



Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center

Celebrating
50
years

2024
ANNUAL REPORT

WASAC is a tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). EIN 48-0861281

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



wichitasac



wichita.sexual.assault.center



WASAC TODAY



OUR VISION

Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (WASAC) strives towards a community free of the occurrence and threat of sexual violence.



OUR MISSION

Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (WASAC) works with individuals and communities through comprehensive services and education to create a culture of intolerance for sexual violence and an atmosphere of healing for those impacted by it.

As we celebrated our 50th anniversary in 2024, Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (WASAC) stands as a beacon of hope and support for survivors of sexual violence in our community. Since our founding in 1974, WASAC has been dedicated to providing critical services, advocating for survivors, and working toward a future free from sexual assault.

Over the years, we have expanded our services to meet the evolving needs of survivors. What began as a small grassroots organization has grown into a comprehensive resource, providing crisis intervention, therapy, advocacy, and community education. Our programs now reach thousands of individuals each year. They help survivors heal and reclaim their lives while working to change the systems to better meet our community's needs.

Our anniversary is not just a celebration of the past, but a look forward to the future. We remain committed to growing our services, building stronger community partnerships, and advancing advocacy efforts to ensure all survivors are heard, supported, and empowered.

Throughout this report, you will see images of butterflies. The teal butterfly has long been a symbol in WASAC's logo—teal representing the fight against sexual violence, and the butterfly symbolizing transformation and hope.

OUR HISTORY

1974

ORGANIZATION FOUNDED

The Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center, Inc. was founded in 1974 as the Wichita Area Rape Center by a group of ten women who were deeply concerned about the lack of support and understanding for victims of sexual assault. Our foundation services include: the 24-hour hotline and medical advocacy. These two services still exist today.

1977

Awarded a 3-year grant

In 1977, the agency received a three-year Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) Grant, administered by the City of Wichita. This funding enabled WASAC to hire its first paid staff members.

1980

WASAC partners with United Way of the Plains

In 1980, WASAC became a member agency of the United Way of the Plains, with the majority of our operating budget coming from their support. While our partnership with the United Way continues in 2024, their funding now accounts for approximately 7% of our total budget.

1999

WASAC moves

In 1999, WASAC moved to its current location at 355 N. Waco, Wichita, KS, where we continue to provide services today.

1990s

WASAC continues to grow

In the mid to late 1990s, WASAC expanded its staff, adding bilingual advocates to support the Spanish-speaking community and enhancing services such as counseling, crisis intervention, and community education.

1980s

The agency changes names & expands services

By the mid-1980s, the organization changed its name to Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (WASAC) to better reflect the broad range of services it provides. From sexual harassment and child sexual abuse to include human trafficking and rape, WASAC is committed to combating sexual violence in all its forms.

2007

WASAC adds therapy services

In 2007, WASAC expanded its services to include therapy for survivors, hiring a dedicated Child Therapist. By 2024, our team has grown to three full-time therapists, providing support to all ages of survivors at all stages of their healing journey.

2017

WASAC expands services to Sumner & Cowley Counties

In 2017, WASAC partnered with the Wichita Family Crisis Center (WFCC) to expand advocacy services to Sumner and Cowley Counties, following the closure of the local advocacy agency serving that region. Together, we established an office in Winfield, with six staff members from both organizations, to provide services, education, outreach, and therapy. This collaboration is known as Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Resources in Cowley & Sumner Counties.

2024

WASAC Celebrates 50 years of service

In 2024, WASAC celebrated 50 years of serving the community. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to make a difference, and while we recognize our work is far from complete, we are committed to continuing our mission and advancing our vision in the years to come.



A SNAPSHOT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN OUR NATION & COMMUNITY

Sexual violence continues to be a significant and pervasive public health issue in the United States, impacting individuals across all demographics. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately **1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men** experience some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime. Additionally, research shows that 81% of women and 43% of men who experience sexual violence report significant mental and physical health consequences, including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and chronic physical conditions. These figures emphasize the impact of sexual violence on individuals, families, and our community.

