ANNUAL REPORT ○ FISCAL YEAR 2020–2021

NEW BEGINNINGS

Sowing Seeds of Hope

How YOU kept us alive during one of the most challenging years in our history

INTERVAL HOUSE

working to end domestic violence

DONOR SP

Supporters New and Old Provide Hope to Survivors

GLORIA & BOB GERY

The Gerys are longtime members of the Interval House family. Gloria was involved as a member of the Board from 2005 to 2015, and served as President of the Board for four years. The couple continues to sustain Interval House's mission every year through significant financial contributions and invaluable volunteerism.

INTERVAL HOUSE—IH: How did you first learn about Interval House? What prompted you to get involved?

GLORIA—GG: I've been aware so long that I don't remember how and when I learned about Interval House and its work. I probably learned about it from a United Way display at Aetna when Hartford agencies used to present their mission and services to stimulate United Way giving. Maybe in the 1970's... and Bob and I have been donors of money, in-kind gifts, services (like painting the shelter walls, updating the playscape, attending events and serving on the Interval House board since then).

Our interests have always been in agencies supporting human services with a particular focus on women's needs and food insecurity. We've been so fortunate in our lives with health, family, careers, resources that working to support groups uplifting others has been our top priority.

IH: What is your fondest memory of being a part of the Interval House family?

GG: So many memories. Working as a member of the Board and then serving as President is probably the most significant memory—other than attending wonderful galas at the Society Room and On20. Collaborating with others to improve governance, fund development and facilities improvement made such a difference to me. I worked directly with other directors, committee members and staff and became so impressed with the range of services and skill and commitment of staff throughout the years. As a board member we had to "sit" with staff listening to phone calls and attending court sessions with clients were particularly significant. To see what these women and children go through made an indelible impression on us.

Bob worked with friends to update the children's playscape in the early 2000's. His most significant memory was the day that 8,000 pounds of rubber "chips" were delivered near the street rather than in the playscape area. Bob and our friend Phil Grannan had to move them into the yard by wheelbarrow. I wouldn't say it's his fondest memory, but it is a lasting one!

IH: Why do you continue to support Interval House after all of these years?

GG: We continue to support Interval House on an ongoing basis with contributions, volunteering, support for the newly formed endowment fund, etc. because we have confidence in the staff and the integrity of the work, management, and impact. We like to be involved when we know where our contributions go and that the resources are efficiently and effectively used—without waste. We believe in the mission. We hate the idea of family violence. And we expect to continue to play whatever part we can now—and in our legacy donations after we are "gone."

IH: If you had one wish for our clients, what would it be?

GG: Our one wish for Interval House clients is simple: Peace. Freedom from fear. Control over their lives. Who could ask for more? ■

POTLIGHT

FRED TIMME

Fred is a new and enthusiastic member of the Interval House family. In early 2021—during some of the toughest days of the pandemic—Fred reached out to learn more about our agency and how we help women suffering from abuse. The conversation resulted in a remarkable donation in memory of Fred's beloved wife, Ruth, who passed away in 2018 following a courageous battle with cancer.

INTERVAL HOUSE—IH: When did you first hear about Interval House, and how did you make the decision to make a substantial gift to us?

FRED—FT: It was actually a coincidence that I stumbled upon Interval House. I had been thinking about making donations to a number of causes for some time but I couldn't figure out where to begin, how to narrow down my search, and who was ultimately worthy. I started by looking at the global picture. I had spent two years in the Peace Corps, living by myself in a small village in India teaching farmers how to raise chickens! But the Peace Corps was funded by the U.S. Government and I didn't want to get involved in a government program. I considered the United Way and the many local arts organizations that I love and especially those that support up and coming artists, including authors, actors, musicians, singers, and anyone else trying to make it on their own.

My search wore on. Then one day, I stumbled upon two organizations highlighted in The Hartford Courant: reSET and Interval House. Admittedly, I know very little about domestic violence. But I remember going to a party in Boston with my wife where she introduced me to this wonderful woman. On the way home I asked my wife about the woman, who seemed incredibly bright with a great future ahead of her. My wife told me about her life story, which included an unbelievably obnoxious male partner who put this woman down all the time, who ridiculed her for her intelligence, who demanded to go everywhere she went and who controlled every facet of her life.

