I hope that you are having a great end to your summer! Summer seems to fly by faster and faster as the years move on. It has been another successful fiscal year on the books for Mutual Ground! I believe that it’s always important to look at the positive when facing negative situations like the Illinois State budget. I don’t think I have to tell anyone how difficult it is to plan for this fiscal year when we have no idea what will happen to one of the largest revenue streams in the agency’s operating budget heading into the third month of our fiscal year. Instead, we will focus on successes we had in FY15 as well as plans for the future. Forward is the only direction for us…hoping for the best while preparing for the worst (as always).

Some key highlights in Mutual Ground’s year include that we were able to open a satellite office in Batavia where we are actively serving victims of domestic and sexual violence from North Aurora, Batavia, and Geneva. We are completely revamping our service provision to include better hotline assistance, a more case collaborative approach to services offered to residents in our shelter, and working toward better serving individuals seeking orders of protection at the Kendall County Courthouse. Meanwhile, we have managed to make important updates to our building that not only help make the organization more welcoming to clients, but also make our ability to serve them more efficient and effective.

We were so incredibly grateful to be approached by Hogan Construction in Geneva who offered to completely rehab our sorely outdated and incredibly run down front lobby. Hogan Construction completely gutted the room, put in brand new beautiful and durable flooring, added a chair rail, updated our electric, and painted the lobby beautifully! With funding from the Dunham Fund, we were able to purchase a new front desk and lobby chairs. What a difference this has made! We reconfigured the space to better serve our clients and to ensure that EMS was able to have room to use the front door if needed. Calvary Church completely renovated our living room providing new furniture, paint and décor and completely rehabbed our first floor bedroom by adding new flooring, painting, décor, and bedding. Our kitchen was rehabbed by HB Fuller with a new backsplash and paint, and finally we were able to update our large basement meeting room where we hold our group counseling sessions, all-staff meetings, trainings, and meetings of our Board of Directors.

As I write this letter, there are five women and twelve children here in shelter. We just finished up our school supply drive where we were able to get over 100 children ready for the school year and our prevention specialist are working hard out in our schools. We are working tirelessly on our upcoming Walk for Hope as this is one of our biggest fundraisers and awareness initiatives of the year. Working to become less dependent on State funding is a daily mission for the administrative staff. We developed our FY16 fundraising strategy and are working hard to increase fundraising revenue streams. We are doing all we can to ensure that victims of domestic and sexual violence are getting the services they need and we couldn’t do it without your help! As always, thank you so much for your generous support of our mission.

Michelle Meyer, MBA, ICDVP

Executive Director
2015 Staff List

Mutual Ground
Where the Healing Begins
mutualground.org

Domestic Violence Program

Victim Advocacy

Domestic Violence Program Coordinator: Rebecca Laudati
Counselor: Kiersten Amport
Advocates: Patty Garcia, Maria Guillen, Nitxey Gutierrez, Lucy Rojas, Eileen Farias, Denise Santana, Erika Rios
Relief Advocates: Karina Garcia, Yesenia Herrera, Sabrina Karakaya, Candis Nikolic, Donna Suchecki, Alexander Wayzer, Kelsey West & Ben Wilcox

Crisis Intervention Advocates

Elizabeth Rivera, Elia Arcilla, Andrea Estrada & Sonia Lucena

Youth Advocacy

Coordinator: Sarah Hipp
Counselors: Daniela Larrondo & Deandra Bass
Childcare: Tina Klimpke & Mayra Juarez

Court Advocates

Coordinator: Sheila Gray
Advocates: Dalila Gerena, Blanca DeLoera, Diana Rodriguez & Kendra Coronado

Sexual Assault Program

SA Program Coordinator: Amy Medlin
Counselors: Mirna Fernandez, Nilva Perez, Alicia Hirt, Amanda Kuter & Nicollette Muniz (DV and SA Batavia Outreach Counselor)

Sexual Assault Court Advocate: Amanda Kuter

Prevention Education Program

Program Coordinator: Rhonda Annala
Prevention Educators: Jennifer King, Christina Wright, Carrie Eike & Staci Fulton