Sexual violence remains one of the most underreported crimes, with many survivors unable to come forward due to fear, stigma, or a lack of resources. At WASAC, we stand by survivors, whether or not they choose to engage with the criminal justice system. We understand the hesitations that many have about

“**1 IN 3 WOMEN & 1 IN 6 MEN EXPERIENCE SOME FORM OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THEIR LIFETIME.**”

reporting, especially given the potential risks to their safety and support networks. Our primary focus is on the well-being and safety of survivors. We often remind them, "We don't work for the police or the hospital; we are here to work for you."

The ongoing prevalence of sexual violence shows the urgent need for comprehensive prevention strategies, enhanced survivor services, and a collective commitment within our communities to end sexual violence in all its forms.

“My advocate was very helpful and listened to me. So kind, she truly cares. She spent three hours working with me **to ensure I felt safe** as possible at home.”



All highlighted quotes, unless otherwise notated, are from survivors who utilized WASAC services in 2024.

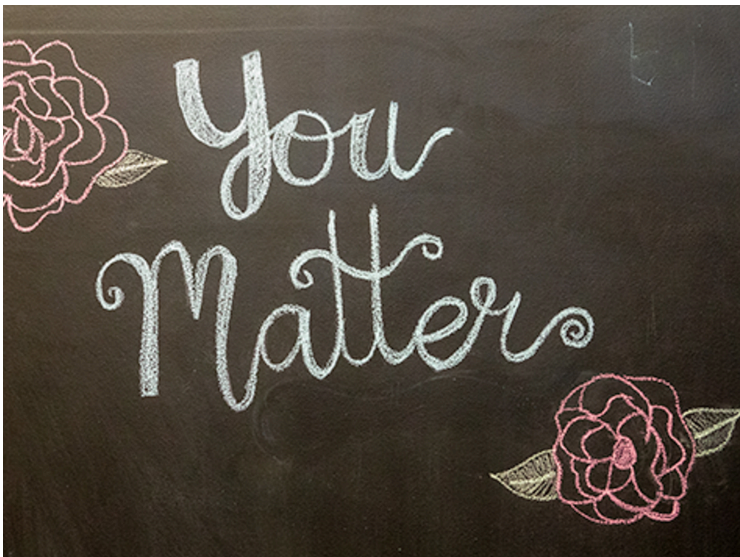


COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT FOR SEDGWICK, SUMNER, & COWLEY COUNTIES

ADVOCACY

Advocacy is at the heart of our mission to support survivors and ensure their voices are heard. Our dedicated team of advocates provides critical support throughout the healing process, offering guidance and support with legal, medical, and emotional needs. From accompanying survivors to court hearings to assisting with navigating complex legal or housing systems, our advocacy services give survivors all of their options so they can make informed decisions and regain control over their lives. We are committed to being a strong, unwavering presence for survivors, advocating not only for their rights but for systemic changes to create a more just community for all.

“Having the support during a police report made this whole thing a thousand times easier.”



THERAPY

Therapy Services provide survivors with a safe, supportive space to begin their healing journey. Our licensed therapists offer individualized counseling tailored to each person's needs, helping them navigate the emotional, psychological, and physical impacts of sexual trauma. Whether through one-on-one sessions, group therapy, or specialized programs for children and families, our team is committed to providing compassionate, trauma-informed care that empowers survivors to feel a sense of control in their healing process and move forward with hope.

“They have helped me realize that I am not and never will be alone.”

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

WASAC's free community education plays a vital role in raising awareness of sexual violence, combatting victim blame, and fostering a culture of respect and support. Through workshops, presentations, and outreach initiatives, we engage schools, businesses, and community groups to promote understanding of consent, healthy relationships, and the impact of sexual assault. Education efforts are integral to building a community that stands together in the fight against sexual assault.



1,867

HOTLINE CALLS ANSWERED



192

VICTIMS SUPPORTED DURING MEDICAL FORENSIC EXAMS



794

INSTANCES OF CRISIS INTERVENTION & SUPPORTIVE COUNSELING



1,112

THERAPY SESSIONS PROVIDED



1,491

VICTIMS ASSISTED THROUGH COURT HEARINGS AND PROTECTION ORDERS



222

SUPPORT GROUPS FACILITATED

“My therapist is helping me get my happiness back!”

