



Healing is Possible



Empower Your Voice



Creating a New Era of *Hope*

# 2025 Annual Report



We're Here For You



## Dear Friends,

This past year felt a little like standing on the edge of something big for Hope Shores Alliance.

Across the five counties we serve, we kept doing what we always do, showing up for survivors and their families, while also building toward the next chapter of what safety and support can look like in our communities.

A major milestone this year was the continued development of our new emergency shelter and the launch of the A New Era of Hope Capital Campaign.

This project is a true turning point in our ability to offer safe, dignified, trauma-informed space for individuals and families seeking stability.

We're close now. What started as a vision is becoming a real place, thanks to the generosity of donors, partners, and community members who chose to invest in hope and in a safer community for us all.

We also experienced meaningful growth inside the organization. Our team expanded, staff leaned into ongoing professional development, and we kept working on a strong, supportive workplace culture built on collaboration and honesty.

At the same time, our Board of Directors grew in both size and leadership, helping guide us through this season of change and keeping us grounded in our mission and values.

None of this happened alone. Every step forward this year was made possible by our dedicated staff, community partners, foundations, donors, and volunteers who believe in this work and in the survivors at the center of it.

Together, we're building a stronger, more responsive organization. One that is better equipped than ever to support survivors and meet the evolving needs of our beautiful corner of Northeastern Michigan.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. Your partnership makes this work possible and helps ensure a safer, more hopeful future for the communities we serve.



**Valerie Williams**  
Executive Director

# 48 YEARS of Providing Safety, Support, and Validation for Survivors

Since 1978, Hope Shores Alliance has provided safety and support to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence across five northeastern Michigan counties.

From emergency shelter to long-term advocacy and counseling, we meet survivors where they are and walk beside them as they heal and rebuild.

## Ways We Show Up

24/7/365 Crisis Support & Advocacy

Counseling & Healing Services

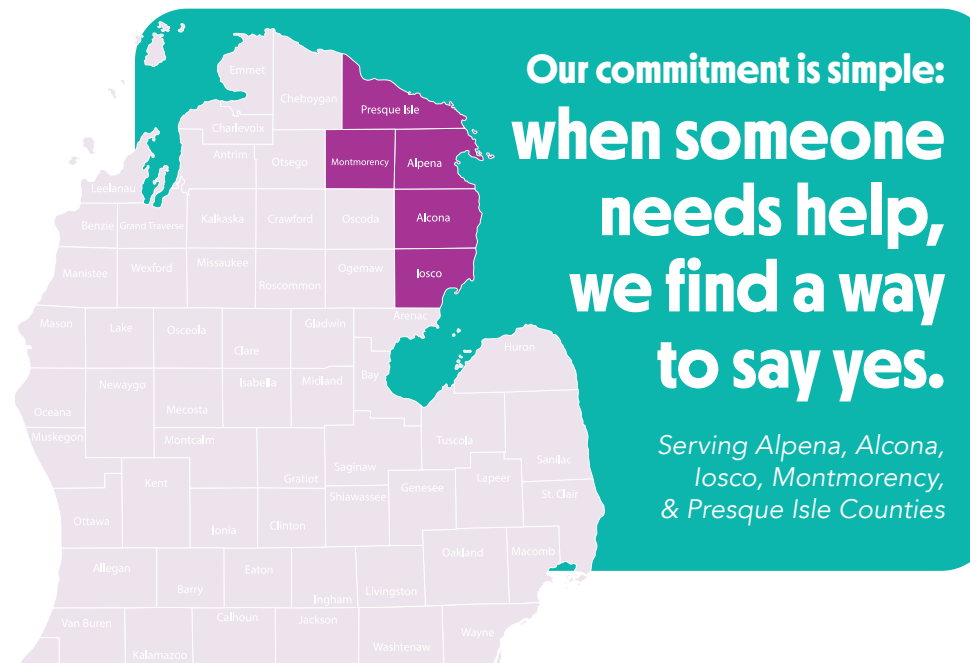
Emergency & Transitional Housing

Advocacy & Systems Navigation Support

Prevention & Community Education

Financial Assistance

Community Support Resources (Thrift Stores)



## OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

724

**Survivors Supported**  
With Access to Shelter, Safety, and Counseling

3,812

**Shelter Nights**  
Providing Safe Shelter When It Was Needed Most

15,280

**Transitional Housing Nights**  
Creating Stability Beyond Emergency Shelter

1,509

**Help & Support Line Calls**  
24/7 Help and Support for Survivors Seeking Safety

4,767

**Advocacy Instances**  
Guidance Through Medical, Legal and Court Systems

523

**Domestic Violence Survivors**  
Supported On Their Path to Safety and Recovery

# Services that Meet Survivors at Every Stage



From crisis support to longer-term healing, Hope Shores Alliance walks alongside survivors at every step and at any stage of their healing journey.



