



**BLUE SKY BRIDGE**

Child Abuse Intervention & Education

2020  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



# 25 YEARS STRONG

Dear friend,

Blue Sky Bridge entered 2020 with great anticipation and celebration for its 25th anniversary. We had prepared lofty goals, including a new spin on our annual event, additional trainings, and broader community outreach. Three months into the year, we could not have imagined what our nation would be facing today.

COVID-19 forced Colorado stay-at-home orders in March just weeks before the end of our fiscal year, and overnight businesses, families, and schools made hard decisions related to safety, finances, and childcare. In order to remain safe during the pandemic, individuals and families were required to stay indoors except for exercise and visits to the grocery store, which meant for some children being trapped inside their home with their abuser without the support of other adults in the community. National statistics indicate that 80% of child abuse offenders are parents or the partners of parents.



Blue Sky Bridge remained open as an essential business, quickly implementing the use of technology in order to provide critical services such as tele-forensic interviewing, tele-mental health therapy, and virtual trainings for adults.

The challenges faced by the Blue Sky Bridge team have been great. The increased and rapid changes have added additional stress to the team and there are frustrations that come with the constant use of technology. Compounding this is the knowledge that child abuse reports are down 45% across the state. Let me be clear – child abuse is still happening in every community, every day. Child abuse reports are down because there are fewer opportunities for children to disclose to a trusted adult.

But here is why I am hopeful.

25 years ago our community came together to tackle the problem of child abuse. The Boulder District Attorney's office, Boulder County Social Services and the Boulder County Sheriff's Department joined forces, so that children could receive the support and services they deserved. Out of their collaboration came Blue Sky Bridge, and since, we have grown by leaps and bounds!

In 2015, we announced a plan to expand our services to Boulder County's children through a capital campaign with a goal of \$1.6 million. As a result, our physical space grew by 141%, adding two new program initiatives (Medical and Trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy). In 5 years, our staff grew by 67% and our operating budget grew by 76% in order to support new and expanding programs.

Of course, our successes from day one would not have been possible without the incredible support from our community, and the strength and resiliency from our staff and partners. I can't predict the future, but what I do know is that it is our community's commitment to our mission that has sustained us all these years, and it is this same power of community that will bring us through 2020, and many more years to come.

I can look to the future with hope because there is deep resiliency in all of us, especially the children we serve. If 25 years has taught us anything, it is that we will get through this, and in the end, we will be better.

I hope that you enjoy reading this report and taking an in depth look into our programming and finances. We have no plans of slowing down. Thank you for standing with us all these years.

Gratefully yours,

Gina Maione Earles  
Executive Director

Marion following mask guidelines when she's unable to social distance



Forensic interviews being conducted via zoom to maintain safety protocols

Our School Program being moved to an online presentation in preparation for the fall





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# BY THE GLASS – 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

By the Glass is a social event that brings the community together to support Blue Sky Bridge. The first event was held in 2010 and has grown over the years to be more than a tasting event. On Thursday, February 20th we celebrated the 10th annual event at Rembrandt Yard; raising over \$49,000 for Blue Sky Bridge. More than 250 guests bid on over 80 items in our silent auction, participated in our wine pull, and purchased tickets for our raffle featuring Todd Reed.



11:11 Productions Photography

## Stirred Sponsor



## Shaken Sponsors



## Blended Sponsors



## Thank you to our By the Glass Partners

11:11 Productions Photography  
Backyard Soda Co.  
Cocktail Squad  
Liquid Mechanics Brewing Co.  
Savory Cuisines Catering  
Todd Reed  
Upslope Brewing Co.  
Wood's High Mountain Distillery

## Thank you to our Planning Committee

Heather Dieck  
Kirstie Maynard  
Keelin McGill  
Bekah Pickerell  
Dave Rich  
Breck Roesch  
Kristin Weisbach  
Christine Werking  
Catherine Winsten  
Ben Wright

# FISCAL YEAR 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

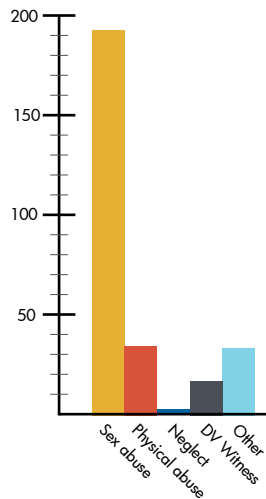
## Child Advocacy Program

It used to be that a child would have to tell their story of abuse over and over to potentially more than a dozen school officials, police officers, doctors, attorneys, and social workers. Today, a child and their family is able to come to one place, our place.

