## Message from the CEO

In 2022, Hopeful Horizons launched a new three-year strategic plan with the vision of being the Lowcountry leader in ending child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault. We've already made a significant amount of progress on the plan, including reviewing and revising our salary structure to help ensure our staff is earning a living wage that is keeping up with inflation and the 20-plus percent increase in housing costs in Beaufort County. As with many organizations, "The Great Resignation" had a profound impact on Hopeful Horizons' team, programs and services. It has also taken significantly longer to find qualified applicants to fill vacant positions, which created waiting lists for services and higher caseloads. Fortunately, by the end of the 2022, most positions were filled and waiting lists diminished.



I'm proud to say that despite the struggle with recruitment and retention:

- more than 1,200 victims/survivors of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault received services and support from Hopeful Horizons
- 1,600 professionals in the community were trained by our team on how to prevent abuse and to recognize the signs
- we educated more than 1,300 middle and high school students about violence prevention and healthy relationships.

An exciting service enhancement implemented in 2022 is a formal partnership between Hopeful Horizons and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) to provide forensic medical evaluations in cases of alleged child abuse or neglect. MUSC Children's Health, which is headquartered in Charleston, is a system of preventive and clinical care that delivers the most advanced, evidence-based health services to children throughout South Carolina. MUSC pediatricians are certified as subspecialists in child abuse care by the American Board of Pediatrics and their nurses are specially trained in pediatric sexual assault evidence collection. Through this partnership, MUSC hired an RN to act as a telehealth presenter for Hopeful Horizons. Exams are conducted by child abuse medical professionals in Charleston via telehealth at a healthcare facility in Okatie, near our Bluffton office. A Hopeful Horizons Family Advocate attends the forensic medical evaluations to provide assistance and support to the victim/survivor and their family. Hopeful Horizons' partnership with MUSC not only ensures that children in the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit receive the best care available, but it also makes medical services more sustainable and more accessible. In 2022, 53 children received medical evaluations through this partnership.

Starting out in 2023, Hopeful Horizons has a lot to celebrate. Thanks to your support and partnership, we are celebrating our 40th anniversary (based on the year the rape crisis program was originally founded). Additionally, Hopeful Horizons' Children's Advocacy Center went through a rigorous reaccreditation process with the National Children's Alliance last year, which resulted in the January 2023 announcement of our successful accreditation for another five years.

Behind these numbers and achievements are the faces of the children, teenagers and adults Hopeful Horizons serves – our family, friends and neighbors – people just like you and me.

We are so grateful to have you as part of the Hopeful Horizons' family. We thank you, Hopeful Horizons' loyal supporters and partners, for your continued commitment to ending abuse and changing lives in the Lowcountry. You are making a difference!

With deep gratitude,

Kristin Dubrowski, MNM Chief Executive Officer

**Ending Abuse, Changing Lives** 

I am constantly in awe of how resilient survivors are. To see them come up from such difficult and traumatic experiences, dust off their shoulders and keep going is so rewarding. I am just honored that I – and Hopefull Horizons – get to be a part of their journeys.

– Hopeful Horizons' Team Member

# 2022 Impact

Hopeful Horizons is the only children's advocacy, domestic violence and rape crisis center serving a five-county area of more than 3,200 square miles (Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties for child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault; Allendale – for child abuse only). Our mission is to protect, treat and prevent.

More than 1,200 victims served

Thank you for cheering me on and believing in me.

~A domestic violence survivor

379 forensic interviews in cases of alleged child abuse and/or neglect

5,286 nights of safety for 77 women and 98 children fleeing domestic violence

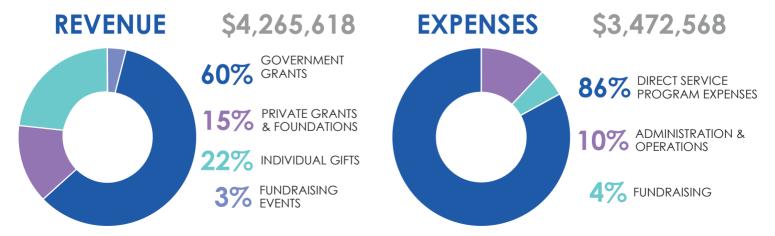
Responded to 1,194 calls to the 24/7 Support Line

1,618 professionals and community members trained in preventing and responding to child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault

1,383 youth educated on healthy relationships and teen dating violence

Free civil legal services for 252 survivors

17 families graduated from the Strengthening Families Program

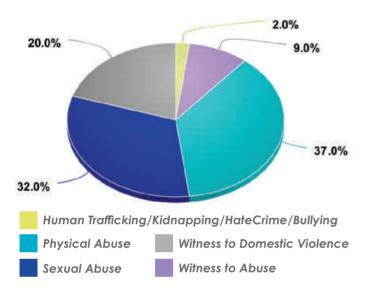


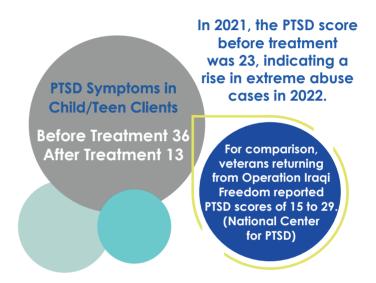
<sup>\*</sup>This overview reflects an unaudited financial summary for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2022. A financial audit is currently in progress and can be provided upon request.

## Children's Advocacy Center Services

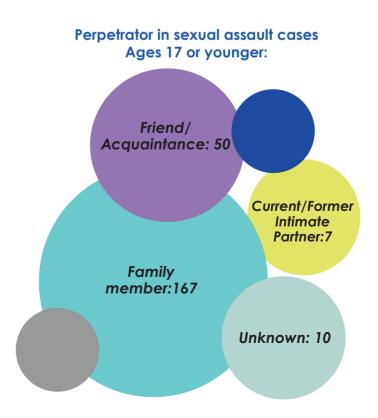
Amy already knew about Hopeful Horizons – she had been abused by her partner but wasn't ready to ask for help. Then things got worse. She left her husband and moved into a hotel with her young children, who had witnessed the violence between their parents. Amy and her children are now receiving therapy with Hopeful Horizons and they are starting their lives over. A family advocate at Hopeful Horizons also worked with Amy to make sure they would have a nice Christmas. When Christmas gifts were delivered (thanks to a special donor!), Amy was overwhelmed with happiness. She wasn't expecting to have gifts specially picked out for her, too.

Our nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center provides forensic interviews and medical evaluations at the request of law enforcement or DSS in cases of alleged child abuse or neglect. Our specially trained and licensed clinicians conducted 379 forensic interviews last year.





When a child is abused, an entire family is impacted. Law enforcement, the SC Department of Social Services, counselors, medical professionals, prosecutors and others may be involved in the case. Hopeful Horizons' Family Advocates help the family navigate the various agencies and individuals who may be involved. Sometimes caregivers need someone to talk to and help them sort through next steps and understand what their child might be going through. Hopeful Horizons' advocates are here to listen, share information and guide families through the healing process. In 2022, our family advocates assisted 493 families. We use the Child PTSD Symptom Scale (CPSS) to measure symptoms of trauma in children ages 7 to 18. A score of 15 or higher on the CPSS indicates the child is likely experiencing clinically significant symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).



#### Domestic Violence and Adult Sexual Assault Services

#### **Adult Survivors**

Elena, a Spanish speaking client, was going through a difficult divorce from her abusive husband and came to Hopeful Horizons for counseling. Hopeful Horizons provided an interpreter during her sessions. At first, it was a little rocky to navigate the flow of conversation – having an interpreter slows things down with stops and starts, but then it became more comfortable. Elena built a strong rapport with the counselor and interpreter. She opened up and flourished! She even started trying sessions in English. We are so inspired by the hard work Elena did in therapy to heal from the trauma of her abuse.

#### In 2022:

- 30 adult survivors of sexual assault sought services from Hopeful Horizons.
- 23 survivors received hospital accompaniment for Sexual Assault Forensic Exams.
- 471 survivors of domestic violence were assisted by Hopeful Horizons' advocates.
- 106 consultations provided for parents by Hopeful Horizons' DSS Liaisons.

#### Perpetrator in sexual assault cases adults:

unknown to the victim: 4

Unknown: 2

Friend/ Acquaintance: 17 Current/Former Intimate Partner:7

## **Shelter and Housing**

The need for housing continues to grow. With the help of additional funding and YOUR support, Hopeful Horizons has been able to provide more housing assistance to help individuals and families transition to permanent housing through rent assistance, deposits and utility payments/back payments.

Our Furnish a Future program is an outreach program led by a dedicated volunteer group. The program creates safe and joyful spaces for victims/survivors who are starting over after fleeing their homes. In many cases, they need to rebuild from the ground up and furnishing their new home with love provides them with a positive start on their journey. Furnish a Future collects furniture and household goods specific for each client. The program worked with 15 families in 2022.



- In 2022, our shelter program provided 5,286 nights of safety for 77 women and 98 children.
   The average length of stay was 30 days.
- We helped 63 women and their children move into their own housing apartments and rental homes.