578

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS HELD

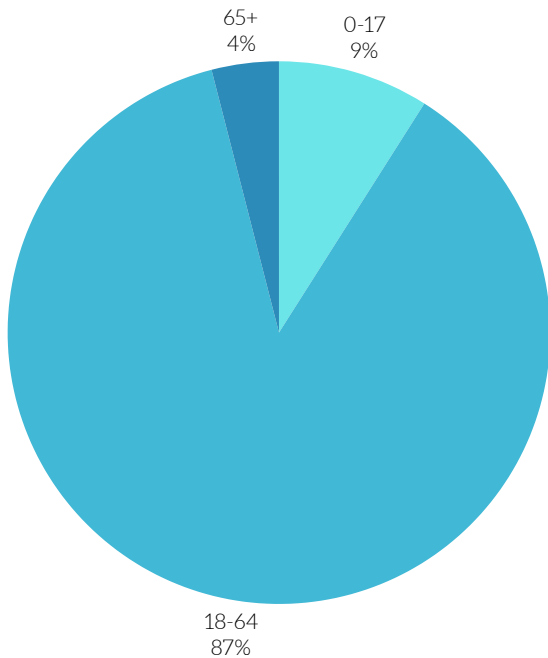


10,854

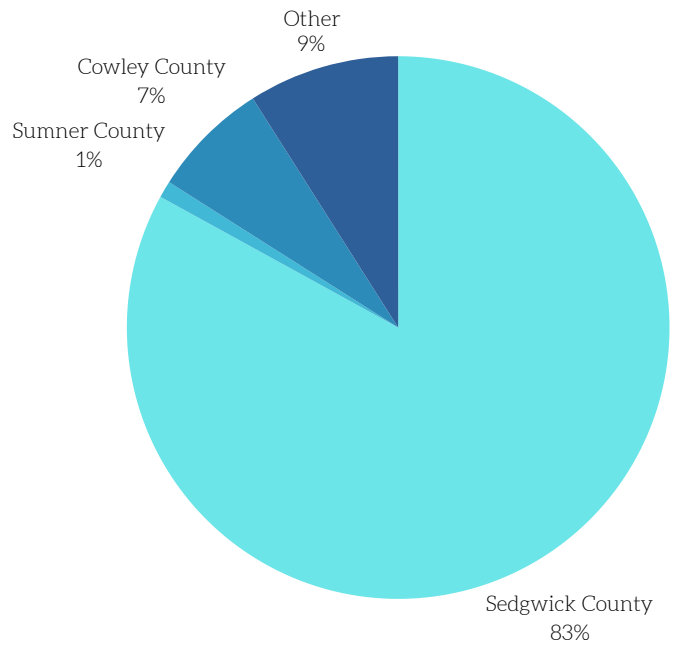
COMMUNITY MEMBERS EDUCATED

“I got a better understanding of how to talk to my child about safe and unsafe touch instead of ‘bad touch’. I really liked the way the advocate explained different things. She made me feel very safe and comfortable.”

