

40



Denton County  
Friends of the Family

1980-2020

2020  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



SAFETY, HOPE, HEALING, JUSTICE, PREVENTION

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# OUR MISSION



**At Denton County Friends of the Family we are dedicated to providing compassionate, comprehensive services to those impacted by rape, sexual abuse, and domestic violence, while partnering with our community to promote safety, hope, healing, justice and prevention.**

# OUR STORY

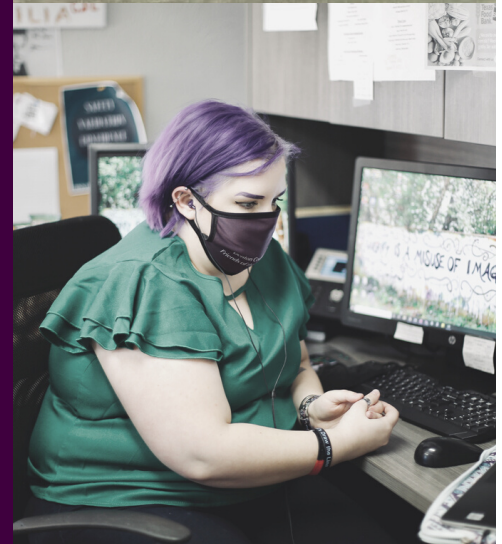


Denton County Friends of the Family (DCFOF) is a grassroots organization that was founded in 1980 and began with a staff of two, 32 volunteers, a 900-square foot shelter, and \$10,000 in funding. In 40 years the agency has grown to a staff of 75, hundreds of active volunteers, a 4,400-square foot shelter, and over 5 million dollars in funding. Our team is dedicated to providing compassionate, comprehensive services to those impacted by rape, sexual abuse, and domestic violence while partnering with the community to promote safety, hope, healing, justice, and prevention.

Throughout the years, the agency has remained true to its purpose and mission and operates a variety of programs and services to meet the needs of those seeking assistance.

Our agency serves over 4,000 individuals a year through the following programs and services: a 24-hour crisis line, a 32-bed emergency shelter, adult counseling, child and adolescent counseling, transitional housing, a food pantry, Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP), legal services, case management and advocacy, a thrift store, hospital accompaniment, and involvement in the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program. In addition, our team of experts provide structured community education to over 23,000 students and community members annually.

Today, DCFOF remains the sole provider, in Denton County, of shelter and free comprehensive services to victims of sexual and domestic violence. DCFOF receives funding from federal, state, and local government agencies, United Way of Denton County and Metropolitan Dallas, corporations, foundations, groups, and individuals. We look forward to the carefully designed expansion of existing programs and new initiatives to increase awareness of DCFOF services as we strive to make a difference for those we serve.



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# Board of Directors



[DCFOF.ORG/BOARD-MEMBERS](http://DCFOF.ORG/BOARD-MEMBERS)



**NANCY HUMPHRIES**  
1ST VICE CHAIR



**SUSAN STOUT**  
CHAIR



**LISA STANLEY PHD**  
2ND VICE CHAIR

**Secretary:** Susan Enck

**Treasurer:** Brandon Reed

**Board Development:** Landon Ellison

Ashley Adebogun  
Pat Cheek  
Gene Cherrnay  
Deborah Cosimo PhD  
Kim Guertler  
Larry Schneider

Rodney D. Neimuth  
Jared Julian JD  
Dale Yeatts PhD  
Linda Marshall PhD  
Patricia Rodriguez  
Rhonda Love

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# A Message From Our Executive Director



Thank you for taking time to learn about our agency. 2020 was a significant year, not only for us as an agency, but also for the world. 2020 marked our 40th year of service to Denton County, and it is thanks to compassionate hearts like yours that Friends of the Family is where it is today.

When the agency was founded in 1980, society told us that domestic violence was a "private matter." As community members, we would have been told to look away from the violence that was happening around us. The message might have been that victims would have to continue to suffer in silence.

That is not the world we live in today. We owe those changes to people like you.

This past year brought a greater awareness of what goes on behind closed doors. And though the world was staying home, we were here answering the call to serve the community in new ways, while never wavering from our commitment to compassionate, comprehensive services.

Every time I pick up my phone and it is a local business owner, or church member, or Rotary Club representative, that wants to help our clients heal, it brings me hope. This year was no different. It is through our collective grassroots efforts that we will continue to bring safety, hope, healing, justice, and prevention to those that need it most.

