

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

# Building Safer Futures



The Willow  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
CENTER

SHELTER. HELP. HOPE.

New programs. New donors. New vision. **Bigger impact.**



"YOU GAVE ME  
A PLACE.

YOU HELPED ME  
BELIEVE IN MYSELF.  
THE WILLOW HELPED  
ME WITH A HOME.

A NEW,  
SAFE HOME."



## Since 1976, The Willow

has grown from a volunteer-based network of safe houses serving women who suffered domestic violence to an organization with a staff of twenty-nine serving all survivors, regardless of gender.

Today's Willow provides a crisis hotline, confidential emergency shelter, and a series of programs designed to break the cycle of violence. This year saw the addition of transitional housing which provides affordable homes with one to two year leases. A Willow case manager is there to assist with family, career, and financial goals. Similar programs nationwide have been successful, with 85% of survivors who complete the programs moving into permanent homes.

**"We build** together, working toward safer and stronger families and communities through programs which empower survivors to stop the cycle of abuse both during and after crisis."

*Megan Stuke, Executive Director*

**We build** on the foundation of our guiding principles.

New programs.  
New donors. New vision.

# Bigger impact.

The Willow Domestic Violence Center builds safer communities through shelter, services, and support to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking in Douglas, Franklin, and Jefferson counties.

## **Empowerment**

The Willow works to empower survivors through peer support and respect while honoring the dignity of those we serve.

## **Community**

The Willow is committed to healthy partnerships, prevention work, outreach, collaboration, and education.

## **Advocacy**

The Willow is committed to advocacy that is confidential, trauma-informed, low-barrier, and individualized.

## **Support**

The Willow supports the well-being of survivors and advocates via self-care, education, innovation, and research-based practices.

## **Equity**

The Willow promotes equity in our services and community by working to support the needs of a diverse population while being inclusive to people of all identities.

