

AWAKE MILWAUKEE

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Whether you have been a part of the Awake community since the beginning or have connected more recently, you could not have missed seeing how much we have grown in the past year! So many exciting opportunities have come our way, leading to new initiatives, a larger group of volunteers and donors, increased outreach to abuse survivors, and most recently, the addition of a second staff person.

Embracing virtual programming has allowed us to connect with many people who care about our mission, both within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and throughout the United States. We have been blessed with wonderful new volunteers in many areas of our work, and we are grateful that we could return to gathering in person with local community members for prayer, fellowship, and spreading awareness of our work.

Awake recently shifted our fiscal year to more closely align with the rhythm of our ongoing programs, so this report covers July 2021 through June 2022.

Over these 12 months, we have been able to strengthen our financial foundation, thanks to strong numbers of new and returning donors, the ongoing support of our Awake Allies monthly giving circle, and a greater diversity of funding sources.

On behalf of our board of directors, staff, and leadership team, let me humbly thank you again for your continued generosity, engagement, and prayer which have made this growth possible.

Blessings and peace,

Elizabeth Zimmer

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed... It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants... and the birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches." ~ Mt. 13:31-32



This original painting was inspired by the "mustard seed" passage from the Gospel of Matthew and created for Awake Milwaukee by artist and abuse survivor Allison Igne DeGeorge.

THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

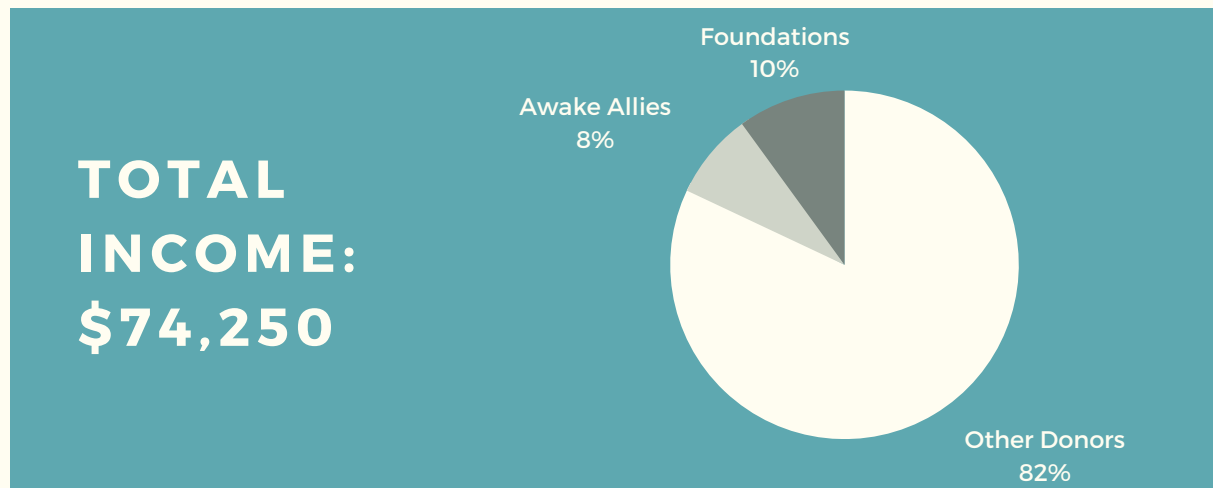
- Launched our new Survivor Circle ministry, welcoming 28 sexual abuse survivors and 7 loved ones of victim-survivors into monthly online gatherings for ongoing community and support
- Published 40 informative blog posts, including the first three profiles in our new monthly Survivor Story feature
- Helped educate many supportive clergy and lay ministers in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and throughout the United States
- Hosted 5 powerful Courageous Conversations, on topics like "Trauma and Resilience in the Body of Christ" and "Why the Church Needs Survivors' Stories"
- Followed each of these thought-provoking presentations with an evening of small group discussion and community building the subsequent week
- Increased our social media outreach through an active presence on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube
- Engaged many new local and remote volunteers to share their time and gifts in support of Awake's mission
- Offered 5 unique prayer services, including our powerful "Walking the Way of the Cross with Survivors" online service during Lent
- Invited 21 volunteers to deepen their understanding of and commitment to our mission at our second annual Awake Leadership Gathering
- Deepened our relationships and collaboration with other lay advocacy groups in the United States and Canada
- Participated in the global Catholic synod process by hosting two virtual Synod Sessions with 106 participants, including 46 abuse survivors, and submitted our report to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

