

## New Name, Same Crucial Services

**Turning Points Network is now officially The Center for Safer Communities.** First announced at our 19th Annual Steppin' Up to End Violence event in May 2025, the new name reflects a pivotal moment in our agency's evolution and strategic direction. Our new name encompasses all our services and clearly states our intent: to create safer communities in Sullivan County through prevention education and crisis response services.

Since our founding as Women's Supportive Services in 1977, the agency has continually evolved to meet the changing needs of our community. Our transition to Turning Points Network in 2007, and now to The Center for Safer Communities in 2025, embodies this ongoing evolution—showing how we continue to grow, adapt, and respond dynamically to the needs of those we serve.

The new name also underscores the growing importance of prevention education in building safer, more resilient communities. We all want safer communities, and our name is both a statement of purpose and an invitation: we can all play a part in preventing violence, not only responding to it. Our board members, donors, volunteers, and partners are already part of this shared mission—work that we cannot do alone.

"The new name and logo are the finishing touch to our new building," said long-time board member Christina Hill, referring to our main office in Claremont, NH, completed in early 2022 through the generous support of our donors.

Our new logo incorporates the Broad Street office into its design, featuring the building's eaves above rays of light radiating from a single point—symbolizing the hope and light we strive to bring to survivors of domestic and sexual violence.



Above: Center for Safer Communities staff stand behind a tablecloth showing off the new name and logo.

## Sound Healing for Survivors with Cat Callandrillo



Left: Family Violence Prevention Specialist Cat Callandrillo stands by some of her instruments at our Broad Street office. Recently, she has been exploring how sound healing—an ancient practice rooted in meditation and mindfulness—can complement her work with survivors.

Through the use of sound and vibration, sound healing can help reduce stress, elevate mood, improve sleep, and enhance mental clarity. Cat's curiosity about this practice reflects a broader commitment shared by our team: finding holistic, creative ways to promote healing and well-being for those we serve.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**This has been a year of remarkable growth and transformation for The Center for Safer Communities.** Our new name reflects the full scope of our mission, one that is not only responding to violence but preventing it through education and community partnerships. Programs like our Digital Boundaries Workshop and One Trusted Adult training are reaching more young people and educators than ever before, and we're exploring innovative healing approaches, including sound therapy, to support survivors on their journey to recovery.

This progress builds on a strong foundation. We are deeply grateful to Christina Hill for her years of leadership as our Board President from 2018 to 2025. Her steady guidance has shaped so much of who we are today, and we're fortunate she'll continue to share her wisdom with us as a board member.

Now, under Zachary Haines' leadership as our new Board President, we are well positioned to tackle the critical challenges facing survivors, including housing affordability and cost of living increases, often when on limited incomes. In a county where median rent has increased 42 percent since 2019, survivors face difficult choices and obstacles as they work to establish safety and stability for themselves and their families.



As we look forward to celebrating the 20th anniversary of Steppin' Up to End Violence this May, I'm reminded that none of this work happens alone. Your partnership makes hope possible. Together, we're supporting survivors as they rebuild their lives and creating safer communities for generations to come.

With gratitude,

*Pascale*

Pascale N. Graham, Executive Director  
[pascale@cscnh.org](mailto:pascale@cscnh.org)

**Left: Pascale and Zach, our new board president, pose outside of the broad street office.**

## Our Work with Granite Hill School

**It all started with a Digital Boundaries Workshop at Granite Hill School in Newport, NH, last spring.** As part of the school's ongoing mission to become more trauma-informed, our education team was invited to lead a training on online safety for students.

The workshop sparked important conversations with administrators about how young people engage with technology and how adults can better support them in navigating relationships both online and in person. Building on those conversations, our prevention education team was invited back to Granite Hill to provide the "One Trusted Adult" training for their full staff, created by New Hampshire educator and founder Dr. Brooklyn Raney.

Research consistently shows that one of the most powerful protective factors for children is having at least one trusted adult in their lives outside their immediate caretakers. According to Dr. Raney, a trusted adult embodies the ABC's: Accessible, Boundaried, and Caring. This training empowers adults to

strengthen these qualities, helping them show up for young people with intention, empathy, and healthy boundaries.

