

Annual Report | FY2014















July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014



Our Mission

The Second Step fosters the safety, stability, and well-being of survivors of domestic violence.

Our residential and community-based programs build on the strengths, needs, and values of the individuals and families we serve. In partnership with survivors and in collaboration with the community, we lay a foundation for a future free from abuse and full of possibility.

Founded in 1992, The Second Step partners with survivors to address the aftermath of abuse and build brighter futures for themselves and their children. The Second Step also works to address the root causes of domestic violence and end it in our time.



Dear Friends and Supporters of The Second Step,

We are pleased to share our FY 2014 Annual Report detailing some of the highlights of this extraordinary year! Since 1992, The Second Step has helped foster the safety, stability and well-being of thousands of adult and child survivors of domestic violence. Among our accomplishments this year, we:

- Provided more than 800 adult and child survivors in our community and our residences with comprehensive services to heal from abuse and rebuild their lives. That's a 76 percent increase from just three years ago!
- Expanded community services to include prevention programs for at-risk youth, two new support groups for better-resourced survivors, a larger mentoring program, growth in our Steps to Justice legal services, a men's initiative, and our Narrative Healing group has completed a book to be published in the coming year.
- Painted, re-wired and re-furnished one of our houses, renovated our therapeutic afterschool space, upgraded our playgrounds and added new computer rooms in both residences. With a total of 58 beds between our two houses, our gleaming residences provide survivors with more than 21,000 days and nights of safety and healing each year.
- Invested in staff-wide training in order to deepen our knowledge of traumainformed practice and better assist survivors on their journeys to well-being, and hired a Manager of Trauma-Informed Advocacy to bring cutting edge practices to our work and to share our own best practices system-wide.
- Helped shaped the new domestic violence legislation that passed in Massachusetts this year by strengthening the legal protections for survivors.
- Closed Fiscal Year 2014 with an operating surplus, achieved through re-engaging donors and inspiring the generosity of many new individuals, corporations and foundations. We were able to accomplish this surplus even while investing in the staff, facilities, and infrastructure necessary to strengthen our long-term sustainability.
- Completed and are now implementing a three-year Strategic Plan to position The Second Step for greater growth and impact moving forward.

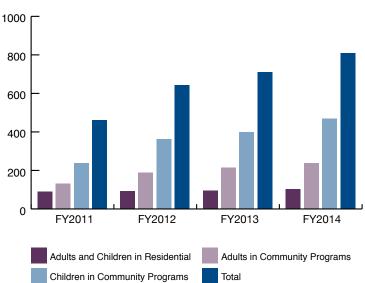
We are energized by new opportunities for The Second Step to continue to expand and improve our services to best meet the needs of survivors, and to deepen our prevention work to make further progress toward our vision of ending domestic violence.

We are incredibly thankful for the collaborative spirit and generous support of our donors and volunteers – and for your dedication to helping survivors of domestic violence take steps to futures free from abuse and full of possibility.

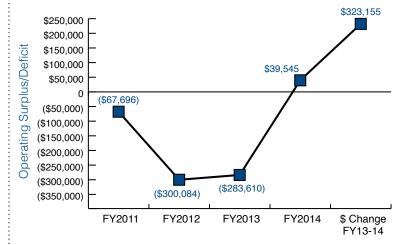
With deepest gratitude,

Sarah Perry Executive Director Andrew Parvey Board President

Clients Served 1000

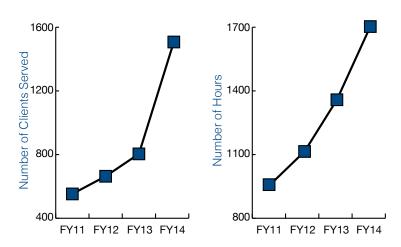


Unrestricted Changes in Net Assets from Operations



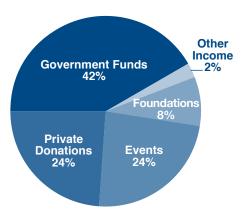
Prevention and Education

Legal Services Provided



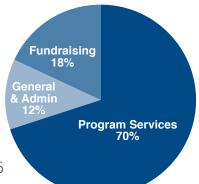
REVENUES FY2014: \$1,779,281





EXPENSES FY2014: \$1,739,736

Net Revenue over Expenses \$39,545



2014 Fundraisers



Sarah Perry (Executive Director), Raquel (survivor speaker), and Carole Thompson (honoree)

Celebrating Success

Our 22nd Annual Celebrating Success was a huge hit - thank you to the more than 425 attendees, and to all our supporters who made this event so special and helped us raise over \$250,000!



