



ANNUAL REPORT 2012



AMERICANS OVERSEAS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS CENTER

Our Mission

The Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center, AODVC, works with abused Americans in foreign countries to provide domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault advocacy, resources and tools so they can navigate the complicated jurisdictional, legal and social international landscapes, to be able to live their lives free of abuse either in the foreign country or back in the United States. We achieve this mission via an international toll free crisis line, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 866-USWOMEN, (866-879-6636), crisis email and on-line live chat on the center's website, www.866uswomen.org.

Seven million culturally and ethnically diverse Americans reside in foreign countries. Sixty-eight million Americans travel overseas annually.

The Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center believes the best human relationships are characterized by mutual respect, open communication and individual empowerment. We envision a world where every woman is treated with dignity, respect and compassion; where oppression is replaced with equality; where expression of anger is non-violent and where children grow up in violent-free-homes with their self-esteem intact.



National Pro-Bono Legal Network

The need for international family law attorneys for battered mothers fleeing foreign countries with their children and seeking safety at home back in the USA is increasing. During 2012, we focused on developing a national pro-bono legal network to provide legal consultations while the victims still reside overseas and to provide full legal representation in defending Hague Convention petitions or other jurisdictional defenses to ensure battered mothers have the best chance possible to keep their American children in the USA when fleeing domestic violence. During the year we provided legal services to 37 victims.



SASHAA

In response to an increasing number of calls from American sexual assault victims traveling in foreign countries, we began the Sexual Assault Support & Help For Americans Abroad Program, SASHAA, in 2012.

Our domestic violence advocates have been extensively cross-trained in sexual assault response. These victimizations are happening in study abroad programs, cruise ships, hotels, hostels and on the streets in foreign countries. Victims abroad face barriers to connecting with time-sensitive services and the services are frequently not comprehensive.



Our Accomplishments 2012

This year has been full of growth and challenges. The situations of battered American women we have assisted this year have become more and more complicated. The populations served have expanded to include more men, forced marriage victims and sexual assault victims.

Our growing team is strong and well trained to handle even the most complex of situations. We have witnessed a 30% percent

increase in call volume over the previous year and a 10% increase in the number of cases handled over the previous year.

Almost 7,000 people visited our website from 133 countries. Of these, 77% were new visitors and 23% were returning visitors.

The US Department of State added AODVC to their travel advisory website (www.travel.state.gov) in October.

We were featured in an article

entitled *International Angel* in Reader's Digest.

We continue to work hand in hand with American Embassies and Consulates around the world to ensure that victims are receiving all of the wrap-around services we have available.

We had a record-breaking 3,005 incoming crisis contacts via the international toll free hotline, 866-USWOMEN, our online live-chat, and crisis email.



Outreach & Education Webinar Series

In an effort to train more American Embassies, Consulates and service providers overseas, we launched our *Global Campaign To Empower Americans Abused Abroad Webinar Series* in the fall of 2012.

The webinar series enabled us to train more global participants cost-effectively and reach areas where staff travel is not feasible or safe. The webinars are scheduled to accommodate different world-wide time zones. Special requests for time zones are also honored.

Our on-the-ground Global Campaign was presented in 2012 in:

- Rome, Italy
- Hong Kong
- Istanbul, Turkey
- Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
- Belmopan, Belize

Some Of Our Other Activities in 2012...

January - Article published in the American Women's Club of Thailand's Newsletter

February - Global Campaign presentations in Istanbul, Turkey and Rome, Italy, & Hong Kong

March - Participated in the World Shelter Conference in Washington DC

April - Presentation to Roks - The National Organisation for Women's Shelters, Sweden

May - Interview with Expat Radio, England

June - Presentation to Soroptimist Club in Portland, Oregon

July - Presentation to Unitarian Church in Portland, Oregon

August - Global Campaign presentations in Berlin, Germany

September - Presentation at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon

October - Featured in the National Association of Professional Women's Newsletter & Global Campaign presented in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

November - Presentation at the Federation of American Women's Clubs Alumni Association, FAUSA, in Napa, California

December - Global Campaign presentation in Belmopan, Belize

"I was so scared to tell my mom and dad I had been raped in Spain. Speaking to Ana every night is the only thing that got me through this terrible experience."

