

2026
ANNUAL REPORT

When Survivors Need Help, Our Community Gets It Done.

Safety. Independence.
Healing. Hope.

St. Jude House
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER AND PREVENTION CENTER
A Ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

12490 Marshall St.
Crown Point, IN 46307
219.662.7066

www.stjudehouse.org

2026
IMPACT AT A GLANCE

1,092
SURVIVORS SERVED

110
CHILDREN SERVED

7,967
NIGHTS OF SAFETY PROVIDED

1,200+
CRISIS CALLS RESPONDED TO

100
SURVIVORS RECEIVED LEGAL ADVOCACY

7,000+
COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED

186
SURVIVORS SUPPORTED THROUGH MOBILE ADVOCACY

Letter from the Director

A YEAR OF RENEWED COMMITMENT & GROWTH



At St. Jude House, every day begins with the same commitment: when someone experiencing domestic violence reaches out for help, we'll be there. Inspired by the National Council of Nonprofits' "Nonprofits Get It Done" campaign, we're proud to share the impact of our work in FY2026 and show how, when survivors need help - ***our community gets it done***.

This year, our commitment was tested by the growing needs of our region and the ongoing challenges survivors face. Yet because of the generosity of our community of donors, volunteers, community partners, grant funders and advocates, St. Jude House continued to provide the safety, support and hope that survivors need to rebuild their lives.

During Fiscal Year 2026, we served 1,092 survivors, including 110 children, across our programs. We provided 7,967 nights of safety, responded to more than 1,200 crisis calls and supported 100 individuals through legal advocacy services. Behind every number is a person who made the courageous decision to seek safety, and a community that stood ready to help.

This year was also one of growth and innovation. We expanded our Mobile Advocacy services, strengthened housing-focused services, welcomed a full-time therapist and began integrating Hope-Centered Practice throughout our organization. These investments strengthen our ability not only to respond to crisis, but also to support long-term healing and independence.

We know that safety is only the first step. Survivors need opportunities to heal from trauma, secure stable housing, find employment, access transportation and create a brighter future for themselves and their children. Throughout this report, you will see the impact of these efforts and hope made possible through the support from people like you.

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude. Thank you for believing in our mission and investing in the lives of survivors. Your support makes it possible for us to answer every call, open every door and walk alongside families as they move from crisis to confidence.

Together, we are building a future where every individual can live free from violence.

With gratitude,

Anna M. Schoon

Anna M. Schoon, Executive Director

30+ Years of Service

DECADES OF HOPE SUPPORT & HEALING

In October 2025, St. Jude House celebrated 30 years of serving the Northwest Indiana community.

What began as a vision to provide safety and support for families experiencing abuse has grown into a comprehensive organization offering emergency shelter, advocacy, counseling, housing assistance and community education.

For three decades, survivors have turned to St. Jude House during the most difficult moments of their lives. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, thousands have found safety and healing, while countless others have gained a greater understanding of the impact of domestic violence on individuals and our communities.

1995

St. Jude House Founded by Franciscan Ministries

Providing safety and support for survivors of domestic violence in Northwest Indiana.

1997

A Bold Step Forward

Became one of the first domestic violence shelters in the nation to publicly share its address.

1998

National Recognition & Global Impact

Featured in The New York Times and a BBC documentary; later helped support a domestic violence shelter in Saint Maarten.

2020

Serving Through Crisis

Remained open and serving survivors throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

2023

Resilience & Expansion

Recovered from a shelter fire and launched Community-Based Advocacy Services.

2025

30 Years Strong

Celebrated three decades of providing safety, healing and hope.

Growth & Innovation

Launched Transitional Housing services and welcomed a full-time therapist.

















