



Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center | 2014



Dawson Place
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
transforming hurt . . . to hope

FY 2014 ANNUAL REPORT
(July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014)
<http://www.dawsonplace.org>

Message from the Director

Hello Friends,

Another year has passed, and the future of over 1100 sexually and physically abused children from Snohomish County is forever bettered thanks to your support and the amazing work done by the staff here at Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center. Though this job requires us to confront an ever-present evil in the world, it is inspiring to witness the incredible change that transpires in the lives of those we serve. Dawson Place truly is a beautiful beacon of hope to the children and families that come through our doors, and to those in the community who support our work.



Lori Vanderburg, Director

At Dawson Place, success is measured by the number of children that your support helps to heal. Success requires the management of details to assure that every single child that needs our help gets the absolute best child-focused and friendly service possible. Last year we improved our service by hiring a second child interview specialist. We see 25 to 30 new clients every week, and they sometimes come in waves. This investment will increase our capacity so that when those kids need our help, they won't have to "come back tomorrow".

Success hinges on these kids and their families coming back for sustained support and healing; a "child-friendly" atmosphere helps insure their return. That is why we upgraded the fun-factor in our "Fish Room" (waiting room). New toys and games were added, furniture was replaced, and a flat-screen TV was installed. Now the kids have the option to actually find "Nemo" in the salt-water fish tank, or to watch *Finding Nemo* on the flat screen. To help pass the time in the 2nd floor waiting area we added a video gaming system, thanks to the *Childs Play Foundation*. To brighten our kids' medical exam room, the ladies from the Soroptimist of Marysville purchased a new and friendly smiling turtle examination table; the kids hop up on its back for exams. These new additions help make what can be a scary experience a little more playful.

We have come a long way since we opened our doors in 2006. I feel privileged and honored to serve as the Director. I am surrounded by amazingly dedicated and talented staff and partner agencies. I will do my best to provide our staff with the tools and resources needed to deliver the best child-focused services possible. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the director of Dawson Place, and for your unwavering friendship and support.

Thanks for reading,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Vanderburg". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lori Vanderburg MS LMFT CMHS, Director





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Our Mission

Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center responds to concerns of child abuse, is dedicated to helping kids, seeking justice, and promoting healthy families.

Our Vision

Dawson Place seeks to restore health and obtain justice for child victims of sexual assault and physical abuse. We achieve our vision through a multidisciplinary network of services that are housed at Dawson Place. We are committed to the prevention of assault and abuse through education and intervention.



Every child deserves to grow up feeling safe.

Your Contributions at Work

Your generous contributions made it possible to serve **1,108** sexually or physically abused children in FY2014: 356 boys and 732 girls, age birth to 18 years of age. Many of these children were also drug endangered, witness to violence and/or neglected.

Your support helped provide:

- **550** medical exams
- **299** forensic child interviews
- **152** mental health assessments
- **1,618** ongoing therapy sessions

Law Enforcement Services investigated **418** cases.

Prosecution Services accepted **502** cases:

- **267** were convictions
- **260** were pleas
- Only **5** were acquittals



Dawson Place helps abused kids learn to smile again.

Child-Friendly Focus

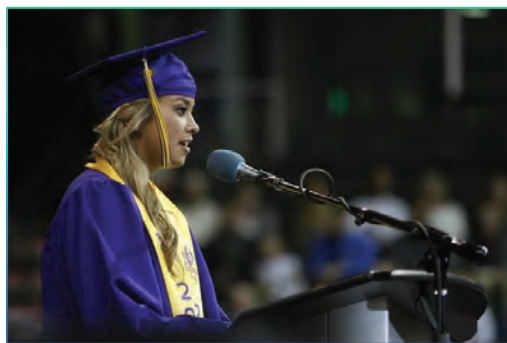


Our new turtle exam table; thanks to the ladies of Marysville Soroptomists.

Dawson Place is dedicated to making every child and family that enters our doors feel welcome, comfortable, and safe. We strive to create an atmosphere that will improve the experience of the abused children who enter our building for protective and healing services. To that end, we have installed a new child-examination table in one of our medical exam rooms; the table is perched on the back of a smiling turtle. The nurses and our clients love the new Turtle Table.



Survivor Highlight



Esteemed Dawson Place beneficiary, Ivy Jacobson, speaks at her high school graduation. (Ian Terry / The Herald)

Last year's Luncheon speaker and abuse survivor of Dawson Place, Ivy Jacobson, was selected by her Lake Stevens High School classmates and school staff to speak at the 2014 graduation ceremony. She stood in front of her peers and strangers on this special day to share her story. To quote a parent in attendance:

"...then, she launched into full details about the abuse she had suffered at the hands of her father and the struggle(s) she

had endured. You could have heard a pin drop by the time she finished her speech. And let me tell you most of the stadium was in tears. When she ended her speech, the entire stadium gave her a standing ovation."

The staff and supporters of Dawson Place would like to congratulate Ivy on her graduation, her scholarships earned, and for her pursuit of a college education. She is a wonderful testament to the strength of the human spirit, and we thank her for the inspiration and true fulfillment her life brings to the people of Dawson Place.

Staff Spotlight

Dawson Place is able to effectively protect and heal abused children because of the proficiency of our staff. Though all of our staff are deserving of recognition, Lisa Paul and Paula Newman-Skomski are in line for particular acknowledgment.