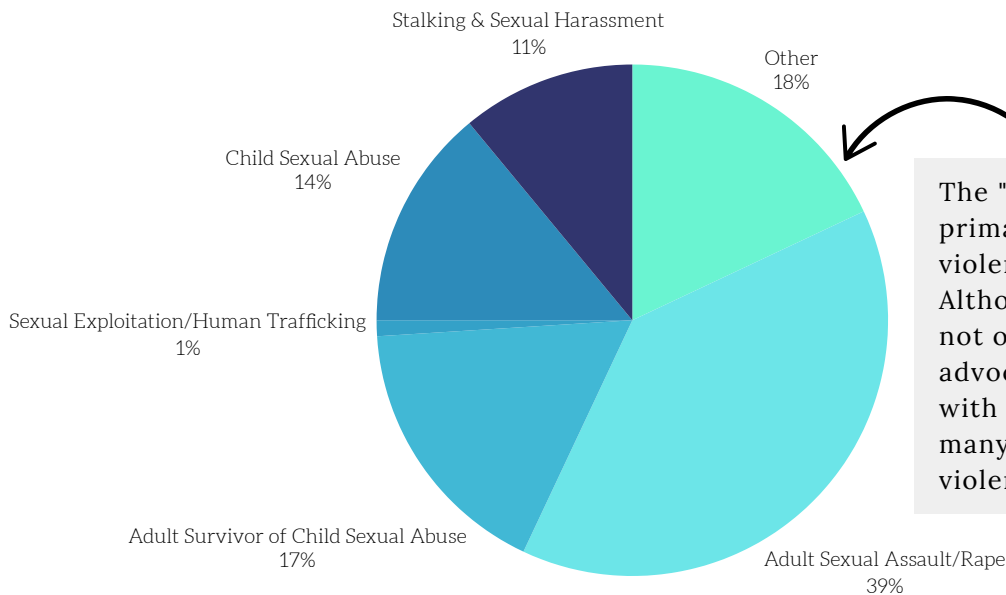
AGES SERVED



COUNTIES SERVED



TYPE OF VICTIMIZATION



The "Other" category primarily consists of domestic violence victimization. Although domestic violence is not our main focus, WASAC advocates supporting those with protection orders assist many survivors of domestic violence.

Human trafficking has become a significant topic of conversation in recent years, and WASAC is frequently asked how many survivors of human trafficking we serve. However, our data on this issue is not straightforward, due to the complex nature of sexual violence. Many survivors of trafficking were first victims of childhood sexual assault or rape before being trafficked. While our staff diligently tracks data on victimization, it's important to note that survivors of trafficking are often categorized under other services, such as adult survivors of child sexual abuse or rape.

Anecdotally, we know that **we serve hundreds of trafficking survivors every year**. Sexual violence is a deeply complex issue, and it impacts individuals in diverse and unique ways. We are committed to serving all survivors of sexual violence across the spectrum of many unique victimizations.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Community partnerships are vital to WASAC's ability to provide comprehensive, wraparound support to survivors of sexual violence. As an active member of the Sedgwick County Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT), we collaborate closely with local law enforcement, courts, health care organizations, domestic violence advocacy, and corrections. Outside of the CCRT, our advocates have active working relationships to provide educational programs and survivor services out in the community. These partnerships include: USD 259, Wichita State University, area colleges, drug and alcohol recovery programs, and many other allied nonprofits.



These partnerships ensure that survivors receive the care and resources they need, whether they are able to walk through our doors or not. By working together, we create a seamless network of support that strengthens the entire community, empowers survivors on their healing journey, and helps prevent future violence. We are deeply grateful to all of our partners for their ongoing commitment to this critical work.

"The Lord's Diner is grateful for all of our community partners. These organizations are usually subject matter experts that offer vital and important resources to our guests - significantly increasing the impact we can have on those we serve. WASAC is one of our community partners to which we are truly grateful. Many of our guests are at extremely high risk of experiencing sexual violence. Having WASAC advocates on-site once a month allows our guests to learn about resources available. And, it gives them the space to ask questions, tell their stories, and be heard by trained professionals in an environment that is familiar and convenient."

- Emily Thome, Director, The Lord's Diner

"As a prosecutor in the Sedgwick County District Attorney's Office's Domestic Violence and Sex Crimes Unit, I am grateful for our partnership with WASAC. Fighting for justice for survivors of sexual violence is a daunting task for prosecutors, our staff, and especially for survivors themselves. Knowing that I will always have a WASAC advocate ready to provide support at every step of the case from investigation to sentencing is a tremendous help. Survivors often have so many questions that prosecutors cannot answer - how will I pay my bills? Where can I get counseling services? Who will watch my children while I'm at court? The list goes on. I cannot imagine doing this job without the help of WASAC."

-Josh Steward, Assistant District Attorney

"Sexual and domestic violence are complex issues that often intersect in the lives of clients we serve at the Wichita Family Crisis Center. Having a collaborative working relationship with WASAC has been instrumental in bringing wrap-around support to survivors, ultimately enhancing their safety and experience with seeking help."

