2021 Annual Report

Serving Victims of Dawson & Lumpkin Counties Since 1992

A New Shelter Is On The Horizon

NOA
No One Alone

MISSION STATEMENT

NOA provides safe haven and support services for victims of family violence. Through educational programs, NOA works to foster attitudes in the community that violence is not acceptable.

www.noonealone.org

NOA - PO BOX 685 - Dahlonega GA, 30533

24/7 Crisis Line: 706-864-1986 ~ Administrative Line: 706-867-0618

NOA
LEADERSHIP

Thank you for reading the 2021 Annual Report for No One Alone. As the current CEO for NOA's Board, I am honored to serve this wonderful organization. We have an enthusiastic group on our Board this year and it is a pleasure to work with all of them. NOA's Executive Director, Cara Ledford, is amazing. She, along with NOA's staff, works tirelessly to support our clients and assist the Board.

As all of you know, the past two years have been tough for everyone. Unfortunately, domestic violence has increased significantly during COVID. Individuals have been unable to leave their homes and the incidence of domestic violence has increased in many cases. During this time, NOA has continued to provide services to individuals and families in need and assisted them in transitioning to a safe environment. We remain committed to raising awareness and much needed funds to provide shelter and support services to victims of domestic violence and their children.

There will be a BBQ Blast and Fundraiser for NOA on July 23, 2022. This event is being sponsored by the Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office and will be held at Park & Rec in Dahlonega from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. There will be fun for the whole family, information about NOA and, of course, great BBQ. We hope all of you will attend. Tickets are available on NOA's website.

We also have exciting news...we were able to purchase a piece of property last year thanks to the Lowell S. Dunn and Betty L. Dunn Family Foundation and have begun our capital campaign to fund a new shelter facility. Our campaign will allow you to designate your donation for purchasing a room, furniture, appliances, etc. All donations are appreciated, regardless of the amount. Every dollar helps!

Finally, I encourage you to support NOA with monetary donations, items for the shelter or gently used articles to be sold at our thrift shop, Southern Finds. I cannot tell you how much each donation is appreciated and how it helps us provide services to individuals and families in our community. Our "Be the Change" program is an easy way to support NOA financially. Just go to our website www.noonealone.org to sign up for a monthly, annual, or one-time donation.

Thank you for your support of this incredible organization!

Debbie Jones, NOA CEO

2021-22 Board of Directors



For Information about joining our board please visit: www.noonealeone.org

Board Members:

Debbie Jones, CEO
Rebecca Capeheart, Treasurer
Tracy Unger, Secretary
Caite Blank
Joanie Cullity
Pamela Duran
Nick Gardiner
Stacy Jarrard
Megan Mazzola
Brenda Moran
Brandy Thomas

Advisory Council:

Margie Greer, Past CEO
Bob Monroe, Past Board Member

BE THE CHANGE
FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN



It costs an average of **$685** a day to operate the NOA shelter, nearly **$250,000** a year!

In 2021, NOA provided emergency shelter and support services such as counseling and financial assistance to 1,708 victims of domestic violence residing in Lumpkin & Dawson Counties!

Advocates responded to 3,289 crisis calls in 2021.

All services are **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** to victims in need.

The numbers tell a story of the need for NOA services continues to grow each year!

$10 pays for dinner for a mom and child, $25 covers the cost of a trauma assessment for a child, $50 covers the cost of gas for a mom to get to work for the week & $100 covers the cost of a support group.

Choose the amount that works for your budget!

Sign up today at: www.noonealone.org/bethechange

Or Mail your donation/monthly contribution to: NOA ~ PO Box 685 ~ Dahlonega, GA 30533

YOUR GIVING AT WORK

Without shelter and support services, lives would be in danger!

