



**"AWARE empowers survivors of domestic and sexual violence by providing, shelter, services and programs."**

# **AWARE, Inc.**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### **October 2007— September 2008**

**P.O. Box 1526**

**Jackson, MI 49204-1526**

**24 Hour Crisis Line: 517- 783-2861**

**Administration Number: 517-783-1638**



#### **AWARE PROVIDES**

- Crisis Intervention
- Shelter
- Support Groups
- Legal Advocacy
- Transitional Housing
- Sexual Support Services
- Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Counseling
- Community & School Education

## AWARE 2007/2008 Annual Board Presidents Report

Fiscal year 2007 – 2008 was a year of ups and downs for AWARE, Inc. and the board. Thankfully it was mostly “ups.” We lost our director of less than two years in May 2008, but were fortunate to have a person on staff to act as interim director until we could hire a replacement.

In November we were fortunate to find a very capable person to lead AWARE into the future. We hired a local, long-time Jackson resident, Rebecca (Becky) Filip, as our Executive Director. Many of you may know her and appreciate her passion for our community and for the mission of AWARE.

Under Becky’s leadership, the agency has thrived. She has put together a team that is as passionate about our mission to empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence as she is. They are a dedicated, creative, hard working, and fiscally responsible group. AWARE, thanks in large part to previous boards and our staff’s diligence, continues to be a financially stable organization.

Some of the 2007 – 2008 highlights I can remember are a very successful Fall Appeal Campaign, the most successful Historic Home Tour in our history, and the Phenomenal Women dinner, an event that was the brainchild of one of our most enthusiastic staff members, at which survivors of domestic and sexual violence told their stories. We also sponsored the movie, *Iron-Jawed Angels*, depicting women’s struggles to have the right to vote.

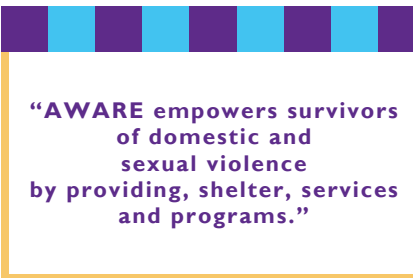
Also, this was a year in which we began an intensive campaign to educate our board about the services and programs AWARE offers and to learn best practices for governance and policy setting. Thanks to our staff, we receive a briefing at each board meeting on their duties and responsibilities, and most of our board has attended one or more of the governance seminars being offered by JNSC.

Lastly, we recruited four community volunteers with a passion for our mission to replace board members who will be term-limited in February.

I invite you to attend our annual meeting on February 25, 2008, 5:00PM, at the Carriage House, to meet our board, our great staff, and our very capable and dedicated director, Becky Filip.

Thank you for your support of AWARE and our mission.  
Sincerely,

Travis Fojtasek  
President



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(517) 783-2861 Shelter Crisis Line  
(517) 783-2660 Shelter Fax Line  
(517) 783-1638 Administration Business Line  
(517) 990-6769 Administration Fax Line

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**AWARE, Inc. Staff**

Rebecca L. Filip, Executive Director, ext. 40

LaDonna Glenn, Domestic Violence Program Coordinator, ext. 25

Nicoleta Grace, Human Resource Manager, ext. 42

Linda Schwalm, Sexual Assault Program Coordinator, ext. 33

Kathryn Williams, Transitional Housing Program Coordinator, ext. 36

Lee Knap, Financial Office , ext 45

Shawn Corlew, Counselor, ext. 32

Yvette Hurt, Transitional Housing Case Manager, ext. 41

Danielle Johnson, Family Advocate, ext 43

Frances Keane, Shelter Manager, ext. 24

Deb McEldowney, SANE Coordinator, ext. 34

Beverly Wilson, Counselor, ext. 27

**AWARE 2007/2008 Annual Executive Director's Report**

This past year brought a lot of change to AWARE. We had a big transition in staff including the hiring of the Executive Director, Domestic Violence Counselor, Transitional Housing Program Coordinator, Domestic Violence Program Coordinator, Sexual Assault Program Coordinator and Family Advocate. Along with the new staff came new enthusiasm and ideas. Our focus has been on systems change which includes collaboration with our human service partners. We are working to bring about change in our community so we can reduce domestic and sexual violence and would like to thank the community for its ongoing support of our program and mission.

