

# Annual Report

July 1 2019 – June 30 2020

Fiscal Year 2020







# Friends,

I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve the Bennington community at PAVE for this year of change and challenge.

I feel incredibly fortunate to lead an agency that can both provide safety to countless in need and lead transformative change. Stay-at-home orders can have very scary consequences for people in abusive relationships—knowing this, PAVE committed to remaining operational through it all, offering support when our community needed us most.

While we had to suspend our in-person support groups and prevention/education services for a few months, we made sure our intervention services never stopped.



Throughout this fiscal year, our hotline remained available 24/7, we continued to meet people for court appearances, and our advocates continued to support survivors in rebuilding their lives. At our shelter, social distancing requirements forced us to get creative, so we reduced the number of people we housed in our main shelter and began housing people in alternate safe locations off-site.

**At this time, all services remain fully available.** While support groups will continue online, our Family Time Supervised Visitation Program is serving families in-person and our youth educator is hard at work with our school-based prevention education with a mixture of online and in-person learning.

With your wonderful support, PAVE will continue to evolve and adapt to our changing environment, always working to best serve our community. Together, we can offer hope to those in danger during the scariest time of their lives. Thank you for your partnership.



Nadia Lucchin,  
Executive Director

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# Community Impact

## SUPERVISED VISITATION

Family Time served **285 children** from **59 families**, despite a period of in-person service suspension due to COVID-19 restrictions

## HOTLINE

We received **more than 475 calls** to our 24/7 crisis hotline

## EMERGENCY HOUSING

We provided **5,093 nights** of shelter to **65 adults** and **39 children**

## LEGAL ADVOCACY

**43 people** used our services for assistance with filing an RFA (Relief From Abuse Order)

we directly  
served **583**  
clients

# We couldn't do this without our volunteers

Last year, our volunteers pivoted to providing virtual services with grace and remain as committed as ever to survivors of violence in Bennington County. Our small but dedicated team of volunteers & board members provided over **5,700** hours of service!



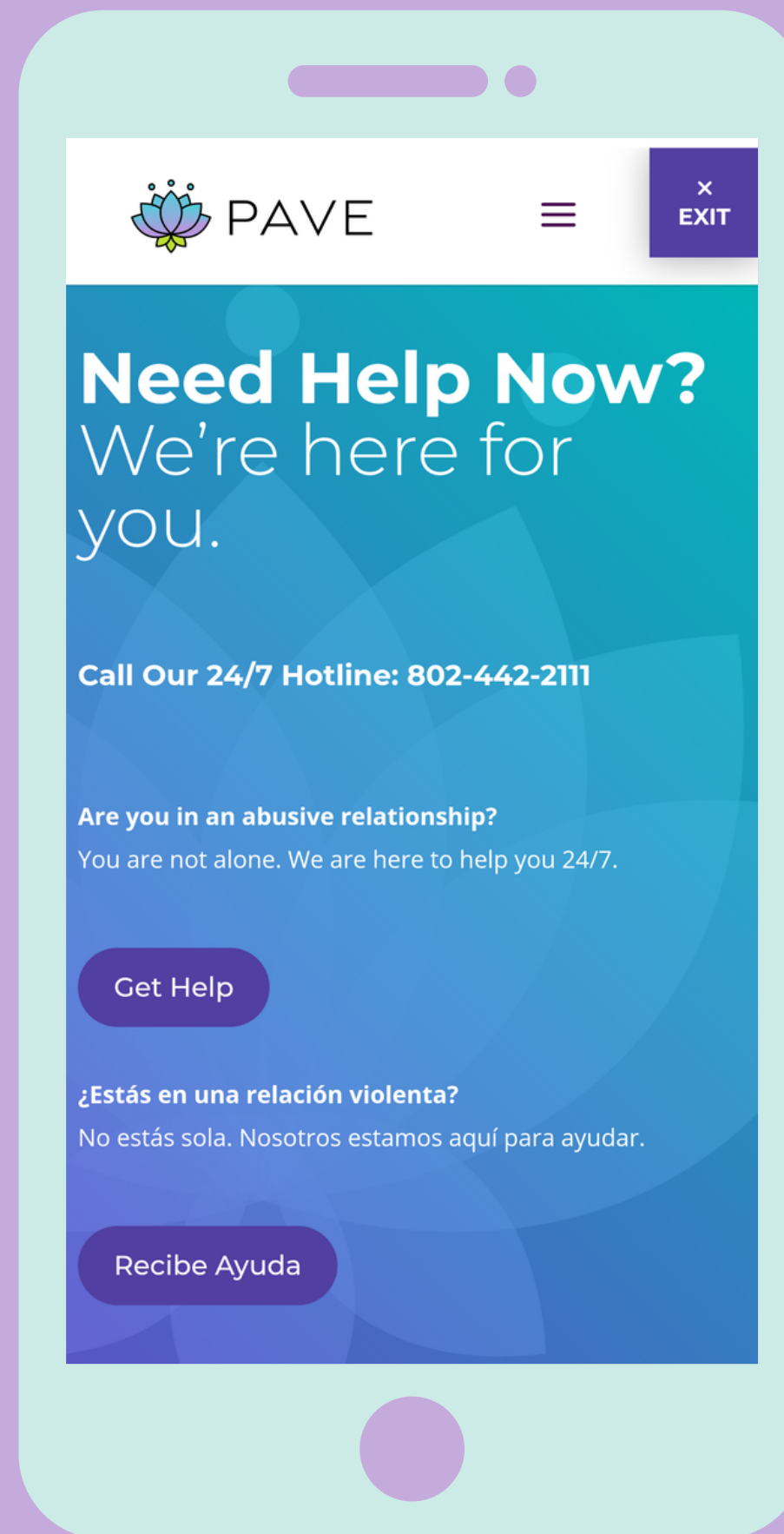
**OUR DEDICATED TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED ROUGHLY 56 HOTLINE SHIFTS PER MONTH, ENSURING THAT OUR SERVICES REMAINED CONTINUOUSLY AVAILABLE**

