



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Community Partners, Advocates and Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the resilience of survivors and the unwavering support of our community. Our collective efforts highlight the commitment of our community, volunteers, staff and generous donors dedicated to creating violence-free communities.

Right now, throughout Wood County, too many survivors – our friends, neighbors, co-workers and family members – are experiencing violence at the hands of someone they know.

Each story and statistic shared is a powerful reminder of our collective strength and the hope that drives us forward. Our mission to provide safety, healing, and justice is at the core of all we do, but it is not possible without your compassion and investment.

Over the past year, The Cocoon has provided comprehensive support services to over 800 survivors, offering them a safe haven, emotional support, legal assistance, safety planning and more. Our emergency shelter has been a lifeline, offering immediate safety and space to heal.

Thanks to your support, we have broadened our outreach, enhanced our services, launched new programs and advocated for systemic changes to ensure safer futures. Our advocacy efforts have been strengthened through community partnerships, enhancing the support network available to survivors.

As we reflect on our achievements of the past year, we recognize that much work remains. Every dollar donated and every hour volunteered helps us to continue building safe communities, one step at a time.

Thank you for standing with us. I am honored to be leading The Cocoon in empowering survivors, amplifying their voices and driving the social change necessary to prevent gender-based violence in our community. Together, we are making a difference.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Mull'.

Kathy Mull, Executive Director

MISSION AND VALUES

A HISTORY OF THE COCOON'S IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY

Cocoon's Mission

The Cocoon provides safety, healing, and justice across the lifespan for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, their children, and all of those affected by abuse. We work to educate and increase awareness about abuse and commit to building a compassionate and safe community.

Cocoon's Vision

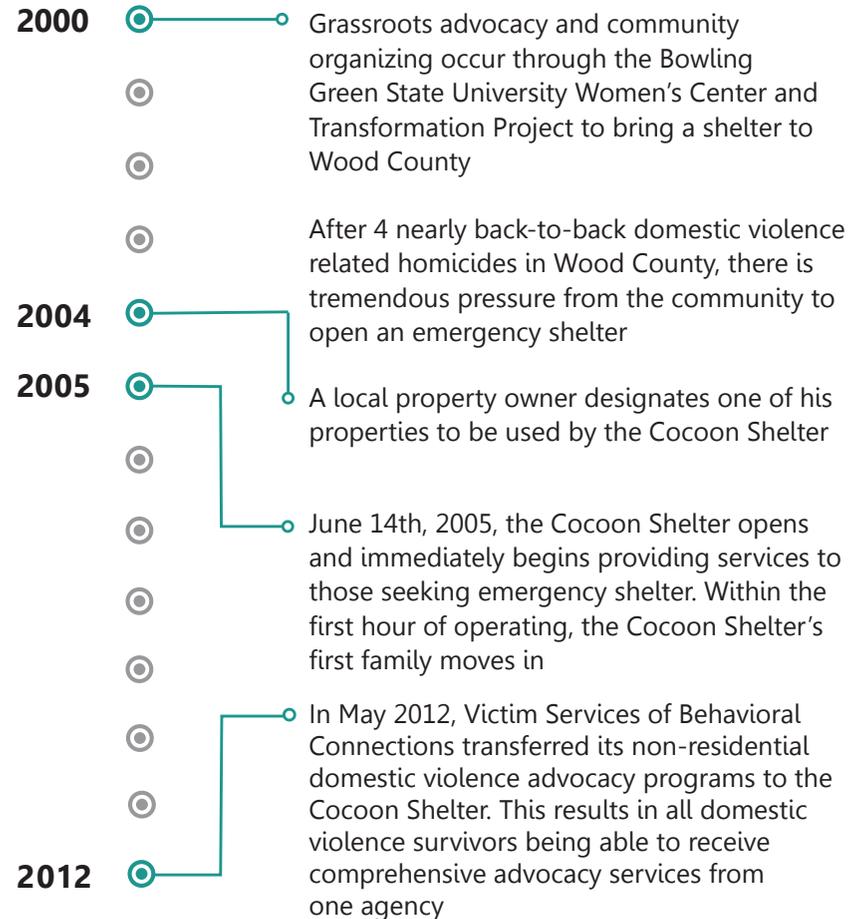
The Cocoon will be a trusted partner, community leader, and transforming voice in Wood County and surrounding areas. We are committed to ending domestic and sexual violence, empowering those affected by abuse, and envisioning safety, justice, nonviolence, and equity for all people through social change.