FINANCIALS

JULY 2021-JUNE 2022

INCOME*

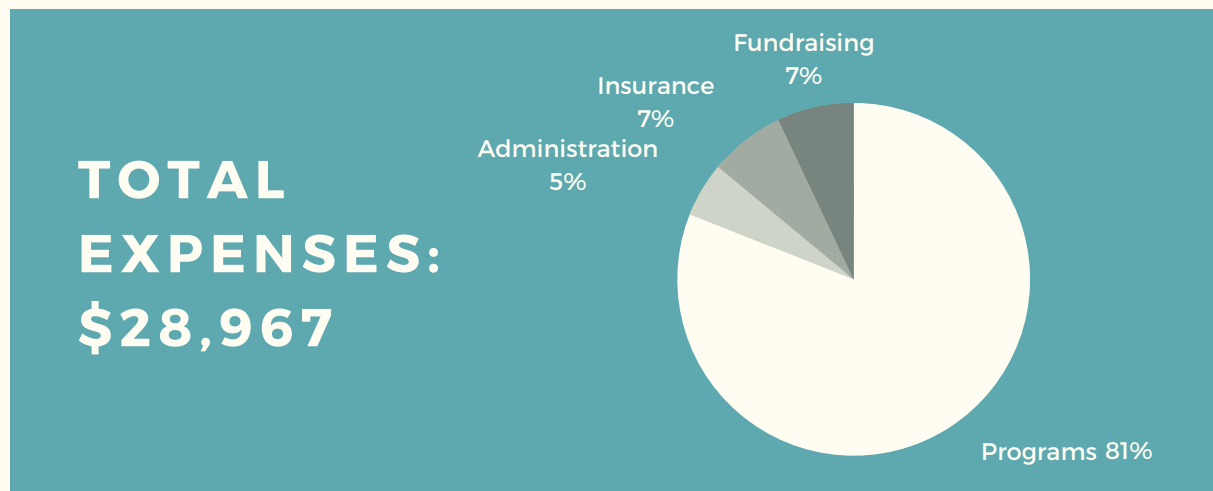
We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of support from many sources, including the Yabuki Family Foundation, outreach committees at several parishes, 22 members of our Awake Allies monthly giving circle, and 115 other individual donors.



*Due to a clerical error, the original version of this report understated our total income. This report has been updated as of 11/20/23 to show the correct amount.

EXPENSES

Your generosity this fiscal year allowed us to expand our program offerings, purchase insurance, begin paying our executive director, and set aside funds to add a new part-time staff person in July 2022.



We have changed our fiscal year to be more in sync with our September through May program year. This report reflects the numbers for our most recent fiscal year.

To view financial information for January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021, please visit www.awakemilwaukee.org/annualreport.

OUR TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELIZABETH ZIMMER, PRESIDENT
ELAINE STEELE, SECRETARY
AMANDA CONLIN, TREASURER
DORIS BROSNAN
DEIRDRE DEMPSEY
KRISTIN HANSEN
PATTY INGRILLI
WILLIAM KESSENICH
SHELLY RODER
JERRI VON DEN BOSCH

CHAPLAIN

CATHY MELESKE DANTE

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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LYNN CHARNITZ
MARY GENTILE
SARA KNUTSON
MIKE LARSON
ERIN O'DONNELL
JERRI VON DEN BOSCH

STAFF

SARA LARSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CATHERINE OWERS, COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

WORDS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Awake has helped give me a better understanding of the impact of clergy sexual abuse and has so impressed me with their compassionate and meaningful ways of ministering to those who have been abused.

~ Pat, Concerned Catholic

THANK YOU for your important work. May it continue to be a blessing to all who receive it.

~ Michael, Survivor

Awake has helped me understand.

~ Thomas, Priest

I feel validated and am treated with great respect by these wonderful folks. I've been empowered through participation, my dignity lifted.

~ Kathryn, Survivor

Awake is a community of understanding and support for me.

~ Terri, Survivor

Hearing other people's stories inspires me to rethink my own story. Their words and thoughts fill a loneliness that nags at me from time to time.

~ Wendy, Family Member of a Victim

The work of Awake is important and sacred. If we are a Church that honors life, we must respect the lives of those who have been harmed within the Church.

~ Janet, Concerned Catholic