

DAiSDIGEST

The road forward. Together.



Forty-five years ago, the founders of what we know today as Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS), started to create a community of hope and safety for survivors of domestic violence and their families. They joined the national movement and began addressing the need right here in Dane County. Their actions caused a ripple effect throughout our community that we see even today. By shedding light on an issue that flourishes in secrecy and darkness, they activated our community in a way it had never been activated before.

Over the past 45 years, thanks to the actions and the deep-seated belief of so many in Dane County that people deserve safety and support, DAIS has grown from a volunteer run help line in a church basement into the DAIS we know today – an organization that offers prevention and education services, alongside critical community-based intervention services including a 24-Hour Help Line, case management services, legal advocacy services, parent, child and youth programming, and support groups. Most notably, DAIS continues to operate the only domestic violence and homicide prevention shelter in Dane County.

For as much as we have grown, for as much as we have accomplished, and for as many lives saved, there is still a great need for our services. Last year, we had 825 victims referred to DAIS from the City of Madison Police Department, and answered 8,399 calls on our helpline, reminding us of how prevalent and frequent incidents of intimate partner violence are in our community. This need is what keeps DAIS committed to serving victims and survivors, and working to change social norms that support and promote violence.

For all 45 of our years, we have never done this work alone. It is because of the faith and confidence, the financial and emotional support of our volunteers, friends, and donors that we celebrate this milestone. Thank you for standing with DAIS today, and as we continue to help our clients realize a safer and better tomorrow.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Shannon Barry".

Shannon Barry,
MSSW Executive Director

The logo for Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS), featuring the letters "DAiS" in a purple serif font with a yellow dot above the "i".

DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICES

DAIS

DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICES

Our Mission

Empower those affected by domestic violence and advocate for social change through support, education, and outreach.

Board of Directors

Tom Long
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Help Line (608) 251-4445

www.abuseintervention.org



Meet Our Staff



Katie Danforth (she/her/hers) Development Assistant

I graduated from UW Madison with my Bachelor's (Honors) degree in Political Science and Gender and Women's Studies in 2020. Prior to that, I worked at the Campus Women's Center at UW-Madison and was a help-line volunteer with DAIS! I quickly realized that I wanted to find an opportunity to continue to work alongside DAIS

following graduation, as I experienced first-hand how essential the multi-faceted work that DAIS employees and volunteers complete is. In my free time I've been volunteering with an online publication where I write and edit articles focused on how to be an impactful activist in this digital age. Additionally, I enjoy downhill skiing, knitting, and playing video games. You can reach me at katied@abuseintervention.org!



Kianna Hanson (she/her/hers) Legal Advocacy Program Coordinator

I graduated from UW Madison in 2019 with a bachelor's degree in Legal Studies and a Criminal Justice Certificate and began working at DAIS shortly after. The legal program at DAIS provides direct support to survivors navigating the legal system and engages in systems advocacy. I have always been passionate about

social justice issues, particularly in the legal system. While in college, I interned at the Public Defender's Office, where I interviewed victims and witnesses for a variety of cases. Working there gave me insight into the barriers that victims face, and when I learned about the services DAIS offers to empower survivors of IPV, I knew I wanted to work here. In my free time, I enjoy snuggling with my dog, buying house plants, and spending time with friends and family. I can be reached at kiannah@abuseintervention.org.

History of DAIS

1977

Dane County Advocates for Battered Women (DCABW) opened by a small group of volunteers operating a help line.

1978

DCABW opens its first shelter on Hancock Street.

1980

DCABW moves to a shelter on Monroe Street with 17 beds.

1987

DCABW conducts a capital campaign to add bedrooms to the shelter to increase the capacity to 25

1997

DCABW celebrates its 20th anniversary and changes its name to Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS).

2008

DAIS begins strategic planning process and adopts new mission statement.

2010

DAIS begins the capital campaign to raise funds for a new building.

2013

DAIS breaks ground on new building on Fordem Avenue.

2014

DAIS opens the doors at the Boo and Loren Mortenson Center for Hope and Safety. New facility could accommodate walk-in clients for the first time.

2016

DAIS doubled the number of MENS Club sites.

