



THE
INCREDIBLE
NEWS
VOYAGE



2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Growth Powered by Love



NEWS TAKES FLIGHT

This year represents a year of amazing growth for the NEWS organization, our staff, and our clients. We are doing wonderful work and the community is feeling our impact. Each department is a cog in this incredible machine that is powered by love and taking NEWS to new heights. For our clients, every part of the NEWS voyage represents a step toward freedom and real love.



**24 HOUR HELP LINE
707.255.NEWS (6397)**

In FY 2022-2023 NEWS advocates answered **2,940 calls to our emergency Help Line.**

Dear Friends of NEWS,

Imagine yourself on a road to nowhere, broken down, stuck, scared, and with no power or control. This is how many of our clients come to us. Their life's journey has become an entanglement of abuse and fear. They have no resources, are probably close to being homeless, and usually have children they are terribly worried about.

Now, how would you feel if you were picked up, given a safe place for you and your kids to stay, food, clothing, and a person to help you to make a plan for yourself? Trauma Informed means that you get to make your own decisions. You get to select what road you will take. You have the power. Every step of the way, someone is there to help you with crisis intervention, court accompaniment, housing, counseling, sexual abuse services, children and youth resources.

Everything you need to begin your new life voyage is embodied in that multi-faceted vehicle . . .and that vehicle is NEWS.

I ask you to take a look at our journey for the past year, from the view of our clients, advocates, volunteers, and the community. We have seen a lot of growth, made a lot of changes, and found our way to make the best possible experience for our clients.

We invite you to join us on this incredible NEWS voyage!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Lamb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tracy Lamb,
Executive Director

About NEWS

NEWS is honored to provide domestic violence and sexual abuse advocacy services throughout Napa County. Recognized as a distinguished and well respected nonprofit organization, we believe that the pathways out of violence can be as individual as the people we serve. Our innovative programs and services reflect that belief.

Over 42 years, we have grown and expanded services to address the whole person. We offer resources to help survivors sustain lives free from violence.

Our team is grounded in the values of dignity and respect, both for those we serve and for ourselves. We are committed to continually working toward reducing domestic violence and sexual abuse, promoting healthy relationships, and building a violence free community for all.



Mission

NEWS is dedicated to providing safety, hope, healing and empowerment for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. Equally, NEWS is committed to promoting safe communities and social change through prevention, intervention, education, and advocacy.

 NEWS does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment.

SERVICES

NEWS Safe House

is a confidential house located in a residential neighborhood

24-Hour Help Line

provides confidential bilingual support from trained DV/SA counselors

Support Groups

offers bilingual counseling to DV survivors by a licensed therapist

Kids Exposed to Domestic Violence Services

supports the needs of the children of DV survivors

Court Advocacy

helps with filing protective orders and accompanying DV victims to court

Sexual Assault Victims Services

supports victims of sexual abuse, including court accompaniment and interviews

Domestic Violence Response Team

Sexual Assault Response Team

utilize volunteers to respond 24/7 to victims at the request of law enforcement

Housing and Self-Sufficiency

assists clients in finding safe, affordable housing

Volunteer Program

provides training to community members to become DV/SA counselors

Prevention, Outreach and Education

provides prevention and education programs to youth and the community

CLIENTS

NEWS would like to take you along on the voyage of a NEWS client. As you can see, it isn't just services. It is care, comfort, friendship, and strength. Our advocates are with a client every step of the way, letting the client lead, but offering support at every turn.

If you were a NEWS client, you would have:

- ✿ A warm voice on the phone and a helping hand when you are scared and alone.
- ✿ A comfortable bedroom in a secluded neighborhood home where you feel safe and secure.
- ✿ A reassuring voice while you go through a sexual assault exam, and a new set of clothes to wear home.
- ✿ A new phone so you can communicate privately with your advocate.
- ✿ Therapy and healthy relationship counseling for your child for a strong start back to school.
- ✿ Help with the cost of a car repair so you can get yourself to work reliably.
- ✿ A friendly greeting and help filing court documents, along with someone to go with you for support.
- ✿ Move in costs covered, and help with rent, for a welcoming new apartment with a warm bed and furnished kitchen.
- ✿ A support group of caring faces to keep you going when you have bumps along the way.
- ✿ **And a new life, free from violence.**

Journal



I'm so proud of myself! I just finished school! There was a time not so long ago when I didn't know if my children and I would see tomorrow, and to look back at that now, it feels like a completely different life. I'm proud not only of my accomplishment and the hard work I put in, but in the example I am setting for my children. Instead of putting up with abuse, they see me standing up for myself. Instead of admitting defeat, they see me getting up every day and trying again. Instead of violence, they see love - boundless love. For all of that, I am proud, and very grateful for the foundation that NEWS helped me find, to get me back on my own two feet.