Administration

Executive Director: Michelle Meyer
Clinical Services Director: Alisa Neary
Finance Director: Debbie White
Director of Marketing and Events: Wendy Martorano
Director of Advancement: Lisa Ewers
Human Resources Director: Karin Mulder
Grant Writer: Tina Willson
IT Coordinator: Kim Hargis
Administrative Assistants: Joy Cox, Katherine Kovach
Grounds Maintenance: Jose Zamora
Volunteer Services

Director of Volunteer Services: Julie Judd
Emergency Response Program Coordinator: Jenaleigh Dague

Board of Directors FY2015

Officers of the Board
President: Andi Danis
Vice President/Treasurer/Finance Chair: Marlene Deck
Vice President/Board Development Chair: Dr. Renae Franiuk
Vice President/Marketing Chair: Heather Schmidt
Secretary: Steve Schultz

Members of the Board
Anne Barrett-Co-Chair Food for Thought
Susan Boehme*
Deborah Gurley
Joseph Henning
Jeremy Lime
Dr. Medea Rambish
George Sterling
Steve Sung
Sharon Surrett-Co-chair Walk for Hope
Juan Thomas
Josh Whitt

Life Member: Cynthia Allen
Executive Director: Michelle Meyer
*Past President of Mutual Ground

“Our sorrows and wounds are healed only when we touch them with compassion.”
~ Buddha
### Revenues

- **Government**: $1,044,701
- **Grants/Foundations**: $297,231
- **Special Events**: $163,948
- **Fundraising**: $245,047
- **United Ways**: $52,500
- **Earned Income**: $94,288
- **Total Revenues**: $1,897,715

### Expenses

- **Program Services**: $1,377,160
- **Admin/General**: $446,422
- **Fundraising**: $61,647
- **Total Expenses**: $1,897,715
53% of our clients are Hispanic
30% of our clients are Caucasian
15% African American
1% Asian
1% unknown

**How your donation helps the healing begin:**

- $21 child domestic violence counseling session
- $24 child sexual violence counseling session
- $26 one adult domestic violence counseling session
- $30 one adult sexual violence counseling session
- $88 one day of summer camp for one child
- $111 one night of shelter for a single woman
- $175 one night of shelter for a mother and two children
- $274 one month of domestic violence group counseling sessions for five teens
- $422 operating the domestic violence hotline for 24 hours
- $698 Three-day middle school sexual assault prevention program for 150 children

**FY 15 Services Provided**

- Clients served
- Children Served
- Orders of Protection Prevention Programs
- Hours by volunteer advocates
Donors

Over $5,000
Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
Fried J. Brunner Foundation
Thomas Burgwald
Caterpillar Foundation
Caterpillar WIN
Ms. Barbara Davis
Exchange Club of Naperville
The Hartford
Hollywood Casino
Kohl's
Laurel Foundation
PTO Services, Inc.
Sending Support Charitable Foundation
TJX Foundation
UIta Inc.
Unilock Chicago, Inc.
Verizon
Wilton Brands Community Fund

$2500-$4999
Altrusa International of Fox Valley
Assurance Caring Together Foundation
Susan & John Boehme United Way of
Mr. Kevin Fitzpatrick
Fox Valley Neighbors & Neighbors
Fox Valley United Way
Dr. Renae Franik
Ms. Jean Goethen
Juvenile Protective Association
McMaster-Carr Supply Company
Meadowvale
Miss Fannie's Yard Sale
Ms. Molly Foundation
Naperville North/Wheaton North Girls Softball
Gary & Nancy Penisten
The Pentair Foundation Susan Carter
Waubonsee Community College
Debbie Whilhelm
Stuart & Becky Whitt
Zonta Club of St. Charles-Geneva-Batavia