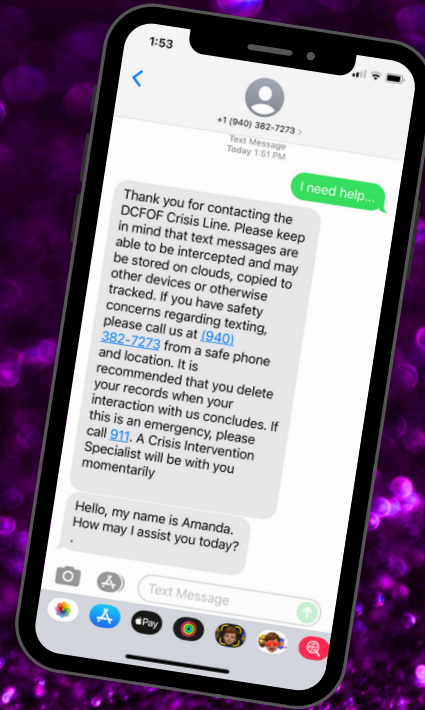
I thank each of you for rising to the occasion to make a difference in our community!

## Toni Johnson-Simpson

Toni Johnson-Simpson, MSW – Executive Director – Since 2005 Ms. Johnson-Simpson has served in the role of Executive Director. She has provided leadership, education and oversight to all aspects of the agency. In partnership with the Board of Directors and the community, she has worked to provide continuous, comprehensive services to those in the community who have been impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault.



# 2020 BIG WINS



## DENTON COUNTY FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY SUCCESSES

As the Pandemic accelerated in March 2020, DCFOF created a text function for the crisis line. Creating a text option was in response to the significant rise in requests for assistance from those who were isolated due to quarantining and may have been experiencing domestic violence. Now, if a victim has a phone and is unable to speak, that individual may text the crisis line 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, 365-days a year at **940-382-7273**.

### Events

In February 2020, DCFOF featured "An Evening Of Raised Awareness" at Denton Community Theater. The focus of the event was sharing information about and raising awareness of domestic violence within the African-American Community.

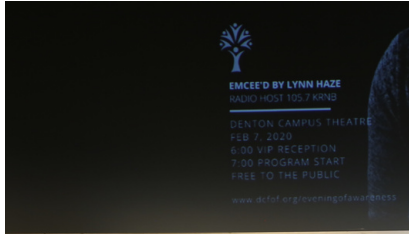
As the Pandemic cases and concerns began to rise in March 2020, DCFOF made the decision to cancel all in-person events for the remainder of the year.

The first virtual event was held in October 2020. DCFOF celebrated 40 years of compassionate and comprehensive services with a Virtual Gala!

Throughout the year, clients remained the focus as all operations were moved online and clients were provided services virtually and by phone. Annual in-person drives became drive-thru events. The first drive-thru event was the Back-To-School Drive. In late 2020, the community supported the Thanksgiving Drive and the Adopt-A-Family Drive and raised more than \$10,000!



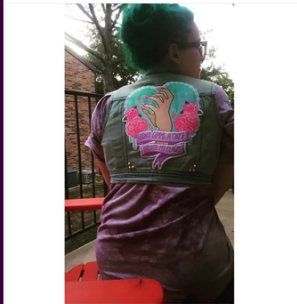
# MEMORABLE MOMENTS FROM 2020



# MEMORABLE MOMENTS FROM 2020



Denton, Texas



17 likes

digitalandtrue "Today is National Denim Day, a day of solidarity. Denim Day is a campaign in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The campaign began after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court in the 1990s where a rape conviction was overturned because of the jeans the victim was wearing. There is no excuse and never an invitation for rape. Stand with us and show us your Denim by fashion. #DenimDay"



sweetbabydharma · Following



### Dogs Against Domestic Violence

Dharma supports Dog's Against Domestic Violence because she has the sweetest, kindest heart and loves everyone, young or old, big or small, human or animal. And she wouldn't hurt anyone or anything, ever. And she feels No One should hurt anyone or anything ever. She will always support this cause and do what she can to help those who need it.

