



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network, Inc.

---

[www.peacefulpaths.org](http://www.peacefulpaths.org)

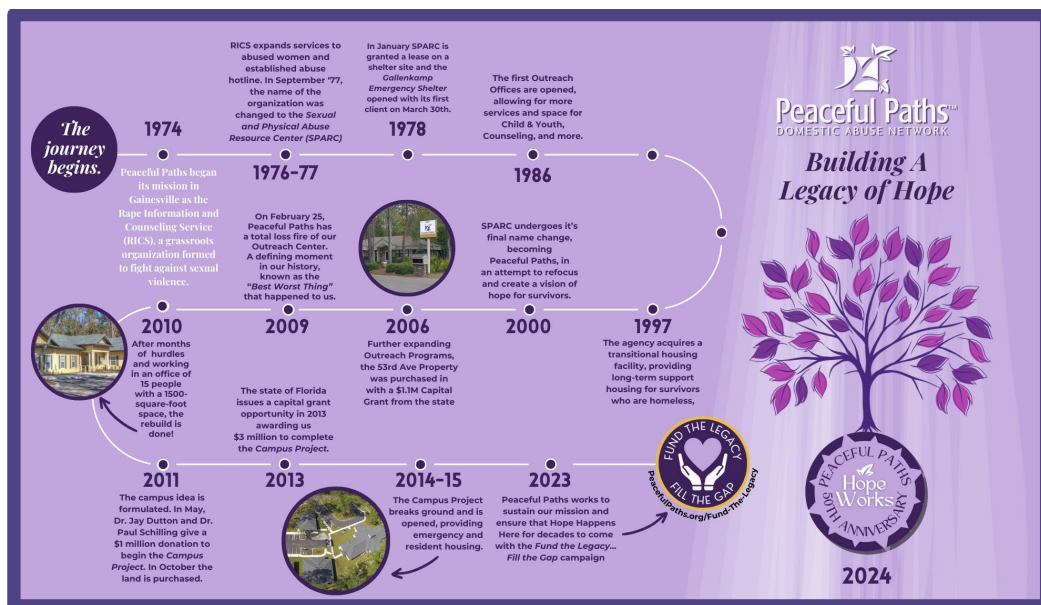
352-377-5690

352-377-8255 helpline

352-727-0948 text helpline

# CONTENTS

- Agency Overview \_\_\_\_\_ 3
- Executive Director’s Letter \_\_\_\_\_ 4
- Testimonials \_\_\_\_\_ 5
- Mission and Statistical Overview \_\_\_\_\_ 6
- Program Highlights \_\_\_\_\_ 7
- Fundraising Highlights \_\_\_\_\_ 8
- Financial Overview \_\_\_\_\_ 10
- Impacts \_\_\_\_\_ 11



## Agency History and Overview

Peaceful Paths, Inc. is the state certified center that serves adult and child survivors of intimate partner violence in Alachua, Bradford, and Union counties. Peaceful Paths provides a wide range of free and confidential programs including emergency shelter, supportive housing, crisis helpline, trauma counseling and support groups for adults, teens, and children, high risk victim advocacy, child welfare advocacy, financial literacy and economic empowerment programs, legal services, professional education and training, violence prevention education, and community awareness. Peaceful Paths leads the Coordinated Community Response to domestic violence in this region, and engages a comprehensive group of partners who collaboratively address system services and gaps. The agency promotes an empowerment-based philosophy of service delivery aimed at creating safety, support and a path to self-sufficiency for survivors and their children. Using advocacy and intervention, Peaceful Paths strives to create social change that impacts survivor safety and batterer accountability.

## History of the Agency

Peaceful Paths began its mission in the Gainesville area in 1974 as the Rape Information and Counseling Service (RICS), a grassroots organization that was formed to fight against sexual violence. In 1976, RICS began to expand its services to include battered women, and in 1977, established a spouse abuse hotline. In September of that year, the name of the organization was changed to the Sexual and Physical Abuse Resource Center to better reflect the changing mission. In January of 1978, SPARC was granted a lease on a shelter site and the shelter opened with its first client on March 30 of that year. In 1997, the agency acquired a transitional housing facility that expanded focus to include supportive housing for survivors. In October of 2000, SPARC underwent another name change to refocus the community on the mission of ending domestic violence. In October of 2015, Peaceful Paths opened the Dutton-Schilling Emergency Services Campus, a 72 bed housing community for shelter and supportive housing for survivors and their children. Peaceful Paths continually works to expand comprehensive services to adult and child victims and survivors of intimate partner violence.



