

Coastal Women's Shelter

Attaining 501(c) 3 non-profit status in 1985, Coastal Women's Shelter is the sole provider of no-cost comprehensive domestic violence services in Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties.

As we work to eradicate domestic violence in the areas we serve, our mission is to help families break the cycle of domestic violence and acquire the skills necessary to promote healthy family relationships.



Fiscal Year 2020 Board of Directors

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Tova Hairston Executive Director



Mary Beth Fennell President Board of Directors

A Message from our Leaders

Fiscal year 2020* was a study in contrasts. It began with a calendar full of events and fundraisers, the anticipation of a new baby in December for our executive director, and an expanding slate of volunteers...but Mother Nature had her own plans to squelch our enthusiasm.

In August 2019, Hurricane Dorian skirted the North Carolina coast, bringing back powerful memories of the previous year's flooding. In October, the new bundle of joy made an unexpectedly early appearance, derailing plans for a smooth transition to interim leadership. And in March 2020, COVID-19 turned the world upside down.

However, with each new challenge, our staff members were resilient and resourceful, quickly implementing plans to assure that our mission remained focused and our clients, served. Duties were shared among our advocates during the maternity leave of our executive director, and Safe House residents were relocated to alternative lodging when severe weather and plumbing issues threatened our shelter's secure operation.

Fall festivals, remembrance vigils, and public presentations brought opportunities to meet and educate our neighbors about our mission. And while COVID-19 forced us to cancel our spring fundraisers, monetary contributions and donations of food and supplies surpassed our expectations.

Today – despite the pervasiveness of the coronavirus – we remain committed to providing high-quality, trauma-informed services to survivors of domestic violence in Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties. Advocates now connect remotely with clients when possible; and other operational changes have been made to reduce the spread of the disease. Our thrift store and office are once again safely engaging volunteers to support operations after an eight-week closure, and we are excited to continue exploring new opportunities for volunteers to give back in creative ways.

Looking ahead, Coastal Women's Shelter will soon be establishing a capital campaign to replace its aging Safe House. This emergency shelter is our most important, life-saving service; and we hope to build on the momentum of donors to move this project forward. Doing so will allow us to help more survivors across our service area who are unable to stay in their homes due to violence.

As the new fiscal year begins, we must thank our Board of Directors, our staff, our volunteers, and our donors for their continued dedication. We must also thank the more than 700 residents of Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties who were brave and strong enough to trust us to be their partners and support on their journeys to violence-free lives. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of families across our area.

* July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020



"Dance It Up Purple" Zumbathon Charity Event

Funding Overview

The major source of funding for Coastal Women's Shelter during fiscal year 2020 came from the Craven County Commissioners and from non-profit entities such as the

North Carolina Coalition against Domestic Violence, United Way of Coastal Carolina, North Carolina Community Foundation, and PNC Foundation.

Contributions from individuals, churches, and civic organizations made up the bulk of our

remaining budget. These donations included financial gifts as well as "in-kind" items such as food, clothing, and personal needs.

Coastal Women's Shelter also operates a resale store – Helping Hands Boutique – which provides revenue to our agency as well as clothing for our clients.

In addition, a fall Zumbathon was sponsored by the Havelock Police Department with proceeds benefitting our mission. Cosponsors and vendors from across the area gathered at the Havelock Tourist and Event Center.

Other annual fundraisers were canceled because of COVID-19.

<u>Craven County Commissioners</u> \$25,000 for Safe House Operations





North Carolina Coalition Against

Domestic Violence
\$15,250 for Financial Empowerment Program

<u>United Way of Coastal Carolina</u> \$10,000 for Safe House Operations



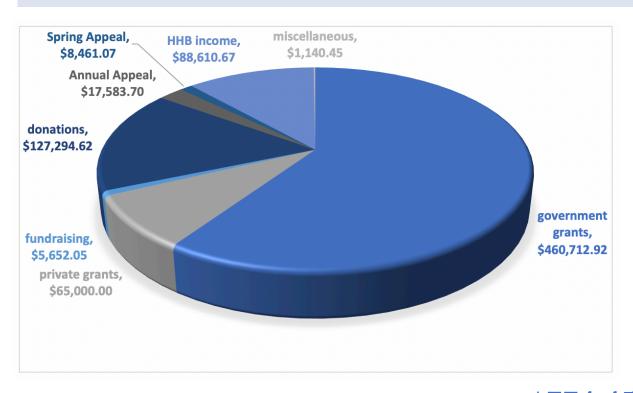


North Carolina Community Foundation \$10,000 for Operational Support

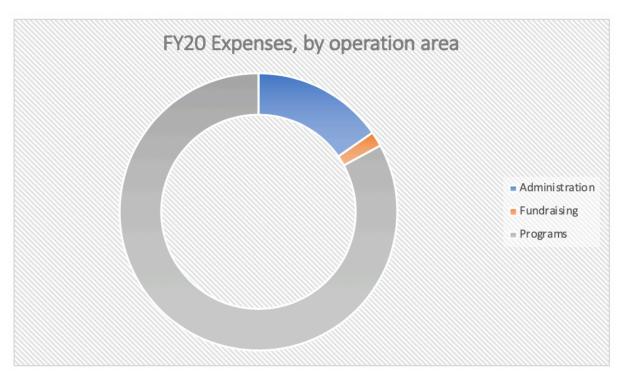
PNC Foundation \$8,000 for New Beginnings programs



