



## PROJECT AGAINST VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS

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Town of Sandgate

This year marked PAVE's 40 year anniversary of providing compassionate, concrete support to survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. PAVE continues to be the only agency providing these services in Bennington County. Our goal is to promote a world where all peoples can be empowered to have fulfilling, safe relationships free from violence. We do this by providing services in times of crisis but provide services that educate, heal and empower as well.

In the last 40 years PAVE has grown from a crisis hotline to an agency offering multiple, comprehensive services. The cycle of abuse is often multi-generational and because of this knowledge PAVE offers prevention services through education and community outreach as well as direct services to survivors.

This past year brought unique challenges due to COVID 19 and the precautions that we all needed to take to keep our communities safe. PAVE understood that to quarantine would create new barriers for survivors trying to flee domestic or sexual violence. In response, our hotline remained open and fielded 293 calls. In addition, we received 805 calls seeking services and support to our main agency line during the past year.

Our advocates worked hard to continue offering support to survivors, while working remotely providing 101 interactions through internet contact alone. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, PAVE remained available and vital to the community. In the past year, PAVE served 235 survivors providing 1,468 supportive interactions. Our supervised visitation program also remained active providing remote visit options to parents and children, to keep them connected, despite not being able to physically see each other. This program offered 376 visits throughout the past year and has moved back to offering in person visits.

Domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness among families. For this reason our shelter remained open throughout the pandemic. Our shelter offers the only short term emergency housing for survivors of domestic violence in the county. Pave provided 1,057 nights of shelter last year, to survivors fleeing domestic or sexual violence.

PAVE is asking for level funding this year; \$100.00.

On behalf of our board of directors, staff, and the families we served, I thank the Town of Sandgate for your ongoing support. It allows us to create greater opportunities for those that are impacted by domestic and/or sexual violence, and need our services each year.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lindsay Brillon*

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*Dara Zink*

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