**Peaceful Paths  
Campus**

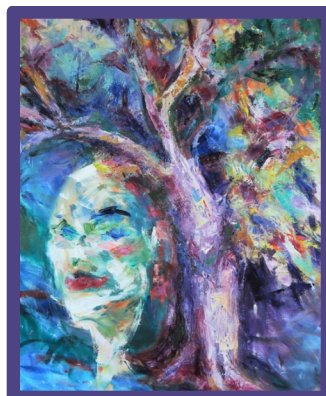
**A Word from our Executive Director Dr. Theresa Beachy**

As we come to the start of another year, the team at Peaceful Paths is excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. While 2023 brought several challenges due to funding cuts and the ensuing losses in positions and programs, it also provided some incredible milestones and successes. We served a record number of residents in shelter (411) in the post-COVID era, demonstrating that our coordinated community response is working to bring survivors and their children into services. Our stellar legal team gave free legal services to 828 individuals and provided over 600 services related to injunctions in the tri-county region. Violence Prevention Programming educated over 8,000 youth in our area. They inspired the formation of a Youth Community Action Team at Eastside High School and used February Dating Violence Awareness Month to conduct events that made a difference. High Risk Advocacy reached over 200 survivors that were identified as having potential lethality due to their partner's behaviors. Abuse in Later Life advocacy worked with 46 vulnerable elders to provide safety and support. Permanent Housing in the community was provided to 57 families (165 individuals) that allowed them to move toward a path of self-sufficiency. The agency was also able to provide nearly \$225,000 in cash assistance to survivors and their children for housing, relocation, utilities, medication, car repairs, children's supplies, food, and basic needs. We completed a much-needed safety renovation of the Outreach Office entry, built a new Dog Kennel and Run at the Shelter thanks to a Subaru Partnership, and completed Campus upgrades to improve functionality. This year was also our most successful events years every, raising over \$110,000 at Guest Chef and bringing in over \$500,000 total in community support.

We face massive federal cuts in the coming year due to shortfalls in the Victims of Crime Act funding at the federal level. We launched our Fund the Legacy, Fill the Gap campaign on Giving Tuesday, and we are so grateful to the response from this generous community. We continue to advocate for local funding, add Allies in Action, and pursue every avenue that can make up this loss. I know we will realize this goal and ensure quality, comprehensive services to survivors will remain the standard for our community.

2024 is our 50th Anniversary Year and we plan to celebrate the milestone by highlighting the Legacy of Hope that Peaceful Paths brings to our community. Through our Hope Work Art Exhibition in April-May at the Outreach Office, we will give our allies the chance to view 50 loaned artworks that represent Hope and inspire us to see beyond ourselves. Our programs are committed to the mission of saving lives and creating change by ensuring that Hope Happens Here. Join us so that together we can continue the work that brings hope to survivors every day.

"It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent." *Madeleine Albright*



“

Peaceful Paths gave me hope and a sense of real security. They allowed me to find myself again. I attended groups and also one on one counseling. They helped me believe in myself again.

I am truly grateful for all the help and genuine kindness that has been given. I am hoping I can help other women who are going through bad situations feel confident again and do better because we all deserve to live peacefully.

”

- Survivor of Domestic Violence & Former Client of Peaceful Paths



“

I am beyond grateful for the last year I have spent here and all for the healing and growth that you have helped me accomplish. I have found a wonderful place to call home.

Here's to new beginnings!”



- Survivor of Domestic Violence & Former Client of Peaceful Paths

## MISSION AND THEORY OF CHANGE

### MISSION STATEMENT

Peaceful Paths exists to save lives and create change

### Value Statements

\*Autonomy\*Choice\*Communication \*Community\*Courage\*Diversity\*Empathy \*Equality\*Flexibility

\*Growth\*Honesty & Integrity \*Hope\*Independence\*Innovation\*Patience\*Peace

\*Respect\*Safety\*Teamwork\*Trust

### THEORY OF CHANGE

- Expert Safety Planning process
- Collaborative advocacy
- Community resources and referrals
- Innovative outreach, residential, and prevention programs
- Connecting with survivors where they are to meet needs and identify barriers
- Open to change and feedback to close gaps
- Robust community partnerships
- Non-traditional approaches
- Stewardship of resources to maximize client benefits
- Strong community reputation and presence

### SERVICES UTILIZED FOR 2023

#### Peaceful Paths Statistical Overview

Total Survivors Served In Person	2388
New People Served for the First Time	1287
Total Services Provided	57,412
Total Helpline Calls	3,427
Unmet Shelter Needs	107
Community Referrals Provided	15,019
Safe Housing Nights on Campus	20,899
Safe Nights in the Community	13,705
Shelter Residents	313
Shelter Pets	17
Supportive Housing Residents	39
Permanent Housing Residents	182
Children and Youth Served in the Community	8957
Children and Youth Served in Intervention Programs	535
Total Number of Youth Prevention Sessions	216
Total Value of Financial Assistance to Survivors	\$477,889
Legal Clients Served	856
Injunction Services Provided	709

## Program Highlights

Peaceful Paths saw major increases in services demand this year, exceeding pre-pandemic levels. Services in counseling, legal, and housing remained in highest demand, and the agency saw more children and youth than ever before. Through local, state, and federal support, we were able to complete several needed upgrades, including campus maintenance and renovation, the consolidated front entryway at the Outreach Office, and a new dog run. In addition, programming was revamped to better meet survivor needs, including expanding credit services, adding new trauma counseling options, and transportation support. The Fatality Review Team was relaunched, with our State Attorney, Brian Kramer attending and his team leading a discussion to identify gaps and services needed.



