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All rights, powers, duties, and responsibilities relative to the control of SPAN’s property and affairs are vested in the Board of Directors. Members of the Board are elected to provide a range of expertise pertinent to agency operations and to reflect the diversity of the community. In addition to volunteering their time and expertise, 100% of Board Members contribute to the organization financially.
Welcome to the 2015 Annual Report for Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence. Here you will find facts, stats and figures, detailing the work we did in 2015, the money we raised and how we spent it. But interesting and important as data may be, the real story of SPAN’s work in the community lies with the people we serve and support. Individuals, adults and children, older people, young people, people of every race and ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation – more than 2,100 people found their way to SPAN last year, often a tough first step in the long, hard process of building a life free from violence. These people and their individual stories are what it’s all about. They inspire us; their struggles and successes define the highs and lows of the work we do. We hope you are empowered by the information you read here, empowered to be an agent of change in our community, empowered to say no to violence and oppression, empowered to join us in supporting survivors and their children.

Healing, hope and opportunity for survivors of domestic violence and their children

SPAN’s 2015 Annual Report

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
SPAN touched more than 11,620 lives in 2015, with 2,197 adults and children receiving direct services through our Emergency Shelter, Outreach Counseling, Advocacy and Transitional Services Programs.

FACTS & FIGURES
How many people did SPAN support last year? What do programs cost? Where does our funding come from? What kinds of services did SPAN provide and to what types of people? All this and more are revealed in our Year in Review!

WHO WE ARE
SPAN is comprised of a community of people, including staff, clients, volunteers, interns, donors, and more! The work SPAN is doing depends on these legions of loyal, passionate supporters. Read on to learn more about this great community!

What it’s all about...
with the people we serve and support. Individuals, adults and children, older people, young people, people of every race and ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation – more than 2,000 people found their way to SPAN last year, often a tough first step in the long, hard process of building a life free from violence. These people and their individual stories are what it’s all about. They inspire us; their struggles and successes define the highs and lows of the work we do. We hope you are empowered by the information you read here, empowered to be an agent of change in our community, empowered to say no to violence and oppression, empowered to join us in supporting survivors and their children.

From the Executive Director’s Desk

Dear Friends
There’s a scene in the movie “Tucker” where a character recalls his mother’s childhood warning: “Don’t get too close to people. You’ll catch their dreams”. (She was actually warning him about catching germs). Contrary to this miss-heard warning, I’ve often thought that one of the most important things we do at SPAN is to catch dreams.

We catch dreams as they fall, like when a survivor begins to doubt her safety is even possible. But most often we catch dreams of inspiration. Like “Y.H.” whose dream of rebuilding a life for herself and her son after years of abuse became brilliantly real in May as she graduated with honors from CU-Boulder.

This 2015 Annual Report is both a review of our work to support adults and children impacted by domestic violence, and an affirmation of our commitment to dream boldly of a future where all homes and families are safe.

Like the silly “run-as-fast-as-you-can-with-an-egg-on-a-spoon” race that is part of our annual team-building SPANger Games (more on that another time), growing the dream of nonviolence requires the right balance of grit, determination, and a gentle touch. We invite you, our community of supporters, to join with SPAN in bringing this dream to life.

Peace,
Anne Tapp, Executive Director
2015 Program Highlights

PATHWAYS TO HEALING, HOPE & OPPORTUNITY!
Continued from page 1

SPAN’s programming is evidence-based and driven by research that shows that there are proven pathways to improved well-being, safety and stability for survivors and their children. Studies show that there are five distinct domains that make up well-being: social connectedness, access to resources, stability, safety and mastery. SPAN staff routinely review our services ensuring they support one or more of these domains.

Research also highlights the importance of long term support for survivors and their children, with the best outcomes achieved after at least two years of support and services.

SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS: Survivors of domestic violence and their children often suffer from the burdens of isolation and shame. One of the most powerful tools for helping people overcome these feelings is a community that cares. SPAN offers a variety of support groups, including groups in Spanish, for older adults and for families.

In 2015 Shelter Program staff added a group just for teen residents. Staff transformed a 2nd story conference room into dedicated teen space. The room is one of the nicest spaces at shelter, with large windows and lots of light. Staff keeps the room stocked with snacks, art supplies, books, writing materials and kids at shelter organize peer support groups. This project is empowering for young people who can feel as if they have lost control of every aspect of their lives.

ACCESS TO RESOURCES: Maybe the most critical resource for victims of violence and abuse is access to affordable housing. Think about it: if you can’t find an affordable place to live, then you are faced with a host of tough options. Women and children are one of the fastest growing populations of homeless people in the Denver/Boulder area, and domestic violence is the leading cause of their homelessness. In 2015 SPAN’s advocates helped 118 people find affordable housing, an amazing accomplishment in our high-priced, low-inventory rental market. Still, this is a problem with no easy answers. Last year 83% of adults in SPAN’s Shelter Program did not even qualify for housing support programs and of the individuals and families that did successfully apply for these programs, nearly 40% could not find housing before their vouchers expired.