**We build** with the experience of our leadership.

## 2018 Board of Directors

Shannon Portillo, President, University of Kansas

John Connolly, Vice-President, University of Kansas

Edwina Glass, Treasurer, Glass Consulting

Cody Howard, Secretary, University of Kansas

Elizabeth Kronk-Warner, University of Kansas

Charles Branson, Douglas County District Attorney's Office

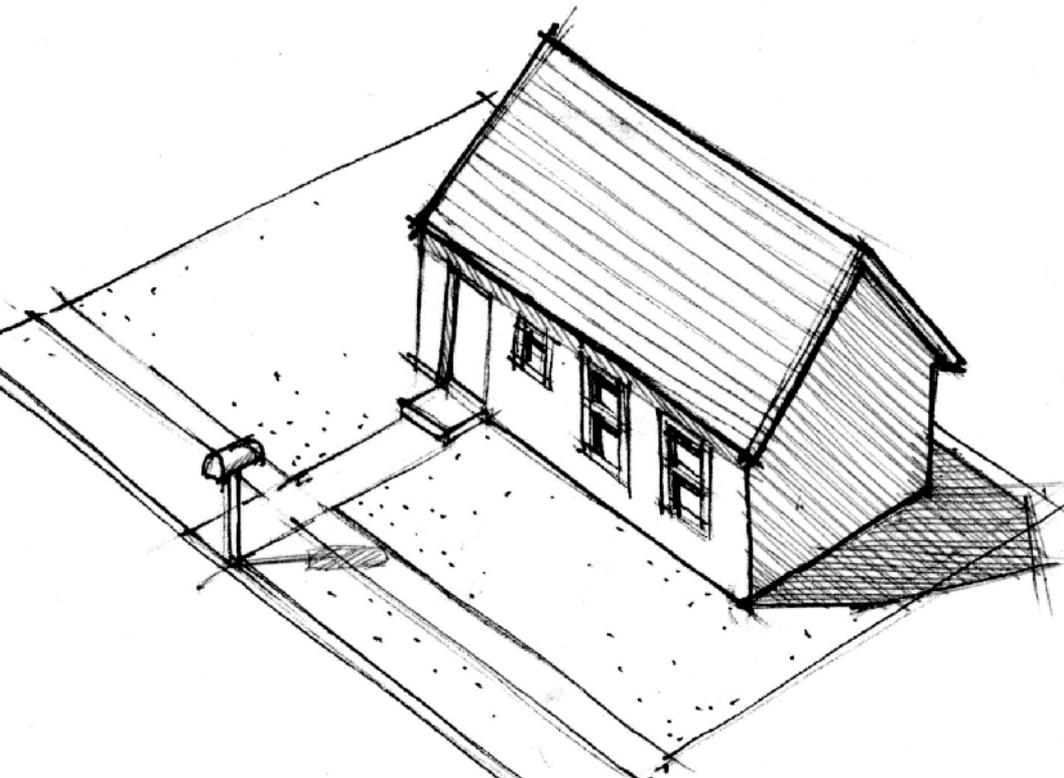
Katherine Pryor, University of Kansas

Lua K. Yuille, University of Kansas

Jacqlene Nance-Mengler, US Citizenship & Immigration Services

Beth O'Neill, Washburn University

Melia Stockham, Blue Cross & Blue Shield



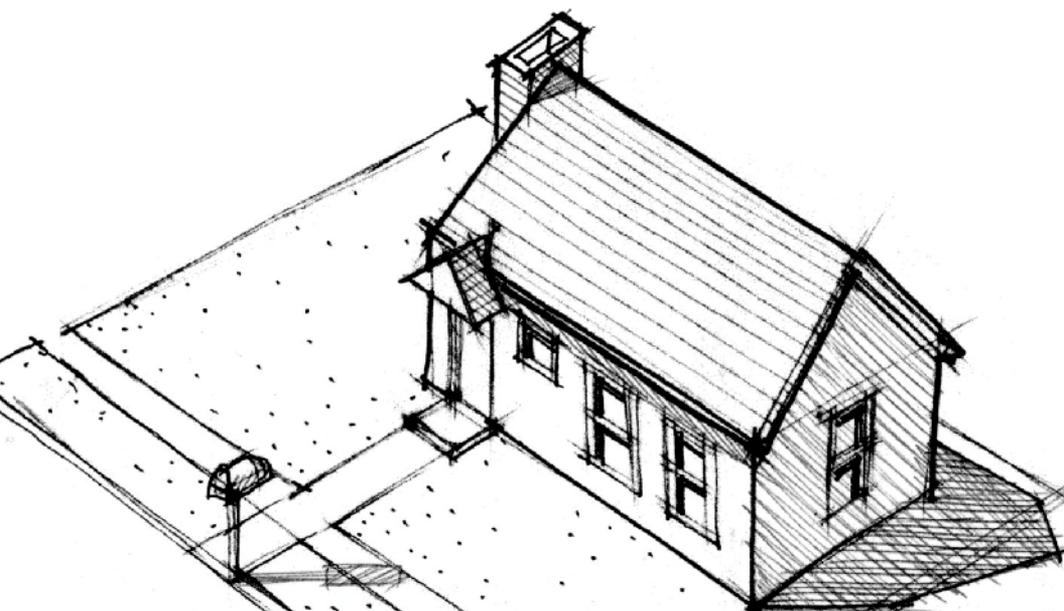
**We build** support in times of need.

## 24-hour Crisis Hotline

Our hotline is open to anyone, offering safety planning, information, arranging meetings with advocates, and getting survivors who need it to safe shelter. Our first question is always, "Are you safe to talk?"

Survivors often need help replacing items lost or taken by their abusers, assistance with bills, transportation, food, or hygiene supplies. Economic abuse can drive survivors back to their abusers, making them feel they have no resources. The Willow provides them those resources, removing barriers abusers create to keep power and control over survivors.

4,166 CALLS AND  
792 HOURS OF TALK TIME.