Dharma

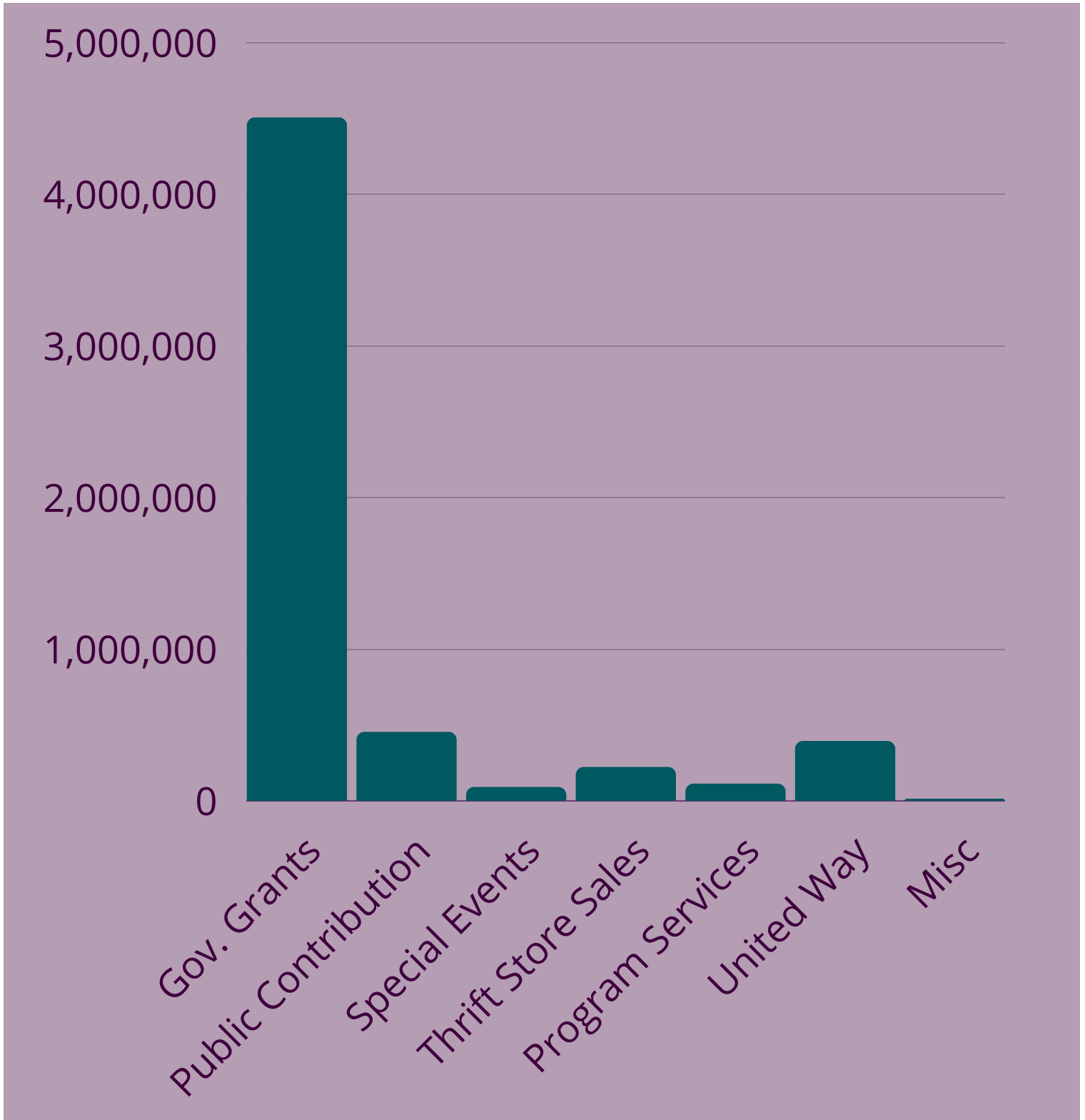
103 likes

sweetbabydharma Hey friends! Today I was in a very important virtual parade of pooches for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. To take a stand against domestic violence! 🐾 And to keep raising awareness and supporting survivors. Thanks to Denton County Friends of the Family. 🧡🧡🧡~Love shouldn't hurt. @captainwaglesco