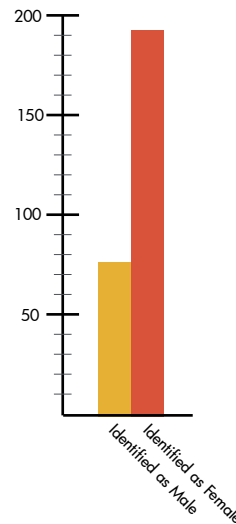
By providing a centrally-located, child-focused facility and a coordinated response by all investigative agencies, we are proactive in our approach to helping families during child abuse investigations. We provide immediate intervention, forensic interviews, crisis intervention counseling, family support, and follow-up services to child victims and non-offending family members.



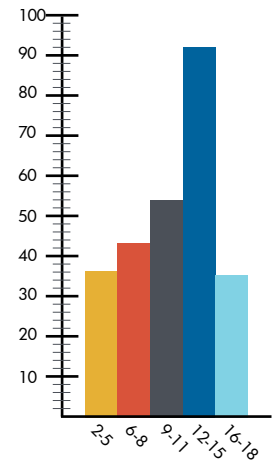
TYPE OF PRIMARY ABUSE



SERVICES BY GENDER



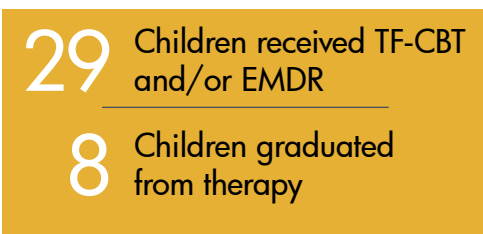
SERVICES BY AGE



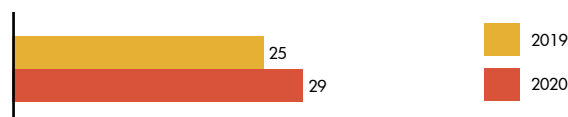
## Therapy

Early intervention of mental health services is crucial to the healing process and the long-term health of child victims of abuse. Treatment is designed to reduce negative emotional and behavioral responses and Post Traumatic Stress symptoms after a traumatic incident.

Blue Sky Bridge launched our therapy program in the spring of 2017. At its inception, we had two staff clinicians and offered one therapy modality: Trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). After two years of a successful program, we were able to expand into a satellite therapy office in Longmont, added a third clinician to our staff, and offer clients a second therapy modality: Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR).

