

Williamson County Crisis Center d/b/a  
**HOPE ALLIANCE**



**Request for Support**  
from  
**Williamson County, TX**

**Williamson County Crisis Center d/b/a**  
**Hope Alliance**  
**2020-2021 Board of Directors**

<b>Charles Pittman, President (April 2021)</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 1/2023</b> Georgetown, TX 78628 Retired <b>Member Since: January 2017</b>	<b>Nancy Bowman, Past Pres (April 2021)</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 4/2023</b> Georgetown, TX 78628 Retired, Marketing Professional <b>Member Since: April 2014</b>
<b>Sean Barber, Vice President (April 2021)</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 3/2021</b> Round Rock, TX 78664 Founder/CEO, Waste & Recycling Plastic Containers <b>Member Since: March 2018</b>	<b>Sally Volling, Treasurer (April 2021)</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 3/2021</b> Georgetown, TX 78628 Southwestern University, CPA <b>Member Since: March 2018</b>
<b>Virginia Gen, Secretary (April 2021)</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 3/2021</b> Austin, TX 78717 Retired, ExxonMobil Human Resources <b>Member Since: March 2018</b>	<b>Dr. Joanna Davis</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 4/2021</b> Georgetown, TX 78628 Endodontist/Owner, Oakwood Endodontic <b>Member Since: April 2009</b>
<b>Renee Petsche, Historian (October 2019)</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 1/2022</b> Round Rock, TX 78664 Partner/CFO, Baker & Petsche Publishing LLC <b>Member Since: January 2010</b>	<b>Sandy Sigman Sargent</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 10/2021</b> Georgetown, TX 78628 Retired, ExxonMobil Human Resources <b>Member Since: October 2012</b>
<b>Andrew Norris</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 4/2022</b> Round Rock, TX 78681 AllState Insurance Agency - Owner <b>Member Since: April 2016</b>	<b>Valerie Francois</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 5/2022</b> Round Rock, TX 78665 City of Round Rock, HR Director <b>Member Since: May 2016</b>
<b>Diane Bennett</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 3/2023</b> Cedar Park, TX 78613 Realtor, RE Consultant, ReMax Capital City <b>Member Since: March 2017</b>	<b>Janet Vito</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 1/2021</b> Austin, TX 78723 uShip, VP of Marketing <b>Member Since: January 2018</b>
<b>Donna Brihuega Miller</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 1/2022</b> Austin, TX 78750 Schwab <b>Member Since: January 2019</b>	<b>Shawn Dick</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 5/2022</b> Georgetown, Texas 78626 Williamson County District Attorney <b>Member Since: May 2019</b>
<b>Estella Galan Colmenero</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 2/2023</b> Austin, TX 78701 Loan Officer/Angel Oak Home Loans, LLC <b>Member Since: February 2020</b>	<b>Jason Williams</b> <b>Current Term Ends: 2/2023</b> Liberty Hill, Texas 78642 Account Executive, Equinix <b>Member Since: February 2020</b>



## Mission

Hope Alliance assists those affected by family and sexual violence by providing safety, services and developing partnerships that lead to hope, healing and prevention.

## Philosophy

Hope Alliance believes that physical, sexual, emotional, psychological or financial abuse of one human being by another is unacceptable. Hope Alliance believes that all abuse diminishes or prohibits the full expression of life and growth that is every person's right. The services provided by professional staff of this agency are designed to create positive change in the lives of survivors of family and/or sexual violence and to equip survivors with the knowledge and skills necessary for them to break the cycles of violence in which they live.

Hope Alliance operates with a staff that accepts responsibility for their own futures while at the same time being committed to advancing the mission, by supporting the organization's efforts to improve our community's knowledge of the dynamics of abuse and to acknowledge our Allies of Hope partners volunteers and donors. The employees of Hope Alliance are skilled facilitators of change who are able to focus the agency's capacity on translating its mission into reality.



## Hope Alliance Services

NEARLY 100% OF THOSE WHO BECOME FACE-TO-FACE CLIENTS INITIATE A CRY FOR HELP TO OUR HOTLINE.



### In 2019, Hope Alliance fielded 2,688 Hotline calls.

After completing a “Lethality Questionnaire,” 998 of the 2,688 callers became Clients and were scheduled for immediate residential or non-residential “Intakes.” Sadly, another 1,000+ potential Clients were referred to other agencies outside of Williamson County because Hope Alliance (HA) operates at full capacity most of the time.

#### Residential Units of Service

In 2019 Hope Alliance (HA) provided 17,586 Units of Service (UoS) from our 30-bed Emergency Shelter. A Unit of Service (UoS) involves a face-to-face session between a Client and Staff person discussing a specific topic for about 1 hour. We also provided 357 people 7,983 Sheltered Nights of Safety, clothing, food, toiletries and transportation. Below are the UoS per Funding Stream provided at the Shelter in 2019:

<u>Funding Stream</u>	<u>Units of Service</u>	<u>Clients</u>
CJD VOCA	3,176	787
HHSC	14,410	868
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,586</b>	

#### Non-Residential Units of Service

In 2019, HA also provided 18,316 UoS from our Counseling Center too. A UoS is a face-to-face session between a Client and Staff person discussing a specific topic for about 1 hour. These services were provided for 641 people. Below are the UoS per Funding Stream provided from our Counseling Center in 2019:

<u>Funding Stream</u>	<u>Units of Service</u>	<u>Clients</u>
OVAG OAG	13,912	957
SAPCS State	4,404	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,316</b>	

In 2019, the combined total UoS provided from all funding sources at both the Shelter and the Counseling Center were 35,902, which were delivered over the course of a total 37,509 hours.