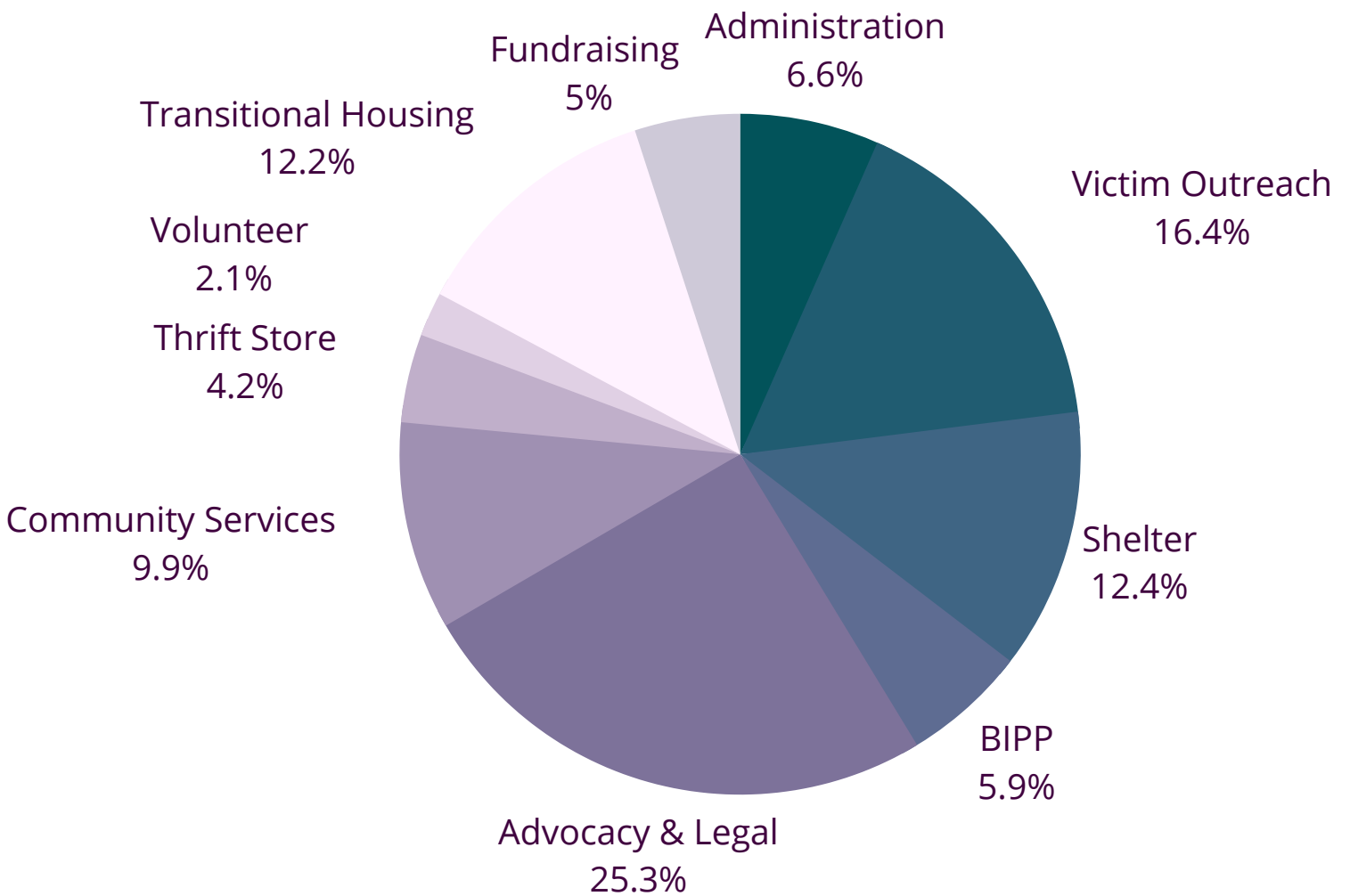


\*some photos taken pre-pandemic

# 2020 REVENUES



# 2020 EXPENDITURES



# Joanne's Story

In June 2019, Joanne was living with her abusive husband and their young child. After a particularly violent assault that left Joanne with visible bruises and cuts, Texas Child Protective Services (“CPS”) opened an investigation into the family. After identifying Joanne as a survivor of domestic violence, CPS referred Joanne to Denton County Friends of the Family (“DCFOF”) to participate in our ADVANCE program. ADVANCE, which stands for “Acknowledging Domestic Violence and Navigating Child Protection Effectively,” is a DCFOF educational program specifically for clients with active child welfare involvement. When Joanne first came to DCFOF, she was isolated from friends and family, lacking resources and hope. To make matters even worse, Joanne’s husband abused her financially, forcing her to be dependent on him and making it even more difficult for Joanne to leave him.

During Joanne’s Intake, DCFOF administered a Risk of Danger Assessment, which gave Joanne the language and structure

to disclose the extreme level of violence her abuser had inflicted on her. DCFOF’s legal team leapt into action to help Joanne file for divorce and apply for a Final Protective Order to keep herself and her child safe.

As CPS continued to evaluate whether her son was safe in the family home, CPS asked Joanne to take a drug test. Here, the story of Joanne’s positive drug test reflects two experiences common to victims of domestic violence. First, Joanne had been choosing to use marijuana in an attempt to treat the debilitating anxiety brought on by the trauma of daily life with a volatile, violent abuser. Second, right before CPS got involved, Joanne’s abusive partner coerced her into using methamphetamine. Though she continually refused, her refusal made her abuser angry and violent, as this was a way for her then husband to exert his control over her body.



## Joanne's Story Continued

When Joanne's drug test came back positive for marijuana and methamphetamine, CPS determined that she needed to be supervised around her child while she worked through her supportive services. This would have required Joanne to move herself and her son into the home of a friend or family member who could constantly be around while she was with her son. Unfortunately, Joanne's abuser had so seriously isolated her from her family and friends that she had nobody to turn to. Out of options, Joanne's child had to be placed in foster care.

