

RESISTANCE & RESILIENCE IMPACT REPORT 2024



SASS

Sexual Assault
Support Services

Servicios de Apoyo
Contra el Abuso Sexual

Dear friends, supporters, allies, & survivors,

Writing this letter is a strange task at the end of a strange year. SASS spent much of the year working on a new Strategic Plan, which required introspection, reflection, and creative thinking about the future we want for this organization. We were energized, optimistic, even hopeful. Through that process, we felt renewed in our commitment to the work and our place in the movement.

But throughout all of that: anxiety, hopelessness, dread. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which funds many SASS programs, is facing a 40% budget reduction. Demand has risen to its highest levels as the cost of living and housing crises worsen. And for many of the survivors we serve, as well as many SASS staff, the proposed policies of the incoming administration represent a direct threat to safety, stability, and healing. This is nothing new: governments have always enacted state-based violence against vulnerable people. But things *do* feel uniquely precarious and none of us are immune from feeling the strain of all this uncertainty.

So what should I say to summarize 2024 and look forward to 2025? The whole SASS team is at a loss. Nimisha, SASS Support Group Coord., summarized our feelings best:

"This world has made it harder and harder to provide support and care for survivors and for each other. But our continued existence is a giant middle finger to the systems that try to put us down. Our resilience is our resistance."

Our resilience is our resistance. It's a rallying cry we can get behind. And it's an ideal keeping

us grounded in the work during this difficult time. That call to action is the energy propelling us forward -- and we *are* moving forward, together, no matter what.

So I thought that I'd share how SASS's staff understand our resilience as resistance as they look ahead to 2025:

"In a political climate that seeks to undermine this work, we don't just stand by – we resist by prioritizing care, equity, and the power of community."

- Syd, Prevention & Development Coord.

"We resist by bearing witness to pain and trauma, creating space for others to be seen, heard, and held in their full humanity."

- Evelin, Associate Director

"We resist by refusing to succumb to the cultural mandate to think of interpersonal violence solely as an interpersonal problem."

- Kaelyn, Associate Director

This coming year won't be easy, but we aren't afraid of the hard stuff. And we will resist *together*. There is reason to be excited; we anticipate more compassionate listening, more community outreach, more direct aid. We're launching a new emergency hoteling program, funded by the Oregon Community Foundation! And no matter what comes, we're all going to continue to do the good work SASS has been doing for nearly 34 years.

With resolve, with hope,

Martina Shabram, PhD
Executive Director



FACTS & FIGURES

for July '23-Jun '24

21
total
volunteers

1166
total volunteer
hours

1503
calls on the Crisis
& Support Line
(27% increase from
previous year)

2307
total hours of
client contact

1609
unique
individuals served
(32% increase from
previous year)

2823
total client
contacts
(7% increase from
previous year)

464
unique support
group participants
(46% increase from
previous year)

147
requests for
emergency
medical advocacy

27
survivors
supported with
housing funds
\$61,984 of direct aid

41
police reports &
court
accompaniments

STRATEGIES & PLANS

SASS's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan comes out of the work of SASS staff and Board, with support from Steinkopf Strategies and input from over a dozen community stakeholders. Some of our goals are urgent, guiding our actions in the short term, while others set longer-term priorities. Together, they drive us toward a safer, more just future. Here are the strategic priorities lighting our path forward.

URGENT PRIORITIES

Addressing the Housing Crisis & Supporting Basic Needs for Survivors

Building Board Capacity & Community Engagement

SHORT-TERM STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Expanding Statewide Advocacy Training & Services

Expanding Youth-Based Intervention & Prevention Programs

Developing More Support for Male-Identified Survivors

Expanding Staffing Capacity for Sustainable Support

LONG-TERM STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Building Fund Development toward Liberatory Funding

Strengthening Collaboration to Drive Systems-Level Change

Planning for a Stand-Alone Clinic





CONTINUITY & CHANGE

As part of the six-month strategic planning journey, our team reflected on where we started in 1991 and how we have grown into the agency we are today. We could see the threads of what has changed and what has stayed the same. This updated Mission, Vision, & Values statement draws upon SASS's decades-long commitment to the movement in order to better articulate where we are in the present and guide us towards where we want to be in the future.