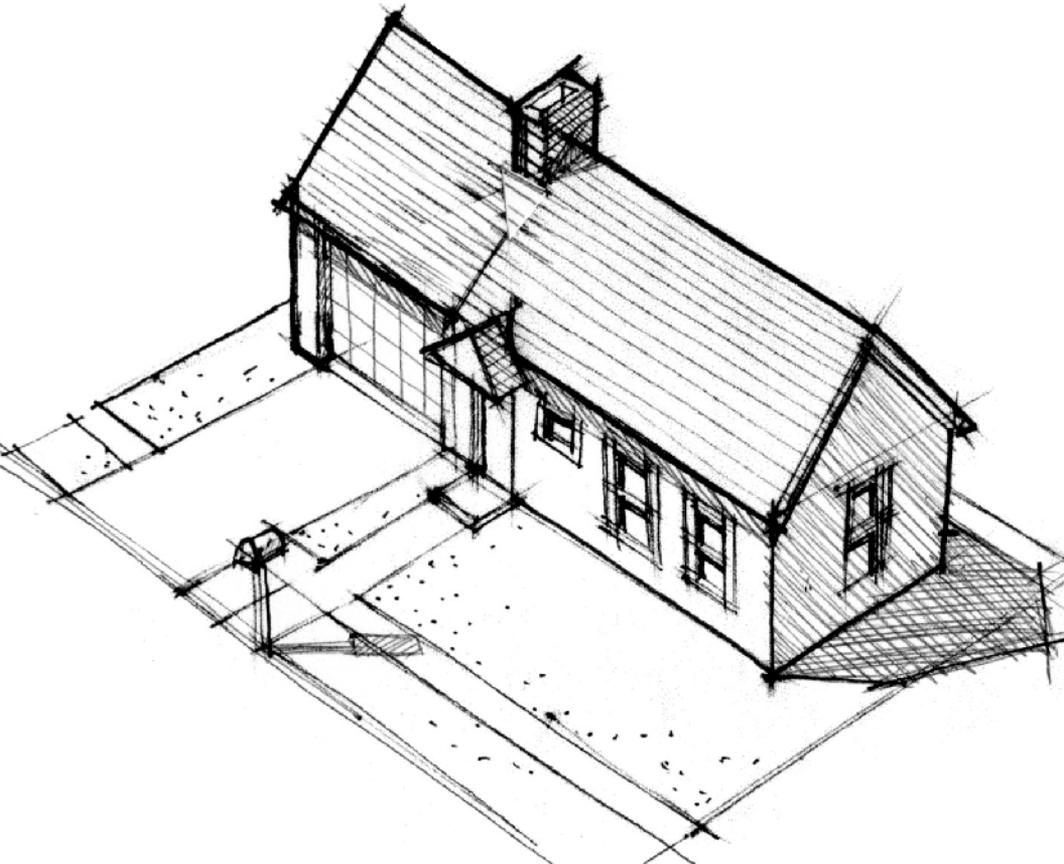
SOMETIMES JUST BEING THERE  
TO LISTEN IS VITAL.

**We build** for safety and empowerment.

## Shelter

Survivors leave their abuser up to eight times before moving on permanently. The cycle of abuse can build slowly over a number of years, leaving their victims with nothing. Our shelter provides a confidential safe space for all survivors and their children. During this time, The Willow advocates assist with transportation, goal setting, and referrals to community resources.

6,999 NIGHTS OF SAFE REST.  
279 CLIENTS. 111 CHILDREN.