Financial Support		Expenses	
State & Federal Grants	86%	Client Services	38%
Foundations & Private Grants	6%	Shelter / Crisis	36%
Donations	3%	Legal Advocacy	6%
Donations	2%	Programs / Operating	12%
Local Government	2%	School / Community Outreach	5%
United Way	1%	Long-Term Housing Program	3%

NOA PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Many of you have been NOA supporters since the beginning, many of you have joined along the way, and many of you may only have learned about NOA recently. NOA has grown and expanded over the years, so we would like to share a brief overview of the activities and services our agency provides to update our longtime friends and help our new friends be aware of the comprehensive list of services offered.

NOA services address the many problems faced by victims of domestic violence beyond the initial crisis call. NOA not only offers emergency shelter, but also offers a multitude of support services needed by those that do not require shelter.

NOA's Support Services & Programs Include:

NOA served 1,704 men, women and children in 2021



24/7 Crisis Line: The NOA crisis line is the first point of contact to reach much needed help, information and support. Each call offers linkage to confidential emotional support, safe shelter, safety planning, community and safety resources. In 2021, NOA staff responded to 3,289 crisis calls.



Emergency Shelter: The safe confidential shelter is available 24/7, as a key component of the program, which also includes the provision of food, clothing, personal necessities, medical assistance and emergency financial assistance. In 2021, NOA housed 102 people and sheltered 30 victims in local motels due to lack of space at the NOA shelter.

Individual Trauma Counseling: Trauma counseling is provided by a licensed counselor to help clients overcome Post Traumatic stress, depression, anxiety and to regain a sense of control over their lives. Counseling is offered in a group setting as well. In 2021, 176 women, and 126 children attended individual counseling and support groups, in Dawson and Lumpkin Counties.

"Victims are at the highest risk of being killed by their abusive partners when they separate from them; both rates and seriousness of physical abuse increase during periods of separation and divorce."
- GA Domestic Violence Fatality Review

Legal Advocacy: NOA offers support and information about victim rights and legal options, assistance in filing Temporary Protective Orders [TPO's], accompanying clients to court, education about the judicial process, legal representation and referrals. Legal advocates assisted with 138 protective orders this past year.

Emergency Financial Assistance: Financial assistance is available to assist victims with relocation, transportation costs, rent, utilities, transportation and childcare. In 2021, NOA provided over $194,919 to victims in need.



Live Web Chat: Allows victims to message and talk to advocates if it is unsafe to call by visiting www.noonealone.org and clicking on the Live Support Chat Icon.



Children's Program: A primary goal of the NOA children's program is to address the impact of traumatic stress which profoundly affects the development of children. This is accomplished through weekly nurturing therapeutic activities to increase emotional vocabulary, develop safety plans, and foster healing. NOA advocates also meet individually with the parents of children of trauma to teach and encourage healing at home. 144 victims received 1,083 individual trauma counseling sessions and 176 women and 126 children attended weekly support groups.

Georgia as a State has recently received an unfortunate designation as being third in the country for the percentage of teenagers in an abusive relationship. We are currently collaborating with the schools in Lumpkin and Dawson Counties to educate students about healthy relationships and provide them with information about resources available to them.

Parents, we urge to talk to your kids and educate them about healthy relationships.



The School Violence Prevention Program: This program uses a variety of school curricula to teach violence prevention to students by building their knowledge and internal assets to protect them against violence at home and in personal relationships. In 2021, advocates spoke to 1,925 children in elementary, middle and high school settings on topics such as family violence, bullying, healthy relationships, dating violence and electronic safety.

Community Outreach Program: Outreach efforts aim to raise awareness of domestic violence through community partnerships with criminal justice and social service agencies, schools, civic organizations, churches and other groups. NOA advocates talked to 49 organizations and churches in 2021 concerning NOA services and information about domestic violence.

Life Skills Group: Weekly support groups teach victims important life skills such as budgeting, parenting, cooking, resume building, stress management, women's health options and finding ways to reduce anxiety. In 2021, advocates conducted 52 life skills groups.