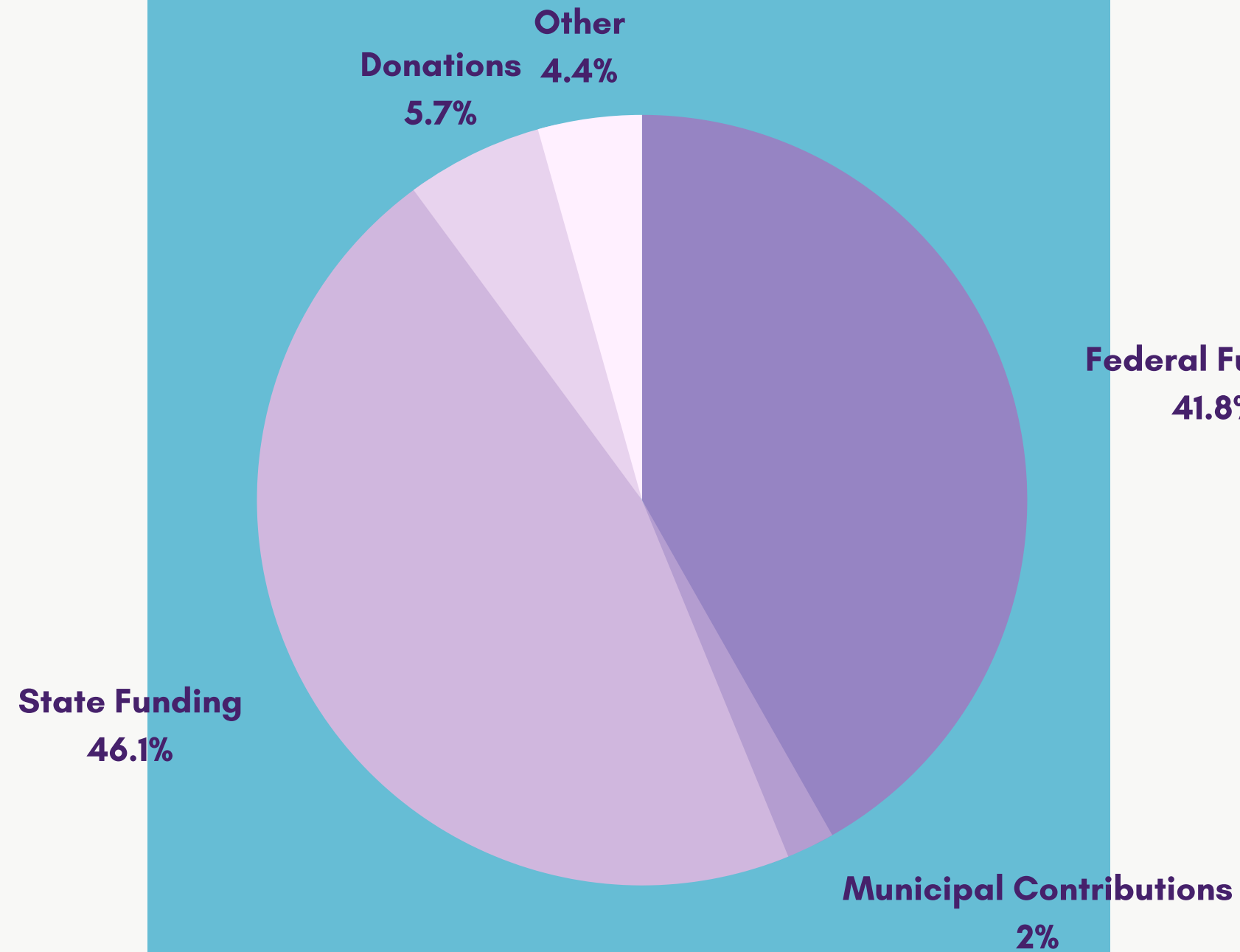


# Adapting to Challenges

The onset of a devastating pandemic made our work all the more urgent. We quickly adapted to find ways to continue to provide services for our clients, both remotely and in-person, that kept them and our team safe. As we noticed online outreach increase, we turned our focus to redesigning our website to make it more accessible to users on mobile phones.

You can check out our changes at [www.pavebennington.org](http://www.pavebennington.org).





# Finances for FY 2020

State & federal grants continue to be our main source of funding, with valuable contributions made by individuals and local businesses serving an important role as well. From July 2019 until June 2020, we were able to provide over **\$21,500** in direct emergency subsidies for clients—things like gas cards, utility assistance, and food supplies!

# We're always finding new ways to impact our community

## **BIG TOP ADVENTURE**

In October 2019, we brought fun to the Arlington gymnasium with Wunderle's Big Top Adventure- an interactive family workshop to spread joy and create lasting memories for our community!

## **MARY K COMMUNITY GARDEN**

In partnership with Bennington College, we began construction on a communal garden for survivors in our shelter to have access to fresh, healthy food options & engage in a fulfilling activity.



