

Mutual Ground, Inc.

Serving victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in
southern Kane and Kendall Counties since 1975

The Light

*To know pleasure, one must know pain
In the black of hopelessness, a light will shine again
It's okay to doubt and guess
That there's true happiness*

*For if that light shone all the time
One might miss the lane
That path, that road we trod upon
To find our way again*

*How sweet, how good does that light feel
When it shines upon my face
I hunger for that light—so real
And my heart begins to race*

*A light so good, so pure, so sweet
Towards it, I now begin to run
With wings that adorn my feet
My life has just begun*

*For surely to know pleasure
One must first endure the pain
But it's okay, it's all right
The light will shine again*

Cathy Anne Gavin

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Annual Report
2003-2004

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President's Letter

As Mutual Ground, Inc. marks its 30th anniversary, the Board of Directors expresses its gratitude for the generous financial and in-kind gifts received from so many supporters during the previous year. These gifts, teamed with the extraordinary efforts of Mutual Ground's staff, helped Mutual Ground experience a year of relative grace in the face of continued reduced resources of funding and manpower. Many thanks to all of you who helped make this possible!

As fiduciaries of Mutual Ground, the Board of Directors honors your gifts through continued leadership and oversight of financial management, board governance, human resources policy, program development, funding development, building and grounds management, and strategic planning. All board members are actively involved in Mutual Ground's various board committees, and all participate in Mutual Ground's fundraising efforts. Moreover, board members are enthusiastically committed to the support and furtherance of Mutual Ground's mission. Last year brought changes and progress for Mutual Ground. Below are some of the highlights:

* The Board of Directors welcomed five new board members, each reflecting distinct and diverse personal and professional backgrounds.

* On January 31, 2004, nearly 150 guests braved the cold to attend *A Winter Wonderland*, our fourth annual Gala dinner-dance. Many thanks to the multitude of donors who provided underwriting, decorations, prizes, and silent auction items.

* In late July, we honored our hard-working staff and their families at a picnic at Blackberry Farm in Aurora, with special thanks to the Fox Valley Park District.

* Toward summer's end on September 9, Mutual Ground held a special event at the Q Center in St. Charles to welcome new "Friends of Mutual Ground." Nearly 200 attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, fellowship, and an opportunity to become volunteer supporters of Mutual Ground. Private bank of Geneva was a major sponsor.

* The Board of Directors gathered again in September for a "do-it-yourself" retreat to review fundraising strategy. The Board will continue its annual retreat in coming years.

* September also marked the second anniversary of *Second Chance*, Mutual Ground's resale shop at 1600 N. Farnsworth Avenue in Aurora. New shop hours and volunteers are making this board project increasingly successful.

* Mutual Ground held its annual meeting on October 14. In an extraordinarily personal way, Denise Crosby of the *Beacon News* shared with us how the crime of sexual assault had affected her family, and the support she found in Mutual Ground. New board officers were elected, and drawings for winning tickets concluded Mutual Ground's annual raffle.

As we reflect on the past 30 years, we are grateful to so many who have enabled Mutual Ground to serve the ever-increasing needs of victims and their families within our community. Our greatest hope is that Mutual Ground will continue to meet future challenges, as long as the need is there.

Susan Boehme, President
Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director ~ Linda R. Healy ~

This has been a year of incredible challenges. Between state and federal cutbacks, Mutual Ground lost more than \$227,000.00 in anticipated grants. It meant laying off 13 of our employees and tightening our belts as we entered fiscal year 2004. The year for us was as dark as the lives of the victims who sought services from us. With increased determination, the staff of this agency rose to this challenge with a spirit of commitment that was unparalleled.

In February, Marie Oberweis donated \$50,000.00 to the Aurora Foundation to start an endowment for Mutual Ground. What a morale booster this was for all of us that the community was ensuring the life of this agency! We are so grateful for this gift that was so lovingly given.

The commitment from staff to continue to provide quality services and adhere to the mission of this agency needs to be recognized. The end results for 2004 showed some remarkable statistics as we provided 1,231 MORE nights of shelter than the previous year. Our counseling hours were down due to the loss of staff. But, the candle of hope burned brightly in our windows 24 hours a day. We were always here to receive those women and children whose lives were torn apart by domestic violence or sexual assault.

One of the many highlights of this year was Mutual Ground's participation with Senator Peter Roskam and the International Justice Mission from Washington D.C. in welcoming a delegation from Peru to visit our shelter. This delegation came to see how services could be increased for the large number of women who were victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in their region. It was a proud moment when the delegation found that Mutual Ground had bilingual staff who could interpret their questions without the need of the interpreters that they brought with them. One of our bilingual therapists continues to e-mail one of the staff in Huanaco, conferring with her on how to provide services to victims. We are proud to share our expertise and help to provide a ray of hope to women in another part of this world.