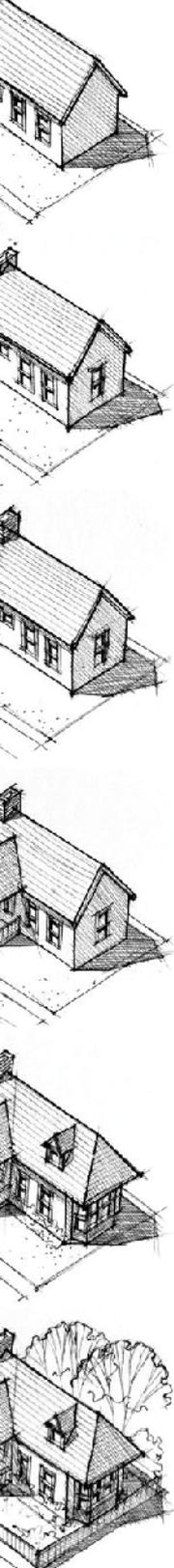
## Domestic Violence Facts

**FACT:** DV is about power and control. While we know substance abuse acts like gas on a fire of interpersonal violence, it is not the cause. DV is about imposing one's will upon another. DV is about entitlement.

**FACT:** DV is a crime. It is not a personal matter that needs to be hidden away or dealt with privately. It is a matter of concern for all citizens, all people, and all levels of law enforcement, court, and policy.

**FACT:** Abusers can be prominent and socially conscious. Abusers can be wealth and friendly. Abusers can be charming and successful. Abusers can control their anger around everyone except those they abuse.

**FACT:** DV is an epidemic. It is urgent. It is a national crisis. The number of American troops killed in Afghanistan and Iraq between 2001 and 2012 was 6,488. The number of American women who were murdered by current or ex male partners during that same time was 11,766.



# Shelter Programs

## Health and Wellness

Our Health and Wellness Coordinator works with partners like Just Food, Bert Nash, and Be Moved Studios to provide health and wellness related shelter activities and promote healthy lifestyles for both shelter clients and staff.

*"She was very understanding and helpful to me in any way needed. She's a present and empathetic person. Thank you for choosing her to be such a blessing to people in my position."*

## Children's Services

Early childhood trauma can rewire children's neural pathways. Our trauma-informed Children's Services advocate works with children of all ages to provide healthy activities that build stronger families and build a safe, nurturing environment.

*"I just want to say thank you for helping me and my daughter...my daughter is back in school and doing great. She felt so nice starting school in some new clothes that actually fit her."*

## Art Program

Art can be a powerful tool in healing trauma. Our Art Program coordinator works both in our in-shelter studio and with clients in the community to provide opportunities to access the resources they need. Our partnership with the Lawrence Arts Center allows us to offer classes to community members who wish to pursue artistic healing outside of shelter.

*"You helped me find my voice and discover my worth."*

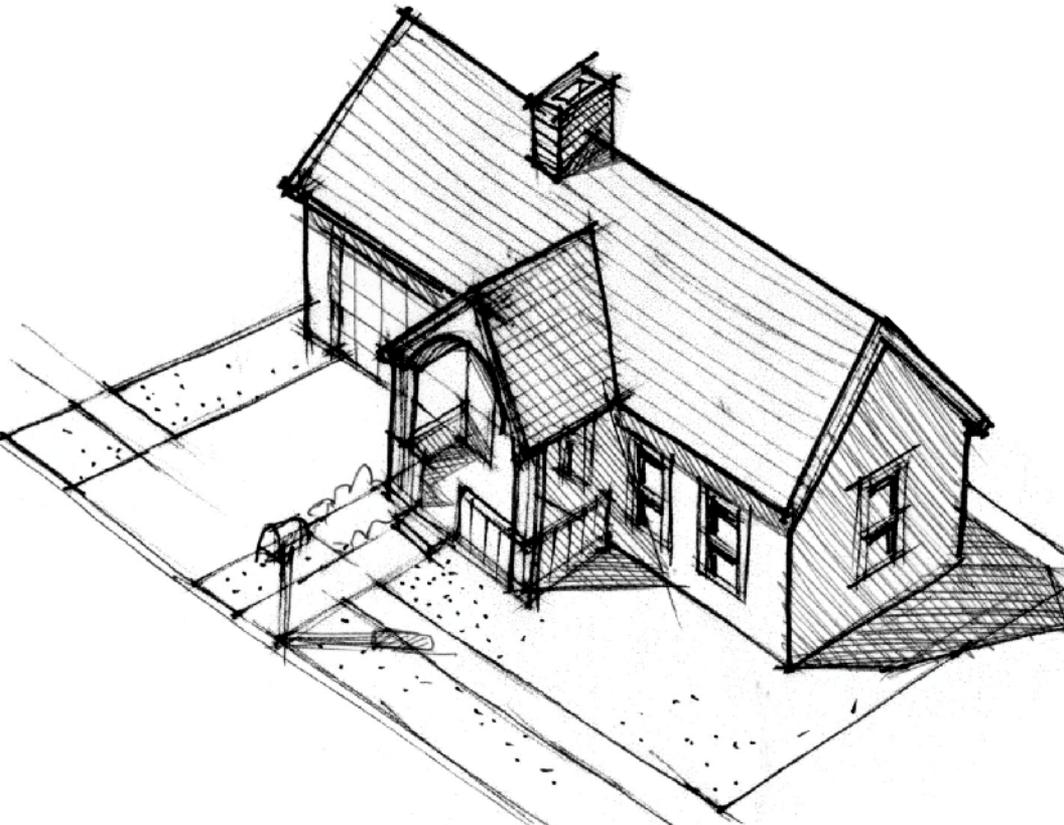
**We build** for communities we serve.

