DAIS

DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICES

DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICES (DAIS**)**

Annual Report | 2025
abuseintervention.org



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

CITY OF MADISON WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DANE COUNTY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01 Letter from the Executive Director & Board President

02 Mission, Vision, and History

03 Financial Statements

04 Crisis Intervention & Homicide Prevention Shelter

05 Legal Advocacy & Court Watch

06 Parent, Child, and Youth Advocacy

07 Prevention & Outreach

08 Law Enforcement Advocacy Partnership & Support Groups

09 Community Partner Services

10 Staff & Volunteer Impact

11 Leadership

12 50th Anniversary & About Volunteering

13 Community Education

back cover - contact

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Shannon Barry

MSSW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DAIS

As DAIS approaches its 50th anniversary, we reflect upon last year of 2025. Every year brings us a year closer to *half a century* of supporting survivors of intimate partner violence, and we can trace this lasting legacy to an ever-expanding network of connections that make this work possible. This work has touched so many lives: advocates, clients, donors, and community members alike.

DAIS was started by volunteers nearly 50 years ago running a "warm line" in a church basement, and though we've grown exponentially into the multifaceted organization we are today, we still retain that original spark of being driven by a passion to do whatever it takes to show up, day after day, to work towards safer futures for all. I could sum up the past 19 years as the Executive Director of DAIS with this core belief – that *everyone* is deserving of safety in their relationships, and should that safety be taken away, no one should have to rebuild from violence alone. Thank you for standing alongside us in our shared mission.

Shannon Barry



LETTER FROM THE 2025 BOARD PRESIDENT

Heather Crowley

Over my tenure as Board President of DAIS, it has never been more evident to me that Domestic Abuse Intervention Services is an organization that this county can never be without. From support in the moments of crisis to the rebuilding after, no matter the obstacle, DAIS is there.

The profound resilience, bravery, and strength of the survivors we serve is mirrored in the advocates who show up tirelessly every day, even over holidays, weekends, and every hour of the night, to ensure that when someone calls, there's an advocate there to answer. Your support is what makes that possible. Thank you.

Heather Crowley

VISION, MISSION, & HISTORY

Vision

A nonviolent community that actively promotes safety, peace, justice, and hope.

Mission

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



History



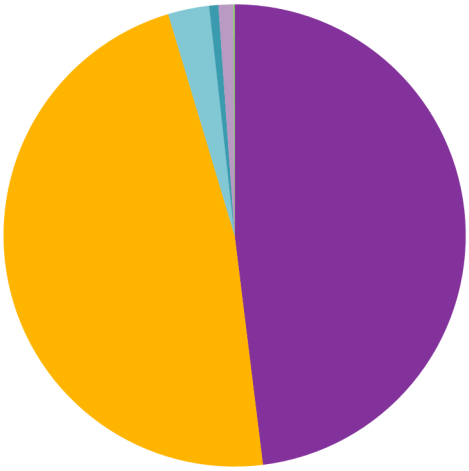
What started as a volunteer "warm line" in a church basement as "Dane County Advocates for Battered Women," providing support for victims, survivors, and their loved ones, has grown into a comprehensive organization providing 24/7 crisis intervention support, homicide prevention shelter, legal advocacy, parent & child advocacy, community education, primary prevention efforts and partnerships across the community.

Pictured (left) is the previous DAIS shelter on Monroe Street. Its location was not publicized, unlike our current office and shelter. We made the choice to clearly mark our facilities when moving to our modern facility both because of its high level of security as well as in the effort to bring the pervasive issue of intimate partner violence out of the shadows it is so often relegated to, and in this case, literally!

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

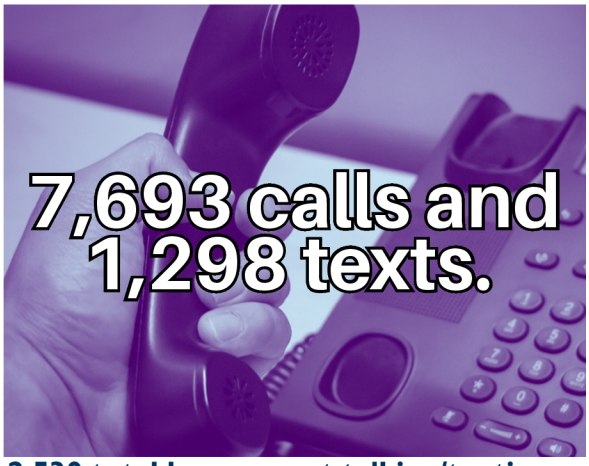
DAIS' revenue is provided by individual and corporate donors, foundation grants, the Dane County Department of Human Services, the City of Madison Community Development Division, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, and the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance.