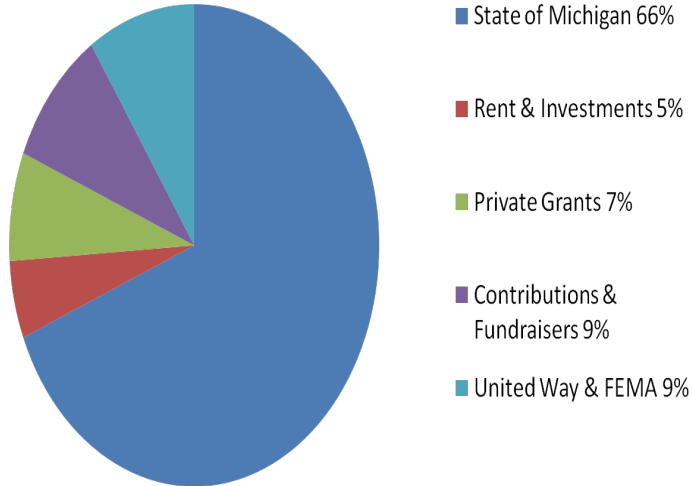
**Accomplishments:**

- Hired Executive Director, Becky Filip
- Hired Domestic Violence Counselor Beverly Wilson
- Hired Kathryn Williams, Transitional Housing Program Coordinator
- Hired new Domestic Violence Program Coordinator, Linda Schwalm
- Hired Gross, Puckey, Gruel and Roof to do bookkeeping.
- Danielle Johnson hired as Family Advocate
- Seven staff members attended New Service Provider Training in Okemos
- AWARE started providing a daytime group for DV Survivors
- Executive Director joined Data Networking Committee
- Transitional Housing implemented Workshops for clients
- AWARE staff trained in CPR
- Sexual Assault Task Force trained college students to present sexual assault information to elementary students.
- Executive Director joined 10-Year Plan on Homelessness Employment and Income Committee
- Two Volunteer trainings conducted for staff and volunteers
- Executive Director joined the Human Service Coordinating Alliance (HSCA).
- Received grant from Jackson County Community Foundation for Strategic planning
- Executive Director joined Public Transportation Access Committee
- Received grant from Jackson County Community Foundation for computers and server
- Completed Contract Compliance Review with MDVPTB
- Met with MDVPTB staff to complete Quality Assurance Review
- 15<sup>th</sup> Annual AWARE Historic Home Tour was most successful year to date.
- Submitted grant for James A and Faith Knight Foundation
- Hired LaDonna Glenn as Sexual Assault Program Coordinator

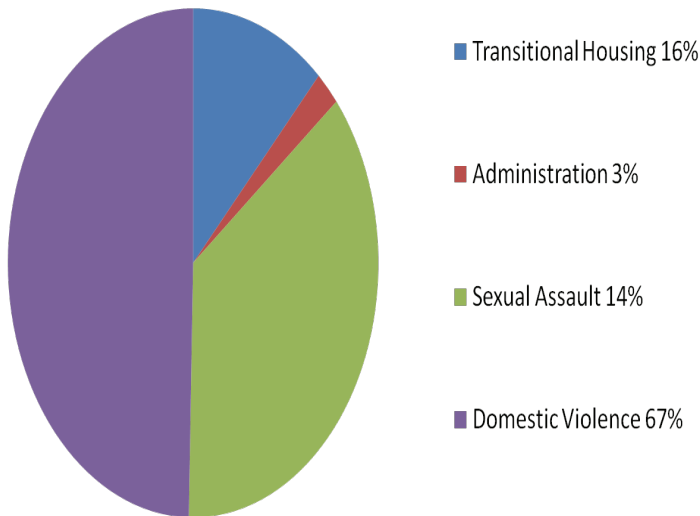
Rebecca Filip  
Executive Director

## Financial Summary

### INCOME



### EXPENSES



### Mission Statement

AWARE empowers survivors of domestic and sexual violence by providing shelter, services and programs.

### Organizational Core Values

AWARE, Inc.'s core values were developed through a consultative process involving the organization's board of directors and staff at all levels. The principles reflected in this document constitute a values compass for board, staff, volunteers and other individuals working on behalf of the organization.

### Empowerment

We believe in the right of everyone to live a violence-free life. Our dedicated staff and volunteers use all available resources to improve the lives of survivors and empower them to create an independent life free from violence and fear.

### Commitment

We are dedicated to and passionate about our mission of empowering survivors of domestic and sexual violence. We treat our clients with compassion and acceptance. We will always exhibit professional and personal integrity, and adhere to high ethical and professional standards in our work.

