



Fiscal Year 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**Creating Hope
Healing Lives
Changing Community**

Message from our Executive Director

We live our mission. By providing safety we are “Creating Hope, Healing Lives, and Changing Community.” Safelight is essential to Henderson County, bringing together our county’s experts to link services and create safety. Safelight is proud to help survivors become “thrivers”. Together we break barriers, lose the labels, and provide help to all who have experienced violence, abuse, or exploitation.

This year Safelight turned 40, having assisted over 46,000 survivors to date. Last year alone, we helped 1,395 survivors, of which 558 were children. In the past year we filled over 18,000 beds, provided prevention education with nearly 11,000 of our neighbors, conducted over 2,700 counseling services, connected over 300 survivors with legal support, helped 263 children with telling their story through our Child Advocacy Center and much more.

Because of you, new this past year we

- Partnered with Impact Health’s Healthy Opportunities Pilot to help Medicaid recipients receive wrap around care with 38 enrolled in the first year
- Operated our first Camp Hope America program with 36 kids enrolled in pathways and 18 going to camp
- Launched Henderson County’s first national model for Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) with all of our law enforcement partners linking 35 survivors to Safelight with 84 services
- Opened our Shelter kennels alongside our partners at Blue Ridge Humane Society with 31 pets served to date
- Renovated our Resale Store, received Foley our first Canine Companion facility dog, and survived Hurricane Helene

And we are not finished, our neighbors still need our help now more than ever. Next year we plan to

- Expand our Shelter to include more rooms and beds for survivors displaced
- Double enrollment capacity in our new year-round Camp Hope America program
- Renovate our Café and start a product line, expanding our job training program to include entrepreneurial opportunities
- Create with our partners at Blue Ridge Health, North Carolina’s first Polyvictimization Community-Based Adult Forensic Program, so adult survivors of abuse or violence can have a one stop gathering of information and evidence for potential prosecution, like we do in our Child Advocacy Center for our children
- Celebrate with a mortgage burning party, as we have successfully paid off our mortgages on our three buildings

By partnering with us, you help change lives in Henderson County. Thank you to our incredible board members, staff, donors, volunteers, partners, and community leaders, and Henderson County for another year of serving survivors of violence, abuse and exploitation. We are committed to supporting survivors during these challenging times. As we are serving more and more survivors effected by Helene, we need your help now more than ever. Safelight is facing significant budget losses from damages from Helene’s water intrusion, our Dandelion Cafe and Resale Store closures, not having a fundraiser, and operational support grants that are no longer available.

Your assistance is crucial now more than ever to support the growing numbers of survivors of violence, abuse, and exploitation as we continue to create a safer Henderson County. Together we are creating hope, healing lives, and changing community. Together, we stand strong and resilient, and we cannot do this without you!

Thank you for your support as we recover together,

LAUREN WILKIE

Safelight Executive Director



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Anticipating client needs. Thinking outside the box. A non-profit's work exceeds expectations when leaders and staff feel empowered and supported to become innovators and change-makers. It's one of the many things I am so proud of here at Safelight. This past year, we added new pet kennels to our shelter, giving survivors the ability to bring their beloved pets with them when leaving their abusive environment. In the past three years, Safelight has doubled our budget, allowing our team to provide more and more crucial services as needs increase. Thanks to our amazing staff, board, partners and volunteers, we continue to create hope, heal lives and change our community for the better.

