

2017

when survivor courage went viral



On October 15, 2017, actress Alyssa Milano reignited the 2006 campaign created by Tarana Burke and encouraged women who had been sexually harassed or assaulted to tweet #MeToo in solidarity. A firestorm erupted as notable actors and Twitter users showed their support – #MeToo has now been tweeted over 1.7 million times in 85 countries. On Facebook, the hashtag spurred over 12 million posts, comments, and reactions. Women (as well as men) disclosed their own experiences. Some spoke in-depth on video; others simply typed “Me Too.” Many survivors who may have felt intimidated, ashamed, or without a platform or voice, were suddenly emboldened to join the movement. **Survivor courage went viral and our community is safer and stronger because of it.**

Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center stands with survivors. We know that sexual abuse is an epidemic. It does not discriminate by race, sex, age, economic status, education, or geography.

- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before their 18th birthdays.
- Every 98 seconds a person in the United States is sexually assaulted...
- ...and every 8 minutes, the victim is a child.

ZCenter’s clients range from three-year-olds to people in their nineties from all communities throughout northeastern Illinois. The personal stories that are being shared on social media platforms can bring comfort to some survivors of sexual assault and abuse, but might trigger emotional and traumatic experiences in others. ZCenter’s 24-hour support line is staffed with trained advocates who listen and respond to a caller’s disclosure at any time, in any language.

Show your support by declaring yourself an ally. Your ongoing support enables survivors to receive vital services. ZCenter provides counseling, therapy, prevention education, and medical and court advocacy. **In the last 12 months, we fielded 611 support line calls, met 192 survivors in hospital emergency rooms, and counseled 1,083 clients. We also reached 9,848 students through our prevention education programs;** 40% of Lake County school districts are members in our ZCenter Prevention Network (ZPN).

It takes more than passion for the cause. It takes meeting survivors where they are in their healing journey. ZCenter offers free, confidential services to survivors of sexual violence of all ages and their non-offending loved ones with supportive listening, advocacy, information and referral services. Art therapy, play therapy, and sand tray therapy are available to help clients express what words cannot. So while survivors work through the process to find their voices, let us show them that we all have the capacity to hold each other up and **be a united voice against sexual abuse and assault.**

We are fueled by your courage, strength, and partnership. Our community of support is transformative for survivors. We look ahead to a year of successes and many more people joining our human rights mission to eliminate sexual violence.

With deep gratitude,

Jennifer D. Yonan
Executive Director

Allison Barnett
Director of Development

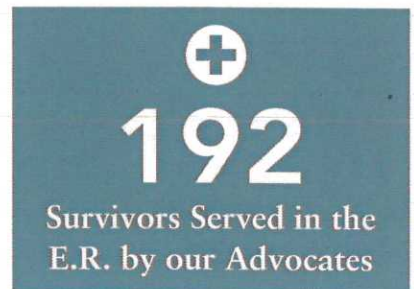
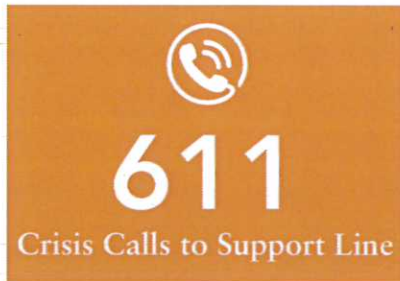
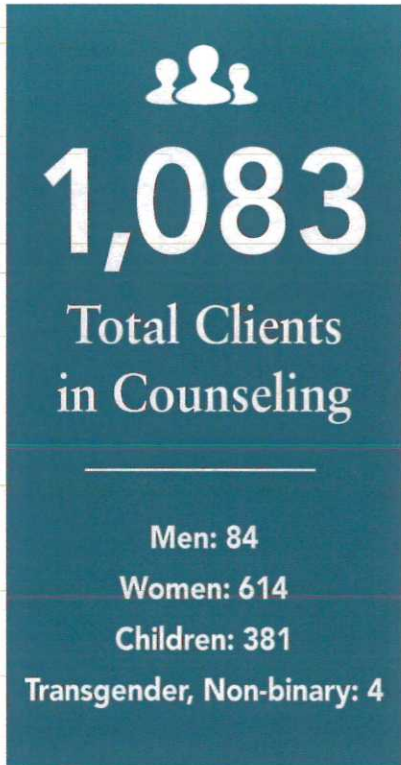


Now serving our community from two locations:

4275 Old Grand Avenue, Gurnee, IL 60031 • 4232 Dempster Street, Skokie, IL 60076

24-Hour Support Line (847) 872-7799 • (847) 244-1187 • www.ZCenter.org

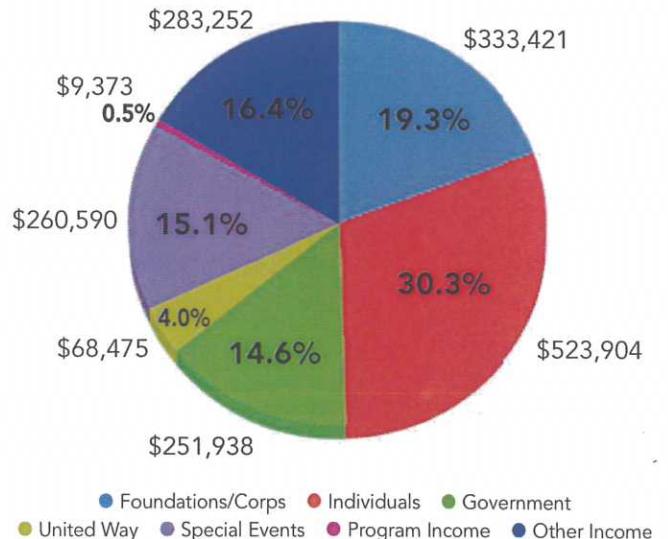
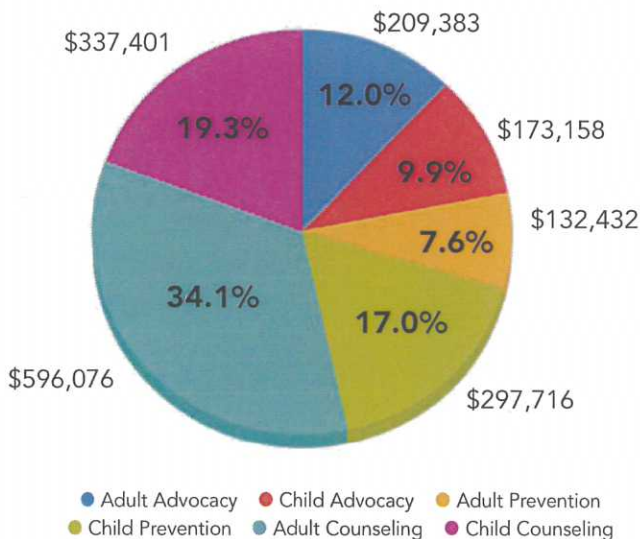
Year in Review



Impact of Your Gift:

Sources of Funding:

*Statistics reflect FY July, 2016–June, 2017 unaudited



ZCenter Activities and Highlights



15th Annual Spring Luncheon



3rd Annual Taste of the Town Gala at The Drake Hotel (pictured above and below) was the most successful fundraising event, raising over \$185,000



5th Annual Race to Zero 5K Run during April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Highland Park High School Charity Drive during February raised over \$140,000



ZCenter continues to partner in the community with high schools and first responders



Milestone Anniversaries at both centers

Premiere Sponsors:

