</u>
*Vanderburgh	207	136	2,306	1,688
*Warrick	4	0	58	0
*Posey	4	3	46	34
*Gibson	5	2	59	15
*Perry	1	0	2	0
*Dubois	1	0	28	0
*Spencer	3	1	46	6
*Pike	3	3	35	45
Daviess	2	2	17	18
Knox	3	3	47	75
Martin	1	1	11	11
Marion	3	5	56	62
Clark	1	0	3	0
Out of State	10	6	141	94
TOTAL	248	162	2,855	2,048

\* In Service area

We also want to provide a realistic glimpse of our duplicated facts. The national statistic states that a battered woman may leave her home for safe shelter seven - nine times. This Annual Report reflects the unduplicated statistics, but, we would be remiss if our duplicated numbers were also not highlighted regarding the women, children and nights of service. The gratification comes as we witness women returning to our shelter on numerous occasions during the year, for their safety. Each time they come into shelter, another layer of comfort, awareness and building of self adds to the foundation of their worth.

2013  
 Duplicated Women.....464  
 Duplicated Children.....310



Total.....774  
Nights of Service.....10,780

Of the 248 women and 162 children who were sheltered in 2013:

83% from Vanderburgh County                                    10% from Warrick, Posey, Gibson,  
Dubois, Pike, Perry, Spencer  
4% from IN counties not in our service area    3% from out of state

<u>Race</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
Caucasian	70%	44%
African-American	26%	37%
Multi-Racial	3%	18%
Native American	1%	1%

Out of the 100% race count 2% of those were Hispanic.

Of the 248 women sheltered, thirty-six (36%) percent entered shelter with children and sixty-four (64%) did not have children, or did not have them with them.

It bears mentioning that the number of child abuse responses is very low. One of the reasons for this results from the mothers' knowledge of our mandatory child abuse reporting status. Also, a mother and child may leave shelter before information can be gathered. Additional information gathered from intakes on the children is:

<u>Children's Ages</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
0 -- 12 months	16%
1 – 5 years	49%
6 – 12 years	26%
13 – 18 years	9%

<u>Female Children</u>	<u>Male Children</u>
52%	48%

<u>Adult Client's Age</u>	
9%	18-24
39%	25-35
25%	36-46
20%	47-57
11%	58-68
2%	69+

<u>Relationship to Abuser (abused by):</u>	
3% Ex-Spouse	10% Family Member
16% Spouse	9% Other
62% Boyfriend	

**Client's Income**

60% 0 - 5,000  
27% 5,000 - 15,000  
8% 15,000 - 25,000  
2% 25,000 - 40,000  
0% 40,000+  
3% Unknown

**Abuser's Income**

26% 0 - 5,000  
8% 5,000 - 15,000  
4% 15,000 - 25,000  
2% 25,000 - 40,000  
1% 40,000+  
59% Unknown

**Follow-Up:**

7% Returned to Abuser	14% Separate Residence
3% Own Home without Abuser	24% Another Shelter
10% Friends	25% Relatives
1% Transitional Housing	16% Unknown

Fifty-two (52%) percent of the clients polled stated they had been abused as children.

Abuse was always emotional, often physical, sometimes sexual, or a combination of all three. In gathering information regarding their abuser, thirty-seven (37%) percent related that their abuser had been emotionally, physically or sexually abused as a child or a combination of all three.

Substance abuse continues to be interwoven into the fabric of domestic violence. Whether the victim uses alcohol or drugs to survive the abuse or the abuser uses alcohol or drugs as an excuse for the violent behavior, the result is the same. The issue of domestic violence cannot be addressed until substance abuse issues have been dealt with. What we can and do offer is safe shelter and emotional support to the victim and refer her to the appropriate agencies for help. Clients are provided a support group on substance abuse monthly. These are provided by other community agencies that are experienced in that area.

