

# 2010 Annual Report

## Special points of interest:

- Financial Summary pg.2
- 2010's Special Events pg.3
- Statistics Summary pg.4
- Program & Services pg.5
- Board and Staff pg.5
- Contact Us pg.6



SKAGIT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
& SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES

## A Year in Review

2010 was a fast-paced year filled with interesting projects like *House of Hope*, a successful Leadership Skagit campaign to refurbish many of the bedrooms in our emergency shelter, and the showing of the *Vagina Monologues* at the Lincoln Theater as a fundraiser for the agency in honor of V-Day.

2010 also came with a number of interesting trends in advocacy services. For example, we experienced a staggering increase in hotline calls, a 117% increase to be exact. Advocates answered 2400 hotline calls in 2010 as compared to just 1100 the year before. In addition, our shelter program was a 28% increase in bednights provided to women and children fleeing intimate partner violence. This jump in need for shelter services maxed out shelter capacity consistently and forced us to turn away more individuals than ever before. It also highlighted the gaps in our county's service spectrum as the number of individuals exiting emergency shelter far outnumbered their low income or transitional housing options.

2010 was also the first full year for the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) in Skagit County and we began to see just how great the need was for such a service. In 2010 our sexual assault advocates worked with more than 60 children and their families referred through the CAC. We are grateful to Brigid Collins and the dedicated CAC Advisory Committee for all their hard work in establishing a CAC for our county.

Also in 2010 we began a partnership with United General Hospital's Community Health Outreach Program to create the *Sedro-Woolley Interpersonal Violence Prevention Program*. This project trained Peer Educators in SW High School to carry anti-bullying messages to youth in middle schools.

In January SDVSAS co-hosted a community training on the issue of human trafficking with Soroptimist International of Burlington. Using the training as a springboard, Bethany Dearborn, an advocate at SDVSAS and trafficking activist, formed Skagit Against Slavery (SkAS). SkAS is a coalition of volunteer activists and repre-

sentatives from local organizations who are collaborating together to end human trafficking in our lifetime, through community awareness, mobilization, and capacity building. These efforts put in motion a movement in Skagit County and within SDVSAS to build awareness and the capacity to serve victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST).

April is Sexual Assault Awareness month and in 2010 SDVSAS hosted Skagit County's First Annual Take back the Night rally and march. More than 80 community members turned out to hear survivors tell their inspiring stories and to march around downtown Mount Vernon to support the ending of sexual violence.

These are just a few of the many exciting and challenging highlights of 2010 and we are looking forward to whatever 2011 has to bring.

Respectfully,  
Emily O'Connor  
Executive Director

## The Bottom Line

In the end, it all boils down to a question of resources. SDVSAS relies heavily on the generosity of our community to keep our expenses down. In 2010, Skagit County community members and businesses donated more than \$47,000 to the agency in the form of supplies, food, furniture, equipment, and services.

Local government continued to support agency programs and

operations in a big way in 2010, with grants totaling more than \$85,000.

The Domestic Violence Victim Impact Panel, a program run by the generosity of volunteers from Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley police departments and Skagit Recovery Center, generated over \$7,000 for direct emergency financial assistance to victims.

The United Way of Skagit

County continues to be a steadfast supporter of SDVSAS granting both general support and a Critical Needs grant.

Thank you to everyone who helps keep our programs running!

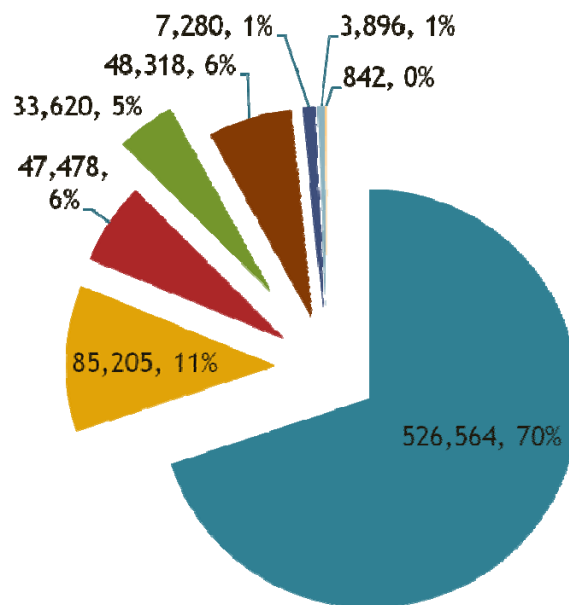
**A special thank you to our local Soroptimist Clubs for their continued dedication to domestic violence and sexual assault.**

SI of Burlington donated \$10,000+ through the Bay View Women's Run, as they do every year!