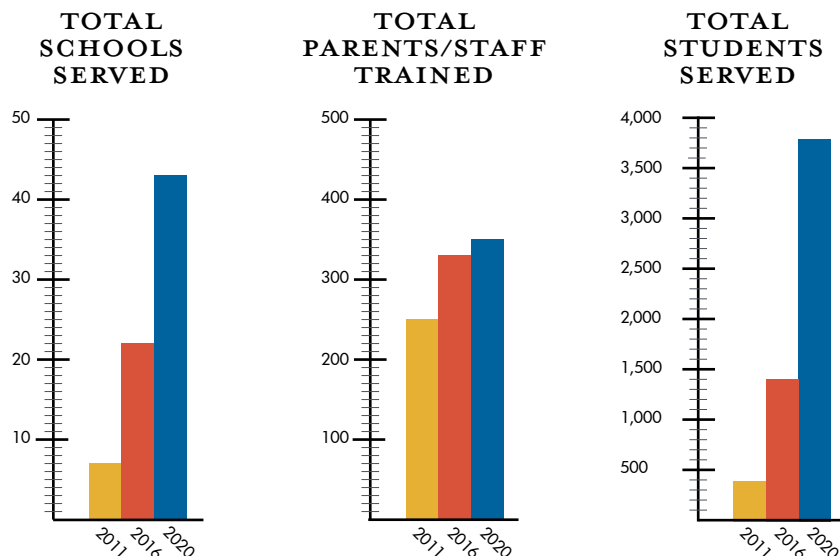
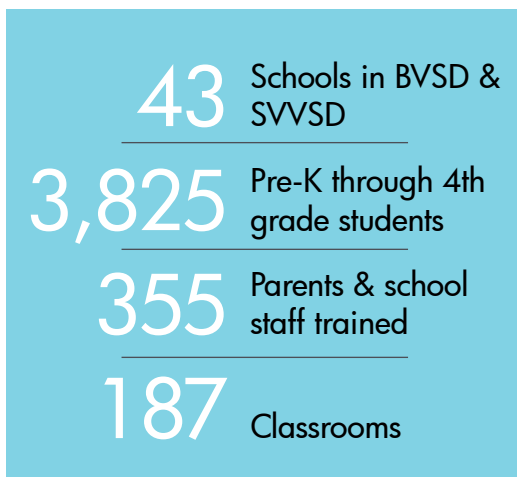


THERAPY CLIENTS SERVED



## School Program

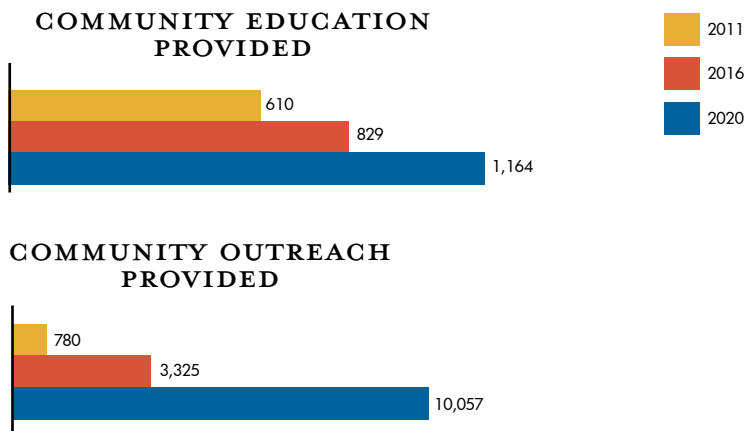
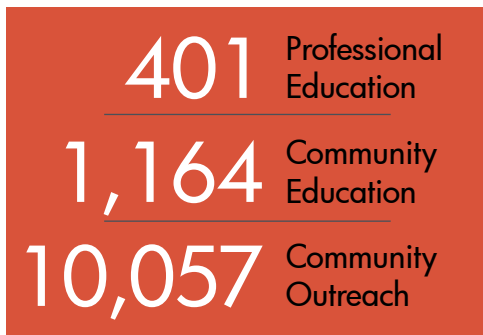
Blue Sky Bridge believes that education is a tool for preventing child abuse. We are committed to helping children learn how to keep their bodies safe. Our school program utilizes a three-tiered holistic approach that includes a presentation with tips and resources for parents, training for school personnel, and developmentally age appropriate presentations for kindergarten and 3rd grade students.



## Outreach

We believe it is the responsibility of adults to keep children safe and are committed to helping adults learn how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. We offer a range of trainings and outreach opportunities throughout the year to serve our partners and community members. Our two most popular community trainings are Stewards of Children® and Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development.

Throughout 2019 we had the opportunity to provide Lunch & Learn sessions to members of our multi-disciplinary team on topics such as our medical program and child abuse investigations regarding individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.





# NURTURING HEALTHY SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT

One of our most popular trainings for adults is Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development (NHSD). We began offering this training in 2018, and continue to offer it monthly to parents, teachers, and other adults interested in learning about protecting the children in their lives.

NHSD unpacks sexual development at each age from common to concerning. It also provides tips on how to start conversations, respond to behaviors, and help kids of all ages feel comfortable with their bodies, sexuality, and asking questions. Participants learn about the relationship between healthy sexuality and sexual abuse prevention.

