



## **Press Release**

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### **DOVE Center reports progress, discusses future of organization at Annual Meeting**

**St. George** — DOVE Center, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting and empowering survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, stalking and human trafficking, discussed its growth and future needs during its 2019 Annual Meeting Tuesday night.

During Fiscal Year 2019, DOVE Center was able to serve 1,026 individuals in person with needs such as shelter, transitional housing and victim advocacy — which includes hospital, protective order and court assistance. In addition, DOVE Center received 1,384 helpline calls with 300 [Lethality Assessment Protocols](#) performed by DOVE advocates and 289 performed by local law enforcement.

“Domestic violence and sexual assault continue to be huge problems in our community,” said DOVE’s Board President Ruth Weniger. “We work to empower those impacted by domestic abuse and sexual violence. Without your help, this would be impossible.”

Besides discussing the organization’s successes, the annual meeting was a way for the board of directors and staff members to thank supporters for their contributions and show them how their donations were used throughout the year.

DOVE Center received nearly \$1.5 million in public support and revenue, comprised of government grants, in-kind donations, private grants and donations. The majority of revenue is used for costs of programs that provide life saving services to survivors, such as DOVE’s shelter, motel program, safe pet program, counseling, youth and child services, advocacy and case management and transitional housing.

While explaining the contents of DOVE Center's Annual Report, Executive Director Lindsey Boyer highlighted some of the organization's successes, such as the increase in the number of nights provided at shelter and transitional housing; and additional hours devoted to youth counseling.

"We also have seen a really big jump in our sexual assault service requests," she said. "We've had a lot of people coming forward requesting support."

While the organization saw growth and success in multiple areas of services, it still fell short in meeting all requests for support due to limitations. DOVE Center was unable to shelter 43 households due to capacity limitations. In addition, 30% of requests for protective order assistance went unmet, and the wait time for crisis counseling consistently exceeded 90 days.

"We have to figure out where to go and prioritize because all of it is important," Boyer said to those in attendance at the annual meeting. "We want to do all of it, and I think all of us can agree that we don't want to leave any type of service or any population or any subgroup behind."

In order to better meet these growing needs, DOVE Center will be focusing on expanding its transitional housing program during Fiscal Year 2020. With proper funding, this project would add two more family-sized units to our transitional housing program in the coming year.

Besides discussing the 2019 Annual Report, DOVE recognized three individuals for their stellar support and service to DOVE.

Joe Gibbons, owner of Carpets Plus, was awarded DOVE's Community Partner Award for his years of sponsorship and development support; Lauren DiSalvo was recognized with the Volunteer Service Award for her 700+ hours of volunteer service as a hospital and shelter advocate; and long-time DOVE ally Lori Burgess was acknowledged with the community service award for her length of service and support to DOVE, highlighting the scholarship fund she and her husband established this year to benefit survivors with financial support for educational opportunities.

Madonna Melton, operations and shelter director, was also celebrated for 15 years of dedicated employment at DOVE.

"It's a blessing to make a difference in someone's life every day," Melton shared. "And I truly feel blessed, even 15 years later."

If you are experiencing any form of domestic violence, call DOVE Center's 24-hour helpline at (435) 628-0458 to speak with an advocate, or visit [dovecenter.org](http://dovecenter.org) to learn more. All services are free, confidential and inclusive.

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Note to the editor: DOVE Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit with a mission to empower those impacted by domestic abuse and sexual violence.