2018

DAIS launched a weekly Legal Clinic at the County courthouse to reduce barriers for clients seeking assistance in filing restraining orders.

2019

DAIS launched a new, innovative case management program to better serve clients and reduce the need for Shelter.

2020

DAIS adapted all program and services to continue safely serving clients during the Covid-19 Pandemic.



Great Givers Spotlight



As we celebrate our 45th year serving our Dane County community, we've decided to focus this year's profiles on some Great Givers whose support has truly defined our journey and helped shape DAIS into the organization it is today. With that in mind, it only makes sense that the first article of the year would highlight the incredible vision, generosity, and support of the couple whose names adorn the sign at our front door; Boo and Loren Mortenson.

Before Boo and Loren first connected with DAIS, Boo had been on the Board of Trustees for another domestic violence shelter near their home in Florida and wanted to know more about the work being done for survivors of intimate partner violence in Madison. This curiosity led them to connect with DAIS's Executive Director, Shannon Barry and to taking a tour of the old facility on Monroe Street.

On that tour, the Mortensons saw a dedicated, talented staff doing the absolute best they could in a facility that just wasn't suitable for their needs or the needs of our clients. At the conclusion of the tour, Boo said to herself, "this is Madison, we can do better than this."

From that point onward, Boo and Loren Mortenson became fantastic ambassadors for DAIS and integral parts of our successful capital campaign, including their incredibly generous naming gift to the campaign. Their leadership helped bring City, County and private sector leaders together to make Dane County's only domestic violence shelter a reality; forever changing DAIS and the entire community for the better.

Today, the Mortensons are incredibly proud of the critical work DAIS does every single day in the facility on Fordem Avenue that now bears their names. "It's work that makes a difference," said



Boo and Loren Mortenson cutting the ribbon on DAIS's new facility.

Boo. "I wish it didn't matter; I wish this issue was so small that it didn't matter; but it does. It's in big companies, little companies, it's everywhere. It impacts everyone; men, women, little kids, it effects all of us. Because it effects everyone, it matters to everyone. It's not just a women's issue, it's a community issue. If you think it happens just to low income people, to "those people", it's not in my neighborhood... well, it is," she said. "I don't think the community understands the degree of devastation that happens to someone when there is domestic abuse. The impact on their self-esteem, their sense of their character. The impact it has on kids who see it. That it does not just go away because you're in a different location. Rebuilding that self-esteem and sense of safety takes a long time. That's why we need DAIS."

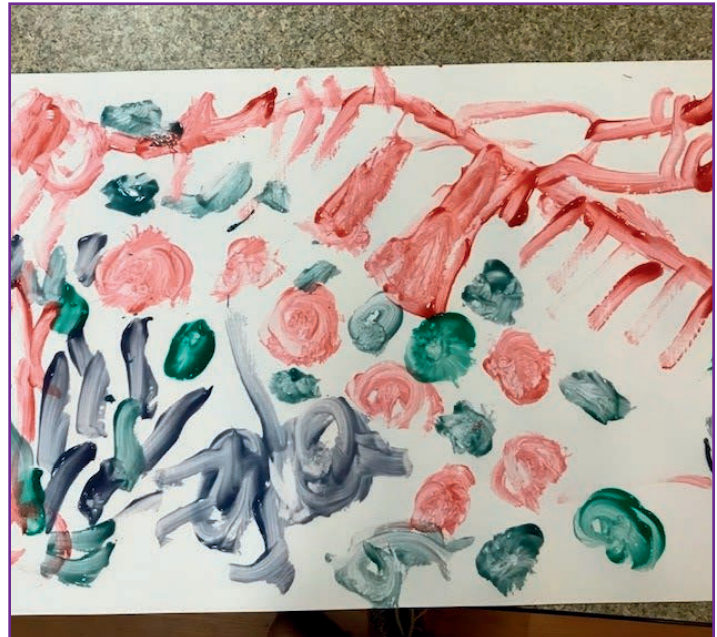
They are also very proud of how the new, public-facing building has helped raise awareness of intimate partner violence and helped break down

the stigma that has historically surrounded it. "This is an issue that, for so long, was kind of in the shadows or that women felt shame about," Said Boo Mortenson. "Before it was much more secretive, big component of shame. People just didn't understand how pervasive it is; it goes through every economic strata. Today, the dialogue is main stream," she said.