### **Outreach**

Outreach Services serve community members who are not in our shelter but need access to resources, education, referrals, and assistance. The Willow provides support groups, financial classes, healthy relationships and positive parenting classes, and lead support groups in jail. Our Prevention Specialist focuses on providing healthy relationships and dating violence presentations to middle school, high school, and college students across our service area.

### **Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking occurs nationally, internationally, and locally. The Willow's Human Trafficking program offers specialized advocacy, replacement documentation, referrals to medical care, relocation assistance, emotional support, and other needs specific to trafficking survivors.



## Rural Services

The Rural Outreach team serves Douglas, Franklin, and Jefferson counties. Isolation and transportation issues in rural counties makes access to services more difficult. Rural advocates work to lower barriers for rural survivors, including having local offices for meetings, arranging trips to shelter, and showing up at rural court hearings to stand with survivors.

## Court Advocacy

It is in court where many survivors will face their abusers for the first time since leaving. Advocates from The Willow show up at weekly domestic violence court dockets to offer support. Court advocates can assist survivors in filling out protection orders and refer survivors to further legal advice. In 2018, The Willow helped 135 survivors file orders of protection from their abusers, and spent 231 hours in court advocating for over 130 clients.

## Community Advocacy

Willow advocates provide support not just to survivors in shelter, but also to survivors in the community. Often the recovery process from abuse can be long and difficult. Community advocates provide goal setting and assistance safety planning. For many survivors, this vital network of support is the difference between a fresh start and returning to their abuser.