MASTERY: Mastery is the feeling that we can navigate life situations. An inspiring example of a survivor finding a sense of mastery for themselves is “Ani’s” story. This client, an immigrant from Nepal, had been trapped with her children in an intensely abusive situation, isolated and controlled. She did not speak English and felt as if she literally did not have a voice.

“Ani” entered SPAN’s services, first finding refuge at Shelter with her children, and then engaging in the holistic support services SPAN provides. After a year of hard work, she had divorced her abuser, secured housing at San Juan El Centro, an affordable housing community in Boulder and had become English-proficient.

When her children experienced bullying at San Juan El Centro, she reached out to SPAN’s advocates and asked them to intervene. Instead, SPAN’s advocates supported “Ani” as she discovered just how empowered she had become. The client worked with staff to arrange Family Support Groups in her community, bringing together families from diverse backgrounds for ongoing community conversations and support.

STABILITY: The obstacles that survivors face as they work to transcend the violence and chaos in their lives cannot be understated. But with support and access to resources, these brave, resilient people accomplish amazing things! 97% of survivors who exited SPAN’s Transitional Services Program in 2015 had found permanent, stable housing by the time they left the program. 83% had gained or maintained stable employment and another 23% completed their GED or enrolled in higher education while in the program.

SAFETY: Safety involves not just physical, but emotional and economic safety as well. SPAN advocates work diligently to support survivors as they maximize their own and their children’s safety. SPAN’s advocates work diligently and creatively to support clients’ emotional, physical and spiritual health in all of SPAN’s programming. For instance, there is an onsite health clinic at shelter with staff from Clinica Family Health Services visiting to conduct basic health screenings and make referrals.

Long term safety is not a “one size fits all” solution and SPAN staff work with individual survivors to identify what safety looks like for them. Survivors and their children deserve to be free of physical and sexual abuse, but also of threats, intimidation, stalking, economic abuse, coercion, and isolation. Ultimately though, it is up to abusers to stop the violence and mayhem, and it is up to all of us to create a community that holds abusers accountable, not their victims!
Facts & Figures: 2015 in Review

SPAN’s 24/7 Crisis & Information Hotline provided information and resources to 9,502 callers in 2015. Survivors access support and SPAN’s services through the hotline, while friends, family, co-workers and caregivers receive information and resources.

SPAN provided safe, confidential emergency shelter to 285 adults and 96 children in 2015, for a total of 9,206 bednights. This was a 12% increase over 2014. Shelter provides for all basic needs -- including food: SPAN serves more than 30,000 meals each year.

Who We Are

THE PEOPLE OF SAFEHOUSE PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE FOR NONVIOLENCE

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What does it take to provide support and services to more than 11,000 people a year? First of all it takes a dedicated, qualified, hard working staff and the 31 people who work at SPAN are just that! SPAN has a vibrant organizational culture that embraces diversity and allows new ideas and innovation to percolate up from a grassroots level. Staff are passionate individuals; deeply engaged in all aspects of the organization’s mission, from supporting domestic violence survivors to addressing the social justice issues that foster violence against women, people of color, LGBTQ people, and other marginalized populations. This passion for the work creates an emotional bond and makes SPAN a great place to work.

SPAN also depends on the work of more than 300 volunteers each year. Program volunteers complete 33 hours of training and commit to a year of support. These wonderful people help keep our 24/7 Crisis & Information Hotline staffed, they run children’s play groups, they provide crisis intervention services to victims of domestic abuse and they keep SPAN’s Protection Order Clinics open. Volunteers also serve on SPAN’s Board of Directors, keep our events running smoothly, do clerical work at our Outreach Center, help sort in-kind donations, do yard work and maintenance projects, and more. In 2015, 326 people donated 34,022 hours to SPAN.

Donors and supporters are a fundamental part of SPAN’s community. To stay strong and financially stable, SPAN needs 25% of its annual revenues to come from the local community, through individual donations, events, and business support. In 2015 a total of 884 individuals and local businesses donated more than $230,000 to SPAN in donations ranging from $1 to $10,000. Every donation matters and we are so grateful to all the people who support SPAN!

OTHER PROGRAM STATS

- In 2015, 485 victims of domestic assault got immediate support and crisis intervention services after law enforcement involvement, thanks to SPAN’s 24/7 response team. Research shows that this immediate connection with victims can make all the difference.
- 457 adults and 281 children received individual and group counseling services in 2015. SPAN’s counseling services are available in Spanish and English at locations in Boulder, Lafayette and Broomfield.

SPAN is proud to be hosting its inaugural Hear Our Voices Art Project & Exhibit this fall. Working in partnership with Naropa Community Art Studio, SPAN clients and local artists will be creating works of art that represent some aspect of the experience of intimate partner violence. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the artwork will be on display in various locations throughout the month, with a final reception and fundraiser on October 27. For event details and sponsorship info, email info@safehousealliance.org.