



# GaDuGi SafeCenter 2011 Annual Report

GaDuGi SafeCenter  
2518 Ridge Court · Lawrence, KS  
(785) 843-8985

40 years of  
"answering  
the call"



#### Mission Statement:

The mission of GaDuGi SafeCenter is to provide 24/7 support, service and strength for all people affected by sexual violence.

## Letter to the Community

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Dear Friends,

The mission of GaDuGi SafeCenter is to provide 24/7 support, service and strength for all people affected by sexual violence. Working with our community is an invaluable way to strengthen these efforts and cultivate well-being community-wide. You will see GaDuGi SafeCenter's mission in action in everything we do, every program we offer, and in every hand we touch throughout Douglas, Jefferson and Franklin Counties. In 2011, GaDuGi SafeCenter served 256 victim/survivors and their families and loved ones.

In April 2011, GaDuGi SafeCenter was honored as the Outstanding Victim Service Organization at the 14th Annual Crime Victim's Rights Conference in Wichita. Attorney General Derek Schmidt presented the award in recognition of the center's services for victims of sexual assault and its prevention and community education efforts.

GaDuGi SafeCenter staff continued their involvement with the Jefferson County Alliance of Services Council, the Eudora Public Schools: *The Bridge* Collation, the University of Kansas, Haskell Indian Nations University and Baker University. The addition of the 5K Boo!Run, a new Halloween tradition in Lawrence, brought ghosts and goblins out to support the agency. The SafeBar Alliance, a social norms initiative developed by GaDuGi SafeCenter, provided training materials to the communities of Great Bend, Hutchinson and Hays, creating an impact statewide.

As always, we provide the core services to victims through crisis line response, hospital and law enforcement advocacy and court procedures, available 24/7. These services are the backbone of the agency and our volunteer advocates remained steadfast in their commitment to bring their passion to this work ethically and without fail. At the helm of GaDuGi SafeCenter, the Board of Directors are ever supportive as they continue to ask the question "How Can We Do It Better?"

To all in the community who have supported this agency in so many ways, we thank you from our hearts – you have helped us continue to make a difference.

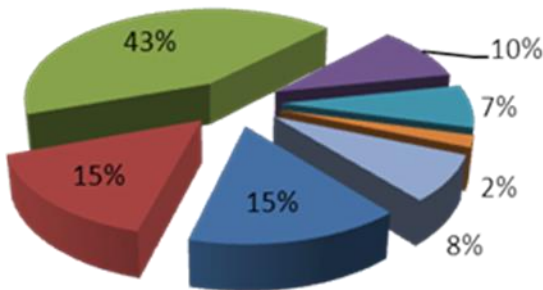
Respectfully,

Sarah Jane Russell  
Executive Director

# Fiscal Year Financials

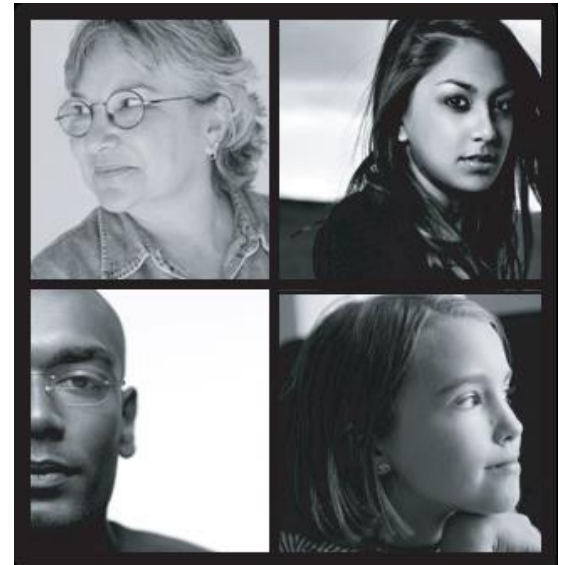
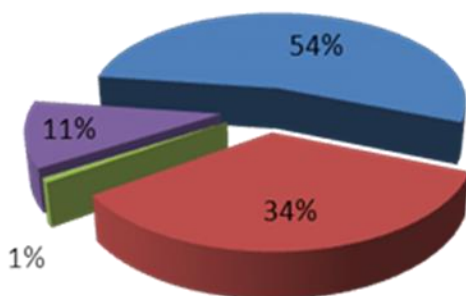
2011 Revenue: \$272,972

- United Way
- Attorney General's Office
- Governor's Office Grant
- KU Student Senate
- Kansas Health Foundation
- Local Foundations and Grants



2011 Expenses: \$289,428

- Direct Victim Services
- Community Education
- Fundraising
- Administration



## 2011 Board of Directors

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# Services Offered

**Victim Advocacy** – In 2011, GaDuGi SafeCenter's 14 volunteer advocates and staff were available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and volunteered 1,936 hours to victim/survivors and their families including 18 trips to the hospital, presence and support with legal proceedings in the courtroom, follow-up calls, and sustained support.