Standing Together at The Cocoon

The Cocoon is committed to recognizing and celebrating diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) in the survivors we support, the team we cultivate, and the community we share by integrating DEIA into all that we do.

To champion safety, healing, and justice for all survivors, it is our responsibility to acknowledge the intersection of systems of oppression and abuse.

To create thriving communities, we must actively work to dismantle the individual barriers that are restricting survivors by implementing a culture of anti-violence. Therefore, The Cocoon is dedicated to fostering safe, inclusive spaces and empowering platforms for survivors, our communities, and staff. The Cocoon remains steadfast in our pursuit of educational advancement in DEIA to strive for excellence in advocacy practices and policies.





- 2014** In the Spring of 2014, the Cocoon Shelter changes its name to The Cocoon to signify we provide more than just domestic violence emergency shelter services. A new logo, brand colors, and mission statement were adopted
- 2015** In October of 2015, the SAAFE Center moves its programs to The Cocoon and the organization begins providing dual domestic and sexual violence advocacy services
- 2017** In May of 2017, Phase I of renovations is completed, and the new shelter facility opens, doubling the capacity of emergency shelter services in Wood County
The Cocoon operates as a comprehensive domestic and sexual violence agency, providing shelter and advocacy services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, stalking, and to adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse
- 2020** Phase II of renovations begins and is completed, adding a group room area, a small conference room, and a dedicated teen room in our emergency shelter designed to allow teenage residents a safe space to decompress
The Cocoon expands programming to meet increasing community needs, creating a Youth Advocate position focused on providing supportive services to youth and their families who are impacted by violence
- 2021** The Cocoon continues to expand services and is selected to pilot a new state-wide initiative focused on providing medical advocacy to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and bring awareness to the impacts of trauma, traumatic-brain injuries, the intersectionality of interpersonal violence on physical well-being, and attempts to bring improved health outcomes to survivors of Wood County
- 2022** The Cocoon begins final planning for Phase III of renovations to our facilities to allow for advocates to have individual meeting spaces and increase services. These renovations are anticipated to be completed in mid-2025
- 2023** Phase III of facility renovations begin, creating new individual meeting spaces and expanding our services to better support survivors. This year, we also launched several vital programs: our Criminal Justice Advocacy Program, an In-House Medical Program, and a dedicated Anti-Human Trafficking initiative. These additions help us continue to meet the evolving needs of our community and ensure every survivor receives the care and support they deserve
- 2024**
- 2025 & Beyond** The Cocoon will be honoring 20 years of empowering survivors and strengthening the Wood County community. We have been and will remain committed to providing vital prevention education, survivor-centered support, and trauma-informed spaces that foster safety, growth, and recovery



GRATITUDE



We're deeply grateful to our incredible funding partners—foundations, organizations, and individuals—whose unwavering support has been the backbone of our mission since 2005. Thanks to you, we are able to continue to provide state-of-the-art programs and life-changing services to more than 800 survivors and their children every year, always at no cost to them. Together, we're breaking down barriers and ensuring everyone has access to safety, healing, and justice. Thank you for standing with us and our community.



In November of 2024, all participating individuals and partners came together to celebrate the dedication of a dog run for pets staying in shelter with their families.

For more information about The Cocoon and how you can become involved, click here to view our website.





ADVOCACY *in action*

The Cocoon is Wood County's only comprehensive domestic and sexual violence advocacy center and emergency shelter. The Cocoon provides 24/7 supportive services with our crisis hotline, emergency safe shelter, and through community-based services.