Natalie



3,005

incoming communications



21

families received danger-to-safety relocations



42

families received resettlement assistance & basic needs



547

victims served, 545 women, 2 men, plus their children



57

countries



37

victims received legal consultations and legal retainers



Empowerment Based Philosophy

Every person who contacts AODVC has an unique set of circumstances. We understand they are the experts of their own situations. We help guide them through their options, giving them possible scenarios with possible outcomes, with the goal of empowering them with resources once they make the decision which best fits their circumstances.

“You helped me when no one else could or would. You saved my life and the lives of my children. I don’t know how I will ever repay you, but some day I will.”

Tamara, Bolivia

We provide around the clock services



2012 Board of Directors

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- Karen Lewis, MD - Secretary
- Pamela J Woo - Treasurer
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Reader's Digest

We were featured in an article entitled *International Angel* in the March issue of Reader's Digest.



Protecting Pets As Family Members

In 2012, we launched a program to ensure pets can stay with their family when fleeing domestic violence and returning to the USA. Pets are part of the family and especially important for the elderly and children when escaping a violent home. They provide comfort and security to the victims and families.

While many of the families we help

are able to get repatriation loans from the American Embassy or Consulate, those loans can't be used to relocate pets back to the USA unless they are official service animals. With such restrictions, families are forced to make a choice between fleeing violence or staying in the violent home, because they could not get their pets back to the USA.

With our Protecting Pets Program, we can help pay for shots, a kennel, food and shipping fees.

We don't want families worrying about what will happen to their pets, who are often also abused in a violent home.

In 2012, we brought home four dogs, six cats and two bunnies, because of the generosity of our individual donors.

"You are angels! You have made a huge difference in our lives by keeping us together with our beloved Roxy in a time of crisis. Roxy sends a big doggy kiss!"

Beth, Croatia

Global

Crisis Response 24 Hours
A Day, 7 Days A Week

Our case managers provide wrap around services to 120 to 150 on-going cases per year. Cases require an average of 115 hours of case management per client.



Increasing Demand

In this era of globalization, we are witnessing the demand for domestic violence and sexual assault services for Americans overseas in an ever increasingly complicated world. In 2012, we experienced a 30% increase in call volume. Seven million Americans live overseas and 68 million travel overseas annually. Extrapolating abuse figures from the Center For Disease Control, CDC, estimated victimization for these populations are 45,000 cases of domestic violence and 68,000 cases of sexual assault annually for Americans living overseas. For Americans traveling overseas, 442,000 cases of domestic violence and 7,000 cases of sexual assault would occur annually.



Battered Mothers Seek Safety At Home

The Hague Convention on International Child Abduction was written over 30 years ago, long before the harmful effects on children witnessing domestic violence was studied. As part of the array of holistic services provided, we strive to keep battered mothers and their children together, safe at home in the USA through comprehensive legal services after they flee a foreign country.



Major Supporters

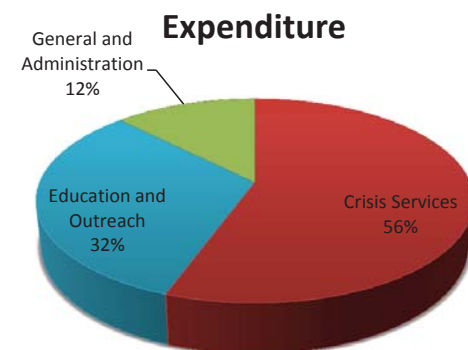
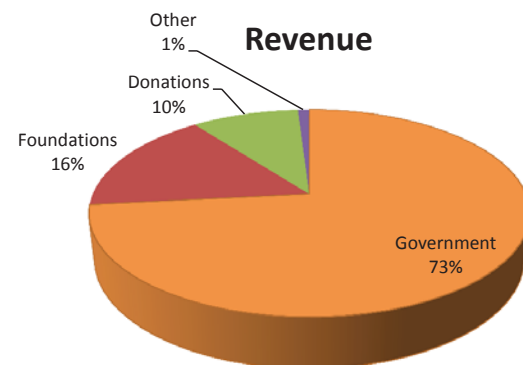