- ★ In 2019, HA’s average Cost per Hour of Labor for all 38 Staff Members was \$19.12.
- ★ HA’s Labor Costs to produce 35,902 UoS in 2019 was \$686,446.
- ★ In 2019, the City of Round Rock’s average Mid-Point Cost per Hour of Labor for 218 positions was \$32.63
- ★ RR’s Labor Costs to produce 35,902 UoS would have been \$1,171,590 or 70.7% higher than HA’s, not including costs of “fringe,” payroll taxes, building and/or maintaining both a Counseling Center and a Shelter.
- ★ In 2019, Williamson County’s average Mid-Point Cost per Hour of Labor for 1,731 positions was \$26.40.
- ★ WILCO’s Labor Costs to produce 35,902 UoS would have been \$947,813 or 38.0% higher than HA’s, not including costs of “fringe,” taxes, building and/or maintaining both a Counseling Center and a Shelter.
- ★ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic’s Social Distancing requirements, HA reduced the population in our Shelter from 30 to about 15. The consequences of that decision are an unprecedented number of potential clients being placed on our “Waitlist” which results in an unprecedented wait time before clients can gain shelter.
- ★ FOR EVERY ONE PERSON SERVED BY HA IN 2019, ANOTHER PERSON WAS REFERRED TO SOME OTHER AGENCY OUTSIDE OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY BECAUSE HA OPERATES AT ALMOST FULL CAPACITY ALMOST ALL THE TIME.



## HA's Strategic Plan Goal:

### Create a campus-like, all-inclusive, Multi-Agency Center

**FOR EVERY ONE PERSON SERVED BY HA IN 2019, ANOTHER PERSON WAS REFERRED TO SOME OTHER AGENCY OUTSIDE OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY BECAUSE HA OPERATES AT ALMOST FULL CAPACITY MOST ALL THE TIME.**

A few other ways to drive this point home are to say: 1) 1,000 victims per year are being sent to service providers outside of Williamson County, or 2) HA is serving only ½ of the demand for Family Violence and/or Sexual Assault services, or 3) Citizens of Williamson County who are victims of Family Violence and/or Sexual Assault in Williamson County are underserved.

HA's Strategic Plan and Goal for the future of Family Violence and Sexual Assault services in WILCO is to expand our organizational capacity to provide needs-based, wrap-around, trauma-informed services to everyone who has been victimized by Family Violence and/or Sexual Assault in the County. The Plan calls for services to be conducted at a campus-like, all-inclusive, Multi-Agency Center (MAC), but we cannot do this on our own and we need your help. HA needs a gift of Land, or a gift of Land with a 30,000 sq. ft. building that can be remodeled into a Shelter, or a gift of money so that HA can purchase items 1 or 2 above.

A Multi-Agency Center (MAC) is one where three or more organizations with similar missions are partners, working together and co-located under one roof. Service partners may be onsite full-time or part-time; they may or may not have a centralized intake and information sharing process. The overall goal of a MAC is to ensure that clients have access to all necessary services, to enhance their safety and increase offender accountability. Victims and their families who report to the MAC can obtain legal advice, safety planning, make a statement, obtain accommodation planning, medical evidence of violence, transport assistance, trauma processing, even Sheltered Nights of Safety.

A Multi-Agency Center provides one physical location to:

- Reduce the number of places victims must visit to obtain all the help and the services they need to put an end to the violence,
- Reduce the trauma caused by the number of times victims must re-tell their story to authorities,
- Foster collaboration and a common approach between all the different agencies, and
- Increase access to services and support for victims and their children.

Documented and published outcomes/benefits of Multi-Agency Centers include:

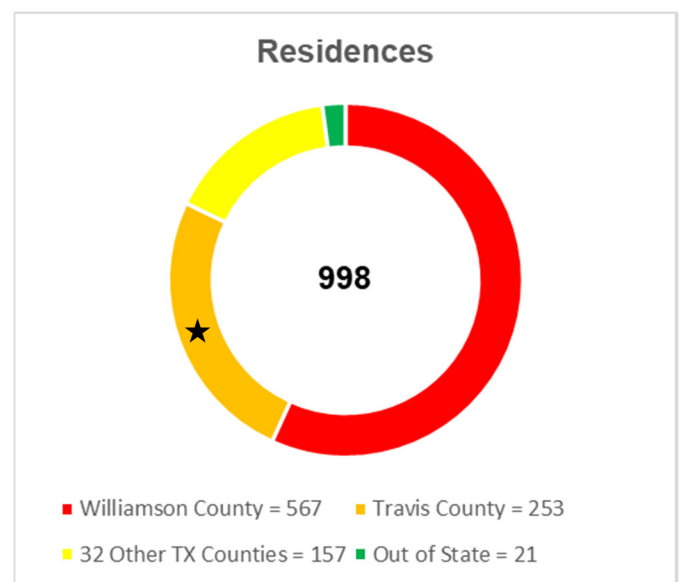
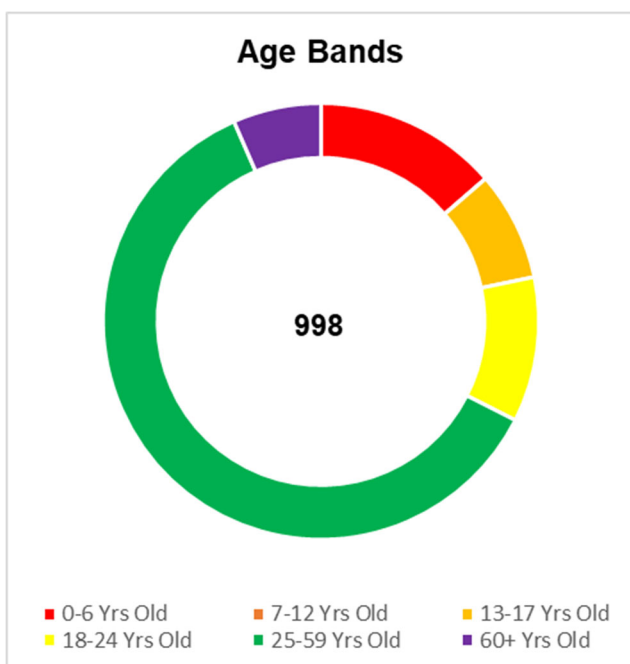
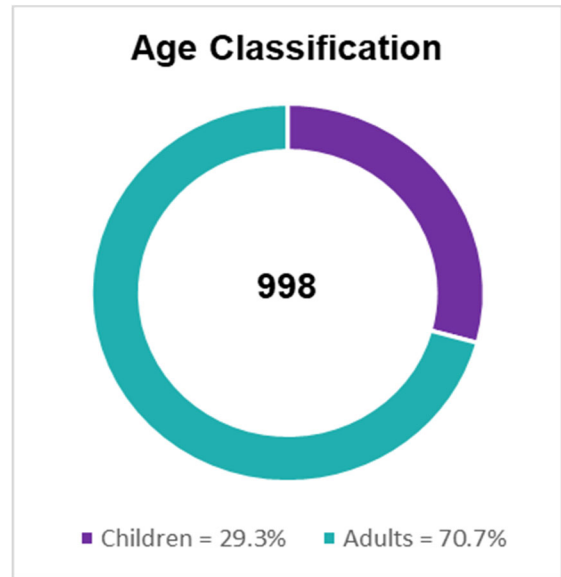
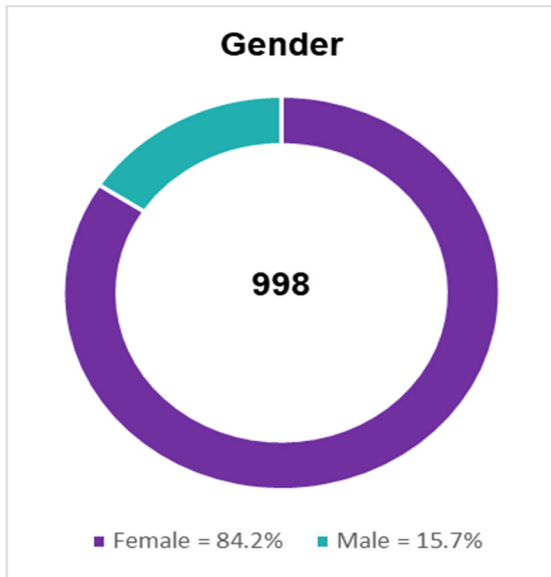
- Reduced Homicides,
- Increased victim safety,
- Increased autonomy and empowerment for victims,
- Reduced fear and anxiety for victims and their children,
- Reduced recantation and minimization of victims when they are wrapped in services and support,
- Increased efficiency in collaborative services among providers,
- Increased prosecution of offenders,
- Dramatically increased community support for services to victims and their children (Gwinn & Strack, 2006).

A Multi-Agency Center has been identified as a best practice in the field of Family Violence intervention and prevention services by the US Department of Justice. Such Centers are also included in the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.