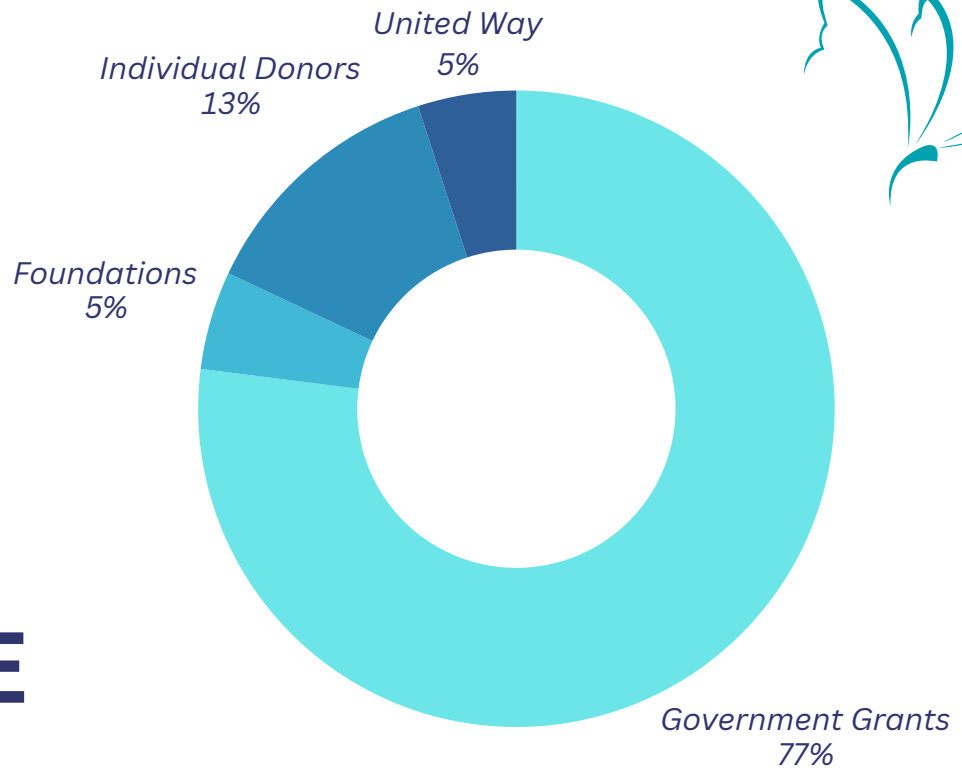
-Amanda Meyers, Executive Director, Wichita Family Crisis Center

"The relationship between WASAC and the Wichita Police Department (WPD) plays a crucial role in ensuring victims receive long-term care and access to critical resources. Our joint efforts include working with advocates during ongoing and active investigations and we are teaming up on victim notifications through the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI). Strengthening the WASAC/WPD relationship can only benefit victims and enhance our collective response to sexual assault in Wichita and surrounding communities."

-Captain Christian Cory, Wichita Police Department

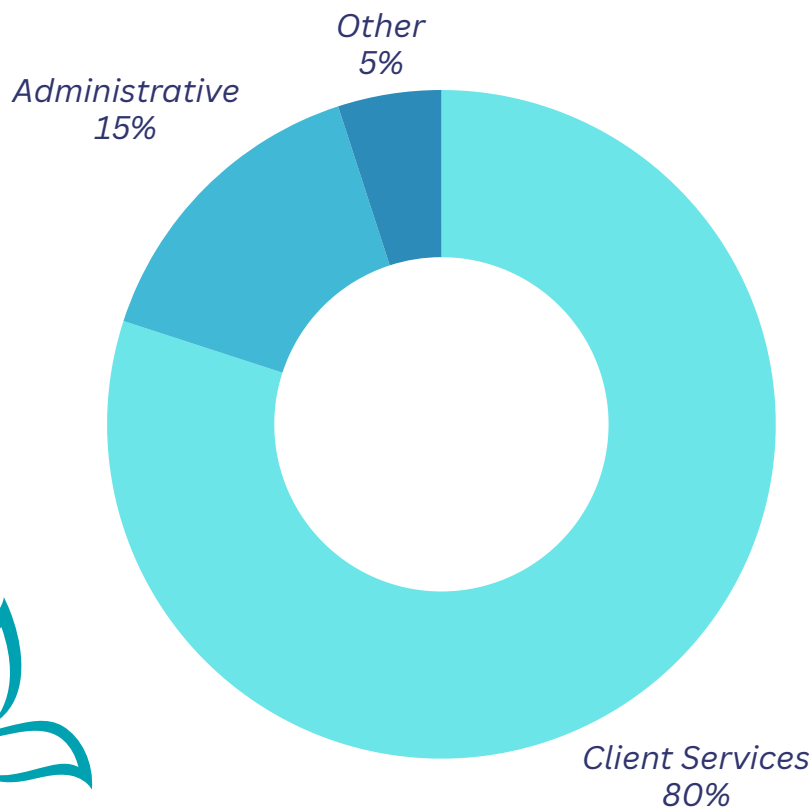
Government Grants make up the largest portion of the annual budget. Some of these grants include: State General Funds, Victims of Crime Act, Violence Against Women Act, Sexual Assault Services Provisions, as well as three grants from the KS Attorney General's Office.

