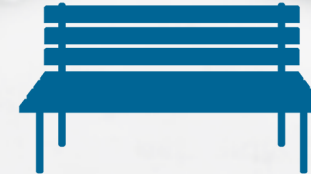


~~SILENCE~~

~~blame~~ ~~quit~~ ~~fear~~

~~fault~~ ~~stigma~~  
~~asking for it~~ ~~shame~~  
~~mixed signals~~

~~SECRETS~~



the blue bench  
**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

Here's how your voice made a difference last year...



Dear friends,

At the beginning of each year, I get to delve into the previous year’s events and really examine how we’ve impacted sexual assault awareness, prevention and support in our community. And each year, I am astounded by the outpouring of dedication from each of you. It truly takes a whole community to make a difference, to change the status quo...and you have done that in new ways and in record numbers this year.

Throughout 2016 we explored the role of voices...your voices, our voice, survivor’s voices, legislative voices—and how each is instrumental in changing the conversation. Media coverage of sexual violence increased, highlighting not only the ways the criminal justice system was responding, but igniting whole groups of people who spoke out in support of survivors. At The Blue Bench, much of our prevention work focuses on bystander intervention: the idea that everyone has a role to play in preventing sexual violence and that knowing how to effectively intervene makes a difference in the community. To see this in action is encouraging, not just to those of us who do this work, but perhaps more importantly, to survivors. When survivors are believed, when they feel safe and supported in coming forward, we can truly change the way our society thinks and talks about sexual violence. We can change reporting rates, prosecution rates and conviction rates. We get closer to living in a world where sexual violence does not exist. Each year, I believe we *are* getting closer. And I believe that because of you!

In the pages ahead, we celebrate the ways our community has come forward to fight sexual assault. You attended events, you donated time and money, you engaged in thoughtful dialogue and you shared your stories, your hopes and your fears. We’ve heard your voices this past year, loud and clear, and I ask you today, to please help us keep this forward momentum. Continue to challenge rape culture, continue to believe survivors, continue to raise your voice with us. We sure sound good together, don’t we?

Kindly,

Karmen Carter  
Executive Director

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# HEAR US ROAR: A COMMUNITY IN ACTION



The incredible team at Emerge Modern Salon hosted an avant-garde hair show in which all the models took to the runway with signs displaying sexual assault statistics. It was a powerful combination of art and advocacy that introduced many new community members to The Blue Bench.



Popular band Local Natives teamed up with Plus1 to donate \$1 of every concert ticket sold in Denver to The Blue Bench. When celebrities (particularly men) use their fame as a platform to speak out against sexual violence, it helps spread the message that sexual assault is not just a women's issue.



CorePower Yoga in Stapleton and yogis from all over Denver came out to a "Glowga" event. Participants wore glowing headphones and followed along in an outdoor yoga class. Similar to the way yoga has restorative properties, donations went towards helping Denver-area survivors heal.



Hundreds of you attended our Changing the Conversation Luncheon where we participated in an open dialogue with *Missoula* author Jon Krakauer and former prosecutor Anne Munch about the realities of sexual assault on college campuses.

*Left: Anne and Jon on The Blue Bench*

*Right: Luncheon attendees enjoy the program, emceed by 9NEWS' Chris Vanderveen*



The Blue Bench Thing is our fun event with a serious mission. Last year, you came out to Tracks to enjoy drinks, food, a special concert and a silent auction full of cool items. You raised more than \$38,000 to support survivors and provide prevention programming to schools. Amazing!

*Left: Sean Kelly & Will James of The Samples played a one-night only gig for guests*

*Right: Attendees enjoy music, drinks and conversation*



I believe ALL SURVIVORS deserve access to resources.

-SUPPORTER VOICE

We are so grateful to have a community of supporters who not only come out to support us at our events, but who use their resources and special skills to hold events benefiting The Blue Bench. If you're interested in hosting an event, you can contact our communications manager at [omoffett@thebluebench.org](mailto:omoffett@thebluebench.org)

# 2016 FINANCIALS\*

Following a strong fundraising year, The Blue Bench ended 2016 with a net increase of revenue over expenses of \$55,494. The largest gain came through Individual Giving, with a 20% increase.

