



#Believe Survivors #EverydaySexism
#MeToo
#1 Thing
#TimesUp
#RapeCultureIsWhen #WhyIStayed

Hashtag activism refers to the act of showing support for a cause
through a like, share, etc. on any social media platform
###

Dear Friends,

#MeToo.

It's the hashtag movement that exploded into the public sphere about a year ago. At New Hope, we have heard those words, or some representation of those words since our inception in 1979. Last fall, we saw a huge spike in survivors finding the courage to call our hotline, to come to our offices and/or to engage in our services – evidence that movements such as #MeToo are breaking down stigmas.

Consider just this one call, a young man who broke through the shame of abuse and found the courage to pick up the phone and call our hotline seeking help to heal the trauma of sexual abuse he experienced at his private school as a young child.



At New Hope we see such courage day in and day out, survivors who begin to find their voices and speak their truth. And really, that is what we are about at New Hope, speaking truth to power “to create communities free from violence and exploitation.”

I hope you will take a moment to look through our FY18 Annual Report. Aside from the various quantitative numbers, you will read stories of those who have made the journey from victim to survivor. While the numbers have been and continue to be impressive, it's the stories that are both humbling and awe-inspiring.

On behalf of all of the survivors we have served, I offer my thanks for your generous support. Your commitment is vital as we seek to build on the energy and the public discourse related to the movement. Our staff will continue to work around the clock to reduce intimate partner violence and to respond to the growing community needs for our services so that intimate partner violence is never again perpetrated and/or tolerated.

#1 Thing we want you to know is that we won't stop working until every person lives free from violence.

I invite you to join us through your continued financial support, in-kind goods and services, volunteering and any other creative ideas you may have.

With gratitude,
Warmly,

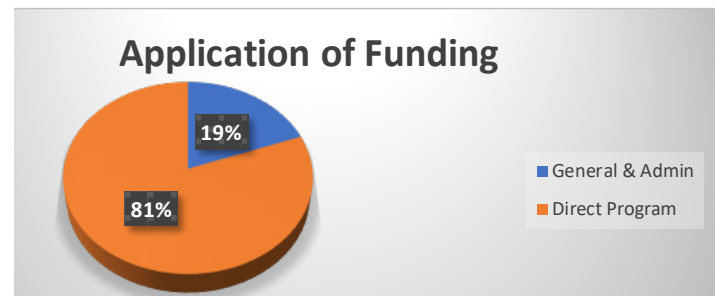
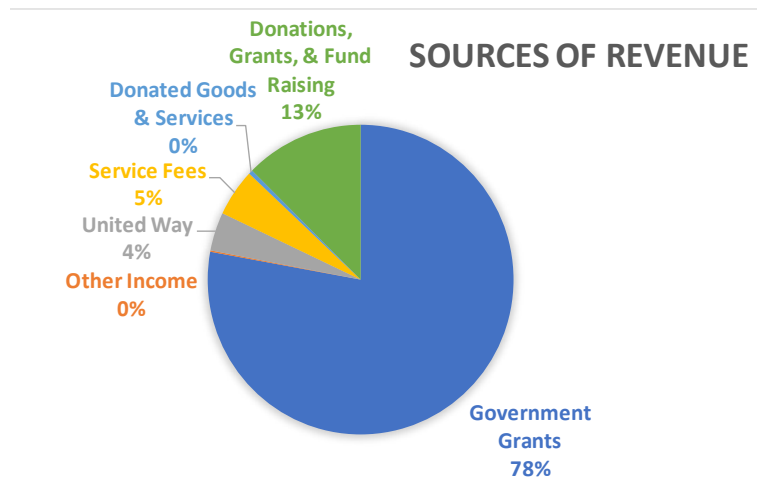
A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Marcia Szymanski".

Marcia Szymanski

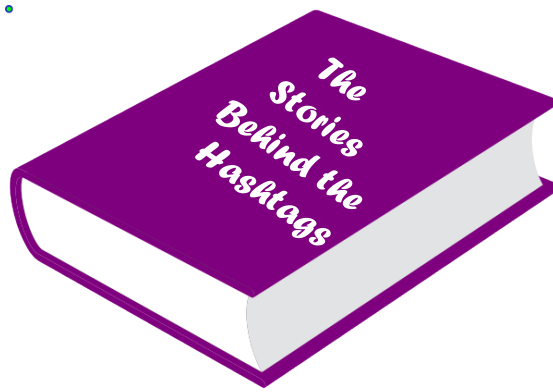
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NEW HOPE, INC. FISCAL YEAR 2018 FINANCIAL DATA



Total Support & Revenue	2,823,223
Total Expenses	2,749,746
Excess/(Deficit) of Support & Revenue over Expenses	73,477
Net Assets - 7/1/2017	1,250,028
Addition/(Reduction) in Net Assets	73,477
Net Assets - 6/30/18	1,323,505



3488 callers contacted our 24 hour emergency hotline.

1941 participants were assisted when seeking an order of protection in court.



56 adults and children found safety in emergency shelter while they rebuilt their lives.

614 participants recieved advocacy after a domestic incident with police involvement.