Clint Holt, Safelight Board President



**2024-2025
Board of Directors**



Happy Birthday Safelighn Celebrating 40 Years Serving Henderson County



Safelight's Timeline

- 1983: Henderson County Child Abuse Task Force formed (later became FOCUS).
- 1984: The Women's Crisis Ministry starts in a church basement in Hendersonville to serve women dealing with crises such as divorce and widowhood.
Mainstay is formed with the mission of helping battered women.
- 1985: Women's Crisis Ministry becomes a part of Mainstay and operates from county donated space in the old Henderson County Courthouse. Started the Batterers Intervention Program, later to be called Domestic Violence Intervention Program.
- 1986: Mainstay purchases and moves shelter into a house off Haywood Road.
- 1986: Henderson County Rape Crisis Center as part of Buncombe County (later renamed The Healing Place) opened and provided services for adults who experienced sexual assault.
- 1988: A building adjacent to the Mainstay shelter is purchased for moving administration.
- 1990: FOCUS "Friends of Children United Services" (later The Healing Place) began accepting children as the first accredited CAC in North Carolina. Mainstay opens the first resale store in Henderson County on Barnwell Street.
- 1995: Mainstay Shelter is destroyed by fire, and a temporary Shelter is set up downtown.
- 1996: The Henderson County Rape Crisis Center merges with FOCUS "Friends of Children United Services" and change their name to The Healing Place, Inc. Mainstay moves into a new facility at 125 South Main Street opens April 21, 1996 Administrative offices, the resale store and shelter are located under one roof.
- 2008: Mainstay shelter and resale store moves to 5th Avenue, current location.
- 2004: Transitional House opened for up to two years of housing support for survivors (closed 2017).
- 2013: Mainstay opens the Dandelion Café at 127 Fifth Avenue West, starting paid onsite Job Training.
- 2014: Mainstay opens the Family Advocacy (Justice) Center across from the courthouse in a rented space with onsite partner Pisgah Legal Services.
- 2015: Mainstay reopens the county's Child Advocacy Center. Mainstay's job training program expands into the Resale Store.
- 2016: First United Methodist Church partnership started for 8 apartment units for us to house. Safelight, Inc. formed as Mainstay and The Healing Place merge to better provide essential services to all survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.
- 2017: The Child Advocacy Center regains national accreditation. Safelight expands its job training program to include Sewing Our World Together ending in 2022.
- 2019: Counseling Center formalized and begins for children and adults off Asheville Highway.
- 2021: Outreach Program formalized and begins. Full Renovation of shelter basement 133 5th Avenue occurs adding a large meeting room, computer lab and additional office for staff.
- 2022: Washington Street office opened to house Administration, Family Advocacy Center, Counseling Center, Community Outreach and Child Advocacy Center. Formed Henderson Counties Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Taskforce formed, partnering with Partnership for Health.
- 2023: Lethality Assessment Program started officially with our local law enforcement partners. Full Shelter renovation and creation of first onsite Animal Kennels in Shelter opened in December, a partnership with Blueridge Humane Society. Full renovation of community engagement space for trainings, groups, and a computer lab space.
- 2024: Camp Hope America/Pathways started with our first camp! Housing Program began with Rapid Rehousing offered onsite. Foley, our Canine Companion joined team. Impact Health, Healthy Opportunities pilot partnership begins. Formed Henderson Counties Human Trafficking taskforce.

Creating hope and healing for families

7 Programs and Dozens of Services

We offer a continuum of services to help move clients from crisis to sustainability with housing, employment, case management, and counseling support.

A Thriver's Story

I lived a great life before I met him. There were warning signs, but I was oblivious, as I had never been in an abusive relationship. Just one year ago, I was homeless for a few days in my car with my beloved dog. I had just left the home where I was living with my abuser who would not allow me to have my own license, my own car, or any property.

Safelight saved my life; I was without a home, feeling depressed and suicidal. Safelight sheltered me and my dog. When I was living my worst days, Safelight staff surrounded me and my dog with love and support. Safelight helped me to write my victim impact statement and sat with me through the struggles of court. They helped me with job training in their resale store, where I was empowered to create my own designs in the window displays and to embrace my uniqueness, however I wanted. Safelight assisted me with job relocation support and rebuilding my credit. And lastly, to find safe housing with my dog covering the relocation costs to include moving my beautiful antique dresser gifted to me from the resale store for my new home.

I have exceeded my goals for where I thought I would be. I just keep checking off goals and setting new ones! Just a year later, I am amazed to have my own vehicle, gorgeous house, wonderful job, and good friends. I am now a financial manager at a car dealership and will soon get a mortgage for my own home. I do not take these new opportunities lightly; I am grateful and look forward to when I can give back.

Safelight survivor, now thriver



1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men experience severe physical intimate partner violence

Partnerships



Over 35 partners in excellence have signed memorandums of agreement with us including shared office space or funding together. Safelight collaborates with different community partners and agencies to ensure clients' needs are met.