Leadership

GUIDED BY PURPOSE, UNITED IN MISSION

St. Jude House is strengthened by dedicated leaders, advocates and community members who help guide our mission and keep survivor voices at the center of our work.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regina Umanskiy
President & CEO
Franciscan Ministries

John Vidal
Board Chair
Ameriprise Financial

Christina J. Miller
Vice President
Miller, Sachs & Hess, PC

Robert Rosenberger
Treasurer
Franciscan Ministries

Tracy Shearer
Secretary
Franciscan Ministries

BOARD MEMBERS

Shvonne L. Barber

Shreya Bhandari
Purdue University Northwest

Roxanne Clark
The Times Media Company

Curt Bowers
Wintrust Bank

Steven Crockett
Treatment Alternatives for Stronger Communities

Carol Highsmith
Centier Bank (retired)

Marla Hoyer-Lareau
Methodist Hospitals

Rachel Pollack
Centier Bank

Coleman Risch
NIPSCO

Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Keisha White
Excel Center Gary

Dianna Williams
White Castle

FOUNDATIONS & COMMUNITY FUNDERS

John W. Anderson Foundation
Crown Point Community Foundation
Legacy Foundation
Raskob Foundation
Geminus
Lake County Community Economic Development

SURVIVOR COUNCIL

Amy McCarthy
Council Chair
Laura Bayne
Miscah Borum
Marian Naglosky
Brianne Coleman

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Roxanne Clark
Committee Chair
Arianna Baiz
Shvonne Barber
Samantha Calvillo
Jeannie Gouwens
Diana Jagiella
Aimee Koerner
Coleman Risch
Megan Vasquez
Teri Wallace
Amy Watts
Keisha White

CYCLE BREAKER SOCIETY

Matt Berg
Linda Brizendine
Dawn Cohn
Brianne Coleman
Lou & Lexie Dore
Shawn Donahue
Paul LaReau
Rachel Pollack
Chrisney Sigstad
Louise Standefer
Nicholas Walla

Volunteers

ACTS OF COMPASSION

Our continued progress is made possible by the dedication and compassion of our volunteers. This past year, volunteers contributed 1,174 hours of service to create a supportive environment for survivors.

Adam Keeton
Alan Myszkowski
Amanda Wright
Amber Hubbard
Ariana Gibbs Hall
Ariel Morris
Ashley Drees Becky Gould
Bonita Lucas
Brandi and Chris Williams
Carla Walz
Diamond Morris
Elyce Chavez
Evelyn Uloa
Fair Oaks
Faith Dickens
Frank Mrvan
Gabrielle Shelton
IUNited
Jeannie Gouwens
Jessica Enriquez
Joseph Iannuci
Kaitlin Parks
Katie Westerfield
Kayla Ortiz
Kaylee Elliot
Kelley Wotherspoon
Kiara Ford
Koiya Thomas
Kristie Nichols
Lisa Gray
Living Hope Church
Logan Edgemon
Maddie Fontanez
Madison Staggs
Makenna Hullinger
Mandy Bravo
Michele Bolanowski
Michelle LaTurner
Misty Vendl
Nancy Raisor
Olivia Evans
Paige Conquest
Paige Seymour
Pete Dragojevic
Quinn Hasse
Rayonna Grady
Samantha Latham
Samantha Smith
Sandy Teague
Santresa Sanders
Shannon Stovall
Theresa Vukobratovich
TJ Stoehr
Toni Hall
Tracy Powers
Winter Geraghty
Yessenia Hernandez







Associate Satisfaction

A CULTURE OF CARE

Caring for survivors begins with caring for the people who serve them. In 2025, St. Jude House received the Holleran Choice Community Award for Employee Satisfaction and Employee Engagement for the second consecutive year.