~ Jenna, NEWS Client

Milestones



56 adults and **40** children found refuge in our confidential Safe House

We guaranteed that **237** sexual assault survivors had confidential and unbiased survivor support services

126 children gained an ally in their journey to overcoming the effects of their exposure to DV

90% of households experienced increased housing security, preventing families from becoming homeless

FULLY STAFFED ADVOCATES

The post-COVID-19 job market made finding the right people difficult. We were growing fast and adding positions to meet the need. NEWS staff are very special people with deep compassion and willingness to do hard emotional work. We were challenged last year, not being fully staffed. But, our amazing staff were able to meet the needs of our clients. We worked “smarter, not harder,” and ended up providing 20% more services to the 1,800 clients served this year compared to last year.

Not only have we been able to finally fill all of our positions with caring individuals, but we were also able to implement several self-care tools for our staff to help them with the mental stress of working with adults and children in crisis. We keep an upbeat family culture where everyone is willing to help each other and jump in when necessary.

NEWS has 35 employees at three different locations: our administrative office, our emergency Shelter, and at the Monarch Justice Center, all working toward self sustainability and violence-free lives for our clients.

“I know my services were successful because we used our skills to empower and restore autonomy to our clients.”

~ Erika, NEWS Community Response Program Manager



Milestones

1,797 survivors, including children, gained support to live a life free from violence

Advocates provided **20%** more services than last year as clients' needs were more complex

NEWS' staff grew by **10%** to meet the increasing needs of survivors in our community



Journal

“With a fully staffed team, meaning increased capacity, we hope to increase our monthly case load for the court advocacy department from 20 cases to 30+ per month.”

~ Erika, NEWS Community Response Program Manager

“One of the best things that happened for our program last year was acquiring a new sexual assault advocate. She offers a unique perspective working with children on the domestic violence side of our agency. Domestic violence and sexual assault go hand in hand unfortunately, so having a broad range of understanding is important.”

~ Christina NEWS Sexual Assault Victim Serves Program Manager



VOLUNTEERS

We would like to feature the significance of our trained volunteers who create a safe environment for survivors. It's vital to acknowledge the immense empathy and resilience required for roles related to domestic violence and sexual assault support. However, the rewards are immeasurable, as these volunteers contribute to building a community free from violence.

If you were a NEWS Volunteer, you would:

- ✿ Attend 65 hours of training to ensure you are equipped to help survivors in the field
- ✿ Meet a victim of sexual assault at the hospital and hold their hand while they are being examined
- ✿ Bring a bag of clothes to the hospital because the victim's clothes will be taken as evidence
- ✿ Offer a calming conversation while the victim waits for nurses and law enforcement
- ✿ Respond to a Help Line call of domestic violence and meet law enforcement at the victim's home
- ✿ Secure the victim a hot meal and a safe hotel room for the night

We recently had a client, who had stayed with us when she had young children, come back to NEWS as a volunteer. She had gone back to school after her shelter stay and now had a great job working in the social services field. She wanted to use her experience and education to help other women who were going through what she had once gone through.

~ Sarah, NEWS Shelter Program Manager



Journal

“Through the weekly training sessions, we were given many opportunities to explore our knowledge, question our assumptions and engage in safe role playing. The interaction between our classmates also reinforced and strengthened our skill set. At the end of the training, we all felt a little anxious about our abilities, as it is when you learn any new skill. However, the staff from the various areas of responsibilities assured us that we were equipped to provide caring and supportive assistance.”

~ Nadine, NEWS Volunteer



Milestones

Our pool of 18 volunteers guaranteed 24/7 response to 134 emergency DV and SA incidents

Requests to respond to a sexual abuse incident increased by 200% compared to last year

Volunteers donated 3,300 hours of their time to helping survivors in a crisis

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

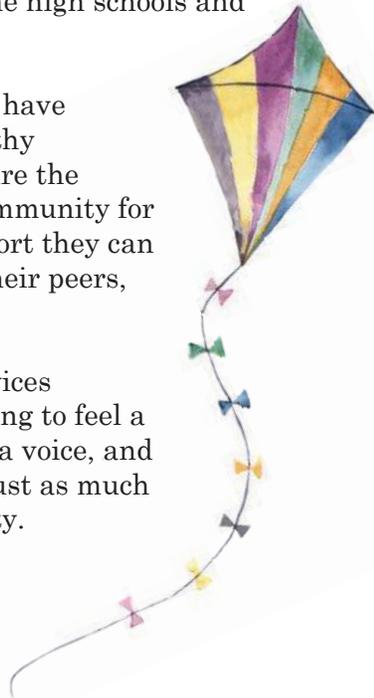
Reaching out to the community and letting them know about our services is one of the most important aspects of our work. We teach them what abuse is, the options that they have, and that they don't have to live in fear.