“Pisgah Legal Services provides legal services to domestic violence survivors facing a variety of legal issues, including obtaining Domestic Violence Protective Orders, securing custody of their children, and separating from their abuser. We are proud of our partnership with Safelight, and specifically of our work together at the Henderson County Family Advocacy Center, which allows us to provide thorough and holistic legal support in an efficient, full-service environment for our clients. Our partnership not only allow us to serve our current clients well, but it also allows our organizations to collaborate in addressing the comprehensive needs of survivors in our community.”

*Genevieve Holmes, poverty law attorney
Pisgah Legal Services*

“Safelight’s Child Advocacy Center is unique in that we have the capacity to provide interviews, advocacy, and medical care for children who may have been abused or neglected five days a week. This is made possible by the strong partnership between Safelight and AdventHealth Hendersonville. Safelight has committed to having full-time interviewers and advocates on staff, and AdventHealth generously provides a full-time medical provider. Safelight and AdventHealth are working together to break down barriers and ensure that children and families receive timely care and compassion in their hour of need.”

*Meredith Harding-Bremner PA-C
AdventHealth | Safelight Child Advocacy Center*

FY24 Service Stats



24-Hour Emergency Shelter filled **18,396** beds for **256** survivors



Outreach for Prevention and Education provided educational programs to **10,922** individuals in our community



Counseling Center provided **2,765** sessions for **255** survivors



24-Hour Crisis Hotline answered over **1,087** survivor calls



Family Advocacy Center helped **328** survivors



Child Advocacy Center assisted **263** children



Domestic Violence & Partner Intervention Program engaged **64** men and women



Housing Program **64** individuals and successfully housed **21** in year 1



Community Engagement supported **48** survivors with financial literacy and employment in our Safelight Resale Store and Dandelion Cafe



Sponsors

Thanks to over 900 donors, volunteers, and sponsors. We could not do it without you!

- Benton Roofing
- Blue Ridge Cabinet Connection
- Brinet
- Carolina Village
- Crate Wine Market & Project
- Don and Lauren Wilkie
- DuraLine Imaging
- Engel & Volkers Real Estate
- First Citizens Bank
- Flowers by Larry
- HomeTrust Bank
- Hunter Subaru
- LS Creative
- Marked Tree Vineyard
- McGuire Wood & Bissette Law Firm
- Morrow Insurance Agency
- Mountain Credit Union
- Mr. Rooter Plumbing
- Paper Clutz
- Paul and Melissa Tobias
- Realty ONE Group Pivot
- ShareWell Coffee Company
- Sugar Hollow Solar
- The Edwards Family
- The Van Winkle Law Firm
- United Federal Credit Union
- Wells Fargo Advisors
- Wilsonart International

Thank You to Our Annual Sponsors

- AdventHealth
- Champion Heating and Air
- Dunlap Construction
- Horizon Heat & Air
- Relocate828
- Southern Alarm & Security
- Stuller Power Solutions
- UNC Health Pardee



How to Give

Mail a check

317 N. Washington St., Hendersonville, NC 28739

Give online

<https://www.safelightfamily.org/donate.htm>

Make a Gift of Stock/Investments

A gift of stock is an impactful way to support us and make a smart decision for your taxes. By transferring stocks, you can avoid capital gains tax, lower your tax burden, and donate the full amount to Safelight.

Donate Through Your IRA

If you are 70.5 or older and you have a traditional IRA, you can support us this year with a tax-free gift from your IRA called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Giving from your IRA can lower your tax burden by using pre-tax funds for a gift.

Use your Donor Advised Fund to Give

If you have a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) with an organization such as the Community Foundation of Henderson County, please follow their guidelines for minimum contributions and recommending grants.

Text2Give

Text2Give makes it easy to give to Safelight! Simply text the amount of your donation to our Text2Give number: (828) 492-3322. Once received you can register the account you want to draw funds from, and you are ready to go!