Peace,

Linda



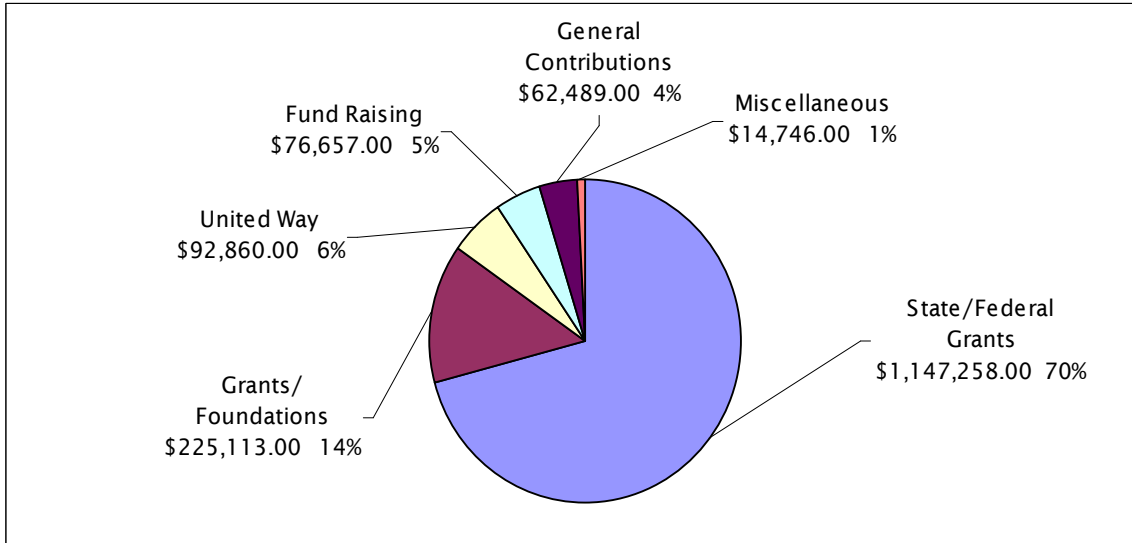
Below are the many ways to contact Mutual Ground

Domestic Violence Hotline 630-897-0080
Sexual Assault Hotline 630-897-8383
Domestic Violence Office 630-897-0084
Sexual Assault Office 630-897-8989
Fax 630-897-3536

Email: mutualground@ameritech.net

Website:
www.mutualgroundinc.org

Mutual Ground, Inc. Revenue FY04
Total \$1,619,143.00

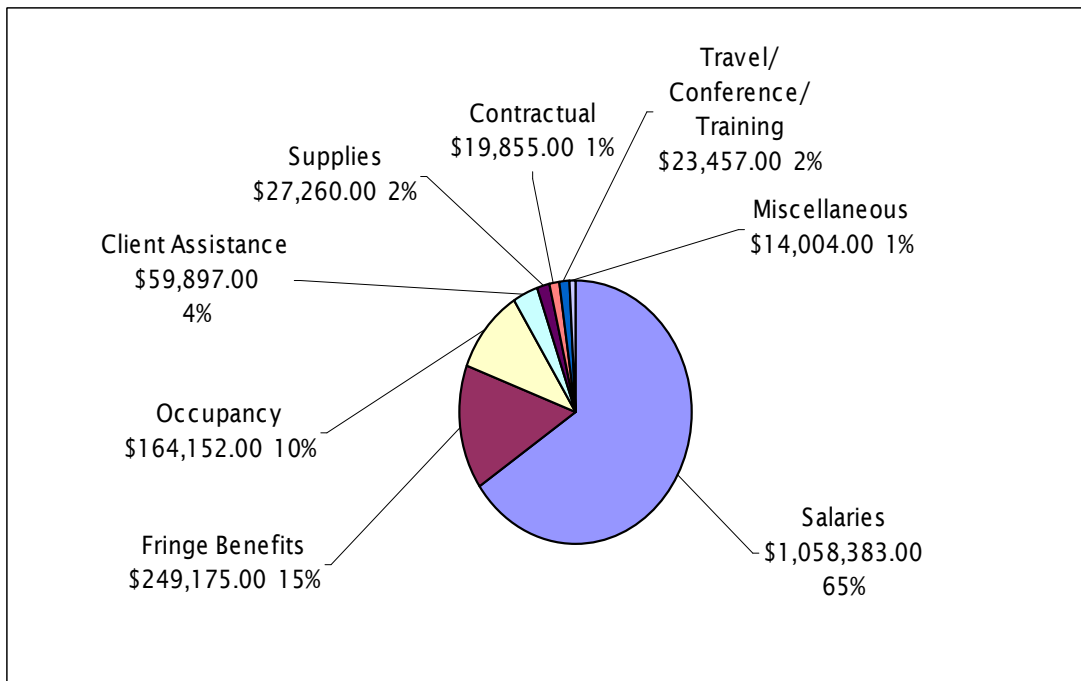


Major Foundations/Grants for Fiscal Year 2004

Kendall County Youth Board
 Kendall County 708 Board
 Kane County 708 Board
 Kraft Foundation
 Community In Schools
 Juvenile Protection Association