We know that children who talk to their parents about sex are more likely to postpone having sex. It is part of healthy development that kids develop healthy attitudes and behaviors regarding their bodies, learn strong communication skills, and learn to talk to trusted adults about questions or concerns.

<u>Bodies</u>	<u>Feelings</u>	<u>Respect for Self &amp; Others</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- You don't have to do anything you don't want to do with your body (even something as simple as hugging a relative).</li><li>- You only get yours, so love it!</li><li>- Bodies come in all sizes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Your feelings are always valid even if that's not how that person meant to make you feel</li><li>- Feelings are normal and even when they're overwhelming, they're ok. Accept them and they don't define you.</li><li>- Your feelings are valid.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- No means no</li><li>- your boundaries are reasonable, valid, and should be respected</li><li>- Respect yourself and your body</li><li>- Don't touch others without permission</li></ul>

During a gallery walk, participants are asked to share what they want you to know about bodies, feelings, gender identity and sexual orientation, and respect for self and others. The images above display some examples of messages participants have shared.

Nationally  
**1** in **10**  
children will be sexually  
abused before their  
18th birthday





## ASSOCIATE BOARD

In July 2019, Blue Sky Bridge launched an Associate Board. This group of young professionals comes together quarterly to support the mission of Blue Sky Bridge through outreach and fundraising events. The group is comprised of community members with a variety of backgrounds including nurses, teachers, parents, law enforcement, and district attorneys. While these members all joined for their own reasons, they come together with the common goal of ending child abuse.

Detective Cody Clark shares his experiences with Blue Sky Bridge and his reasons for joining the Associate Board:

I joined the Associate Board because I feel the work of Blue Sky Bridge is incredibly important, but largely silent for a variety of reasons. Having conversations about child abuse, particularly sexual abuse, are uncomfortable and sometimes hard to even fathom, but all too real. The statistics are sobering when you realize that 1 in 10 children will suffer sexual abuse as a child. Even if someone isn't personally a victim, they almost certainly know someone who was. The impact of these crimes are lifelong, traumatizing, and can destroy a child's worldview and feelings of self-worth. I can't ignore that, so I decided to help Blue Sky Bridge continue to raise awareness, increase education in the community, and help advance their mission.



Child abuse is an issue I care about for many reasons, one of which is the impact it has on my career. I have been a detective with the Person Crimes Unit for the Longmont Police Department for the last three years. As a person crimes detective, most of my cases are sexual offenses and many of those involve children. Blue Sky Bridge is a resource unlike any other. The forensic interview is critical to my investigations and keeps the victim from having to retell their story over, and over, again. More importantly, the support provided to children and their families is far superior than what I can provide. My role is investigate the crime and while I certainly have strong emotions wanting to help the families impacted, it's physically impossible to devote time to their case as well as their needs in regards to healing. The services offered by Blue Sky Bridge are unparalleled and necessary for families to begin their journey of healing.

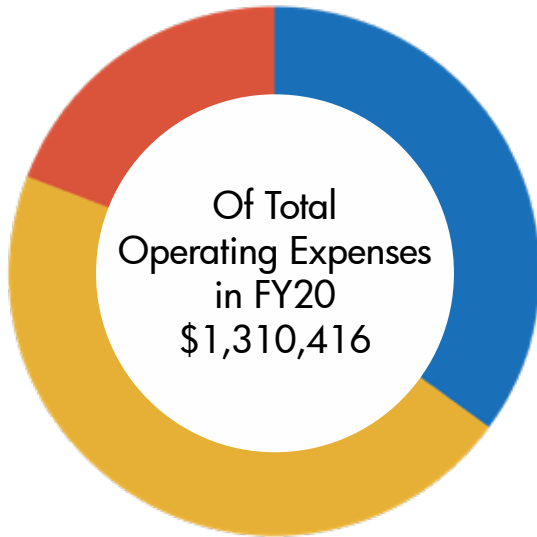
As a parent of four children, I cannot imagine what these children and their loved ones are going through. Yet as I watch the compassion shown by the staff, I can't help but see and feel the relief a family exhibits. It's hard to describe watching a parent accept help from strangers in unfathomable circumstances and see as though a weight is lifted from their shoulders.

