

YWCA Kitsap County
2017 Final Report

1. Summarize the activities undertaken in providing the scope of services described in Attachment A.

During 2017, the YWCA advocate provided a full range of advocacy services to include, but not limited to, crisis intervention, 24 hour domestic violence hotline, safety planning, civil legal advocacy, criminal legal advocacy, assistance in finding housing, support groups, and assistance in accessing relevant community resources. In addition, the advocate participated in community events and provided outreach and education.

2. Reference the project objectives identified in your project proposal. Were those objectives achieved? Why or why not? Were there any unexpected positive outcomes or challenges?

We believed that providing a full-time YWCA Advocate on Bainbridge Island would result in victims of domestic violence having greater access to services and that they would be able to better utilize services. In addition, our clients would have increased feelings of empowerment and self-confidence. We also proposed that the impacts of trauma would be reduced through achieving better coping skills, greater assertiveness and self-awareness. We believe that these objectives have been achieved for most of our YWCA clients. Program participants reported greater feelings of empowerment which enabled to make safer and healthier choices in their lives. They also reported that having an advocate in their own community who was able to accommodate their schedule, was easily accessible, and who provided confidential services made them feel less alone, gave them access to tools for safety planning, and assisted in accessing community resources.

We were able to provide information to community members and partner agencies that increased the communities understanding of the complex nature of domestic violence, signs to look for, and provided a local resource when making referrals.

3. Reference the specific measurable results identified in your project proposal. Were they achieved? If not, what challenges prevented the achievement of the anticipated results? How many Bainbridge Island residents were served? Are the conditions for those residents generally improving or worsening? Please explain.

Our goal was to provide services to 70 unduplicated individuals, support group to 12 individuals, and provide outreach and education to the community.

We provided advocacy to 64 individuals and support group to 10 individuals. We were slightly under our projected outcomes. We attribute these slightly lower numbers to two factors; 1) a change in staffing during the year, and 2) support group moved from Poulsbo to Bainbridge Island in late March 2017.

With regards to community outreach and education, the advocates have visited other non-profit agencies on the island and updated them on our services and provided them with our brochures. In addition, we participated in the National Night Out, an event at the Bainbridge Island Art Museum, and provided presentations at Woodward Middle School. In June, the YWCA hosted a county-wide Prevention Summit.

Overall, 2017 was a positive year for the YWCA on Bainbridge Island. We feel that we were gaining momentum at the end of the year with some community outreach opportunities.

4. Describe the involvement of any partners identified in your project proposal, as well as any unexpected cooperative relationships that developed through implementation of the project. Did the City funding help you attract additional funding or other types of support?

Community partnerships are vital to the work that we do on Bainbridge Island and throughout Kitsap County. During 2017, we partnered with Helpline House, Housing Resources Bainbridge, Suquamish Tribe, Bainbridge Island Senior Center, Woodward Middle School, Bainbridge Island Women's Club, Kitsap Sexual Assault Center,

Bainbridge Island Police Department, Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Bainbridge Island Municipal Court, Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center, as well as resources that were off of Bainbridge Island. The funding we receive from City of Bainbridge and our history of community partnerships, undoubtedly assisted the YWCA in obtaining funding from individual donors as well as the Bainbridge Community Foundation.

A new and somewhat unexpected partnership has been forged between the YWCA Kitsap County and the Bainbridge Island Senior Center. According to the National Council on aging, approximately 1 in 10 older adults (60+) are impacted by physical abuse. The most likely perpetrator of that violence is a family member. Teresa Swope connected with this organization through a networking opportunity provided by One Call For All. They are now donating space to the YWCA for our weekly support group and Teresa will be doing a presentation for staff and program participants early 2018.

5. Reference the project budget specified in Attachment A. Provide an analysis of actual expenses and income in relation to the projected budget.

Our estimated program budget for 2017 was \$58,959.00. The majority of that budget was designated for staff salaries, payroll expenses, and benefits. I do not have the final 2017 numbers yet but I anticipate we will be very close to our budgeted amount. We may be slightly under in salaries and over in travel/mileage expenses. Increased mileage expenses can be attributed to the advocate accompanying more individuals to the county courthouse in Port Orchard. All final hearings for Domestic Violence Protection Orders involving children and/or exclusion from a residence require attending a hearing in Superior Court. In addition, domestic violence felony charges are prosecuted in Superior Court.

6. Please provide a short description of how the City funding has helped your organization or helped the community. Please also include any quotes or stories related to this support.

The funding the YWCA receives from the City of Bainbridge Island is crucial to the YWCA being able to provide a full-time advocate on Bainbridge Island. Though the City does not fully fund an FTE, it does provide the largest part of our funding. We also receive funding through Bainbridge Community Foundation and One Call For All. If we did not have the city funding, we would have to drastically cut the hours for advocacy on Bainbridge Island.

The following are examples of feedback we received from clients:

“Support groups helped me to realize that the relationship I was in was not healthy. It hasn’t been physically violent yet but I can see that things are escalating. I made a safety plan with my advocate and I am working on a plan to leave. I need to do this as safely as possible.”

“Having an advocate with me gave me the courage to get a Protection Order against my husband. He always said people wouldn’t believe me but he was wrong.”

7. What recommendations, if any, do you have regarding future funding cycles?

The only recommendation I have is to please continue to prioritize domestic violence in future funding decisions. Domestic violence and homelessness continue to be identified as unmet needs on Bainbridge Island and throughout Kitsap County.