Long Term Housing Program: This project addresses the need for safe and permanent housing that often arises when victims separate from their abuser. This project provides financial assistance, education and resources to relocate people into permanent housing, and/or assist victims to remain in permanent housing. Assistance with security deposits, first and last month's rent, utility deposits and payments, will provide the support victims need to live independent and productive lives. NOA enrolled 24w clients into the long term housing program in 2021.

Dear fellow NOA supporters,

NOA is very excited to announce that land has been purchased and we have officially begun the New Shelter Building Capital Campaign.

NOA has been fortunate in that our current shelter is graciously donated by the Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners and while we are very thankful to have had this facility to call our shelter for over 20 years, we are busting at the seams as this shelter is a very small house with three bedrooms and two bathrooms to share between 12 women and children.

NOA served 1,704 clients in 2021 and sheltered 132 women, men and children (men are sheltered in nearby motels). Our shelter remained full the majority of the year and it became very overwhelming to try and allow for social distancing when families often times share rooms. During the beginning months of 2021 when we were having both clients and staff sick with COVID, we decided to only have 1 family per room and we noticed a drastic difference in the healing process. Clients were able to focus on their trauma and relayed that they felt safe and we also noticed the conflict that usually occurred between the residents was virtually eliminated. Community living is very difficult, especially given that these women and children are very vulnerable and are in crisis mode.

With this knowledge in hand, we have a vision to build an inviting shelter with individual spaces for both single women as well as rooms dedicated for women with children, allowing them the space they need to heal and overcome the trauma that they have experienced. We will also have several spaces dedicated for counseling, children's' programs as well as life skills and parenting classes. We are focusing on building a shelter with a holistic mindset, but in order to make our vision a reality we need the help of our long time supporters as well as our Dawson & Lumpkin county community members.

Sincerely,
Cara Ledford, NOA Executive Director

Our Goal is to raise $1,000,000

Ways you can make a difference:

- ☐ Name a bedroom $25,000 (4 available)
- ☐ Name a family bedroom $30,000 (4 available
- ☐ Name a counseling room $20,000 (2 available)
- ☐ Name a group room $20,000 (2 available)
- ☐ Name an office $10,000 (2 available)
- ☐ General donation ANY amount: _____
- ☐ I want to fund the entire project $1,000,000
- ☐ Donate a service (grading, plumbing, painting, landscaping, electrical work etc.) call to discuss further
- ☐ Donate materials (concrete, paint, flooring, fixtures, furniture etc.) call to discuss further

Name as you would like it to appear on the room plaque:

_____

Honor someone special with this gift, name as you would like it to appear on plaque:

_____

Visit www.noonealone.org/shelter or call 706-867-0618 for more information
Checks can me mailed to: NOA - PO Box 685 - Dahlonega, GA 30533

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

Forest E. Witcraft TEACHER, SCHOLAR



Scholarship Program: NOA can sponsor women who are survivors of domestic violence through the Sunshine Lady Foundation's Women's Independence Scholarship Program. Their scholarships help survivors of domestic violence complete a college educational experience that will result in a secure and sufficient employment, and provide the footing they need to turn their dreams into a reality. NOA sponsored 2 women in 2021, and secured $2,000 in funding to assist them with tuition and living expenses.



Volunteer Program: Volunteers are a resource and vital part of the strategy for fulfilling the mission of NOA. We value our volunteers as they diversify and expand the services offered to our clients, families and the community.

In 2021, active volunteers, interns and members of the board contributed 4,195 hours of service.

NOA
No One Alone

NOA's Vision: Create a community with zero tolerance for all forms of violence and abuse.

Mary was referred to NOA by a local counseling agency after relaying an incident of violence to her counselor. She called the NOA crisis line and was immediately encouraged to come into shelter for her safety and the safety of her children. Mary was hesitant to come into shelter, but decided to come in and do an intake. After meeting with an advocate who completed a lethality assessment which revealed a high risk of lethality, she decided it was the best thing for her and her children to come into shelter.

