



2024 Annual Report



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear community,

Reflecting on the past year at The Harbor brings both challenges and pride. Since joining in March 2019, my view has extended beyond this year, especially since this is our inaugural annual report. Our journey through unprecedented times, including a global pandemic and increased societal turmoil, has seen our organization significantly evolve.

We've expanded our services to include culturally specific programming for the Latine/x and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, enhanced violence prevention education, and grew our emergency services budget fourfold. Notably, we've initiated pioneering partnerships, like training midwives as sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE) with the Birth Center.

Although we have much to celebrate, during the pandemic, incidents of reported domestic violence increased and became more severe. Emotional abuse turned into physical abuse; physical abuse became harsher and more terrifying and our client load increased. And the challenges didn't end there, a worsening housing crisis and stretched resources, have profoundly impacted both our clients and staff. Our dedicated team has navigated these challenges while also facing personal adversities, reminding us of the critical need for self-care.

Looking ahead, we're focused on fostering a supportive environment for our staff, with better wages, benefits, and genuine care, ensuring they can continue their crucial work sustainably. This is necessary as our organization continues to move forward and hold ourselves accountable for providing trauma-informed care to survivors, our community, and our staff.

We're grateful to Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization, our funders, sponsors, and dedicated supporters in the community who believe in our work. We ask that you continue supporting us as we strive to end violence in our community and create a safer space for all.

Terri Steenbergen, Executive Director



Our Story

The Harbor is about more than just a place to sleep or a shoulder to lean on. What began in 1976 as a group of volunteers and a phone line has evolved into a thriving nonprofit at the forefront of providing culturally responsive services to survivors of domestic or sexual violence in Clatsop County. The Harbor’s services are free, confidential, and available to survivors 24/7, at every step along their journey.

Our staff members are committed to self-determination and believe that each survivor is the expert on their own needs. We provide holistic support and community that respects the identities, cultures, and goals of each survivor so that they feel empowered and in control over their lives. It’s about supporting survivors to be in their element, rebuilding self-love, self-worth, and self-trust.

Our goal is to break the cycle of violence through education, one-on-one support, practical assistance, and referrals. Because everyone deserves to live a life free from abuse.

28
families served

36
children served

The Advocacy Services for Survivors

Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidential Emergency Crisis Shelter • Relocation Assistance • 24-hour Crisis Line • Advocates on Site at DHS & TP JCC • Domestic and Sexual Assault Response Team (D/SART)
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual Assault Medical Advocacy • Housing Specific Resources • Referrals to Community Resources
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual Assault Prevention Education • Support & Educational Groups • Safer Spaces Training for Businesses
Legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Services and Assistance with Protective Orders • Advocates Help Survivors Navigate the Court System
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culturally Specific Bi-lingual Services for Latine/x Community Members • Culturally Specific Services for 2SLGBTQIA+ Community Members • Culturally Specific Youth ServicesMembers



Shelter

Providing shelter is crucial for the safety and survival of individuals and families escaping abusive situations. At The Harbor, every survivor seeking our services requires housing. Our shelter offers private rooms to individuals or family members, providing a safe space for rest and healing. Children from infancy through adolescence also find refuge within our walls, starting their journey toward recovery and a life free from violence. For many, this safe haven is where the process of breaking cycles of violence and rebuilding new lives begins.

61
clients

96
stays

120
duffle bags

5601
nights of shelter

9411
meals provided



The Advocacy Center

The Advocacy Center at 801 Commercial Street is the heart of our operations at The Harbor, where we provide a comprehensive suite of services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. This includes immediate support through our 24-hour hotlines in English and Spanish, crisis intervention, safety planning, and emergency shelter. We also offer ongoing support such as trauma-informed case management and assistance with legal and medical advocacy to address both the immediate and long-term needs of survivors.

First SAFE examination at the Birth Center EVER

SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) services were previously unavailable in Clatsop County, creating a significant gap in care. To address this, The Harbor secured grant funding to train midwives at the Birth Center to perform SANE examinations. Before this initiative, victims of sexual assault had to travel to Portland to obtain necessary rape kit tests, often hindering their ability to press charges or receive prompt medical care due to lack of transportation or financial means. This training has significantly improved access to essential services for sexual assault survivors in our rural community.

33
youth served

404
services hours

527
services provided

Maria's Story

Maria came to the Shelter seeking support with housing. Her child was a victim of sexual assault and was receiving services from The Harbor through our school partnership. She received an eviction notice because she was unable to work and take care of her child. Advocates from the Latine/x team supported Maria with navigating the complexity of the medical system and provided education around tenant's rights. Because of Maria's immigration status and language barriers, she struggled to get adequate support during this challenging time. The advocates in our Latine/x program provided bilingual and bicultural support to Maria, connected her with community resources, and provided aid through our survivor housing funds program while she sought new employment opportunities and continued to support her child's recovery and healing.