Statement of Activities for Fiscal Year 2025	
Support & Revenue	
Government Grants	$1,827,962
Contributions	$1,800,304
Donated Materials	$109,606
Special Events	$24,122
Interest Income	$39,698
Other Income	$878
TOTAL REVENUE	**$3,802,570**
Expenses	
Program Services	
Shelter and support	$1,202,049
Community services	$818,203
Legal advocacy services	$300,063
Prevention, training, and education	$231,757
Children's services	$115,860
Supporting Activities	
Administrative	$1,012,576
Development	$427,849
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$4,108,357**
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	$6,947,150
Net Assets – End of Year	$6,641,363
Change in Net Assets	-$305,787



Visual representation of sources of support and revenue for 2025.

CRISIS INTERVENTION & HOMICIDE PREVENTION SHELTER



2,530 total hours spent talking/texting on the 24/7 Help Line.



61% of households left shelter to safe and stable housing.

> *I would not have made it without you. All the advocates are beautiful, wonderful people. Words cannot explain how grateful I am. I was in a horrible abusive situation with no way out. Thank you all again.*

Crisis Intervention: Our 24/7 Crisis Intervention Help Line and Text Line is the gateway through which most survivors of intimate partner violence access our services. In 2025, our Helpline Advocates supported 7,693 phone calls and 1,298 text conversations, for a total of 2,530 total hours of talking/texting with survivors, their loved ones, and concerned community members. This was an increase of 20% in contacts from 2020. Along with referrals to our services and others in the community, Crisis Intervention offers safety planning and compassionate emotional support.

DAIS' Homicide Prevention Shelter: DAIS provides the only emergency homicide prevention shelter for survivors of domestic violence and their children in Dane County, offering safety planning, information and referrals, time and space to heal, as well as access to all other DAIS' services. In 2025, our Shelter program provided 10,175 bed nights (an increase of 3% from 2024). Year over year, over half of the shelter residents we serve are children, most of whom are under 12 years old.

LEGAL ADVOCACY & COURT WATCH



> *"I never forgot what DAIS did for me — it was the start to something better."*

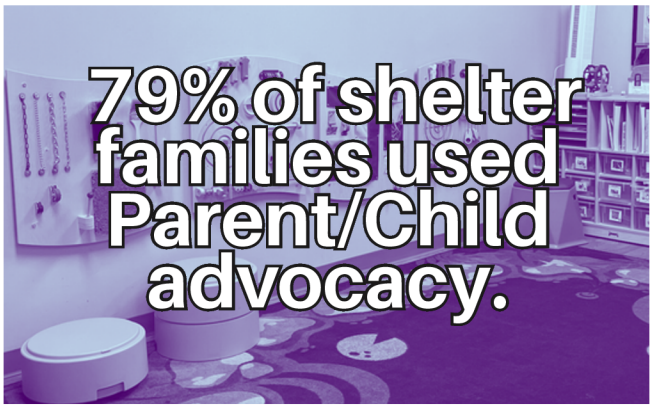
Legal Advocacy: DAIS' Legal Advocates connect clients with accurate and well-sourced legal information, but are not attorneys and do not provide legal advice. Legal advocates offer emotional and logistical support to survivors as they navigate long-form paperwork and court proceedings.

Our legal advocates provide support where it's often lacking, as an overwhelming majority of clients are *pro se* meaning they are not represented by a lawyer. This essential advocacy is only becoming more needed: in 2025, they provided services to 741 unique clients, which was a 10% increase over the previous year.

99% of these clients reported an increased sense of safety, support, and information

Court Watch: The Court Watch Program volunteers observe Dane County injunction hearings to establish a data-driven analysis of the court system's treatment of victim safety and perpetrator accountability to improve the experience of survivors seeking restraining orders, provide information to legal stakeholders regarding trends in Domestic Abuse and Harassment cases, and identify recommendations for a more trauma-informed and victim-centric procedure in Domestic Abuse and Harassment injunction cases. Visit **abuseintervention.org/publications-and-materials** for more information.

PARENT, CHILD, AND YOUTH ADVOCACY



13 family fun nights, a back to school free "store", and 1,273 hours of Kids' Space.

