



2020 Annual Report

Our Mission

Gifts of Hope Unlimited (GOHU) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that supports those impacted by relationship violence by providing financial assistance, home resources, and community-focused initiatives as a step towards a safe and empowered future.

Our Vision

To assist survivors of relationship violence to establish a new normalcy and lead them towards an upwards trajectory of a secure and empowered future, and to intercept gaps that exist within domestic violence service.

The Scary Truth

In August 2020, the Domestic Violence Services Network (DVSN) reported domestic violence causes 8 million days of lost paid work annually costing \$8.3 Billion resulting in up to 60% of victims losing their jobs for reasons stemming from violence.¹ In June 2020, DVSN reported that 20 people per minute are abused by an intimate partner in the US resulting in more than 10 million victims².

Our History and Organization

In 2012, our original concept was to be a resale boutique with proceeds used to support survivors' legal expenses. This was quickly determined to be unsustainable as legal fees in probate court can run into thousands of dollars.

In 2016, local domestic violence service providers realized we could help with transitional support for survivors as a bridge to a safer and empowered future for them and their family. Police, Domestic Violence Service Network and town social workers provide immediate support to a survivor who leaves an abusive relationship. Once survivors are out, we provide both financial and product support to both

¹ Domestic Violence Service Network. August 2020 Newsletter. <https://www.dvsn.org/newsletters/>

² National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary report published by the National Center for Injury and Prevention and Control, Division of the CDC. https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf.

male and female survivors of relationship violence. With this new service model, we were established as a 501 c3 in 2016.

We have a 12-member board including a President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer with each position up for re-election at the end of every calendar year. The board meets ten times a year. We also have a 5-member advisory board who advise on organizational issues and meet as needed. Our fiscal year is the calendar year. We have a Gold Star rating on GuideStar. We receive donations and grants to support our mission.

We are grateful to Werner Gossels for providing us with a rent-free warehouse in Acton to hold our inventory.

As an all-volunteer board and organization, continued recruitment is key to our long-term success. Our goal moving forward is to attract future leaders to the board and volunteers to provide direct service. We particularly need volunteers for grant writing, distribution of goods, managing inventory, marketing and fundraising, and website development.

GOHU Board Members

Karin Gaffney – President

Karen Cohen – Vice President

Bonnie Powell – Secretary

Nalini Goyal – Assistant Secretary

Arvind Goyal -- Treasurer

Marilyn Ellsworth - Director

Bonnie Glass - Director

Collen Keelan - Director

Martha Kilcoyne - Director

Ruby Cyril - Director

Sidd Goyal - Director

GOHU Advisory Board Members

Alice Sapienza

Amy Unckless

Deborah B. Kenealy

Len Simon

Patricia Hohl

Our Two-Pronged Approach

We have a two-prong approach to supporting survivors of domestic violence. We offer both financial support and product support.

Survivors of relationship violence are often victimized by financial violence resulting in limited resources to establish a new home and care for their family. We provide the necessary funds to help survivors with rent, transportation, and legal costs among other needs.

Survivors also need household essentials. Area domestic violence service providers and town social workers refer survivors to us for this support. Items requested range from household basics such as paper products to furniture, clothing to electronics. We either stock these items in our warehouse or solicit donations through social media or community groups. If the need is critical, we will buy the items.

We primarily serve individuals and families in the MetroWest area of Boston who are re-establishing their lives after relationship violence. These survivors could have been previously housed in temporary shelters such as *Voices Against Violence*, in Framingham, or *Second Step*, in Newtonville, or others. *RIA House* in Framingham support survivors who are temporarily in confidential safe housing. For mutual

security, we don't have direct contact with these survivors. Our partners communicate with us through our web-based inventory system and via email.

Stories of Success

Stephanie is just one of our many survivors whom we have helped:

"My name is Stephanie, and I would like to say a little bit about Gifts of Hope Unlimited. First, I would like to say how grateful I am for the blessings of getting help from Gifts of Hope. I currently live at Longfellow Glen with my two amazing sons with my third son on the way. With one income, it's hard to furnish my apartment in a way that's good enough for my kids. Gifts of Hope reached out to me to see if there was anything I needed for my apartment and I asked if it was possible to get a bunk bed for my 2 boys. My wish came true and I can't even explain how excited my boys have been to receive it. My youngest (age 9) loves being on his top bunk thinking he is on top of the world with my oldest (age 12) so happy to finally be able to have more space in his room to be able to move around and put his Legos together without his brother in the way. I truly appreciate Gifts of Hope Unlimited so much for being able to provide this to my sons. I truly am blessed and couldn't thank you enough for the overall work you continue to do for our community."

Putting our Words into Action

Who Did We Help in 2020?

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, shelters experienced an increased demand for their services as the number of survivors of family violence escalated. We are a critical link in the system supporting these survivors' transition from shelters into housing. *RIA House* reports that in-kind donations from us valued \$6,000 in 2020 with an additional \$2,000 of holiday gift bags supporting current survivors. In 2020, *Voices Against Violence* served 2,180 individual survivors of domestic and sexual violence. We have directly supported these survivors through their shelter and their MetroWest-wide outreach program. *Second Step* relies on us to help support survivors by providing material and financial support.

In addition, we are supporting 14 families (36 individuals) through Bethany Hadvab, Town Social Worker in Sudbury. Heads of household are predominantly white women, with 36% being Latinx or Black. The family size ranges from 1 to 5 members.

Systems and Strategies for Sustainability

The 2020 year was transformative for us. The pandemic caused a higher demand for domestic violence support services. This demand has caused us to be more proactive and organized to support more people. We have established systems and processes to meet this demand.

Prior to COVID-19, we typically supported 6 families with monthly expenses. Since COVID-19, this has grown to 14 families. In addition to household essentials, we provided families with grocery store gift cards. Many of our families are facing food insecurity caused by loss of employment and increased childcare responsibilities.



It Takes a Village...

We could not do what we do without the village of people and organizations around us. We rely on volunteers to provide services, local residents for material and financial donations and partner organization to support survivors.

We are part of a network of support for survivors of relationship violence.

Volunteers

As an all-volunteer organization, we are indebted to their continued support. Independent Sector, in partnership with Do Good Institute, calculated the Value of Volunteer Time was \$27.20 in July, 2020.³

Teens Giving Time

While COVID-19 changed a lot for many people, Kyle Keelan and Michael Organsky (Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School students) turned their free time to helping others. With other activities being cancelled, they created a new focus – a volunteer teen community partner group called Teens Giving Time.

“In June of 2020, I had the privilege of working with GOHU on a collection drive to restock their warehouse with essential home and cleaning supplies for their clients. GOHU’s mission - to provide urgent financial and household product assistance for those affected by relationship violence, really resonated with my volunteer teen-based charity organization, Teens Giving Time, during the stay-at-home order of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through contactless, curbside pick-ups, the drive resulted in collecting items from over thirty homes in three different towns, leading to fully restocking the warehouse shelves with needed supplies. This drive was an amazing learning experience for me, as a novice philanthropist and charity organizer. Not only did I get to help people that need it the most, but also, I learned a lot about the amazing work GOHU does to support others. They are a true inspiration and I thank them immensely for this opportunity to help serve.” Kyle Keelan

Outreach

We use our website and social media to solicit donation, promote fundraisers, thank supporters and engage the general public about the issues related to domestic violence.

Our website (<https://www.giftsofhopeunlimited.org>) and social media accounts on Twitter (@GiftsofHopeUnl), Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/giftsofhopeunlimited>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GOHUinc>) are maintained by volunteers.