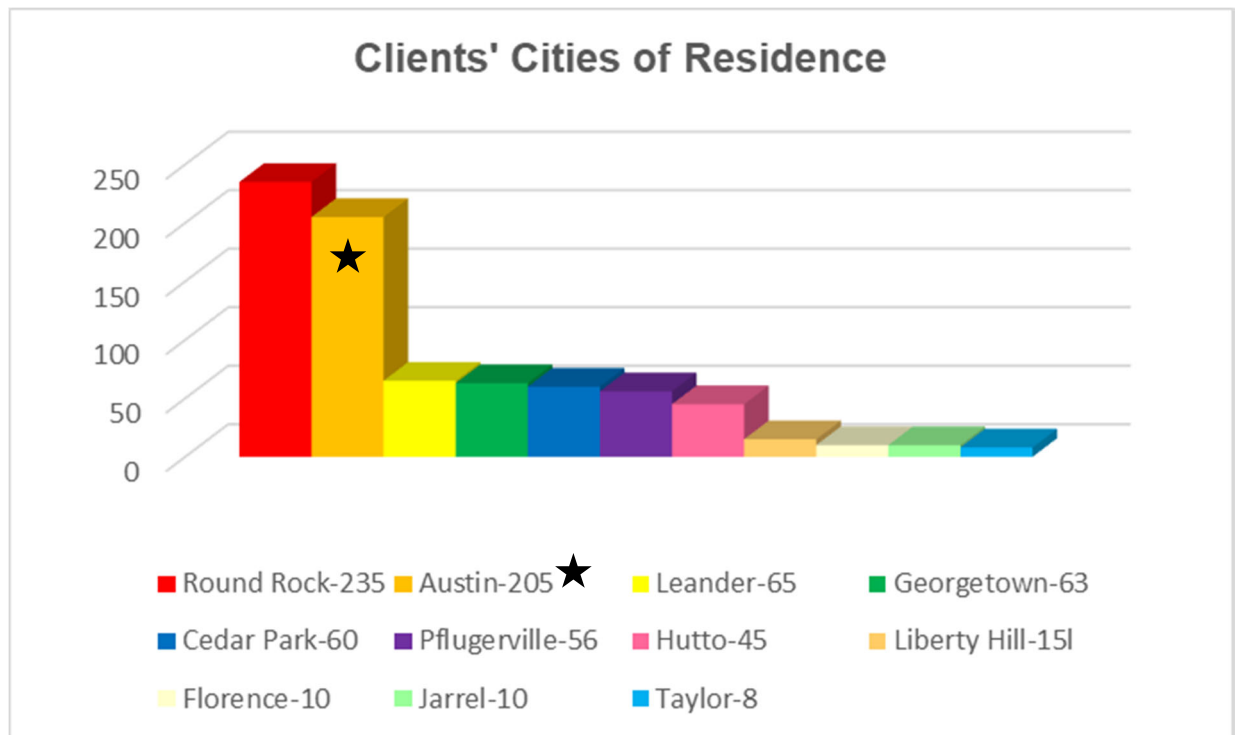
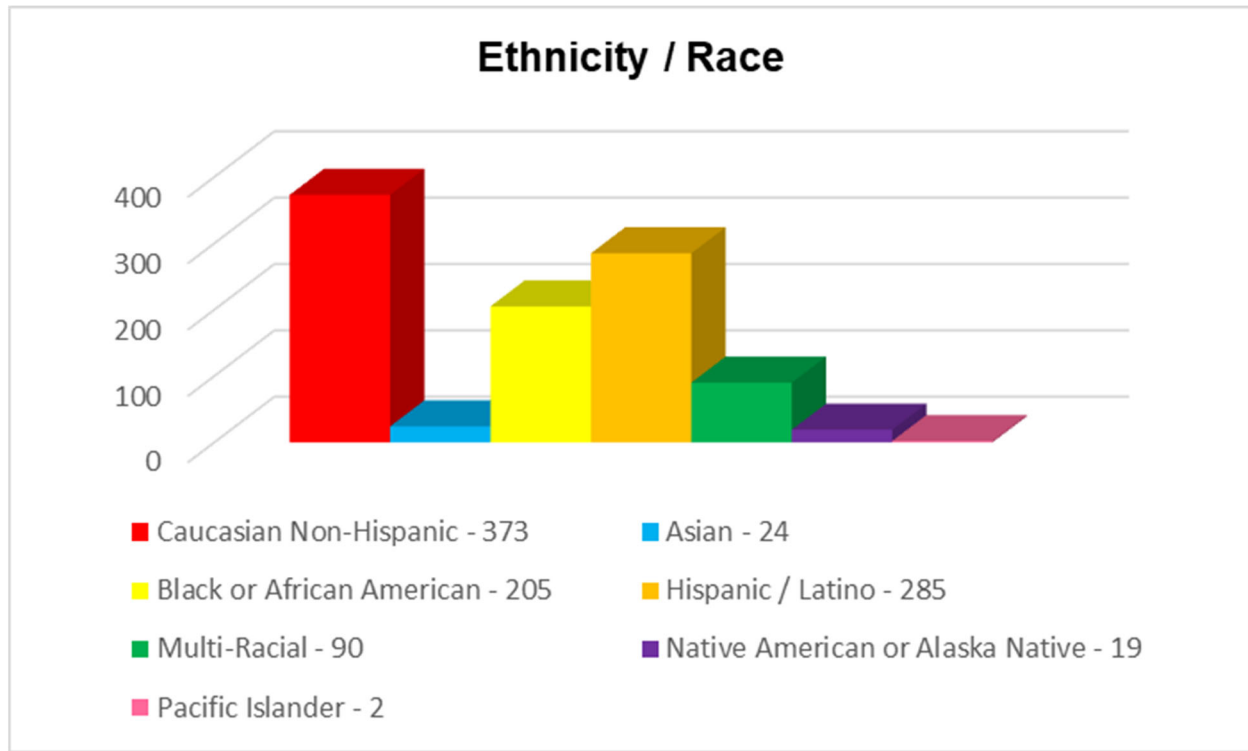
## Williamson County Crisis Center d/b/a Hope Alliance