With her abuser in jail and her son in foster care, Joanne was lonely and devastated—however, this intervention also gave Joanne the time and space to move forward with her plan for independence and safety. She worked hard in her ADVANCE classes and counseling sessions, and completed all the other supportive services CPS required. Bit by bit, Joanne was no longer just surviving, she began to thrive.

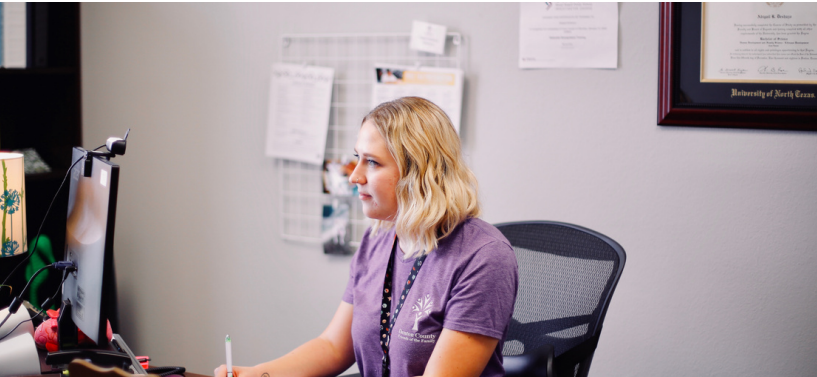
Joanne was willing to do everything necessary to get her child back home with her. With DCFOF's support, Joanne created stability for herself by securing a job and housing.

After one year of dedicated work and cooperation with CPS, Joanne and her child were reunited in June 2020. Joanne has created strong, healthy boundaries by divorcing her abuser and securing a favorable order giving her abuser only limited, supervised access to their child. Freedom from her abuser has meant freedom from his coercive control, and freedom from substance use. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the DCFOF Advocacy and Legal Teams, the ADVANCE Program, and CPS, Joanne has built a stable and healthy life for herself and her child.



# AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

*Planting Seeds of Hope for 40 years*



**In 2020, Denton County Friends of the Family served 4,083 clients, completing a total of 87,804 services (29,517 hours) throughout all victim-service programs (not including the BIPP and PEAP programs). 283 Male BIPP clients received 6,019 hours of services and 39 Female BIPP clients received 820 hours of services.**

- 2,255 Victim Service Intakes
- 203 Households received 296 Food Pantry Services
- 14,156 Advocacy Services (3,898 Hours ) to 1,553 clients
- 6,375 Adult Individual Counseling Services (5,119 Hours) to 636 clients
- 1,841 Play/Activity Therapy Services (1,285 Hours ) to 206 clients
- 365 Children received 2,204 Onsite Childcare Services
- 11,748 Services provided by the Legal Services Team (6,192 hours) to 1,063 clients
- 189 New & Continuing Household received 1,734 Services through the Transitional Housing Program (571 hours)
- 57 Household received Financial Assistance through the Transitional Housing Program in the year
- 99 Adults and 80 Children stayed a total of 7,435 Nights at the Shelter
- 41.5 was the average for Shelter Nights per client
- 2,932 Crisis Calls and 157 Crisis texts Answered on the 24-hour Hotline
- 681 Community Presentations with 23,921 Attendees
- 267 Volunteers donate 14,713 Hours of Service
- 69 SAT Calls Answered

\*Our ability to provide services and presentations was affected across the board by the outbreak of COVID-19  
\*\*SAT calls were not all answered in person for the majority of the year due to COVID-19.



*Cindy is lovely and always tells it like it is. She knows how to connect with me on such a practical level and I appreciate that. She is transparent and kind to me. Seeing Cindy really is a vital part of my healing, recovery, and mental-health maintenance process. She helped me get set up with out-patient services when I needed extra help and that has been greatly beneficial. I am appreciative for the help always.*

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*Khadijah has been amazing to work with! She's been emotionally supportive, provided feedback on safety planning, got me connected to different types of services, and so forth. Donna was also incredibly generous with her time. She not only provided the legal guidance I was looking for initially, but also had a deep understanding of the abusive dynamic and offered precisely the message I needed to hear at a pivotal time.*

---

*I love my advocate and my counselor, along with Kim in legal services and Megan, my attorney, these women have helped bring me back to life. I am grateful that they stand next to me and are helping me overcome this situation. I can never have enough thank yous. I know that with their help I can one day say that I am better emotionally and mentally.*

---

*When I first came to the shelter, I did not know what to expect. Brandon, Austin, and Seth were very kind and understanding and did not make me feel like I was crazy. They really made me feel like I was in the right place.*

---

*I've really felt supported on every front when working with my kids' counselors. I come in to talk with them, but I feel genuinely cared for and supported in the process.*

