



Gifts of Hope
UNLIMITED

2021 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.

Our Policy

GOHU does not, by policy or practice, discriminate against a person or group on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, gender identity and expression, marital or military status, or based on any individual's status in any group or class protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.

A Moment of Reflection

As we mark another year of supporting survivors of domestic violence, we realize the needs for our support is greater due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We also realize how blessed we are to have the support of donors, grant makers, volunteers, and the community so we can continue our mission.

Shadow Pandemic Coming to Light

SHADOW
PANDEMIC
AWARENESS
MONTH



"We urge all community members to shed light on the Shadow Pandemic by informing themselves about domestic violence, providing support to the individuals and organizations working to end domestic violence and making a commitment to Never Commit, Condone, or Remain Silent about Domestic Violence."

MARCH 2021

<https://sudbury.ma.us/selectboard/?p=5589>

As the world moved into the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, domestic violence intensified globally and here in Massachusetts. The United Nations named this the Shadow Pandemic. The Sudbury Select Board declared March 2021 as Shadow Pandemic Awareness Month. According to the United Nations, one in three women in the world experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner.¹ Isolation with the abuser became a critical factor that exasperated an already dangerous situation for many victims. Child abuse also went underreported during the pandemic because schools were either shut down or teaching remotely. Both children and domestic violence victims are more at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sudbury Town Manager Henry Hayes hosted a Municipal Minute with Sudbury’s Town Social Worker Bethany Hadvab and Police Chief Scott Nix. In the episode available on SudburyTV, the speakers stressed that victims are not alone and there is help available to anyone who asks. Town Manager Hayes said “Let’s stop the Shadow Pandemic. Together, we can shine a light into the dark places and bring help, hope and healing.”²

Our Organization

We are an all-volunteer organization including a 10-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 meets as needed. Our fiscal year is the calendar year. We are a 501c3 organization and have a Gold Star rating on GuideStar. We receive donations and grants to support our mission. All financial aid distributions require approval by our Financial Assistance Committee.

GOHU Board Members

Karin Gaffney – President	Bonnie Glass - Director
Karen Cohen – Vice President	Colleen Keelan - Director
Robin Kapiloff – Secretary	Martha Kilcoyne - Director
Arvind Goyal -- Treasurer	Nadene Worth- Director
Marilyn Ellsworth – Assistant Treasurer	Siddhartha Goyal - Director

GOHU Advisory Board Member

Alice Sapienza	Deborah B. Kenealy
Amy Unckless	Len Simon
Patricia Hohl	

¹ (UN Women, 2021) <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response/violence-against-women-during-covid-19>

² (Sudbury TV, 2021) <https://sudbury.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=14daf7d6-9115-43e5-a2b0-60afa6c55adc&nav=search%2Fmunicipal%20minute>

In Memoriam – Nalini Goyal



We lost Nalini in June of 2021 after a prolonged illness. Nalini had a life of volunteerism where she was an inspiration to those who knew her. Prior to starting GOHU, Nalini was an advocate for the Domestic Violence Services Network for many years. This work showed her that survivors need support in their next step of setting up a new safe life for themselves and their family. This vision became the spark that created GOHU. We are profoundly grateful for everything she has done and her inspiration and guidance to continue our mission. She is survived by her husband, Arvind, son Siddhartha, daughter Vandana and her husband, Sumeet, and grandchildren, Samar, and Siena.

No Time to Rest

Due to the pandemic, our volunteers have been helping many more survivors than in the past. 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 victims by financial violence resulting in limited resources to set up 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 ask for donations through social media or community groups. If the need is critical, we will buy the items.

Many direct support organizations refer survivors to us as their next step in re-establishing a new, safer, independent life. In 2021, we supported families from Second Step (Newtown, MA), Voices against Violence (Framingham, MA), RIA House (Framingham, MA), Safe Havens (Boston, MA), Green Meadow School (Maynard, MA), and the Sudbury Town Social Worker.

Bethany Hadvab, the Sudbury Town Social Worker, referred families to us. While some families required short-term support to set up their new living arrangements, many families required monthly support. The number of families needing support grew in 2021. In January, we supported 11 families. By the end of the year, we were supporting 16 families monthly. This essential support enabled these families to focus on other aspects of their life.

We also supported other organizations who do great work in the community. We made donations of furniture to the Household Goods (Acton, MA) and cosmetic bags to the Sudbury-Wayland-Lincoln Domestic Violence Roundtable.