SI of Anacortes donated \$2500

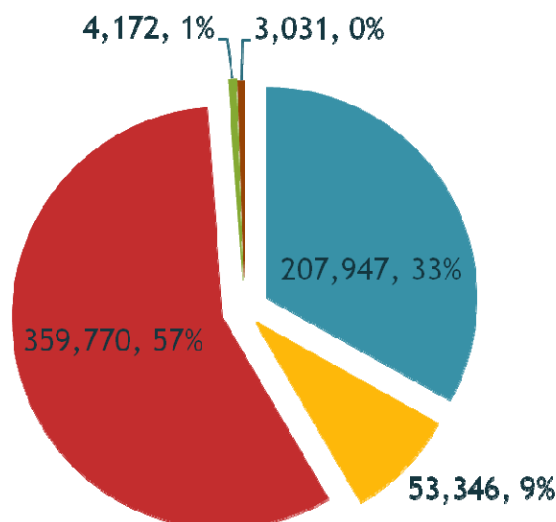
SI of Sedro-Woolley donated \$5000

**You have our deepest gratitude!**



### Revenue

- State & Federal Grants
- City & County Funding
- In-Kind Donations
- United Way
- Donations/Fundraising
- Impact Panel
- Miscellaneous
- Interest



### Expenses

- Shelter Program
- Administration
- DV & SA Program
- Client Emergency Assistance
- Miscellaneous

# Special Events in 2010

*Jennifer Wixom*

SDVSAS 2010

Volunteer of the Year!



- **LDS Church and Jennifer Wixom's Children's Room:** The Shelter Program worked with the LDS Church, and Jennifer Wixom, a local artist, to raise money to remodel the children's room at the shelter. They raised over \$2,500 and also created an amazing mural for the children's room. Thank you LDS Church and Jennifer!! Jennifer was also named our 2010 Volunteer of the Year!
- **House of Hope, Just Five:** A Leadership Skagit Team selected the shelter as their community project and launched an Adopt-a-Room campaign. Their efforts raised over \$10,000 and resulted in the refurbishing of all seven bedrooms at our emergency shelter. Thank you to the *Just Five* team and all their supporters!
- **Bayview Women's Run:** Soroptimist International of Burlington hosted the 28th Annual 10k/2mile walk/run at Bay View State Park. The weather was amazing and the event was lots of fun, as always. SI donated \$10,423 to SDVSAS! Now that's dedication!
- **4% Friday:** The Skagit Valley Food Co-op selected SDVSAS for their November donation day and donated \$1,696 to the agency. Amazing! Thank you Co-op and customers!
- **The 15th Annual Women Riding for Women Event:** This year the weather was against us and it poured rain most of the day. Despite the typical Washington weather, a dedicated group of supporters braved the rain and joined the dedicated organizers for a fun filled day which began with a delicious breakfast at the Hometown Café in Sedro-Woolly and ended with a amazing BBQ lunch spread and lots of raffle prizes at the Wild Cat Stealhead Club on the beautiful Skagit River. Participants raised over \$900 to support SDVSAS!
- **Mt. Vernon Lion's Food Drive:** Every year the Lion's Club hosts a food drive and the community always rises to the challenge, donating a significant quantity of food to our emergency shelter program and over \$300. Go Lions!
- **Circus Gatti:** In June, the agency contracted with Circus Gatti for four fun-filled circus performances at the Skagit County Fair grounds. The events raised \$500 for the agency.
- **Skagit Elder Alliance:** SDVSAS assisted in the development of a task force whose goal is to raise awareness of the growing problem of elder abuse in our community and to work towards community based solutions.
- **Vagina Monologues:** In February, the Lincoln Theater hosted the Vagina Monologues in both English and Spanish in honor of V-Day. The event was a fundraiser for the agency and brought in \$1,094. Wow! Thanks!
- **Carried by the Current:** Skagit Valley College hosted a play about the establishment of the first shelter for domestic violence victims. The play was very well received and the drama center hosted the preview performance as a fundraiser for SDVSAS. Community members donated more than \$700. Thank you SVC and Nicola Pearson.



