



# ALIVE, Inc.

Alternatives to Living In Violent Environments

FISCAL YEAR 2008/2009 (APRIL 1—MARCH 31) ANNUAL REPORT

## From the Director's Desk...



### Celebrating ALIVE's Silver Anniversary

The year was 1983. The final episode of M\*A\*S\*H aired and was the most watched television show with 125 million people tuning in. Johnny Carson hosted the 56<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards and the golden statue went to *Terms of Endearment*. Cabbage Patch dolls made their debut and Sally Ride was the first American woman in space.

It was also the year during which Ellen Tetlow and Neyla Warner founded ALIVE. Aware of the critical need for safe shelter for women and children victimized by domestic violence in St. Louis, they decided to fill the existing void in services. ALIVE's humble beginnings were in two rooms donated by a local church. Six volunteers shared their homes with battered women and their children when they had no where else to go. In addition to the "safe home" program, four support groups were held weekly. At the time, no one understood the enormous impact ALIVE would have on the St. Louis community. In the last twenty five years, thousands of adults and children impacted by domestic abuse have been helped by the organization that started as an idea shared between two friends.

This year we celebrated ALIVE's 25 years of service and we honor the determination and vision of Ellen and Neyla. As you read about ALIVE's accomplishments, it's important to remember that it all started with an idea and the power of two individuals who decided to make St. Louis a better and safer place!  
Sincerely,

Erin Ercoline, Executive Director

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## Our Dedicated Staff as of March 31, 2009

Erin Ercoline, MPA  
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Katie Robinson, MA, PLPC  
*Nights of Safety Coordinator*

Claudia DeRiemer, MA, LPC  
*Adult Counselor*

Susan St. Leger, MA, LPC  
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Adult Counselor*

Roselyne Hazard, MSW, LCSW  
*Adult and Children's Counselor*

**ALIVE's mission is to provide counseling, emergency sanctuary, and other critical services to adults and children impacted by domestic abuse, as well as to increase awareness in order to create a supportive community. Our vision is to end domestic abuse, restoring safety and peace one family at a time.**

**ALIVE served more than 1,300 adults and children in St. Louis City and St. Louis, St. Charles, Franklin, Jefferson, and Gasconade Counties through its two offices in St. Louis and Franklin Counties and through the Circle of Safety in downtown St. Louis.**

## 24-Hour Crisis Line

ALIVE's crisis line often provides clients with their first access to our services. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the crisis line is answered by staff, practicum students and volunteers who are trained in providing crisis intervention.

There is a crisis line available for the greater St. Louis area and an 800 number available for the Franklin County area. Since this program is based upon responding to those who are in crisis situations, there is very little demographic data available.

*Staff, student interns, and volunteers responded to more than 19,000 crisis calls in FY 2008/09, which was nearly 23% more than in last fiscal year.*

### Adult Client Demographics

Gender

Females	98.1%
Males	1.9%

Ethnicity

Caucasian	65.0%
African-American	29.2%
Hispanic	2.9%
Asian	1.8%
Other	1.1%

Age Range

Adults (age 18-59)	98.1%
Adults (age 60+)	1.9%

### Child Client Demographics

Gender

Females	49.9%
Males	50.1%

Ethnicity

Caucasian	44.9%
African-American	50.9%
Hispanic	1.5%
Asian	0.7%
Other	2.0%

Ages

0-5	48.5%
6-12	37.6%
13-18	13.9%

## Nights of Safety

At the very core of ALIVE's work with those families victimized by domestic violence is our emergency sanctuary program. In 1983, two women with graduate degrees from Washington University wanted to try to fill the void that existed in services for victims of domestic violence in St. Louis County. As a result, ALIVE was founded as an all-volunteer network of safe home providers who shared their homes with battered women and their children when safe shelter was not available.

Today, ALIVE's "Nights of Safety" program continues to provide emergency shelter for adults and their children who are impacted by domestic violence. Our "Nights of Safety" program is a unique and innovative addition to the services available to family

violence victims in the greater St. Louis area.

Finding adequate shelter remains an immediate problem that individuals victimized by domestic violence must face. There are no shelters available in the Franklin County area, and the local St. Louis shelters are often full or unable to house a family in crisis. Additionally, ALIVE's Nights of Safety program is the only shelter program in the area that serves male victims of domestic violence. In these situations, ALIVE's staff and volunteers work around the clock to insure that clients are placed in a safe location. ALIVE has contracts with a number of motel chains in the St. Louis metro area that are willing to provide the needed emergency shelter for those women and men escaping from a violent partner. These motels are

scattered throughout the area and their locations are kept confidential.

This program is absolutely vital to keep adults and children who are victimized by domestic violence safe until shelter space becomes available, an Order of Protection is obtained to remove the abusive partner from the home, or other arrangements are made for their safety.

*ALIVE provided 2,013 "Nights of Safety" to 506 adults and children in FY 2008/09.*

## Emergency Transportation

Emergency transportation is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This service brings clients and their children, who otherwise have no means of travel, into the "Nights of Safety" emergency sanctuary program or helps

clients in their transition to another shelter program. It also provides a means of safe transportation for families trying to leave the St. Louis area, or even for clients who might not be able to come into the office for therapy

sessions due to the cost of gasoline or lack of access to a bus line.