We are eternally grateful to the Sudbury community for responding to our calls for donations to support these families. As an all-volunteer organization, all donations go directly to support our clients.

Our Warehouse Needed a Make-Over



Our Warehouse BEFORE Alex

For his Eagle Scout Project, Alex Kornblum of Troop 61 Sudbury built and organized new custom shelving for our warehouse. Alex wanted to help people at risk for losing their home. Bethany Hadvab, Sudbury's Town Social Worker, introduced Alex to GOHU. Marilyn Ellsworth, Warehouse Manager for GOHU, helped Alex understand our needs. After Alex designed the shelves, Sudbury Lumber supplied the material at a reduced cost.

Under Alex's leadership, his volunteers transformed our warehouse so we can now quickly find needed items and can figure out what we need to restock. Managing our warehouse is critical to our mission of supporting survivors.



Our Warehouse AFTER Alex. Thanks!

Community Engagement

We are indebted to the local community for their continued support through donations and volunteers.

According to the Independent Sector, the value of volunteer time in April 2021 was \$28.54 per hour³. Volunteers are the backbone of everything we do.

Our volunteers help maintain the warehouse, receiving clients, delivering products to clients, and asking for donations from the community. We have a dedicated team of volunteers at GOHU working together to support our mission.

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.

Winter Warmth Drive

Girl Scout Troop 82455 led by Christine Taylor Garner ran a Winter Warmth Drive. The scouts collected donations and created 150 packages and 15 bags full of girls, boys and women's new underwear and socks. The scouts hoped the recipients would feel the warmth of the community.



Gift Card Drive

The League of Women Voters in Sudbury ran their annual gift card drive to support survivors needs as they shop independently for their family needs. We are grateful for their continued support.

³ (Independent Sector Value Value of Volunteer Time 2021, 2021)

Stop and Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program

Stop and Shop dedicated their monthly Bloomin' 4 Good program donations in October to GOHU as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. What started as a one-month fundraiser, continued for longer. We are grateful to Stop and Shop for their support.

Financial Facts

Our financial position is good. As of 12/31/2021, GOHU has total assets of \$94,072.21. For the same period, income totaled \$66,128.73 with total expenses of \$41,301.68 for a resulting net cash position of \$24,827.05. Our income consisted of financial donations (69%), grant funding (19%) and fund raisers (12%). Direct client support represented most of our expenses (89%), with warehouse (7%) and miscellaneous expenses (4%) being the remaining expenses.

We couldn't fulfill our mission without a place to store our donations. We are grateful to Werner Gossels for providing our warehouse rent-free. We are grateful to First Baptist Church of Sudbury for donating a parked storage trailer.

Grateful for Donors and Grant Makers

We would not be able to fulfill our mission without the generous donations from individuals and support from regional grant makers. No donation is too big or too small. As an all-volunteer organization, we use all donations for direct client support.

We also want to thank the support of Sudbury Presbyterian Church, The Sudbury Foundation, The Foundation for MetroWest, and Sudbury Extended Day for their generous grants.

Balance Sheet (12/31/2021)

Account Balance (Cash Basis)

ASSETS

Middlesex Saving Bank Checking	\$6,512.51
Rainy Day Fund (Fidelity)	\$70,267.31
Fidelity investment income	\$6.05
PayPal Balance	\$17,286.34
Facebook Balance	\$0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$94,072.21

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	\$0.00
Equity	\$94,072.21
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$94,072.21

Income Statement (1/1/2021 – 12/31/2021)

INCOME

Donations - Board Members	\$6,245.32
Donations - Individuals	\$39,515.35
Grants- Organizations	\$12,550.00
Fidelity Investment Income	\$6.05
Fund Raisers	\$7,812.01
TOTAL INCOME	\$66,128.73

EXPENSES

Client support related Expenses

Indirect donations for Clients (Gift Cards)	\$22,777.79
Goods bought for Clients	\$7,977.90
Direct Payments on behalf of Clients	\$6,182.56
Total Client Support	\$36,938.25

Warehouse

Rent	\$0.00
Expenses (Utilities)	\$1,532.96
Warehouse help & supplies	\$1,239.18
Insurance	\$0.00
Inventory Management support	\$0.00
Total Warehouse Expenses	\$2,772.14

Government Filings	\$88.50
Marketing	\$294.30
Fund Raising expenses	\$670.93
Misc. Expenses	\$537.56
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$41,301.68

NET FOR THE YEAR	\$24,827.05
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