

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2023

Dear Friends of SAS,

In 2023, our dedicated team provided services to 1,281 individuals affected by sexual assault or abuse and 7,936 youth from pre-school through high school received sexual assault prevention education and materials. We continue to be strong in our mission to provide empathic, non-judgmental, comprehensive services, support and advocacy for survivors and others affected by sexual assault/abuse; raising awareness of sexual assault; and engaging others to help in holding offenders accountable and achieve a community free of sexual violence.

Highlights in 2023:

- SAS Benefit Dinner with keynote speaker, Silvia Vasquez-Lavado. It was an inspirational night that honored our SAS volunteers and outstanding community partners. Thank you to our sponsors and everyone who joined us in supporting the critical work SAS provides to survivors, their loved ones and the community. We had over 230 people in attendance and raised over \$36,000!
- In October, the Michigan Association of Physician Associates chose SAS as their charity organization for their annual event. We are incredibly grateful for the outpouring of generosity and support that was provided. We received gas cards, fidgets, counseling supplies, personal care supplies, teddy bears, children's books and toys, snacks and so much more. These donations help support survivors throughout the region in various programs.
- We had our client winter party that provided a night of joy, laughter, and connection. Over 40 survivors and loved ones joined us for cookie decorating, crafts, penguin bowling, food and fun. Thank you, Crossroads Church and Ministries, for the donation to host this event.
- In December, we moved to our beautiful new SANE suite at Bronson Battle Creek Hospital. The space is welcoming, private and radiates compassion and warmth.

Looking forward to in 2024:

- Bronson Sexual Assault Services Benefit Dinner on April 4th at Firekeepers Casino and Hotel. We will be recognizing our amazing volunteers and outstanding community partners. We will have an inspirational keynote speaker: Chanel Miller.
- Offering additional trauma informed therapy groups for survivors and caregivers.
- Expansion of our advocacy services for survivors of sexual violence.
- We are expanding awareness of SAS services and providing increased trainings across the Bronson system and in the community on trauma informed care for survivors.

We are deeply grateful for our funders, donors, community partners and supporters who help us in our mission. We are thankful for our dedicated volunteers who give their time and heart to providing advocacy for survivors 24/7 365 days a year. Most importantly, we are thankful to the individuals and families we serve who put their trust in us and allow us the privilege to walk beside them in their care.

With gratitude,



Dannielle Kostrab, LMSW
SAS System Manager

A Year in Review



1,281 persons

affected by sexual assault
received support from
Sexual Assault Services



386

survivors and family
members received
free counseling from
a trained therapist



171 children and
166 family members

received specialized services
from the Child Advocacy Center



366 victims

received specialized
medical services



5,177 youth
& **100** adults
received sexual
assault prevention
education



77 victims and family
members received
SAS-assisted support
during the court process

Scan this code to learn more
about the services provided
free of charge.



bronsonhealth.com/sexual-assault-services/services/



2,759 youth
received prevention
in partnership with
S.A.F.E. Place



26 volunteers donated
5,316 hours
assisting victims

SAS works in collaboration with the YWCA of Kalamazoo and the Domestic Violence Coalition in Van Buren County to provide advocacy and counseling services in our region. Statistics from these organizations are not included here.

Education and Prevention

School-Based Education Sessions

SAS provides school-based programming for children and youth, preschool through college, to prevent sexual abuse and assault. Pre-K and elementary children learn that they are in charge of their body, parts of their body are private, they can say no to touches that make them uncomfortable, and what to do if someone tries to touch them inappropriately. Middle and high school students learn the warning signs of unhealthy relationships, the concept of sexual consent, what to do if they are sexually assaulted, and bystander intervention. Adults learn steps to protect children such as minimizing opportunity, having age appropriate conversations about bodies, sex, and boundaries, recognizing signs of abuse, and reacting responsibly to suspected abuse. Professionals learn how to identify interpersonal violence and connect survivors to appropriate services.

Number of Participants at Prevention Presentations		
	SAS Funding	OVW Funding
Preschool-aged children	64	0
K-5 Students	3,603	974
Middle School Students	933	699
High School Students	577	1,086
Adults	100	0

**SAS partners with S.A.F.E. Place to provide prevention education as part of the Calhoun County Inter-Agency Youth Violence Prevention project funded by OVW. SAS facilitated prevention education funded under this project are included above.*

Community-Based Awareness Events

During this reporting period, SAS participated in 19 community-based awareness events held for adults, including both parents and professionals. At these events, 1,907 individuals were in attendance.