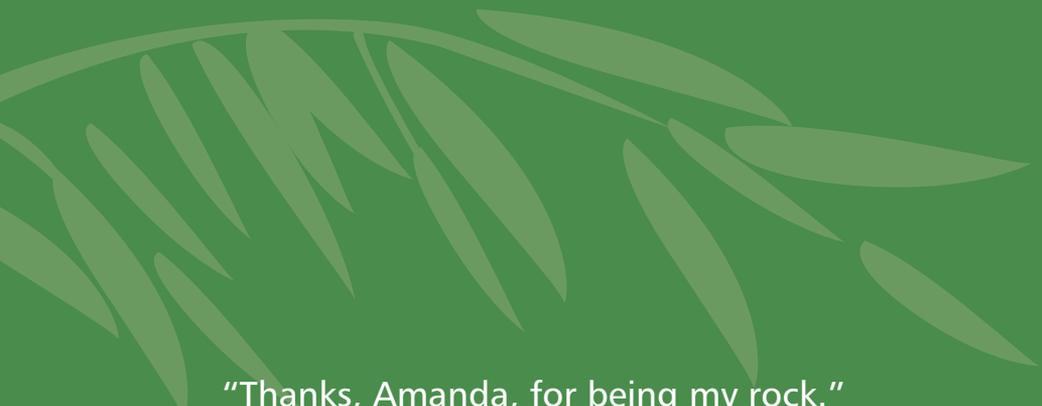
## Transitional Housing

The Willow's new Transitional Housing program helps survivors who are no longer in direct danger move towards permanent housing. These homes provide safe living spaces with leases of one to two years for survivors and their families. A case manager is available to help with career and financial goals, pursue additional education, or find employment. Transitional Housing is a big step towards violence-free lives.

## Foster Transition Support

Youth in foster care stop receiving services at the age of eighteen. Our Foster Transition Support programs coordinator builds safety networks and provides referrals to youth in care. This additional support ensures those leaving care aren't forced back into a cycle of violence, homelessness, or human trafficking.

## Survivor quotes about their advocates.

A decorative graphic of a branch with several long, pointed leaves, rendered in a lighter shade of green than the background, arching across the upper portion of the page.

"Thanks, Amanda, for being my rock."

"Thanks, Kelsey, for taking the time to answer all of my questions."

"Thanks, Rachel, for reminding me to take care of myself."

"Big Thanks! Bless the staff here. Truly wonderful people."

**"Just good people to be around."**

## Volunteers

Our highly trained volunteers commit to provide long-term service in specific areas including shelter, rural services, community engagement, and outreach. Volunteers work with survivors and staff to provide opportunities and resources that might not otherwise be available.

**In 2018, the Willow had:  
41 active volunteers  
2,841 hours of service for a total of  
\$46,876.50 in volunteer services.**

## Financials

### Income

Federal and State Grants: \$1,117,600.59  
Local Grants: \$163,778.95  
Contributions and Fundraising: \$213,523.46  
Total Income: \$1,494,903.00