We work very hard to attend many community events handing out information and items with our contact information. We have an extensive website and active social media platforms and many ways for people to get in contact with us.

Prevention education is very important for catching abuse before it escalates into something life-threatening. This is why we are so proud of our work in the high schools and middle schools.

We empower young people to have a voice and stand up for healthy relationships. Young people are the future, and will shape our community for years to come. With our support they can also become young allies to their peers, friends, and family members.

In our Youth Prevention Services program, no person is too young to feel a sense of empowerment, have a voice, and create change. They matter just as much as any adult in our community.

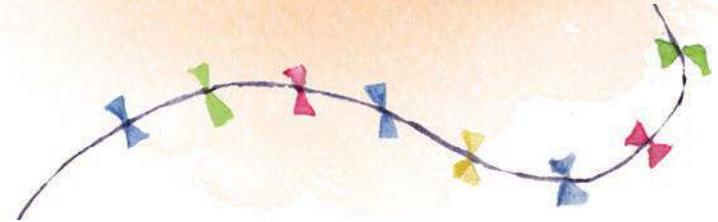


Milestones



Youth prevention advocates reached **3,599** young people on 13 middle and high school campuses about healthy relationships, boundaries, and consent

More than **8,000** individuals from American Canyon to Calistoga gained valuable knowledge about our services



Journal

"During my school presentations, I speak about NEWS services, healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, types of abuse, relationship rights, how to obtain support, etc. The day after one of my presentations we had a parent call our 24/7 Help Line. On the call they stated that their child had received information about our services and encouraged them to call. The student became the ally the parent needed to leave a long-term abusive relationship. The parent left the home that same day, and eventually moved into our Safe House. I provided emotional support and words of encouragement to the student, while NEWS advocates offered counseling, housing, and sustainability support.

~ Carla, NEWS Youth Prevention Services Program Manager

FUEL

Our Supporters

Government Partners

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services | City of Napa | City of Napa Police Department | Napa County | Mental Health Services Act in Napa County | United Way Bay Area | U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women

Foundations

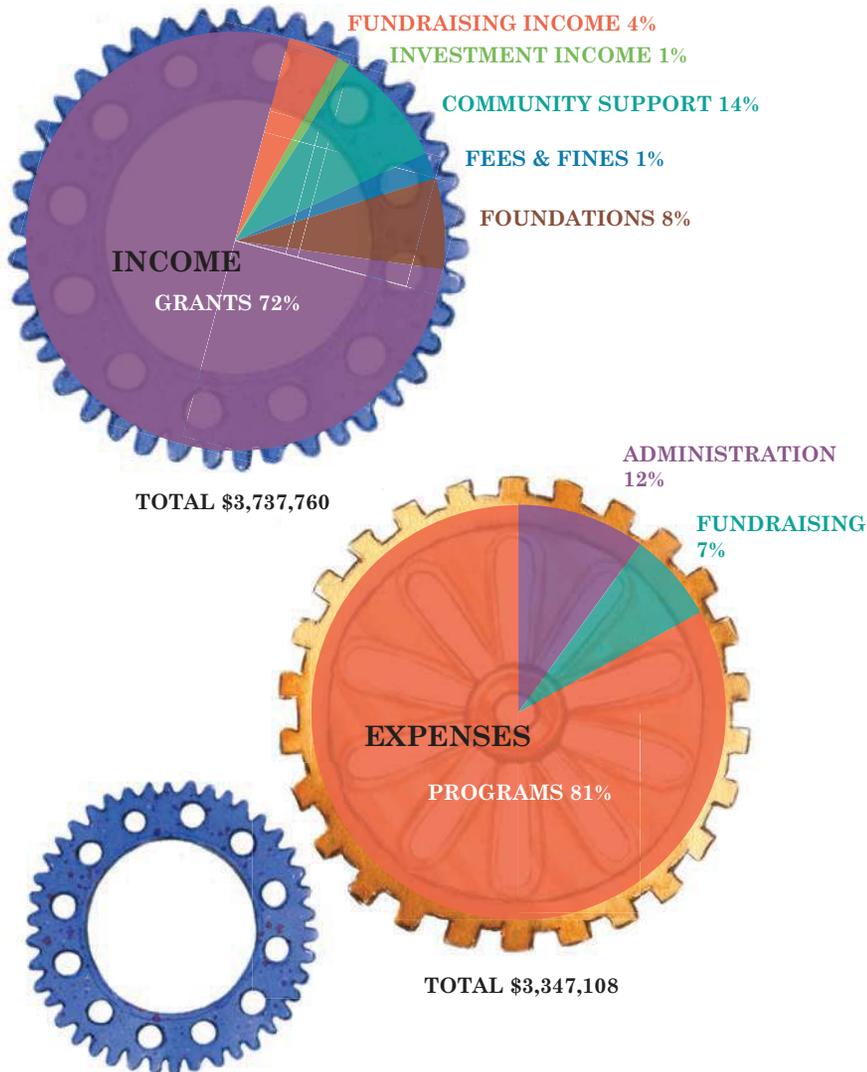
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NEWS Community Champions