Financial Report

Our major funders continue to be the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office For Victims of Crime; the Oak Foundation of Switzerland and the Sunshine Lady Foundation. Our Global Giving Campaigns raised over \$12,000 for 21 projects, the most funds we have ever raised from Global Giving in one year. While we worked hard to have Americans Overseas included in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, legislation, in the end this population was not included in the legislative language. This is an undesirable outcome for the Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center and other service providers, as future federal government funding to serve the Americans overseas

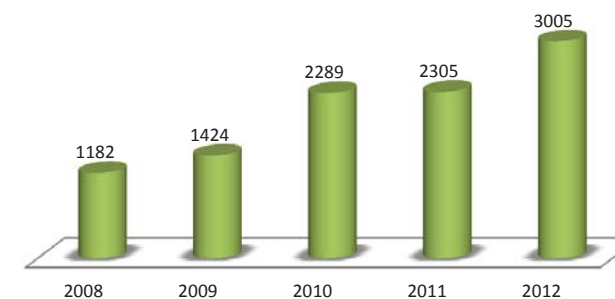
population is unknown at a time when global movement of Americans both living and traveling abroad is growing. We will continue our robust efforts to raise funds from individuals, foundations and corporations in an effort to sustain programs during the challenging federal government funding climate. In 2012, only 12% of our budget was spent on general and administrative expenses with 88% going directly to services to clients as either direct crisis services or education and outreach. As we build new relationships and open new funding opportunities, we look forward to continuing our mission to assist Americans in domestic violence and sexual assault crises overseas.

Financial Data

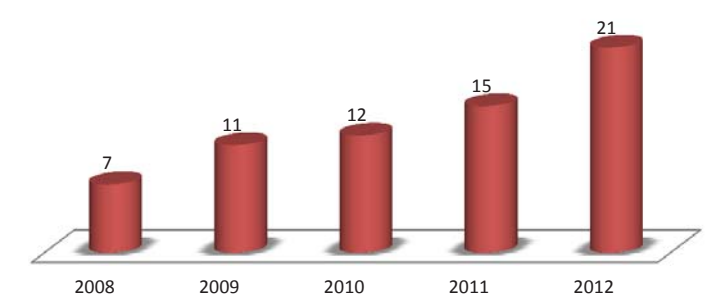


Five Year Comparison of Services Provided

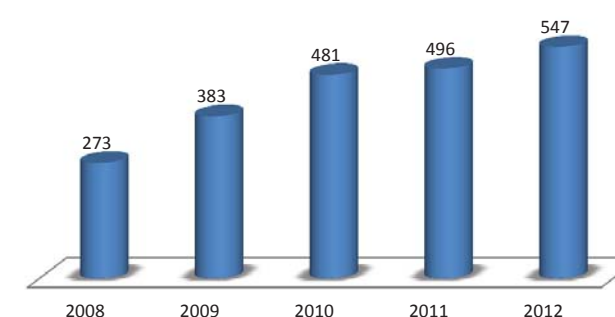
Incoming Communications



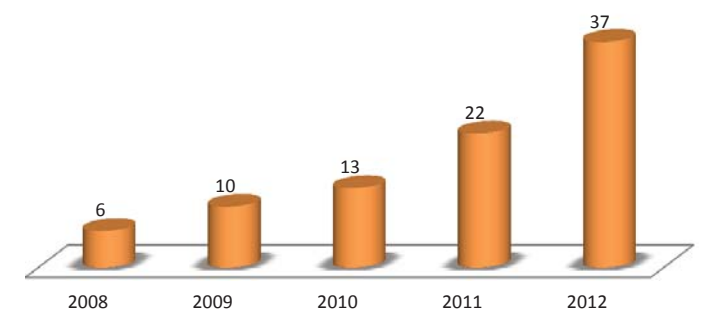
Danger-to-Safety Relocations



Victims Served



Legal Consultations and Legal Retainers



“It was so hard to leave my husband while I was pregnant. The abuse was so bad I feared for the life of my unborn baby and my daughter. If it wasn't for your support for the past year, I don't know where I would be today. Thank you for being my angels.”

Angea, China



Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Business office: 503 203-1444
General email: 866uswomen@866uswomen.org
Address: PO Box 25007, Portland, OR 97298, USA
Web: www.866uswomen.org
International toll free crisis center: 866-USWOMEN (866-879-6636)