

Rise-NY P.O. Box 393 Endicott, NY 13761 Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 588 Binghamton, NY









## OUR MISSION

Rise's mission is to assist families who experience or are threatened with domestic violence and to increase the community's awareness of this pervasive problem.

## OUR WORK

We provide comprehensive domestic violence services, including: shelter, hotline, advocacy, legal, counseling, and community education.



Provided 5,694 safe shelter nights to 151 women and men and 125 children



2,615 calls to our 24-hour hotline were answered



16,318 advocacy services were provided to 1,887 survivors



415 individual and group counseling sessions were completed



70 trainings, talks or tablings at community education events were provided

### A note from our BOARD PRESIDENT

2019 was a year of growth and celebration for Rise. Over the course of this year we welcomed six new board members who have already contributed greatly to board operations. Rise staff have met the challenges of this year with professionalism, compassion, and determination. Their hard work and dedication are the heart and soul of Rise.

Two exciting ways in which Rise has expanded our services are Courtney Ignarri through an advocacy position with the Johnson City Police and an attorney position facilitated through Legal Aid. These additions allow Rise to expand our services, build connections with important agencies, and, most of all, better support survivors.

Rise has benefited from physical improvements to our administrative building. First, via support by the Jewish Foundation for the Education of Women Leadership Scholars Program who conducted a service-learning project to makeover a counselor's office. Additionally, the administrative building received some much needed improvements from the United Way Day of Caring.

Support like this from agencies, organizations, and other non-profits is essential, but we could not continue the important work of Rise without support from donors like you. We are excited by what's to come in 2020 and look forward to another year of providing new beginnings to those in need of a fresh start.

### Board of Directors

President Courtney Ignarri Vice President Paul Magner Treasurer Tad Cline / Kristopher Bryson Secretary Leslie Reid Members Robert Adams Ronald Bill Jane Blake René Coderre Debra Cohn Cathie Dalev Denise Edmister Kerry Gallagher Debra Gelson Christina Kunzman Dave Mazzini Ada Robinson-Perez Craig Williams

## Community Outreach and Education



Rise partnered with the Binghamton Rumble Ponies to advance MiLB's Joe Torre Safe at Home Initiative. Rise staff spoke during the game, manned informational tables, and raffled off a Joe Torre signature baseball.



Rise raised awareness about domestic violence in collaboration with the Endicott Performing Arts Center's production of "Little Shop of Horrors",
Tri-Cities Opera's
"Tosca", and the BU Dickinson Players "The Vagina Monologues."



## A New Collaboration with Law Enforcement

Rise and the Johnson City Police Department began an exciting collaboration in November to improve safety for domestic violence victims in their jurisdiction. Rise employs a full-time advocate at the police department to consult on domestic cases, train police colleagues, follow up on domestic incident reports, offer support, advocacy and other services to victims, and connect them with community resources. This advocate also co-responds to domestic calls to provide immediate services, when victims are most likely to be receptive and in need of assistance.

This three project is funded through a competitive federal Office of Victims of Crime/Office of Justice Programs grant, with only 30 police departments selected to be recipients

nationwide. In her first two months, the victim specialist assisted 55 victims and served as a resource for 12 police officers. The Johnson City Police Department has been very receptive to hosting a Rise victim specialist and we feel that this program is increasing community safety by promoting perpetrator accountability and contributing a traumainformed approach to JCPD.

This is Rise's second law enforcement-based advocacy position. We have had an advocate at the Broome County Sheriff's Office since 2009.



#### 2 Growing Healthy Meals

The Rise shelter follows federal dietary guidelines to serve nutritious meals to residents in our shelter. While breakfast and snacks are informal, dinner is served family style, with adult residents responsible for cooking duty on a rotational basis.

This Summer we were able to start serving fresh vegetables grown in our garden. We could not have done this project without support from VINES, which funded and implemented the construction of the raised beds and planting. We hope to continue to involve shelter residents in planting, gardening and harvesting, as gardening can be a therapeutic activity and will help teach children about where their food comes from.

# 3 Expanding Our Educational Group at the Broome County Jail

In late 2018, Rise started providing domestic violence educational groups to female inmates with a history of victimization at the Broome County Jail. We started in one pod but later expanded to both pods to meet demand for the program from both inmates and jail staff. Rise is one of only a handful of domestic violence providers to offer such a program to jailed survivors nationwide. This program is important because the majority of America's female inmate population have experienced abuse. Below is one such survivor's story.

Although Lucy was free from her abusive relationship, she acknowledged that she still had unprocessed trauma to address. She actively participated in group and shared her story. After the 6th week, she heard that she was being transferred to another correctional facility. She wanted to get the most out of the group, so our advocate agreed to meet with her individually to finish the remaining two sessions. During that time, she really opened up and listened to the information provided. Upon their last meeting, she cried and thanked our advocate. She shared that she had learned so much about herself. She learned how to let go of the things she cannot control, begin to heal from the trauma she'd experienced, and realized that she should seek therapy upon her release.

Our advocate later received a card from Lucy in which she'd written "I just wanted to drop you a note to let you know how grateful I was to have been able to attend your groups. I learned a lot from it and I plan to put it into action upon my release."

## Celebrating our 40th ANNIVERSARY



1979 **SOS Shelter** opens its doors as one of the first domestic violence shelters in New York

State



The shelter moves from a house loaned by a local church to its present location



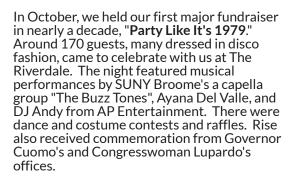
The purchase of the admin building allows us to expand our advocacy services



We begin to offer therapeutic counseling services with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker



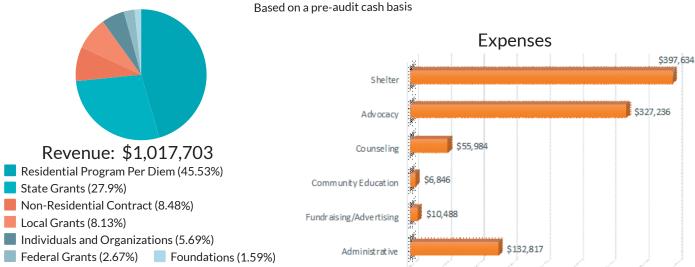
2014 We rebrand as Rise to better reflect the uplifting, comprehensive services provided



The Rise Board of Directors is planning another fundraiser in October 2020. Follow Rise on Facebook and/or check our website as the date gets closer for details.



### 2019 FINANCIALS





**Thank you** to all of our donors!



of every \$1 donated goes to the provision of crucial services for survivors