Your partnership and commitment to the long-term sustainability of our organization is important and impactful to the work we do to support survivors and educate the community. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

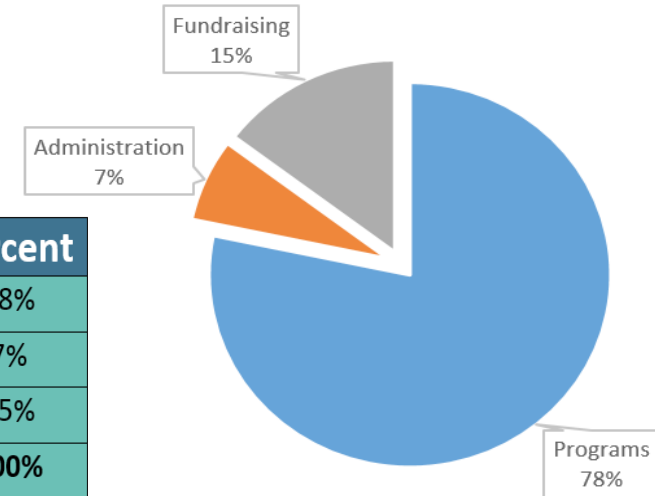
*\*These financials are preliminary numbers based on 2016 audit estimates. Our fully audited numbers will be available on our website as soon as they are ready.*

Source	Amount	Percent
Individual Contributions	\$1,173,464	59%
Special Events	\$56,429	3%
Foundation Grants	\$69,010	3%
Government Grants	\$373,037	19%
Programs	\$144,589	7%
In-Kind Contribution	\$132,715	7%
Investments	\$30,784	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,980,028.00</b>	<b>100%</b>

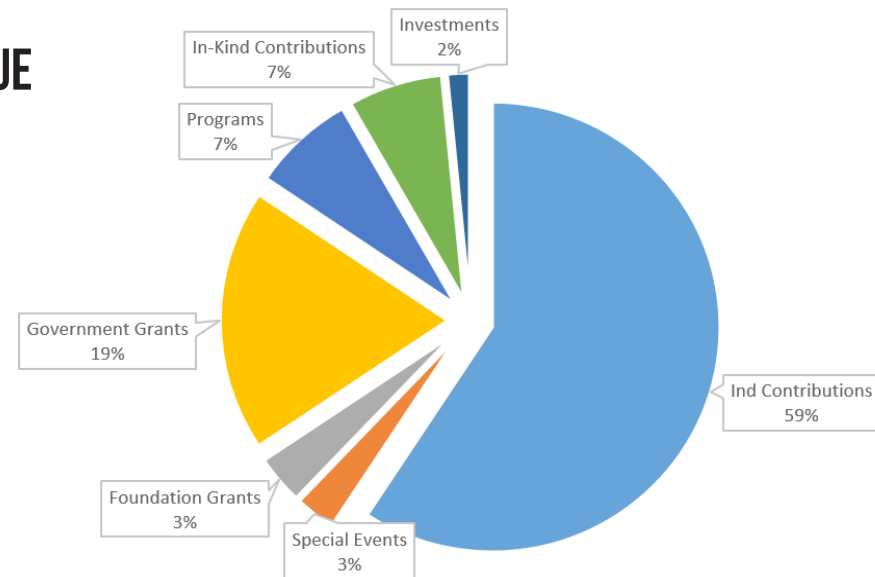
I am normal, my emotions are justified and I am NOT damaged goods -survivor voice

## 2016 EXPENSES

Expense	Amount	Percent
Programs	\$1,498,802	78%
Administration	\$129,373	7%
Fundraising	\$296,359	15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,924,534.00</b>	<b>100%</b>



## 2016 REVENUE





# A BLUE BENCH ON EVERY CORNER

Among the many reasons a survivor may decide not to report, one of the most common is because they fear they won't be believed.