Target Foundation
 Melrene Foundation
 Agatha O'Brien Foundation
 Naperville Exchange Club
 U.S. Cellular
 Aurora Foundation

Mutual Ground Expenses FY04
Total \$1,616,183.00



Mutual Ground Programs

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 24/7 Shelter with 32 beds ◆ Domestic Violence Counseling ◆ Sexual Assault Counseling ◆ Medical Advocacy ◆ Hope's Room (medical care) ◆ Legal Advocacy ◆ 24-Hour Bilingual Crisis Line ◆ 24-Hour Crisis Intervention at hospitals ◆ Transitional Housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Literacy Services ◆ Intergenerational Computer Lab and Computer Classes ◆ Specialized Children's and Teen Programs and Services ◆ Referrals to other agencies ◆ Boxes of Food for Clients ◆ Prevention Education Programs at Area Schools |
|---|--|

Domestic Violence Program 2003-2004

1,194 new clients
8,695 nights of shelter
12,585 hours of counseling
19,226 hot line calls
550 education programs for
13,453 students

Sexual Assault Program 2003-2004

371 new clients
3,384 hours of counseling
1,174 education programs for
26,407 students

Did you know.....?

To keep the shelter open for 24 hours costs about \$3,500 per day.
To keep one client in shelter for 24 hours costs about \$264.
To provide one hour of prevention education is more than \$125.
To provide on hour of counseling is more than \$175.

SPRANS GRANT

Mutual Ground is in the third year of the three year SPRANS grant which is short for *Special Projects of Regional and National Significance*. Only eight grants were awarded nationwide and Illinois was the only state awarded two grants. The grant was awarded to establish a screening process for pregnant women in Kane County who may be victims of domestic violence. Mutual Ground in collaboration with the Community Crisis Center and the Kane County Health Department screened more than 7,693 patients over the last 21 months. Of those screened, 290 were determined to be at risk for domestic violence. The grant provides for both prenatal and postnatal screening and services.

Communities in Mutual Ground's Service Area

Aurora	Elburn	La Fox	Newark	Sugar Grove
Batavia	Geneva	Millbrook	North Aurora	Yorkville
Big Rock	Hinckley	Millington	Oswego	
Bristol	Kaneville	Montgomery	Plano	

We wish to thank everyone who has made monetary contributions to Mutual Ground during the last fiscal year (July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004). Mutual Ground receives funding from State and Federal agencies. Because of budget cutbacks, this funding decreases more every year. Without the support of our donors Mutual Ground would be unable to carry on our work to help victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. In addition to monetary gifts, Mutual Ground also receives many, many goods and services. We thank everyone who has made a donation to Mutual Ground during the last fiscal year.

Friends (0-\$99)

19th Century Woman's Club of Oswego,
IL
Peter and Kathy Andrews
John and Lorraine Angell
Milly Anliker
Arnold and Mary Anne Bargielski
Jerry and Elaine Barnwell
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Julie and Dennis Beckman
John & Beverly Benson
Joanne Bernhard
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Team 8J-Jewel Middle School
Deborah Thomas
Tom Thomas, LLC
Sue Tierney
United Way of Greater Los Angeles
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
United Way/Crusade of Mercy
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Wednesday Night Golf League
Judge Wegner
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weiss
Ed and Nancy Weiss
Wesley United Methodist Women
West Side Reading Circle
Kristi Whitfield
Francis and Barbara Worthington
Paul Yeary
Yellow-Page.Net
Stephanie Zak
Forrest and Fay Zeal

Forrest and Fay Zeal
Tony and Elaine Zefron

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American Legion Aux Unit 489
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Illinois Tool Works Foundation
Indian Prairie Comm. Unit School Dist. No.
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Cindy Laurent
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Ken and Hedy Lindgren
Dr. Thomas and Carol Liske and Family
Lyon Metal Products
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John and Ann Marriner
Nancy Marshall
Ricky and Patricia Mason
Bob and Lynn Mattlyly
Debra McQuaid
Messer and Stip
Robert and Patricia Michels
Doctors Mitch and Connie Sewell
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Richard and Betty Naden
James Newman
Duane & Audrey Orton
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Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Ken and Betty Reck
Cindi Reuland
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Jay Robinson
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Michael Sigler
Michael Simon and Nancy Sohn
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The St.Chas Kiwanis Golden K Exec. Bd.
St. Charles Woman's Club
Tina Steidl