## 24/7/365 Help & Crisis Support

1-800 396 9129

### 24-Hour Help and Support Line

Confidential line with someone always ready to listen

### 24/7 Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Advocacy

In-person advocacy for survivors during critical medical and legal moments

### 24/7 Domestic Assault Response Team (DART) Advocacy

Support and guidance for survivors of domestic violence at any hour



## Advocacy & Systems Support

### Medical Appointment Advocacy

Support so survivors don't have to navigate care alone

### Legal and Judicial Systems Support and Advocacy

Guidance through legal options and court processes

### Referrals for Support Services with Other Community Agencies

Connections to trusted community resources



## Counseling & Healing Support

### Counseling

Support that helps survivors heal and move forward

### Supportive Listening

A safe place to talk openly and be heard

### Alternative Healing Service Support and Referrals

Connections to additional healing supports when needed



## Housing & Safety

### Emergency Shelter

Safe, confidential shelter when safety is urgent

### Long-term Housing

Support for survivors to find and keep safe, affordable, permanent housing

### Transitional Supportive Housing

Safe, supportive housing for up to 24 months in agency-owned or private rentals across five counties



## Additional Survivor Support

### Limited Financial Assistance

Limited help with urgent safety or stability needs

### Thrift Stores

(Seconds on Third & Revolve by Hope Shores) Proceeds support services, and survivors can access items at no cost



## Prevention & Community Education

### Education and Prevention Programs

Community education focused on prevention and awareness

# What Got Done this Year

Small steps, steady work, and changes that matter.

3,812

### Emergency Shelter Nights

Safe shelter when it was needed most for survivors in an immediate crisis.

15,280

### Transitional Housing Nights

Stable housing that gave survivors and families time to breathe, rebuild, and plan for what's next.

50+

### Ring Cameras for Survivors

Free Ring cameras and doorbells that added a layer of safety and peace of mind at home.

64

### After-Hours Advocacy Responses

Advocates showing up in ERs and with law enforcement, so survivors didn't have to face those moments alone.

\$74,622

### in Donated & Giving Space Items

Clothing, household goods, and essentials provided at no cost, so survivors could focus on healing, not starting over from scratch.



## Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP)

### Partners Leading MVP

Alpena Community College and the Boys & Girls Club trained in MVP and now use the curriculum in their own programs.

### In Schools & Youth Spaces

Prevention & Outreach Coordinator, Jeanine Kaltz, shared MVP with Student Leadership Services (SLS) groups and partnered with Alcona Health Centers for school activities and outreach events.

### Community & Online Reach

Three local libraries now offer these materials for free, and social posts keep prevention visible in everyday life.

### Tools for Families & Youth

New children's coloring book, teen safety and healthy boundaries booklets, and an online resource guide help families talk about healthy relationships and safety.

### Looking Ahead

A prevention resource hub on the Hope Shores website will give parents, caregivers, and community members one place to find these tools.

Together, we're building a community where safety and respect are everyone's responsibility.



# A New Era of Hope — How One Storm Made the Need Impossible to Ignore

## When the Ice Storm Hit

In March 2025, a severe ice storm knocked out power for more than 200,000 homes and businesses across Northern Michigan, including Alpena, Montmorency, Presque Isle, and portions of Alcona County.

Our Alpena emergency shelter went dark. No heat, no lights, no safe way to store food. For the survivors staying there, it was one more loss in an already overwhelming time. Staff relocated families to a motel several counties away. **Jason Barbeau Agency** and **Robert Barrigar Agency**, with the **Farm Bureau of Michigan Agent Charitable Fund**, stepped in with an emergency grant to replace lost food and cover urgent needs. Because of that support, survivors still had warm rooms, meals, and people by their side. That storm made something clear for us: our community needs an emergency shelter that is steady and dependable, even when everything around it is not.



## Just Over a Year in the Making

In February 2025, we purchased a building with one goal: create a new emergency shelter that reflects the dignity survivors deserve when they leave violence.

