



# safehorizon

**moving victims of violence from crisis to confidence**

**2008 Annual Report**

May 6, 2009

Dear Friends,

Although the year 2008 began a period of nearly unprecedented economic hardship, Safe Horizon rose to the challenge, and delivered critical services to children and adults affected by violence and abuse – touching the lives of more than 350,000 people who needed our help.

Of course, this has also been a challenging year for Safe Horizon. We saw reductions in both public and private funding, and have had to curtail certain specific services as a result. At the same time, however, we moved forward with critical new initiatives to raise awareness of key issues and improve services in key areas.

- We opened state-of-the-art centers in Harlem for abused children, homeless youth, and adult crime victims in the community. These are our Manhattan Child Advocacy Center, an innovative integrated program that helps child victims of sexual or severe physical abuse; our Streetwork center, which provides safety and counseling to youth living on the streets; and our Manhattan Community Program, where victims of all crimes can have their immediate needs addressed.
- We launched Hope Shining, a national campaign to educate the public about recognizing and reporting child abuse, with Capital One Bank as our national sponsor.
- We conducted a *Bystanders and Child Abuse* survey that revealed crucial findings and gave organizations important information to help victims of child abuse.
- We expanded our national program to address domestic violence in the workplace, SafeWork. Domestic violence in the workplace costs \$6 billion per year; SafeWork helps employers address this issue. This innovative program was featured in *Fortune* in 2008.

I thank you for supporting our work and for helping us to continue to be the leader in helping victims of violence move from crisis to confidence.

Sincerely,



Ariel Zwang  
Chief Executive Officer

# Programs & Services

## **Safe Horizon Mission Statement**

Safe Horizon's mission is to provide support, prevent violence, and promote justice for victims of crime and abuse, their families and communities.

## **About Safe Horizon**

Founded in 1978, Safe Horizon is the nation's leading victim assistance organization and serves over 350,000 individuals and families each year who have been touched by violence. Whether responding to child abuse, homeless youth, domestic violence, trafficking, or other violent crimes, Safe Horizon provides the practical tools, emotional support, education, and advocacy to help victims and their families heal and rebuild their lives. Our range of services offered across the five boroughs help move victims of violence from crisis to confidence.

## **Safe Horizon's People**

Safe Horizon, now in its thirtieth year, has over 60 locations staffed by over 700 caring, expert professionals in all five boroughs of New York City. A comprehensive team of direct-service staff – including social workers, hotline counselors, court advocates, and so many more – we are committed to aiding victims of violent crime in their time of greatest need. Our services are models for programs across the country and around the world. Our staff provides critical technical assistance, education and training to service providers, government organizations, corporations and the media worldwide. Our 30 years of experience gives us a credible voice for leading change in systems, policies and legislation. We are recognized as a national leader and are sought out as an expert on violence and victimization.

## **Safe Horizon's Programs and Services**

Our programs offer the care and assistance clients need during the critical point of crisis and afterwards throughout the healing process. Upon entering any of our sites, they are greeted by empathetic and knowledgeable employees who make them feel welcome and valued by listening to their stories. We have adopted across all our programs an innovative integrated service model that focuses on first meeting clients' immediate needs (e.g., crisis intervention, safety planning and shelter) and then addressing their needs for longer-term support (counseling, support groups, case management, advocacy, mediation, information and referrals). This holistic approach provides clients with an effectual range of resources and services as their needs change over time.

## **Anti-Trafficking**

Anti-Trafficking addresses the needs of survivors of human trafficking and modern day slavery. The program trains service providers and law enforcement agencies and also provides technical assistance to service providers.

## **Child Advocacy Centers**

Child Advocacy Centers are child-friendly facilities that provide coordinated expert response to allegations of physical and sexual abuse for children under the age of 18. Staff from Administration Children's Services, the New York City Police Department, and the District Attorney work together with Safe Horizon and on-site medical staff to investigate and respond to the needs of the child victim and the non-offending family members.

## **Community Programs**

Community Programs provide crisis intervention, case management, practical assistance, and support groups for survivors and victims of crime and abuse. Specialized services are offered to survivors of homicide, rape and sexual assault. Community education and outreach are also provided.

