

# OPENING DOORS FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME SINCE 1972

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

# Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Crime Victim Center,

I am pleased to share the Crime Victim Center's Annual Report with our partners, supporters, and friends. The Annual Report reflects the many changes we have had at the Crime Victim Center in 2020. Our two biggest changes were navigating our services in the world of the COVID-19 pandemic and a change in leadership. In August 2020, I was very happy to accept the position of Executive Director and I have enjoyed re-establishing relationships with our key stakeholders, staff, volunteers, and clients.

Before my arrival, the hard-working staff of the Crime Victim Center had to move quickly in offering our services through a virtual capacity. Our advocates, counselors, and legal staff have made the adjustments needed in order to continue to serve those impacted by crime. In particular, our counseling department has seen great success with virtual counseling and we will continue to allow for this option moving forward.

In 2020, we were able to help more than 7,000 people through counseling, legal assistance, and victim advocacy. We could not have served as many as we did without the assistance of our volunteers and interns.

What has not changed you might ask? Our commitment to the community and to the clients that we serve. At CVC, we look forward to continuing our work with community partners and building more relationships with partners in order to strive for a safer tomorrow for the St. Louis Region. Thank you for your continued support!

Katie Datton

Executive Director Crime Victim Center



### Leadership

### **Our Staff**

Katie, Executive Director **Peggy**, Director of Clinical Services Katie, Managing Attorney Hope, Director of Advocacy Programs Meghan, Director of Grants & Volunteers Beth, Counselor Kat, Youth Counselor **Renee**, Client Services Manager **Taylor**, Victim Advocate Rashma, Victim Advocate **Bri**, Victim Advocate Erin, Victim Advocate Sheila, Victim Advocate Asia, Youth Victim Advocate Sydney, Gun Violence Response Network Advocate

### **Board of Directors**

Julie Lawson, President, Sentient Strategy Jami Ake, Ph.D, MSW, Washington University Matt Bates, BJC Healthcare Alison Bischoff, AAA Missouri Charla Claypool, Esq, Lewis Rice, LLC Melissa Eiswirth, Bayer Cheryl Kelly, Esq., Thompson Coburn, LLP Julie Lay, American Heart Association Kristen Mueller, BJC Healthcare Odessa Weatherford-Jacobs, Harris Stowe State University Andrew Young, St. Louis University Theresa Bible, Community Voluteer

### **Our Volunteers**

In 2020, 31 direct service volunteers, contributed over 4,472 hours of time to Crime Victim Center.

Thank you for all the hard work our board, staff, and volunteers put forth this year!

### We could not accomplish our mission without you!

### Departments

#### Counseling

Licensed counselors and social workers who provide trauma-specific interventions including person- centered therapy, complex grief counseling, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, and Hypnotherapy. Counseling is available to adult, youth over 10, and families

#### **Community Engagement**

Focus areas include special events, community awareness, and educational trainings. Upon request, Crime Victim Center will provide outreach to schools, police departments, court personnel, and other agencies. Training topics include agency assistance, victims' rights, effects of trauma, and effectively working with crime victims.

#### Victim Advocacy

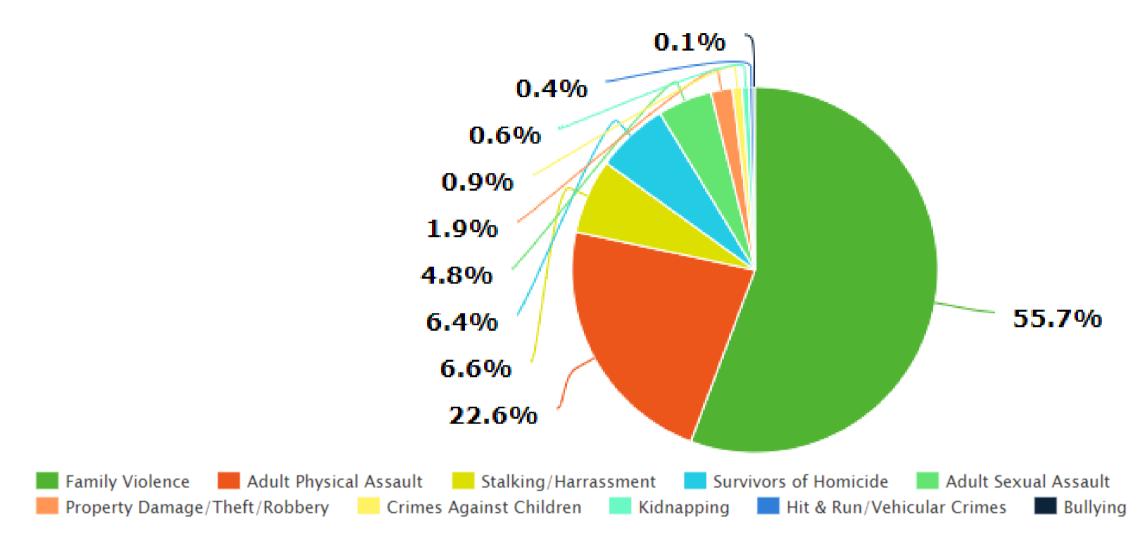
Programs that provide crisis intervention, case management, assistance with filing court orders, help with Missouri Victims' Compensation, education on the civil/criminal justice program, and referrals. Our satellite offices within the St. Louis City and County police departments and courthouses assist victims of intimate partner violence, homicide, non-fatal gun violence, and families in crisis.