Over time I came in contact with a number of women in the same terrible situation—even one of my own employees. They would try to do as much as was humanly possible to make sure they didn't tick off their partner, trying to maintain their sanity, attempting to keep their tears private, struggling to surpass their partner's expectations, and seeing no way out of the box their partner kept them in. I realized Interval House was an organization that was trying to help these women climb out of their purgatory, and to realize their life could have more value and freedom than they ever imagined possible.

IH: How do you envision your gift has helped our clients?

FT: I would hope that my gift has helped some women to see, feel, and realize that they were stronger, brighter, and more accomplished than they thought they were. I would hope that their experience with Interval House would build their confidence so that they could fly on their own without someone holding them down or telling them, "Look, you're a girl, you can't fly, so forget about that dumb idea."

IH: What piece of wisdom would you hope to share with people considering making a gift to Interval House or another similar agency?

FT: The only wisdom that I could share with others who are thinking about making a donation would be to find an organization that is trying to solve a problem and that you, as the donor are comfortable with their approach. You should find a place that you would feel proud to tell friends that, yes, you believe in their mission. ■

FISCAL YEAR *2020–2021* IN REVIEW

Interval House weathered an unprecedented year of demand during the pandemic, but we certainly did not do it alone! Thanks to your contributions, our small but mighty staff made remarkable strides to meet every client where they were, never turning away anyone who was courageous enough to ask for help.

Thanks to You...

14,084
BEDNIGHTS WERE PROVIDED TO

269
PEOPLE WITH NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN—A 68% INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR

4,917
HOTLINE CALLS WERE ANSWERED AROUND THE CLOCK, GIVING VICTIMS A LIFELINE TO OUR ADVOCATES

6,145
OUTGOING CALLS WERE PLACED BY OUR ADVOCATES TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH CLIENTS TRAPPED AT HOME

1,159
VICTIMS AT HIGH-RISK FOR HOMICIDE WERE IMMEDIATELY CONNECTED WITH AN ADVOCATE—A 54% YEAR-OVER-YEAR JUMP

17,999
INSTANCES OF SAFETY PLANNING AND COUNSELING WERE PROVIDED TO CLIENTS

47
LOCKS WERE CHANGED FOR CLIENTS WHO DID NOT FEEL SAFE IN THEIR HOMES

90
CLIENTS RECEIVED HOUSING ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF SECURITY DEPOSITS, UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS, OR FURNITURE PURCHASES