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
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 Timothy and Michael Sury
 Darin and Victoria Terry
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 Third Ward Social Women's Auxiliary
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 Kathleen Tollaksen
 United Methodist Women of the Church
 of the Good Sheperd
 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Van DeVeire
 Anne and Rick Veague
 Walker Information
 Eileen Walsh
 The Warehouse Church
 Waubensee Community College
 Western Lights Chorus
 Weyerhaeuser
 Whitt Bros Garage
 Mrs. Lewis E. Whitt
 Dr. & Mrs. John Z. Williams
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 Marianne Zito

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 Anonymous
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 Aurora's Hispanic Heritage Advisory
 Board
 Aurora/Naperville Rotary Club
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 Susan and Robert Ducar
 Geneva United Methodist
 Jane & Dan Grimaldi Joanne Hansen
 The Label Printers
 Brian Lieske
 Mother's Club of Geneva
 Mrs. And Mrs. Hal Mueller
 Oswego Community Unit District 308
 Saint Peter Church

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 Sealmaster Bearings
 Seaton Corp
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 St. Luke Lutheran Church and School
 William Thomas
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 The TX Companies, Inc.
 Yorkville Jr. Women's Club
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 Jesse Maberry
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 Gary & Nancy Penisten Family Founda-
 tion
 Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 501
 Rotary Club of Batavia
 Rotary Club of Oswego
 Saint Rita of Cascia Church
 Philip Schlabach
 Target Stores District 121
 UM Church of Geneva

H.E. Wyman
 Zonta of St. Charles-Geneva-Batavia

Matching Gifts

Illinois Tool Works Foundation
 Nicor

In honor of Hal Mueller

Timothy O'Neil

In honor of Boris and Mary Ann Anisi

James Anisi

In honor of Terri Carpenter

Judy Stallman
 Michael Sigler

In honor of Susan Boehme

Glenn and Barbara Houck

In Memory of Jean MacKay

Susan and John Boehme
 Jeffrey and Beth Johnson
 Lydia Hoffman Lund
 Gary and Haven McClung
 Megan Healy McClung
 Nancy Rasey
 Donald and Joanne Swanson
 Clare and James Toynton

In Memory of John Norris

PTO Services, Inc.
 Brenda & Brian Barnwell

In Memory of Charles Harrington

Purchasing/Logistics

In Memory of Helen DesJardine

Ruth Kucharski

In Memory of her husband

Arline Hoban

In memory of Frances Leifheit

Jerome and Helen Leifheit
 David and Virginia Leifheit

In Memory of Amanda Runke

Max and Mary Ann Striedl

In Memory of Jonathan B. Hayes

Donna and William Brown
 Clarence and Pamela Heine
 Denise Iwanicki
 Abraham and Carol Kershaw
 Mrs. James Lackman
 Caroline Lindahl
 Charles and Carol Pangborn
 Margaret Taylor

Mother's Day Cards

Kathy Ball
 Peggy Bauer
 Sue Biddle
 Tim and Elizabeth Closson
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 Rich and Marlene Deck
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 Dorothy Ellis
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 Paula Jo Hruby
 Faith Jones
 Star Kelley
 Phil and Sherilyn Kingsbury
 Kathy Livermois
 Debra McQuaid
 Darla Medernach
 Pam Schindel
 Clare Toynton

**Help us to keep the light burning for our clients.
 Help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault by making a donation
 to Mutual Ground.**

_____ \$50 (Friend) _____ \$100 (Sponsor) _____ \$500 (Patron)

_____ \$1000 (Benefactor) \$ _____ (Other)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please send check to: Mutual Ground, Inc. P.O. Box 843, Aurora, IL 60507

Mutual Ground's Mission

Mutual Ground, Inc. provides services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Kendall and southern Kane Counties. All services are victim centered and focus on advocacy that empowers each individual to make their own decisions. Mutual Ground believes that victims are not responsible or accountable for these crimes, therefore, all services are free and confidential.

Mutual Ground recognizes the importance of working to eliminate the root causes of the cycles of abuse. We believe education is the key in the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault several proactive programs are offered that are tailored to fit our philosophy that social change is necessary in preventing these crimes.

Mutual Ground, Inc. is a United Way Agency