Being a trusted adult isn't just a concept—it's a community practice. It's a way for all of us to play a healthy, supportive role in the lives of children and teens, whether in our families, schools, or neighborhoods. Granite Hill School is setting a meaningful example for other schools, faith communities, and organizations that want to foster safety, connection, and trust by providing training and workshops about trauma and resilience, healthy relationships, abuse prevention, and trusted adults.

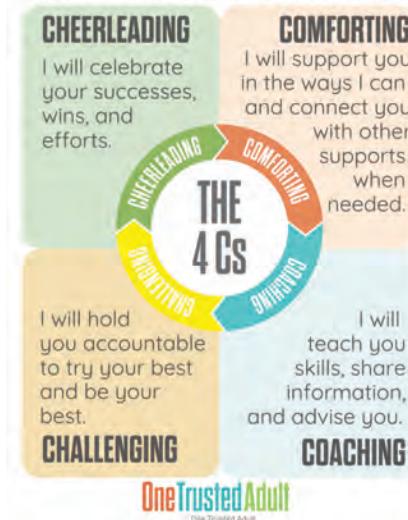
There are many ways to collaborate with schools and community groups to bring these vital programs to more people—creating safer spaces for everyone and building a stronger network of care.

If your organization, school, or group would like to host the "One Trusted Adult" program or explore other

prevention education opportunities designed to promote healthy relationships and end abuse, please contact our education department at [prevention@cscnh.org](mailto:prevention@cscnh.org).

### I CARE ABOUT YOU.

Here are the kinds of care you can expect from me:



**Above: A graphic from One Trusted Adult showing the 4 Cs: Cheerleading, Comforting, Challenging, and Coaching.**

# The Hidden Cost of Safety: How Rising Living Expenses Impact Survivors of Violence in Sullivan County

**Across Sullivan County and the broader New Hampshire region, the rising cost of living is creating steep barriers for families trying to keep afloat.** For survivors of domestic and sexual violence served by The Center for Safer Communities, these economic pressures can close off the path to safety.

In Sullivan County, the median monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1,431, with utility costs averaging \$344 per month, which is among the highest in the state. This means a survivor needs approximately \$1,775 per month just for housing and utilities. To afford this without being cost-burdened (spending more than 30% of income on housing), a household would need to earn \$57,200 annually, or about \$27.50 per hour working full-time. Yet the county's estimated median renter household income is just \$36,665, meaning an affordable rent would be only \$917 per month. The gap between what's affordable and what's available is devastating.

Rent and utilities are only the beginning of the financial burden families face. Food costs have climbed dramatically. For a single parent with two children, grocery bills easily consume \$500-\$650 monthly, and that's before accounting for dietary restrictions. Since 2021, the food insecure population in New Hampshire has grown by 59%, and though many qualify for assistance programs like WIC, only about half of those eligible are enrolled.

Transportation costs add another \$200-\$400 monthly in a rural region with limited public transit, as survivors must reach work, medical appointments, court dates, and children's needs. When we add these costs together, the economic trap becomes clear.

For someone working full-time at entry-level wages, the math simply doesn't work. Even working multiple jobs, many survivors cannot bridge the gap between income and expenses, particularly when trauma, safety concerns, and childcare constraints limit their employment options.

Survivors of violence often leave with little notice, limited resources, and disrupted employment or support networks. The financial barriers compound at every turn. Security deposits and move-in costs can require \$2,500-\$3,000 upfront, an impossible sum for someone fleeing with nothing. Utility deposits for new accounts add hundreds more, particularly for applicants with poor or no credit history. Childcare waitlists stretch months long, forcing survivors to choose between employment and supervision of their children. Lost income from missed work due to court dates, injuries, relocation, or trauma recovery creates additional financial strain.

At The Center for Safer Communities, we see these dynamics every day and have built our programs to address exactly these barriers. We are the only organization in Sullivan County providing comprehensive services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and sex trafficking.

Our emergency shelter provides immediate safety when leaving becomes urgent, offering not just a bed but a trauma-informed environment where survivors can begin to heal. We know that shelter alone isn't enough. That's why we provide rental and utility assistance to help survivors bridge the gap between crisis and stability, covering security deposits, first month's rent, and ongoing utility costs that would otherwise be insurmountable.