1,374
SAFE RIDES WERE OFFERED TO CLIENTS GOING TO WORK, TO MEETINGS, TO SCHOOL, AND TO COURT

42,252
MEALS WERE FED TO RESIDENTS OF OUR SAFE HOUSE—A 68% INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR

6,380
VICTIMS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO SURVIVORHOOD

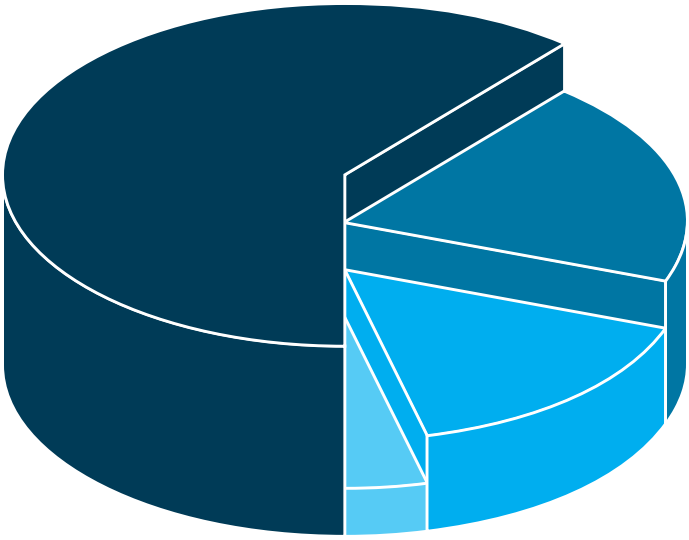
REVENUE

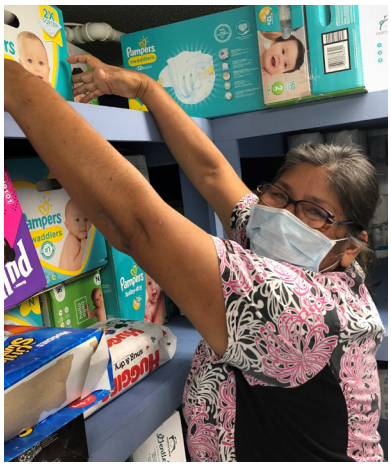
63%
GOVERNMENT GRANTS

20%
FOUNDATION &
CORPORATE GRANTS

13%
INDIVIDUAL DONORS (YOU!)

4%
UNITED WAY





$561,457
UNBUDGETED EXPENSES TO KEEP CLIENTS SAFE DURING PANDEMIC

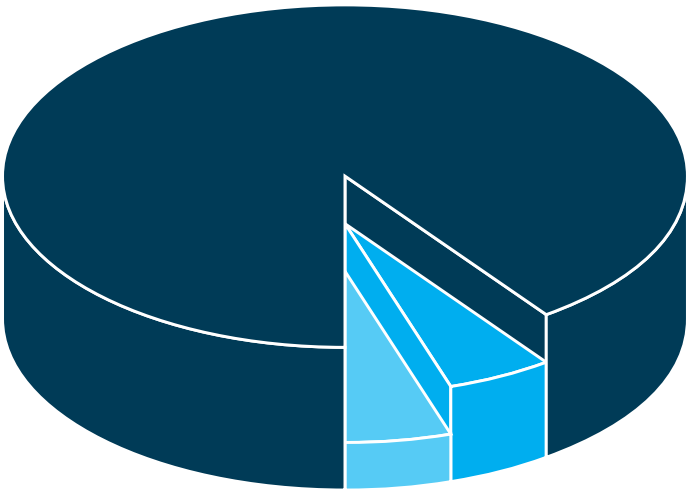
OVER $25,000
ESTIMATED CASH SAVED THANKS TO DONORS LIKE YOU, WHO PROVIDED GIFT CARDS FOR CLIENT NEEDS AND SENT US ITEMS VIA OUR AMAZON WISH LIST

EXPENSE

90%
PROGRAM, ASSISTANCE TO
INDIVIDUALS AND OUTREACH

5%
MANAGEMENT

5%
FUNDRAISING



A MESSAGE FROM MARY-JANE

Sowing Seeds of Hope

Dear friends,

Here's one thing I learned last year. You are powerful. You—our staff, our clients, our donors—are all incredibly powerful. Without you at our side, we would not have made it through what I so hope was a once in a lifetime, truly unique event. You stood by us, you cared about us, you gave to us, and it made all the difference. You made all the difference.

Because of you, we made it through some very dark days. And because of you, we reached new heights as the largest provider of domestic violence services in Connecticut. It was our staff, our heroes, who got up every morning, exhaled every day and kept going to keep victims safe. But they did it because they knew you had our backs. We would be okay if we just kept doing the work. I am profoundly grateful for you and all you have done to get us through this impossibly difficult year.

The hotline rang off the hook, the courts shuttered and left victim cases in terrifying limbo. More and more and more people came to us seeking safe shelter and still, we kept going. Our staff used every extra minute to make outgoing calls to be sure clients stuck at home were okay. They rearranged rooms in the safe house to distance residents and still kept the maximum number of bednights for those who needed it. They helped clients file for restraining orders online. And through it all, they were hopeful. Hopeful that we'd get through it, keep victims safe and, hopeful we would come out whole on the other side. And we did. You came through for them. And wowee, did you come through. Thanks to you, we covered more than half a million dollars in unbudgeted, pandemic-related expenses. I count last year as a miracle.

