



The Rowan Center
A Sexual Assault Resource Agency
Empower. Educate. Eliminate.

Annual Report

2023-2024

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Letter from Leadership

2024 was a year of transformation and growth for us, marked by remarkable achievements and the heart-wrenching loss of a beloved staff member. Through every triumph and challenge, it was the unwavering support of our community—our donors, partners, staff, and board—that empowered us to continue fulfilling our mission. We remain humbled by the survivors and families who have trusted us to be part of their healing journey.

One of our most significant accomplishments was the opening of our Trauma Recovery Clinic, a long-anticipated resource offering trauma-informed, long-term therapy to community members who otherwise might not have access to vital mental health care. The grand opening on July 1st was a realization of years of planning and a testament to our commitment to health equity in Connecticut.

This past year, our board of directors made several important strategic decisions, investing financial resources to expand our services further. Most notably, these decisions included opening the clinic, hiring a Chief Operating Officer to advance our succession plan, and placing a deeper focus on our fundraising and development program. After six straight years of financial growth, the board recognized that these steps were essential for our future and committed the necessary resources to bring them to fruition.

This year also saw the emergence of concerning trends—sextortion, trafficking, and rising child abuse cases—which prompted a new wave of community engagement. In addition to educating nearly 20,000 children, teachers, parents, and community members, we provided crisis services to several schools, offering essential support and resources when they needed it most. We've also expanded crisis counseling services, extending care to children as young as 10 to meet growing needs.

In the midst of these strides, we mourned the passing of our beloved Justice Advocacy Coordinator, Michelle Gucik, on March 1st. Michelle's relentless dedication brought hope to survivors in their darkest times. To honor her legacy, we have established the Michelle Gucik Advocate of the Year Award, to be presented each April during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Michelle's commitment to justice and support for victims will forever inspire our work.

As you explore this report, we are proud to share the highlights and operational updates from this remarkable year. We are deeply grateful for every individual who makes our work possible, and we remain steadfast in our mission to be the best provider of sexual assault prevention resources for our eight Lower Fairfield County communities.

Mary Forman Flynn

Chief Executive Officer

Jen Barnard

Chair of the Board

Our Impact

2024 was a transformative year for The Rowan Center. With the opening of our Trauma Recovery Clinic and expanded services, we met the growing needs of our community, delivering life-changing support to individuals and families across the region. These numbers tell the story of our impact and commitment to providing hope and healing.



Opened Trauma Recovery Clinic

680

Unique individuals received crisis services

1,406

Hotline Services

236

Client Referrals

Met a growing need with increased services

Provided education to the community:

732 presentations

Served **19,179** participants through prevention education

Taught in **45** unique schools and organizations

128

Client Accompaniments

44% increase in hotline services

DRAMATIC increase in accompaniments to hospitals, court, police interactions, and forensic interviews