We understand that food insecurity compounds trauma, so we provide emergency food and household supplies to ensure that basic needs are met while survivors focus on safety and healing. Our advocates work one-on-one with survivors to connect them to employment and education opportunities that can lead to living-wage careers, not just minimum-wage jobs. We may assist with childcare costs and navigate waitlists, recognizing that access to reliable childcare is often the difference between employment and economic collapse.



Through our advocacy services, we assist survivors in navigating complex legal systems, accessing public benefits they're entitled to, and connecting with local partners to increase access to safe, affordable housing. We provide case management that addresses the full spectrum of barriers survivors face, from transportation to healthcare to legal advocacy, because we know that safety requires comprehensive support.

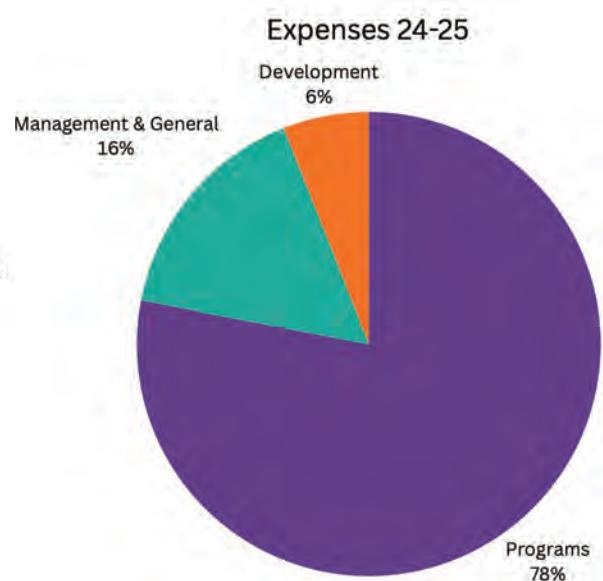
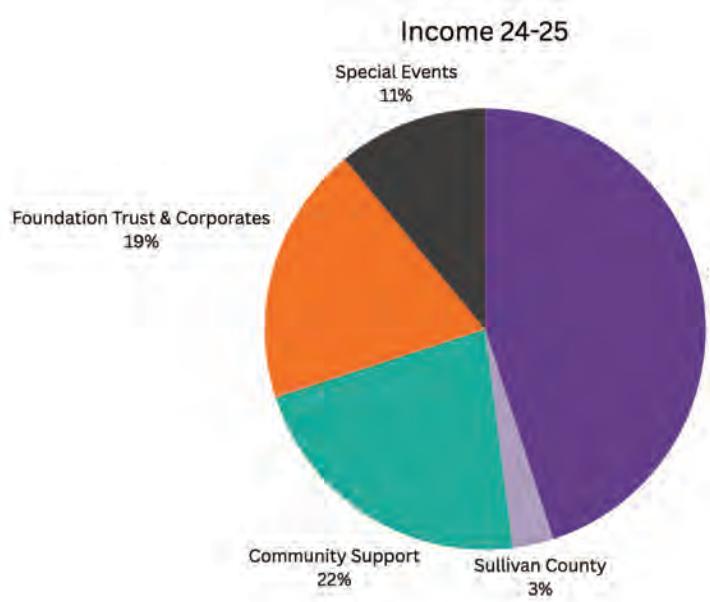
In a time when every basic necessity carries a heavier price tag, our community's commitment matters more than ever. Survivors need more than temporary shelter. They need pathways to sustainable independence that account for the full spectrum of living costs. By aligning safety supports with comprehensive economic supports, Sullivan County can help survivors not just escape, but build stable, thriving lives for themselves and their children.

The hidden cost of safety is measured not just in rent, but in every utility bill, grocery receipt, and childcare payment that stands between a survivor and true independence. At The Center for Safer Communities, we work every day to bridge these gaps, providing the safety, space, support, and resources survivors and their children need to heal from violence and reclaim control over their lives.