# Fundraising Highlights

## Amazing Give 2023

\$49,000 Raised in 12 hours!



## Back to School Drive and Bingo

\$12,500 Raised



## Power of the Purse

\$41,500 Raised





# 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Guest Chef \$103,000 Raised



# Financial Overview

## Peaceful Paths

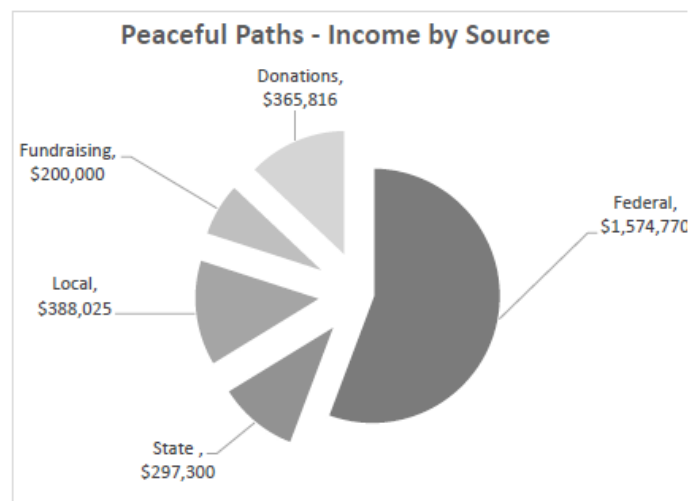
Agency Budget - FY23-24

### INCOME

Grant Income	
Federal	\$ 1,574,770
State	\$ 297,300
Local	\$ 388,025
<b>Grant Income SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,260,095</b>
Marion County	\$ 78,934
50 Year Anniversary	\$ 150,000
Fundraising	\$ 200,000
Donations	\$ 365,816
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 3,054,845</b>

### EXPENSES

Personnel	\$ 2,208,416
Professional Fees	\$ 164,362
Travel	\$ 13,375
Maintenance	\$ 54,680
Client Expense	\$ 155,583
Office Expense	\$ 185,590
Capital Outlay, Taxes & Licenses	\$ 64,996
Rent	\$ 10,598
Insurance	\$ 51,850
Interest	\$ 11,500
Fundraiser Expense	\$ 57,225
Misc. Expense	\$ 4,000
Marion County	\$ 72,670
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 3,054,845</b>



#### Highlights

- Find our full agency overview at <https://www.thephilanthropyhub.org/>
- Guidestar Approved Charity rating
- \$500,000 loss in October 2023
- Provided nearly \$450,000 in client assistance

## Get Involved and Make an Impact



*Peaceful Paths gave me a home and a sense of real security. They allowed me to find myself again. I attended groups and also one on one counseling. They helped me believe in myself. I am truly grateful for all the help and genuine kindness that has been given. I am hoping I can help other women who are going through bad situations feel confident again, and do better, because we all deserve to live peacefully.*

*~ former shelter resident*



Prevention Success: Most modern teenagers live in a steady state of dopamine deficiency. Social media apps like TikTok, Instagram, and Twitter flood adolescent brains with new exciting stimuli. The best part about social media is the rotating door of content; you only have to maintain focus for 30 seconds to a minute until another gratifying video clip rolls around. Now I do not feel like I am as interesting as TikTok, but as an educator, I make it my goal to come close.

*What will your  
legacy be this year?*



### Allies in Action

The work we do to save lives and create change is made possible by our generous community. Every donation, no matter what amount, helps us to provide a safe space for victims and their families as well as provide transformative programming to assist survivors and to educate local students on violence prevention and healthy relationships. It only takes a quick minute to donate,

but the impact is powerful. Please consider a monthly recurring gift as this steady and reliable gift provides us the stability to plan ahead and expand our programs & services. Regular monthly gifts also allow us to make long-term commitments to projects, producing sustainable change over time.

### Holiday Giving

Each year, we provide opportunities for Holiday Giving. Pick the one that fits you. Adopt a Family: Each client who needs support during the holidays works with a Peaceful Paths advocate to submit a wish list of specific needs and preferences for their family. We then match clients with donors wishing to adopt a family. General Donations: Participate in our Holiday Giving Program and shop on our general Amazon Holiday Wish List today. These items will be used to fill wish list gaps for families in need. **Learn more at <https://www.peacefulpaths.org/donate>**



# Peaceful Paths™

DOMESTIC ABUSE NETWORK

*Hope Happens Here*

*We exist to  
save lives & create change.*

[www.peacefulpaths.org](http://www.peacefulpaths.org)

352.377.5690



@peacefulpaths

**Volunteer**

**Donate**

**Needs List**



Thank you for supporting survivors of  
domestic abuse and their families.