1,148

Client Counseling Sessions

54% increase in outreach activities

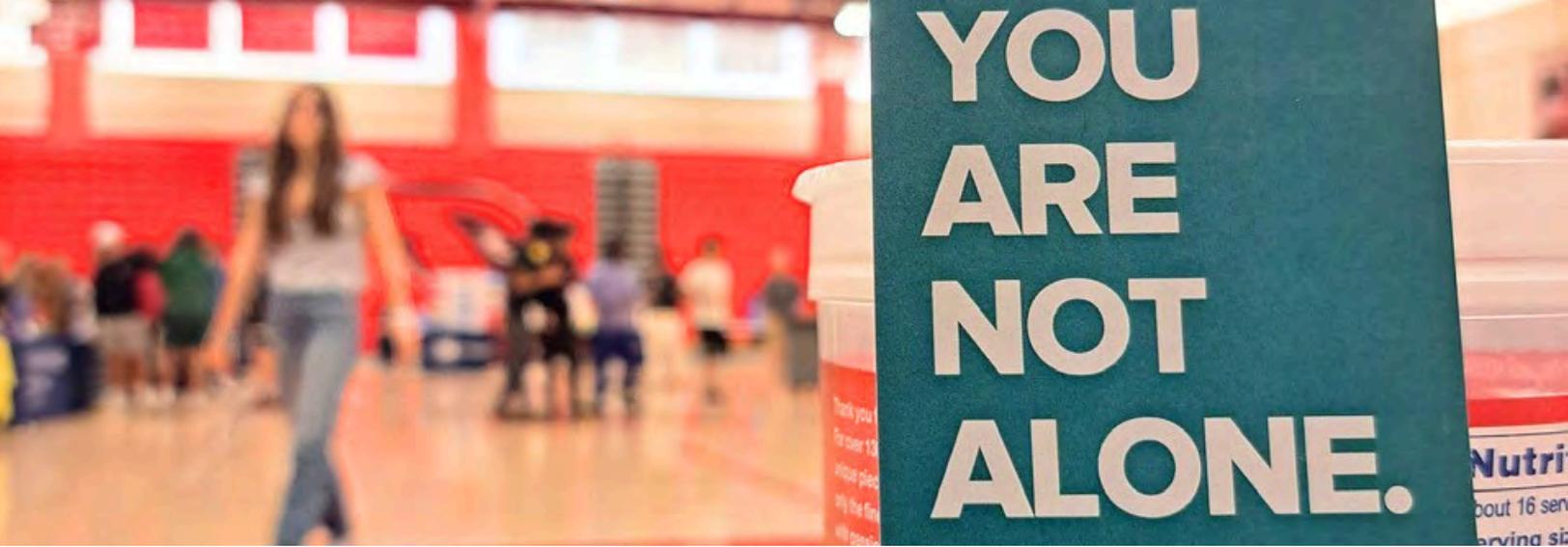
Trauma Recovery Clinic

In 2024, we proudly marked a significant milestone with the opening of the Trauma Recovery Clinic (TRC) at The Rowan Center, expanding our services to offer clinical therapy to adult trauma survivors who rely on Connecticut Medicaid (HUSKY) as their primary insurance.

To lead this initiative, we welcomed Dr. Liberty Eberly, MD, as our first Medical Director. Additionally, two of our Counseling Department team members embraced new roles: Luke Robbins, LCSW, as Clinical Director, and Isabel Negron, LMSW, as our Bilingual Therapist. With this dedicated team in place, the TRC began accepting clients on July 1, 2024, and on July 17, we celebrated the clinic's grand opening with staff, community partners, clients, and elected officials—a momentous event for our organization and community.

In early September, we welcomed our first MSW intern, who is receiving training in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), a specialized therapeutic approach designed to help trauma survivors process and heal from their experiences. This addition further underscores our commitment to providing the highest level of care possible. With new clients joining each week, we are excited to witness the clinic's growth and the strengthening health and resilience of our community. The Trauma Recovery Clinic embodies our mission of bringing healing, hope, and transformative action to trauma survivors.





Crisis Counseling

In 2024, the Counseling Department expanded access to crisis counseling and emotional support services for youth in Lower Fairfield County, addressing the rising rates of sexual violence affecting young people in our community. Recognizing the urgent need for support, the department introduced weekly office hours at two local high schools, creating a healing space for students to receive emotional support. This initiative was particularly vital for trafficking survivors within these school communities, offering them a lifeline of care and assistance.

Additionally, the department coordinated immediate support services and short-term crisis counseling for both primary victims and those indirectly impacted, including parents, teachers, and school personnel, following sexual abuse incidents at local elementary and middle schools. This immediate response underscores our commitment to providing compassionate care not only to survivors but also to the broader school community affected by such traumatic events.

To meet the needs of younger survivors, we lowered the minimum age for counseling services from 14 to 10 years old, closing a crucial gap in emotional support services for children and addressing the rising number of sexual violence cases involving younger individuals.

By the end of FY 2023-2024, these initiatives resulted in a 32% increase in the number of minors served and a 50% increase in services provided compared to the previous half of the fiscal year. Looking ahead, the Counseling Department remains dedicated to expanding and enhancing its services for minors, prioritizing the well-being of young survivors in Lower Fairfield County as we work together to transform lives.

Education

We delivered **732** presentations, collaborated with **45** schools, and reached **19,179** participants through our prevention education programs.