#SlutShaming

When Mr. X asked to sleep on my couch that night because he was too intoxicated to drive home safely after a friends and family cookout, I didn't think anything of it. We had known each other for years and shared countless hours talking about everything from addiction recovery to debates about religion and parenting styles. The normal things that friends discuss over time. I went to bed in my bedroom with the door shut, setting my alarm for the morning. Long before my alarm went off, I woke up with Mr. X on top of me. I asked what he was doing and quickly realized what his intent was. I yelled at him to stop and get off, he was hurting me. He did hurt me. I was bruised in places that should never see bruises. When I returned home the next day he was sitting on my porch, and greeted me like nothing was wrong. I told him to leave. He asked why - when I told him he was disgusting and if he didn't leave I was going to call the police, he laughed. He told me I had always wanted it. That I was always so nice and we got along so well, he assumed I was inviting him to my body when I agreed to let him stay ON MY COUCH. When I reminded him that I was screaming NO and struggling he told me that I seemed like the type who likes it rough. It took me 3 years to talk about it. It took me another year to file a police complaint. But now it's on record. Now Mr. X has to register wherever he goes. There's a good chance that record will stop someone else from being hurt. #BelieveSurvivors - It's been 8 years now and I still feel like it was last night. Trauma doesn't care about a clock.

#WhyIStayed

We were one week away from celebrating our 5 year anniversary, and he punched me in the head one day while I was driving the car. We were having a minor argument, I'm not even sure about what. What I do remember is being in such shock that I was just hit. Never once prior to this did he lay his hands on me in anger, there were no warnings, no indicators or "red flags" as they say. He cried like a baby. He put his arms around me and told me "I have no idea why I did that." We had a life together, plans and goals together, we shared everything. I told myself, everybody should be allowed one mistake, right?. The next time he hit me, it caused a bleed in my brain. I didn't know how serious it was until I was rushed to the hospital after passing out at work. I ended up needing surgery, and I needed him - he took care of the house and the kids and the day to day while I was recovering. Soon his aggression reared it's ugly head. Everything was my fault, I stressed him out. I was a nag and a slut. The third time he hurt me he grabbed my face, leaving finger bruises on both cheeks, and he told me that he could kill me. That's #WhyILeft, because I knew it wasn't that he could kill me, just a matter of when he would.



968 participants received counseling and community based advocacy last year.

13,614 participants attended prevention education workshops.



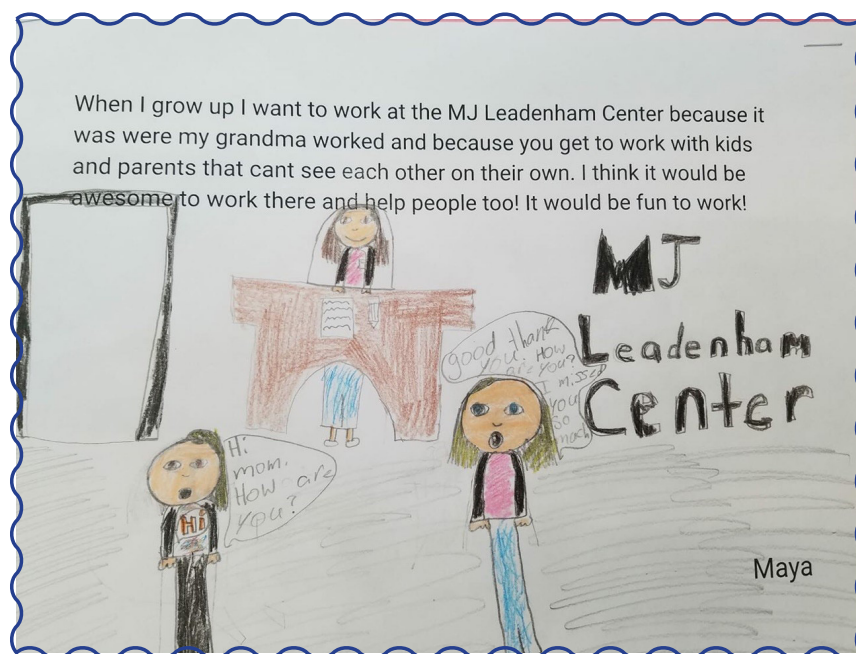
We would be lost without 149 volunteers and interns who donate almost 4,000 hours of time, talent and enthusiasm!



171 participants attended abuse prevention classes to learn from past behaviors and prevent future violence.



199 families received supervised visitation services at the MJ Leadenham Center



#Prevention

My company offers programming throughout the year that focuses on family health issues. I decided to attend the workshop on relationships and bystander support because I was pretty sure that my sister was being hurt by her husband and hiding it from me. I walked out of the cafeteria after the workshop a changed man. At first, I was ashamed, and horrified, because in that workshop I started to look at my own relationship and it seemed like there was a big possibility that I was a victim of abuse from my partner. It took me 3 weeks to work up the nerve to contact the hotline. It's very hard to admit that I was a victim. I was taught to never raise my hand to a woman, but no one ever told me that a woman shouldn't put her hands on me. I had convinced myself that my wife was high tempered and passionate and expressed herself physically. In reality, I was experiencing physical, sexual and verbal abuse. My biggest reality check was the realization that my children were witnessing all of the abuse, and would think that this was what a marriage should look like. I was so ashamed that I had allowed my children to see me stay and get treated so poorly. #MenAreVictimsToo and there should be no shame in coming forward. Now that I'm self aware and working on healing, I see that my children look at me with new eyes. They are proud of me, and there is no greater gift. One day, I'll speak publicly to help other men find their voices.

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Headquarters:

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Offices in Milford, Southbridge, Taunton
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Creating Communities Free from Violence and Exploitation