Income & Expenses



Total annual income \$774,455.48



Total annual expenses \$730,645.41

Whom We Serve

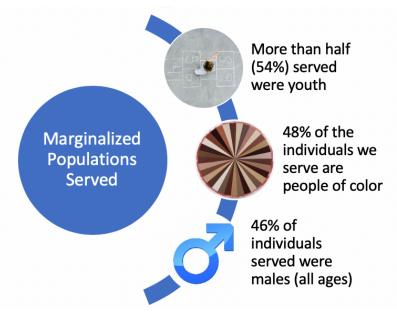
The vast majority of individuals served by Coastal Women's Shelter in Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties live at or just below the federal poverty level, which is defined by the US

Department of Health and Human Services as \$26,200 a year for a family of four.

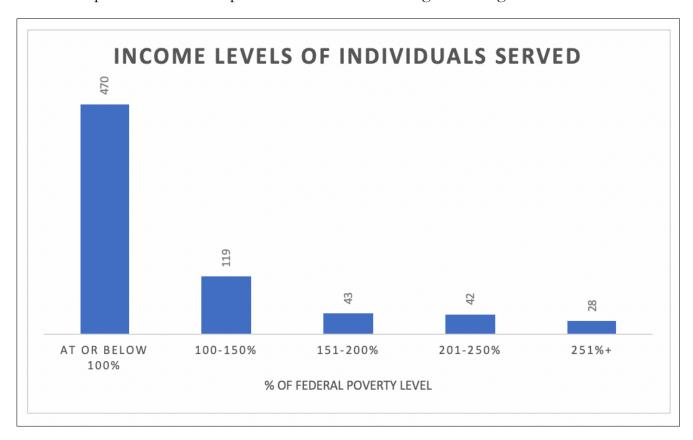
However, many families seeking our assistance live far below that standard.

More than half -54% – of our clients are youth, and 48% are people of color.

Our agency assists clients of all genders, and 46% of individuals we serve identify as male. To help meet the needs for emergency shelter beyond the Safe House's capacity,



we work with hotels, domestic violence agencies in neighboring counties, and homeless shelters to provide alternate options for survivors seeking safe refuge.



Whom We Serve

In fiscal year 2020, Coastal Women's Shelter served 702 individual clients in Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties, providing court advocacy, monthly support groups for women and children, transportation, tuition assistance, clothing, food, employment resources, housing assistance, inter-agency information, referrals, and a 24-hour crisis line.

Challenges faced by our target population included lack of transportation, need for childcare, lack of education, lack of family support for continuing their education and/or employment, lack of knowledge about effective parenting practices, domestic violence, and homelessness due to fleeing unsafe relationships.

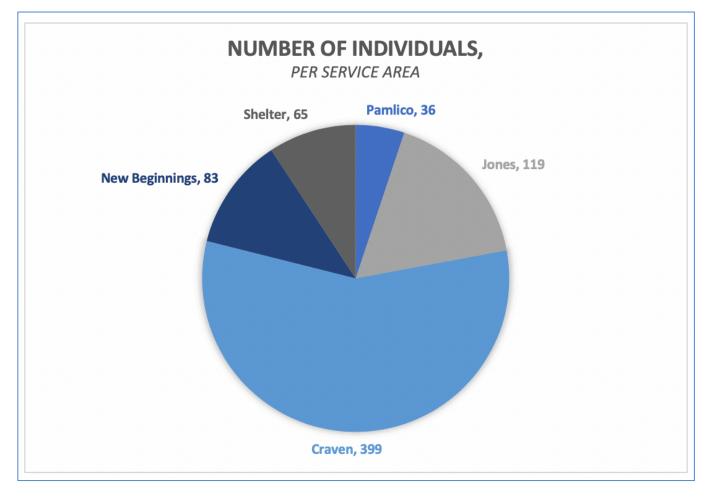
The New Beginnings Program – a life skills and career development course for victims of domestic violence who desire personal growth and change – is one way that we are meeting these challenges. The program is offered in partnership with the Family Violence Prevention

and Services Program, the North Carolina Council for Women and Youth Involvement, and the United Way of Coastal Carolina.

