



OUR MISSION IS TO AWAKEN OUR COMMUNITY
TO THE FULL REALITY OF SEXUAL ABUSE
IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND
WORK FOR TRANSFORMATION AND HEALING
THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2020**



Words from
one survivor
impacted
by Awake:

"What you do is
life-changing.
It really is."

DEAR FRIENDS,

In looking back on 2020, many of us will recall monumental changes and some, even life-altering losses. But at the start of what would become a year of pandemic, Awake Milwaukee found itself at a new beginning as a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the state of Wisconsin. Along with Executive Director Sara Larson, our three-person Board of Directors and ten-member Leadership Team was primed to make a positive difference in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

As the shut down extended from weeks to months, we altered plans and were able, like countless others, to come together virtually.

Whereas "before COVID" we hosted in-person Community Gatherings and

Discussion Groups in our homes and parishes, Awake now turned to virtual events, our weekly blog, and social media to spread awareness of our mission. We maintained dialogue with Church leadership to advocate for change. We offered support to parish staff following the release of the Vatican's investigation into former cardinal Theodore McCarrick. Responding to a need among Catholics in the pews to talk about the report, we hosted small group discussions via Zoom. And we launched our first-ever fundraising appeal to create a network of donors who are invested in this work that we remain so dedicated to.

We do all of this because of our love for Jesus Christ, His Church, and His people, and only with your continued support. Thank you.

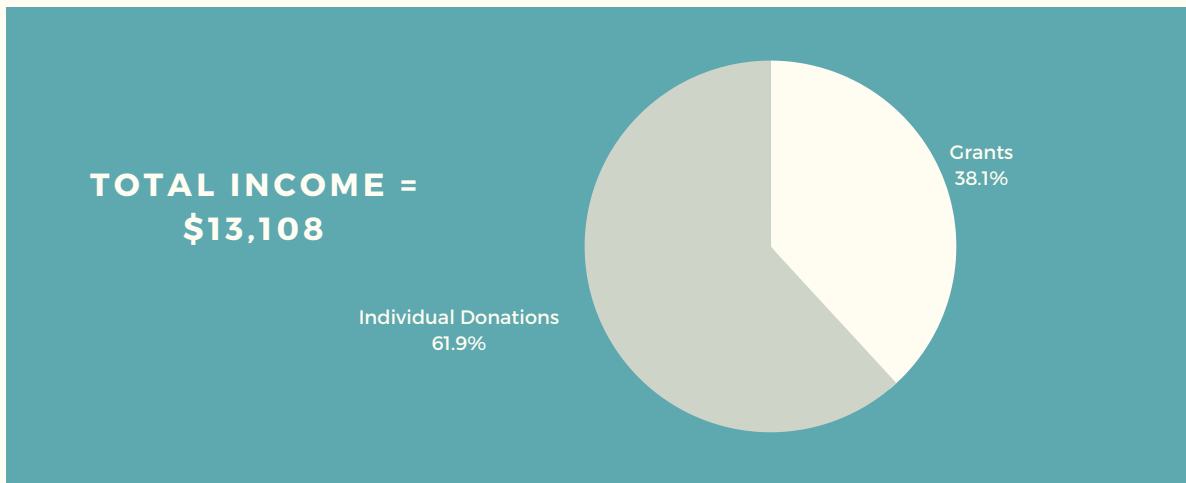
ELIZABETH ZIMMER
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020 AT A GLANCE