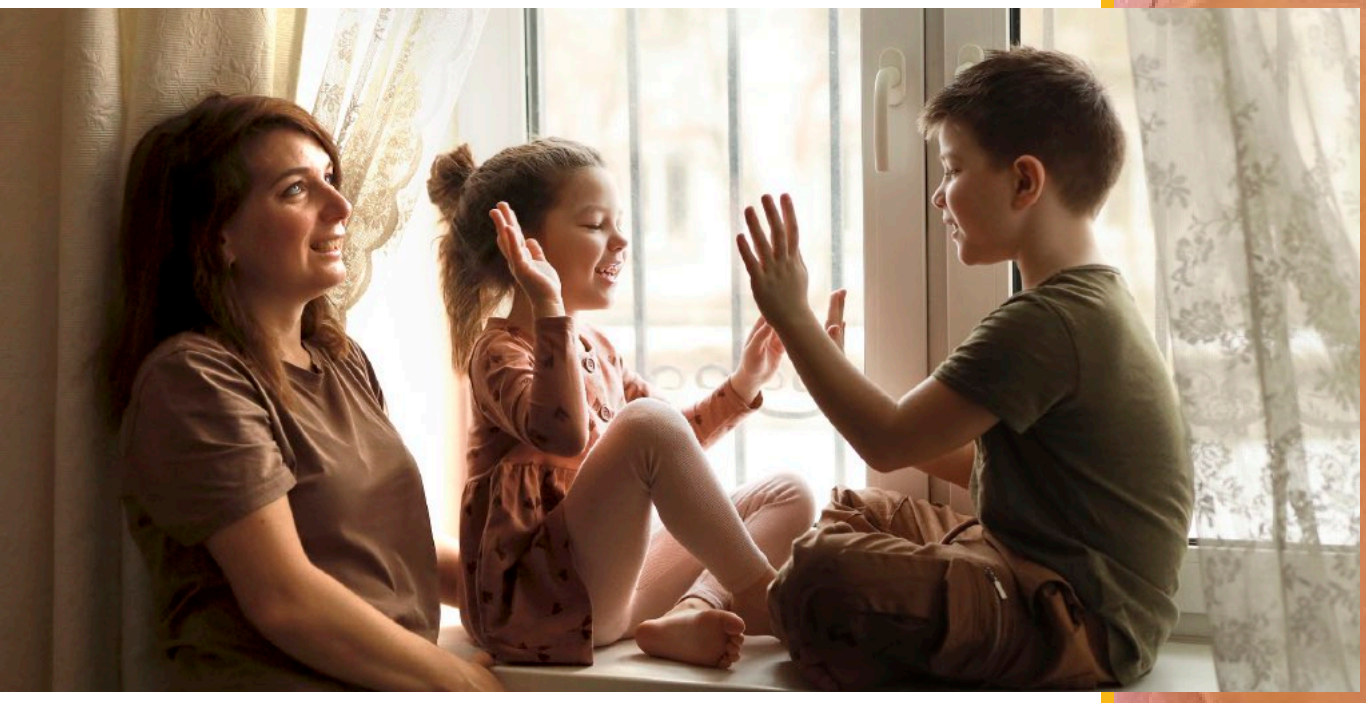
Shelter Services

SUPPORTING FROM CRISIS TO STABILITY

For survivors of domestic violence, the decision to seek help is often one of the most difficult and courageous choices they will ever make. Many arrive at St. Jude House carrying far more than a suitcase - they arrive with fear, uncertainty and questions about what comes next.

When a survivor arrives, our priority is their safety - but safety is only the beginning.

Upon arrival, our team works quickly to address the immediate needs of survivors and their families. As they begin to stabilize, our advocates work alongside them to further develop individualized plans that support their goals and future. Depending on their needs, survivors may receive legal advocacy, counseling, transportation assistance or other necessary services. Children also have access to programs designed to help them heal from the trauma of witnessing violence to help rebuild a sense of normalcy.





The journey begins with safety, but it doesn't end there.

Every survivor deserves the opportunity to heal and rebuild a future free from violence.

FY2026 Impact

7,967	1,092	110
NIGHTS OF SAFETY PROVIDED	SURVIVORS SERVED	CHILDREN SERVED

Housing Services

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR INDEPENDENCE

Once a survivor is safe and prepared to transition to more independence, they're ready for the next step - housing. For survivors, securing stable housing serves as the foundation for their future long-term independence.

Our goal is more than finding a place to live. It's helping survivors build the stability and independence needed to create a future on their own terms.

Our Transitional Housing Program helps survivors and their children take the next step toward lasting stability. Families have access to safe, affordable housing while receiving ongoing support and advocacy tailored to their unique goals and needs. Working alongside our staff, survivors develop plans focused on housing, employment, education, financial wellness and long-term self-sufficiency.







A safe place to stay provides refuge.

A stable home creates the foundation for a new beginning.

FY2026 Highlights

- Continued Transitional Housing Program
- Expanded housing-focused advocacy and stabilization services
- Strengthened landlord and community partnerships
- Increased support for survivors pursuing permanent housing

Why Housing Matters?

Stable housing is one of the strongest predictors of long-term safety for survivors of domestic violence. When families have a safe place to call home, they are better positioned to secure employment, support their children's education, improve their financial well-being and continue their healing journey.

Mobile Advocacy

MEETING SURVIVORS WHERE THEY ARE

Not every survivor of domestic violence needs emergency shelter. Many remain in their homes, stay with family or friends or are navigating complex legal, housing or safety challenges.

