SAFE HAVENS INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ELDER ABUSE

2021 IMPACT REPORT
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A WORD FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

Here at Safe Havens, we have been working at the intersection of faith and abuse for the past 30 years. We are honored to share with you a few of our accomplishments from over the years:

- Safe Havens encourages both service providers and faith communities to think about the complexity of faith and the impact it can have on faithful people experiencing abuse.
- We have provided 44 Catalyst Trainings in 25 distinct states across the United States to bring together faith leaders and their local service providers.
- "As advocates, we should be open to listen to faith leaders as much as we would like them to hear us." - Stated by a service provider in an evaluation of our Catalyst Training.

We are grateful to each and every one of you. Without the dedication of our supporters, interfaith community, and service providers, we would have never been able to make such progress in helping faithful people to live free from violence.

While we are grateful for how far we have come in our mission, we realize that our work will not be done until NO person ever has to choose between their faith and reaching safety and healing. Thus, as we continue our programming in the upcoming year, we thank you for your continued support.

ANNE MARIE HUNTER
CO-DIRECTOR

ALYSON MORSE KATZMAN
CO-DIRECTOR
ABOUT SAFE HAVENS

Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership was founded by a group of faithful women in 1991 as a response to the need for faith communities to better respond to faithful people experiencing abuse. Since our inception, we have enhanced an interfaith, coordinated community response so no one has to choose between their faith and their safety.

For the past 30 years, we have been working with diverse faith communities, both locally in Boston, and on a national level. We provide trainings, resources, technical assistance, and webinars to train faith leaders and communities on how to respond safely and effectively to domestic and sexual violence and elder abuse and to build partnerships between faith communities and service providers.

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Safe Havens empowers diverse faith communities and their local service providers to work together to end domestic and sexual violence and elder abuse.

No one should have to choose between faith and safety. This is why we work to build a world in which all people are treated with dignity and respect, and in which domestic and sexual violence and elder abuse no longer exist. We envision a time when every religious and spiritual community can fully embrace their unique and vital role to support survivors, provide prevention education, and speak out with moral authority against abuse and the systemic oppressions and inequities that undergird abuse.
We put DIGNITY into action when we
  • believe survivors and take them seriously,
  • trust survivors to make the best decisions about the way forward,
  • treat all faith leaders, advocates, and service providers with respect,
  • honor all faith traditions; &
  • center the worth of everyone we work with in everything we do.

We put HOPE into action when we
  • affirm that there are many caring people in our congregations and communities,
  • believe that survivors should be able to be both faithful and safe,
  • trust that we can make a difference,
  • know that healing and new life are possible; &
  • believe that abuse will never have the last word.

We put SAFETY into action when we
  • believe that every human being has the right to be safe: in their school, their car, their work, their congregation, their community, their world, their home; &
  • always refer survivors of abuse to domestic and sexual violence services.

We put PEACE & WELLBEING into action when we
  • validate a survivor’s feelings, fears, and concerns,
  • promote healthy relationships and physical and spiritual wholeness for survivors of abuse, their children, their faith communities, and their families,
  • support fair wages, affordable housing and day care, and other public policies that allow survivors of abuse to thrive; &
  • look beyond surviving abuse to healing and thriving.
Nationally, through our partnership with the Office on Violence Against Women, Safe Havens conducted **6 virtual Catalyst Trainings** in 2021 for diverse congregations and service providers in Minnesota, Maine, Montana, Ohio, Texas, and Tulsa.

Catalyst Trainings help to build a coherent coordinated community response for faithful survivors of abuse.

This year, we directly trained **165 diverse faith leaders and service providers** and reached more than **8,250 faithful individuals** through our Catalyst Trainings.

In addition to Catalyst Trainings, Safe Havens provides technical assistance, creates and presents webinars, and develops and distributes educational resources.

Safe Havens is deeply grateful for the Office on Violence Against Women’s continued support, enabling us to educate and train interfaith communities and local service providers in over 44 locations nationally.

This year in collaboration with Esperanza United, we developed **6 new resources** both in English and Spanish for Latin@ faith communities responding to abuse.

**12 Webinars**

**528 Faith Leaders & Community Members Trained**

**49 Training Hours**

**110.5 Hours of Technical Assistance Provided**

**8,250 People Reached**

**993 Resources Distributed**
96.6% of faith leaders trained reported an increase in knowledge, skills, and/or capacity to serve people who experience domestic and sexual violence as a result of the Catalyst Training.

100% of service providers reported that our training increased their knowledge, skills, and/or capacity to work with faith leaders and faith communities as a result of the Catalyst Training.
LOCAL WORK
2021 IMPACT

Safe Havens works locally in Greater Boston to conduct outreach, provide awareness building materials, and build partnerships between faith leaders and service providers.

In 2021, we directly provided education and awareness building to 313 individuals in Greater Boston through training and presentations that built bridges between faith leaders and service providers on the intersections of faith and abuse.

In addition, we conducted outreach, communications, and partnership building with 35 congregations in the Greater Boston area. As a result, we provided educational materials to approximately 5,250 faithful people to build awareness of and response to issues including: domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, elder abuse, and dating violence.

"You are not alone. Faith communities and leaders care and want to be of meaningful support, counsel, and affirmation."
- Greater Boston faith leader in response to people experiencing abuse.

Our local program, Safe with Faith, recruits and empowers volunteers within diverse local faith communities to partner with Safe Havens and local service providers. We provide our 8 long-standing partner congregations tailored training, technical assistance, and awareness building resources on domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse.