- Became a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the state of Wisconsin
- Formed three-person Board of Directors in addition to original ten-member volunteer Leadership Team
- Named Sara Larson Executive Director
- Formed five-person Survivor Advisory Panel to provide guidance and feedback on Awake initiatives
- Launched weekly blog and published 47 posts by year's end
- Hosted 4 Community Gatherings and 3 Discussion Groups on topics relating to abuse and leadership failures in the Catholic Church
- Expanded outreach through weekly e-newsletter and active social media presence on Facebook and LinkedIn
- Built email database of clergy and parish staff throughout the Archdiocese to allow direct communication and resource sharing with parish leaders
- Maintained ongoing dialogue with Archdiocese of Milwaukee including meetings with various archdiocesan staff
- Organized rapid response to the release of the McCarrick Report, providing resources to priests/parish staff and hosting three online small group conversations on the topic
- Developed collaborative relationships with many state and national organizations with similar or related missions
- Reached over 300 signatures on our Open Letter to Survivors
- Built personal connections with numerous survivors and family members impacted by abuse in the Catholic Church
- Launched monthly online speakers series, Courageous Conversations, in December 2020, with more than 100 registrations for inaugural event

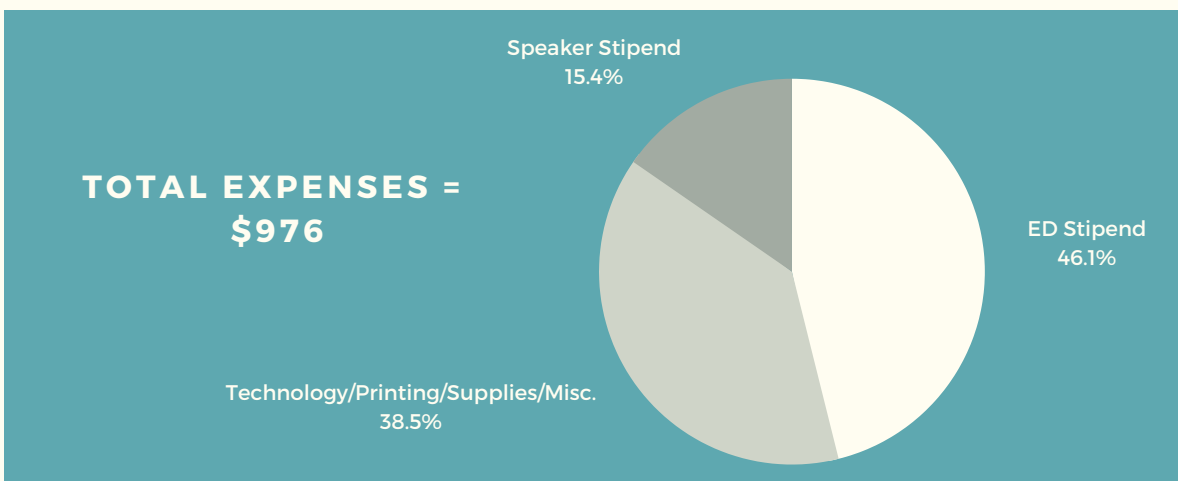
2020 INCOME

In 2020 Awake received \$13,108.12, almost entirely from donations that were received in the fall and end of the year. Included in that amount was a generous grant of \$5,000 from the Yabuki Family Foundation. We are grateful for all of the contributions we received from supporters this year - no matter the amount.



2020 EXPENSES

In 2020 our expenses were \$976.59 and included small stipends to our Executive Director and the speaker for our first Courageous Conversations event. Other expenses included technology fees, printing costs, office supplies, and miscellaneous expenses.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELIZABETH ZIMMER, PRESIDENT
JIM CAULEY, TREASURER*
JERRI VON DEN BOSCH, SECRETARY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SARA LARSON

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

BRENDA ANDREWS*
ELIZABETH BRICK
JIM CAULEY*
LYNN CHARNITZ
MARY GENTILE
PATTY INGRILLI
SARA KNUTSON
MIKE LARSON
ERIN O'DONNELL
JERRI VON DEN BOSCH

*Brenda Andrews and Jim Cauley have stepped back from these roles as of January and April 2021, but they remain involved with Awake in other volunteer roles. We thank Brenda and Jim for their valuable leadership in the early growth of our organization!

The Board of Directors added four new members in April 2021. Visit our website for the most up to date information about Awake leadership.

Since the beginning, Awake has been blessed with the service of countless volunteers and supporters who have contributed time, talent, and treasure to help grow our grassroots organization and fulfill our mission.

We are grateful for your continued support!