



*Real
People
Real
Impact*

2024

Annual Report



Dear friends,

At Hope Shores Alliance, our focus on creating real impact through genuine, human connections is unwavering. This past year has showcased the powerful effects of our community's collaboration and innovation.

Throughout the five counties we serve, we have witnessed the profound impact of our efforts. Our initiatives—ranging from the annual Bowling for Hope fundraiser to the vigils for Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Sexual Assault Awareness Months—have not only raised awareness but also strengthened our community ties by fostering spaces where healing and support thrive.

Our Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Project has revolutionized care for sexual assault survivors in rural areas, ensuring they receive timely and necessary services without the challenges of extensive travel or long waits. From the vibrant new mural at our Rogers City store to collaborative volunteer projects with Walmart staff at our emergency shelter, every endeavor demonstrates our deep commitment to engaging and supporting our community.

This year's success was also bolstered by generous donations from local churches and businesses like Green Pharm, Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union, and North Country Candy and Gifts, which have significantly brightened the lives of those we serve.

Our team's dedication to professional growth, highlighted by participation in national training events, and our internal culture of unity and continuous learning—seen in activities like our staff door decorating contests and robust participation in Giving Tuesday—illustrate our commitment to empowering each other to support survivors, foster healing, and build a safer, more supportive community.

Thank you for your steadfast belief in our mission and for your ongoing support. It is your involvement that propels us forward, breaking new ground and fostering significant, tangible change in every corner of our community. Together, we are making real impacts, transforming lives and communities with every step we take.



Valerie Williams
Executive Director

SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS



Our focus at Hope Shores Alliance is to help people from all walks of life on their healing journey. We believe, support, and validate all survivors who have experienced trauma as a result of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, or dating violence - providing hope when and where it's needed.

We are dedicated to assisting survivors and their families in healing from the affects of violence, and in confronting the discrimination in their lives through education, systems change, building community partnerships, and ensuring availability and accessibility of supportive services.

Professional staff and volunteers provide support and advocacy for survivors and their support persons with a variety of free and voluntary services that include:

- **24-Hour Help and Support Line**
- **24/7 Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Advocacy**
- **24/7 Domestic Assault Response Team (DART) Advocacy**
- **Counseling**
- **Alternative Healing Service Support and Referrals**
- **Supportive Listening**
- **Emergency Shelter**
- **Long-term Transitional Housing**
- **Medical Appointment Advocacy**
- **Legal and Judicial Systems Support and Advocacy**
- **Safety Planning**
- **Referrals for Support and Services with Other Community Agencies**

**SERVING FIVE
COUNTIES AND
MORE THAN
3,000 SQUARE
MILES ACROSS
NORTHEAST
MICHIGAN**

Shelter/Motel Nights	3,569
Transitional Housing Nights	11,372
Counseling Hours	439
Advocacy Instances	6,743
SART/DART Responses	67
Help & Support Line Calls	1,448
Protective Orders Filed	28

Domestic Violence Survivors Served	574
Sexual Assault Survivors Served	160
Stalking Survivors Served	22

Community Presentations	23
Community Partner Trainings	8
Awareness Events	74
Task Force and Systems Advocacy Meetings	110

The number of people we serve continues to grow year after year, emphasizing the importance of this work in our communities.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

7,458 donated hours

Generated \$79,415 in matching support

This year, we've witnessed extraordinary contributions from our volunteers, whose dedication has not only sustained but enhanced our ability to offer an array of critical services.

Our mission is clear—to offer healing support to every individual affected by sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, or dating violence. We are here to uplift and affirm the dignity of every survivor, offering hope and help at every turn.

Our team of professionals and volunteers works around the clock to provide:

- Continuous support through our 24-Hour Help and Support Line
- Immediate and compassionate advocacy from our 24/7 Sexual and Domestic Assault Response Teams (SART and DART)
- Counseling and therapeutic services tailored to individual needs
- Innovative alternative healing and referral services
- Consistent and comforting supportive listening
- Secure emergency shelter and stable long-term housing solutions
- Essential medical appointment and legal system advocacy
- Proactive safety planning
- Vital connections to community resources and services



Our volunteers are integral to our operations, contributing across various roles:

- Advocacy services at our emergency shelter
- Operation of our 24/7 Help & Support Line
- Maintenance and repairs that ensure safe and welcoming spaces
- Childcare that allows survivors to attend appointments and self-care sessions
- Transportation assistance, helping clients access necessary services
- Upkeep of public spaces, reflecting our commitment to dignity and respect
- Lawn care that enhances the therapeutic ambiance of our facilities
- Administrative duties, including office support and data management
- Support for our Thrift Store operations, a critical fundraising arm

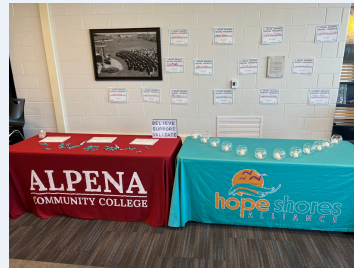
Each volunteer hour represents a powerful statement of solidarity and an invaluable contribution to our collective journey toward healing. We are immensely grateful for the passion and energy our volunteers bring, making it possible for us to extend our reach and deepen our impact within the community.

AWARENESS AND OUTREACH

This year communities across **five counties** have benefitted directly from our **increased community outreach work**. Throughout the year, our team conducted various presentations and nurtured many partnerships across several counties including **Alcona, Alpena, Iosco, Montmorency, Presque Isle**, and even **Otsego**. These efforts reached a range of audiences from **law enforcement to senior citizen service providers** and mental health support programs.

Hope Shores Alliance team members lead several events that strengthened the cofacilitation and collaboration of services between Hope Shores and our local **Child Advocacy Centers** and the many local **Sexual Assault Response Team** meetings with law enforcement, medical services providers, prosecutors and others. These events and meetings informed but also engaged important community and systems partners in dialogue about expanding and enhancing **domestic violence** and **sexual assault services** regionally.

This year, our team worked closely with various community partners such as the **Alpena County Sheriff's Department**, a **Regional Homelessness Committee**, and **MyMichigan Health** to enhance the support network for survivors of sexual assault. These meetings focused on crucial discussions like protocol development with law enforcement and medical providers, and housing support strategies for homeless community members, addressing both rural and homeless populations as underserved groups. These engagements underscore our organization's commitment to creating a supportive and responsive community framework.



Adding to our annual efforts, we conducted **awareness month events** across each community we serve, enhancing visibility and engagement on crucial issues as well as celebrating the resilience of survivors of violence. Community education and awareness presentations have reached adults and youth alike, with notable events such as the Senior Health Fair Series highlighting our commitment to underserved populations, and youth activity opportunities at schools and libraries.

January's **Stalking Awareness Month**, February's **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month** in partnership with local school systems, April's **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** in collaboration with **Alpena Community College** and local businesses like **North Country Candy and Gifts, Boomtown Roasters, Presque Isle Farms Cider** and October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month with several local libraries hosting community activities - have all contributed significantly to raising awareness and fostering community solidarity against violence and in support of survivors.

All these community outreach activities underscore our organization's commitment to not only address immediate needs but also to forge lasting partnerships that enhance our collective response to **stalking, dating violence, sexual assault and domestic violence**. Our ongoing work with both community and systems partners is vital in building a **supportive network** that empowers survivors and strengthens our community's capacity to respond to sexual assault.

Community Commitment

We are pleased to share insights from a **2023/2024 Think Tank** held in **Montmorency County**, an initiative supported by the **Michigan State University Health Resources and Services Administration** project aimed at enhancing responses to **sexual assault** in rural and underserved communities.

This Think Tank, part of a series of community conversations, was conducted to identify **barriers** in accessing **sexual assault services**, particularly in regions like **Montmorency** that lack immediate emergency healthcare facilities.

Organized in collaboration with Dr. Kathy Dontje from **Michigan State University** and supported by insights from **Dr. Rebecca Campbell's** research, the discussions revealed substantial obstacles that survivors face in seeking care, including the absence of local healthcare services specific to **sexual assault survivors** and the need for significant travel to access support.

