

AWAKE MILWAUKEE

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2022-2023

WE'RE MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE TOGETHER!

Dear friends,

I am writing this message the day after concluding Awake's first weekend retreat for those who have experienced sexual abuse by Catholic leaders. I'm exhausted, but I also couldn't wait to tell you about the incredible things that happened during this sacred time.

We didn't know exactly what to expect when bringing together these 17 abuse survivors - women and men, young and old, religious and non-religious, from 11 U.S. states and many walks of life. I had high hopes, but what unfolded this weekend was more beautiful than I ever could have imagined. It is not an exaggeration to say that this experience of compassion and community was life-changing for many retreatants.

“
THE AWAKE RETREAT WAS A TURNING POINT IN MY LIFE AS A VICTIM-SURVIVOR. FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FELT HOPE THAT THINGS CAN GET BETTER. -LUCY
”

Out of respect for the privacy of participants, there is much that I cannot share. I will simply say that I am truly honored to bear witness to the strength, wisdom, and faith of these beautiful human beings.

Sometimes people thank me for Awake's work and speak as if I am personally responsible for all of the amazing things happening with this organization. But the truth is, Awake emerged from community and is sustained by community - a community now made up of a large and diverse collection of survivors, their loved ones, volunteers, program participants, clergy, board members, staff, and donors.

If you are reading this report, you are one of the wonderful people who made this retreat - and all of Awake's other work - possible. For that, you have my deepest gratitude.

I can't wait to see what we do together next.

Sara Larson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



HAVE YOU SEEN OUR UPDATED MISSION STATEMENT?

OUR MISSION IS TO AWAKEN OUR COMMUNITY TO THE FULL REALITY OF SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, WORK FOR TRANSFORMATION, AND FOSTER HEALING FOR ALL WHO HAVE BEEN WOUNDED.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR



Our Courageous Conversation with Vatican expert Fr. Hans Zollner was Awake's most attended event ever.



The Board of Directors met with Awake's staff, Leadership Team, and key volunteers for an important Leadership Gathering in May.



We had a beautiful evening at our annual Prayer in the Park.



This amazing team made our first "Evening with Awake" fundraiser a huge success!



Survivors found peace and hope at The Beloved Retreat.



Our Survivor Advisory Panel offered wise counsel throughout the year.

BY THE NUMBERS

879 Registrations for Season 3 of Courageous Conversations

47 Survivor Circle participants finding community and support

2172 Followers on social media growing in awareness and compassion

179 Donors generously supporting this mission

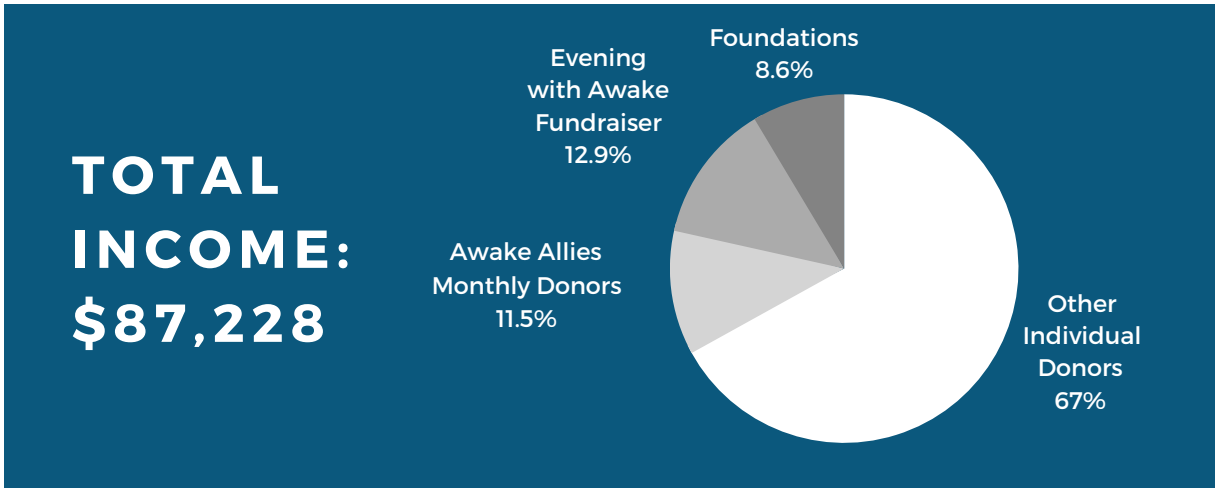
45 Informative blog posts adding to the public conversation