Ken Elgart, Nancy Korman, Alan and Susan Solomont, Tony Kingsley and Sarah Perry

Step up to the Plate

Step Up to the Plate raised \$150,000 and brought together 250 attendees and 15 guest speakers at 15 host homes to raise money and awareness for survivors.



Vanessa Calagna and Angela Falchuk

Trivia Night

More than 100 people came together for Trivia Night to benefit The Second Step - a perfect way to combine a love of pub trivia with support for survivors of domestic violence.



Runner Christine Fahey

Marathon

Team TSS - Christine Fahey, Jonah Kan and Kevin Wu - ran the 2014 Boston Marathon to benefit The Second Step. With every step our runners took along the 26.2 mile course, they helped more families take steps to rebuilding their lives.



Sheridan Haines, Sarah Perry, Mayor Setti Warren, Dr. Madeleine Biondolillo

"In our city, at every single level, there is commitment to the issue of DV...we sit with the people who are in pain and we are inspired by survivors' courage... we are a 'community of hope'... let us celebrate the change we have witnessed."

Erin C. Miller, Coordinator,
 Domestic Violence and Sexual
 Assault Program, N-W Hospital



Celebrating Ourselves
Celebrating Ourselves was a
magical evening for survivors in
our residential and community
programs to celebrate the
journeys they have taken to
rebuild their lives after abuse.
The evening was a beautiful
testament to the power of
healing, hope and community.
Photo above is a "Whimsy Tree" –
created by survivors to write their
hopes and dreams for the future.



White Ribbon Day "Men must stand against domestic violence, but we must remember what we stand for: we stand for joy, for respect, for families, for dignity and autonomy in relationships, for the right to realize your potential, and for the right of all people of all ages to live free of violence and coercion. We have tremendous power to act, whether it is in our own relationships, within our families, among friends, or on the streets." - Matt Swoveland, Manager of Youth and Men's Programs at The Second Step

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Second Step joined Mayor Setti Warren for a community—wide event at Newton City Hall to focus on Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It was a powerful and moving evening — one designed to stand in solidarity with survivors, to serve as a collective force for social change, and to honor the memory of those who lost their lives to intimate partner violence.

Each year, over 450 volunteers collectively donate 5,200 hours of their time by helping with childcare, yard clean up, cooking meals, mentoring survivors, answering phones at our office, serving on event committees, organizing drives, and so much more.

The Second Step receives over \$320,000 worth of in-kind donations from our wonderful community partners and supporters – thank you!





Holiday Gift Drive
We extend our heartfelt
gratitude to all those who
participated in our Holiday
Gift Drive. Thanks to the time
and generosity of these
volunteers and donors, we
were able to bring holiday joy
and much-needed items to
more than 400 individuals
(approximately 100 adults
and 300 children).

"I am overwhelmed by all of the gifts we received. I can't thank you enough for your generosity and the time and effort you put into thinking of us this holiday season. My children and I appreciate it so much!"



Backpack Drive
Thank you to Building Impact,
John Hancock Tower and Boston
Properties for organizing an
incredibly generous backpack
drive for our children. Because
of you and other generous
volunteers and donors, children
in our Community and Residential
Programs started the school year
with essential school supplies.



Computer center
Thank you to Belmont Savings
Bank Foundation for granting us
the funds to create a children's
computer center at EACH of
our group residences and for
painting and beautifying the
spaces.



Cooking meals for clients For the 4th year in a row, Dover Mothers' Association cooked and served the most delicious meal for over 120 people at The Second Step's holiday party for our program participants.



Yard clean-up
The Rivers School cleans
up the yard at one of our
residences and paints the
fences.