### Client Profile



**There are many residences with Austin addresses  
★ that are located in Williamson County.**

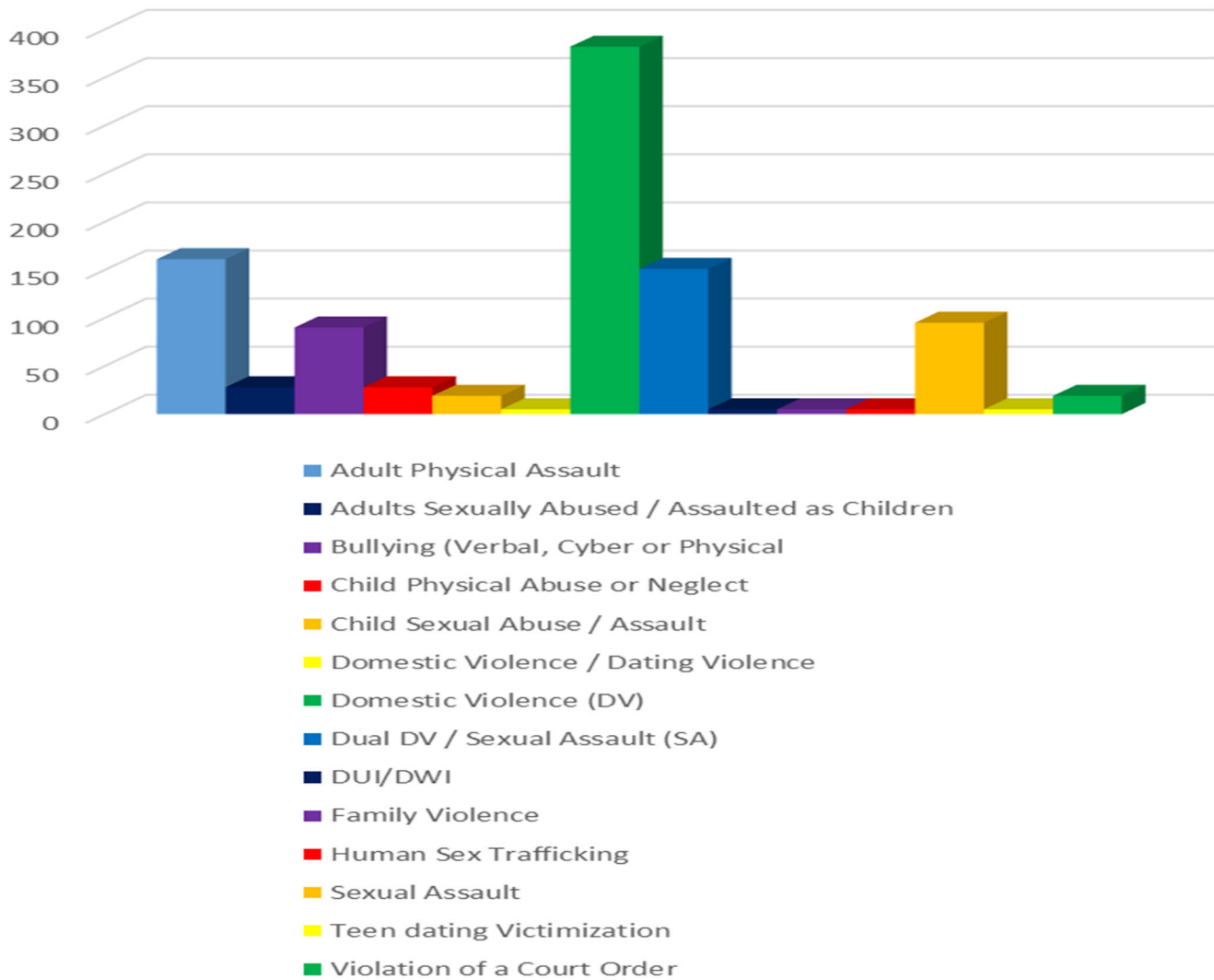
## Hope Alliance Client Profile Continued



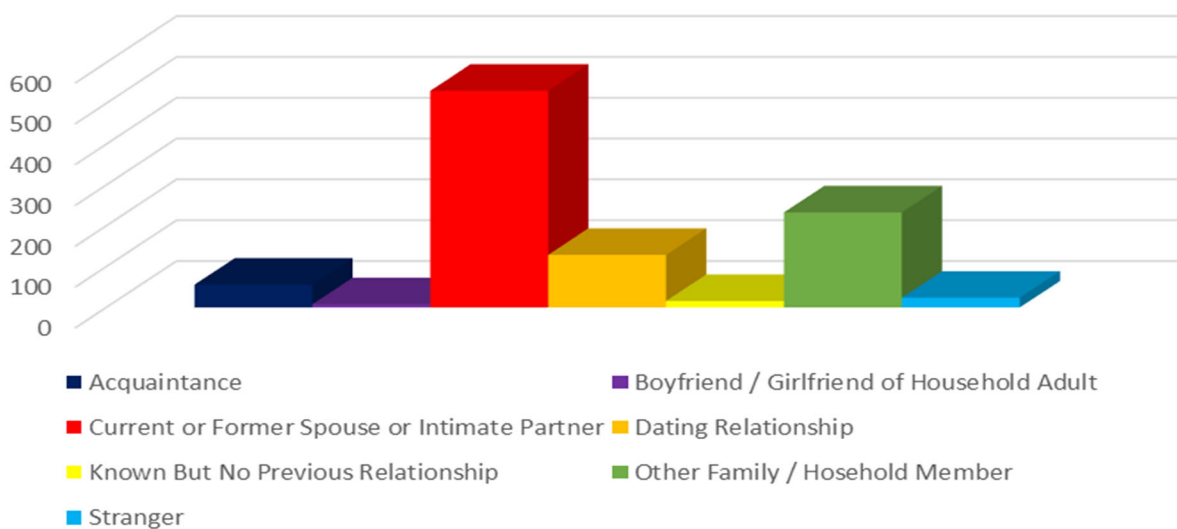
★ The majority of our “Austin” clients reside in zip codes with boundaries that cross the county line between Travis and Williamson Counties such as 78613, 78729, 78615 and 78621. There are over 55,000 people with Austin addresses who live in Williamson County. HA is closer to clients living in these zip codes than SAFE in South Austin. SAFE and HA “share” overflow clients when one Shelter is full and the other isn’t.

