

2023 Alexandra House Report City of Ramsey

Established in 1977, Alexandra House is one of the largest domestic and sexual violence organizations in Minnesota, and the only one in Anoka County. Located in the cities of Blaine and Andover, we work with victims throughout Anoka County, the metro area, and state. Alexandra House has evolved over the years, expanding services to meet the changing needs of victims/survivors and their families. We offer a continuum of services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, dating violence, and elder abuse.

We offer immediate safety and support services to victims who are in an immediate crisis – services that include emergency shelter, 24-hour advocacy response to local hospitals, a 24-hour helpline, and round the clock response to victims connected by law enforcement from the scene of a domestic assault or immediately following. And we also offer services – like weekly support groups, ongoing case management, follow up advocacy and support, and housing assistance and subsidies – that are designed to assist victims in moving beyond their immediate crisis to regain hope for a better future, achieve long-term emotional and economic stability, and live free from violence and abuse.

Alexandra House plays a crucial role in supporting the City of Ramsey by providing comprehensive support and advocacy to residents who may be experiencing domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and elder abuse. Services include emergency shelter, legal/criminal justice advocacy, hospital advocacy, support groups, follow-up services, housing assistance, basic needs/food shelf assistance, youth services, elder abuse services, and community and professional education.

Our network of services relies upon strong partnerships with law enforcement, local schools, prosecutors, hospitals, local government, and community and county agencies. These partnerships enable us to broaden our reach and effectively address the needs of victims/survivors and our community. We operate around the clock, responding to calls from Ramsey Police Department and law enforcement agencies across Anoka County, Mercy Hospital and Mercy-Unity Campus, and victims/survivors seeking help via our 24-hour Help Line. This immediate response is a vital component of the community's public safety and public health infrastructure and helps to ensure that individuals in crisis receive necessary support, safety, information, and resources.

Here's how Alexandra House served citizens from the City of Ramsey in 2023:

24-Hour Helpline

Alexandra House offers a free, confidential 24-hour help line. Advocates respond to callers' concerns, assist them in accessing emergency shelter and developing a safety plan, offer crime victim advocacy, and provide additional resources available to assist them. In 2023, Alexandra House provided crisis intervention, advocacy, and support to **81** Ramsey callers over our 24-hour helpline.

Housing and Supportive Services / Emergency Shelter

Alexandra House operates a 24-hour domestic and sexual violence emergency shelter that can accommodate up to 25 women and children. All basic needs are provided for, including food, toiletries, clothing, linens, and diapers. Advocates work closely with participants and their families, offering support and connection to valuable community resources, such as financial assistance, medical services, education/job training, housing assistance, and more. In 2023, Alexandra House sheltered **four** victims from Ramsey. **8** victims were served by our Housing and Supportive Services Program, including Follow Up, Parent Support Outreach, Transitional Housing, Food Shelf, Rapid Rehousing, and Family Violence Waiver Programs.

Legal Advocacy

Criminal Justice Intervention (CJI) / Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)—

Alexandra House partners with local law enforcement to offer advocacy immediately following a domestic related incident (24-hours/day) and throughout the criminal justice process. Legal advocates assist with safety planning, provide information regarding court process and crime victim rights, accompany victims to criminal court hearings, and serve as a liaison with courts/prosecutors on a victims' behalf. Alexandra House is grateful for the partnership we have with the Ramsey Police Department. It is because of this valuable partnership that we were able to respond to **32** victims of domestic-related incidents referred by Ramsey PD.

Civil Legal Advocacy Services—Civil legal advocacy includes assisting victims with filing protective orders, accompanying them to subsequent hearings, and providing free legal representation, advice, and information regarding civil legal options.

- Alexandra House legal advocates assisted **11** Ramsey residents with civil legal advocacy.
- Alexandra House's Order for Protection Project provided free legal representation to **1** Ramsey resident.

Community Support Groups

Alexandra House provides three weekly domestic and sexual violence support groups and one elder abuse support group. One Ramsey victim/survivor benefited from support group services in 2023.

Healthcare Advocacy Services

Alexandra House works in partnership with local hospitals and select Allina Clinics to provide 24-hour, in-person support and advocacy to victims of domestic and sexual violence. In 2023, **6** Ramsey victims of domestic or sexual violence were provided support on-site support and advocacy at one of our two local hospitals.

Elder Abuse Services

Alexandra House offers ongoing case management, basic needs/legal assistance, information and referrals, and a weekly elder abuse/older victim support group for victims 50 and older. Alexandra House's Elder Abuse Coordinator also conducts significant outreach to seniors in the community and at local senior centers, facilitating presentations and providing consultation and training to providers who interact potential elder abuse victims. She meets with participants in person and over the phone over the course of several weeks or months to help each person achieve his or her personal goals for safety and well-being. In 2023, the Elder Abuse Coordinator served **two** Ramsey residents.

Youth Services Program

Alexandra House's Youth Services Program has been a crucial source of support to youth victims of violence for over 30 years – in the community, within our local schools, and at Lino Juvenile Correctional Facilities – through provision of individual advocacy, support groups, and education. We educate youth about dating violence, sexual violence, and healthy relationships, help students identify resources they can turn to for support – including trusted adults/parents, other professionals, and school and peer supports – and assist youth to build healthy social supports. In 2023, youth services advocates provided school-based advocacy services to **9** Ramsey youth.

Community Education, Outreach, and Training

Alexandra House staff participate in facilitating prevention education, community events, and professional trainings, sharing information about domestic and sexual violence, elder abuse, and Alexandra House services to a variety of groups/locations throughout Anoka County. In 2023, Alexandra House participated in presenting to **two** groups in the City of Ramsey – reaching 35 people.