Family Violence Prevention & Services Program







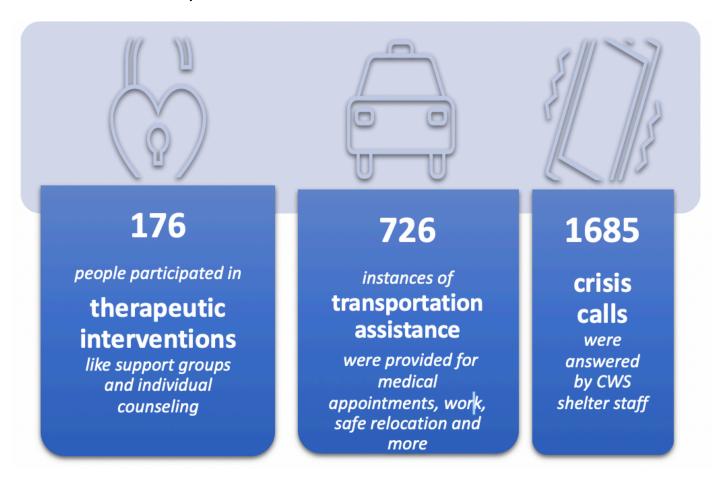
How We Serve

Coastal Women's Shelter offers many critical services for survivors along their journey to safety and freedom. All services are provided at no cost and are offered in a trauma-informed environment that honors each survivor's experiences and leverages those experiences as cornerstones for individual safety and action plans.



The chart (above) shows the services we provided for survivors served in fiscal year 2020.

Additionally (below), we provided support and assistance to domestic violence survivors over the course of the year.



How We Serve

\$34,426.43 went directly to survivors!



Why We Serve

Testimonials from our clients

"Earlier this year, I was a victim of domestic violence. I had no idea where to turn to or how to get help with understanding what was going on with my case. I was referred to the Coastal Women's Shelter where I met Miss Lisa. She helped me file for a restraining order and helped me through the process...[She] is helping to set me up with counseling so that I can begin to heal and move on with my life. This organization does so many great things. I'm so thankful to have been referred here."

"After law enforcement arrested my husband for a domestic violence incident, I contacted the Jones County Magistrate's office [and was connected to a victim advocate] as a resource for help with my case ... The care and service provided through Coastal Women's Shelter by has been a God's send. I hope one day to help others as I have been helped. Thank you for all that you do, and may the Lord continue to bless you as you bless others."

"Coastal Women's shelter has really seen me as a seed and helped me grow by watering my hopes and dreams and killing the nightmare weeds at the same time. Especially my domestic violence advocate. Ms. Ruzalia Davis has really been someone to share my concerns about basic life, helping me to begin a new life where the land meets the sea."

For more information about our advocacy for domestic violence victims and to read these survivors' complete testimonials, please visit our website at coastalwomensshelter.org.

How We Reach Out

Educating the public about domestic violence is a vital component of our mission at Coastal Women's Shelter. During fiscal year 2020, staff members met with civic and religious organizations across our service area, led dating violence awareness workshops at local high schools, and hosted vigils to honor and remember victims of domestic abuse.

Along with our Board members, staff also represented the agency at National Night Out, New Bern Mumfest, Havelock Chili Fest, Jones County Heritage Festival, Pamlico County Croaker Festival, and United Way Bacon and Brew Festival.

Staff and volunteers greeted over 400 Touch-a-Truck guests (including Smokey the Bear and friends, right) at Pamlico Community College and applauded as 177 supporters participated in our 21st Annual Run for Shelter fundraiser

Fiscal Year 2020 Staff

Tova Hairston • Executive Director Kimberly Drew • Craven County Victim Advocate Lisa Moore • Jones County Victim Advocate Ruzalia Davis • Pamlico County Victim Advocate Valerie Merkler • Operations Manager Shirley Bryant • Shelter Director Patty Conway • Fund Development Coordinator Christa Siener • Helping Hands Boutique Manager Amanda Delgado • Education & Prevention Coordinator (below) in the pouring rain.

Each month, we distributed a newsletter containing photographs and articles about our agency and publicizing the work done by our "good neighbors."

More information can be found on our website - coastalwomensshelter.org - and on our Facebook pages, Coastal Women's Shelter and Helping Hands Boutique.



Coastal Women's Shelter • Fiscal Year 2020 Report to the Community

How You Can Help

From donations of funds, food, and hygiene products to gifts of time, expertise, and skilled labor, community contributions continue to be the lifeblood that keeps Coastal Women's Shelter strong for those who need us most.

During fiscal year 2020, volunteers donated over 4,300 hours of their time by serving on our Board of Directors, providing administrative and clerical support, serving as community advocates for outreach efforts, and supporting Safe House and thrift store operations.

As survivors of violence continue to seek safety and support through our agency, we will always need the support of our community. Simply put, we could not do this lifesaving work without you!

To become a volunteer or to make a monetary contribution, please visit our website at coastalwomensshelter.org.

Or contact us at 252.638.4509.