## Hope Alliance Client Profile Continued

### Victimization Type



### Abuser Relationship



<u>Funding Stream</u>	<u>HA Units of Service</u>	<u>Sessions</u>	<u>Clients (Unique)</u>	<u>Duration (Hours)</u>
<b>Criminal Justice Division (CJD) Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)</b>	Crisis Counseling	2	2	2
	Safety Planning	3,169	787	3,256
	Shelter/Support	2	2	2
	Telephone contact	2	2	2
	Transportation	1	1	1
<b>CJD VOCA Sub-Total</b>		<b>3,176</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>3,263</b>
<b>Health &amp; Human Services Commission (HHSC)</b>	Child Recreation or Social Group	193	61	193
	Child Services	498	131	498
	Counseling/Therapy	1,525	232	1,538
	Educational Arrangement for Children	42	32	42
	Emergency Orientation	3	3	3
	Enter Shelter	334	320	334
	Exit Shelter	328	314	328
	Family Violence Option	87	59	96
	Information and Referral-Community Services	3,992	783	4,060
	Information and Referral-Employment	231	106	231
	Intervention Services	4,968	789	5,049
	Legal Assistance	861	474	886
	Medical Accompaniment	2	2	2
	Medical Care	11	11	16
	Orientation	539	521	541
	Support Groups	245	100	261
	Transportation	551	132	718
<b>HHSC Sub-Total</b>		<b>14,410</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>14,794</b>
<b>Other Victims Assistance Grant (OVAG) Office of the Attorney General (OAG)</b>	Assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation	191	155	201
	Assistance with Restitution	1	1	1
	Assistance with Texas SAVNS/VINE	67	65	67
	Assistance with Victim Impact Panels	3	3	4
	Assistance with Victim Impact Statements	13	10	15
	Criminal Justice Accompaniment	30	21	51
	Crisis Intervention	1,834	600	1,897
	Emergency funds	14	11	14
	Follow up with Victim	650	248	672
	Individual Counseling	1,798	264	1,813
	Information & Referral	3,917	903	4,028
	Law Enforcement Accompaniment	3	3	3
	Legal Assistance	934	543	975
	Lodging	2	2	2
	Medical Accompaniment	97	93	153
	Other	26	25	26
	Peer Support Services	3,198	854	3,284
	Support Groups	238	105	251
	Therapeutic Groups	1	1	1
	Transportation	500	115	689
	Victim Advocacy	395	187	450
<b>OVAG (OAG) Sub-Total</b>		<b>13,912</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>14,596</b>

<u>Funding Stream</u>	<u>HA Units of Service</u>	<u>Sessions</u>	<u>Clients (Unique)</u>	<u>Duration (Hours)</u>
Sexual Assault Prevention & Crisis Services - State (SA)	24-hour Crisis Hotline	98	97	105
	Accompaniment to Hospitals, Law Enforcement Offices, Prosecutor's Office and Courts	100	95	152
[SAPCS-State (Sexual Assault)] Office of the Governor (OOG)	Advocacy	91	65	129
	Assistance with Address Confidentiality Program	26	23	26
	Assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation	55	45	63
	Assistance with Texas SAVNS/VINE	26	24	26
	Assistance with Victim Impact Statements	5	5	6
	Assistance with Victim Panels	4	4	24
	Crisis Intervention	578	201	636
	Groups (Support, Therapeutic)	34	16	38
	Individual Counseling	850	127	859
	Information & Referral	1,473	370	1,556
	Lodging	1	1	1
	Other Direct Victim Services	30	17	41
	Peer Support Services	816	327	878
	Transportation	217	49	320
	SAPCS State (Sexual Assault) (OOG) Sub-Total	4,404	400	4,857
	Grand Total	35,902	998	37,509



**Current Letters of Support  
for a  
Williamson County / Hope Alliance  
Multi-Agency Center**





LETTER OF SUPPORT  
for  
Williamson County Crisis Center d\l\ a HOPE ALLIANCE

**WHEREAS**, a Multi-Agency Center provides victims of Family Violence and/or Sexual Assault one physical location to:

- Reduce the number of places victims must visit to obtain all the help and the services they need to put an end to the violence,
- Reduce the trauma caused by the number of times victims must re-tell their story to authorities,
- Foster collaboration and a common approach of the different agencies, and
- Increase access to services and support for victims and their children, and

**WHEREAS**, documented and published outcomes and benefits of Multi-Agency Centers include:

- Reduced Homicides,
- Increased victim safety,
- Increased autonomy and empowerment for victims,
- Reduced fear and anxiety for victims and their children,
- Reduced recantation and minimization of victims when they are wrapped in services and support,
- Increased efficiency in collaborative services among providers,
- Increased prosecution of offenders, and
- Dramatically increased community support for services to victims and their children (Gwinn & Strack, 2006), and

**WHEREAS**, a Multi-Agency Center has been identified as a best practice in the field of Family Violence intervention and prevention services by the US Department of Justice. Such Centers are also included in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2005, and

**WHEREAS**, Asian Family Support Services of Austin's purpose is to break the cycle of violence in Asian and immigrant communities in Central Texas and assists Asian and other immigrant families dealing with domestic violence, sexual assault and sex trafficking, and

**WHEREAS**, Hope Alliance's mission is to assist those whose lives have been affected by family and sexual violence by providing safety, services and developing partnerships that lead to hope, healing and prevention,

RESPECT. EMPOWERMENT. DIVERSITY.

P.O. BOX 14234, Austin, TX 78761 • PHONE 512-358-6318 • FAX 512.777.4539 • HOTLINE 1.877.281.8371 • [www.afssaustin.org](http://www.afssaustin.org)



The Asian Family Support Services of Austin supports Hope Alliance's effort to become the lead agency to establish a Multi-Agency Center in Williamson County where at least three different co-located service providers from different disciplines will work together under one roof to provide services for adults and children who've been victimized by Family Violence and/or Sexual Assault. Service providers may be onsite either full-time or part-time. Service providers may, or may not, have a centralized intake and information sharing process. Co-located partners could include law enforcement with representatives from the Sheriff's Department, police departments, the District Attorney's office, the County Attorney's Office, the office of the Attorney General's Child Protective Services, a forensic exam service provider, Asian Family Support Services of Austin, Survive 2 Thrive, and Common Thread to name a few.