By July, we launched the **New Era of Hope Capital Campaign**, and the support from the community poured in. Donors helped us raise \$150,000, including a \$50,000 matching grant from the **Besser Foundation**. A community garage sale added nearly \$3,000 and strengthened partnerships with neighbors who showed support.

With that help, we were able to start repairing foundations and making safety updates so the building can stand strong. Bit by bit, rooms took shape. Our teams could now walk through the halls, imagining what it would mean to open the doors.

## Safe Spaces for Healing

Campaign support allowed us to purchase more than \$20,000 in commercial-grade furniture. We upgraded from twin beds to full-size beds in every room, with bunk beds featuring secure railings and stable ladders to keep children safe on top bunks. The commercial-grade construction means furniture that will last for years without constant repairs.

Survivors often arrive with little more than the clothes they're wearing, carrying trauma, fear, and exhaustion. A thoughtfully furnished bedroom sends an immediate message: **you are safe here, and you matter.**

Comfortable beds, calming colors, soft lighting; these are more than nice touches. They're the difference between a body that can't stop being on high alert and one that can finally start to let go.

For parents and children, a well-designed bedroom offers stability when everything else feels chaotic.

## A Shelter Built for Everyone

For years, our old shelter created barriers we couldn't fix. All bedrooms were on the second and third floors with no elevator. Narrow hallways made it impossible for someone with a walker, cane, or wheelchair to move through safely. Only a handful of bathrooms were shared among everyone staying there.

The new shelter changes that. The bedrooms are on the first floor with wide, accessible hallways. Most rooms have their own bathroom, and even the six that share are a huge step up from what we had before, providing more privacy and dignity.

The building was designed as an adult care facility, so it already had what we needed – spaces where people can rest and feel safe, not just survive.

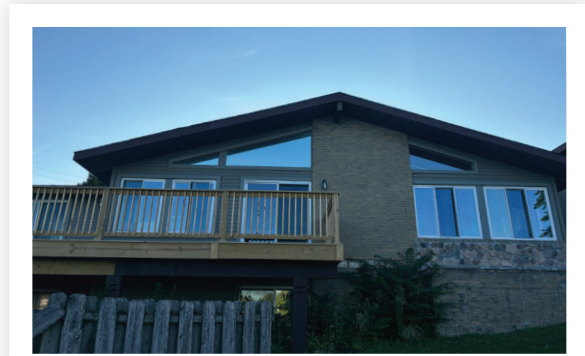
We're going from six bedrooms to eight, and 23 beds to 32. We also purchased four cots. With more space and flexibility, we can better serve families of all sizes.

## What This Shelter Means

In the spring of 2026, the new shelter will open its doors. We've done a lot, but the work isn't over yet, and we're still looking for partners to help us finish strong.

We need to raise another \$150,000 to ensure the shelter is safe and comfortable with updated appliances, security systems, accessibility features, and a backup generator, so we're never caught in the dark again. **Nicolet Bank** has already committed \$10,000 toward the outdoor play area where children can play safely.

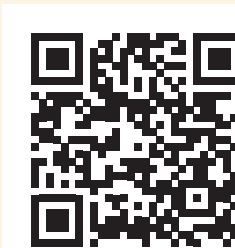
In our rural region, getting to safety already means long drives with very few options. During harsh weather conditions, it can be even more challenging. This shelter changes that.



Once fully complete, someone fleeing violence won't have to worry about navigating stairs, sharing a bathroom with strangers, or arriving only to find the building inaccessible. They'll have a place where they can catch their breath, figure out next steps alongside an advocate, and start to feel steady again, in a space that was built with their dignity in mind.

**At its heart, A New Era of Hope is not just about bricks and furniture. It's our community's way of saying: when you need safety, we've got you.**

There will be a door open, a light on, and people ready to walk beside you.



**SUPPORT  
HOPE SHORES**

[hopeshores.org](https://hopeshores.org)

With your support, we can finish what we started.

# The People Who Show Up

Volunteers who answer phones, support events, and show up when it matters most.

8,162

**Volunteer Hours**  
supporting survivors  
across five counties

\$119,000

**Total Raised**  
in community  
support

## How Volunteers Show Up



Direct Service  
Support

Facility & Admin  
Operations

Community  
Fundraising

## Community in Action

Showing up in support of survivor services



## Keeping Local Partnerships Strong

In May and June, we had face-to-face meetings with prosecutors and law enforcement partners across all five counties (17 agencies) to talk honestly about how survivors access support and how we can keep doing better together.