> ***People think their support system is only their family, ... but you guys are a support system. I was so close to giving up, so close, but you all helped out. You all gave the kids piggyback rides when I was taking medication after medication trying to have the energy to give piggyback rides. The kids don't realize they are in a shelter.***

Parent, Child, and Youth Advocacy (PCYA): Through PCYA, DAIS' advocates and volunteers provide trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate individual and group activities for children in shelter and for children whose parents are accessing other DAIS' services. The program is centered around helping children process their experiences while providing safety, structure, and most importantly, fun! The program also works to deepen the bond between children and non-offending parents to ensure that children feel supported. In 2025, the Parent/Child Advocacy program supported 79% of the families in shelter, with a total of 1,273 hours of service.

Year over year over half of the residents we serve are children, largely under the age of 12. *Support for the child or children is just as crucial as supporting the survivor through the life transition into safer futures.*

The Back-to-School "Store" helped support our shelter resident youth to enter their new school year ready to go. It began with a visit from MMSD and Reach Dane staff who assisted shelter families in getting enrolled in school, followed by our free "store" where families could stop by and pick out backpacks, lunch boxes, and school supplies! Through the store, 28 shelter resident youth were able to get everything they need to start the year off strong.



PREVENTION & OUTREACH



Approximately 3,761 audience members reached.

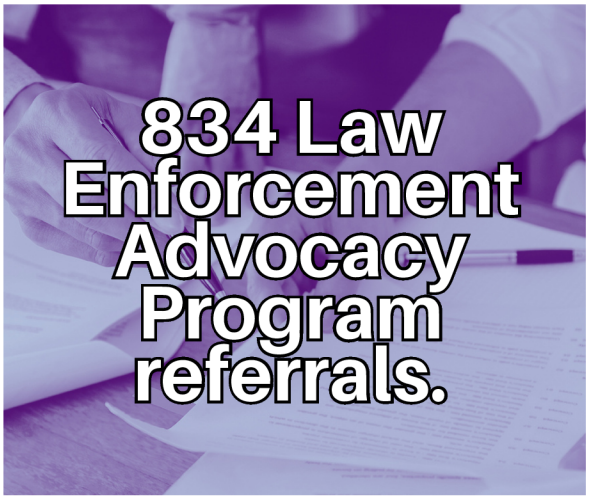


...through DAIS' primary prevention MENS (Men Encouraging Nonviolent Strength) Club program.

Prevention: Our Prevention, Outreach, Education, and Training team facilitates MENS Club (Men Encouraging Nonviolent Strength) in middle and high schools across Dane County. This primary prevention program focuses on helping male identified youth deconstruct the many mixed messages they get about masculinity from mainstream culture while providing them with a safe space in connection to their peers to have meaningful conversations about gender roles and expectations, communication, conflict resolution, and healthy relationships. At DAIS, we understand that though many of those who may perpetrate abuse are men, most men are not abusers. This program provides a safe space for young men to explore these issues and empowers them to shape their school communities in ways that do not perpetuate toxic masculinity and aim to interrupt the cycle of violence before it even starts.

Outreach: Our team facilitates workshops and presentations tailored to specific groups to raise awareness about intimate partner violence and to promote healthy relationships and can speak to any question, curiosity, or concern involving intimate partner violence. In 2025, the team completed 153 presentations to community members, an increase of 35% over the prior year. Informed community members are an incredibly protective factor for survivors in our community, and often a first line of defense or intervention, especially to people who might not know that there are services available to them.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVOCACY PARTNERSHIP (LEAP)



This was an increase of 18% from 2024.

Law Enforcement Advocacy Partnership (LEAP): LEAP is a formal contract with the Madison Police Department (MPD) for the Law Enforcement Advocacy Partnership program. This is a partnership in which referrals to DAIS are completed by officers responding to domestic violence related calls when an arrest is made. The choice to receive services by DAIS is optional for all victims that are referred and no identifying information about victims or survivors is reported back to MPD.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Support Groups: DAIS offers peer support groups for victims/survivors of Intimate Partner Violence who identify as female. Support group is a safe space for victims/survivors to support one another, learn from one another, and to create a healing space within a community of peers who have similar experiences with power and control dynamics in their intimate partnerships. DAIS offers two weekly Community Support Groups for anyone who identifies as a female across Dane County. Children's services are available for the weekly Wednesday and Thursday night groups so that participants may bring their children with them to the group. The Friday night support group is for women 50 years and older.