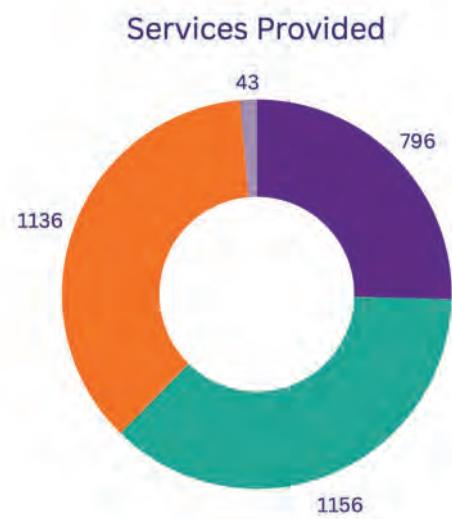


# The Center for Safer Communities

## 2025 Annual Report at a Glance

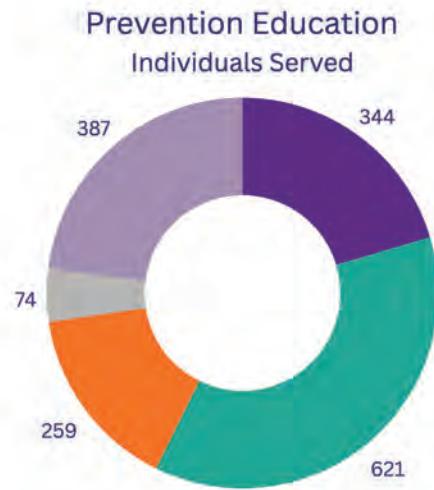


### Direct Services 2024-2025



**Individual Advocacy - 796**  
**Safety Planning and Crisis Intervention - 1156**  
**Information about Victim's Rights - 1136**  
**Shelter - 43**

### Community Education 2024-2025



**PK-Grade 2 - 387**  
**Grades 3-5 - 344**  
**Grades 6-8 - 621**  
**9-12 and Higher Ed - 259**  
**Adults - 74**

# Leading with a Purpose: An Interview with the new Board President of The Center for Safer Communities

Since joining The Center for Safer Communities in 2018, Zachary Haines has helped guide the organization through a period of transformation — expanding services, strengthening partnerships, and envisioning new ways to support survivors. Outside of his leadership role as our new board chair, he finds balance in simple joys: spending time outdoors, working in the yard, and enjoying music — lifelong passions that give him space to recharge and reflect. In this conversation, he shares what first drew him to the organization, the mentors who shaped his leadership, and the vision he holds for the Center's future.

## *What inspired you to join the board for The Center for Safer Communities?*

It really started back in 2018 or so. I was working in lending at the time and wanted to get involved in nonprofit and volunteer work. Claremont Savings Bank encouraged community engagement — I'd done one-off events like the Steppin' Up race several times — but I had never really dedicated myself to one organization.

At the time, two of our board members, Brenda Reed and Carol Calkins, were both from Claremont Savings Bank, and through them I learned more about the agency's mission. It really appealed to me, and I wanted to understand it better. My first real interaction was touring the shelter. I didn't meet the women directly, but I saw survivors in a safe space after enduring immense trauma. It was my first time in a shelter environment, and I thought, this is an organization that's real — it actually changes lives.

Seeing survivors safe, yet knowing what they'd endured — that's when it became real for me.

I've seen nonprofits that lose sight of their mission, but what I love about the Center is that the bulk of our grants, funding, and donations go directly toward helping survivors — through advocacy, education, and supportive housing. That's what resonates with me most.

Every year I think, there's no way we'll meet that goal — and every year, we do. Just when you think there's a barrier, you realize you absolutely can overcome it.

## *What issue do you feel most passionate about advancing through our work?*

Definitely continuing to become an integral part of the Sullivan County community and our permanent housing initiative. I actually heard a donor say at our most recent open house that so many people shy away from housing

issues because they see it as impossible. But we said, there's no affordable housing? Let's try to create some.

That's what excites me — we don't avoid big problems. A lot of nonprofit work can be very reactionary, always responding to crises. I think it's just as important to plan ahead — to look ten years down the road and ask, where could we be if we start now?

## *What would you say is a big influence or mentor that you've had in your life?*

One of my greatest mentors — and someone who continues to guide me — is Deb Mozden, who was our Executive Director before Pascale. She was leading when I joined the board as treasurer, and we still meet regularly.