### Collaboration

We recognize that our mission requires working successfully with clients, funding units, donors, the community, the court system, and other non-profit agencies. We encourage staff initiative, innovation and leadership. We promote teamwork with our clients as we strive for excellence in facilitating the best possible results for the survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

### Impact

We are committed to making a difference and effecting change in our community. We will do this by supporting and empowering survivors, and being leaders in the movement to eliminate domestic and sexual violence. We take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to educate residents of all ages in Jackson County about our mission, services and programs.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- ◇ February 25, 2009      31st Annual Meeting
- ◇ April 8, 2009      Take Back The Night
- ◇ April 18, 2009      Vagina Monologues
- ◇ May 2, 2009      Baker Tea
- ◇ May 15, 2009      Dancing With Local Stars
- ◇ August 8 & 9, 2009      AWARE Historic Home Tour



### Agency Goals

**Provide quality housing and support services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.**

**Enhance resources to enable staff and volunteers to carry out the agency's mission.**

**Evaluate and coordinate preventative programs designed to eliminate domestic and sexual violence.**

**Help individuals cope with crisis and empower them to achieve violence-free lives.**

**Facilitate education and collaboration within the community to promote social change.**

## *Domestic Violence*

The Domestic Violence Program at **AWARE, Inc.**, provides empowering resources that help victims of domestic and sexual assault live violent free lives. AWARE is able to assist victims through programs and services that include:

- ◇ Shelter Services
- ◇ 24 Hour Crisis Support Line
- ◇ Individual & Group Counseling
- ◇ Legal Advocacy
- ◇ Case Management
- ◇ Kid's Club & Children's Program
- ◇ Mother's Group

During this transitional year, AWARE hired new staff which took immediate initiative and participated within the county's Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, the Continuum of Care, the Emergency Needs Coalition, the Marriage Matters of Jackson, Safe Havens, the Women of Color Task Force through the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, and other local and regional committees.

Within the Fiscal Year 2008, AWARE provided 4996 nights of shelter services to 160 women, one man, and 130 children. We served 4310 women and assisted in obtaining community resources. AWARE also answered 955 crisis calls and referred individuals to appropriate resources. We anticipate an increase in violence in the home due to the economic crisis our community is currently experiencing.

LaDonna Glenn  
Domestic Violence Program Coordinator

## *Transitional Housing*

The Transitional Housing Program at AWARE, Inc. assists domestic violence survivors in bridging the gap between leaving their domestic violence situation and creating an independent, violent-free life for themselves (and their children if applicable). Our program helps clients accomplish self-identified goals during their time in the program. We also assist with rent and specific assistance according to the nature of the client's needs, for **up to** two years. The goal of the program is to ensure the successful transition stated above, and for clients to be self-sufficient at the end of the program. Clients undergo extensive case management to work on their self-identified goals, which include but are not limited to seeking employment, enrolling in school full-time etc.

### **Transitional Housing Workshops and Activities**

Every month Transitional Housing offers one or more workshops. All of the workshops are free. Childcare and transportation is provided for our transitional and shelter clients. The workshops cover beneficial life skill areas. Some of our past transitional workshops topics include:

- ◆ Budgeting
- ◆ Personal Growth & Empowerment
- ◆ Tenant Rights
- ◆ Resume, Cover Letter & Reference Page Writing
- ◆ Highly Esteemed Part I & Choosing Healthy Relationships
- ◆ Dress For Success
- ◆ Self-Esteem Mary Kay Workshop (included free facials, satin hands & a makeover)
- ◆ Interviewing Skills
- ◆ Healthy Nutrition
- ◆ Self-Defense along with Children's Stranger Safety

The Transitional Housing Program hopes survivors will learn, grow and enjoy the workshops and gain the tools to better empower themselves. Survivors are encouraged to attend as many workshops as they can.

For the 2007– 2008 fiscal year Transitional Supportive Housing has assisted 6 single women, 17 families, and 48 children with housing, specific needs and support services. Of the participants who left 60% moved into permanent housing, 20% unknown and 20% into transitional housing. 75.00% obtained employment or are in school or training. 60% maintained employment or are in school or training. 93.75% of AWARE participants have been free from domestic violence for the entire duration of their program. 6.25% is unknown.

Kathryn T. Williams  
Transitional Housing Program Coordinator

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Walker, Beverly  
Walkowicz, Diane

## *Sexual Assault*

### **Sexual Assault Program Services**

AWARE's Sexual Assault Program provides empowering resources to help victims of sexual assault. There have been changes in personnel, but the delivery system of services continues to empower the survivors of sexual assault to heal from their ordeals. Kelly Schweda resigned from AWARE to lead a program at MSU. LaDonna Glenn came on board to lead the program in the fall.

The Sexual Assault Program gave services to 220 survivors or family members in 2007-2008. Even with the changes in personnel, clients responding to client satisfaction surveys reported the following:

- ◇ 100% agreed or strongly agreed that overall the services they received were helpful.
- ◇ 100% agreed or strongly agreed that the therapist was helpful during the criminal justice process.
- ◇ 90% agreed that they received the information and referrals they needed.

The SANE program has 5 nurses providing forensic sexual assault exams, and one more nurse is completing her training. In 2007-2008, the SANE program provided 53 exams. The Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF) became more pro-active in its quest to provide pediatric exams. One goal of the SATF is to have a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) for Jackson County.

