

## Dear friends, supporters, allies, accomplices, & survivors,

2023 has been a year, hasn't it? SASS hit the ground running in January and haven't stopped since. 2023 has seen a new building, new phone system, new programs, new partnerships, new staff, new volunteers, new Board members, and several new office dogs. We've barely had a moment to stop throughout all the changes, but we've remained grounded in the one thing that doesn't change at SASS: our commitment to supporting survivors and working towards a world in which services like ours are no longer needed.

That work has grown this year. Our Youth program now has two full-time Youth Advocates, the Support Group & Education Program is offering more projects than ever, and the Resiliency Skills program gave out nearly \$30k in transitional housing aid. As a founding member of the Lane Co. Violence Prevention Coalition, SASS was awarded United Way funding for sexual violence prevention work. All of that is in addition to *thousands* of hours of direct client support (stats on the next page). Our Advocates work *hard*. Any person we've helped or recognition we've earned is due to their remarkable efforts. I am so privileged to work alongside them and excited to see what they do next.

We can't pretend that this year wasn't also full of challenges. The breadth and depth of need continues to rise, as does the cost of providing

care, while funding has reduced or remained flat. While OR is lucky to have legislators who champion survivor services, statewide sexual and domestic violence funding continues to be passed as one-time funds, which inhibits long-term planning and program stability. And here in Lane County, Eugene's only emergency room closed in December (more on that below). So now more than ever, **your support and generosity is deeply appreciated**. Donating to SASS is one of the easiest ways that you can ensure survivors receive the advocacy and care they deserve.

So what are we looking towards in 2024?

- Expanded accessibility on our Crisis & Support Line through text/web chat.
- Dedicated Spanish language hours on the Crisis & Support Line (in addition to 24/7 tele-interpretation).
- More workshops, drop-in support groups, and other events (in English and Spanish).
- School-based programs for staff, students, and parents in 4J high schools.

Whatever 2024 year holds, I am grateful that we'll face it together & I'm honored to be part of such a caring community.

**In solidarity,**



Martina Shabram, PhD  
Executive Director



For more information about SASS's response to the hospital closure, go to [www.sass-lane.org/news](http://www.sass-lane.org/news)

### How will the closure of PeaceHealth University District affect survivors?

Data from the past several years shows that the University District ED is consistently serving a higher percentage of survivors than RiverBend & McKenzie-Willamette are. **And while the UD closure will negatively affect all survivors, the most vulnerable will be hit the hardest.** From 2021-'23, UD provided emergency medical advocacy services for 60% of unhoused survivors and 73% of survivors experiencing mental health crisis and/or disability. These numbers represent hundreds of survivors who will likely experience increased wait times, crowding, and distress as a result.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Phoebe, Crisis Line  
advocate since 2021

### What brought you to SASS?

I wanted to help in  
whatever way I could!

I also wanted to gain a deeper  
understanding of the dynamics of sexual  
violence and learn what an organized  
effort to address these issues looks like.

### What's something you've done or learned at SASS that has impacted you positively?

Being with SASS has made me realize  
how commonplace tragedy is and the  
vital importance of cultivating joy and  
investing in the local community in  
response to tragedy. SASS does an  
excellent job of emphasizing that  
providing validation to individuals during  
moments of pain is a necessary step  
towards healing and fostering a broader  
sense of empathy within the community.  
I am very grateful for the opportunity to  
be a small piece of the SASS puzzle and  
to have carried over these lessons into  
my personal life.



## 2022-2023 Volunteer Stats

**2122**

total volunteer  
hours

**13**

total volunteers

**20**

participants in  
Core Advocacy  
Training

## 2022-2023 Service Data

July '22 through Jun '23

**1510**

unique  
individuals served  
(38% increase from  
previous year)

**2143**

total client  
contacts

**1188**

calls on the Crisis  
& Support Line

**1724**

total hours of  
client contact

**184**

requests for  
emergency  
medical advocacy  
(18% increase from  
previous year)

**16**

survivors  
supported with  
transitional  
housing funds

**318**

unique support  
group participants  
(35% increase from  
previous year)

**38**

police reports  
(128% increase from  
previous year)



## Office Dog Spotlight

Pepper

### Who is your person?

Syd, SASS's Support Group &  
Education Coordinator

### What's your title at SASS?

I am the Hand Holding

Supervisor (because I like to put my paw in your  
hand when you pet me).

### What do you like best at SASS?

Doing zoomies in the hallway, sniffing everything,  
and making people laugh if they seem sad.

## WHAT YOUR DONATION CAN DO:

**TO MAKE A  
DONATION, GO  
TO:  
[bit.ly/Donate  
2SASS](https://bit.ly/Donate2SASS)**



provides warm  
clothing for a  
survivor  
leaving the  
hospital



provides a  
survivor with a  
secure cell  
phone and one  
month of  
minutes



covers the cost of  
a weekend of  
24/7 crisis line &  
emergency  
medical advocacy