---

*Wenrui is always compassionate and very caring, especially when I feel emotionally overwhelmed and cry a lot.*

---

*Friends of the family changed my life and my way of thinking about my abuse. I hold my head higher because I am no longer powerless to my abuser. I'm moving forward and I feel safer. Thank you for everything y'all have done for my boys and me.*

\*Some statements edited for clarity

FEATURED

## Texting Denton County Friends of the Family allows for discreet contact

By Zaira Perez Staff Writer zaira.perez@dentonrc.com  
Apr 25, 2020



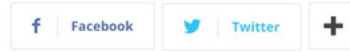
Toni Johnson-Simpson, executive director for Friends of the Family, speaks during a webinar April 2 at the Hope Center in Aubrey.  
Jeff Woo/DRC file photo

Buy Now

SOUTHERN DENTON COUNTY LOCAL NEWS

## Flower Mound group donates event proceeds to domestic violence victims

By Mark Smith June 17, 2020 518 0



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Lean-In of Flower Mound donated more than \$2,400 to Denton County Friends of the Family.



leadership in time for new hous...

FEATURED

## With child abuse reports down, advocates concerned what change in schooling will bring

By Zaira Perez Staff Writer zaira.perez@dentonrc.com  
Jul 24, 2020

# IN THE NEWS



7:00 PM



Oct 8, 2020  
Zoom

Description

Denton County Friends of the Family invites you to join us, Thursday, October 8th for our Fortieth Anniversary Virtual Gala! We are excited to invite you to celebrate 40 years of providing life-saving services to those impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault in Denton County.

Thursday, October 8th  
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM



## Denton County Friends Of The Family To Hold Virtual Anniversary Gala

The gala will celebrate the nonprofit's 40 years of community work.

BY DAVID DUNN SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 9:23 AM



For the first time in the nonprofit's 40 year history, Denton County Friends of the Family will host its anniversary gala online this year. Founded in 1980 by Dr. Fran Danis, DCFOF provides shelter and outreach for victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault.

# AGENCY PROGRAMS

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## Shelter

We offer Emergency Shelter for victims of sexual and domestic violence. Eligibility for shelter is determined based upon safety concerns resulting in the person having no safe place to stay. In the event a caller is not eligible for our shelter, referrals to other local resources are provided.

## Counseling

Professional counseling services include both individual and group services. We offer play therapy for children, activity therapy for adolescents, and adult counseling. We use an evidence based approach called Cognitive Processing Therapy to treat trauma in adult clients. Play therapy is to children what counseling is to adults. Our primary goal is to create a warm and safe environment where a child can learn to understand the wonderful things about themselves, come to believe there are safe places in the world, and some people can be trusted.

## Advocacy

Our advocates provide case management services and help clients navigate the legal system. This can include assistance with Protective Orders, Crime Victim's Compensation, safety planning, finding housing options, and working toward short and long-term goals.

## Thrift Store - Upscale Resale

Here, clients and their families are provided the opportunity to shop for both personal and household needs. The store is also open to the community. Proceeds from community shoppers benefit our agency's comprehensive services.

## Community Education

The Prevention, Education, and Awareness Program (PEAP) offers programs about the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault. From our Bumbles presentations with children as young as kindergarten to Domestic Violence 101 for adults and businesses, we cover the whole spectrum of audiences who need this critical information.



## Battering Intervention and Prevention

BIPP clients are those who have made the choice to use violence and exert power and control over another person. Abuse is a choice, 100% of the time. The BIPP program is a 27-week psycho-educational group setting that follows a curriculum based upon the Duluth model of education. It is intended for groups of individual's who batter their intimate partner.

## Food Pantry

The food pantry is a valuable resource for our clients who have been financially abused and have limited access to funds. When one has to save every penny to provide for themselves and their children, buying healthy food can be a barrier to thriving on their own. All clients served at the Outreach Office can come to the food pantry weekly and fill up a bag of healthy groceries for free to take home to their families.

## SAT

The Survivors Advocacy Team, SAT, is the hospital response team. These volunteers provide hospital accompaniment, support, information, and referrals for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

## 24-Hour Crisis Line

The agency maintains a 24-hour Crisis Line for Denton County. The hotline provides crisis counseling, referrals, and information regarding services for victims of sexual and domestic violence. Those seeking help can now call or text.

## Legal Department

The legal department has 2 attorneys, a legal assistant, a paralegal, and 2 victim advocates on staff to provide assistance and legal representation for clients. Legal remedies are the most effective way to provide safety and help for clients on a long-term basis.