#### Legal Assistance

Program that addresses the needs of victims who are indigent and underserved by providing services that combine expertise in domestic violence issues, including legal advocacy, safety planning, legal referrals, and legal representation for Orders of Protection.

### Who We Serve

### **TYPES OF CRIME SERVED**

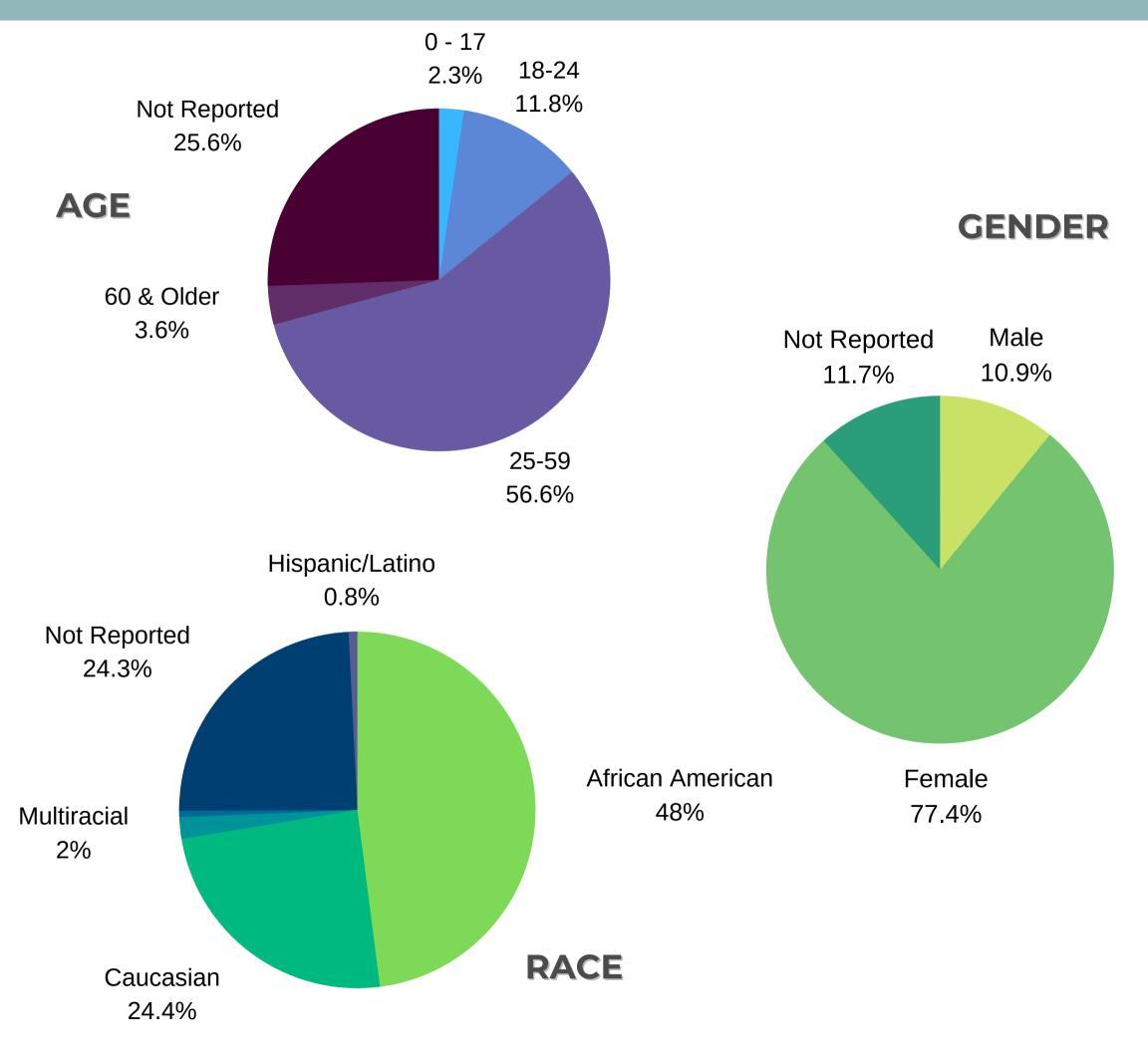


#### According to the numbers, virtual Counseling works!

#### Below is data comparing 2020 to 2019:

10% increase in attended appointments | 48% decrease in missed appointments | 11% decrease in cancelled appointments

### Who We Serve



### **Our Impact**

160 appearances in court by our Managing Attorney

2,144 hours of therapy provided

638 clients received assistance in filing for an Order of Protection 8,252 clients served in 2020

576 clients helped with state Victims' Compensation

1,002 clients served through <u>new</u> community partnerships

Gun Violence Response Network Bullet Related Injury Clinic

Neighborhood Healing Network,

76 hours of youth therapy provided

## **Client Stories**

Amy called the COPA City office on a Monday afternoon in a state of panic and crisis, as she was at the hospital for the third time dealing with complications from her sexual assault by her child's father earlier that month. Amy said she got our phone number from the Victim Services at the St. Louis City Circuit Attorney's office with whom she was working with for the criminal charges that came as a result of the sexual assault.