*ALIVE provided emergency transportation to 437 adults and children in FY 2008/09.*

**ALIVE conducts client surveys on a biannual basis. The results of that feedback are incorporated into our programs and evaluated on a semiannual basis. During our last survey 96% of our clients rated our services as excellent and would recommend ALIVE to a friend or family member in need of assistance.**

## Court Advocacy

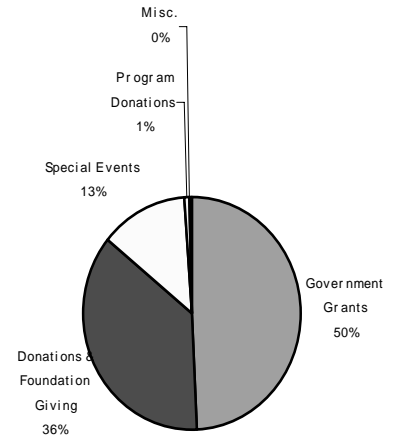
Trained staff and volunteers assist individuals victimized by domestic violence through every step of the legal system, whether filing for an Ex Parte or for a full Order of Protection, a divorce, or child custody. Because the institution that is the court system is particularly frightening, the most important aspect of our court advocacy program is

providing support to those who would otherwise have no one there to assist them.

**ALIVE staff members and volunteers assisted:**

- **224 clients with Ex Parte Orders of Protection.**
- **227 clients with Full Orders of Protection.**

- **40 clients with Child Orders of Protection.**
- **86 clients with other legal proceedings.**



## Counseling

ALIVE's counseling services include both individual therapy and group sessions. Individual sessions are conducted on an "as needed" basis with a staff therapist. Support groups are held weekly, and are open-ended and ongoing, so clients may come and go to suit their own needs. Group facilitators use a psycho-educational format and work from an empowerment model.

Services are provided in the counseling program by Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, and graduate level practicum students who are supervised by licensed staff.

Individuals who enter our counseling program will complete initial intake testing and evaluations on a regular basis thereafter to confirm that

progress is being made and evaluate the success of the program.

**ALIVE provided 2,822 hours of counseling to 386 clients and held 86 support group sessions in FY 2008/09.**

## Children's Treatment

ALIVE seeks to empower those victimized by domestic violence to take control of their own lives and to realize their strengths and abilities. While the needs of the primary victims of domestic violence have been addressed for some time, until recently, a huge population of secondary victims had been neglected, namely children who witness the atrocities taking place in their own homes.

ALIVE was the first local domestic violence agency to offer non-residential counseling for these young and innocent victims of domestic violence. The main focus of this treatment program is on the trauma that the children have experienced and the subsequent behavioral and emotional consequences caused by this exposure. This program addresses the needs of children, ages 4-17, and their parents, and has three distinct

components: assessment, intervention and prevention.

**ALIVE provided 730 hours of counseling and parent consultations to 168 children and their parents.**

## Community Education

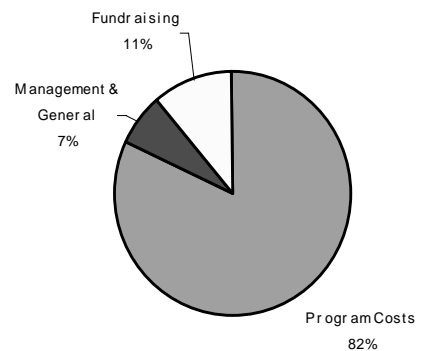
Educating the St. Louis community on the various issues surrounding domestic violence is key to the recognition and prevention of this scourge in our local neighborhoods. ALIVE is committed to working with health care providers, educators, students, business and civic groups, as well as

the media and the court system. Whether it's through our work with the local police departments, participation in a Rotary meeting or by addressing medical professionals about the issues that are a part of working with victims of domestic violence, ALIVE makes our community educa-

tion program available to any group that is interested in learning about our services and how they can help.

**More than 2,800 individuals attended 103 presentations in FY 2008/09.**

<b>Income:</b>	
Government Grants	\$351,044
Grants and Donations	\$259,545
Special Events	\$93,643
Program Donations	\$6,194
Miscellaneous	\$1,463
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$711,889</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Program Costs	\$595,311
Management & General	\$53,136
Fundraising	\$80,932
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$729,379</b>



## ALIVE, INC.

## Our Generous Donors

*Our deepest gratitude to these individual, foundation, corporate, civic and government partners whose generosity allowed us to help more than 1,300 individuals this year.*

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*We sincerely apologize if we missed your name or if there was an error. Please call our office with the correct information as soon as possible.*

## Thank You To Our Loyal Volunteers and Student Interns

The following individuals volunteered their time to help ALIVE this year. Together they gave 16,850 hours of service this fiscal year. Whether they answered the crisis line, provided child care while parents attended a counseling appointment, distributed brochures, spoke to the community about domestic violence, assisted a client with a court action, or helped in one of our offices, they were key to our ability to serve victims of domestic violence. We are so grateful for their support. Volunteers truly are the heart and soul of our programs and we would not be able to serve more than 1,300 people each year without their efforts.

Grace Austin  
Michelle Barron  
Theodore Baumgarten  
LaShonda Blue  
Fred Blumenthal  
Ann Boston  
Michelle Bruno  
Tiffany Butler  
Shelby Carpenter  
SheRon Chaney  
Yolanda Clark  
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