

HOLDING *the* LINE

SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT SERVICES OF LANE COUNTY

IMPACT REPORT 2025

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

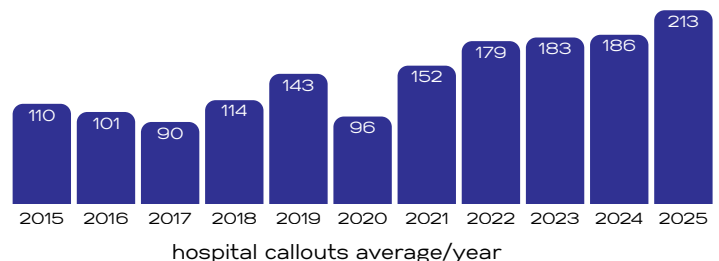
Last year, in my annual impact report, I said: "this coming year won't be easy, but we aren't afraid of the hard stuff." Well, I'm afraid I was right: this year *wasn't* easy. It was exhausting, demoralizing, terrifying, heartbreaking, and unsettling. There's no sugarcoating that.

But I was also right that this community has what it takes to tackle the hard stuff. Amidst a litany of horrors, SASSies continued to show up for survivors and for each other. As an agency, we've had to respond to a catastrophic loss of funding stability while *also* accommodating a significant increase in service demand and *also* protecting our staff, survivors, and agency from an increasingly threatening and hostile federal government. **It's often felt like all we are able to do is survive.**

So the best I can say about this year is that amidst pushback and a seemingly endless barrage of challenges, **we held the line.** We held each other up, on days when the world felt a little too heavy to bear alone. We held onto hope, even when optimism felt foolish. And we held firm in our core value, that **all survivors deserve support to seek safety, healing, and justice**, even when people in positions of power at the highest level demonstrated that they don't share that principle. So as we look into a new year, **I'm asking for you to help us hold the line.**

Because let's be clear: **to make it through this tough time, just surviving isn't going to be enough.**

The challenges our community faces are growing more complex and more dire, and giving people the care they deserve requires more resources than ever before. Consider SASS's emergency medical advocacy services. In the five years of 2015-2019, SASS responded to the hospitals for emergency medical advocacy an average of 111 times/yr. In the five years 2021-2025 (with a little estimation for the end of this Dec), the average is ~183/yr. **That's an increase of roughly 64%.** I started as an Advocate in 2019, when we could expect about 12 hospital callouts per month. Now, it's close to 18 per month; *the job I was hired for is simply not the same job that Advocates do now.*



We need more people to help shoulder this burden if we're going to sustain. So I hope you continue to read and learn more about the year SASS has had, the year SASS is preparing for, and the many ways that you can contribute. We can do this, if we're together.



Holding you all in my heart,

Martina Shabram, PhD
Executive Director



CRUNCHING *the* NUMBERS

service statistics for July 2024 - June 2025

1631

calls on the Crisis
& Support Line
(↑9% from '23-'24)

1726

unique
individuals served
(↑7% from '23-'24)

3827

total client
contacts
(↑36% from '23-'24)

536

unique support
group participants
(↑16% from '23-'24)

169*

times survivors
received
emergency supplies
(phones, underwear,
hygiene kits, etc.)

202

requests for
emergency
medical advocacy
(↑27% from '23-'24)

80

survivors
supported with
housing funds
\$72,700 of direct aid

58

police reports
& court
accompaniments
(↑42% from '23-'24)

20

total volunteers
and interns

1687

total volunteer
hours

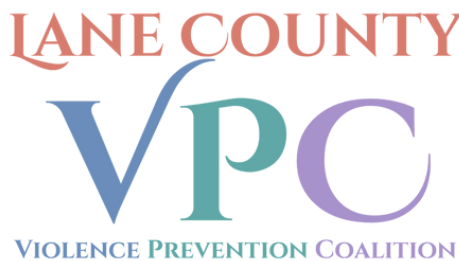
2307

total hours of
client contact

5

percent of clients
requesting
emergency shelter

* Did you know: one of the most common requests from survivors is a prepaid phone, charger, & 1mo of data. In FY24-25, we distributed 33 phone packs at a cost of over \$3000. In FY25-26, we've already distributed 25 – but our emergency supplies budget was cut in half. **Want to help bridge the gap? Your donation of \$100 covers the cost of confidential communication for one survivor.**



joined by Ophelia's Place. Now representing dozens of orgs countywide, the LCVPC has evolved into a robust collective, dedicated to the primary prevention of domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse, and identity-based violence. LCVPC emphasizes trauma-informed, strengths-based approaches, collaborative community engagement, and equitable access to prevention programs. **In December, the VPC launched its website, which features a comprehensive local resources directory, a primary prevention library, opportunities for engagement, and more.** LCVPC invites the community to visit the site, explore the work, and join the effort to prevent violence before it occurs.

violencepreventionLC.org

SASS x UMICH

Thanks to a partnership with University of Michigan PhD candidate (and SASS Advocate) Gracia Dodds, survivors have the exciting opportunity to **confidentially participate in groundbreaking research** on young adults who experienced sexual violence as teenagers.

Survivors 18-20yrs old who experienced SA before they were 18 are eligible. Participants will receive a \$35 Visa gift card and can help contribute to research that aims to minimize the harm that survivors endure.