$1,000-$2499
John Anthony
AT&T Illinois
Aurora Fastrap
Aurora Sunrise Rotary Club Foundation
John & Jayne Ballun
Batavia Mother's Club
Batavia Rotary Club
Mrs. Betty Brownson
Ms. Kim Caldwell
Mr. & Mrs. Bill and Terri Carpenter
Judy & Charles Carroll
Castle Bank
Chicago Area Combined Federal Campaign
City of Aurora
ComEd
Dart Container Corporation
Dan D. Dolan
Christopher Dove
Ecolab Foundation
Wynette Edwards
Exchange Club of the Tri Cities
Fox Valley Presbyterian Church
Tom & Virginia Frattinger
Ms. Natasha Granholm
Don & Jane Grimaldi
H.B. Fuller Community Affairs
Ms. Linda Healy
Holy Cross Catholic Church
Mark & Suzanna Hosticka
Matthew Hurlbut
Illinois Hospital Association
Kane County Bar Association
Jesse Maberry

Nancy Moderny
Molly Maid of Aurora-Naperville Area
New England Congregational Church
New Horizon Christian Fellowship
Nico's
NRR Wholesale Generation
Orchard Auto Detail
Orchard Road Animal Hospital
Lou & Mary Petersen's
Ms. Michelle Porro
Rasmussen Inc.
Aurora Ritchey
RiverFront Chrysler/Jeep/Dodge
Rotary Club of Aurora
Rotary Club of Oswego
Rowe Custom Transport Dale Rowe
Rush Copley Medical Center
Sam's Club
Semler Industries
Shaw, Jacobs, Goosetree & Associates, PC.
Smith Family Foundation
Superior Beverage Co.
The Compassion Foundation
Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva
United Methodist Church of Geneva
Reverend Bill Oblall
United Methodist Women Church of the
Good Shepherd
United Souls Motorcycle Association
Frederick & Anne Vegue
Walmart
Weldstar
White & Ekker, P.C.
Joshua Whitt
Whitt Law
Tom & Eve Widmaier
Carol Winkle
Youngren's, Inc.

$500-$999
AGCD
Alarm Detection Systems
Askey's Construction, Patrick Askey
C.W. Schindler and Friends
Katharine Caliento
James & Lynn Cannon
Chicago Zoological Society
Community Foundation of the
Fox River Valley
Ms. Andrea Danis
S. Marcin Deisenroth RSM
Devon Bank
Drake Industries, LLC
Endeavor Group LLC
Fox Valley Credit Union
Roberta & John Franik
Gap Foundation
Geneva Lions Club
Diane Gerner
Greenleaf Yoga
Joanne Hansen
Kiwanis Club of Aurora
Kiwanis Golden K of Aurora
Edward & Susan Koziol
Lori Kuiper
The Label Printers
John McKee
Fannie Morrison
My Sisters Lil Donut Shoppe LLC
Nearby Family Trust
Jean Neupert
Old Second Bank Yorkville
Village of Oswego
Oswego Presbyterian Church
Caroline Otterman
R. Aaron Essens DDS PC
R.J.Kuhn Plumbing, Heating & Cooling, Inc.
Regency Tuck-Painting
Rush Copley Medical Center
Kay Russell
Mr. Philip Sclabach
Serena High School National Honor Society
Sharon Slover
St. Peter & St. Paul Orthodox Church
Steel Management Inc.
Steve & Lisa Steinwart

The Growing Place
Jim and Clare Tonton
Waubonsee Community College
Wells Fargo Advisors
Debbie & Ken White
Judy Willman
Yorkville Congregational Church