Systems Change Activities

SAS staff participates in a variety of community interagency workgroups and committees, including:

- Calhoun County Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
- Maternal and Infant Health Commission
- Calhoun County Inter-Agency Youth Violence Prevention Project
- At the Crossroads Regional Human Trafficking Task Force

Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)

“Everyone was super nice and super supportive. They explained everything thoroughly. We loved the support dog, Chewy. It's very professional and my daughter felt safe and heard. I appreciate this facility so much”

– Caregiver of a child who received services.

The CAC provides a coordinated, collaborative approach to addressing child sexual abuse and severe physical abuse in our community. A multi-disciplinary team works together to help minimize the trauma victims may experience by providing coordinated investigative team interviews, advocacy services, follow up contacts, referrals and information, therapy and monthly case review meetings.

In 2023:

- 171 children received specialized forensic interviews and 166 non-offending family members received support and advocacy.
- There were 122 female children, 45 male children, and 4 transgender or non-binary children interviewed during this period.
- 40 children were 6 years old and under, 67 children were between the ages of 7 to 12 years old, 63 children were 13 to 17 years old, and one was an adult with intellectual disabilities.
- 171 children were interviewed and 25 of those children had multiple allegations of abuse or neglect. 162 children were interviewed for allegations of sexual abuse, 28 children for physical abuse, 7 children were interviewed as a witness to other violence, and 3 children were interviewed for allegations of neglect.
- 107 children and 68 non-offending caregivers received facility dog supportive services during a forensic interview.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) are available on-call 24 hours a day/365 days a year as part of our crisis Sexual Assault Response Team. These specially trained registered nurses provide the medical forensic examination or medical triage via phone consultation for victims of sexual assault.

In 2023:

- 366 patients received a form of service from the SANE program.
- 238 of the patients received phone consultation from an expert nurse either directly or via consultation with their healthcare provider, law enforcement or other professional.
- 252 patients received acute medical forensic examinations, which included 148 adults and 104 patients under the age of 18.
- 32 male patients, 212 female patients, and 8 transgender patients received acute medical forensic examinations.

Volunteer Victim Advocacy Program

SAS held four volunteer advocate trainings in 2023 with a total of 14 attendees. Throughout 2023, SAS was supported by 23 active volunteer victim advocates in Calhoun County who provided 4,938 hours of on-call time. SAS was also supported by 9 volunteer victim advocates in Van Buren County who provided 1,994 hours of on-call time. SAS volunteer victim advocates offer emotional support and referral information to survivors and their loved ones.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact the SAS Volunteer Coordinator at 269-245-3906.

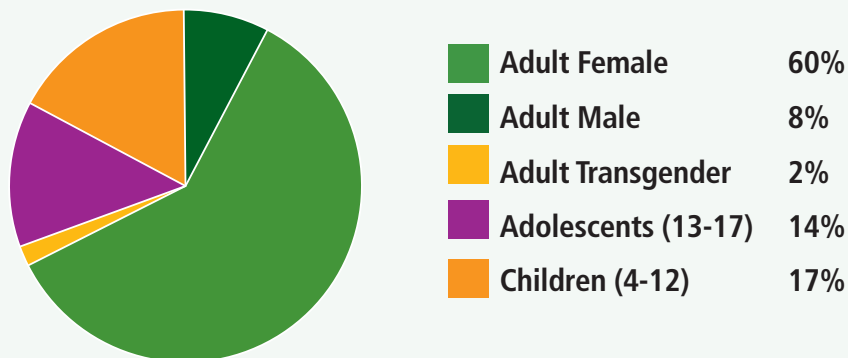
Counseling Services and Outcomes

Our counseling practice is based on a client-centered, empowerment focus. We work as a team with our clients, with the understanding that clients know themselves and their circumstances best. Our therapists have extensive education and training for providing services to survivors of the trauma of sexual assault. All therapists are trained in trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy and utilize trauma-informed, strengths-based interventions. Clients are asked if there were any barriers to accessing SAS services. One response indicated the survivor was unaware of the free services offered at SAS.

“Getting the specialized therapy that I needed is lifesaving. This therapy has allowed me to heal, understand, and move on.”

– A sexual assault survivor

Sexual Assault Services Counseling Client Ages



100% surveyed agreed SAS services were effective*

In 2023:

- 100% of counseling clients agree that they have an increased understanding about the natural responses to trauma.
- 100% of counseling clients agree that after speaking with their counselor, they know more ways to plan for their emotional and/or physical safety.
- 100% of counseling clients agree that they received assistance in developing positive coping skills.
- 100% of counseling clients agree that SAS services were effective in helping them achieve their goals.
- 100% (*6 respondents, new survey question in last quarter) agree that the counselor they worked with was understanding and supportive of their values and identities (including identities like religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, immigration status, and disability status).

** These results were based off anonymous surveys given to counseling clients, of which 48 were completed (12.4 percent).*

SAS Giving Options

Giving

We are very grateful to our donors who give generously to our organization so that we can continue to provide comprehensive sexual assault services, free of charge, to survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones. We could not provide these critical services to survivors without the generous support of our community!