## Transitional Housing

The Transitional Housing program helps clients secure safe housing options as they transition out of the Emergency Shelter, flee from an abusive home, or recover from the financial abuse experienced by 98% of victims of domestic violence. The Transitional Housing Program provides safe housing and rental assistance along with comprehensive services. Together these services support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in their path to independence and emotional well-being.



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# Chair Circle of Friends



Plunk Smith, PLLC  
Merki & Associates P.C.  
Village Designs and Remodeling  
Mind Matters Psychiatry  
KHA Accountants  
The Julian Firm  
Robson Ranch Women's Club  
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Studio Movie Grill  
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Tawnya Strittmatter  
Trenton and Tiffany Wright  
Trinity Presbyterian Church of Flower  
Mound  
Trinity United Methodist Church of  
Denton  
Wayne Mitchell and Marcia Staff  
Walmart Neighborhood Market

# GOVERNMENT, GRANTS & FOUNDATIONS



- Denton County
- City of Denton
- Town of Flower Mound
- CoServ Charitable Foundation
- Texas Bar Foundation
- Rees-Jones Foundation
- Denton Benefit League
- TJX Foundation
- In-N-Out Burgers Foundation
- Episcopal Health Foundation of Dallas
- United Way of Denton County
- ESCO Technologies Foundation
- Frisco Women's League
- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
- Target Corporation
- American On-line Giving Foundation

**THANK YOU!**

# 2020 Volunteer Highlights

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic 80% of all in-person volunteer opportunities were put on hold to encourage safety and protection from the virus for our volunteers and staff. Volunteer opportunities that remained were DCFOF's three annual drives: the Back-To-School Drive, the Thanksgiving Drive, and the Adopt-A-Family Drive, volunteering opportunities at the shelter, in the BIPP program and at the thrift store, Upscale Resale. We are so grateful to all of the amazing volunteers who masked up and helped out, all while socially distancing and practicing safe hygiene protocols.

**14,713**

Hours donated to the agency by dedicated volunteers.

**267+**

Unduplicated volunteers donated their time in 2020.

**\$176,500+**

Monetary equivalent of donated time by volunteers.



# 2020 Agency Drives

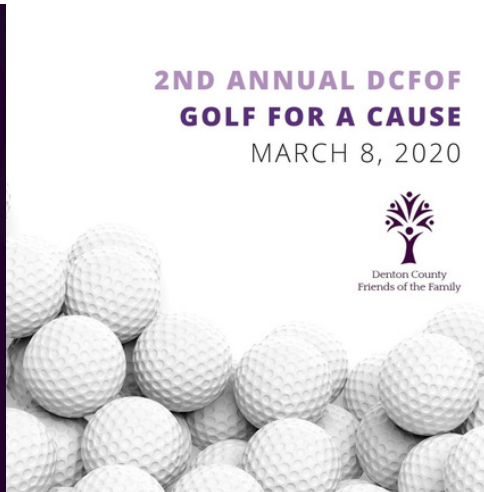
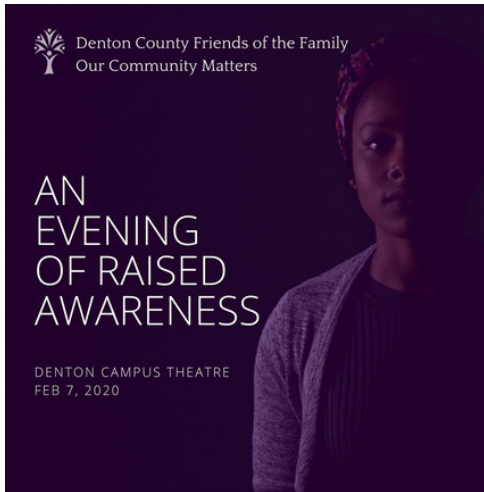


## Back to School Drive Through Pick Up

## Thanksgiving Drive Through Pick Up

## Adopt A Family Drive Through Pick Up

DRIVE	ITEMS PROVIDED	CLIENTS HELPED
<b>BACK TO SCHOOL</b> AUGUST 2020	537 BACKPACKS	357 CLIENTS
<b>THANKSGIVING</b> NOVEMBER 2020	250 MEAL KITS	187 FAMILIES / 765 INDIVIDUALS
<b>ADOPT A FAMILY</b> DECEMBER 2020	OVER 2,000 GIFTS	274 FAMILIES/680 KIDS



# 2020 Spring Events



EVENT	SPONSORS
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<p><b>AN EVENING OF RAISED AWARENESS</b></p>	<p><b>Linda Marshall Paul Meltzer John Baines Cedric Chambers Lisa Hill Diana Weitzel Phyllis Minton</b></p>
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<p><b>GOLF FOR A CAUSE</b></p>	<p><b>KHA Glen D Smith &amp; Associates NB Family Law Mind Maters QuesTX FBFK PC Paycom Raymond James</b></p> <p><b>Mrs. Renfro's Exeter Auto rescue Solutions Allied Dispatch Solutions System Forward America Temperature Pro Plumbing Pro Pop A Lock</b></p>
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<p><b>FRIENDS OF THE BADGE</b></p>	<p><b>City of Denton</b></p>
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**Award Recipients**