**The name used in this story has been changed to protect the privacy of the survivor. All other details remain true to their experience.*

Latine/x Services

As the Latine/x population in Clatsop County has expanded, The Harbor has adapted by introducing a culturally responsive program specifically tailored to their needs. Staffed by six Latine/x advocates proficient in Spanish, this program offers a comprehensive range of services including parenting classes and prevention education. Importantly, it addresses unique challenges faced by the Latine/x community, such as language barriers and cultural differences, along with tackling bias, discrimination, and racism. This is vital as the Latine/x community experiences domestic and sexual violence at rates comparable to the broader county population. Our advocates play a crucial role in assisting Spanish-speaking survivors in accessing medical, legal, and social services, overcoming the scarcity of translation services in the area.

Gabriela's Story

Gabriela is an immigrant and refugee who came to the Latine/x program as a domestic violence survivor and mother of a child who survived sexual abuse. Safety and stability for her and her children were the immediate needs that The Harbor addressed. Her children were her top priority and she experienced challenges and trauma engaging with other agencies who only provide services in English or do not understand her culture.

The Harbor provided Gabriela with culturally specific advocacy and support; including accompanying her to medical appointments, meetings with social service agencies and during the criminal justice process, providing information and education about systems, and addressing her fears and doubts when engaging those same systems.

Gabriela faced many challenges during the process, such as being unable to qualify for many social services or financial assistance because of the mixed immigration status of her household. She persevered through and while there were several times her family was at risk of being unhoused, the Harbor helped her access short-term financial assistance, and connections to other community agencies. With time and ongoing support, she established employment, and childcare, and transitioned from being sheltered to stable housing.



Violence Prevention Education

In September 2020, The Harbor launched our comprehensive sexual violence prevention program, initially delivering prevention education via Google Meet to students at Knappa High School. Despite the challenges of a virtual setting, our team, including a prevention coordinator and an intern, diligently developed and expanded the program. We have since engaged with multiple schools and youth groups across Clatsop County, introducing our services and using our anonymous questions program to refine our offerings based on direct feedback from teens about their experiences with violence.

Today, our prevention education efforts extend to every school district in Clatsop County, collaborating with institutions such as Tongue Point Job Corps Center, Clatsop Community College, and the Q Center. Our programs vary, from conducting one or two trainings on working with trans and 2SLGBTQIA+ students to delivering two weeks' worth of workshops on healthy relationships, consent, anti-oppression, and gender norms.

Funded initially by the Rape Prevention Education grant from the CDC, managed by the Oregon Health Authority and the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, our programs address both the risk and protective factors for sexual violence, which overlap significantly with those for other forms of violence like bullying and suicide.

2024 Community Supporter of the Year Award!

We are proud to announce that The Harbor has been recognized as the 2024 Community Supporter of the Year by the Tongue Point Job Corps Center, acknowledging our commitment to educating and protecting Clatsop County's youth.



2SLGBTQIA+ Youth Services

The Harbor actively supports 2SLGBTQIA+ youth through various initiatives, including facilitating Gay-Straight Alliances at local high schools, providing inclusivity training for staff and administrators, and supporting the Q Center's youth group, Closet Cleaners. Launched in winter 2021, our prevention education program has expanded our outreach and services, addressing significant concerns among youth about sexuality, gender identity, and bullying.

Youth face unique challenges regarding sexual and dating violence, compounded by barriers to accessing support services. Many struggle with shame and lack trusted adults to discuss topics like sex, consent, and sexuality. Constraints on their schedules and limited transportation options often restrict their access to necessary services. Our programs aim to overcome these barriers by meeting students where they are, fostering trust, and educating them about consent and healthy relationship dynamics.

Our latest initiative, The Dock, provides an after-school safe space where teens can access affirming resources and express themselves artistically. The presence of supportive adults at The Dock serves as a crucial protective factor against violence, ensuring that youth have reliable access to guidance and support.