Survivors will often reach out only once for help and if they are met with doubt and blame, chances are they'll choose to shoulder this enormous trauma alone. With 1 in 4 women and 1 in 17 men in Colorado experiencing sexual violence, it's clear that the way we respond to our survivors is critical.

Sexual assault is the only crime where the victim becomes the accused. How many times have you heard about survivors being shamed for their attire, their level of intoxication or their behavior, rather than placing blame on the perpetrator?

At The Blue Bench, we aim to change this behavior at a community level. We see The Blue Bench as a symbol. A symbol of hope, of belief, of support and of healing. To facilitate this, we've launched The Blue Bench Campaign. You'll begin to see blue benches at locations all around the city, each reminding us to start by believing survivors and to remind survivors that they are not alone.

Empowered survivors are more likely to seek medical attention and/or report the crime; supportive law enforcement can push a case forward; informed community members make informed jurors; an informed jury pool encourages district attorneys to prosecute and more prosecutions lead to more convictions. All of this adds up to greater perpetrator accountability and ongoing support for survivors, both of which are beneficial to ending sexual violence altogether.

*I am loved. I am worthy. I am strong enough.*  
-survivor voice



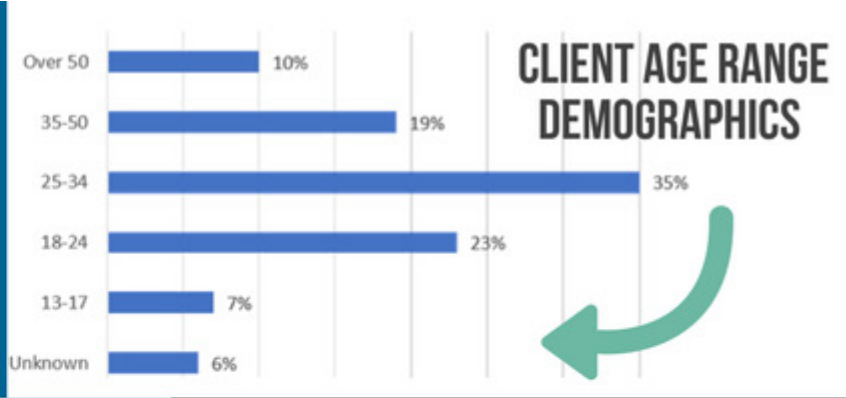
THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Amy Gaines  
Anonymous (purchased 20 benches!)  
Cherry Creek Has Heart  
Denver Broncos  
Denver VALE Board  
Dill, Dill, Carr, Stonbraker & Hutchings, PC  
Karen & Dean Liley  
Phil Stahel M.D.  
Randy & Melanie Lindsay-Brisban  
Tegna Foundation  
The Alex & MK Fleming Family Trust  
University of Denver

If you're interested in buying a blue bench or helping us place one of the 20 donated benches at a local school, business, organization, etc., contact Karmen Carter at [kcarter@thebluebench.org](mailto:kcarter@thebluebench.org).



**SERVED 3,066  
TOTAL CLIENTS**  
[22% increase in  
therapy clients since  
2015]




**ANSWERED 2,475  
HOTLINE CALLS**  
[15% increase from 2015]

**CLIENT ETHNIC DEMOGRAPHICS**

African American	5%
Asian	1%
Caucasian	53%
Hispanic/Latino	21%
Multiracial	4%
Native American	1%
Other	3%
Unknown	12%

**MADE 190 VISITS  
TO THE HOSPITAL  
TO ACCOMPANY  
SURVIVORS**



*YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDES THESE CLIENT SERVICES TO SURVIVORS*

**THERAPY**

Survivors of assault often feel a daunting mix of shame, depression, anger, and confusion. Our therapists are skilled at helping survivors heal. We offer bilingual, low or no cost services to our clients because we believe cost should never be a barrier to receiving necessary care. When survivors feel they are ready, we offer a variety of group options for people of all gender identities including teen groups, men’s groups, women’s groups for adult and childhood survivors of sexual assault, art therapy and yoga therapy. We also offer workshops for friends and families of survivors.