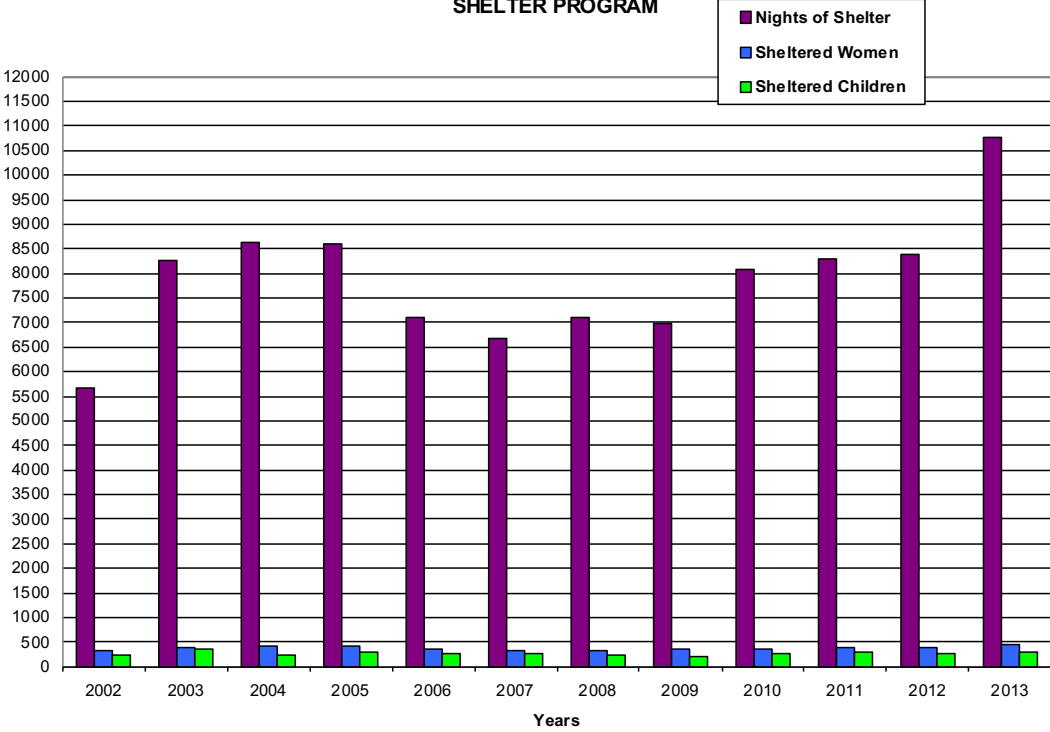
Sixteen (16%) percent stated they have substance abuse problems and seventy-two (72%) percent stated their abuser has a substance abuse problem. That is a fifty-one (51%) percent jump from 2012.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM:** Of the clients polled, we received the following information:

28% stated they contacted the police during a violent situation  
3% stated their abuser was arrested  
5% stated they filed charges against their abusers  
4% stated that they had contact with the criminal justice system in some way but not with arrest or charges filed  
60% nothing done

Jenny Ballard  
Assistant Director

SHELTER PROGRAM



## LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM 2013 Annual Report

The **Legal Advocacy Program** provides a range of comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The program offers support and advocacy and is designed to assist victims throughout the court process (criminal, civil).

**Services include (*but are not limited to*):**

Information and referrals (shelter, counseling, access to legal services)

Crisis intervention

Safety planning

Court accompaniment to hearings

Court advocacy and assistance in applying for civil protective orders

Information about the criminal justice system

Victims Compensation

Victims' Rights Information

In addition, the advocates monitor the response of the court system and advocate for changes that are a benefit to domestic violence and sexual assault victims. We are a certified trainer for the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and provide training to criminal justice professionals. We also attempt to educate the media and the community to the needs of domestic violence victims.

The Crisis Response Program falls under the umbrella of the Legal Advocacy Program. This is staffed by one coordinator, Gina Gist, and one Crisis Response Advocate, Leslie James, who maintains a volunteer staff of crisis response advocates. The following are additional services provided by the Legal Advocacy Program (crisis response numbers are in a separate report):

Approximately **852** clients utilized the Legal Advocacy Program's services in 2013. The Legal Advocacy Program Coordinator met with **619** clients and the Crisis Response Advocate met with an additional **233** legal advocacy client

**Of the 619 Legal Advocacy clients:**

**485** were primary victims and **134** were secondary victims **49** were male

**383** clients were new

**43** were shelter residents

**4** were Crisis Response clients

**52** were Outreach clients

**3** were Sexual Assault clients

**34** were Misdemeanor Court Contacts (attended 25 times)

**DIRECT SERVICES**

**235 hours** were spent providing phone/crisis counseling

**165 hours, 45 minutes** were spent in individual counseling

**492 hours, 45 minutes** were spent in court

**852** agency referrals provided to clients.

The following services were provided:

467	<b>Crisis counseling</b> -- in-person crisis intervention, emotional support, guidance and counseling.
545	<b>Follow-up contacts</b> -- in-person contacts, telephone contacts and written communication with victims to offer emotional support, empathetic listening, check on a victim's progress, etc.
538	<b>Crisis hotline counseling</b> -- phone counseling which provides counseling, guidance, emotional support, information and referral, etc.
47	<b>Shelter/safe house</b> -- referral to both short and long term housing
231	<b>Information and referral (in-person)</b> -- in-person contacts with victims during which time services and available support are identified.
247	<b>Criminal justice support/advocacy</b> -- support, assistance and advocacy provided to victims at any stage of the criminal justice process.
24	<b>Emergency financial assistance</b> -- cash outlays for transportation, food, clothing, emergency housing, etc.
105	<b>Emergency legal advocacy</b> -- assisting clients with filing protective orders, elder abuse petitions and child abuse petitions
9	<b>Assistance in filing compensation claims</b> -- making victims aware of the availability of crime victim compensation, assisting the victim in completing the required forms; may include follow-up contact with the victim compensation agency on behalf of the victim.
910	<b>Personal advocacy</b> -- assisting victims in securing rights, remedies and services from other agencies, intervention with employers, creditors and others on behalf of the victim, accompanying the victim to the hospital, etc.
549	<b>Telephone contacts</b> -- contacts with victims during which services and available support are identified.
54	<b>Transportation</b> -- assisting clients with location transportation or providing transportation to a client.
401	<b>Safety Plan</b> -- assisting clients with creating written or verbal safety plans
132	<b>Civil Court Accompaniment</b> -- accompanying clients to non-criminal court proceedings (protective orders, small claims, divorce, etc.)
19	<b>Attorney Meeting Accompaniment</b> -- accompanying clients to attorney appointments

**Conferences/Workshops Attended:** The Legal Advocacy Program Coordinator attended the following trainings on various topics to enhance the services provided to clients. The following trainings were attended:

**Fundraisers:**

- Collected Cell Phones for Shelter Alliance Recycling Program

## **Special Events/Activities/Projects:**

### **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Awareness Training**

Terror in the Home: Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

Featuring Kristina Korobov, JD

*April 8 & 9, 2013*

- Collaborated with Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office and Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office Department of Victims' Assistance to organize the training
- Registered participants for training
- Compiled handouts for training
- Created and distributed press releases
- Solicited sponsorships for training
- Worked with Ivy Tech regarding room and technology needs
- Secured CEU's through Deaconess Crosspoint for training
- Created certificates
- (2) one day trainings (**323 attending**)
- **15 Legal agencies** represented: Evansville Police Dept, Vanderburgh Co. Sheriff's Office, Ft. Branch Police Dept., Gibson County Sheriff's Office, Mt. Vernon Police Department, Vanderburgh Prosecutor's Office, Gibson Prosecutor's Office, Warrick Prosecutor's Office, Vanderburgh Prosecutor's Office, Spencer Prosecutor's Office, Indiana Dept. Natural Resources, Vanderburgh Juvenile & Adult Probation, Posey Probation, Vanderburgh Juvenile Drug Court
- **46 Social Service agencies** represented (Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Posey, Spencer and Henderson counties)

### **Sponsored by:**

Albion Fellows Bacon Center

Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office

Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office

### **Contributors:**

Ivy Tech Community College

Deaconess Cross Pointe

Dunn Hospitality Group

Holly's House

Warrick County FOP

Gibson Prosecutor's Office

Posey Prosecutor's Office

Princeton Police Department

### **Claire's Comfort for Kids:**

"Claire's Comfort for Kids" provides blankets to first responder patrol officers, who can offer them to children when they are called in to assist those involved in traumatic situations such as domestic or sexual abuse, separation from parents, etc. The hope is that these blankets will

provide children comfort and a sense of security. We collected blankets throughout the year and distributed them to the Evansville Police Department and Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department. LA participated in a tour a Holly's House for a Wadesville Girl Scout Troop which collected blankets.

The Legal Advocacy Program Coordinator continued to attend **Misdemeanor Court** on Wednesdays (domestic violence trials) to speak to victims about options, services and what to expect with the legal system. Attended Misdemeanor Court 25 times and met with 34 victims.