Amy was disheartened, sad, and feeling frustrated because when she tried to enforce the Order of Protection she had filed after the assault, the police informed her she was not granted any temporary protections prior to her upcoming hearing. Amy expressed feelings of helplessness and suicide.

Amy gave Erin permission to talk to the social worker at the hospital about her suicidal ideations in order to ensure Amy was safe and getting the best help possible. In addition, Erin was able to get Amy connected to the Crime Victim Center Legal Help Line to discuss securing representation on her Order of Protection case, as well as a private attorney who represents victims of crime in the Criminal Justice System. Lastly, Erin connected Amy with ALIVE, a local non-profit, who was able to assist Amy with confidential shelter services.

Amy said she was feeling better and was finally discharged from the hospital three days later. Amy was also able to secure representation for her Order of Protection case and stated she was feeling more hopeful after being connected to these supports.

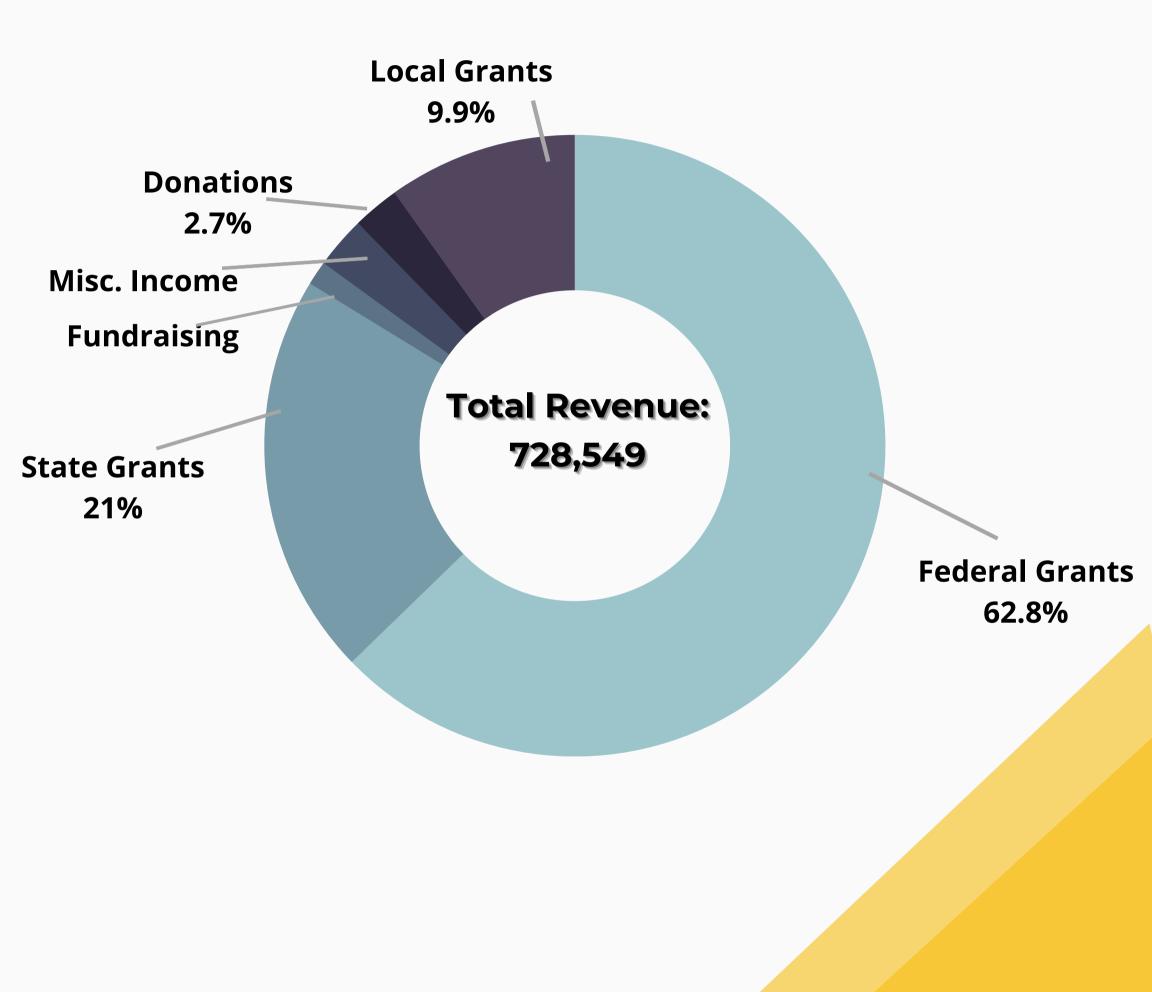
Victoria called in August of 2020 asking about the Missouri Crime Victims' Compensation Program because her child was a victim of gun violence and was unfortunately murdered within one of our service areas.