The Cocoon provides holistic and trauma-informed services to all survivors of domestic and sexual violence in our community and their children. To continue meeting survivor needs and eliminating barriers, we are one of the few agencies across the United States to also support family pets in our emergency shelter.

In 2024, The Cocoon

- Responded to more than 7,000 requests for services and support
- Served 837 individual survivors of domestic and sexual violence
- Housed 102 individuals in shelter for 5593 nights
- Assisted survivors with Civil Protection Orders (CPOs) 217 times
- Responded to 21 hospital outreaches
- Supported 100 individuals through the Holiday Assistance Program
- Created space for 142 survivors to attend support group

The Cocoon's programs and services are provided at no cost to survivors and their families no matter how much or how little support they need.

The Cocoon's programs and services include:

- Safety Planning and Risk Assessment
- Medical Advocacy
- Legal Advocacy
- Youth Advocacy
- Support Groups
- Campus-based Advocacy and Title IX Navigation
- Alternative Housing Navigation
- Case Management
- Basic Needs Assistance
- Food Security Assistance
- Safe Pets
- And more!

OUR PROGRAMS

At The Cocoon, our programs provide survivors with accessible, trauma-informed support on their journey to safety, healing, and justice. Every service we offer is designed to empower survivors, foster independence, and create a future free from violence.



Emergency Shelter

The Cocoon's emergency shelter offers immediate, short-term housing to all survivors, their children, and pets. We understand no one should have to choose between safety and staying with their loved ones. From the moment survivors arrive, our Shelter Advocates provide comprehensive support to help them rebuild their lives, regain self-confidence, and establish long-term stability.

- **Impact in 2024:** 102 survivors and their families found safety at the Cocoon's Emergency Shelter, escaping immediate danger and accessing lifesaving resources. Without these critical services, these individuals potentially faced on-going abuse, homelessness, or life-threatening harm.
- **Survivor Testimonial Quote:** "Making an environment where I could feel safe again. I now have a new apartment that will be my safe space. I know this program is here should I ever need it again."



Prevention & Education

The Cocoon is committed to ending violence before it begins. Through our Prevention and Education programming, we provide outreach to K-12 schools, local universities, businesses, and community organizations. Our team delivers educational presentations, professional training, and expert-led discussions to equip individuals with the knowledge and tools to recognize, prevent, and respond to violence.



Crisis Support

The Cocoon's advocates are available 24/7, providing confidential, trauma-informed crisis support whenever it is needed. Whether a survivor is fleeing an abusive situation, seeking emotional support, or navigating the complex steps of recovery, our team responds with urgency, empathy, and expertise to ensure they receive the care and resources they deserve.

- **Impact in 2024:** The Cocoon responded to more than 7,000 requests for support and services. Every call represented a survivor seeking safety, guidance, and hope. Without this program, thousands would have faced their crisis alone, without access to the critical support that can mean the difference between life and death.



Legal Access Program

The Cocoon's Legal Access Program, generously supported by The Wolfe Family Foundation, ensures that survivors are provided direct connections to legal counsel, guidance through legal proceedings, and court accompaniments. Without this program, many survivors would face the legal system alone, increasing their vulnerability and the likelihood of continued abuse. Access to legal advocacy not only empowers survivors but also decreases lethality by providing essential legal protections.

- **Impact in 2024:** The Cocoon's Legal Access Program successfully assisted survivors with 17 divorce/custody cases; 4 Civil Protection Orders; fees for three Guardian Ad Litem; filing fees for 3 court cases; transportation to and from 15 court hearings; and 1 mediation session.
- **Survivor Testimonial Quote:** "Because of the Legal Access Program, I was able to escape my abusive relationship. After experiencing a traumatic brain injury at the hands of my partner, I was unable to have a job, drive a car, and was drowning in debt that my abuser put in my name, while raising our two children. I was constantly stuck in severe trauma mode and had so many barriers, I didn't think I would be able to find safety or justice. Thanks to the support I received from The Cocoon and the Legal Access Program, I am safe, divorced from my abuser, have full custody of my children, and am working toward stability."