Help for survivors isn't confined to our walls. Through the support of our community, we're able to reach survivors wherever they are.

For survivors who need support beyond shelter walls, our Mobile Advocacy Program brings critical services directly to them in their communities. Through these services, we meet survivors where they are and help them navigate the next steps of their journey. Whether a survivor needs help obtaining a protective order, crisis intervention or developing a safety plan, our advocates work alongside community partners to provide compassionate, individualized support every step of the way.







Help doesn't begin when someone enters shelter.

It begins the moment a survivor reaches out, wherever they may be.

FY2026 Impact

186
SURVIVORS SERVED

30%
INCREASE IN SERVICES PROVIDED

Counseling & Support

PRIORITIZING HEALING IN ALL WE DO

Long after the immediate crisis has passed, the effects of domestic violence may continue. To help survivors heal, we provide them and their families with the necessary counseling, advocacy and trauma-informed support so they can move forward confidently.

Recovery is not a single moment - it's a process. Healing is at the heart of our work, and we know it happens best when survivors know they're not alone.

Every day, we witness the remarkable courage of survivors as they move beyond the trauma of abuse and begin creating lives defined by possibility rather than fear. Through our efforts and the support of our community, we continue to strengthen our commitment to helping survivors heal and work toward lasting well-being and independence regardless of their financial circumstances.







Healing doesn't happen overnight.

It happens one step, one breakthrough and one hopeful moment at a time.

FY2026 Highlights

- Welcomed a full-time therapist to expand clinical services
- Launched Medicaid-funded services to increase access to care
- Began implementing Hope-Centered Practice organizationally

What Is Hope-Centered Practice?

Hope-Centered Practice is a strengths-based, future-focused framework that helps people envision a better future, identify achievable goals, create pathways toward those goals, and build the motivation and support needed to overcome barriers and move forward.

Community Outreach

CREATING AWARENESS TO INSPIRE CHANGE

Domestic violence affects more than survivors. It impacts families, workplaces, schools and entire communities. While we remain committed to helping survivors find safety and healing, we recognize that lasting change ultimately requires prevention.

Together, with the support of our partners, we are preventing domestic violence in our communities through education and awareness.

We continue to strengthen partnerships across Northwest Indiana and expand community outreach to raise awareness of domestic violence. Our staff engages with schools, healthcare providers, civic organizations, faith communities and others to help more people recognize abuse and respond when someone needs help. Because the work of ending domestic violence belongs to all of us.





Prevention starts with awareness.

Change begins when communities stand alongside survivors.

FY2026 Highlights

- Reached 7,000+ community members through increased outreach efforts
- Expanded community partnerships with schools, healthcare providers, businesses and community organizations
- Conducted regional initiatives during Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Introduced In Her Shoes® Domestic Violence Simulation

What Is In Her Shoes® Simulation?

In Her Shoes® Domestic Violence Simulation is an interactive experience that puts participants in the role of a survivor, navigating real-life challenges related to safety, finances, housing, childcare, employment and the legal system. The simulation builds empathy, challenges misconceptions and highlights the importance of community support and accessible resources.

Financial Stewardship

INVESTING IN IMPACT

Financial stewardship means ensuring every dollar and opportunity count towards serving survivors and raising awareness of domestic violence within our communities. We remain committed to sound financial management while meeting the growing demand for services and expanding the resources available to those who need them.

Guided by our core values, we continue to carefully manage the resources entrusted to us.

FY2026 Revenue Sources

- $814,164 | Individual & Corporate Giving
- $371,269 | Government Grants
- $186,947 | Foundation & Other Grants
- $156,731 | Special Events
- $67,995 | Related Party / In-Kind Support



FY2026 Endowment & Investment Returns

- $2,143,278 | Realized Investment Income
- $914,355 | Unrealized Investment Gain



FY2026 Expense Allocation

- 71.6% | Programs & Services
- 15.2% | Fundraising
- 13.2% | Management & General



FY26 revenue figures are based on unaudited year-end financial statements. Expense allocation percentages are based on FY25 audited financial statements, the most recent audited figures available at publication.



Stewardship is not simply about managing resources.

It's about honoring the trust our community places in us and maximizing our impact.