**CASE MANAGEMENT**

Survivors who are thinking about or decide to report their assault are faced with what can be a confusing, stressful and overwhelming criminal justice process. Our case managers help survivors navigate this process from reporting to trial and everything in between including connecting them to resources and accompanying them to appointments. Case managers also help survivors access services they are entitled to such as Crime Victim’s Compensation.

**24/7 HOTLINE & HOSPITAL RESPONSE**

Our trained hotline volunteers provide a comforting voice for callers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Whether an assault happened moments or years ago, survivors and loved ones alike can find support and resources on our hotline. It can be a frightening experience to go to the hospital following a sexual assault. To help survivors during this difficult time, our hospital volunteers are available 24/7 to accompany a survivor to the hospital, answer questions and provide support and resources.

## SINCE 2014...

489%

INCREASE IN SCIENTIFICALLY SUPPORTED PROGRAMS PRESENTED

142%

INCREASE IN REACH AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

116%

INCREASE IN PREVENTION PROGRAMS PRESENTED

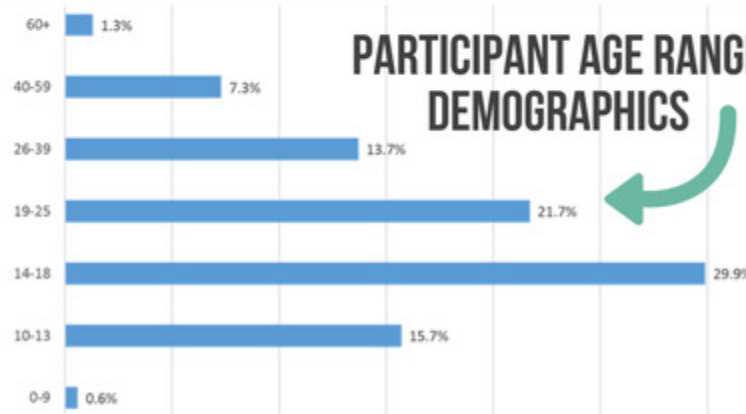
## PARTICIPANT ETHNIC DEMOGRAPHICS

African American	10%
Asian	3%
Caucasian	49%
Hispanic/Latino	20%
Multiracial	4%
Native American	<1%
Unknown	4%

## PREVENTION PROGRAMMING

Our scientifically-supported programs are effective because they address prevention at a community level. We use the bystander model to work with schools, detention centers, bars and more. We help participants understand consent, gain confidence to intervene as active bystanders, support survivors and identify and challenge harmful instances of rape culture and victim blaming.

## PARTICIPANT AGE RANGE DEMOGRAPHICS



## YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDES these community-wide prevention programs

### KEEPING KIDS/YOUTH SAFE

For parents & youth-serving adults to develop strategies to discuss sexual assault with youth, take steps to prevent sexual abuse & intervene when they recognize warning signs.

### SAFETY & EMPOWERMENT SKILLS

Offers a safe space for female-identified participants 13+ to learn and practice verbal & physical assertiveness and self-protection skills.

### BRINGING IN THE BYSTANDER®

Engages participants as part of the solution and equips them with knowledge & skills to support survivors and intervene in risky or sexually violent situations.

### THE EMPOWER YOUTH PROGRAM

Teen exploitation prevention program empowers youth to recognize dynamics of exploitation, red flags & how to use positive resources on behalf of themselves or others.

### SAFE BARS

Bystander intervention training for staff at alcohol-serving establishments to recognize & stop perpetrator behavior and ensure patrons can ask for help.

### KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Includes an introduction to the misconceptions & facts about sexual assault and how to support survivors.

### LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

For middle school-aged learners, focuses on healthy relationships, boundaries, consent & skill-building to become active bystanders against sexual violence.

### A PART OF THE SOLUTION

For incarcerated individuals to understand the dynamics of sexual assault, resources & reporting options and strategies for creating a safer community.



# THANK YOU, DONORS!

The Blue Bench acknowledges those in our community who have raised their voice against sexual violence by donating generously in 2016. You make our work possible. Thank you!