Once settled into shelter, she was taken, by an advocate, to the sheriff's office to file a police report. As a result, her abuser was arrested. The next day, our legal advocate assisted her in obtaining a Temporary Protective Order to provide further protection for her and her minor children. NOA was also able to retain an attorney to represent her at the final hearing where she was granted a 12 month Protective Order.

We further assisted her financially with childcare which allowed her to work. NOA provided clothes from our thrift store for her and her children. As time passed, she began to be more relaxed and less anxious about her situation. She attended support group and individual counseling during her stay at the shelter. Her children also attended the children's support group as well. Mary also took advantage of parenting and life skills classes during her stay at the shelter. As her stay at the shelter was drawing to an end, we assisted her with deposits for electricity and water allowing her to move into her new home.

Upon leaving shelter and moving into her own home, NOA advocates continued to assist her with case management on a non-residential basis by attending divorce hearings and custody hearings, providing the support needed to allow her to navigate through the daunting processes that come through our complex judicial system.

When she came to our agency, this victim was a stay-at-home mom with no access to family resources. She had no support system and her abuser was a very controlling, jealous and violent alcoholic. As a result, she was unable to pursue any dreams or personal goals in her life and she lived in constant fear of his disapproval and anger.

She is now divorced, attending school, maintaining a job, and making wonderful progress in her recovery from the trauma of domestic violence. Her kids are also doing great and she can now live her life in a way that is healthy and safe for her family.



(name changed for confidentiality)

SOUTHERN FINDS THRIFT STORE

SHOP • DONATE • RECYCLE

N1A No One Alone

TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Store Hours: Monday –Saturday
10:00 am to 5:30 pm

20 Memorial Drive, Dahlonega
Across from Wells Fargo

Pickups Available

Donations Needed

Volunteers Wanted



Southern Finds Thrift store offers gently used clothing, home décor and furniture at unbeatable prices.

100% of the proceeds support victims of domestic violence.



Did you know that:

- Everything in our store is donated from local community members & businesses.
- In 2021, the store provided over 200 in-store vouchers to at risk families, allowing them to get much needed clothing, household items and furniture at no cost to them.

SOUTHERN FINDS

Almost 300,000 pounds of unwanted items were kept out of local landfills because of a recycling program we take part in.

Individuals

Ann Ash
Jack Backman
Gary Banister
Alrfed Barr
Paula Bingham
Susan Binkert
Caite Blank
Kenneth & Cynthia Blank
Susan Binkert
Dana Bowen
Josh Bowling
Patrick Brehe
Lynn Campbell
Kathleen Childs
Betty Dunn
J.M. Clagett, DMD
Charles & Suzanne Crossan
Melodie Cunningham
Elizabeth A. Dalton
Pamela Duran
Dr. Barry Friedman
Naomi Frias
Hannah Gaddis
Nick Gardiner
Amy & Dentiny Glider
Robert Grove
Elizabeth Hampton
Wendy Harris
Ginger Hicks
Alan Jeglinski
Rosalie Jensen
Charles & Deborah Jones
Robin & Stacy Kottman
Shannon Lachot
Shelley Logan
D.C. Maxwell
Robert & Connie Monroe
Alan & Elizabeth Ours
Thomas Poliziano
Fred & Helen Ridsdale
January Shifleet
Evelyn & William Shirley
Dr. Kathy Sisk
Rhonda Sheppard
Lawrence & Tania Stumbaugh
David Summerlin
Michael Weitze
Cheryl Whitley
Laura Witt
Lori Ybarra

Businesses

Administrative Solutions Group
Anderson Underwood Funeral Home
Apcon, Inc.
Bearden Funeral Home
Bob's Family Housing, Inc.
Caper's on the Square
Chestatee Ford
Fidelity Brokerage Service
Happy Days Travel Club
Koyo Bearings, USA
Law Office of Alfred Chang
NEGA Council on DV
NEGA Medical Center
Red Oak Lavender Farm
RefrigiWear
Shenanigan's Irish Pub
The Benevity Impact Community Fund
The Blackbaud Giving Fund