737 service hours from staff and volunteers of support group facilitation.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: TECH CLINIC & SHELTERING ANIMALS OF ABUSE VICTIMS

Tech Clinic: The Tech Clinic founded and facilitated by UW-Madison's Computer Science department connects computer science experts to support survivors to ensure their devices are free from spyware that contributes to technology-facilitated abuse. Technology-facilitated abuse occurs when abusers use digital tools to stalk, harass, or control victims, exploiting knowledge of devices and personal information to monitor communications, access accounts, or track locations. This under-recognized form of abuse can be pervasive, often further trapping survivors in dangerous situations. The Tech Clinic volunteers offer survivors confidential consultations and digital security support, often meeting with clients at our DAIS facility, and empower survivors by providing hands-on assistance with scanning devices, auditing accounts, and securing personal information.

> ***You all have done so much. I didn't expect it. It isn't just a job you are clocking into. You see me as a human. You treat me like a human.***

Sheltering Animals of Abuse (SAAV): DAIS partners with SAAV which is an organization who provides safe, temporary, foster homes for pets of intimate partner violence survivors in Dane County. For many survivors, fear for their pet's safety is a barrier to leaving an abusive situation. SAAV helps remove that barrier by offering up to 90 days of confidential, compassionate care for animals while their owners receive support through DAIS. SAAV also provides outreach and advocacy about the link between animal cruelty and human violence, including a campaign designed for veterinarians and a campaign for teens.

STAFF & VOLUNTEER IMPACT

> ***So many of us have either lived experiences with survivorship or have been directly impacted by intimate partner violence. It is a unique privilege to be at the point in our own journeys that we can support other survivors on their journey to freedom and safety, and it is one I will never take for granted.***

→ 6 STAFF MEMBERS WITH 10+ YEARS OF TENURE

→ 9 STAFF MEMBERS WITH 5+ YEARS OF TENURE

→ OVER 60% OF STAFF IDENTIFY AS SURVIVORS.

→ 91 VOLUNTEERS COMPLETED 5,487 HOURS.

TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Supervisor leadership trainings

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

- Maintaining low out-of-pocket, zero-deductible health plan with minimal premium increases.
- Maintaining low-premium dental and vision plans
- Providing employer-paid life insurance, accidental death, and long and short-term disability coverage.
- Maintaining the 401(k) plan with employer matching funds.
- Continuing to provide excellent paid time off accrual.

CURRENT LEADERSHIP

→ 2026 Board of Directors

Ryan Behling, *President*
Anne Norman, *Vice President*
Caitlin Behncke, *Treasurer*
Kayla Langenstroer, *Secretary*
Allen Grady
Amber Heidenreich
Charlene Smith
Heather Crowley
Jenn Krebs
Jim Butman
Leslie Osman
Sheila McGraw

→ 2026 DAIS Executive Team

Shannon Barry,
Executive Director

Dawn Sharer,
Director of Human Resources

Faye Zemel,
Director of Services

Shawn Walker,
Director of Finance & Operations

The DAIS Board of Directors typically meets on the fourth Monday of the month from 5:30 PM until 7:30 PM with some exceptions.

If you're interested in learning more about serving on our Board of Directors, please contact Shannon Barry at shannonb@abuseintervention.org.

2025 was DAIS' 48th anniversary, 2026 is DAIS' 49th anniversary, and this upcoming year of 2027 is...

fifty years of DAiS!

Got a DAIS story to share? Visit https://abuseintervention.org/50th/ or scan the QR code.



DAIS started as a grassroots organization run entirely by volunteers, and to this day, volunteers remain a backbone of so many of the services provided to survivors as well as vital support for the organization as a whole.

We have many multifaceted volunteer roles that fit all skill sets and interests, including those that provide direct services to adults and children as well as volunteer roles without direct client interaction that are essential to creating and maintaining a welcoming and supportive environment for those we serve as well as furthering the work of DAIS.

If you're interested in making a difference in the lives of survivors, their children, and their loved ones, visit **https://abuseintervention.org/volunteer/** or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

DAIS provides a variety of community education presentations and workshops to any audience looking to learn more about different topics related to domestic violence and intimate partner violence. Audiences can range from faith-based groups, to identity organizations, to civic organizations. These community education presentations and workshops include topics such as...

- how to identify signs of abuse
- how to support a survivor
- an overview of DAIS services and how we can help
- community resources
- ...and so much more!

These presentations are offered at no cost.

DAIS is happy to work with your group to customize your experience. We aim to tailor each presentation to best fit the needs of each group we speak with. Each presentation, workshop, or training can be fully customized for your group.

DAIS presentations are also designed to meet the needs of all learners. Each workshop utilizes different learning styles and uses a combination of individual reflection, partner work, group work, discussions, videos, simulations, survivor stories, music, etc. to engage all participants. The age and cognitive development of participants is also foundational to the development of our educational offerings.