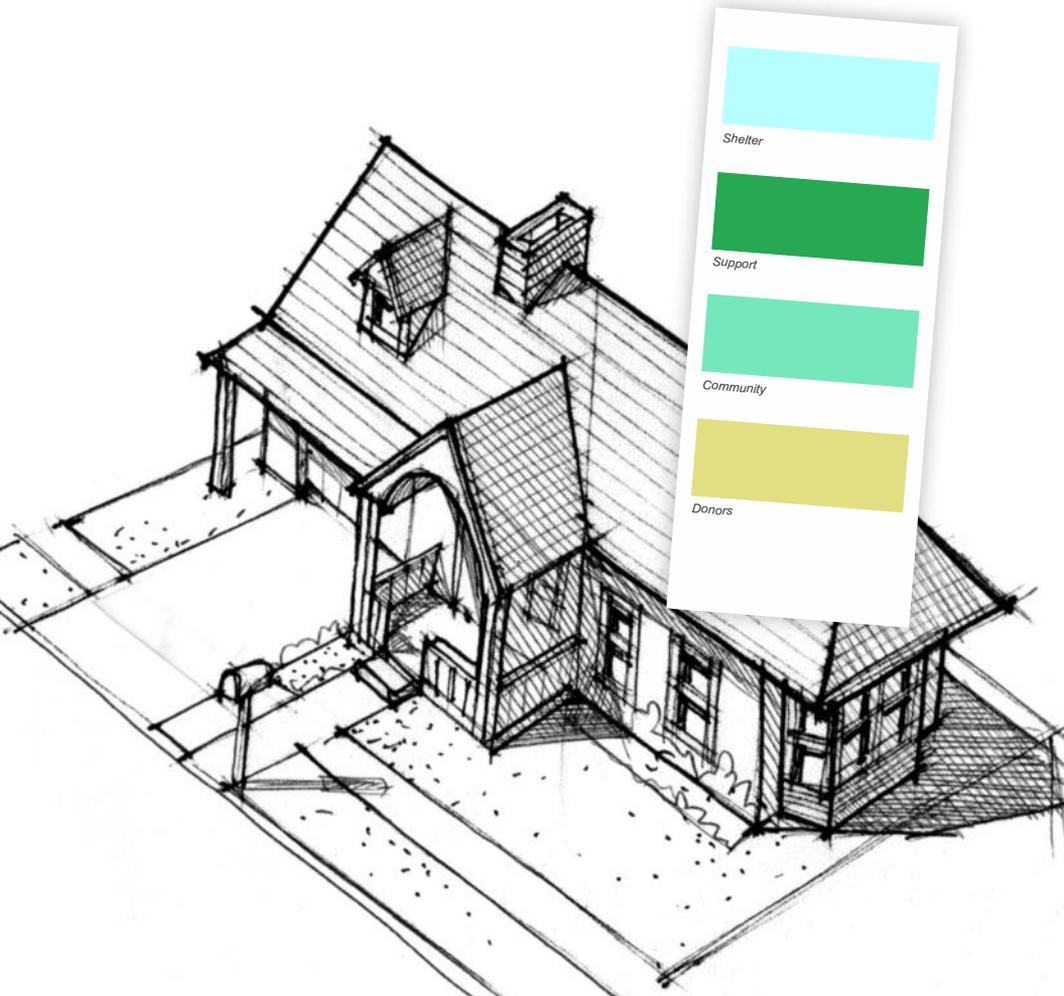
### Expenses

Staff: \$1,066,907.07  
Fundraising Events: \$25,645.18  
General Operating: \$364,526.57  
Total Expenses: \$1,457,078.82

**We build** for long-term, productive, healthy relationships.

## Our Staff

The Willow currently employs twenty-nine staff serving three Kansas counties. Willow staff are highly trained and have opportunities for continued development and training throughout their careers. Staff have recently completed Risking Connections, an intensive course in providing survivor-focused, trauma-informed care. This allows our shelter to move to a low-barrier model, replacing rules and infractions with conversations and commitments. Our staff strives to be knowledgeable, supportive, and accessible to all survivors.



**We build** to bring more people into our community.

## Events

Over the last three years, The Willow has worked on developing events to raise awareness and funds. In 2017, Mic Drop began a high-energy lip-sync competition where ten acts compete for a cash prize. This year we hosted our first Garden Party at the Williams House, featuring an afternoon of cocktails, brunch, and music. These events give us an opportunity to raise awareness about who we are and what we do while connecting with donors and working with amazingly talented members of the Lawrence community.





## Mic Drop

Mic Drop has exploded into one of Lawrence's most popular events of the summer. It features ten lip-sync acts performing for three minutes each for our panel of celebrity judges. This year's competition made it rain (quite literally) on stage, which didn't stop our acts – buckets went out to catch the rain and the show went on!



## Garden Party

Set on the grounds of the William's House near a bucolic meadow and amazing garden, the Garden Party featured exclusive cocktails from 715, brunch by Evan Williams, dapper emcee extraordinaire Mike Anderson, and the music of the Ric Averill string ensemble. The event also featured an auction, relaxing conversations, laughter, and an opportunity for donors to learn more about all of the work The Willow does in our community.



**You build** for our future through your donations.

## Donors

We could not do what we do without our donors. This year we were lucky to have over 850 donations from 636 donors in our community. These donations ranged from regular monthly payments to large annual giving. Many of this year's larger gifts were part of the Adopt-a-Bedroom campaign, which raised money for room renovations in shelter. These renovations will bring more cheerful lighting, personal storage spaces for each bed, and new flooring in the kitchen and hallways.

We also reached a record twenty sustained donors this year, whose giving on a regular basis allows us to provide for survivor needs throughout the year. Monthly donations can be arranged online through The Willow donations page.