$250-$499
Aurora Police Department
Aux Sable
Mavis Bates
Ivan & Mary Becker
Bethany Lutheran Church
BP Fabric of America Fund
Edward & Paula Bruck
Bulldog Plumbing Inc
Denise Farrugia & Ronald Burgess
Daniel & Jeannette Byrne
Calvary Episcopal Church
Virginia Carpenter
CARSTAR Yorkville
Parley Casto
Certa Pro Painters of Aurora
Collision Connection Auto Body, Inc.
Community Congregational Church
Jim & Marcia Croner
Mr. Rey Cruz
Marlene & Rich Deck
Susan & Thomas Dienslake
Robert Dobyns A & D Propane, Inc
Erik Estrada
Fox Valley Dialysis, LTD.
Sarah E. Franke
Freeman Anselope Lindberg LLC
Gamma Phi Omega
Brian & Jennifer Healy
John J. Heitkotter, Inc
Ms. Katherine Hepp
James & Ina Heup
Steven & Jennifer Hinre
Holiday Inn Express
Mrs. Barbara A. Houck
Johnson Probing LLC
Susan Justice
Randy Kelley
James & Virginia Kintz
Ginny & Gene Kluber
Mr. Terry Kothe
Karen Kramford
Heather & Robert Malkin
Ms. Penny Markowski
John & Ann Marriner
Merlife
Ms. Michelle Meyer
Gerry & Barbara Morrow
Ms. Janet Nelson
Peace Lutheran Church
Ms. Kathy Richards
Robert Ruffle
Mr. Steven Sabo
Ms. Maggie Sadowsky
Mary Ann Schwarzbach
Sharratt Chiropractic
Paula Shreffler
St. Anne's Society of Holy Angels
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
Jack Stees
Kenneth & Susan Suchomel
Third Ward Social Club, Inc.
Traughber Junior High School
Steven Vasilion
Doris Whitt
David & Corinne Wieck
Anna Yang
Eva Alessia
Karen Alexander
Ms. Dean Allen
Amazon Smile Foundation
American Marketing Association
Aurora University
Christine Anderson
Kathy Anderson
Matthew Angela
David & Amy Angermeier
Mrs. Rhonda Annala
Mr. Jack Armbruster
George Arnett
Imelda Arriaga
Aurora Farmer's Market
Marion Bailey
Gerino Baranigan
Kurt Barbel
Lynn Barclay
Joe & Susan Barnes
Jerome & Elaine Barnwell
Ms. Anne Barrett
Margaret Barry
Batavia Women's Club
Nan V. (Ginny) Bateman
Mr. Thomas Baumgartner
Joseph & Lesley Beary
Christie Behrens
John & Paula Belcher
Mariani Benda
Jim & Ruth Benson
Cassie Blickem
Margaret Blomquist
Julie & Brian Boczkowski
Robert & Jamie Bode
Richard & Debra Bogue
Danny Bombard
Christina & Kyle Bonesteil
Edward & Gerda Boone
Mr. Randall Borkowski
Brenart Eye Clinic
Normandie Brown
Teresa Brown
Mary Brunnell
Carol & Paul Byrd
Jessica Caliendo
Penny Cameron
Lauren & Anthony Canale
Rebecca Cantrell
John Capone
James & Betty Carson
Chrisy & Michael Carter
Judith Casey
Cran & Cindy Caterer
Ruth Cavanaugh
Jo Cawthra
Ms. Michelle Cedeno
Jose & Inmelda Cervantes
Mary Lou Chapla
Kathy Chiu
Marianne Chrisos
Christopher B. Burke Engineering LTD.
Cathy Classen
Louise Coffman
Coffman Truck Sales, Inc.
Elise Ann Cole
Community Shares CFC
Dan & Kelly Conrad
Joshua Coners
Luis Cordova
Felix & Kendra Coronado
Dewey & Francisco Cortez
David Courtwright
James & Barbara Cox
Joy Cox
Carter & Donna Crane
Carter Coy
Lorena Cuestas
Michael & JoAnn Curry
Dairy Queen Jeff Webster
Patty Darcy
Ms. Patricia Daugherty
Susan & Noel Davis
Tammey Delacroix
Helena DeMoss
Ginny and Bob Dewig
John & Julia Dietz
Mary Ann Doeschmann

Under $250
Dwayne & Karen Abbott
Lisa Accardi
Dr. Kristen Accardo
Sabrina Aiello
Karin Alban
Judy and Chester Albright
Richard Albright
Sherry Albright
Jo Ellen Aleside

Mutual Ground Where the Healing Begins mutualground.org
In Memoriam

Memorial

Mark Hirner
Anonymous

Mina Riddle
Catherine and Thomas Riddle

Brandy Murphy
Dennis Wold

Ray White
Debbie and Ken White
Betty and Ross Miller

Jean Wolf
Catherine Riddle

Patricia Meyers
Eileen and Roger Kimber
Debra and Richard Bogue
Elroy Meyer
Mary Jo and Gregory Hoffman
Connie McClain