FINANCIALS

JULY 2022-JUNE 2023

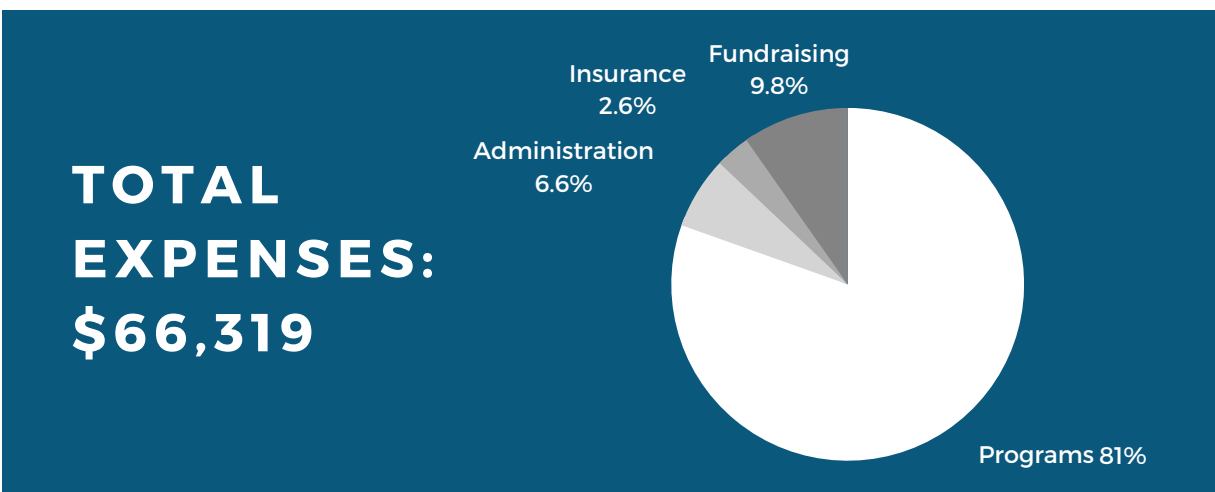
INCOME

We are deeply grateful for generous support from many sources, including the Yabuki Family Foundation, those who attended our first Evening with Awake fundraising dinner, 36 members of our Awake Allies monthly giving circle, and many other individual donors.



EXPENSES

Your generosity this fiscal year allowed us to expand our program offerings, host our first weekend retreat for survivors, and set aside funds to add a new part-time Survivor Care Coordinator position in August 2023.



We believe that effectively addressing the complex issue of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church requires thoughtful, consistent effort over many years. We're committed to the long, slow work of transformation and healing, so we are growing carefully, spending judiciously, and setting aside resources to ensure the long-term sustainability of this mission. Thank you for making this possible!

OUR TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PATTY INGRILLI, PRESIDENT ELECT
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AMANDA CONLIN, TREASURER
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MIKE LARSON
ERIN O'DONNELL
ELIZABETH SCHICK
JERRI VON DEN BOSCH

STAFF

SARA LARSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CATHERINE OWERS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST
ESTHER HARBER, SURVIVOR CARE COORDINATOR (BEGINNING AUGUST 2023)

WORDS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Awake has been a lighthouse in the storm. During a time of extreme distress, Awake offered our family a place of refuge, compassion, and genuine concern. Awake has been the only place I have been able to give voice to my deep sorrow around my brother's abuse. I am deeply grateful for this courageous organization.
~ Jolene, Sister of a Survivor

I have seen Awake make survivor voices a priority in everything they do. Awake is doing this ministry like no other Catholic organization.
~ Natalie, Survivor

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story with the amazing Awake community. This experience has been extremely therapeutic for me.
~ Val, Survivor

Thank you for your support and your caring. It means more to me than you will ever know.
~ Sue, Survivor

As a clergy abuse survivor who has felt alone and isolated, it is really powerful to me to see so many good people involved on behalf of healing wounds caused by abuse.
~ Mike, Survivor

Awake has given me opportunities to listen to survivors voice their pain, concerns, and hopes, which has helped (and will continue help) my ministry in offering the healing and love of God in those moments.
~ Matt, Priest

Being part of the Awake community has enriched my experience of prayerful collaboration, deepened my experience of beloved community, and expanded my understanding of the power of an apology on behalf of the Church.
- Laura, Volunteer