Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN) Mission and Vision

Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN) is a human rights organization committed to ending violence against women, youth and children through support, education, advocacy and community organizing.

SPAN Programs and Activities: An Overview

- The SPAN Emergency Shelter/Resource Center is a 27-bed shelter and resource center providing 24-hour crisis line service, safe shelter, food, and clothing to individuals seeking refuge from an abusive relationship.
- The SPAN Advocacy Program provides crisis intervention and ongoing advocacy for battered women involved with law enforcement and the justice system.
- The SPAN Outreach Counseling Program addresses a broad continuum of needs, from early intervention to long-term support toward self-sufficiency. Individual and group counseling is offered in Boulder, Lafayette, Broomfield, and Nederland, and is available in English and Spanish.
- The SPAN Transitional Services Program works closely with other community and government agencies to provide long-term, comprehensive support for women as they work toward emotional and economic self-sufficiency. Services are provided for a two-year period and include access to subsidized housing, long-term case management, and skill building courses.
- The SPAN Education Program focuses on early intervention and prevention. Students, kindergarten through 12th grade, are trained in alternatives to the use of violence. Community-wide and targeted trainings inform area residents about the underlying causes and consequences of abuse, and challenge personal and organizational beliefs that perpetuate violence within families.

Services Delivered in Calendar Year 2010

Ensure victim access to crisis intervention and safe shelter on 24-hour basis.

- Crisis Hotline: From January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN) provided Crisis Hotline assistance to 8,717 individuals seeking help due to interpersonal violence. 176 families engaged in Shelter services as a result of this contact.
- Safe Shelter: SPAN provided emergency shelter, counseling and advocacy services to 378 women and children for a total of 8,750 days of service in 2010. All services were available in Spanish and English. Ninety-five percent of the adults and children leaving shelter developed a personal safety plan prior to exit.
- Children’s Services: In 2010, SPAN provided trauma assessment and age-appropriate counseling/intervention to 108 child residents of the Emergency Shelter Program. 77% of these children demonstrated decreased trauma symptoms as a result of this contact.

Ensure access to advocacy and support immediately following a battering incident and enhance the ability of domestic violence victims to effectively achieve their rights and protections under the law through the Boulder County legal system.

- Crisis Intervention: From January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, SPAN provided crisis assistance and advocacy to 416 victims of domestic violence immediately following law enforcement intervention. Services were available in both Spanish and English.
- Training: During 2010, SPAN provided training and domestic violence related information to 476 criminal/civil legal system personnel, including police, prosecutors, court personnel, attorneys and victim advocates.

Ensure the availability of culturally relevant crisis intervention and advocacy services to respond to the needs of Spanish-speaking victims of interpersonal violence.

- Bilingual Response: SPAN maintains bilingual after-hours staff/volunteer team to ensure 24-hour availability of culturally relevant crisis assistance and advocacy to monolingual Spanish-speaking victims of interpersonal violence. 65% of SPAN staff is bilingual Spanish-speaking and nearly one-quarter of direct service volunteers are bilingual. Emergency response shift coverage is organized to ensure the availability of Spanish-speaking staff/volunteer advocates 24/7. In the event that the primary language spoken by a victim is not English or
Spanish, SPAN has established relationships with interpreter services available to provide language interpretation (including ASL) as needed.

- **Services to Monolingual Spanish-Speaking Victims:** During 2010 SPAN provided 66 victims who are monolingual Spanish-speaking with services through the SPAN Emergency Shelter or Advocacy Programs. An additional 210 Spanish-speaking victims were served through SPAN counseling programs.

**Additional Victim Services Provided in 2010:**
- SPAN has several other programs that provide services to victims of domestic violence. Women and children are provided individual and group counseling at the Boulder Outreach Center, at the Tri-City Program office (serving eastern Boulder County), and at a weekly borrowed site in Broomfield. From January 1 through December 31, 2010, 925 women and children received counseling services through these programs. SPAN is a vital resource for the Latina community in Boulder County, with 50% of Outreach Counseling clients identifying themselves as Latina/o and 40% listing Spanish as their primary language.
- The SPAN Legal Advocacy Program provides assistance with protective orders and support for women throughout their experience with the justice system. 395 individuals were provided assistance through the Legal Advocacy Program in 2010. SPAN’s monthly Immigration Clinics continue to provide an essential resource to an underserved population in Boulder County, with 148 individuals receiving assistance with immigration issues in 2010.
- The SPAN Transitional Service Program provided access to affordable housing, case plan management, individual and group counseling, and skill building opportunities for 162 women and children during 2010.

**Community Education and Violence Prevention Services Provided in 2010:**
- In 2010, SPAN Education programs reached over 7,000 adults and 2,500 children and youth with information about violence prevention, dating abuse, and domestic violence, and provided in-depth training and consulting on communication skills and building inclusive organizations.
- Through the Peers Building Justice Program, a collaborative project between SPAN and Moving to End Sexual Assault, 18 high school Peer Educators were trained to present dating violence prevention materials to middle and high-school students. Also in 2010, PBJ students sponsored a local awareness campaign for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Week.
- SPAN’s elementary education curriculum, Choices and Change, provides K-5 students, teachers and parents with information on Healthy Relationships and Bully-Prevention. While everyone benefits from and plays an active role in the vision of ‘building peaceful communities,’ Choices and Change offers a discreet link to resources for those who need them. In an effort to meet the changing needs of public schools, SPAN staff initiated ‘playground observations’ following our four classroom presentations for students, to discern how students were applying the information on bullying prevention. We discovered that the skillful presence of trusted adults made all the difference in a child’s ability to advocate for themselves and their peers.
- Throughout the year, 429 SPAN volunteers provided 34,085 hours of service, including on-site emergency response, running children’s playgroups, organizing fundraisers for SPAN, and renovating shelter rooms. This level of active, participatory community support added the equivalent 16 full-time staff to SPAN’s scope of work.

**2010 Snapshot of Services Delivered**
- Crisis Line: 8,717 crisis calls for assistance
- Shelter: 378 women and children, for a total of 8,750 days of service
- Outreach Counseling: 925 adults, children and teens
- Transitional Services: 162 women and their children
- Victim Advocacy – Emergency Response: 416 individuals
- Legal/Court Advocacy: 395 individuals
- Volunteers: 429
- Volunteer Hours: 34,085
- School-based Education: 2,500 students, parents, teachers reached
- Community Education: 7,000 individuals reached