# ANNUAL REPORT



Research. Educate. Lead.



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| )<br>    |  |
| TAB      |  |

| MEMBERSHIP        |  |  |
|-------------------|--|--|
| LEADERSHIP        |  |  |
| STAFF             |  |  |
| ADVOCACY          |  |  |
| JOURNAL           |  |  |
| CERTIFICATION     |  |  |
| EDUCATION         |  |  |
| GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS |  |  |
| GRANT PROJECTS    |  |  |
| PARTNERSHIPS      |  |  |
| FINANCIALS        |  |  |

4 5

## MEMBERSHIP

The International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) is a professional education and membership association representing more than 6,000 forensic nurses and allied professionals worldwide. The Association establishes and improves standards of forensic nursing practice by fostering growth and development of the specialty. We promote increased knowledge and skills among our members and professionals from other disciplines who are dedicated to disseminating evidence-based information about forensic nursing globally.

In 2021, IAFN hosted "Open Office Hours" for members to meet with a variety of IAFN staff and volunteers to discuss issues including certification, serving LGBTQIA patients, racism, telehealth, the *Journal of Forensic Nursing*, death investigation, billing, research, and male forensic nurses.

### **MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTERS**

The Association closed the year with 6,042 members and 23 chapters. The Tennessee chapter was formed in 2021 and 4 new chapters are now organizing.

### **ASSOCIATION WEBSITES**

- ForensicNurses.org
- SAFEta.org
- TribalForensicHealthcare.org
- ISAAConline.org

### **CONNECTIONS**

Facebook 10,640 followers LinkedIn 7,767 followers Twitter 2,407 followers YouTube 2,180 subscribers Instagram 1,759 followers

Our weekly newsletter, Forensic Nurses News, continues to be widely read with over 14,000 subscribers.

1/3

of all IAFN members belong to a chapter

123

volunteer chapter officers

76
scholarships
provided by
chapters

118 chapter trainings

## **LEADERSHIP**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President Nancy Downing, PhD, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, FAAN

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Julie Valentine, PhD, MSN, BSN, RN, CNE, SANE-A

IAFN CEO - Ex Officio Jennifer Pierce-Weeks, BSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P

### **RESEARCH AWARDS**

\$19,000 in research grants were distributed to IAFN members in 2021

#### Amanda Emerson

Anxiety, Moral Distress, and Burnout in Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners During COVID- 19: A Mixed Method Study

#### Charrita Ernewein

Survivors of Human Trafficking: Reintegration into the Community and Society

#### Heather Quaile

Telehealth as Innovative Intervention for Immediate, Emergency Stabilization for CSEC Youth at the Time of After-Hours Intake at The Receiving Hope Center: A Continuation of an existing research project

#### Ashley Ruiz

Examining Secondary Victimization Within the Nurse-Patient Relationship

## STAFF

Chief Operating Officer Megan Lechner, DNP, APRN, CNS, SANE-A, SANE-P

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Forensic Nursing Specialist Kim Nash, BSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P

Forensic Nursing Specialist Angelita Olowu, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P

Forensic Nursing Specialist Tammy Scarlett, MPH, BSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P

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Instructional Designer Sarah Tucker, BA

Marketing Manager Melissa Raymond, BS

Membership and Administrative Assistant Sarah Jimenez-Valdez, BA

Membership Manager Christina Presenti, BA

Meeting and Events Manager Pam Bruggeman, BS, CMP

**Online Learning Coordinator** Amy Valentine

Project Coordinator, NICCSA Sandra Erickson, AA

Project Manager, TeleSAFE Andrea Cavanagh, BS

Project Manager Bonnie Barsa, BS

Website and Database Manager Apple Montuya, MS

## **ADVOCACY**



### **ADVOCACY DAY**

Our 2021 Advocacy Day was held virtually in February and March. Prior to meeting with their legislators, members attended a "Know Before You Go" briefing, which provided an overview of legislation and scheduling meetings, and a more in-depth training. This workshop allowed them to experience a mock Hill meeting scenario and learn more about IAFN's priority issues. 114 nurses attended one or both sessions.

### **2021 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA**

Funding request for the DOJ and HHS to increase training funds for forensic nursing:

- Survivors' Access to Supportive Care Act
- Violence Against Women Act
- Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act
- Cures Act 2.0

#### The Association also supported:

- Funding for the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention
- The Ending Forced Arbitration for Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act

Additionally, IAFN assisted at the state level, working with chapters to review testimony and support legislation about tracking kits, strangulation, intimate partner violence, billing, and funding.

### **FORENSIC NURSES WEEK**

Forensic Nurses Week is celebrated annually during the second week in November. The November 8–12, 2021 celebration featured the theme "In every hospital. For every community. The future of care."