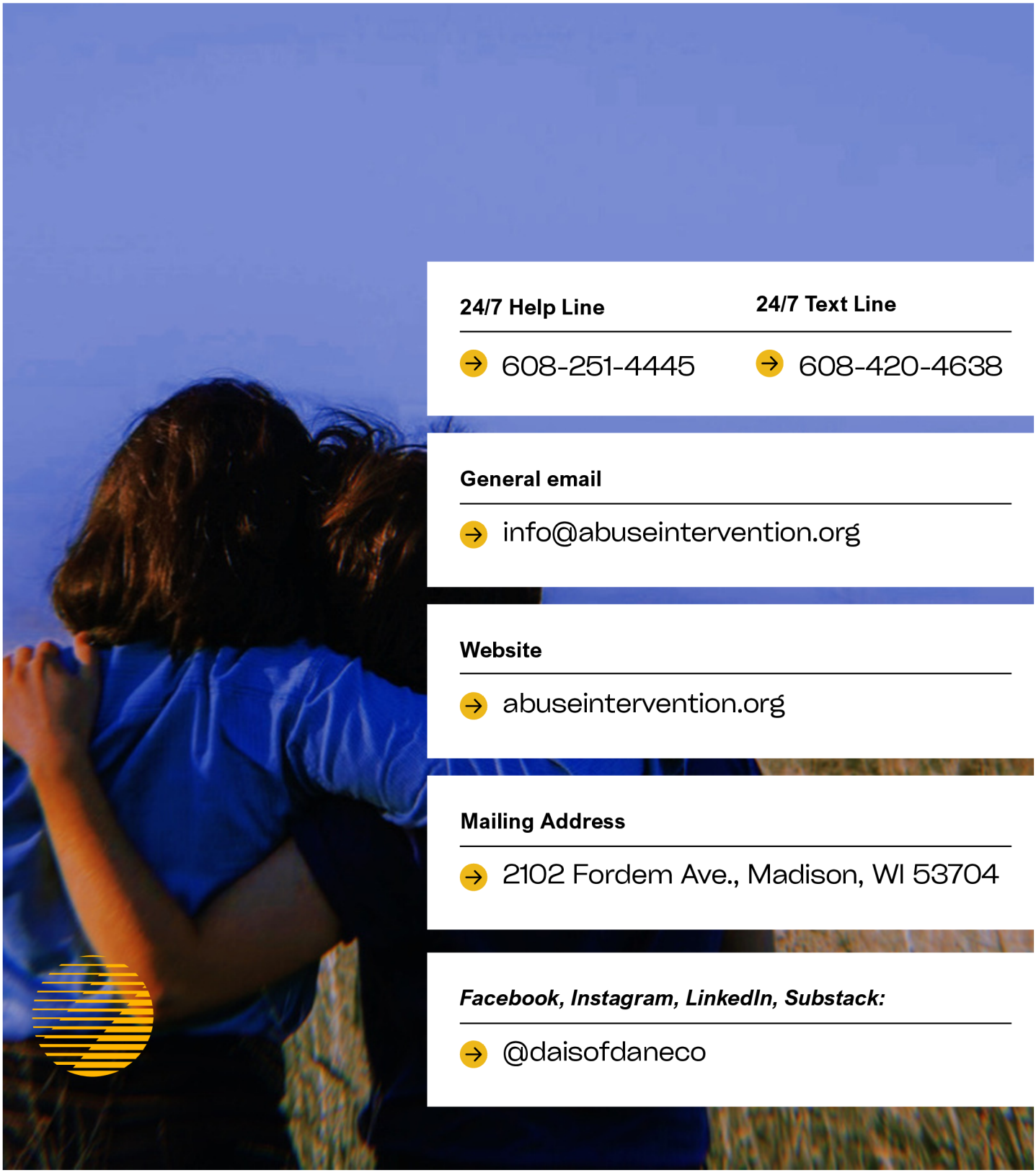




To request a speaker or trainer, email DAIS at outreach@abuseintervention.org

We ask that you schedule at least one month prior to your event date. We do our best to accommodate all requests, but please note our ability to confirm your request depends on staff ability. Once we receive your email, you will be asked to fill out a Community Awareness and Prevention Education (CAPE) Interest Form that will help us tailor your presentation to best fit the needs of your group.

CONTACT US



24/7 Help Line

608-251-4445

24/7 Text Line

608-420-4638

General email

info@abuseintervention.org

Website

abuseintervention.org

Mailing Address

2102 Fordem Ave., Madison, WI 53704

Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Substack:

@daisofdaneco