*The work the center does, and the people who do it, are vital to a safe community. I donate often because I was fortunate to escape situations twice in my life before they escalated and I want others to have the hope that they can too!" – C Hyatt*



The Willow could not do what it does without the support of the community. These local supporters contributed to The Willow in 2018-2019. Individual, family, and some organizations are not listed out of respect for confidentiality. We make every effort to ensure each gift is recorded, however, if you feel your group is listed incorrectly or omitted, please advise Will Averill at 785-331-2034 x105, or [waverill@willowdvcenter.org](mailto:waverill@willowdvcenter.org)

- 100 Good Women
- Ad Astra Selections
- Allen and Associates
- Alpha Chi Omega
- Alpha Kappa Lambda
- American Women's Association
- Appanoose Baptist Women
- Art is Haven
- Back in Balance Family Chiropractic
- Bad Girls Book Club
- Baldwin United First Methodist Church
- Beck Law Offices
- C.D. Schulte Agency, Inc.
- Cascade Dental Care
- CEK Insurance
- City of Lawrence
- Clearfield United Methodist Church
- Commerce
- Concerned, Active & Aware Students of KU
- Diebolt Family Therapy
- Douglas County Community Foundation
- Earthbound Trading Company
- Edie Insurance Group, LLC
- Eisenbarth, Glassman, McEntire & Jarboe, LLC
- Equinox & Solstice

- Outdoor Limited Company
- Eudora Elementary School
- Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka
- First Baptist Church
- First Christian Church's Women Together Class
- First Presbyterian Church
- First Southern Baptist Church
- General Dynamics Information Technology
- Girl Scout Troop 1025
- Golf Superintendents Association of America
- Grantville United Methodists Church
- GRC, Inc.
- Greek Spirit, Inc.
- Immanuel Church
- Integrity Insurance
- Intrust Bank
- Jayhawk Massage
- Jayhawks for Life
- JE Dunn Construction
- Jungle House
- Kauffman Foundation
- Kent E. Dobbins OD and Jacob W. Letourneau OD
- The Kroger Co.
- KU Student Organizations

- KU Women in Law
- KU Department of Theatre & Dance
- Ladybird Café
- Lamda Pi Eta
- Lawrence Alumni of Kappa Kappa Gamma
- Lawrence Beer Company ,LLC
- Lawrence Rotary Club
- Legends Dental Solutions
- Leni Salkind
- McGrew Real Estate
- Meadowlark 4H Club
- Midwest Cutting & Coring,
- Mize Houser & Co. P.A.
- Neu Physical Therapy Center
- New Life Insurance
- Ninth Street Baptist Church
- Norton Financial
- Office Depot
- Omega Phi Alpha
- Oskaloosa First Methodist Church
- Over The Rainbow Doll Club
- P.E.O.
- Panhellenic Association
- Paypal Charitable Giving Fund
- Pet Smart
- Piersol Foundation

- Prairie Park Elementary PTA
- Ranjbar Orthodontics
- Red Lyon
- Restaurant Lawrence 1 LTD.
- River City Engineering
- Rodrock Chiropractic
- Salon Pearl
- Shelly L. McColm, D.D.S., P.A.
- Sigma Psi Zeta
- Soroptomist International
- Standard Beverage Corporation
- Sunday Morning Boutique
- Target
- The Blue Dot Salon
- The Chiropractic Element, LLC
- The Goat Milk Soap Store
- The Hawk
- The Whole Fish, LLC
- TIAA
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- United Methodist Church
- United Methodist Women
- United Way of Douglas County
- United Way of Franklin County
- United Way of Greater Triangle
- Unity Church of Lawrence
- USD 497
- UVA
- Winter Center
- Women of the ECLA
- Wonder Fair
- Young Feminist Club of Lawrence High School



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## **Building Safer Futures**



**24-hour hotline 785-843-3333**

[www.willowdvcenter.org](http://www.willowdvcenter.org)

The Willow Domestic Violence Center | PO Box 633, Lawrence, KS 66044



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