### **Court Care Packages**

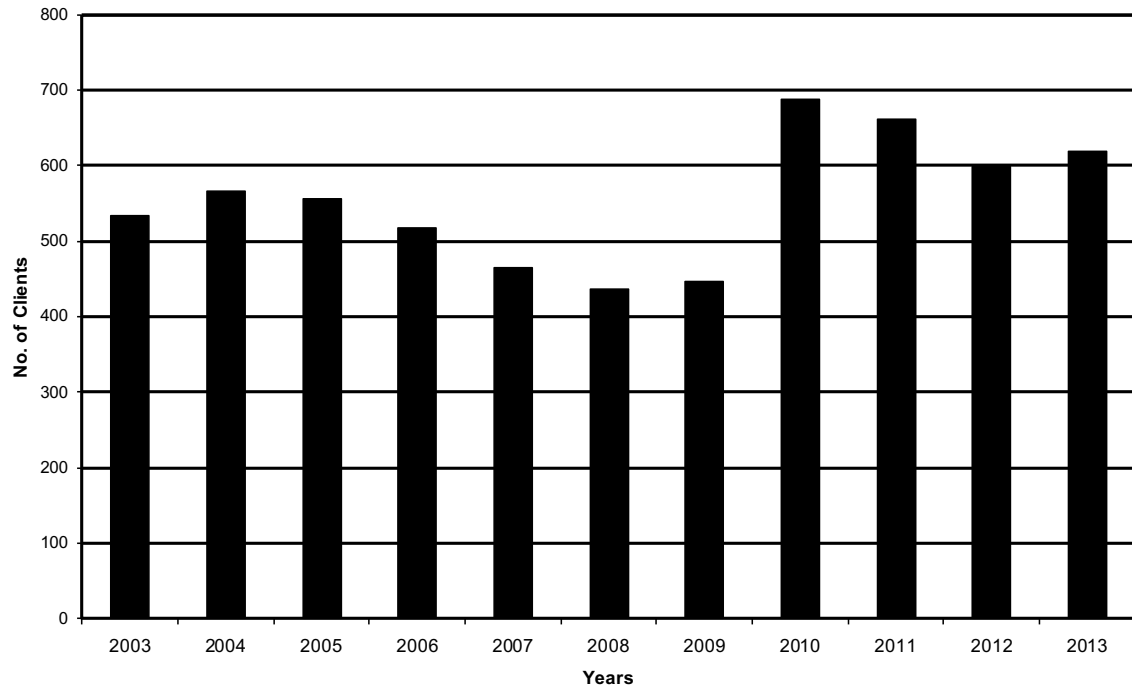
The Legal Advocacy Program received a \$2500 grant from the Jr. League of Evansville to provide Court Care Packages to clients. These packages include items to help victims deal with the stress and intimidation of dealing with the legal system. Kleenex, stress balls, pens, calendars and sticky notes and information cards are included in the packages. The packages will be distributed to clients with court dealings in 2014.

### **Other:**

- Compiled Enforcement/Treatment Sub-committee year end report for Mayor's Commission
- Attended Deaconess Family Practice Domestic Violence Group to answer legal questions from members.
- Completed renewal application and received certification for Law Enforcement Training Board
- Completed Community Awareness Project grant for National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Gina L. Gist  
Legal Advocacy Program Coordinator

### LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM





## **CRISIS RESPONSE ADVOCACY PROGRAM 2013 Annual Report**

The Crisis Response Advocacy Program was created in 1996 in partnership with the Evansville Police Department and continues to work closely with the Department. The Vanderburgh County based program is designed to provide information, emotional support and advocacy to victims of domestic violence during the post-crisis period. The Crisis Response Advocate is also cross-trained to respond to sexual assault if necessary. The primary goal of the programming is to increase the number of domestic abuse victims working towards violence-free futures. Crisis Response Advocates play an important role in this goal by offering appropriate follow-up services to victims.

The Crisis Response Advocacy Program utilizes volunteer advocates to provide services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. After completing the required training, the volunteer advocates provide coverage during on-call shifts. Each volunteer receives approximately 18 hours of domestic violence training on topics including crisis counseling, victim's options and available services, legal/personal advocacy and the dynamics of domestic violence. The volunteers spend a portion of their training time at Holly's House and the YWCA learning of their valuable services and also at the Evansville Police Department in their Ride-Along Program. By learning about and being able to offer different types of follow-up services within the community, the volunteer crisis response advocates are able to make the program a truly community wide program.