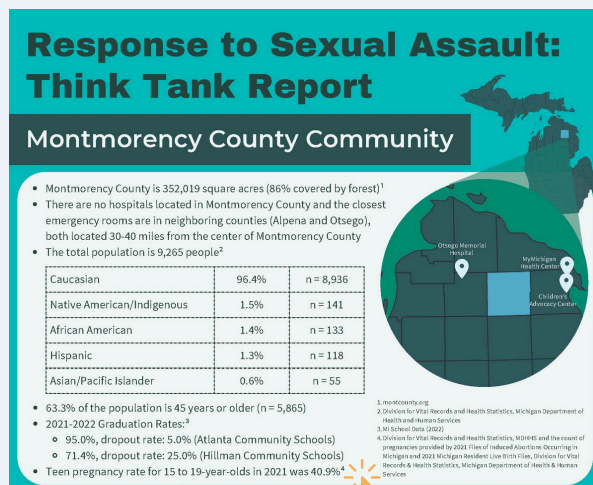


The Think Tank highlighted the critical systemic and societal challenges within Montmorency County, which is isolated with no hospitals and nearest emergency rooms **30–40 miles** away. The lack of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) and the necessary travel for care often mean that survivors do not receive the trauma-informed support they desperately need.

In response to these pressing issues, as well as additional research done by Hope Shores Alliance that highlighted similar barriers in other counties we serve like **Alcona, Iosco, and Presque Isle counties** – we are excited to announce the initiation of the **SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Exam) Program**.

The **SAFE Program** is initially focusing on services in Alpena so that we can establish program process and protocols, however we are committed to extending these vital resources to Montmorency and other underserved communities as the SAFE program continues to be developed and established. The community survey and Think Tank has clearly highlighted **Montmorency** as being substantially underserved, and it is on our list for expansion once the SAFE program is firmly established.

Our efforts underscore our ongoing dedication to **trauma-informed care** and our strategic approach to supporting underserved areas, driven by the urgent needs identified through the Think Tank and our **collaborative research** and **community engagement activities**.



[click above to read the full report](#)

NEW PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM SERVICES

We are proud to announce the initiation of the **Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE)** Program. SAFE exams provide evidentiary options for those survivors seeking support from the criminal justice system.

With the collaboration of **22 community agencies**, such as local **Prosecuting Attorneys, Law Enforcement Agencies** representing all five counties, **Alpena Community College** and **Child Advocacy Centers**, the program is set to expand therapy services and improve forensic medical examination access for children, youth, and adult survivors in the region.

This project underscores our commitment to delivering **trauma-informed care** and accessible support in a centralized location at **MyMichigan Medical Center Alpena**.

We have already expanded the roster of trained and certified **Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)** in our service area, and we will continue to work with local Registered Nurses to promote this certification. Trained SANEs are an integral part of survivors having a trauma informed experience when reporting assault and seeking medical care.



PREVENTION PROGRAM

Hope Shores Alliance was selected by the **Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence** to partner with them on the DELTA AHEAD program through the **Centers for Disease Control**. This initiative is designed to enhance violence **prevention** strategies that address intimate partner violence and promote health equity in Northeast Michigan.

The program activities focus on **decreasing risk factors** and **increasing protective factors** associated with intimate partner violence, emphasizing social determinants of health and health equity. Through this program, Hope Shores Alliance continues to extend its **educational efforts, systems change, and community partnerships** to better serve and support survivors throughout its vast service area.

Stay tuned for more information on where we will be working in our communities to partner around prevention with the ultimate goal to increase safety for all.

FUNDING RESOURCES



REVENUE

State - DVS	\$775,528	36%
Federal - VOCA	\$588,109	27%
Thrift Store	\$232,243	11%
Federal - OVW	\$190,913	9%
Cash Donations	\$140,958	7%
DELTA	\$121,728	6%
Foundations United Way, Besser, CFNEM	\$46,629	2%
Fundraising	\$29,253	1%
Interest Income	\$13,608	1%
Total Revenue	\$2,138,969	100%

EXPENDITURES

Direct Services	\$1,523,198	75%
Admin & Fundraising	\$308,232	15%
Thrift Store	\$179,449	9%
Service Facility Operations	\$46,539	2%
Direct Service Staff Education	\$17,896	1 %
Total Expenditures	\$2,075,314	100%

When you donate financially to Hope Shores Alliance, you can be sure that your money is directly benefiting those most in need.

Whether you choose to gift us with direct monetary gifts, donations to our endowment fund, or purchases at our thrift stores your donation helps foster the sustainability of the organization and ensures that survivors and their families will have access to the resources, support, and services they need for a long time to come.

At Hope shores Alliance, we believe in being good stewards of your donations which is why 80% of funding goes directly to programming and direct services costs, including spaces used for services. Only 15% of the annual agency budget is allocated to administrative costs, and 5% of that is allocated to fundraising, services-outreach, and awareness.

Sexual and domestic violence permeates throughout our communities and negatively impacts us in ways that we often don't recognize right away. Your gift plays an important role in overcoming that negative impact and helps move our community one step closer to who we want to be.