## **Counseling Centers**

The Counseling Center is a NYS-licensed out-patient mental health treatment facility, which offers trauma-focused evidence-based treatment and psychiatric services for victims of crime, abuse and/or trauma.

## **Criminal Courts**

Criminal Courts provide a safe, supportive reception center for victims involved in criminal court proceedings, crisis intervention counseling, assistance with criminal justice advocacy, explanation of the court process, practical assistance and court-ordered restitution. We also provide referrals for counseling and legal services.

## **Domestic Violence Law Project**

This program provides direct legal representation and advocacy in family court and the Integrated Domestic Violence Courts for victims of domestic violence in family justice proceedings such as order of protection, custody, support, and divorce. Our legal intake line (helpline) provides information, referrals, and assistance to victims of domestic violence.

## **Family Courts**

Safe Horizon's family courts are a safe, emotionally supportive reception center for victims to wait for a family court proceeding. We also offer crisis intervention, assistance in preparing a family offense petition, explanation of the court process when filing for an order of protection, and referrals for counseling and legal services. The family courts also offer a court-ordered supervised visitation program.

## **Hotlines**

Safe Horizon's emergency hotlines offers crisis counseling, advocacy, information and referrals to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and all other crime victims. Our Domestic Violence Hotline Advocates assess and link domestic violence victims with emergency shelters located throughout New York City.

## **Immigration Law Project**

The ILP offers legal services, advocacy, crisis intervention, and community education for the following: immigrants, asylum-seekers, refugees and victims of domestic abuse, torture and/or persecution.

## **Mediation**

The mediation program offers dispute resolution services for communities, neighbors, families, organizations, and agencies through the assistance of professionally-trained mediators. Mediation also provides conflict management training and consulting for community-based organizations, schools, and city agencies.

## **Project Safe**

Safe Horizon offers an important alternative to the shelter system for women who make the decision to continue to live at home through our Project Safe free home lock replacement program. Free locks are offered to any Safe Horizon client who files a police report against an abuser or stalker. During the past year, Project Safe provided emergency services to 2,232 clients, installing approximately 3,152 new locks. This initiative is the only program of its kind in New York City.

## **Safe Harbor**

Safe Harbor offers comprehensive services that address the topic of dating abuse and domestic violence to high school students and the community. These services are provided in a safe room in the school designated on a full-time basis for the program.

## **Streetwork**

Streetwork is a counseling/drop-in center program for homeless and street-involved youth under the age of 24 which includes clothing, food, showers, laundry, individual and group counseling, support and wellness groups, case management, medical care, mental health care, educational support and job training. Most of these youth have suffered years of abuse and neglect and many experience chronic mental health issues such as clinical depression and trauma. Lacking fixed addresses and identification documents and most often with partial or incomplete education, we offer these young people a safe and welcoming haven from life on the streets.

Streetwork also offers an Emergency Shelter which provides overnight emergency housing. The program provides 30 beds of housing for up to 90 days, as well as home-cooked meals, support groups, showers, counseling and support are provided to 30 clients per night. Streetwork's annual results clearly illustrate the great need for its services: 200 youth are provided with shelter, 1,700 unduplicated clients are served at the drop-in centers, 12,000 outreach contacts are made, and 45,000 meals are served. Additional Streetwork services include on-site medical, mental health, and legal services, cultural and recreational activities, HIV-prevention and harm reduction education, referrals to substance use treatment and other service providers, wellness activities, and , independent living skills support ranging from basic self-care and hygiene to employment preparation and financial literacy. What about Shelters, DVAP, Police Programs?

# 2008 Accomplishments

## Safe Horizon Welcomes New CEO Ariel Zwang

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 our new Chief Executive Officer, Ariel Zwang, took the helm. Ariel came to us from her position as Executive Director of New York Cares, an organization that has partnered with Safe Horizon in the past. New York Cares joined Safe Horizon in playing a pivotal role in response to the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, organizing over 50,000 volunteers, many of whom worked side by side with Safe Horizon Staff.