As the lead agency, Hope Alliance currently provides and will continue to provide services to victims from rural and urbanized areas in Williamson County and contiguous counties in the Capital Area of Governments region of Central Texas. It offers a wide spectrum of at least 60 services to survivors of violence, including: a 24-hour Emergency Hotline; 8 – 10 hours per day of Emergency Chat services, a 30-bed Emergency Shelter for adults and children experiencing family and/or sexual violence; medical accompaniment, support for forensic exams for recent rape survivors; crisis intervention, legal advocacy; intermediate case management; face-to-face, trauma-informed, culturally-sensitive counseling and resource advocacy to help survivors of violence break the cycle of violence in which they live and journey toward self-sufficiency.

The long range and critical goal of collaboration in a Multi-Agency Center is to ensure that survivors of family violence and/or sexual assault will have access to emergency shelter and culturally specific services that aid their journey from crisis to self-sufficiency, and that employees and volunteers of Hope Alliance and their Multi-Agency Partners can build capacity to serve all clients in need.

Darlene Lanham, Executive Director

By \_\_\_\_\_  
(Agency Representative), Title  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Aug. 25, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Richard M. Brown, Ed.D.  
CEO, Hope Alliance  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESPECT. EMPOWERMENT. DIVERSITY.**

August 25, 2020

Rick Brown  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hope Alliance  
1011 Gattis School Rd  
Suite #110  
Round Rock, TX 78664

St David's Foundation (SDF) is pleased to offer a letter of support to the efforts of Hope Alliance to establish a Multi-Agency Center in Williamson County where agencies can co-locate and collaborate to provide services for adults and children who have been victimized by Family Violence and/or Sexual Assault.

As a significant philanthropic funder in the Central Texas region, SDF strongly supports efforts to collaborate and maximize resources to better serve our neighbors. Through a unique partnership with St. David's HealthCare, the St. David's Foundation invests over \$75 million each year into our five county Central Texas service area, making SDF one of the largest health foundations in the country. The Foundation's investments have helped improve health prospects for hundreds of thousands of Central Texans.

This project aligns with the Foundation's belief that improving the health of our region will require coordinated efforts that leverage resources across disciplines. This project offers the potential to better and more efficiently serve adults and children who have experienced Family Violence and/or Sexual Assault.

Hope Alliance is a long-standing grant partner of the Foundation and has shown a strong commitment to improving the service continuum for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Sincerely,

*Kim McPherson*

Kim McPherson  
Senior Program Officer,  
Community Resilience Portfolio



LETTER OF SUPPORT  
for

Williamson County Crisis Center d\bla HOPE ALLIANCE

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**WHEREAS**, documented and published outcomes and benefits of Multi-Agency Centers include:

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- Increased efficiency in collaborative services among providers,
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- Dramatically increased community support for services to victims and their children (Gwinn & Strack, 2006), and

**WHEREAS**, a Multi-Agency Center has been identified as a best practice in the field of Family Violence intervention and prevention services by the US Department of Justice. Such Centers are also included in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2005, and

**WHEREAS**, one of **Brave Alliance's** purposes is to provide services for those who've been victimized by Family Violence and/or Sexual Assault, and

**WHEREAS**, Hope Alliance's mission is to assist those whose lives have been affected by family and sexual violence by providing safety, services and developing partnerships that lead to hope, healing and prevention,

Brave Alliance supports Hope Alliance's effort to become the lead agency to establish a Multi-Agency Center in Williamson County where at least three different co-located service providers from different disciplines will work together under one roof to provide services for adults and children who've been victimized by Family Violence and/or Sexual Assault. Service providers may be onsite either full-time or part-time. Service providers may, or may not, have a centralized intake and information sharing process. Co-located partners could include law enforcement with representatives from the Sheriff's Department, police departments, the District Attorney's office, the County Attorney's Office, the office of the Attorney General's Child Protective Services, a forensic exam service provider, Asian Family Support Services of Austin, Survive 2 Thrive, and Common Thread to name a few.

As the lead agency, Hope Alliance currently provides and will continue to provide services to victims from rural and urbanized areas in Williamson County and contiguous counties in the Capital Area of Governments region of Central Texas. It offers a wide spectrum of at least 60 services to survivors of violence, including: a 24-hour Emergency Hotline; 8 – 10 hours per day of Emergency Chat services, a 30-bed Emergency Shelter for adults and children experiencing family and/or sexual violence; medical accompaniment, support for forensic exams for recent rape survivors; crisis intervention, legal advocacy; intermediate case management; face-to-face, trauma-informed, culturally-sensitive counseling and resource advocacy to help survivors of violence break the cycle of violence in which they live and journey toward self-sufficiency.

The long range and critical goal of collaboration in a Multi-Agency Center is to ensure that survivors of family violence and/or sexual assault will have access to emergency shelter and culturally specific services that aid their journey from crisis to self-sufficiency, and that employees and volunteers of Hope Alliance and their Multi-Agency Partners can build capacity to serve all clients in need.

By: Crystal Love  
Crystal Love, RN, CA-CP SANE, SANE-A  
Executive Director – Brave Alliance  
Date: 09/01/2020

By: Richard M. Brown  
Richard M. Brown, Ed.D.  
CEO, Hope Alliance  
Date: 9.2.2020



## CEDAR PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Cedar Park Police Department supports Hope Alliance's effort to become the lead agency to establish a Multi-Agency Center in Williamson County where at least three different co-located service providers from different disciplines will work together under one roof to provide services for adults and children who've been victimized by Family Violence and/or Sexual Assault. Service providers may be onsite either full-time or part-time. Service providers may, or may not, have a centralized intake and information sharing process. Co-located partners could include law enforcement with representatives from the Sheriff's Department, police departments, the District Attorney's office, the County Attorney's Office, the office of the Attorney General's Child Protective Services, a forensic exam service provider like Brave Alliance, Asian Family Support Services of Austin, Survive 2 Thrive, Common Thread, The Caring Place and Blue Bonnet Trails to name a few.