The result was stronger partnerships, updated referral tools, and more consistent SART collaboration. It's the groundwork that helps Hope Shores Alliance reach and support more people.

### Turkey Trot in Oscoda (1st Annual)

A Thanksgiving morning 5K run/walk outreach program that helped reconnect the Oscoda community with Hope Shores Alliance.



### The Pumpkin Project — DV Awareness

Pumpkin displays in Lincoln, Harrisville, and Alpena that turned everyday spaces into visible reminders of lives impacted by domestic violence.



# Showing Up Where People Are

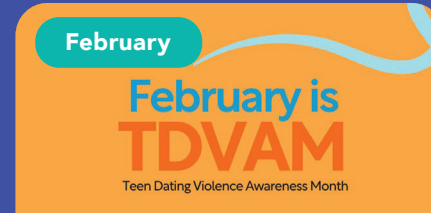
Making sure everyone knows support is here when they need it.



January

Stalking Awareness  
**Karaoke Nights**  
(Alpena & East Tawas)

Honoring Peggy Klinke



February

Teen Dating Violence Awareness  
**Self-Defense Workshop**  
(with SkellaFit)

Focused on teen safety, confidence, and healthy relationships



April

Sexual Assault Awareness  
**Denim Day, Vigil,**  
**Lip-Sync Fundraiser &**  
**Community Tabling**

Awareness events, reflection spaces, and a fundraiser, showing support for survivors



April/May

ORDERS DUE MAY 1ST

2 DESIGNS

MULTIPLE COLOR  
OPTIONS

Community Partnership  
**True North Threads**  
**T-Shirt Partnership**  
**Campaign**

Consent and awareness T-shirt campaigns with proceeds supporting Hope Shores services.



October

Domestic Violence Awareness  
**"From Surviving to**  
**Thriving" Support Group**

Six-week support group program for survivors of domestic violence



October

Domestic Violence Awareness  
**Wellness Events**  
(Joshua Tree in Alpena  
+ The Collective in Iosco)

Yoga and sound bath gatherings



October

Domestic Violence Awareness  
**Zonta Walks for**  
**Women Outreach**

Community-wide tabling and resource-sharing



October

ORDERS DUE OCTOBER 4TH

MULTIPLE  
COLOR  
OPTIONS

ORIN NECK  
HOODIE AND  
SHORT SLEEVE

Domestic Violence Awareness  
**True North Threads DV**  
**Awareness Campaign**

"Hope, Help, Healing" designs supporting Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



October

Domestic Violence Awareness  
**Bingo Night with**  
**Community Partners**

With Cabin Creek Coffee, North Country Candy & Gifts, PIF Cider, and Friendly Foodies.

# The People Doing the Work

A team committed to safety, healing, and showing up every day for survivors.

## Our Staff:

**Valerie Williams**  
Executive Director

**Jillian Ferguson**  
Support Services Coordinator

**Nikki Amrich**  
Finance Director

**Kelly Bernau**  
Services Assistant

## Board Officers:

**Tammy Meredith, PhD**  
President  
Since July 2021

**Theresa Sanford**  
Interim Treasurer  
Since June 2025

**Bonnie Wirgau, BSN, RN**  
Vice President  
Since Jan 2025

**Vacant**  
Secretary

## Members at Large:

**Paige Gordier, PhD**  
Since April 2025

**Cynthia Muszynski, JD**  
Since May 2023

**Kailey O'Brien**  
Since June 2025

**Christina Dehring**  
Since Aug 2025



Tammy Meredith, President; Cynthia Muszynski, Member; Valerie Williams, Executive Director; Bonnie Wirgau, Vice President; Theresa Sanford, Treasurer

Experience at a Glance:

**72+**

Years Of Experience Supporting survivors across our region

**37%**

Long-Term Staff Committed to this work for over three years

**Largest Advocacy Team Yet**

Expanded capacity to fully meet and serve all survivors

### A Message from Our Board President

"The realities of abuse, exploitation, and violence can no longer remain hidden. The Board of Directors is honored to support and lead such a fierce and dedicated group of advocates who work every day to believe survivors, demand accountability, and ensure that every person in our community has a path toward safety and healing. Their compassion, courage, and steadfast commitment to this mission remind us why this work matters."