## \$10,000+

1st Judicial District VALE 17th  
Judicial District VALE  
18th Judicial District VALE  
2nd Judicial District VALE  
Alex & Mary-Katherine Fleming  
Amy Gaines  
Everest '96 Memorial Fund  
State of Colorado  
The Anschutz Foundation  
The Colorado Health Foundation  
University of Colorado-Anschutz  
Medical Campus

## \$5,000-\$9,999

Dean & Karen Liley  
Finley Family Foundation  
Google, Inc.  
Hower Family Fund  
John G. Duncan Charitable Trust  
Lauren Ng  
Monarch Investment &  
Management Group  
Renewal by Andersen

## \$2,500-\$4,999

Adam & Jamie Sayers  
Amanda Lee  
Amber Lambuth  
Boettcher Foundation  
Bruce & Cy DeBoer  
Cherry Creek Has Heart  
CorePower Yoga  
Emerge Modern Salon  
EnCana (USA Cares Foundation)/  
Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc.  
Jared Polis Foundation  
Live Urban Real Estate  
Margenau Associates, Inc.  
McAuliffe International School  
Patricia L Litvak  
Philip Frank Stahel M.D.  
Randy & Melanie Lindsay-Brisban  
Richmond American Homes Inc  
University of Denver

## \$1,000-\$2,499

Benjamin L Hamann  
Brandon H Long  
Burke Munger  
Chris Carleton Fund  
Cile Chavez  
Cindy Kellogg  
Commonwealth Land Title

Community First Foundation  
Craig G Julien  
Crowe Horwath Foundation  
Darryl L Deakins  
Donal Grogan  
Dr Karen Berland Mental Health  
Fund  
DST Systems Inc  
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Ernest Martinez  
Faegre Baker Daniels LLP  
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Heather L Aley  
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Kukui Consulting Lic  
Laura & Michael Moore  
Lisa Thompson  
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Shane M Madden  
Sherrel L Hladik  
Susan K Heinzeroth  
The Havercroft Family Foundation  
Treaasa Burke Craig  
Trinity Second Century Foundation  
WEBROOT  
Wells Fargo Bank

## \$500-\$999

Adam Koester  
Alpine Bank  
Altarae Young  
Angela Stevens  
Anne S Batcheller  
Anne DePrince & Susan  
Buckingham  
Ball Corporation  
Becky & Lewis DelPonte  
Beth & William Reid  
Beverly Kahn and Ronald  
Schmiermund  
Brad Wells  
Brian & Brianna Medema  
Brian Keyes  
Carrie Mumma  
Christi Eymer





## \$500-\$999 cont.

Christy Paulin Clark  
 Clara Gelatt & Neal Meier  
 Craig Williams  
 Cudd Foundation  
 Darrin & Mary-Margaret Henke  
 David Kusel  
 David M Lewis  
 David Willson  
 Dean Johnson  
 Deann & Daniel Anderson  
 Devin Yeager  
 Elisabeth Cochran  
 Elizabeth Weekes  
 Elyse Blazeovich  
 Erik and Amy Dietz  
 Gail Martz  
 Geoffrey Bateman  
 Gia Vasey  
 Give With Liberty  
 Hal & Ann M Logan  
 Indira Lanig  
 Janice Tilden  
 Jeffrey & Sandi D Balmer  
 Jeffrey Villalobos  
 Joanne Davidson  
 John C Maxson  
 John R Hardesty  
 John S Fraser  
 Judith Armstrong  
 Julie Mensing  
 Justine Shaffner  
 Kendall Karle  
 Kevin Landon  
 Kimberly Irby