F&M Bank – Universal Prevention Ally



Journal

COBRA THE SNAIL



"We waited 2 years for this trial.

My client, Emma, is 10 years old now and, along with her mother, was flown out here from another state to testify against a family member for sexual assault. I was so proud to watch her hold her own in that court room especially against a particularly tough attorney. She explained that she has always used big words and learned it from movies like Legally Blonde. Even rolling her eyes at the defendant when he dared to look at her on the stand.*

When we went to lunch on the first day, she found a snail on the walk over. We got a container to put him in and made a small habitat. Well, that little snail accompanied us to court for three days, and the morning they were getting finished with testimony, Emma asked me to keep the snail named "Cobra" for her. I took the little habitat back to my office and now Cobra is sitting on my desk in his new home. She also gave me written instructions on how to best care for him. She had a hard time saying goodbye and cried our entire walk back to the DA's office so they could be driven to the airport.

I wanted to share the extra little moments that we encounter when working with our Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS) families, especially during long trials. We had a lot of time together and it makes me feel so grateful to be able to share these moments with our clients. I hope Emma remembers the adventures we had during her time here, so it helps with the difficult memories of the trial."

~ Christina, NEWS SAVS Program Manager

*name changed for confidentiality

Milestones

MONARCH JUSTICE CENTER

NEWS continues to be a key partner of the Monarch Justice Center, the family justice center for Napa County. Alongside the Napa Police Department, Napa County District Attorney Victim Services Division, and other local government and nonprofit service providers, NEWS has a vital role in providing services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in this collaborative space.

Monarch offers a holistic, one-stop shop for victims of crime, including elder abuse and human trafficking, in addition to domestic and sexual violence. NEWS has four DV/SA Counselors located on-site at Monarch who provide court advocacy and work in tandem with the Napa Police Department's DV Detective. And, our Sexual Assault Advocates respond to children's interviews at the Children's Advocacy Center, which is on-site at Monarch.

This year, NEWS took on a leadership role within Monarch, assuming additional programmatic and operational responsibilities on behalf of the cooperative. We serve as the administrative backbone of Monarch, acting as its fiscal agent. We are honored to offer our expertise to this initiative as Monarch serves victims of crime in our community.



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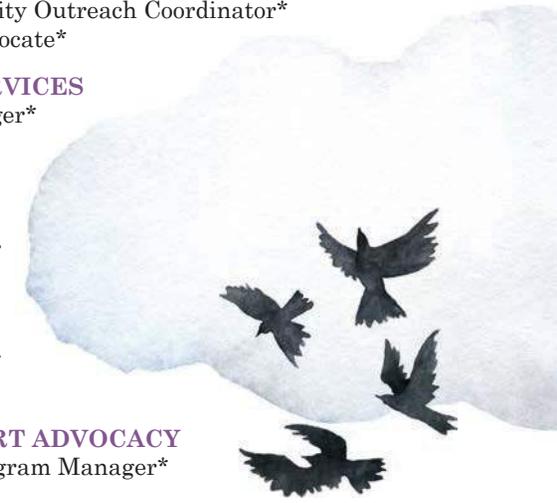
COMMUNITY RESPONSE/COURT ADVOCACY

Erika C., Community Response Program Manager*
Emily P., Court Advocate*
Ashley C., Court Advocate*
Angelica V., Court Advocate*
Yesica V., LESU and Court Advocate*

MONARCH JUSTICE CENTER

Shea Hunter, MJC Director
Yunuel P., Service Navigator*
Sally H., Receptionist

*Bilingual





NEWS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ABUSE SERVICES

NURTURING EMPOWERMENT WORTH SAFETY



Show NEWS your support and make a donation! Your contribution is the fuel that drives us. Help a family today.

Scan the QR code above and click on the link to be taken directly to our easy donation page.

**24 HOUR HELP LINE
707.255.NEWS (6397)**

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www.NapaNEWS.org



In accordance with the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (426 U.S.C. 10401 et seq.), NEWS does not mandate participation in supportive services as a condition of shelter residency or emergency services. Therefore, NEWS services are completely voluntary and require the consent of an individual in order to provide services.