Individual Donors includes all of our monthly sustaining donors, one-time donations, memorials, and fundraising events.



REVENUE

EXPENSES



Administrative Expenses include salaries and benefits of our Administrative Coordinator, Grants Financial Manager, and Executive Director.

Client Services includes all of our advocacy staff as well as the rent on the office spaces we use to serve clients.

Other includes bank fees, depreciation, and other business-related expenses.

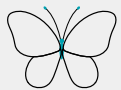
SUSTAINING DONOR PROGRAM

Imagine the difference we can make

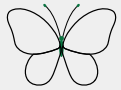
Over the past year, we've been working to grow our community of monthly sustaining donors, and we invite you to join us in making a lasting impact. By contributing just \$50 a month, you'll help provide essential hope and support to survivors of sexual violence, ensuring they receive the care they need to heal and rebuild their lives. For the price of a dinner out, you can help build a safer, stronger community.

Your steady support enables us to plan for the future and make a meaningful difference. Every contribution—no matter the size—brings us one step closer to our mission. All donors contributing more than \$1000/year receive a gold butterfly placed on our donor wall (pictured on the last page), showing everyone who walks through our doors that they are not alone.

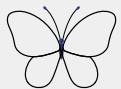
Here's what \$50/month can do:



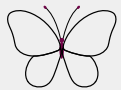
1 person giving \$50/month funds our hotline for 4 days.



25 people giving \$50/month ensures every survivor has an advocate during law enforcement interviews.



100 people giving \$50/month funds sexual violence education across Sedgwick, Sumner, and Cowley counties.



500 people giving \$50/month expands and sustains free therapeutic services for survivors of all ages.

Together, we can create a community of care and healing.

To join our Sustaining Donor community or to make a one-time donation, simply scan the QR code and select the amount you'd like to contribute. Your support makes a difference!



“It’s life changing and the support that we need after having our lives ripped away from us.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rachel Wetta, Board President
Michele Gifford, Vice President
Beth Oaks, Treasurer
Josh Steward, Secretary
Todd Tedesco, Past President
Brenda Blazer
Jackie Gearhart
Shelley Gillen
DeAnn Konkel
Tina Peck
Stephanie Quick
Randy Reynolds
Lisa Tatum
Gigi Tsontos



LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mary Stolz, Executive Director
Jordan Martin, Director of Advocacy
Kami Dobbs, Director of Outreach Counties
Cammie Goen, Advocacy Coordinator
Jennifer Ruvalcaba, Advocacy Coordinator
Cherrie Holder, Coordinator of Protection Order Office
Janet Miller, Administrative Coordinator
Jessica Hernandez-Martinez, Grants Financial Manager

ADVOCACY & THERAPY STAFF

Aubrey Boor, Esmeralda Castillo, Jane Chavez, Manda Conley,
Maddy Elmore, Bradley Fullington, Tristian Galindo, Allison
Graham, Meya Green, Rachel Gronbach, Katrina Henley, Susan
Hill, AJ Locashio, Amy Nickell, Estela Vega, Mariah White



IN GRATITUDE

In 2024, the Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (WASAC) has continued to provide critical services to survivors of sexual violence, thanks to the unwavering support of our community. With the dedication of our volunteers, donors, and partners, we have been able to raise awareness and offer compassionate care to those in need. We are deeply grateful for every contribution and invite you to continue your support—whether through financial donations, volunteering, or joining us in our mission. Together, we can make a lasting impact. Thank you for being part of our journey.



For volunteer opportunities, contact Cammie Goen at Cammie@wichitasac.com



To schedule services or an educational program with WASAC, contact Jordan Martin at Jordan@wichitasac.com

All donors and community partners are welcome to come in for a tour! Contact, Mary Stolz, Executive Director, with any questions or requests related to this Annual Report.

Mary Stolz
Executive Director
355 N Waco, Ste 100
Wichita, KS 67202
(316) 263-0185
mary@wichitasac.com