As the lead agency, Hope Alliance currently provides and will continue to provide services to victims from rural and urbanized areas in Williamson County and contiguous counties in the Capital Area of Governments region of Central Texas. It offers a wide spectrum of at least 60 services to survivors of violence, including: a 24-hour Emergency Hotline; 8 – 10 hours per day of Emergency Chat services, a 30-bed Emergency Shelter for adults and children experiencing family and/or sexual violence; medical accompaniment, support for forensic exams for recent rape survivors; crisis intervention, legal advocacy; intermediate case management; face-to-face, trauma-informed, culturally-sensitive counseling and resource advocacy to help survivors of violence break the cycle of violence in which they live and journey toward self-sufficiency.

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By [Signature] Chief of Police  
(Agency Representative), Title  
Date: 9/10/2020

By [Signature]  
Richard M. Brown, Ed.D.  
CEO, Hope Alliance  
Date: 9.10.2020



Tim Ryle  
Chief Deputy

**Robert Chody**  
WILLIAMSON COUNTY SHERIFF  
508 South Rock Street  
Georgetown, Texas 78626  
Phone (512) 943-1300 \* Fax (512) 943-1444

Roy Fikac  
Asst Chief Deputy- Law Enforcement

Randolph Doyer  
Asst Chief Deputy - Corrections

August 20, 2020

LETTER OF SUPPORT  
for  
Williamson County Crisis Center d\l\la HOPE ALLIANCE

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**WHEREAS**, the Williamson County Sheriff's Office purpose is to "Protect and Serve," including those who've been victimized by Family Violence and/or Sexual Assault, and

**WHEREAS**, Hope Alliance's mission is to assist those whose lives have been affected by family and sexual violence by providing safety, services and developing partnerships that lead to hope, healing and prevention,

The Williamson County Sheriff's Office supports Hope Alliance's effort to become the lead agency to establish a Multi-Agency Center in Williamson County where at least three different co-located service providers from different disciplines will work together under one roof to provide services for adults and children who've been victimized by Family Violence and/or Sexual Assault. Service providers may be onsite either full-time or part-time. Service providers may, or may not, have a centralized intake and information sharing process. Co-located partners could include law enforcement with representatives from the Sheriff's Department, police departments, the District Attorney's office, the County Attorney's Office, the office of the Attorney General's Child Protective Services, a forensic exam service provider, Asian Family Support Services of Austin, Survive 2 Thrive, and Common Thread to name a few.

As the lead agency, Hope Alliance currently provides and will continue to provide services to victims from rural and urbanized areas in Williamson County and contiguous counties in the Capital Area of Governments region of Central Texas. It offers a wide spectrum of at least 60 services to survivors of violence, including: a 24-hour Emergency Hotline; 8 – 10 hours per day of Emergency Chat services, a 30-bed Emergency Shelter for adults and children experiencing family and/or sexual violence; medical accompaniment, support for forensic exams for recent rape survivors; crisis intervention, legal advocacy; intermediate case management; face-to-face, trauma-informed, culturally-sensitive counseling and resource advocacy to help survivors of violence break the cycle of violence in which they live and journey toward self-sufficiency.

The long range and critical goal of collaboration in a Multi-Agency Center is to ensure that survivors of family violence and/or sexual assault will have access to emergency shelter and culturally specific services that aid their journey from crisis to self-sufficiency, and that employees and volunteers of Hope Alliance and their Multi-Agency Partners can build capacity to serve all clients in need.

By Robert F. Chody  
Williamson County Sheriff Robert Chody  
Date: August 20, 2020

By Richard M. Brown  
Richard M. Brown, Ed.D.  
CEO, Hope Alliance  
Date: 8.20.2020



## CEDAR PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

### LETTER OF SUPPORT

for

Williamson County Crisis Center d\bla HOPE ALLIANCE

**WHEREAS**, a Multi-Agency Center provides victims of Family Violence and/or Sexual Assault one physical location to:

- Reduce the number of places victims must visit to obtain all the help and the services they need to put an end to the violence,
- Reduce the trauma caused by the number of times victims must re-tell their story to authorities,
- Foster collaboration and a common approach of the different agencies, and
- Increase access to services and support for victims and their children, and

**WHEREAS**, documented and published outcomes and benefits of Multi-Agency Centers include:

- Reduced Homicides,
- Increased victim safety,
- Increased autonomy and empowerment for victims,
- Reduced fear and anxiety for victims and their children,
- Reduced recantation and minimization of victims when they are wrapped in services and support,
- Increased efficiency in collaborative services among providers,
- Increased prosecution of offenders, and
- Dramatically increased community support for services to victims and their children (Gwinn & Strack, 2006), and

**WHEREAS**, a Multi-Agency Center has been identified as a best practice in the field of Family Violence intervention and prevention services by the US Department of Justice. Such Centers are also included in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2005, and

**WHEREAS**, some of the Cedar Park Police Department purposes include reducing crime, building trust, creating a safe environment, enhancing and supporting the quality of life in the community, and

**WHEREAS**, Hope Alliance's mission is to assist those whose lives have been affected by family and sexual violence by providing safety, services and developing partnerships that lead to hope, healing and prevention,