Know someone who might be interested? Reach out to gracia@umich.edu



CELEBRATING *the* PAST



2026 is SASS's 35th Anniversary. We're gearing up for the next 35 years of support, advocacy, & hope by reflecting on the past. So, how did we get here? A brief SASS timeline:

1990s

Following the closure of the Rape Crisis Network, a coalition of community members come together to create SASS. On Oct 1, 1991, 24hr crisis intervention services begin. In the first month, with only 2 staff and 11 volunteers, we field 25 calls.

In 1993, we hire our first program staff: the Latina Outreach Coordinator and Support Group Facilitators. We also participate in the development of the Domestic Violence Council of Lane County.

In 1996, SASS's influence goes global: we are asked to provide technical support for the pioneering NGO National Center Against Violence in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

In 1999, we purchase a home at 19th & Jefferson. That same year, we're instrumental in founding the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF).

2000s

In 2003, SASS helps to conceive and pass the ODSVS House Bill that creates the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund.

We support legislation like SB198 (2005), HB2154 (2006), HB2353 (2009).

SASS adapts to community need and creates positions such as Rural Outreach Coordinator and Youth Advocate. SASS also launches programs such as Self Defense, Bilingual Advocacy, and LGBTQIA+ Support. In 2005, we launch Engaging Change, the first primary prevention program specifically for the queer community.

2010s

We continue to innovate with unique programs, such as the Mujeres support group and annual women's retreat, and we lead Take Back the Night with UO's Women's Center.

In 2015, we are central to efforts to pass HB 3476, codifying victim-advocate privilege.

In 2017, through VOCA funding, we launch Lane County's Commercial Sexual Abuse of Children task force and create the first Trafficking Intervention program in the county.

2020s

The pandemic presents unprecedented challenges, but SASS makes it through without losing any positions – and comes out stronger, with an online support group program, increased housing support, and a new relationship with hospitals & other providers.

In 2022, we move to a new building with room for expanded programs. SASS's ED helps shape the OR Dept. of Ed's new Health Education Standards & Guidelines.

In 2024, we refresh our Mission, Vision, & Values and share a new strategic plan that addresses our goals and honors our origins. SASS's ED is appointed Co-Chair of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission's Sexual Misconduct Survey Council.



Help SASS celebrate our 35th Anniversary with Consent Prom this Fall! The evening will feature drinks, dancing, photos, a silent auction, and more. So dust off your best 90's prom dress, feather your bangs, strap on your Doc Martens, and prepare to **reclaim prom as a night of consent, respect, and joy.**



Want to make sure you don't miss the invite? Sign up for SASS's newsletter to be first on the list for Consent Prom tickets and to learn more about events throughout the year.

sass-lane.org/news

HONORING *the* WORK

Board Member Spotlight

Selena Portillo-Jensen, MSW, Vice President of the Board

Serving on the Board is meaningful to me because I believe strong communities are built on empathy and community care. I'm passionate about SASS's mission to ensure that survivors and their supporters have access to trauma-informed services, advocacy, and support to continue in their healing. Joining the Board has allowed me to contribute to the mission and vision of SASS in a hands-on way.

Board service is also about supporting the dedicated staff who carry out this critical work every day. Because of my previous experience working in the field of sexual assault response, I know firsthand the challenges of this work and how **leaning on your community can help mitigate the effects of vicarious trauma and burnout**. As a Board member, I value the opportunity to collaborate with SASS staff to create an environment where everyone feels heard, supported, and empowered.

SASS's work is vital in Lane Co., especially now. Serving on the Board is an opportunity to help guide the organization strategically, honor its mission and vision, and assist in overseeing its growth. Service on the Board is also deeply rooted in the belief that **our time, voices, and experiences can make a difference**. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve SASS.



WHAT THE
EPSTEIN
FILES
UNCOVER,
SURVIVORS
HAVE KNOWN
ALL ALONG.

**A culture of silence leads
to more violence.**

TURN YOUR OUTRAGE INTO ACTION



**GET LOUD. STAY LOUD.
RAGE-DONATE TODAY.**

sass-lane.org/donate

Support survivors & the advocates
fighting alongside them.

Your support means everything to us.
Here are a few more ways be part
of SASS's community of care:



volunteer on the
24/7 Crisis & Support Line
sass-lane.org/volunteer



join the Board of Directors
sass-lane.org/board

Our work would be impossible without the amazing volunteers, interns, and after-hours on-call staff who dedicate so much time to SASS. Huge thanks to:

On-call Medical Advocates: Kristy, Sander, & Vinny

On-call Crisis Line Advocates: Amber, Diana, Ella, Elleot, Gracia, Jessica, Jo, Lina, Melony, Nimisha, Stephanie, Susan, Taryn, & Whitney

Interns: Alexis, Ava, Kelly, Leah, Mara, Prithika, Renata, & Sara B.

Trainees: Aashi, Antonia, Brooke, Derek, Fiona, Hannah, Ishara, & Sara S.

Your SASS team:

Martina Shabram, Executive Director **Kaelyn Kirkpatrick**, Deputy Director

Syd Reed, Community Programs Manager **Madi Potter**, Emergency Services Manager

Elle Belfatto, Stability Services Coordinator **Gisela Cerratos**, Survivor Access Coordinator

Andoení Verdugo, Latine Community Coordinator **Olivia Farnham**, Support Group Coordinator

[coming soon], Prevention & Outreach Coordinator

Your SASS Board: Lauren Buse (President), Selena Portillo-Jensen (Vice-President), Angie Peatow (Treasurer), Hannah Flier (Secretary), Susan Lax, Lisa Daley, Katie Hall, Micah Howe, Elly Maloney, Susie George, and Kasia Mlynski (President Emeritus)