- 8 Active Safe with Faith Partner Congregations
- 313 Faith Leaders & Community Members Trained
- 36 Training Hours
- 5,250 People Reached
In 2021, Safe Havens trained 841 diverse faith leaders and service providers to build bridges to create a more coordinated community response for faithful people who experience violence.

In 2021, after participation in our Catalyst Trainings, 100% of service providers reported heightened sensitivity to the importance faith may play for faithful people experiencing domestic and sexual violence.

Safe Havens reached 13,500 faithful individuals, community members, and service providers, both locally and nationally, through our trainings and awareness campaigns in 2021.

In 2021, after participation in our Catalyst Trainings, 100% of faith leaders reported they received information and resources about how to refer people experiencing abuse to services.
PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

At Safe Havens, we are dedicated to ensuring that all faithful people who experience abuse have the resources available to reach safety. We know our efforts would not be possible without the help of our community partners.

In 2021, we are grateful for our long-standing community partners and for the new partnerships we have been building.

We are particularly proud of the partnerships we have built and continued to strengthen this year.

We have built a partnership with the National Office of Victim Assistance (NOVA) to better serve faithful students on university campuses that experience sexual assault, dating violence, and/or stalking. Through this work, we have learned much about purity culture and the painful impacts it can have on survivors of sexual assault at faith-based universities on campuses. As a result, we are working to develop resources responding to these needs for faithful university survivors.

We have also strengthened our partnership with Esperanza United to build culturally responsive resources to support Latinx faith communities responding to abuse. In partnership with Esperanza United, we have conducted Listening Circles and developed resources for Latin@ faith communities.

Using our findings from our 2020 Listening Circles with Latin@ faith leaders, we worked with Esperanza United to develop culturally-specific, bi-lingual (English and Spanish) resources for the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian Latin@ communities that address the misuse of faith traditions resulting in undermined safety for faithful people experiencing violence.

“If we [faith leaders] are going to work with victims, we need to train people to respond to these cases. We need ability and resources.”

- Latin@ faith leader response during a 2020 Listening Circle

In addition, we collaborate with the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL) and the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) to enhance the safety and quality of life for faithful older adults that experience abuse.
“You are worthy of being heard and loved.”

“You are beloved of the God who sees, hears, and knows you deeply. Forgive us, as God’s people, for our blindness and deafness to your pain. We seek to repent of our ignorance and advocate for you well, and to preach/teach against the obscenity of abuse and violence. May God’s peace that surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (cf. Phil 4:7) now and always.”

“DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS MORE COMMON THAN YOU THINK. IT’S NOT YOUR FAULT. YOU ARE LOVED. HEALING CAN TAKE A LONG TIME...”

“Violence is not part of God’s plan, and no one deserves to be abused. As you make decisions, know that you are not alone and that help is available.”

“HELP IS AVAILABLE. YOU ARE NOT ALONE. THROUGH OUR FAITH AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES, WE WILL FIND YOU THE SUPPORT YOU NEED SPIRITUALLY, LEGALLY, MEDICALLY, FOR CHILD CARE, AND FOR NEW HOME STARTUP TASKS LIKE CLOTHING, FURNITURE AND FRIENDSHIPS.”

“The covenant of marriage is broken by the abuse and not by the person seeking safety.”
Thanks to YOUR impactful support, Safe Havens was able to reach our annual goal of raising $30,000 for our 30th Anniversary. Every dollar donated moves us closer to ensuring NO person ever has to choose between faith and safety.

**FUNDERS**

- We want to give a special thanks to the **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN** for their support of our national work.
- We send a very warm thank you to the **ANDREAS FOUNDATION** and the **ROSENTHAL CHARITABLE TRUST** for their generous support.
- A special thank you to our very generous **PRIVATE DONORS**. We couldn’t do this without you!
- We are also deeply grateful for the **INTERFAITH CONGREGATIONS** that support this work.

**MEMBERSHIPS**

- **JANE DOE, INC.**
- **JEWISH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION**
- **JEWISH WOMEN INTERNATIONAL’S INTERFAITH COALITION**
- **NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP LAB**
- **PHILANTHROPY MASSACHUSETTS**
SAFE HAVENS INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP

Rev. Dr. Anne Marie Hunter
Co-Director
she/her

Alyson Morse Katzman, MPA
Co-Director
she/her

Catherine Oidtman, MPP
Program and Evaluation Specialist
she/her

Sarah Mattea Lane
Life Together Fellow
she/their

OUR STAFF
In 2021, our Board of Directors worked with staff to finalize our strategic plan and created an in-depth plan to enhance our cultural competency and expand our equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts.

**BOARD SUCCESSES**

**Honorable J. Thomas Kirkman (Ret.)**
First Justice, Edgartown District Court; Member of the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Barnstable County Bar Association, the Nam Vets of Hyannis of Massachusetts, the Cape Organization for the Rights of the Disabled, the Town of Falmouth’s No Place for Hate Committee, Governing Board of the Upper Cape Chaplaincy

**Liz Marshall**
 Trafficking Intervention Project Advocate at Beth Israel Medical Center; Domestic Violence Advocate at Massachusetts General Hospital; Postulant for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

**Dr. Nancy Nienhuis**
 Adjunct Faculty, Boston University School of Theology

**Kay Larholt Silverman, ScD**
 Director of Integrated Knowledge Solutions, NEWDIGS at MIT Center for Biomedical Innovation

**Kathryne Tenney, MPH**
 Presidential Management Fellow, USAID
If you are interested in getting involved in our local program in Greater Boston or in our national work, please do not hesitate to reach out us. We look forward to collaborating with you!