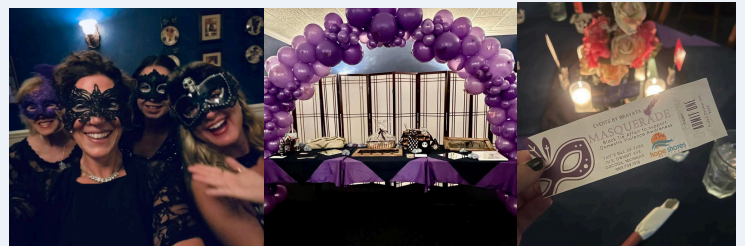
FUND DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the year, Hope Shores Alliance was supported by a series of community and agency-led fundraising events where we partnered with **Real People** to make a **Real Impact** across multiple counties, which collectively raised significant funds to aid our mission.

Highlights include:

- Bowling for Hope, Alpena: This fun and engaging event brought together community members in a bowling challenge, raising a remarkable \$6,786.
- Black Tie Masquerade, Oscoda: An elegant evening that featured a masquerade theme, contributing \$2,145 to our cause.
- Giving Tuesday: A key date in our fundraising calendar, this day of global giving added \$5,330 to our resources.
- Bowling for Hope, Oscoda: A smaller yet impactful iteration of our Alpena event, raising \$268.
- Butch French Memorial Ride, Alpena: This memorial motorcycle ride honored a beloved community member and raised \$4,240 to benefit Hope Shores Alliance.
- Art in the Park, Alpena: A creative gathering of local artists and community members, which added \$1,325 to our funding.
- Iosco Golf with MSP, AuGres: A collaborative event with the Michigan State Police, this golf outing yielded \$3,808 to support Hope Shores Alliance.
- Red Hawk Ladies Golf, Tawas: This women-led golf event demonstrated strong community support, raising \$4,275.

These events not only bolstered our funding but also strengthened community ties, showcasing the collective effort to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence in our region.



REAL HOPE

The joy and enthusiasm of our team are as central to our mission as the vital services we provide. Every day, our staff and volunteers bring their creativity and spirit to the workplace, making it a vibrant hub of learning, collaboration, and community engagement.

From decorating office doors to fostering a fun environment to creating engaging videos and promotional materials for Giving Tuesday, our team embodies the passion and dedication that drive our efforts.

This spirit of fun and commitment extends beyond the office. Our volunteers play a crucial role in connecting with the community, whether by serving a Mother's Day breakfast at our emergency shelter or by joining in local events that bring us closer to those we serve.

Activities like painting rocks with community members not only offer a therapeutic outlet but also strengthen the bonds within our community, reflecting our core belief in the healing power of unity and support.

Professional development is also a key focus, with staff attending conferences to enhance their skills and knowledge, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of advocacy and support services. These opportunities for growth are complemented by moments of inspiration, such as the donated mural at Seconds on Third, which adds a burst of beauty and inspiration to our daily environment.

The energy and commitment of our team at Hope Shores Alliance is real. We are profoundly grateful for the ways in which our staff, volunteers, and community partners join hands to uplift and inspire survivors, truly embodying the spirit of Everyday Advocates.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Char Keune, **President**

Tammy Meredith, **Secretary**

Robyn Christy Parris, **Treasurer**

Members at Large:

Amanda Bergeron

Sara Lane

Cynthia Muszynski

Bonnie Wirgau

LOCATIONS

Administrative & Services Office

3022 US-23 South

PO Box 797

Alpena, MI 49707

989 356 2560

Oscoda Outreach & Services Center

8002 N. Alaska Street

PO Box 658

Oscoda, MI 48750

989 739 0144

Atlanta Outreach & Services Center

11228 Parland

Atlanta, MI 49709

989 250 7979

Seconds on Third Thrift Store

380 N. Third Street

Rogers City, MI 49779

989 734 7306

Revolve by Hope Shores Thrift Store

837 S State Street

Oscoda, MI 48750

989 457 7700

Alpena Emergency Shelter

989 356 6265



VIRTUAL RESOURCES

DONATE



www.hopeshores.org/give



www.hopeshores.org



www.instagram.com/hopeshoresalliance



www.facebook.com/@hopeshoresalliance



P.O. Box 797
Alpena, MI 49707
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24 Hour Help & Support
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www.hopeshores.org