Criminal Justice Advocacy

The Cocoon's Criminal Justice Advocacy Program provides crucial, timely, and compassionate assistance to survivors navigating the complex and overwhelming justice system. The Criminal Justice Advocate acts as a dedicated liaison to local law enforcement, connects survivors to legal counsel, and offers guidance and emotional support throughout every stage of the legal and criminal justice process.

- **Impact in 2024:** The Cocoon served 35 survivors through our Criminal Justice Advocacy program. Without this program, many survivors would struggle to navigate the criminal justice system alone, increasing the risk of perpetrators evading accountability and survivors being re-traumatized in the process.



In-House Medical Program

The Cocoon's In-House Medical Program ensures that survivors have access to trauma-informed healthcare at no cost. By offering non-emergent medical care in a safe and supportive environment, we help survivors prioritize their physical and emotional well-being as they heal.



Mobile Health Advocacy

We recognize that access to medical advocacy and healthcare support is a crucial part of a survivor's healing journey. That's why our Mobile Health Advocacy Program was launched—to provide on-the-go advocacy, healthcare navigation, health education, and connections to essential medical and wellness services. Through individualized advocacy we can aid in making connections to primary health care, dental care, mental health services, assist in obtaining independent health insurance, and are dedicated to creating a network of trauma-informed, survivor-friendly physicians and professionals in our community.

- **Impact in 2024:** Vanisa Rodriguez, The Cocoon's Mobile Health Advocate states: "When survivors are going through their healing journey, they aren't thinking about their health, getting their annuals, or anything like that. They aren't always thinking of themselves. Through this program, I can help them in navigating the health system, get them connected to the care they need to meet their goals, and focus on medical sustainability."



Anti-Human Trafficking Program

The Cocoon expanded its services to include the Anti-Human Trafficking Program, a vital initiative designed to support survivors of human and sex trafficking. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by trafficking survivors, this program provides specialized advocacy, comprehensive case management, and direct support to help survivors regain control of their lives.

- **Impact in 2024:** The Cocoon's Anti-Human Trafficking Specialist provided direct support to 21 survivors, ensuring they had access to safe housing, legal assistance, healthcare, and other resources.



Safe Pets Program

The Cocoon's Safe Pets Program ensures that survivors do not have to make the heartbreaking decision between their own safety and the well-being of their beloved pets. Survivors can bring their household pets with them to our emergency shelter, providing them with the comfort and emotional support of their animals during a difficult time.

- **Impact in 2024:** The Cocoon helped provide shelter accommodations for 14 animals and facilitate foster care for one pet.



Youth Advocacy

Children who have witnessed or experienced trauma need specialized care and support to heal and thrive. The Cocoon's Youth Advocacy Program is dedicated to supporting these young survivors through a full-time Youth Advocate who works directly with children and their families. Our Youth Advocate partners with the parent/guardian's advocate to create a personalized healing plan for the entire family, ensuring that each child receives the emotional and practical support they need to recover.

- **Impact in 2024:** The Cocoon's Youth Advocacy Program supported 45 children, helping support improved family functioning, coordinating with school administrators and teachers, and creating opportunities for children to stay on track with academics, while processing their traumas.



Domestic Violence Advocacy

The Cocoon's Domestic Violence Advocacy Program provides timely, empathetic support to help survivors regain control over their lives. Our advocates work alongside survivors, offering a range of options and information to empower them to make the best choices for their unique circumstances. By walking with survivors every step of the way, our team helps ensure their success on the path to a life free from violence. And, Cocoon advocates are first responders to area hospitals to provide support to survivors following an assault.

- **Impact in 2024:** The Cocoon's Domestic Violence Advocacy Program assisted 457 survivors, providing crucial support at every stage of their recovery.
- **Survivor Testimonial:** "With the support I received from The Cocoon, I found the strength to rebuild my life and rediscover my self-worth."



Sexual Violence Advocacy

The Cocoon's Sexual Violence Advocacy Program provides compassionate, survivor-centered support for individuals who have experienced sexual assault, sex trafficking, stalking, and childhood sexual abuse, as well as other forms of sexual violence. And, The Cocoon advocates are first responders to area hospitals to provide support to survivors following an assault.