The Crisis Response Advocate also assists with client loads for the Legal Advocacy Program, assisting with Protective Order filing and court accompaniment. In addition to completing follow-up visits with a Detective from the EPD Domestic Violence Unit, the Crisis Response Advocate works closely with the Prosecutor's Office and the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office in contacting victims of domestic violence for follow-up and to offer services.

For 2014, the Crisis Response Advocacy Program (formerly known as the Peer Advocacy Program from 1996 – 2013) has been renamed and hopes to reach the following goals:

- ◆ Increase community awareness concerning services offered by the program
- ◆ Increased utilization of the program by the community, including hospitals, EPD, Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office, doctor's offices, churches, businesses and other community agencies
- ◆ Strengthen follow up program with Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office
- ◆ Continue working to strengthen volunteer program
- ◆ Continue to increase Crisis Response Advocate's contact with media
- ◆ Expand the DV Education Class outside Vanderburgh County

The following is a breakdown of activity that occurred in the Peer Advocacy Program in 2013.

### **Client Services:**

A total of 527 people received services through the Crisis Response Advocacy Program in 2013.

- ◆ 234 Legal Advocacy Clients
- ◆ 463 primary domestic violence victims (23 male)
- ◆ 41 secondary domestic violence victims (19 male)
- ◆ 17 adult sexual assault victims and secondary sexual assault victims
- ◆ 2 child sexual assault victims and secondary sexual assault victims
- ◆ 4 batterers (male/female)

These numbers do not necessarily add to the total served, as one person may fall into more than one category.

During 2013, a total of 1,601 referrals were made. Of these, 991 referrals were made to intra-agency services and 610 referrals were made to outside service providers.

Services provided to clients:

- ◆ 351 Crisis Counseling
- ◆ 235 Follow-up Contacts
- ◆ 219 Crisis Hotline Counseling
- ◆ 251 Shelter
- ◆ 1601 Information and Referral
- ◆ 100 Criminal Justice Support/Advocacy
- ◆ 15 Emergency Financial Assistance
- ◆ 40 Emergency Legal Advocacy (protective orders)
- ◆ 314 Personal Advocacy (including securing services from other agencies, intervention with employers, creditors or others, accompanying to hospital)
- ◆ 185 Phone Counseling/Contacts
- ◆ 115 Other Services (including spiritual concern need initiated by the client, photographing injuries, etc.)
- ◆ 30 Residents of Shelter
- ◆ 367 Safety Plans
- ◆ 65 Crisis Response Interventions
  - Holly's House: 1
  - Deaconess ER: 31
  - Deaconess Gateway: 8
  - Deaconess Family Residency Clinic: 2
  - St Mary's ER: 8
  - Echo Clinic: 6
  - By Phone: 3
  - Vanderburgh DCS: 1

- Gibson General: 1
- North Park Rehab: 1
- Potter's Wheel: 1
- Vanderburgh County Correctional Facility: 1
- Vanderburgh County Command Post: 1

In addition, the Crisis Response Advocate spent 166 hours in court providing Legal Advocacy.

The Crisis Response Advocate attempted to contact 342 total victims referred by the following services:

- ◆ 37 by the Evansville Police Department
- ◆ 300 by the Prosecutor's Office
- ◆ 5 by the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office

The Crisis Response Advocate successfully contacted:

- ◆ 154 primary victims
- ◆ 16 secondary victims
- ◆ 4 batterers

Literature concerning Albion's services was sent by mail or left at the home of the victim (when completing home visits with a DV detective) for those victims with whom the Crisis Response Advocate did not have personal contact.

### **Domestic Violence Education Program:**

The Crisis Response Advocate continued collaboration with the Legal Advocate, YWCA, Vanderburgh County Victim Assistance Program, and Vanderburgh County Judicial Officers to facilitate the Domestic Violence Education Class. This two session class is for victims of domestic violence who appear before a Judge and request a No Contact Order be lifted or contact the Victim Assistance Office and request that charges against their abuser be dismissed. Before a decision will be made about either, the court and/or prosecutor's office will refer the victim to the DV Education Class. The class is divided into two sessions, each an hour long. Session One focuses on DV dynamics, defining domestic violence, Power and Control Wheel, Cycle of Violence, an examination of batterer behaviors and why it is difficult for victims to leave. Session Two focuses on Safety Planning and the Effects of DV on Children. Upon successful completion of both sessions, the participant is given a certificate to present to the Judge or Victim Assistance Office. The decision about how to proceed from there is up to the Judge and/or State.