Scan Our QR Code

1. Open the Camera app on your smartphone.
2. Hold your device so that the QR code appears in the viewfinder in the Camera app. Your device recognizes the QR code and displays a notification.
3. Tap the notification to open the link associated with the QR code.



EMERGENCY SHELTER \$50,000

Help our shelter expand to add more rooms to serve families fleeing violence and abuse

24/7 CRISIS HOTLINE-3 MONTHS \$25,000

24/7 Crisis Line staffed for 3 months

SCHOOL TRAININGS - 1 YEAR \$10,000

Support our Outreach Program for elementary school children, teachers, and administration

JOB TRAINING PROGRAM - 6 MONTHS \$5,000

Pay a client in our job training program in our Dandelion café or Resale store for six months

CAMP HOPE HENDERSON COUNTY \$5,000

Support one camper through a year of Pathways events and a week of summer camp

24/7 CRISIS HOTLINE \$2,500

24/7 Crisis Line staffed for a week

SHELTER STAY - ONE MONTH \$1,500

Serve a survivor in our shelter for one month

JOB TRAINING PROGRAM \$1,000

Pay a client in our job training program in our Dandelion café or Resale store for one month

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER \$500

Support a child who has experienced or witnessed violence to have a one and done retelling of their story

FAMILY ADVOCACY CENTER \$250

Support a family through court, legal, and medical advocacy

SURVIVOR COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS \$100

Support a survivor receiving individual counseling and support groups

SHELTER STAY - ONE NIGHT \$50

Serve a family or individual in shelter fleeing violence or abuse

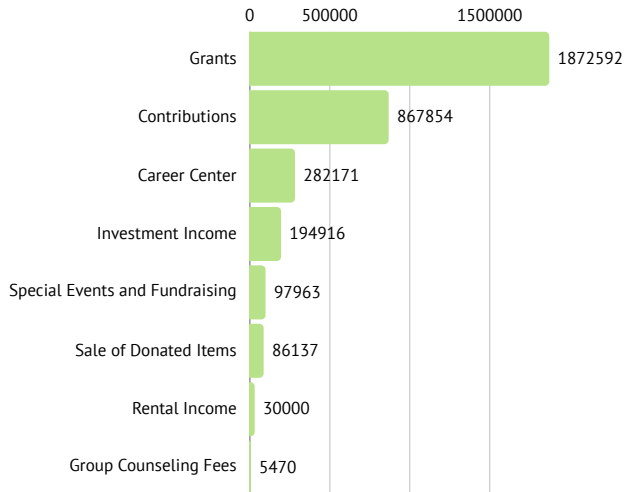
HOSPITAL ACCOMPANIMENT BAGS \$25

Emergency toiletries, clothing, and community resources

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

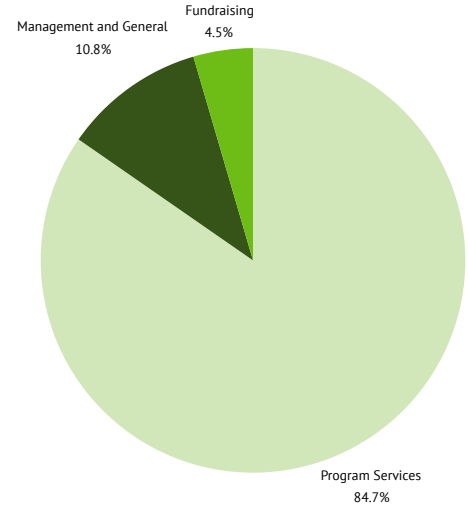
FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

REVENUES



TOTAL REVENUE: \$3,437,103

EXPENSES



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2,413,960

ASSETS



Current Assets	1,161,411
Property and Equipment	3,681,342
Investments	651,015
Beneficial Interest in Endowment Fund	195,369
Unconditional Promises to Give	18,546
Total Assets	\$5,707,683

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	115,343
Long term debt – current position	58,653
Long term debt – noncurrent position	752,197
Operating lease liabilities - current	7,424
Operating lease liabilities - noncurrent	18,546
Total Liabilities	\$952,163





**317 N. Washington Street
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www.safelightfamily.org

**Should you have any questions, please contact
828-693-3840 or info@safelightfamily.org**