- **Impact in 2024:** The Cocoon's Sexual Violence Advocacy Program supported 44 survivors with the care, resources, and legal assistance necessary to move forward.
- **Survivor Testimonial:** "I am where I am today because of The Cocoon and the advocates there. I was being stalked while in college and I felt so isolated and terrified, and I was ready to drop out of college because of my fear. They provided not only practical assistance but also a compassionate ear, helping me regain my sense of safety and confidence. Thanks to their unwavering support, I was able to find justice and graduate."



Support Groups

The Cocoon's Support Groups provide a safe, confidential space where survivors can connect with others who have shared similar experiences. These groups foster healing, empowerment, and resilience, allowing survivors to process their experiences, develop healthy coping strategies, and build a strong support network within the community. Each support group is designed to meet the unique needs of survivors, offering peer support, guided discussions, and activities that encourage emotional growth and self-empowerment. Through facilitated conversations and shared experiences, survivors gain the strength to reclaim their voices and move forward on their healing journey. The Cocoon's Support Groups play a critical role in empowering survivors and participants report increased self-confidence, reduced isolation, and a stronger sense of community – key factors in long-term healing and recovery.

- **Survivor Testimonial:** "Every advocate was responsive and knowledgeable. My feelings were validated without judgment. Can't say enough good. Support group was amazing."



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

The Cocoon remains deeply committed to cultivating strong relationships with community partners and stakeholders throughout Wood County and the Northwest Ohio region. We work to create interactive and impactful avenues for education, prevention, outreach, and awareness; reinforcing our mission to prevent domestic and sexual violence while amplifying survivors' voices.

Our Commitment to Prevention and Education

- **Youth-Based Prevention:** Our Prevention Educator delivers evidence-based, age-appropriate programming to K–12 students throughout Wood County, equipping young people with the knowledge and tools to recognize abuse, foster healthy relationships, and stand up as active bystanders.

In 2024, The Cocoon reached 540 students across 3 school districts, helping to build a future free from violence.

- **College Student and Adult-Based Prevention:** We believe education is a lifelong tool in preventing violence and supporting survivors. In 2024, we facilitated engaging, trauma-informed, and survivor-centered trainings for adult community members, local businesses, and college students. Notable programs include:

Green Dot Trainings: In partnership with Bowling Green State University and the Center for Women and Gender Equity, we assisted in providing Bystander Intervention trainings to students, faculty, and staff, to empower participants with skills to prevent and respond to violence in their community.



Briar Hill residents donated handmade blankets and funds to assist with The Holiday Assistance Program.



Paint the Town Purple



Clothesline Project



Zoe



Rachel

What Were You Wearing?



What Were You Wearing?



Annual Silent Witness Event



2024 SAAM 5k and Dog Walk at BGSU



2024 Yarn Storming



Trauma Informed Care Training



CIT Training: The Cocoon supported facilitating Critical Incident Training for local law enforcement, increasing their understanding of trauma, survivor responses, and best practices when responding to emergencies.

Wood County Council on Aging Collaboration: We expanded outreach to include engaging senior citizens and staff at senior centers across the county.

Awareness

We proudly host and participate in events that spark dialogue, honor survivors, and educate the public about interpersonal violence. These efforts strengthen our local network of support and move our mission forward.

Campaigns

- **BGSU Yarn Storming:** A creative and educational campus-wide art installation with teal yarn pieces containing messages to survivors, facts and statistics, and resources for survivors.
- **“What Were You Wearing?” Exhibit:** A powerful installation that challenges victim-blaming rhetoric and explores the importance of consent through an interactive display that highlights stories of survivor’s sexual assaults.
- **The Wood County Clothesline Project:** The Cocoon connected with nearly 800 individuals during the 2024 Clothesline Project through displays in

April and October. The Wood County Clothesline Project is a collection of shirts made by local survivors and those impacted by domestic violence related homicides in an artistic and cathartic experience and was displayed in the middle of BGSU’s campus to spark conversations about the realities of violence.