Kay Hurt
Susan and Noel Davis
Norma and Gerald Roesner
Gwen and John McKee
Beverly and Donald Lapp
Debbie and Ken White
Diane and Jack Hienton
Sandra and David Hipp
Kathryn Farrell
Richard R. White
Catherine and Frank Dozark
Elizabeth and Charles Spinning Jr.
Jane and Clark Hinkley
Clarice and James Toynton

Honarium

Nancy and Ed Weiss
Elizabeth Lennie

Heather Schmidt
Daniel Woodland
Susan and John Boehme
  Barbara Houck

Sharon Surrett
  Katherine Caliento

Joleen Shields
  Bobi Shields

Charlene Meyer
  Marian and Francis Bailey
  Michelle Meyer
  JoAnn and Michael Curry
  Carol and James Hirner
  Cathie Morehouse
  Donna Paulos
  Julie and Martin Laurich
  Christina and Kyle Bonesteel
  Jennifer and Steven Hirner

Abigail Solazzo
  Mary O’Connor

Emily Ruth Grudecki
  Diana Law

Barbara Sadnavitch
  Sue and Joe Barnes

Silas Johnson
  Karen B. Alexander

Andrea Will
  Bulldog Plumbing

Mary Poole
  Lori Uhrhammer

Kris and Rick King
  Renee King

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Parrino
  Jo Cawthra

Jennifer and David Schroeder
  Rebecca Wolverton
  Barbara and Joh Halsey

Terri and Bill Carpenter
  Elaine and Jerome Barnwell
  Jan Myer’s Mother
  Catherine Riddle

Lorraine Abbott
  Virginia Carpenter
  Mrs. Walter Jones
  Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Clark
  Deacon and Mrs. J.A. Barnwell
  Mr. and Mrs. Brian Barnwell
  Mr. and Mrs. Scott Jones
  Drs. Mitch and Connie Sewell

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Poplowski
  Terri and Bill Carpenter
After the police gave Dora information about Mutual Ground, she reached out for services. Initially, Dora requested counseling services for herself and her children. When she learned that she could also receive civil and criminal court advocacy, she requested those services as well.

“I want to tell you that two days ago a student told me that she was sexually abused from the time she was 3 to the time she was 6. She said she didn’t know it was wrong. She said that she realized what was happening when Mutual Ground came to her first grade class to talk about safe and unsafe touches. She went home, told her parents, and they called the police. THANK YOU! Thank you for all the work you and everyone else at Mutual Ground does to keep our kids safe!”

“It is difficult to describe the feeling of helplessness that comes when you realize that you are in a life or death situation of domestic violence. The feeling of warmth, safety, and comfort when a beautiful caring person hands you clean blankets to put on a bed in a safe place for you to rest your head is immeasurable...When you wake up the next morning to realize that the safe place is now your home-your launching pad into a new life, the real you begins to resurface. The legal advocacy provides a person to stand beside you-physically, mentally, and emotionally.”

“Your organization is something I really believe in. I used to work at Mercy ER and it was nice to see someone from mutual ground come in and talk to an individual that was sexually assaulted because I felt like there was someone on their side. I wish I could help others in this manner, but I am not sure if I am strong enough to do that. It takes specially trained people with a bigger heart then I have. Thank you again for being able to come and talk to the students. It really means a lot to me.”

“The feeling of warmth, safety and comfort when a beautiful, caring person hands you clean blankets to put on a bed in a safe place for you to rest your head is immeasurable.”
Upcoming Events

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month
8th Annual Walk for Hope
Saturday, October 17, 2015

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month
2nd Annual Food for Thought@Fisherman’s Inn
Thursday, April 21, 2016

May 30th Walk a Mile in Her Shoes
Downtown Aurora Parade

Rock Out Against Rape Concert, Two Brother’s Roundhouse
Thursday May 19th, ROAR

Volunteer Updates
Trained Volunteers receiving certification for FY15: 24
Active Male Volunteers: 2
Total number of Victim Advocates in FY15: 49
Total number of hours all volunteers donated to direct services: 612
Total number of hours volunteers donated to indirect service in the Emergency Response Program: 3036
(Time spent on-call, but not called out)

“If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.”
~ Booker T. Washington