Today, our facility is known as the Boo and Loren Mortensen Center For Hope and Safety because of their commitment, generosity, and vision. We were incredibly grateful for them when we first opened our doors and we are grateful for them today.

If you have any ways in which you would like to help, please reach out to our Development staff by emailing Director of Development and Communications, **Mary Donahue**, at Maryd@abuseintervention.org. Your ideas and contributions are welcome!

Parent, Child, and Youth Advocacy Program



When you imagine the "typical" DAIS client, what do you think of? You might be surprised to learn that year-over-year, over half of our shelter residents are children, most of them under the age of 12. These children, the "littlest witnesses" of intimate partner violence live, learn and play in our shelter, and are considered full DAIS clients, just like their guardians.

Researchers estimate conservatively that at least 10 to 20 percent of children are exposed to intimate partner violence annually, with as many as one-third exposed at some point during childhood or adolescence. Not surprisingly, these experiences can be incredibly traumatic for a child, but interventions can help. That's why DAIS proudly offers our Parent, Child, and Youth Advocacy program (PCYA) to our clients in shelter and in the community.

The DAIS PCYA program provides trauma informed services to families who have experienced domestic violence and age-appropriate programming centered around helping children

and youth process their experiences with family violence is provided in our Kids' Space.

This programming is facilitated by DAIS staff and volunteers, and is designed to provide positive, stable relationships with adults for children in shelter, and promote non-violent conflict resolution skills and positive coping mechanisms for the children in our care. As Karen Larson, DAIS's PCYA Program Manager put it, "it's not therapy, but it's therapeutic for the children and families who participate."

Like many of the impactful programs we're proud to offer here at DAIS, PCYA is powered by our amazing and dedicated volunteers. As we gradually re-open our facility due to Covid-19, volunteer opportunities are once again available. If you or someone you know would be interested in making a positive impact on the lives of children, please feel free to contact **Karen Larson** at KarenL@abuseintervention.org. We couldn't do this crucial work without your support!

Volunteer Corner



The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been long-lasting and felt by everyone. Unsurprisingly, the volunteers at DAIS who dedicate their time and passion towards our mission have been sorely missed, and we are so excited to resume offering volunteer opportunities in 2022.

One such opportunity we're currently offering is on our 24/7, free and confidential help line. Thousands of callers reach out each year, some in an immediate crisis situation, others who want to help their neighbor, and some who simply need someone to talk to. Regardless of their reason, each caller is met with an advocate who is trained to offer assistance in a compassionate and unprejudiced manner.

Of course, the help-line is not the only area where volunteers are utilized; we have children's advocates, front desk, court watch, and donation room volunteers. Each volunteer position offers unique experiences and opportunities to make a difference and help keep the workflow at DAIS running efficiently.

We can't wait to have our volunteers start returning and are excited to meet all the new faces who will be joining us following the most recent New Advocate Training (NAT)! If you or someone you know is interested in joining us, our next NAT session will begin in May and complete in June!

We couldn't do this essential work without you!

For more information on current volunteer opportunities at DAIS, visit the volunteer section of our new website at abuseintervention.org/volunteer

DAiS

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Fax (608) 284-2134
Help Line (608) 251-4445

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Spring 2022

Save the Date! RAISE FOR DAIS

8/29/2022

Nakoma Golf Club

Charity Golf Outing and Silent Auction
Presented by J&K Security Solutions



Space is limited to 30 foursomes.
Secure your sponsorship and
foursome early!



To reserve your sponsorship or
foursome, email
Katied@abuseintervention.org.

Work With DAIS!

DAIS is looking for passionate professionals looking to
make an positive impact in their community!

We currently have openings in the following roles:

- Development Manager - Full Time
- Staff Accountant - Full Time
- Shelter Advocate - Full Time, Second Shift
- Bilingual Legal Advocate - Full Time

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For more information on current openings,
go to abuseintervention.org/jobs.