- **Denim Day:** The Cocoon participated in the longest running international sexual violence awareness campaign, Denim Day!
- **Wood County Fair:** In August 2024, staff connected with over 950 community members at the Wood County Fair, providing information, activities, and resources on available services.
- **Holiday Assistance Program:** In 2024, nearly 50 families supported by The Cocoon received gifts and support during the holiday season thanks to generous sponsors and community donors.



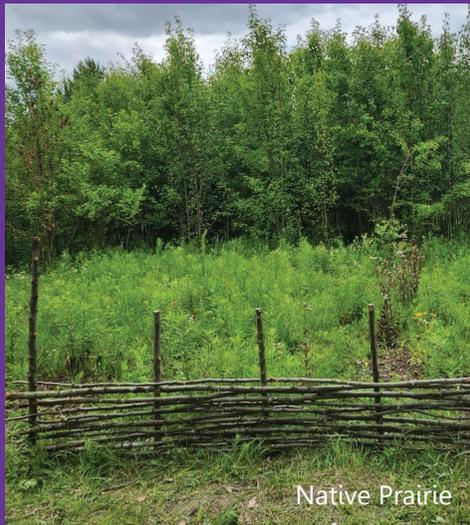
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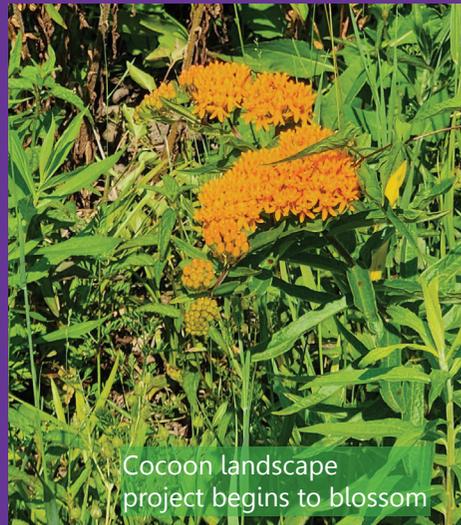
2024 Take Back the Night March at BGSU



North Baltimore Trunk-or-Treat



Native Prairie



Cocoon landscape project begins to blossom



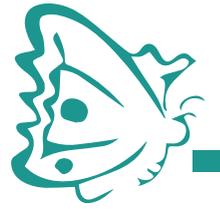
Farmers' Market



Briar Hill Trunk-or-Treat



North Baltimore Holiday Event



2024 MILESTONES & ACHIEVEMENTS

The Cocoon Launches In-House Medical Program

This year, we proudly launched our In-House Medical Program, expanding our commitment to holistic, survivor-centered care. Through this program, clients now have direct access to essential medical services on-site, removing barriers to healthcare and ensuring timely, trauma-informed support. This critical addition strengthens our continuum of care and reflects our ongoing dedication to meeting survivors' needs with dignity and compassion.

ZiggyZooms Transportation Partnership

Through a new collaboration with ZiggyZooms and BGSU, survivors now have access to free, trauma-informed transportation to local hospitals following a sexual assault. The ZiggyZooms team underwent extensive training with Cocoon staff to ensure sensitive and respectful service delivery.

Dog Run Installation

We proudly opened an outdoor dog run for shelter residents and their pets. This healing space enhances survivor well-being and peace of mind. Special thanks to First Presbyterian Churches of Perrysburg and Bowling Green, Maumee Valley Presbytery, Bowling Green Rotary, Perrysburg Rotary Community Foundation, Portage Valley 4-H Club, and Eagle Scout Zachary Clement for making this project possible.

The Return of Take Back the Night (TBNT)

In April 2024, we partnered with BGSU to bring TBNT back to Bowling Green for the first time since 2017. Over 130 participants gathered to protest sexual violence and uplift survivors.

Expanding Services to Support Survivors of Human Trafficking

We added a dedicated Anti-Human Trafficking Specialist to meet the complex needs of survivors, offering case management, advocacy, and education to strengthen community awareness and support.