Left: Bethany Dearborn, Shelter Advocate, crosses the finish line and takes 1st place in her age group, way to go Bethany!



Awareness dog in action at TBTN!

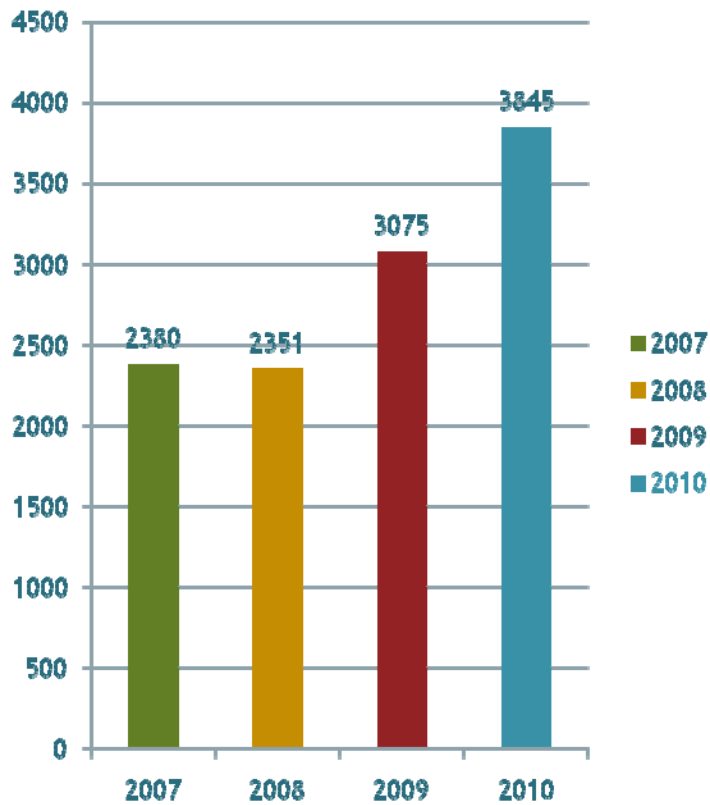


Above: Erin Smith, Shelter Program Director, and Above Right: Emily O'Connor, Executive Director, show their activist spirit at the 1st annual TBTN

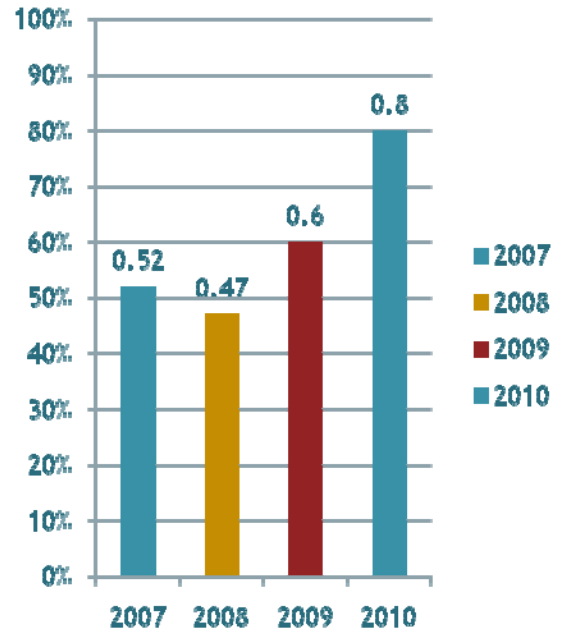
Ready, Set, Go! The gals at the Bay View Women's Run take their marks

Bednights  
in the emergency shelter  
increased 28%  
in 2010

### Hours of Advocacy Provided

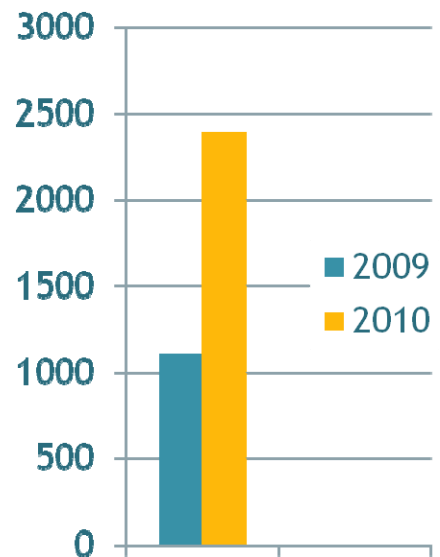


### Shelter Occupancy



Hours of individual and  
group advocacy  
increased 25%  
in 2010

### Hotline Calls



Calls to the 24-hour hotline  
more than doubled  
in 2010

## Programs and Services

Skagit Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services is a 501c3 non-profit organization based in Mount Vernon, serving all of Skagit County since 1979.