Our Narrative Healing group comes together to celebrate their upcoming book, *No More Secrets: Surviving Domestic Violence through Connection, Healing and Sisterhood.*– Photo by Amanda Beckwith

Impact Snapshots

Marie*

Marie first experienced domestic violence when her husband and father of her children physically and emotionally abused her. She fled with her daughters, first to emergency shelter and then to The Second Step. During her ten-month stay with us, Marie and her children accessed a variety of supports - emotional, educational, and psychotherapeutic chief among them. Advocates at The Second Step led residential meetings - bringing a sense of community back to Marie and her daughters - and helped Marie to apply (and eventually be admitted) to college in order to pursue her degree in medical imaging. Having found permanent housing with the help of her advocate, Marie now participates in our Community Programs, particularly peer support group sessions with other survivors. About the impact The Second Step has made, she says:

"To have this support around me has given me the wind beneath my wings to keep on soaring. The Second Step is a true stepping-stone, which has given me the strength and the confidence that I can - and will - succeed."

Logan*

Logan is a senior in high school, and takes part in our Young Men's Group, which was created to meet the needs of boys and young men exposed to domestic violence. Logan's mother participates in peer support groups at The Second Step, and reached out to TSS when Logan started expressing anger and distancing himself from family and school. Logan meets with other young men from similar backgrounds, with whom he is able to talk openly about his challenges and participate in structured activities that address his trauma and help build his resiliency. As a result, he has become re-engaged with sports and physical activities, and joins our two male mentors in everything from outdoor activities to talking groups to basketball. With the help of his mentors, he is on track for a successful high school graduation and is currently applying to colleges.

Lisa*

Lisa's abuser was physically, emotionally, and psychologically abusive toward Lisa and their daughter. After the two escaped his abuse, they lived at one of The Second Step's transitional residences for one year, where Lisa received career counseling to find a job as a recruiter, established stable childcare for her daughter, participated in weekly therapy sessions and support groups, and accessed free legal advocacy. Lisa and her daughter have since moved out of our transitional residence, and are now thriving and actively involved in our Community Programs. Lisa explains the impact The Second Step has had:

"My life today does not in any way resemble the life I had before The Second Step. I have been sober for ten years; I am married to a wonderful man who is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and loving home; my daughter is excelling, attends public school, has a job, is a cheerleader, and has volunteered at The Second Step; I am the mother of one-and-a-half month-old twins; and I have a career that I love."

* All names have been changed to protect identities.

Our Programs Include:

- Individualized safety planning and housing stabilization
- Legal assistance with restraining orders, family law, landlord-tenant relations, and immigration issues
- Comprehensive services to address physical and mental illness, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance abuse
- A transitional living program of two residences, which can jointly house seventeen families for up to two years
- A therapeutic afterschool program for elementaryage children living in our residences
- Peer support groups for survivors and their loved ones
- Child and adult individual mentoring programs
- Training in financial literacy, self-defense, parenting, nutrition, and other life skills
- Community outreach and education to raise awareness and prevent abuse





Former TSS Executive Director Roberta Rosenberg, Co-Founders Margaret Grometstein and Lisa Guidice, Former TSS Executive Director Liz Kirsch, and current TSS Executive Director Sarah Perry.





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The Second Step Staff



The Second Step's numerous outreach and education endeavors raise awareness of domestic violence. Notably, this year, we were pleased to participate and/ or be published in the following media outlets:

- Executive Director Sarah Perry's letters to the editor were published in *The New* York Times (March 15th) and in The Boston Globe Magazine (July 13th)
- The Second Step's work was the feature of a full segment on NewTV (June 28th) and again on NewTV to kick off **Domestic Violence Awareness** Month (October 1st)
- A radio show on WNTN with Paul Roberts (October 11th) about the work of TSS
- · Numerous articles in the Newton Tab, as well as mentions in The Improper Bostonian and The Huffington Post

Make a Gift

The Second Step relies on the generous support of people like you who care. Thank you!

Please call or visit our website for more information or to make a donation.

Mark Your Calendar 2015 Events

March 5

Massachusetts White Ribbon Day

23rd Annual Celebrating Success Gala

Team TSS runs the Boston Marathon

May 9

Listen to Your Mother - Boston

May 14

TSS Volunteer Appreciation Event

August

Backpack Drive

September

Third Annual Trivia Night (Date TBD)

October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Stav Tuned for Events

November 7

11th Annual Step Up to the Plate

December

Holiday Gift Drive

If you or someone you know needs help:

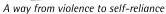
- If you are in immediate danger. dial 911 (Emergency)
- For emergency shelter, contact SafeLink (Massachusetts 24-hour free hotline) at 877.785.2020
- Learn more or get help through The Second Step at 617.965.3999 or visit our website at www.thesecondstep.org



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www.thesecondstep.org







Thank you to all our Donors and Supporters

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