During 2013, 123 people attended the DV Education Class, and of those, 112 successfully completed.

**Volunteer Activity:**

The volunteers (12) provided 10,257 hours of on-call coverage. The Crisis Response Advocate provided 1,816 hours of off-duty on-call coverage. The advocate continued in the role of Volunteer Coordinator. The advocate co-facilitated 4 new volunteer orientations for 7 volunteers and 7 interns. The advocate also interviewed 7 potential volunteers, interviewed 4 potential interns, trained 2 new Crisis Response volunteers, provided training updates to 2 current volunteers, and supervised 7 interns (who provided 1,063 hours of service) including meeting with their professors for midterm and final evaluations.

The Crisis Response Advocate/Sexual Assault volunteer programs have transitioned to a cross trained model utilizing volunteer Crisis Response Advocates who are dually trained and able to respond to both domestic violence and sexual assault crisis calls.

The volunteer program has been updated. A new pamphlet and application are being created. New volunteer areas have been identified. They are:

**Direct Service**

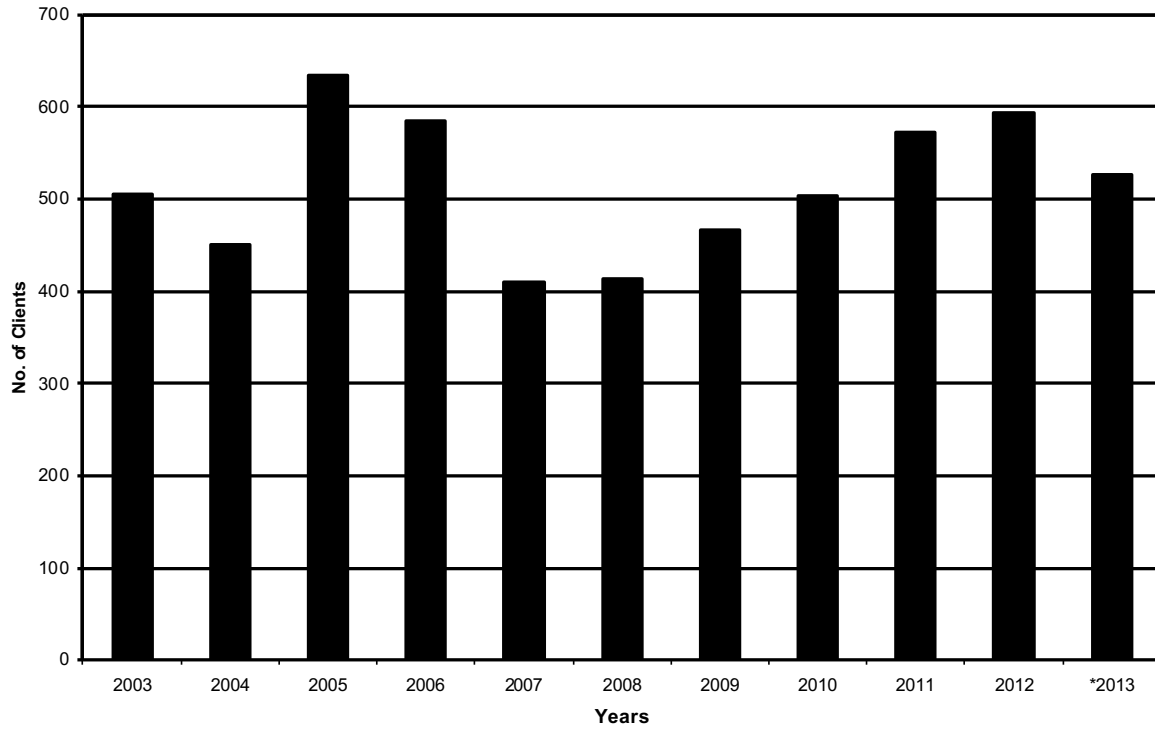
Crisis Response Advocate  
Crisis Line Operator  
Court Advocate  
Support Group Assistant  
Children’s Activities Volunteer

**Indirect Service**

Donations Volunteer  
Shelter Volunteer  
Community Education Volunteer  
Special Events Volunteer  
Administrative Volunteer

Leslie James  
Crisis Response Advocate

### CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAM



\*Maternity leave taken in last quarter.