**The mission of Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services is to end domestic violence and sexual assault in our community through empowerment, advocacy, education, awareness and action for social change.**

Our vision is for all people to live full, free, expressive and empowered lives in a safe, vibrant, healthy and peaceful community. We operate from the basic premise that services must empower victims to pursue options that offer safety, independence, and integrity.

SDVSAS is committed to partnering with local communities and engaging schools, neighborhoods, faith groups, organizations and other “communities” in order to find innovative ways of taking action against domestic and sexual assault.

All services are free and confidential.

### Skagit DV & SA Services Programs:

- ◆ **Emergency Shelter Program:** provides 24-hour confidential emergency shelter for women and their children
- ◆ **24-Hour Hotline:** provides crisis intervention, support, and referrals for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors, family members, and the community
- ◆ **Medical Advocacy:** provides emergency support services to victims at the local hospitals and police stations
- ◆ **Legal Advocacy:** assists victims involved in the criminal justice system and help victims obtain emergency protective orders
- ◆ **Advocacy-Based Counseling:** advocates provide on-going support to assist in the healing process, maximize safety, and connect victims to additional resources
- ◆ **Youth Empowerment Program:** staff provide prevention education presentations in local schools, and youth prevention groups
- ◆ **Community Education:** provides education to community groups and social services providers, and maintains an agency website providing information and resources to victims and the public
- ◆ **Domestic Violence Support Groups:** provided weekly in both English and Spanish
- ◆ **Sexual Assault Support Groups:** psycho-educational groups for adult survivors
- ◆ **Children’s Advocacy Center:** partners with the Center to provide advocacy and support services to child sexual abuse victims and their families
- ◆ **Immigrant Victim Program:** assists immigrant victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in obtaining legal status
- ◆ **Advocacy Center:** open 40 hours per week to provide services to victims

### 2010 Service Summary Facts

- ◆ SDVSAS provided over **5000 bednights** to women and children fleeing domestic violence; a **28% increase from 2009**.
- ◆ Advocates answered more than **2400 hotline calls**; a **116% increase from 2009**.
- ◆ Advocates provided **3600 hours of advocacy services** to over **620 clients**, a **20% increase from 2009**.
- ◆ Provided more than **140 hours of educational presentations** to more than **2400 youth and adults** in Skagit County.

## Board of Directors

**Kristen Murphy**

*Chair*

**Josh Bluhm**

*Vice Chair*

**Becky Abel-Moore**

*Treasurer*

**Ken Bergsma**

*Secretary*

**Mary Ann Edwards**

**Valerie Stafford**

**Susan Scott**

**Michael Lumpkin**

## Program Staff

**Emily O’Connor**

*Executive Director*

**Jennifer McClain**

*Community Programs Director*

**Erin Smith**

*Shelter Program Director*

**Emilia Navarro**

*Lead Shelter Advocate*

**Elena Van Voorhees**

*Bookkeeper*

**Brooke Knoester**

*Program Assistant*

**Elizabeth Ibanez**

*Immigrant Victim Coordinator*

**Colleen Connor**

*Prevention/Education Coordinator*

**Courtney Long**

*SA Services Coordinator*

**Bethany Dearborn**

*Shelter Advocate*

**Griselda Schultz**

*Shelter Advocate*

**Advocacy Center**

**1521 B Leigh Way, Mount Vernon**

**Hours: Monday-Thursday 8am-6pm**

**Appointments Recommended**

**24-Hour Hotline**

**888-336-9591**

**Mailing Address**

**P.O. Box 301**

**Mount Vernon, WA 98273**

**Administration: (360) 336-9591**

**Fax: (360) 336-9593**

**Email: [admin@SkagitDVSAS.org](mailto:admin@SkagitDVSAS.org)**

**[www.SkagitDVSAS.org](http://www.SkagitDVSAS.org)**



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