Churches

Big Canoe Chapel
Challengers Sunday School Class
Dahlonega United Methodist Church
Grace Presbyterian Church
St. Luke's Catholic Church
St. Peter Lutheran Church
Wesley Chapel United Methodist

Clubs & Organizations

Achasta Ladies Club, Inc.
Big Canoe Women's Guild
The Dahlonega Women's Club
The Dawson County Women's Club

Civic Organizations

Vietnam Veterans of America

Corporate

Kroger
Northside Hospital
Northeast Georgia, Inc. (McDonald's)
SunTrust United Way Campaign

A Special Thank You To The Lowell S. Dunn and Betty L. Dunn Family Foundation for Supporting NOA for over 20 Years! Your Generosity Has Made an Everlasting Impact on Our Program

***NOA** is dependent on funding and donations to ensure that **"No One is Alone"** and **"No One"** has to return to a violent situation.*

Please accept our sincerest apology if your name was accidentally omitted from our list.

ADOPT A FAMILY CHRISTMAS DONORS

Thank you to the donors that ensured a brighter Christmas for those going through traumatic times. Domestic violence affects the entire family and most especially the children. This program ensures that each family experiences the spirit of the holidays through gifts made possible by these generous donors:

Burk, Mackenzie
Calderhead, Sahara
Dawson County Woman's Club
Dawson Sports and Wellness
Dahlonega Women's Club
Exovations
Farm Bureau of Dawsonville
Hall, DaAnnal
Hays, Emma Stovall and Darla
Infinity Floating and Healing Center
ITW Contamination Control Electronics
Lisa Segars, Colleen Mounce & Friends
Mikul, Kelli
Piotrowski, Lynda
Refrigiwear
Satellite Industries
Schweiger, Joy
Shattuck, Trisha
Supplies on the Fly
Thompson, Deb
UNG Honors Program
Wilson, Ella
Xi Xi Chapter of Delta



SHELTER ONGOING NEEDS LIST

Bring this list with you the next time you're shopping & don't forget to link your Kroger rewards to NOA!

Food
- Caned foods
- Cereals
- Sugar
- Flour
- Non perishable food items
- Non perishable juices

Condiments
- Ketchup
- Mayo
- Mustard
- Ranch dressing
- Thousand island dressing
- Jellies

Household items
- Paper napkins
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Dishwasher soap/detergent
- Dish soap
- Trash bags
- Laundry soap
- Dryer sheets
- Fabric softener
- Kleenex
- Cleaning supplies
- Bleach
- Sponges
- Zip lock bags
- Foil

Toiletries
- Hairbrushes/combs
- Lotion
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Hairspray/gel
- Deodorant
- Ladies razors/shaving cream
- Q tips
- Dental floss
- Tampons
- Pads
- Body wash
- Make up
- Hair scissors

Miscellaneous
- Alarm clocks
- Grocery gift cards
- Gas cards
- Dish towels
- Twin sheets / Comforters
- Arts/Craft kits for children
- Toys (all ages)



All donations can be dropped of at Southern Finds Thrift Store during normal business hours

Monday - Saturday 10:00am - 5:30pm



JULY 23, 2022

4:30 - 7:30 pm

(Come and Go)

Lumpkin County Parks & Rec

Sponsored by
The Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office

GREAT FOOD
SILENT AUCTION
BOUNCY HOUSE and SLIDE
CORN HOLE

Presented by

NOA
No One Alone

For more information or to purchase tickets please visit www.noonealone.org/bbq or call 706-867-0618

All Proceeds Benefit Victims of Domestic Violence.

United Way

This publication was made possible by PSSF, CJCC and United Way of Forsyth.