33
youth served

404
services hours

527
services provided

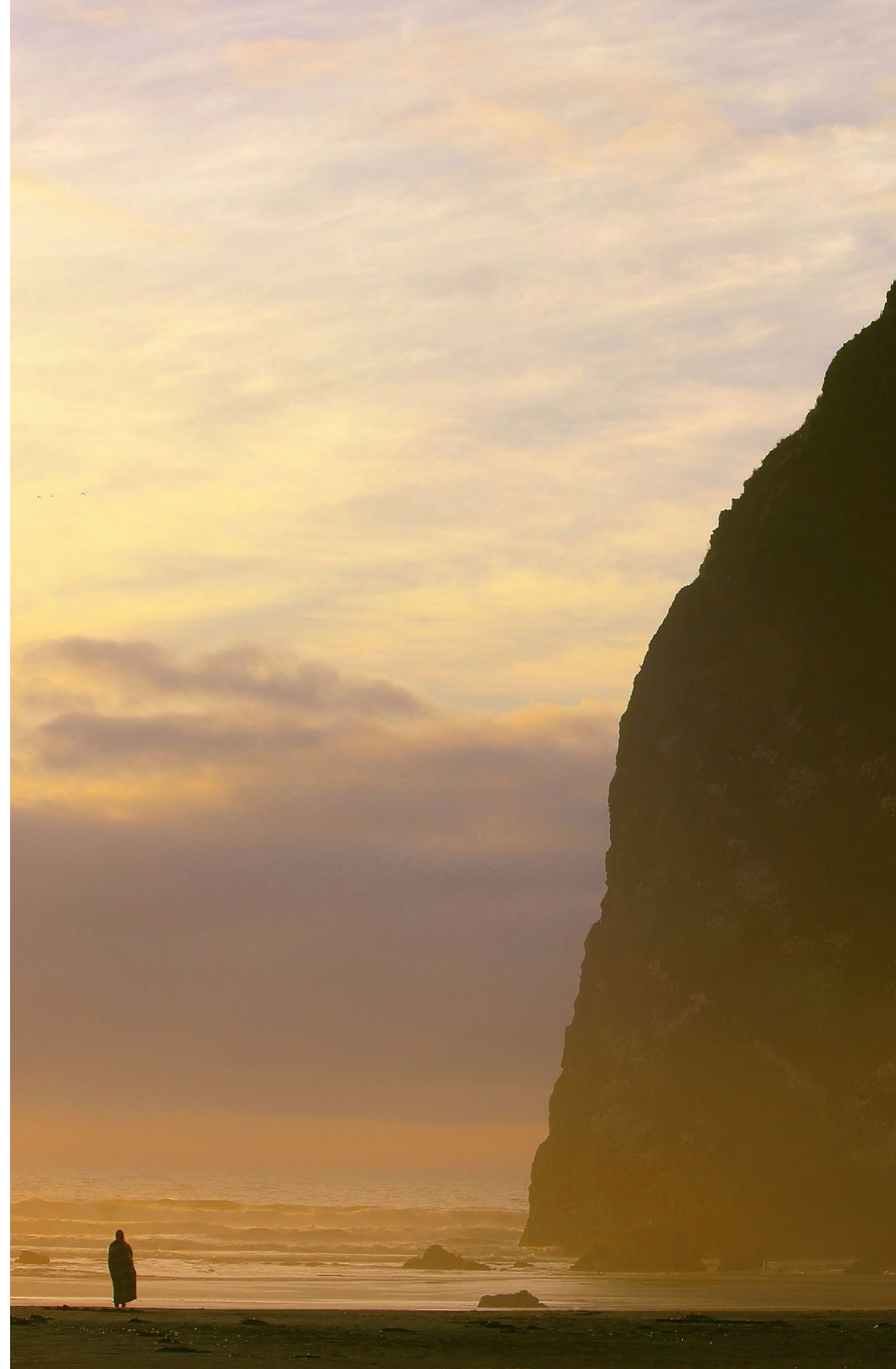
To read more about our recent youth services visit: harbornw.org/thedock

Staff, Board, Donor Acknowledgment

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- Alexia Smith, Co-Director of Services (Sexual Violence Programs)
- Nayeli Jimenez, Co-Director of Latinx Programs (Outreach)
- Jennyfer Hernandez Vazquez, Co-Director of Latinx Programs (Internal)
- Abby Schwaderer, Executive Assistant
- Paige DeAlmedia, Direct Service Advocate -2SLGBTQIA+ Youth focus
- Tim Murphy, Direct Service Advocate- Youth focus
- Jacqueline Gollnick, Direct Service Advocate
- Joy Chester, Direct Service Advocate
- Moe Odell, DHS Co-Located Advocate
- Veondre Lovette, Prevention Educator
- Nancy Moreno Diaz, Direct Service Advocate - Bilingual/Bicultural
- Chabali Hernandez, Direct Service Advocate - Bilingual/Bicultural Youth
- Morgan Shearn, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator/ On-Call Advocate
- Elsa Nethercot, On-Call DSART Advocate
- Ashley Goin, On-Call DSART Advocate

A big thank you to all of our generous funders





Our mission is to provide advocacy prevention and support to promote self-determination and hope for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

www.harbornw.org/donate