ADA Lara Tomlin, Office Ron Foy, Det. Suzanne Reed, Lt. David Bruce, Chief Richard Deggs, Capt. Jesse Hunter, Officer Mark Esparza, Sgt. Brian Baker, Amanda Mention, Sgt. Josh Reynolds, Det. James Barfield, Inv. Michelle Haiduk, Joe Harris, and Megan Telfer

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# 40th Anniversary Gala

Everyone has a seat at the table. Celebrating 40 years of compassionate, comprehensive services to Denton County.



On October 8th, 2020, Denton County Friends of the Family celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the opening of the agency via a Virtual Gala and online silent auction. The Gala included many of the founding members, past Executive Leaders and volunteers as well as special guest speaker Dale Hansen. Music was provided by Katina Butler and the Band, as well as our own Lorrie's Joy Chorus. Guests were treated to a delicious home-delivered, catered meal, by Chef Mark of Chef Mark Catering. The conclusion of the event was the groundbreaking announcement of the future home of the Family Justice Center on Bonnie Brae in Denton. Thank you to all of the supporters, volunteers and staff, for making this virtual event a success!



# 40th Anniversary Gala

## Sponsors

### Healing Sponsor:

The Julian Firm, PC

### Justice Sponsors:

Mind Matters Psychiatry MD

Davidge & Wright LP

Wright Law & Title

Strittmatter Air Conditioning, Heating & Plumbing

### Safety Sponsors:

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Dr. Fran Danis

Sheila Haley

Dr. Dale Yeatts

KHA Accountants, PLLC

### Prevention Sponsors:

Merki & Associates PC

Rob & Kim Seay

Longhorn Screen, Shades, & Shutters

Ann & Larry Tubbs

Dr. Linda and Dr. David Marshall

Business Development Connections Group

The Colony Police Association

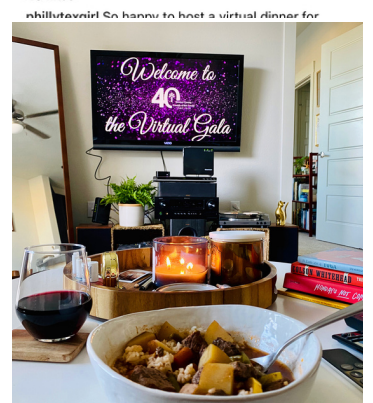
North Texas Breast and Plastic Surgery



34 likes



43 likes



# A Look To Our Future

## *Family Justice Center*



The Rayzor Family Foundation has generously donated seven acres of land in Denton, TX for the future home of Denton County Friends of the Family. The new campus location will be called the Family Justice Center (FJC). The Center will allow us to centralize the intake process for those experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, strangulation, stalking, and rape and expand service delivery to the community on many levels including Shelter and Transitional Housing services. The FJC will also combine essential services and service providers such as the District Attorney's Office and Denton Police Department in one location.



To join the Capital Campaign and be a part of providing safety, hope, healing, justice, and prevention, email Denton County Friends of the Family at [communityrelations@dcfof.org](mailto:communityrelations@dcfof.org).



# Thank you to our 2020 Supporters!

Jean S Brennan

Aaron Pettit-Cover

Aaron Robb

Abbi DeShazo

Abraham Fitwi

Adam Plunk

Adrienne Kaufmann

AimeeTullos Tullos

Aislynn Mossman

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Alex Gipson

Alex Whitman

Alfred Rivas

Alice Fausak

Alice Mankoff

Alisa Quimby

Allie Ramsey

Amairani Quiroz

Amanda Calhoun

Amanda Metcalf

Amber Miller

Amit Dhameja

Amrish Walia

Amy Countryman

Amy Hinshaw

Amy Stinson

Amy Padamsee

Ana Rodriguez

Anahi Miranda Mendoza

Andrea DeFreitas

Andres Rocha

Andrew King

Andrew Miller

Andrew Whitten

Andy and Mary Ann Gilliard

Angel Vastine

Angela Bartholomae

Angela Calcaterra

Angela Hill

Angela Williams

Angie Padilla

Ann MacMillan

Ann Tubbs

Anna Hudnall

Anna Parker

Anne Vaden

Anne-Marie Truman

Annie Urias

Anthony Barbieri

Anthony Bearden

Anthony Rising

Antoinette Watson

April Perry

Arleen Webman

Armand Coulson

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