Additionally, we conducted **3** emergency responses to incidents of child sex trafficking and staff sexual misconduct within our catchment area.



In 2024, our Education Department played a crucial role in advancing our mission to prevent sexual violence and raise awareness across the community. Through targeted prevention education, we reached nearly 20,000 individuals, including students, educators, mental health clinicians, healthcare workers, parents, and community partners. Engaging these groups helped us foster a community-wide commitment to prevention, response, and support.

Prevention education is at the heart of The Rowan Center's work to combat sexual violence, equipping community members with the tools and knowledge necessary to respond effectively when someone discloses an incident of sexual violence. Our training provides individuals with practical skills, from recognizing the signs of abuse to knowing how and where to seek help. By fostering an informed environment, we ensure survivors feel encouraged to seek services and know there is a network of allies ready to support them.

Our education efforts have built a foundation of safety, empathy, and understanding throughout the community, helping prevent future incidents by encouraging open dialogue and shared accountability. We are proud to work alongside community partners who help us amplify our impact, extending our reach to create a more supportive and responsive environment.

Together, we are building a safer community where individuals can turn to The Rowan Center with confidence. Our commitment to fostering safety remains unwavering, and we continue working toward a meaningful impact in the fight against sexual violence, ensuring that everyone in our communities has the resources they need for lasting change.

Advocacy and Outreach

In response to the growing demand for crisis support and advocacy services for victims and survivors of sexual assault, our Department of Advocacy and Outreach has been a driving force for comprehensive support and empowerment. Over the past year, our team has worked tirelessly to provide both immediate assistance and long-term support for survivors. Through our 24/7 hotline, we offered critical crisis intervention and information, ensuring that help was always just a call away, day or night. Beyond immediate intervention, we provided empowerment-focused accompaniment throughout the criminal justice process, standing by survivors as they navigated interactions with police, court appearances, and other legal challenges.

Our advocacy extended beyond individual cases; we played an active role in statewide coalitions and systems advocacy to uphold victims' rights and strengthen legal protections. By engaging in these broader efforts, we contributed to shaping policies that improve outcomes for survivors across Connecticut. We also continued to train trauma-informed sexual assault crisis advocates and counselors, expanding our capacity to offer compassionate, expert support to even more survivors in need.

Looking ahead, our Department of Advocacy and Outreach remains steadfast in its mission to deliver comprehensive support, advocacy, and empowerment to every survivor. We continue to lead efforts for systemic change, advocating for policies that safeguard victims' rights and enhance protections statewide.



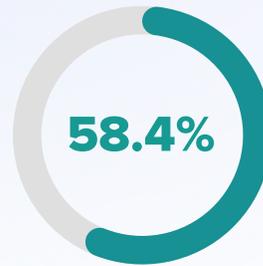
In the past year, we saw a **44%** increase in hotline services, reflecting the growing need for immediate crisis support.

Additionally, there was a **DRAMATIC** increase in client accompaniments to hospitals, court, police interactions, and forensic interviews—demonstrating the critical role our advocates play in supporting survivors through every step of the process.

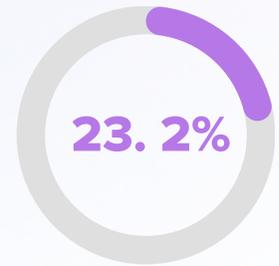
Our **54%** increase in outreach activities highlights our commitment to extending our reach, raising awareness, and advocating for systemic change.

Financials

OPERATING REVENUE	
FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS	\$808,520
GRANTS	\$320,425
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$147,076
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS	\$108,201
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,384,222



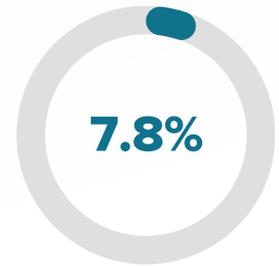
FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS



GRANTS

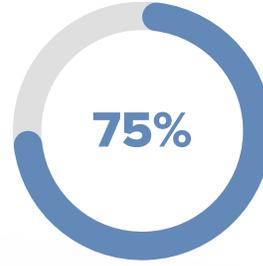


SPECIAL EVENTS



OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

OPERATING EXPENSES	
PROGRAM SERVICES	\$1,104,664
MANAGEMENT/GENERAL	\$195,539
DEVELOPMENT	\$170,016
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,470,219



PROGRAM SERVICES



MANAGEMENT/GENERAL



DEVELOPMENT

TOTAL EXPENSES OVER REVENUE (\$85,998)

The Impact of Your Support

“I was abused as a child, and I didn’t tell anyone. I suffered for many years, believing that what happened to me was somehow my fault. When I found The Rowan Center, they told me that they believed me, that what happened to me was a crime, and that it was never my fault. Through many crisis counseling sessions, I began healing and found my voice to advocate for myself. I’m so thankful for their services and all the kindness and support they have provided me.”

“When my college-aged daughter was sexually assaulted as a freshman, we didn’t know where to turn. We found several therapists for her to work with, but none of them really understood the trauma from sexual assault. I called The Rowan Center hotline and knew immediately that the advocate I spoke with knew how we were feeling. We were referred to crisis counseling, where we were able to get the help we needed right away.”

“After I was sexually assaulted, I made the decision to file a police report. I was really afraid and didn’t know what to expect. A Rowan Center advocate was with me through the entire process, explaining every step and being so supportive during a very difficult time. I’m so grateful for people that do this work and make it possible for victims to find justice.”



Our Donors

\$20,000+

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Fairfield County's Community Foundation
Odyssey Group Foundation
Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation
Tudor Foundation, Inc.

\$10,000-\$19,999

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MS, RN, NHA,

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Former Chair of the Board

Rebecca Wilson, LMSW

Ways to Support Our Mission

SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS ADVOCATE TRAINING

Our 40-hour certification program provides a unique opportunity to learn from The Rowan Center’s team of experts and gain essential skills to support survivors. This comprehensive training includes interactive modules, readings, videos, guest speakers, and hands-on experiences, such as visits to a hospital emergency room and a local police station. Participants engage in roleplays, group work, and individual exercises to build confidence and advocacy skills.

Upon completion, you’ll be fully prepared to volunteer as a Sexual Assault Crisis Advocate, providing critical support on our 24/7 crisis hotline. For more details on our next training session, contact Raquel Lopez, Crisis Advocate Programs Administrator, at rlopez@therowancenter.org.

ATTEND EVENTS

Joining events in support of The Rowan Center is a powerful way to help survivors of sexual violence and prevent future harm. Our events not only raise vital funds for counseling, advocacy, and education programs, but they also bring together individuals who share our mission. By participating, you actively contribute to expanding services, supporting survivors, and raising awareness to build a safer, more informed community.

EMPLOYEE MATCH

Make your gift go even further by exploring your company’s corporate match program. Many companies match donations to eligible nonprofits dollar-for-dollar— or more—allowing you to significantly amplify your contribution. It’s an easy way to double or even triple the difference you’re making. Don’t miss out on this powerful opportunity to maximize the impact of your support for The Rowan Center.

GIVE

You can create a community of healing, hope, and action for everyone. By investing in prevention education, advocating for victims and survivors, and ensuring access to counseling and vital resources, you can make a lasting impact on the lives of those affected by sexual violence.





Community Partners



We proudly serve the eight towns of Lower Fairfield County: Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport, and Wilton.

Mission

We counsel victims and survivors as they process their experiences of sexual violence from the past, we advocate for them as they navigate the circumstances of the present, and we educate our communities to prevent sexual violence in the future.

Vision

Our vision is that our communities are educated, empowered, and free from sexual violence.

Statement of Inclusion

The Rowan Center serves all survivors of sexual violence in our eight-town region, regardless of age, sex, immigration status, race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or religious or spiritual beliefs.

Contact Us

1111 Summer Street, Suite 202
Stamford, CT 06905
(203) 348-9346



@therowancenter
therowancenter.org

24-Hour Crisis Hotlines:

English	(203) 329-2929
Spanish	(888) 568-8332
Toll-Free	(888) 999-5545
Chat	therowancenter.org