## Safe Horizon's Streetwork Uptown Center

Safe Horizon finished an extensive renovation to relocate our **Streetwork** drop-in center for homeless youth from Midtown to Harlem. This much larger, beautifully designed 12,500 square foot space allows us to welcome a greater number of young people and to enhance and expand the kinds of help we can give them. Through a teaching kitchen, computer lab, library, art center, music room, as well as mental and physical health and wellness services, we offer street youth the opportunities they need to heal and move toward healthier, more self sufficient lives.

Counseling, the cornerstone of the Streetwork program, will be offered to every young person who enters the Uptown Center. Seven private counseling rooms help to ensure a client's safety and confidentiality, where counselors can help identify their needs and resources. Soundproofed and fully furnished, these rooms create an environment for young people to develop a critical sense of security and trust where they can learn to move away from at-risk behavior. The Uptown Center will also include the following additional programs and resources: a Peer Education Center, a Computer Lab, a Library, an Arts Center, and a Music Room.

## Manhattan Center

We opened our **Manhattan Center**, which houses several Safe Horizon programs including the only **Manhattan Child Advocacy Center (MCAC)** for physically and sexually abused children. Colorfully furnished with child-sized tables and chairs, toys and stuffed animals, the MCAC is a warm and comforting space which brings together under one roof all of the services a child who has been abused needs – the police, medical professionals, counselors and child protective workers – all working together. Our co-located model minimizes the child's trauma, speeding the process of both healing and bringing perpetrators to justice.

## Hope Shining

We launched **Hope Shining**, a breakthrough national initiative to increase awareness, prevention and support services for children, families and communities impacted by violence and abuse. We created Hope Shining in response to a national survey entitled *Bystanders and Child Abuse*, which revealed that although 59% of Americans know a victim of child abuse and 36% of those adults say they themselves were abused as a child, less than 10% could identify common signs of child abuse. With the help of our national sponsor, *Capital One*, as well as additional funding from the *New York Community Trust*, we were able to secure advertising space describing signs of child abuse and how to report it in New York and other markets, including Houston and New Orleans. Millions of people across the country saw these ads online and in national magazines, and on billboards, bus shelters, newspaper advertisements, elevator screens and telephone booths.

## SafeWork

*SafeWork* is Safe Horizon's national movement to help corporate leaders recognize domestic violence in the workplace and take action to address it. *SafeWork* has attracted interest from companies across the country who are committed to keeping their employees safe and securing their bottom line. Over the past year, thousands of managers from companies such as Best Buy, Avon and Verizon Wireless have participated in *SafeWork* trainings and have learned how to recognize the signs of domestic violence among their employees. These trainings also help managers and supervisors respond to the situation and refer employees who may be impacted by domestic violence to internal and external resources.

With such increased attention from Corporate America on this issue, national media has also taken notice. In November 2008 Fortune magazine published an article called *Domestic Violence: Corporate America's Struggle to Confront the Issue*. The piece featured *SafeWork 2010* CEOs, Lowell McAdam (Verizon Wireless) and Thomas Wilson (Allstate), while also focusing on Safe Horizon Board Member, Brooke McMurray, and her personal connection to this issue. Following Fortune's article, *Good Morning America* aired a segment discussing the importance of addressing this issue within the workplace, and encouraged companies and employees to reach out to Safe Horizon and participate in *SafeWork* trainings.

In addition to these new initiatives, during the past year we answered 145,384 calls on our domestic violence hotline; assisted more than 43,000 victims, witnesses and their family members in our court programs; and touched the lives of 350,000 people affected by crime and abuse.

## Summary of Income and Expenses for Fiscal Year 2008

The following is an overview of Safe Horizon's income and expenses for the fiscal year ended June 20, 2008:

<b>Total Support and Revenue:</b>	<b>\$54,330,605</b>
Program Expenses:	
Domestic violence and hotline	\$22,900,254
Community and criminal service	\$11,491,974
Child, Adolescent and mental health treatment	<u>\$ 9,424,724</u>
	\$43,816,952
Supporting Services:	
Management and general	\$ 8,009,512
Fundraising	\$ 2,438,431
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$54,264,895</b>
Total Assets:	\$38,731,264
Total Liabilities:	\$22,364,781
<b>Net Asset Balance:</b>	<b>\$16,366,483</b>

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