Victoria had heard about our services through a friend. Our Special Victims' Advocate, Rashma, explained to Victoria that she needed the police report number from the incident in order to apply for state compensation. Victoria had no idea how to do this and was clearly in the middle of a crisis and much distress, so Rashma reached out to the respective police department and obtained the police report number for Victoria.

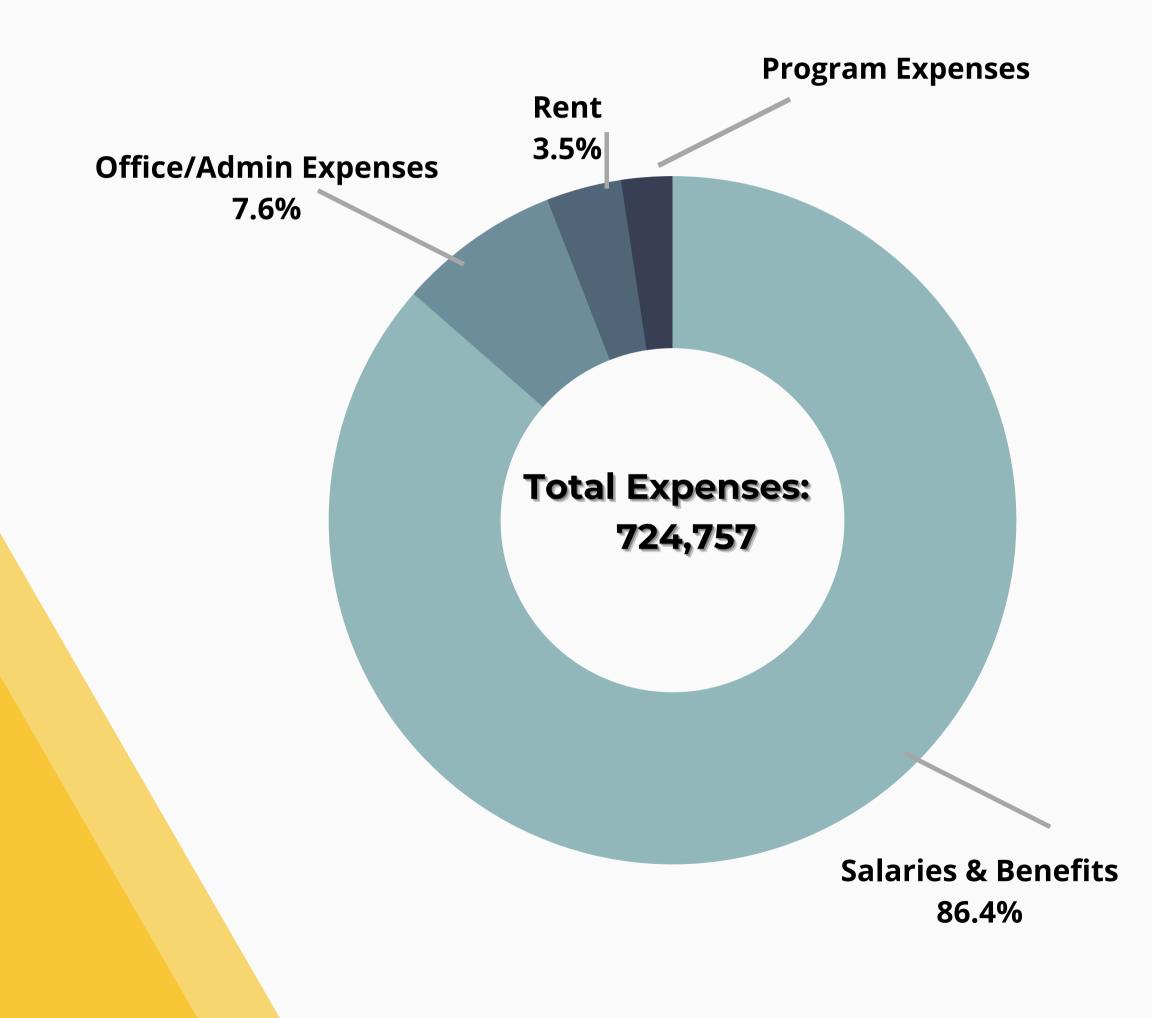
Rashma then walked Victoria through the entire Missouri Victims' Compensation application, as well as what additional documents needed to be gathered and submitted. Victoria was able to successfully file her application and three months later received compensation to assist with the funeral costs of her child.