It's not even just about the agency itself. It's about how she approaches life and leadership. I've never admired someone as much as I admire her — the way she handles even the most complex situations with calm strength.

When she first started her work with Women's Supportive Services — what became the Center for Safer Communities — she was working in a world dominated by men. City councils, community boards, funding agencies — all run by men. And she had to fight to make herself and her cause seen and heard, without crossing that line that might make people dismiss her.

That balance took incredible strength and grace. The calm confidence with which she ran meetings while facing a multitude of complex or difficult situations is so inspirational to me.

**“Every year I think, there's no way we'll meet that goal — and every year, we do. Just when you think there's a barrier, you realize you absolutely can overcome it.”**

## *What have you learned about leadership through your time as board president?*

One of the biggest lessons I've learned is the value of collaboration — truly listening to different perspectives and trusting the expertise of those around you. No one person can do this work alone.

I've also learned how important it is to stay grounded. Leadership can be demanding, especially in the nonprofit world, but when you see the impact — when a survivor moves into safe housing, or a project that once seemed impossible becomes reality — it's deeply rewarding. It's easy to get caught up in the challenges, but when you see the change firsthand, you realize it's all worth it.

**Whether he's leading a board meeting, exploring Claremont's Moody Park, or listening to his favorite music, the board president of The Center for Safer Communities brings the same steady energy and reflective nature to everything he does. Under his leadership, the Center continues to expand its reach — building not just programs, but possibilities.**

**When people come together with purpose, the impossible becomes achievable.**



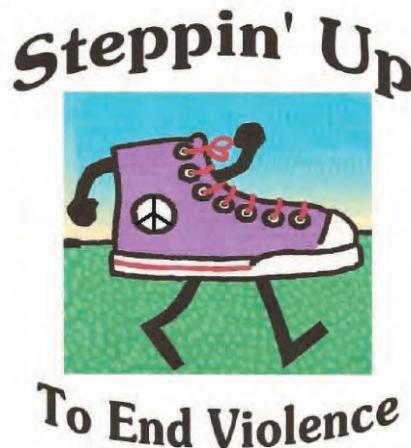
**Above: Zachary Haines, Board President**

# Steppin' Up to End Violence Turns 20!

Anyone who lives in Sullivan County, NH, has likely seen the signs, heard the buzz, or even joined us for Steppin' Up to End Violence—our agency's annual fundraiser and community awareness event. This coming May marks an incredible milestone: our 20th anniversary. It's hard to believe how far we've come, and we continue to be deeply moved by the unwavering support our community has shown for this cause over the years.

Last year's event was one of our most successful yet, raising over \$180,000 and bringing together hundreds of walkers, runners, volunteers, sponsors, and donors—all united in the shared goal of ending violence and supporting survivors. The energy, compassion, and collective spirit of the day reminded us why this event matters so deeply.

Our very first Steppin' Up logo is a reminder of how much we've grown since those early days. Over two decades, our look—and even our name—may have evolved, but our mission remains the same: to provide safety, advocacy, and hope for survivors of domestic and sexual violence right here in Sullivan County. Every dollar raised through this event helps ensure that those who need our services receive them—free of charge and with compassion.



**Above: One of the earliest Steppin' Up to End Violence logos.**

The 20th Annual Steppin' Up to End Violence Walk/Fun Run will take place on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at Claremont Middle School. We invite all past participants, supporters, and new friends to join us once again—lace up your sneakers, bring your family and friends, and step up to make a difference. Together, we can make this 20th anniversary our most impactful year yet.



## Board of Directors

Zachary Haines, President  
Claremont, NH

Jennifer L. Nelson, Secretary  
Claremont, NH

George Chait, Treasurer  
Sunapee, NH

Christina Hill  
Charlestown, NH

Linda Martin  
Grantham, NH

Brenda Reed  
Charlestown, NH

Michelle Carey  
Grantham, NH

Julian Barrett, DO  
Grantham, NH

Stefan Chubb  
Newport, NH

Bridget Coleman  
Newport, NH

Pascale Graham, Executive Director  
Piermont, NH

## SAVE THE DATE: MAY 2, 2026



- Rain or shine event
- Walk and fun run
- Located at Claremont Middle School
- All money raised goes directly towards helping survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Sullivan County, NH