Kristi & Tom Gardner  
 Larry Peseckis  
 Lauren R Johnson  
 Left Hand Brewing  
 Leslie O'Connor  
 Litvak Litvak Mehrstens & Epstein  
 PC  
 Lori A Kepner  
 Lori & Clelio Boccato  
 Louden Family Foundation  
 Marchbank Family Foundation  
 Margaret Morrissey  
 Marilyn J Ducker  
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 Mark Price  
 Martha & Damon Graham-Haradon  
 Michael A Volk  
 Michele Lindzy  
 Mohave County Arizona  
 Mona Bodaness  
 Monique Mitchell  
 Nicole Hernandez  
 Patricia Baird  
 Patricia Hueni  
 QEP Resources  
 Ralph E Lamar  
 Reginald Reyes  
 Regis University  
 Robert & Michelle Szydowski  
 Robert Baca  
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Sara Matlock  
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 Stacia Schumacher  
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 State of Iowa  
 Terri Curtis  
 The Imhoff Ohlson Family Fund  
 Thomas W Van Thiel  
 V. Claire Bennett  
 Western Union Foundation  
 Yvette Killingsworth  
 Zachariah Weimer

## \$250-\$499

Alan Hines  
 Alison S Evans  
 Alyssia Fotenos  
 Amanda Robertson  
 Amy Montoya  
 Andrea Stein  
 Andrew J Slifka  
 Angela Campbell  
 ARMY ROTC Cadet Assoc  
 Austin Brbas  
 Barbara A. Charnes  
 Barbara C Schroeder  
 Barbara E White  
 Ben F Cooper  
 Benjamin D Pate

Benjamin Vanfossen  
 Beth Gage  
 Beth O'Neill  
 Beverly Lopez  
 Billi Froning  
 Brian & Linda Rothkopf  
 Brittany P Tapply  
 Brittany Redman & Jason Pollack  
 Carlos Peralta  
 Carol Bush  
 Carol Ferguson  
 Carol Greenfield  
 Carrie Gusmus  
 Cass & John Huffman  
 Cassandra Cordova  
 Catherine Greenwood M.D.  
 Catherine Queen  
 Charles B Varnell  
 Charles Henrikson  
 Cher Serhal  
 Cheryl L Page  
 Chris & Bethany Baer  
 Chris & Kevin Landes  
 Christa Bell  
 Christina Walker  
 Christine Crowder  
 Christine Perreault  
 Christopher Brown  
 Christopher Dement  
 Clark Corbridge  
 Colette Wilbanks  
 Colorado I Have A Dream  
 Foundation

My therapist made me feel powerful and like I was no longer a victim.  
 -survivor voice



## \$250-\$499 cont.

Community Shares of Colorado  
 Cory Portmann  
 Courtney & Barbara George  
 Courtney Caton  
 Criss Louik  
 Cynthia & Daniel Fox  
 Danny Browning II  
 David & Lenora Slack  
 David & Sue Berscheid  
 David Dockhorn  
 David L. Dufresne  
 David Naus  
 Dawn Kaczor  
 Deborah Froeb  
 Deborah Rountree  
 Deborah Sandquist  
 Denise Clark  
 Devin Bajardi  
 Diane Hammerberg  
 Dick Hess  
 Donald L Hagenruber  
 Donna Gibbs  
 Dorothea (Dodie) F Simmons  
 Dwayne Kowaliuk  
 Dynamic Workforce Solutions  
 Eagle Builders  
 Ed Redford  
 Elizabeth A Doxey  
 Elizabeth S Wilson  
 Emily G Vilkus  
 Empire Education Group, Inc  
 Eric D Sundberg  
 Erin A Dameron

Erin Stark  
 Esther D Harvey  
 Frances Auda  
 Frances Warren  
 Frank C Sherrard III  
 Gail Graves  
 Gail Zwiebel  
 Garth Graham  
 Gary Mason  
 Gayle Paige Nobles  
 Genny Reese  
 George Hine  
 George S Petrakis  
 Gregg & Donna Sutherland  
 Gregory West  
 Hans G Borumka  
 Harry Rochelle  
 Harvey & Janis Dickson  
 Heather Lachance  
 Helen Scott  
 Hildie Johnson  
 J Mark Sherock & Diane Kirk  
 Jackie Norris  
 Jacob & Skylar Zilliox  
 James E Long  
 James Halpenny  
 James M Mayer  
 James Smith & Jennifer Leavell  
 Jane Davidson  
 Jason Reed  
 Jeanne Harris & Robert Groth  
 Jefferson County School District  
 Jeffrey Llewellyn  
 Jeffrey Scelza  
 Jen Dale