The Snohomish County Special Assault Unit (SAU) is located at Dawson Place, and headed by Deputy Prosecutor Lisa Paul. Lisa is finishing up her second stint as the lead prosecutor for SAU. She brings a calm determination to her office with a deep seated compassion for the victims that she serves. Lisa also donates her time educating the public on issues of child abuse, safe sleep environments for infants, and child prostitution. Lisa has devoted 15 of her 25 year career either working in or leading the Snohomish County SAU.



***Lisa Paul,
SAU Prosecutor***

Providence Intervention Center for Assault and Abuse (PICAA) is headquartered at Dawson Place, and manages nursing and advocacy staff. Among this devoted group of highly-skilled professionals, Paula Newman-Skomski was awarded the 2014 March of Dimes Nurse of the Year (Spirit of Nursing). Paula performs well-child checkups and forensic examinations at Dawson Place, and is a favorite of the children for her friendly nature. Outside of her job, Paula is working to create a residential recovery program for women who have been exploited by sex trafficking and prostitution; the organization is called *Peoria Home*.



Paula Newman-Skomski, RN

Paula Newman Skomski and Lisa Paul represent the outstanding professionalism that makes Dawson Place one of the top Child Advocacy Centers in the Country.

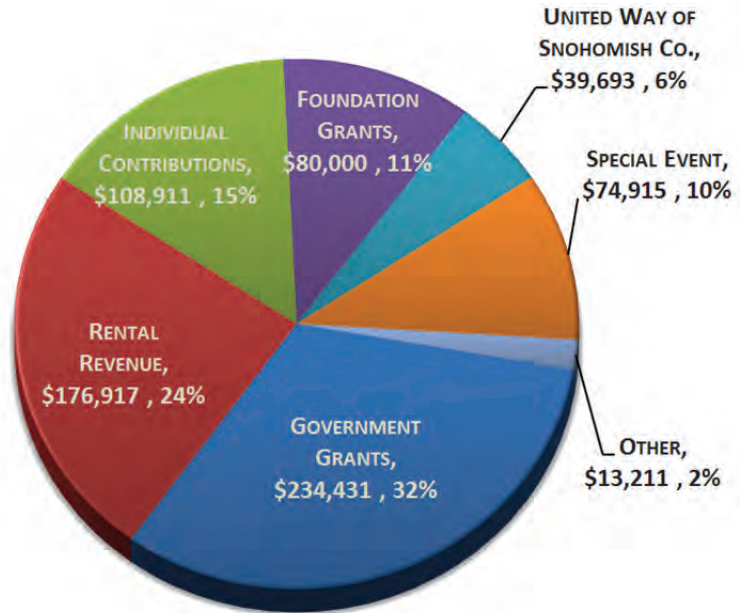


Financials

FY2014 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)

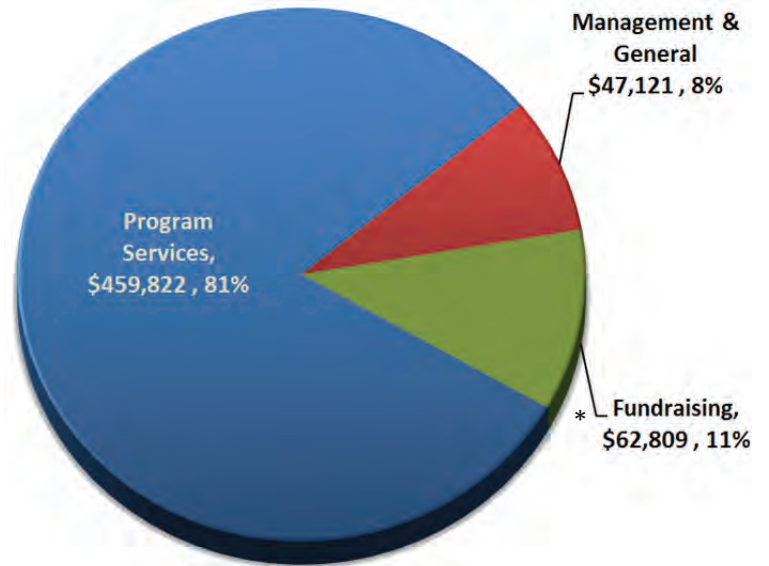
FY2014 Revenue = \$728,078

Public Support & Revenue		
	%	Dollar Amount
Government Grants	32%	\$234,431
Rental Revenue	24%	\$176,917
Individual Contributions	15%	\$108,911
Foundation Grants	11%	\$ 80,000
United Way of Snohomish Co.	6%	\$ 39,693
Special Event	10%	\$ 74,915
Other	2%	\$ 13,211
Total		\$728,078



FY2014 Expenses = \$569,752

Expense by Function Area		
	%	Dollar Amount
Program Services	81%	\$459,822
General & Administration	8%	\$ 47,121
*Fundraising	11%	\$ 62,809
Total		\$569,752



* Fundraising expenses include Communications & Outreach: newsletters, brochure creation, website, & public presentations

Contributors

Thank you to our generous donors, corporate partners, volunteers, and staff who have supported Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center. Your commitment has helped hundreds of abused children find safety and happiness.

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