

Albany County SAFE Project

Hi, I am Amy Haefner. I'm the new Executive Director at SAFE Project. We serve the community as the only advocacy agency for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Albany County. I have been at SAFE Project for over four years and just moved into the director position in January. Genevieve Reilly is now our assistant director. She has been with SAFE since 2009 and was previously our financial manager.

SAFE Project helps make the community a better place by working with approximately 400 unduplicated individuals each year. We provide safety and services to women, men, children, and pets. SAFE also has a campus services coordinator satellite position at the University of Wyoming. That advocate works with college students from U.W., WyoTech, and the Albany County campus of LCCC. Our Prevention and Outreach Coordinator works with the rest of the schools in Albany County, from preschool age through high school students. Our prevention goal is to be pro-active and teach kids about healthy families, healthy relationships, and teen dating violence.

Historically, we have relied on Community Partner funding for operating and program expenses for the shelter, office, and client services, as well as administrative time for grant writing and fundraising. Thanks to these funds, we are able to apply for grants and pay for supplies and time for fundraisers. Our big event is Brunch & Bubbly each year in late summer, plus we send a year-end annual appeal, and as of last year, we now also participate in WyoGives Day with other community nonprofits. Community partner funding also helps make it possible to collaborate with other agencies to help our clients on other levels, including hosting meetings with SART (Sexual Assault Response Team). SART holds monthly meetings and trainings in effort to work together to help serve and protect our community more effectively. SAFE Project lost a position that was federally funded which has been challenging for staff as our client numbers continue to increase. This is another reason we rely on these funds.

We have been repairing and upgrading the shelter because the two units we are currently renovating haven't had major repairs since 2010. We are repairing damage to walls, doors, and floors, upgrading worn counters, painting, and adding solid doors, more durable flooring, and better lighting throughout all three units. All these long-lasting repairs and upgrades will make the space more secure and comfortable for clients, children and pets who stay in our shelter. Because so much of our unrestricted funding will be going towards the shelter, we are asking for more Community Partner funds to help with operating, program, and staff expenses in fiscal year 2024. Your funding will also help our admin team write special grants and fundraise to make the renovations possible. Finally, Community Partner funds help with expenses for shelter and office utilities and insurance, our 24-hour hotline, and financial assistance and services to clients.