FY2026 Highlights

- Welcomed new Director of Development to advance fundraising efforts
- Launched Corporate Partnership Campaign
- Raised $91,000 through Stand Up for St. Jude House
- Secured transitional housing support through a Legacy Foundation matching opportunity
- Renewed support from key grant and community partners
- Strengthened financial accountability, compliance and reporting
- Maintained funding for victim services

Looking Ahead

ENVISIONING HOPE FOR TOMORROW

Hope for tomorrow begins with the support we provide today. As we begin our fourth decade of service, we remain committed to ensuring that survivors of domestic violence and their families have access to the support and opportunities they need to thrive.

Through the support of our community - hope lives on.

Updating Our Strategic Plan to Strengthen Our Future

In the upcoming year, we will engage with key stakeholders to update our Strategic Plan to help identify goals and initiatives to guide our organizational priorities and the evolving needs of Northwest Indiana.

Expanding Access to Healing with Support from Our Community Partners

Through our partnership with Regional Health Systems, we'll be expanding access to Medicaid-funded behavioral health services, creating additional pathways for survivors to have appropriate access to the support they need.

Supporting Statewide Initiative to Build Awareness Around Domestic Violence Prevention

St. Jude House will participate in a statewide initiative to strengthen primary prevention efforts and address the root causes of violence before it occurs to build awareness in our communities.

Increasing Housing Stability with Grant Funding from Legacy Foundation

Through the support from a matching grant with the Legacy Foundation, we will we'll be expanding housing opportunities and supportive services in our Transitional Housing Program,

Advancing Survivor Safety in Partnership with Lake County

In partnership with the Lake County Prosecutor's Office and local law enforcement agencies, we'll be supporting the implementation of the *Maryland Model Lethality Assessment Program*. This evidence-based approach helps identify survivors facing the highest levels of danger and connects them quickly with advocacy and supportive services when they need them most.


Together, we are building
a new future for survivors.
Together, we are proving
our community gets it done.

A Story of Survival

FINDING SAFETY, HEALING & HOPE

A 21-year-old mother arrived at St. Jude House with her three-month-old daughter, carrying little more than a diaper bag and the hope that life could be different.

She loved her baby fiercely, but trauma had shaken her confidence and left her questioning her ability to care for her daughter. With each day uncertain, she struggled to imagine a future beyond simply getting through the next one.

At St. Jude House, she found safety, support and the space to begin healing. She grew more confident in caring for her daughter and, just as importantly, began to believe in herself again.

Over the next ten months, something remarkable happened.

She found a job.
She gained stability.
And she began to imagine a new future.

As she continued building a more stable life, a new possibility emerged. She was introduced to an educational program for single mothers.

She applied and was accepted.

Today, she and her daughter are thriving in a new community, and she is pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher.

Survivors are incredibly strong.

Sometimes, they just need safety, support and someone who believes in them long enough for them to believe in themselves. With support from our community, survivors can build a foundation for the next chapter of their lives.

The Power of Your Support

$50
Provides safe transportation to help a survivor and her children reach safety.

$100
Provides a welcome basket with essentials, comfort and a reminder that someone cares.

$250
Provides guidance and advocacy to help survivors rebuild their lives.

$500
Helps a family take the next step toward a safe home filled with peace and possibility.

$1,000
Helps write a new ending for a family affected by domestic violence.


Every call matters.
Every bed matters.
Every survivor matters.
Your support matters.

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Our Gratitude

SHARING GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

To Our Board Members, Foundations, Community Partners, Survivor Council, Development Committee, Cycle Breaker Society Members and Volunteers

Thank you for being the community behind every new beginning.

Because of you, survivors and their children can find safety, begin to heal and take steps toward a more stable future.

Every safe night.
Every answered call.
Every new beginning.

Your generosity, time, advocacy and belief in this mission make this work possible.

Together, we are building a future where every individual can live free from violence.

PREVAIL PARTNERS

Apple Blossom Trails · Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana · Centier Bank · IGS Plumbing, Inc.

EMPOWER PARTNERS

Lerner & Rowe Gives Back · NIPSCO · Ameriprise Financial · OZINGA

ADVOCATE PARTNERS

Wintrust Indiana · The Times nwi Media Company · First first financial bank

SUPPORT PARTNERS

Strack & Van Til food market · Fair Oaks Farms

NON-PROFIT PARTNER

The Dawn Brancheau Foundation

St. Jude House is a ministry of Franciscan Ministries.