Expanding Healing Spaces through Native Prairie and Mindfulness Space

With volunteer support from many local civic and student groups as well as companies who encourage volunteerism, we have created a native prairie and an enhanced outdoor space for survivors and staff that encourages connection with nature, mindfulness, grounding and self-care. This project was made possible by an anonymous donor and the direction and dedication of volunteer landscapers Chris and Randy Haar.

Administrative Office Renovations Underway

Renovations began to transform our facility into a comprehensive, one-stop hub for shelter and community-based services. Once complete, the enhanced space will improve service delivery, accessibility, and internal collaboration.

INVESTING IN A SAFER TOMORROW

Since opening our doors in 2005 as an emergency shelter for survivors of domestic violence and their children, The Cocoon has undergone significant transformations to become Wood County's only comprehensive domestic and sexual violence advocacy agency and emergency shelter.

As we reflect on a successful 2024 and prepare to honor our milestone 20th anniversary in 2025, we re-commit to ensuring that all survivors have access to the safety, healing, and justice they deserve. But we aren't stopping there. Our goals for 2025 and beyond include:

- **Linkages** to ensure that survivors have access to onsite healing support such as yoga, meditation, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, early childhood development screenings, and more.
- **Children's Programming** to increase support for children experiencing emotional and/or behavioral difficulties due to the exposure of trauma and violence, promoting resilience and healing.
- **Prevention** to build a community-wide foundation to prevent domestic and sexual violence. We commit to continue creating and solidifying partnerships with area school districts, colleges, and area businesses, to provide the knowledge and skills to prevent and eradicate violence.
- **Anti-Human Trafficking Advocacy** to strengthen partnerships and community training to better identify trafficking and provide survivors with timely, appropriate resources.
- **Criminal Justice Advocacy** to increase access to advocates within local law enforcement and courts to improve domestic and sexual violence case outcomes and survivor safety.
- **Completed Renovations** Finalizing our facility's transformation to unify all services under one roof, ensuring accessible, coordinated care for every survivor who walks through our doors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FINANCIALS

Income

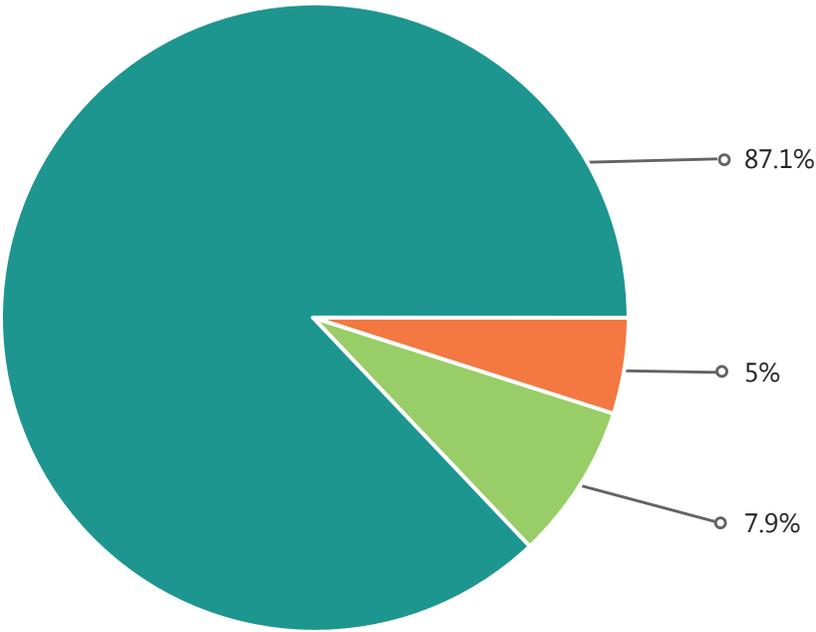


The Cocoon is a 501(c)3 organization.



Expenses

- Program Services
- Management and General
- Fundraising





24/7 Crisis Support:
419-373-1730, option 2



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