While the support they offer to survivors and families is important, I personally believe education is the greatest service they offer. When you educate children on body safety, healthy boundaries, relationships, and give them a safe place to speak, the impact is profound. It isn't just one person or child; it's their entire social circle: family, friends, classmates, peers and numerous others. These lessons help them grow up as healthy individuals who can even help educate their own children down the road. A vast majority of my investigations focus on offenders a child knows and trusts, not the creepy stranger hanging around in front of the school or park. Providing children the tools they need in advance helps empower them and therefore reduces the likelihood of them becoming victimized.

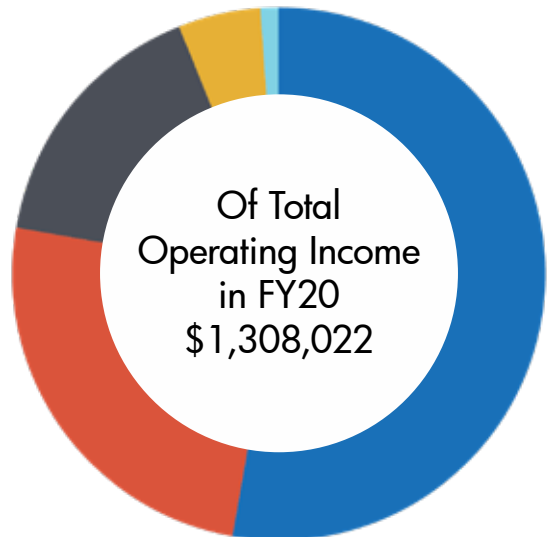
For these, and so many reasons, I am grateful for the work of Blue Sky Bridge and the opportunity to be part of the incredible work they are doing.