Since our formation, board officers have appeared in several speaking engagements, met with the Sudbury town social worker, and attended several meetings pertaining to domestic violence. Some board members are on other like-minded boards and are ambassadors for the organization such as the *Domestic Violence Service Network* and the *Sudbury Wayland Lincoln Domestic Violence Roundtable*.

³ Independent Sector, <https://independentsector.org/>

Financial Facts

We are in sound financial condition in 2020. We reported income of \$45,518.76 with expenses of \$28,057.30 resulting in a net cash positive position of \$17,461.46.

In 2020, our income came from individual donors (67%), grants (22%) and fundraisers (10%).

Direct client support represented 61% of our expenses to include indirect donations for clients (gift cards), material goods bought for clients and direct payments made on behalf of clients.

Our single largest expense, after direct client support, was for our new inventory control system (19% of our total expenses). This system was essential to our strategy for long term sustainability.

Of the remaining expenses, 10% were related to our warehouse. While our rent is free, we need to pay for utilities. The remaining 10% covers our marketing, fundraising, general governance and miscellaneous expenses.

Grateful for Generous Donors

We are grateful for individual donors, grant makers and the community members who came together to support our mission.

Individual Donors

Many individuals support our organization. We received \$30,687.43 from board members and individuals, representing 67% of our 2020 income.

Grants

In 2020, we received \$10,000 in grants from The Foundation for MetroWest, Sudbury Foundation, Presbyterian Church of Sudbury, MA and St Anne in-the-Fields Episcopal Church in Lincoln, MA representing 22% of our 2020 income.

Community Engagement Through Fundraising

We conducted several fundraisers throughout the year asking for both cash and material donations. Collectively, we raised \$4,749.40 cash in general fundraisers.

- Charitocracy (<https://charitocracy.org/>)
 - o This is a crowd-curated charity-of-the-month club. One of our board members nominated us to receive the monthly donation in January 2020.
- Savers
 - o After the original date was canceled due to COVID-19, we tried again later in the year and collected items from the community which we then donated to Savers. Savers pays donors by the pound for donations.
- Fill the Basket Campaign (October 5-25, 2020)
 - o In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness month, we have filled many homes with basics and touched as many hearts. Thanks to our generous donors, we provided supplies to many survivors.
- Sudbury League of Women Voters (March 1-15, 2020)

- We are very grateful to the Sudbury League for their annual grocery card drive in support of survivors.
- Amazon Smile Shopping drive
 - This is ongoing opportunity for Amazon customers to support us.

Balance Sheet (12/31/2020)

Account Balance (Cash Basis)

ASSETS

Middlesex Bank Checking Account	\$4,983.02
Rainy Day Fund (Fidelity)	\$60,179.33
Fidelity investment income	\$81.93
Paypal Balance	\$11,840.31
FaceBook Balance	\$0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$77,084.59

LIABILITIS & EQUITY

Liabilities	\$0.00
Equity	\$77,084.59
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$77,084.59

Income Statement (1/1/2020 -12/31/2020)

INCOME

Donations - Board Members	\$3,189.15
Grants- Organizations	\$10,000.00
Donations - Individuals	\$27,498.28
Fidelity Investment Income	\$81.93
Fund Raisers	\$4,749.40
TOTAL INCOME	\$45,518.76

ACCOUNT DEBITS

Client support related Expenses

Indirect donations for Clients (Gift Cards)	\$7,219.75
Goods bought for Clients	\$4,504.83
Direct Payments on behalf of Clients	\$5,437.35
Total Client Support	\$17,161.93

Warehouse

Rent	\$0.00
Expenses (Utilities)	\$1,821.79
Warehouse help & supplies	\$896.15
Total Warehouse Expenses	\$2,717.94

Government Filings	\$53.50
Marketing	\$1,774.10
Fundraising expenses	\$118.82
Inventory Control System	\$5,370.00
Misc. Expenses	\$914.51

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$28,057.30
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NET FOR THE YEAR	\$17,461.46
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