Ways to Give

The Sexual Assault Services Fund



The Betty J. Christ Endowment Fund for Sexual Assault Services through Battle Creek Community Foundation

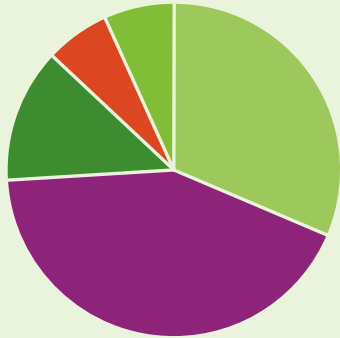


SAS Community Advisory Board

Ellen Collier - S.A.F.E. Place
Jeff Damore - Calhoun County Probate Court
Elisha Hodge - Plumeria Botanical Boutique
Melanie Hooker - Domestic Violence Coalition
Larry Juday - Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi
Steve Lamb - Michigan State Police
Clare Loughrige - Crossroads Church & Ministries
Dr. Sheila Matthews - Community Member
Bill McClure - Calhoun County DHHS
Nancy Mullett - Clark Hill, PLC

Andrea Morrison - Calhoun County Public Health Department
Robin Rogers - SARP Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)
Meghan Taft - Summit Pointe
Jamie VanDyke - Battle Creek Police Department
Chandra Youngblood - Battle Creek Public Schools
Monique Cheeks - Battle Creek Public Schools
Ashley Jones - Battle Creek Public Schools
Rebecca Bolden - Battle Creek Public Schools

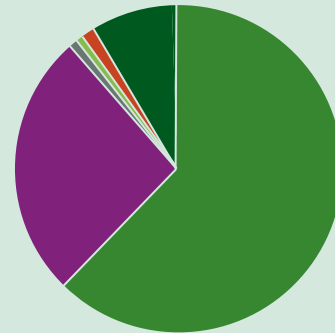
SAS Program Expenses



- SANE Program
- Counseling/Advocacy
- CAC
- Prevention Education
- Management & Administrative

Programs/Services Expenses:		
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program	\$648,613.83	43%
Counseling/Advocacy	\$469,054.83	31%
Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)	\$192,389.10	13%
Management/Administrative	\$103,333.93	7%
Prevention Education	\$92,716.97	6%
Total	\$1,506,108.66	100%

2023 SAS Funding Sources



- Federal Grants
- State Grants
- Bronson In-Kind
- General Fund
- Endowment Fund
- Local & Foundation Grants
- United Way Grants

Funding Sources		
Federal grants	\$952,448.53	63%
State grants	\$378,986.23	25%
General Funds	\$132,463.83	9%
Local and Foundation Grants	\$20,000	1%
United Way Grants	\$9,499.98	1%
Donations/Fundraising	\$12,710.09	1%
Total	\$1,506,108.66	100%

*Bronson in-kind support is not included in these amounts. Bronson in-kind support includes, but are not limited to, fringe benefits, space, and construction costs for SANE suite. SAS also receives in-kind support from other Bronson departments, such as IT, Risk Management/Legal, HR, and Corporate Communications.

Bronson Battle Creek is a major partner with Sexual Assault Services, donating space and in-kind services, making Sexual Assault Services a department of Bronson Battle Creek Hospital. This project is funded by Grant No. 2019-V2-GX-0036 awarded to Bronson Health Foundation, by the Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission. The agreement award of \$830,470 comes from the Federal Crime Victims Fund, established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 administered by the Office of Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, and U.S. Department of Justice. Sexual Assault Services wishes to thank the Michigan Division of Victim Services and Michigan Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Prevention and Treatment Board for their financial support of this project. Sexual Assault Services is an accredited center of the National Children's Alliance (NCA)/Michigan Chapter of the NCA. Sexual Assault Services also receives in-kind support from Oaklawn Hospital and Crossroads Church and Ministries in Marshall, MI; and the Domestic Violence Coalition and Bronson LakeView Hospital in Paw Paw, MI. Sexual Assault Services is a United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region Community Solutions Partner. Other current funding sources include: Children Trust Michigan, Bronson Health Foundation, Battle Creek Community Foundation, Miller Foundation, and Guido A. and Elizabeth H. Binda Foundation. Donations have been received from the Michigan Academy of Physician Associates, Marshall Exchange Club, Canine Companions, Plumeria Botanical Boutique, Women of Impact, Crossroads Church and Ministries, Harper Creek Girls Varsity Basketball Team, and many generous individuals and organizations. All grant funding is expended according to allowable, restricted expenses for each grant.

Assistance with requesting Crime Victims Compensation is available to victims of crime who wish to apply. All services are free of charge.