# FINANCIALS

Fiscal Year 2020: April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020

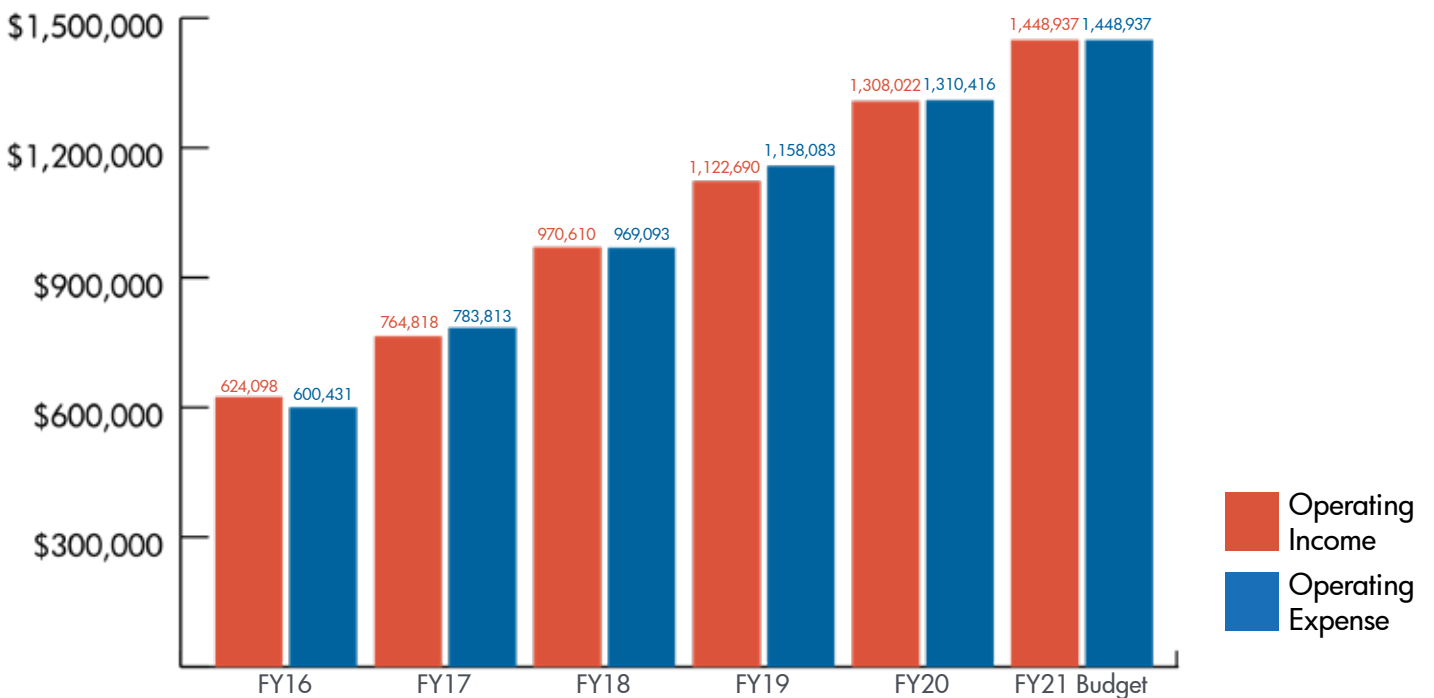


- 35%** Education & Outreach
- 46%** Forensic Interviewing, Family Support, & Medical
- 19%** Trauma-focused Therapy



- 53%** Government
- 25%** Individuals
- 16%** Events
- 5%** Foundations
- 1%** Other

Income vs expense



## Statement of Financial Position as of 3/31/20

Current Assets	\$456,315
Fixed Assets	\$1,949,275
Other Assets	\$477,675
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$2,883,265</u>
Current Liabilities	\$85,444
Restricted Net Assets	\$362,617
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$2,435,204
<u>Total Liabilities and Equity</u>	<u>\$2,883,265</u>

## Audited Financials

Grants	\$693,457
Contributions	\$393,737
Events (Net)	\$188,086
In-kind	\$58,087
Program Service Fees	\$5,150
<u>Total Operating Support &amp; Revenue</u>	<u>\$1,338,517</u>
Program Services	\$1,159,214
General & Admin	\$53,638
Fundraising	\$224,407
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$1,437,259</u>
Other changes	\$6,848
Change in net Assets	(\$91,894)



**BLUE SKY BRIDGE FOSTERS SAFE  
COMMUNITIES, HEALING, AND  
JUSTICE TO END CHILD ABUSE.**



BLUE SKY BRIDGE

Child Abuse Intervention & Education

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Boulder, CO 80308  
303-444-1388  
[blueskybridge.org](http://blueskybridge.org)



## STAFF

(as of 3/31/20)

Gina Maione Earles | Executive Director  
Katie Ashburner, MSW | Forensic Interviewer  
Allison Breed, MSW, LCSW | Therapist  
Lauren Brillante | Accountant  
Gretchen Fair, LCSW | Therapist, Bilingual Education Associate  
Robin Friesen-Holwell, MS, LMFT | Program Director, Therapist  
Amanda Fuentes, MA | Forensic Interviewer  
Raine Garcia, MA, LPCC, ATR-P | Bilingual Therapist  
Claudia Gilbert | Bilingual Education Associate  
Tanja Leonard | Project Consultant  
Faith Motter, MSW | Director of Development and Communication  
Erik Padilla, MA | Bilingual Family Support Advocate, MDT Coordinator  
Melissa Santorelli | Development & Communications Associate  
Jeff Stewart | Operations Coordinator  
Trish Wood | Education Coordinator

## ASSOCIATE BOARD

Ligia Batista  
Cody Clark  
Heather Dieck  
Tassi Herrick  
Madeline Hoglund  
Katie Klaus  
Keelin McGill  
Bekah Pickerell  
Breck Roesch  
Peter Rosato  
Kristin Weisbach  
Christine Werking  
Catherine Winsten  
Ben Wright

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dave Rich | Vice Chair  
Matt Buchanan | Treasurer  
Jessica Dotter | Secretary  
Jennifer Budacz  
Michelle Gallop  
Amy Larson  
David Mandell  
Michael McCarthy  
EJ Meade