OUR MISSION

is to create opportunities for survivors of sexual violence and their supporters to find healing, justice, and liberation.

OUR VISION

is of a world that supports bodily autonomy, dignity, and freedom of choice for all people, and a culture that centers consent, equality, and liberation.

OUR VALUES

There is no singular way to be a survivor.

No one is free until everyone is free.

There is no wrong door.

Every person has the right to make decisions about their own body, free from coercion or violence.

It is our responsibility to do the work it takes to be a welcoming and safe space for people of all genders, races, religions, abilities, and backgrounds.

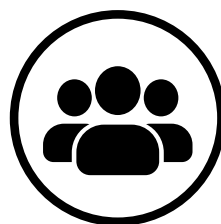
All people deserve radical acceptance for who they are.

OUR COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT MEANS EVERYTHING TO US. HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT SASS'S WORK:



become a volunteer Advocate on the 24/7 Crisis & Support Line

sass-lane.org/volunteer



join the Board of Directors

sass-lane.org/board



donate on our website or via Venmo (follow the QR code)

sass-lane.org/donate

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & APPRECIATION

Board Member Spotlight

Dr. Lauren Buse, FNP-C, SANE-A, SANE-P, OR-SANE

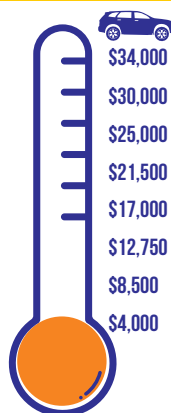
I became a board member for SASS because I believe in the transformative power of community and advocacy in the lives of survivors. As a survivor of sexual violence, I have seen firsthand how vital compassionate support and skilled care are to healing and empowerment. When Martina approached me about serving on the board, I recognized it as an ideal way to keep contributing my experience and energy toward advancing SASS's critical work. Serving on the Board is a way to channel both my current work as a primary care provider and my decade of experience offering direct care to survivors of sexual violence, domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking, and elder abuse.



support our car campaign!

TO MAKE A DONATION, GO TO:
bit.ly/Donate2SASS

SASS needs a new car! In 2024, we responded to nearly 200 hospital calls - our highest number ever! That accounts for over 3000 miles driven to the hospitals alone. Help SASS replace our 15yr old car so that we can keep delivering life-changing care throughout Lane County.



Board service matters because it is a commitment to guiding and strengthening an organization. Being on a nonprofit board is about collaboration, leadership, and making strategic decisions that honor the mission while paving the way for growth and innovation. I would encourage others to consider this kind of service; it allows you to be a part of something bigger - building a more just, compassionate, and empowered world, one decision at a time.

Interested in hearing more from SASS? Sign up for our quarterly newsletter at: SASS-lane.org/news

SASS is grateful for all of our partners & supporters. Special appreciation in 2024 goes to:

Steinkopf Strategies
Books With Pictures Eugene
Wild Rose Tattoo
255 Madison

Jackie Melvin, SASS's Beverage Fairy
Ease the Overlap
Just Detention International
OCADSV and SATF

Your SASS team:

Martina Shabram Executive Director	Elleot Gordon Youth Outreach Coordinator
Kaelyn Kirkpatrick Associate Director, Operations	Nimisha Jain Support Group Coordinator
Evelin Damian Ramirez Associate Director, Programs	Madi Potter Legal & Systems Navigation Coordinator
Elle Belfatto Youth Advocacy Coordinator	Syd Reed Prevention and Development Coordinator
Gisela Cerratos Access Coordinator	Andoeni Verdugo Latine Community Coordinator

Your SASS Board: Kasia Mlynski (President), Lauren Buse (Secretary), Angie Peatow (Treasurer), Lindsay Selser, Susan Lax, Lisa Daley, Katie Hall, Selena Portillo-Jensen