## **OUTREACH PROGRAM 2013 Annual Report**

The Outreach Program works collaboratively with communities to empower victims, survivors, and persons affected by domestic and sexual violence in the counties of Vanderburgh, Warrick, Posey, Pike, Gibson, Spencer, Dubois, Perry, Orange, Crawford and Harrison. In 2013 the Outreach Program provided services to 513 Sexual Assault Victims, 293 primary victims and 220 secondary victims. There were 39 teens, 48 males, and 426 females receiving sexual assault services. Domestic Violence Services were utilized by 978 Domestic Violence Victims, 974 adults and 4 teens.

We accomplish this objective through many types of services in the Outreach Program.

Crisis Counseling is provided by phone or in-person to educate the client on the dynamics of domestic violence, sexual assault, understanding trauma responses, safety planning, and to assist in exploring options. In 2013, Outreach program staff spent 317 hours providing telephone crisis counseling and 1,368 hours and 45 minutes of in-person individual peer counseling.

Support groups to assist clients in working through the normal emotional reactions to trauma from abuse. Groups help break down isolation and allow clients the opportunity to receive support and encouragement from other survivors. We currently have four active domestic violence support groups at the following locations: Deaconess Family Medical Residency, Counseling For Change, Lucas Place, and On-site at Albion. In 2013 282 Outreach clients attended 136 support groups with staff providing 720 hours and 30 minutes of support group services.

Legal advocacy is designed to ease some of these stress and intimidation of dealing with the legal system. Accompaniment during civil / criminal processes and explanation of legal options is provided. In 2013 Outreach staff provided 99 hours and 30 minutes of legal advocacy.

Off-site crisis advocacy response is provided by Outreach staff to Holly's House and to local hospitals in Vanderburgh, Warrick and Gibson Counties. When we are able to bring services out of our building and into the places where victims are then they are more likely to follow through and use the services at Albion. National statistics indicate that only 2-4% of victims utilize shelter, our Outreach Program meets the victim where she is in her crisis. In 2013, 186 individuals received services from Albion at Holly's House (171 sexual assault cases and 8 domestic violence cases). Albion spent 222 hours and 30 minutes at the facility with 157 hours and 45 minutes of that time spent in direct services to victims. We were able to connect families and victims to appropriate partner services through 306 community referrals. The position to cover these responses is a 24 hour a week position so we were not able to provide advocacy during 126 interviews (some may not have been appropriate because they were child sexual abuse situations), but we did make follow-up contact with 38 after the interview by

phone. Two of the five members of the Outreach team serve as back up for a 24 hour 7 day a week on-call volunteer advocacy schedule that allows us to meet victims at hospitals after hours and on weekends. We currently have a schedule of volunteers who provide some coverage as well as the two Outreach Staff members and Albion's Crisis Response Advocate. Our part-time Community Outreach Specialist also volunteers as an on-scene advocate as well. We provided (through staff response and volunteer response on-site advocacy) to 31 SA clients and 4 DV clients at Deaconess Main Hospital providing 69 hours of service, 6 SA clients and 1 DV clients at Deaconess Gateway providing 14 hours of service, 9 SA clients and 2 DV clients at St. Mary's Hospital providing 19 hours and 30 minutes of service, and 2 SA clients at Gibson General Hospital providing 2 hours and 30 minutes of service.

Community Education is a way for Albion to raise awareness about our services and the two topics we cover, domestic violence and sexual assault. Community education presentations include workshops and trainings to schools, medical personal, law enforcement, community groups, and many others about domestic violence, dating violence, healthy relationships, cyber safety, and sexual assault. Last year the Outreach Team provided 49 presentations to 29 agencies and groups with 1,155 participants. Outreach Team presented at 20 schools 120 times in 7 counties reaching 2,386 students. (For a full listing, see our website, [www.albionfellowsbacon.org](http://www.albionfellowsbacon.org).)

Prevention education is a newer service offered by the Outreach Program. About three years ago Albion began to recognize a trend towards multi-session school programming and prevention focused community based strategies to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault. We were able to obtain funding to build a prevention program. In 2013 we focused on building programming for youth with a nationally recognized evidence based curriculum called Safe Dates. We presented 124 sessions of this program to 3 high schools, 1 middle school and two youth serving agencies reaching 493 youth. Also during 2013 Albion was able to secure funding to turn the prevention education initiative into its own program. In 2014, Outreach will no longer be primarily responsible for this quickly growing program. We will assist with the goals this program has planned for the future.

Brandi Watson  
Outreach Program Coordinator

### OUTREACH PROGRAM