When the final follow-up call was made, Victoria stated that her services were well met. She informed us that all follow-up calls were very much appreciated and assisted her in her journey to healing, and she confirmed that she would call if she ever needed victim advocacy assistance again. During that same final follow-up call, Victoria inquired about CVC's counseling program - Rashma informed her that she qualified for our counseling services due to being a secondary victim of crime, and then connected her with our Director of Clinical Services to schedule a counseling appointment.

# **Revenue Report**



# **Expense Report**













### GUN VIOLENCE IS A Human Rights Issue

Gun Violence Awareness Month 2020

























### Donors

Aileen Curtin Alesha's Big & Boujee Boutique Alexander Haas Alexandra Aulino All About Skin Amy's Cake Shop & Boozy Bites Andi Harpring Andrew Ritter Andrew Young Angela Summers Asia McKenzie Audra Zaben Barbara Pohl Barbara Santoro Bayer Employee Match Program Becca Kunce **Bettisworth & Assosciates** Brooke Moore Cardinals Care Foundation Chad Baker **Civil Alchemy** COTT STL Debbie Croghan Drew Young Eileen Pacino Elizabeth Pawloski **Emily Anderson Emily Anderson** Erin Pohl Frank Chamblin Garden District STL Growe, Eisen, Karlen, Eilerts Attorneys at Law

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# **Agency Partners & Memberships**

**Bullet Related Injury Clinic** City of St. Louis Circuit Attorney- Victim Services Unit City of St Louis - Department of Public Safety City of St. Louis Department of Health Homicide, Ministers, and Community Alliance St. Louis Court Watch Leadership Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Missouri Crime Victims' Compensation Program Missouri Department of Corrections Board of Probation & Parole Missouri Department of Social Services Missouri Victim Assistance Network St. Louis Field Education Collaborative National Custody Strategy Network UMSL Campus Coordinated Response Team

Missouri Bar Family Law Remote Access Committee--Order of Protection Subgroup Missouri Bar Association National Alliance of Grieving Children National Organization for Victim Assistance Neighborhood Healing Network St. Louis Anti-Violence Project St. Louis City Family Violence Council St. Louis County Family Violence Council St. Louis Community Foundation St. Louis County Police Department Family Court of St. Louis County St. Louis City Juvenile Court St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney-Victim Services Division St. Louis Ending Domestic and Sexual Violence Network St. Louis Queer+ Support Helpline (SQSH) St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department St. Louis Violence Prevention Collaborative

The Crime Victim Center empowers people impacted by crime to move from crisis to resiliency, and reduces the negative impact of crime on individuals and the community.

Proud member of

United Way of Greater St. Louis



The Crime Victim Center has been a proud member agency of the United Way since 1998. During this time their support has helped provide services to more than 20,000 victims. Please support the United Way so they can continue to make a difference in our community.