**Leadership in the Douglas County Sexual Assault Response Team** – GaDuGi SafeCenter coordinated meetings between Lawrence Memorial Hospital's sexual assault nurse examiners and ER program, District Attorney's Office, Lawrence Police Department, and other key players in Douglas County's sexual assault response efforts to ensure cohesive and survivor-centered services.

**Prevention Education** – GaDuGi SafeCenter has been welcomed into Douglas County schools teaching the Talking about Touching prevention and personal safety curriculum. This programming reached 900 elementary age students in the 2010-2011 school year.

**Presentations and Outreach** – GaDuGi SafeCenter engaged in exciting outreach and education opportunities at various community events including Lunafest Film Festival, SafeBar Alliance Fashion Show, Sexual Assault Awareness Week Events at KU, First Annual 5K Boo!Run, and Shopping For Survivors Silent Auction.

**Therapy and Support Groups** – GaDuGi SafeCenter coordinates and implements support groups within the community which include Art and Conversation, the Sedna Project, Art and Skills for Healing, and the Healing Art of Gourd Painting.

**SafeBar Alliance** - Alcohol inevitably plays a large part in the social lives of many students. With six college campuses included in GaDuGi SafeCenter's service area, awareness of the relationship between alcohol and sexual assault is vital. In 2011, the SafeBar Alliance expanded to include 13 Lawrence area bars. The SafeBar Alliance encourages bar personnel to be observant and unafraid to intervene in potentially threatening situations. It also emphasizes the importance of establishing a trusting relationship between bar patrons and personnel.

GaDuGi SafeCenter offers trainings and distribution of prevention materials to 52 local bar staff members so they may recognize and effectively prevent potential sexual assaults. Alliance bars were also provided with contact information for local taxi services, coasters, posters, and matchbooks to raise awareness of the program and its objectives, and suggested actions to take to keep patrons safe.

The communities of Hutchinson, Great Bend, and Hays, Kansas all expressed interest in creating a SafeBar Alliance of their own. GaDuGi assisted them by creating SafeBar tool kits with information and guidance.

# Therapeutic Services

**In 2011, GaDuGi provided the following therapeutic services free of charge to victims and survivors of all ages:**

**Counseling Services:** GaDuGi SafeCenter is the sole provider of free-of-charge Therapeutic Services for victim/survivors of sexual violence in Douglas and Jefferson Counties (Franklin County as requested). The agency has provided counseling and support group services for people of all ages who have experienced sexually violence as well as their family members and loved-ones. In 2011, the program has provided sessions to 160 individuals.

**The Sedna Project:** According to legend, Sedna was a woman who was abused by men in her life but who was able to overcome this abuse to become a strong, wise, and nurturing force for her people. The Sedna Project, provided for Haskell Indian Nations University students, met twice a month in the Spring 2011 and Fall 2011 semesters. In the fall 2011 semester alone, the Sedna Project held 14 group meetings at Haskell, along with three individual meetings with the therapist. At least eight of the Sedna Project participants have received one-on-one support from art therapist Libby Schmanke.

**Art and Conversation:** The Art and Conversation support and empowerment group continued to flourish in 2011, with over ten women consistently attending. These women worked on a variety of creative projects, including writing journals and creating mosaics. The group has also been working on creating art from books- using the old pieces to create something newer, more personal, and more beautiful. In March and April, the Lawrence Public Library featured an exhibit of the group's artwork to patrons in the main lobby.

**Tsunali:** Five young women (ages 14 – 17) started volunteering with GaDuGi SafeCenter in June as part of the United Way Roger Hill Volunteer Center's Summer of Service. After the week they spent with the agency, they were very interested in continuing to work with GaDuGi SafeCenter. In the fall, these young women decided to create a blog on Tumblr to reflect on their experiences with GaDuGi SafeCenter and to promote awareness of intimate partner violence and sexual assault among youth. Their desire to reach out to and create a safe space for other teenagers has been inspiring. One of the young women stated, "I hope that we are able to reach other teenagers and educate and support them in the same way that GaDuGi educated and supported us this summer. If we can help even just one person, then our work will not be in vain."

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*"When I get discouraged, I think of you.  
You definitely helped me make me a  
stronger human being. Thank you for  
everything you have done for me and for  
the ladies of Haskell. You are a light sent to  
show us how to heal."*

*—Sedna Project Group Member*

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