Jennifer Anderson  
 Jennifer Inman  
 Jennifer J Lefleur  
 Jennifer R Bane  
 Jennifer Rehm  
 Jennifer Wright  
 Jenny Convery  
 Jenny Delgado  
 Jeremy DeVoss  
 Jeremy M Murtaugh  
 Jesse Perez  
 John Congdon  
 John Gracey  
 Joleen Francis  
 Jorgina Rumley  
 Joseph & Constance Francis  
 Judith Buob  
 Judith J Baxter  
 Julia Reeder  
 Julie Beckerle Putsch  
 Julie Candelaria  
 Juliet Shuler  
 Karen A Parks  
 Karen Jorgensen  
 Karen Rivera  
 Karl Greve  
 Katharine N Rainbolt  
 Kelli Theis  
 Kelly Cruickshank  
 Kenneth Neeper  
 Kerri Adams  
 Kim Anders  
 Kimberly & Randall Dietrich  
 Kimberly & Derek Anderson

Kimberly E Medina  
 Kimberly Keating  
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 Margaret Stookesberry  
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 Mark and Lucille DePuy  
 Mark Earhart  
 Mark Goodwin  
 Martin P Buhr  
 Mary A Linder  
 Mary Burger  
 Mary E Rudden  
 Mary Quintana  
 Mary S Kinsey  
 Mary Zanotti

*It showed me how to look for help. And how to try to help someone else.. —student voice*

When you donate your time and money, you are making a statement. You are telling survivors you believe them. You are teaching your children to reject rape culture. And you are committing to end sexual violence in your community. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

- our voice

### \$250-\$499 cont.

Marybeth Schroeder  
Matthew Herzog  
Matthew Wieber  
Megan Wilson  
Melinda Varner  
Melissa & Mark Dawson  
Melissa V Palmer  
Mergen Mittleider  
Metropolitan State University  
Michael Alan Stonehouse  
Michael & Desiree Gless  
Michael Colbert  
Michael Rager  
Michele L Bello  
Michele Morris  
Michele Thomas  
Michelle & Michael Kaiser  
Michelle Zayat  
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program  
Molly E Butler  
Nancy Goodman  
Pamela Pieters  
Patricia Hutchens  
Patrick R McMahon  
Paul & Sara Ernst  
Paul Ng  
Paul Strange  
Paula S Kauffman  
Penelope Rithner & Franklyn Rohn  
Pete & Wendy Downie  
Peter & Debra O'Connor  
Peter Berglund  
Peter Weiser  
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Priscilla Akpai  
R Robert Rivera  
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Raul Torres  
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Sandra & William McMahon  
Sara Almerri  
Sara Moore  
Sarah Orvis  
Scott Arndt  
Scott H Lounsberry  
Scott Shupert  
Sharon Jacobs  
Sofia Lock  
St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
Sts Peter & Paul Catholic Church  
Sue Okerson  
Susan J Kramer

Susan Lapierre  
Tamir & Mina Goldstein  
Teddi Ann Barry  
Teri & Clifford Holtz  
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Thomas Wiegand  
Timothy & Dana Liley  
Timothy Mugglestone  
Todd Mulholland  
Todd W Harrison  
Tom Carmody  
Tory Gray  
Trang Dinh-Phung  
Trina L Crosser  
Trudy A Zimmerman  
Verlyn M Peterson  
Warren Squires  
Wendi Mahoney  
Wendy & Russell Sarazen  
Wendy Kochar  
William B LaRock  
William Canterbury

WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY  
UNINTENTIONAL ERRORS OR  
OMISSIONS

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karen Liley (Board Chair)  
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Trade Operator; MWD Trading

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Paige Nobles  
Brand Strategist; Made Movement

Chris Vanderveen  
Investigative Reporter; 9News

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Healing is possible

IT WASN'T  
YOUR FAULT I believe you

**303-322-7273**

24/7 confidential & anonymous hotline

THE BLUE BENCH  
PO BOX 18951  
DENVER, CO 80218