In this time period, a great deal of education took place in the county. AWARE made 118 presentations in schools, primarily focusing on "Good Touch, Bad Touch," and reached 3044 students. There were 21 community presentations which touched 420 community members. We foresee 2008-2009 as a year filled with growth and activity.

Linda L. Schwalm  
Sexual Assault Program Coordinator

## Children's Program

The focus of the children's program at AWARE is to empower children to recognize and utilize their positive characteristics within themselves. As the children AWARE serves have experienced abuse/violence in their families, they often look at the world through a lens of fear and mistrust. During the year a total of 381 children received services. As the new Family Advocate for AWARE, my goal was to develop and execute programming and activities that will begin the healing process for these children. These trips provided the children and mother's an opportunity to go places together as families without any financial barriers. Field trips included pizza and games at Chuckie Cheese, a day at Irish Hills where we went on a train ride, toured museums, drove go-carts, a Detroit Tiger's baseball game where we met famous athletes, Binder Park Zoo where we fed and touched the noses of giraffes, the Teddy Bear Factory where each child stuffed and made their own bear, and a buffalo ranch where we went on a wagon ride and hand fed buffalo. These trips provided first time and unforgettable experiences for many of the children. During the first six months there were a total of 26 activities provided. By the end of the year, AWARE had provided 95 activities. AWARE more than doubled the number of activities for the children, more than quadrupled the units spent, and by collaborating with Jackson Public Schools there were no extra expenses accumulated. Also during the last six months of the year 348 children and 123 mother's participated in AWARE's activities. As reported on the Children's Program Feedback forms, 100% of the parents were pleased with the services they received.

There also was a Mother's Group implemented into the children's program. This group was designed to assist families in dealing with crises and trauma, as well as meet the need for parenting education. 123 women participated within FY 2008. 90% reported having gained a new positive parenting skill.

The Kids Club program for 6-12 year old children also began to run on a regular basis. The numbers more than doubled in this area, as well. The program went from 8 sessions in the first six months of the year to 18 in the last six. From April 08-Sept. 08, 89 children attended Kids Club. Through collaboration with the University of Michigan, Kids Club was also provided services for 4-6 year old children. Surveys indicated 100% of the parents were pleased with the services they received and reported symptom reduction in their children, as well.

During the year AWARE provided childcare 106 times and spent 1,431 total units. From April 08-Sept. 08, transportation was provided to 191 mothers and children, with 170 total trips made for activities.

Danielle Johnson  
Family Advocate

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Risinger, Frances  
Roeth, Stacia

## *Legal Advocacy*

AWARE's Legal Advocacy program provides court assistance and resources to victims and survivors of domestic & sexual assault. Advocates assist with helping victims obtain Personal Protection Orders, and provide information resources. We also assist in obtaining Victims Crime benefits and resources. We've assisted 518 women and men within FY 2008 with advocacy, resources and court accompaniment.

Sue Griwatsch  
SeQuita Craig  
Legal Advocates

## Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart of AWARE. Last year our volunteers provided \_ hours of on-call coverage and shelter assistance. We would like to acknowledge the following volunteers for their comment and dedication.

### Volunteers 10/01/07 to 9/30/08

Jennifer Vasaris  
Courtney Yutzy  
Karin Patnode  
Brooke Hinkley  
Jennifer Curtis  
Monica Harrison  
Leta Willoughby  
Lynn Gurnsey  
Joy Riley  
Linda Ar  
Jeanne Ashworth  
Danielle Elwell  
Ameena Ali  
Monica Harrison  
Jody Warren

#### Transitional Housing Workshop Volunteers

##### Budgeting Brunch Workshop – March 17, 2008

Roslyn Chorkey and Camille Sowers

##### Personal Growth & Empowerment Workshop – April 8, 2008

Janis Wilson

##### Legal Aid Workshop on Tenant Rights – April 23, 2008

Karen Leuthwaite

##### Resume Writing Workshop – May 8, 2008

Catherine Griffin

##### Highly Esteemed Part 1 & Choosing Healthy Relationships Workshop – May 13, 2008

LaDonna Glenn

##### Dress For Success Workshop – May 29, 2008

Catherine Griffin and Andrea Ramp

##### Self-Esteem Mary Kay Workshop – June 18, 2008

Nicole Heard

##### Interviewing Skills Workshop – July 11, 2008

Laura Mobley

##### Budgeting Brunch II – July 21, 2008

Roslyn Chorkey

##### Healthy Nutrition Workshop – August 11, 2008

Bunee Morrison

##### Self-Defense Safety Workshop – August 20, 2008

Susan Stewart

##### Art Demonstration Luncheon Workshop – September 19, 2008

Ron Worsham

##### Basic Car Maintenance Workshop – September 24, 2008

Steve Billingsley

## Donors

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Langford, Helen  
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