In June, we completely reconfigured our backyard at the Safe House. We planted a garden all along the perimeter, we installed a new playground and we bought new picnic furniture so all the residents could enjoy a break, play with their children and enjoy a respite in the shade of our trees. We wanted to give our clients peace and serenity in troubled times. More than a dozen volunteers tilled, composted, dug and mulched. We installed over 100 plants...just days before the biggest heat wave of the summer. We scrambled to water everything as much as we could and prayed that the azaleas, dogwood, hosta, and rhododendrons would take root and eventually flourish. We tended that garden with the same tenacity and hope as we pour into our work with clients. With the same tenacity that you have shown in supporting us this year. And we've come to find that those plants—just like our clients—and just like you and me—only needed encouragement and a nurturing environment in which to grow. The garden is breathtaking. Hope does spring eternal. And for good reason—you.

And so, thank you. Thank you for standing tall, at the ready, to help us when we called for you. Thank you for stepping up and providing extraordinary financial support in an extraordinary year. And thank you for helping us keep our hope alive.

Wishing you every good thing—especially hope for tomorrow and the days that follow.

Mary-Jane Foster

Thank you!

In addition to the hundreds of generous individuals and trusts that supported our mission this year, we would like to thank those corporations and organizations that provided us vital financial backing through grants, sponsorships, and tithes:

Academy Di Capelli
Accounting Resources, Inc.
Alter & Pearson, LLC
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Avon Congregational Church
Bank of America
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Connecticut Health Foundation, Inc.
Connecticut State Medical Society
Connecticut's Children
Covenant Chapel
CT Pest Elimination, Inc.
Daughters of Penelope
Dignity Grows
Dubay Designs
East Granby Congregational Church
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Farmington Bank Community Foundation Feather and Bloom, LLC
Ferrari-Seeley Charitable Giving Fund
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First Church of Christ Congregational, UCC First Church of Christ Congregational
First Congregational Church
First Congregational Church SW
Flagg Road United Church of Christ
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Petit Family Foundation
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Saunders Foundation
SBM Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Shiloh Baptist Church
Simply Natural
Simsbury Granby Rotary Club, Inc.
Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Israel
Sisters of St. Joseph
Smith Brothers Insurance
Sorenson-Pearson Family Foundation, Inc.
South Congregational Church, UCC - East Hartford
Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance, Inc.
St. John's Episcopal Church
St. Mary's Church
Swindells Charitable Foundation
TALK-Truth in Action W/Love & Kindness
Target Corporation
Ten Thousand Villages
The Aegis Group at Morgan Stanley
The Ahearn Family Foundation
The Aiello Charitable Foundation, Inc.
The Harry Goldfarb Family Foundation
The Nutmeg Foundation, Inc.
The Sullivan Foundation
Town Fair Tire Foundation
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Town of East Hartford
Town of Ellington
Town of Glastonbury
Town of Manchester
Town of Manchester Police Department
Town of Marlborough
Town of Simsbury
Town of South Windsor
Town of Vernon
Town of West Hartford
Town of Wethersfield
Town of Windsor
Trinity College
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
UBS Financial Services, Inc.
UConn Medical Center
United Way of Central & Northeastern Connecticut
United Way of Central Ohio
United Way of Coastal Fairfield County
United Way of Greater Waterbury USA
Hauling & Recycling, Inc.
Webster Bank
West Avon Congregational Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Windsor Junior Women's Club
Wolverine Fire Protection
Women's Fellowship First Baptist Church
Workers Compensation Trust

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INTERVAL HOUSE
working to end domestic violence

www.intervalhousect.org

GIVE A *Gift of Cheer!*

SPREAD JOY TO FAMILIES IN
OUR MIDST WHO ARE STRUGGLING
FINANCIALLY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Our annual gift card drive kicks off November 1. By donating a gift card, you aren't just providing a tangible present for a client—you are giving a survivor the power to choose the gift she wants for her child or to prepare her cuisine of choice for a family holiday meal. Our clients are grateful for:

- **Visa gift cards,** which offer the most flexible options for clients lacking reliable transportation and who need to shop online.
- **Walmart and Target gift cards,** which allow a mom to purchase anything from food to clothing to toys for her household.
- **Grocery gift cards,** which are needed year-round to help our clients who are working through challenging transitions.

No amount is too small for a victim on her path to survivorhood!

GIFT CARDS CAN BE MAILED TO:

INTERVAL HOUSE
ATTN: Amanda Delaura
P.O. Box 340207
Hartford, CT 06134