# Upcoming Projects

## **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING GRANT**

We received a \$465,000 3-year federal grant that will allow us to provide long-term solutions for survivors struggling to find housing. We're partnering with Shires Housing and look forward to eliminating one of the major barriers for survivors looking to move on from dangerous situations.

## **WARM THE CHILDREN**

This program, now an official part of PAVE services, provides warm winter clothing for children in need.

## **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

We're working with the Center for Restorative Justice & Alisa del Tufo of Bennington College to explore alternative pathways for survivors to seek justice.

# Key Supporters

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT OUR WORK**

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Sperber Tool Works, Town Fair Tire Foundation, The Bank of Bennington, The Yoga Place, Winburn Law Office, Bennington Rotary Club, American Legion Auxiliary Bennington Unit 13, Vermont Country Store

## **MAJOR DONORS**

Bruce Merrill, Harriet & Michael Welther, Sara Reynolds, Kathryn Clark, Tim White & Rachel Coffield, Bill & Ruth Botzow, Bo Kirkpatrick, Laurie Gormley, Dianne Lamb, Phil & Kathryn Pabst



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“Owning our story and loving ourselves through that process is the bravest thing that we will ever do.”

**BRENE BROWN**



**PAVE**

Project Against Violent Encounters  
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24 Hour Hotline: 802.442.2111