Statistically, a victim of domestic violence is more likely to be killed after they leave the relationship. Hopeful Horizons' staff is certified to administer the evidence-based Danger Assessment to determine the likelihood of lethality and work with victims/survivors to safety plan accordingly.

#### Of the women who stayed at Hopeful Horizons' Emergency Shelter in 2022:

73% said they believe the abuser was capable of killing them

65% said the abuser controlled most or all of their activities

56% said the abuser had tried to choke (strangle) them or cut off their breathing

56% said the abuser was violent and constantly jealous of them

**56%** said the abuser followed them, left threatening messages and destroyed their belongings

## Legal Services

Marla and her young children had experienced domestic violence in the past. In fact, her husband was serving time for Criminal Domestic Violence in a state prison as a result of his abuse of her. So when Marla started receiving death threats from him, she called Hopeful Horizons. The Hopeful Horizons' legal team obtained an emergency order of protection for her and her children in family court, and worked

to bring new charges against him. As time went by, he was scheduled to be released from prison. The team worked to prevent his release and keep Marla safe. Today, Marla and her children are safe and working to rebuild their lives.

Hopeful Horizons provides civil legal services at no cost for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, including orders of protection, divorce, custody and separate maintenance and support. 252 people accessed our legal services last year valued at \$1.07 million.

Prevention and Outreach

Hopeful Horizons provided training and education to more than 1,600 professionals and community members on preventing and responding to child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault in 2022 – including school

personnel, healthcare professionals, law enforcement and other community members. We also educated 1,383 youth from middle school to age 18 on healthy relationships and teen dating violence – this includes the year-long evidence-based primary prevention programs we provide in in local middle and high schools (MOST and WISE Clubs).

Our Strengthening Families Program graduated 17 families in 2022. This is a 14-session program for families with children between the ages of 6-11 to help them enhance their communication and build their resiliency and family bonds.

We recognize that community awareness and prevention is key in Hopeful Horizons' effort to be the Lowcountry leader in ending child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault.

Thank you so
much for standing by
me and understanding
how afraid I have been of
losing custody of my little
6-year-old boy. I really thought
I was losing my mind and I
always feel so much better
about myself and encouraged
when I meet with you.

Survivor



## Fund Development

We celebrated the 10th annual Race4Love in 2022, raising \$26,000, our highest total to date. Our major fundraising event, An Evening with Hopeful Horizons, was back in person and raised close to \$100,000.

I finally feel like I have someone who understands me and does not judge me. (from a male client)

~A domestic violence survivor

As a human service organization, our largest expense – and our strongest asset – is the personnel who provide direct services to victims and community members. We employ around 50 staff and have around 45 volunteers who assist with various activities throughout the year. Volunteer efforts were valued at \$103,000 in 2022.

#### **Donors**

Thank you to our generous donors, family foundations and private foundations. You helped us protect and treat more than 1,200 survivors of abuse last year, while working to prevent abuse from happening.

\*List includes donors who contributed \$500+.

Please contact Erin Hall at halle@hopefulhorizons.org if you see an error.

#### **\$500+ Donors**

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At age 16, Chevonne was sexually assaulted. She was traumatized, frightened, hurt and unsure of how to move forward. Her family was torn apart due to this trauma. She came to Hopeful Horizons and completed Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TFCBT), which helped her work through her trauma and learn how to manage triggers.

We are so proud of Chevonne!
She's now in college and she's a
thriving survivor!

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Palmera Vacation Club

Peggy Parker

Many times, we hear people ask why domestic violence victims/ survivors go back to the abuser. The answer is complicated but it could be financial reasons, it could be for the sake of children, it could be a lack of transportation. It could even be because the survivor still loves the abuser.

Tamara had left her abusive ex-husband and moved out of state. She was also pregnant with his child. He and his family made promises to bring her back to South Carolina – promises of a place to live, financial support and a car. She moved back with her children, thinking she'd be safe. But instead, her new home was remote and isolated. Her husband's family filed for custody after her baby was born and unfortunately they were able to take the baby. She called Hopeful Horizons' Support Line and the legal team obtained an emergency ex parte order and helped reunite Tamara with her baby.

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After more than 30 years of marriage, Barb simply could not endure the abuse one more day. She left her husband and came to Hopeful Horizons. A high score on the Danger Assessment was enough to convince her that moving was what she needed to stay safe. She has been able to continue therapy at Hopeful Horizons and bought a new place to live. Her divorce will be finalized soon and she is grateful to be close to her children and spend quality time with them safely.

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Megan came to Hopeful Horizons after a brutal assault by her boyfriend. Since she began counseling with Hopeful Horizons, she has successfully pursued legal action against him and has moved on to a healthier chapter of life. She says she feels like a new person! You helped change her life.