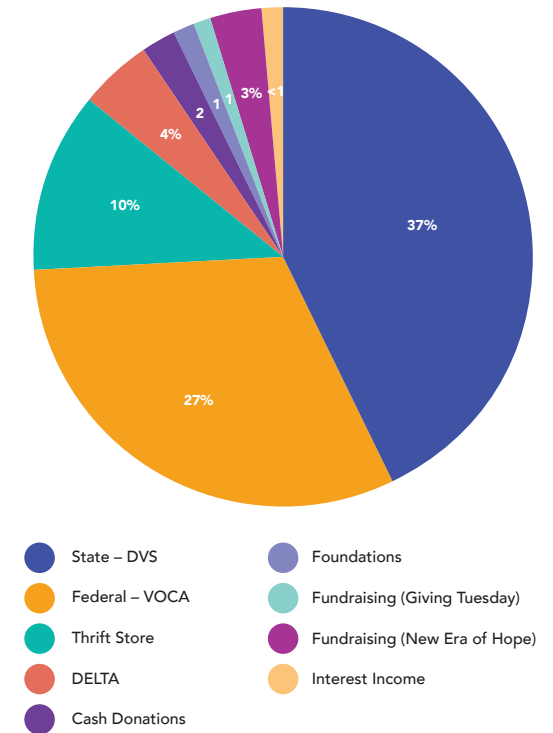
**Tammy Meredith,**  
PhD, Board President

# Where Your Support Goes

Every dollar helps us say "yes" to survivors.

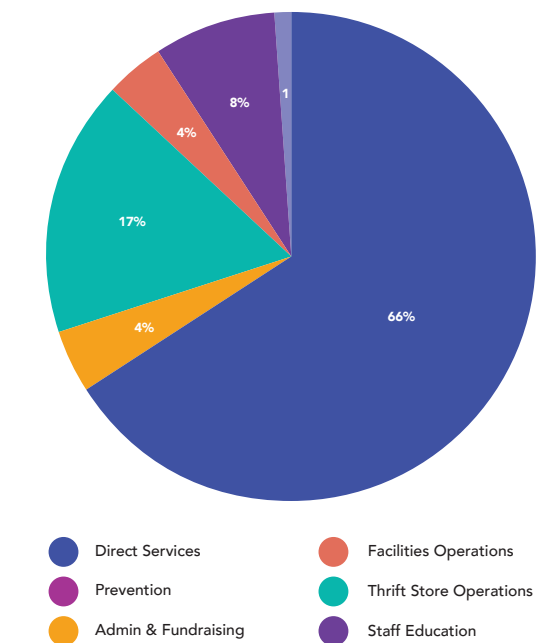
## Revenue:

State - Division of Victim Services (DVS)	\$911,911
Federal - Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)	\$667,434
Thrift Store Proceeds	\$258,694
Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA)	\$103,640
Cash Contributions	\$60,117
Foundations (United Way, Besser Foundation, Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan)	\$32,918
Fundraising Proceeds - Giving Tuesday	\$16,050
Fundraising Proceeds - A New Era of Hope	\$63,043
Interest Income	\$12,086
<b>TOTAL REVENUE:</b>	<b>\$2,474,235</b>



## Expenditures

Direct Services	\$1,594,558
Prevention	\$95,500
Admin & Fundraising	\$407,008
Facilities Operations	\$95,660
Thrift Store Operations	\$188,754
Staff Development & Education	\$34,853
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>\$2,416,333</b>



# You Make This Possible

Every gift helps survivors feel safe, rebuild their lives, and find hope.



**Give Online:**  
[hopeshores.org/give](https://hopeshores.org/give)

**Mail a Check:**  
PO Box 797,  
Alpena, MI 49707

## Stay Connected

- Website:  
[www.hopeshores.org](https://www.hopeshores.org)
- Facebook:  
[@hopeshoresalliance](https://www.facebook.com/hopeshoresalliance)
- Instagram:  
[@hopeshoresalliance](https://www.instagram.com/hopeshoresalliance)

Scan to  
Donate:



## Where You Can Find Us:

### 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

Confidential location  
989-356-6265



## 24/7 Help & Support

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence or needs immediate help, reach out to us anytime:

Help & Support Line: **1-800-396-9129**  
Email: [contactus@hopeshores.org](mailto:contactus@hopeshores.org)