### JOURNAL OF FORENSIC NURSING

The *Journal of Forensic Nursing* (JFN), the official journal of the International Association of Forensic Nurses, features empirical studies, review and theoretical articles, methodological and concept papers, and case reports that address the provision of care to victims and perpetrators of violence, trauma, and abuse.

#### 2020 JFN Clinical Article of the Year

Stanley, S., Rutty, G., & Rutty, J. (2020). Postmortem computed tomography: An overview for forensic nurses involved in death investigation. *Journal of Forensic Nursing*, *16*(2), 99–107.

#### 2020 JFN Education Article of the Year

Hornor, G. (2020). Child labor trafficking essentials for forensic nurses. *Journal of Forensic Nursing*, 16(4), 215–223.

#### 2020 JFN Research Article of the Year

Paradis-Gagné, E., Holmes, D., & Perron, A. (2020). Experiences of family violence committed by relatives with severe mental illness: A grounded theory. *Journal of Forensic Nursing*, *16*(2), 108–117.

## JOURNAL OF FORENSIC NURSING EDITORIAL BOARD

#### **Editor-in-Chief**

Cindy Peternelj-Taylor, MSc, BScN, RN, DF-IAFN University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada

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Donna Scott Tilley, PhD, RN, CNE Denton, TX, US

**791** 

nurses applied to take the SANE certification exams

420

nurses renewed their SANE certification

75% renewal rate

## **CERTIFICATION**

The Association's certification program continues its robust growth. 1213 candidates applied to sit for exams or renewal in 2021, marking a 27% increase in exam applicants and a 6% increase in renewal applicants. We maintained a recertification rate of 75%. The Association decreased applicants' wait time, with the average submission-to-notice time going from 1.2 days to less than 1 day.

In 2021, a record 25% of examination applicants received institutional funding to pursue certification.

Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, the Association continued to offer the Live Remote Proctoring exam option and free transfer to a future testing window, upon request.

# COMMISSION FOR FORENSIC NURSING CERTIFICATION (CFNC)

The CFNC develops, oversees, and administers the Association's SANE-A and SANE-P certification programs. Serving as an independent and autonomous entity within the Association, the CFNC establishes, implements, applies, and evaluates the CFNC certification program policies and decisions related to certification eligibility and renewal and examination development and administration, consistent with the Association's Bylaws, mission, and policies.

Chair: Pamela Holtzinger, DNP, MSN, RN, CEN, SANE-A, SANE-P, FNE A/P, AFN-BC

#### **Commissioners:**

Carrie Bailey, PhD, MSN, RN, APRN-BC, CHSE, SANE-A
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Carrie Edwards, PhD, RN, Ca/Cp SANE
Melissa Jackson, RN, SANE-A
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Marie Ann Marino, EdD, RN, FAAN
Priscilla Simms-Roberson, DNP, NP-C, SANE-A

99%

of SANE renewal applications were approved

Kathleen Maguire, JD, BS, BSN, RN (Staff Liaison)

## **EDUCATION**

The Association offers education through live trainings, our Online Learning Center, our grant projects, and our clinical partner sites.

**6250** 

online learning certificates awarded

### **ONLINE LEARNING**

In 2021, IAFN's Online Learning Center issued 6,250 certificates. The most popular course continues to be our 40-hour Adult/Adolescent Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner course, followed by the Intimate Partner Violence Examiner Certificate Program and the Pediatric/Adolescent Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner course. In 2021, the Association launched a fully redesigned Adult/Adolescent course with increased interactivity and updated resources and references.

### **APPROVERSHIP**

IAFN's Approver Unit approves forensic nursing professional development programs that meet the highest standards of educational planning, implementation, and evaluation as set forth by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. In 2021, 46 applications were approved.

709.65

hours of nursing professional development were approved

### **CONFERENCE**

Despite plans to hold a live conference, a sudden jump in COVID cases caused IAFN's 2021 Conference to be held virtually. 950 people joined the mix of live and prerecorded sessions, and 71.2% completed evaluations. Going virtual solved the challenge of selecting just one session per time block, allowing attendees to view all 83 presentations and 20 poster sessions, to earn up to 99.5 contact hours.

99.5

contact hours offered

19,928

hours of nursing professional development completed

## **GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- In November 2021, IAFN presented at the International Council of Nurses' (ICN) virtual conference. The ICN is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations, representing nurses worldwide. IAFN's presentation was titled "A Lot of Things Stop Due to Pandemics. Violence Isn't One of Them. How Nurses Continued to Provide Medical-Forensic Healthcare to Patients Impacted by Violence During the COVID-19 Crisis."
- IAFN hosted a 2-hour webinar for the US Embassy Brazzaville and Congolese Police.
   The webinar topics included the neurobiology of trauma, strangulation, gender based violence, and the medical forensic exam. Those in attendance included: healthcare providers, law enforcement officials, and prosecutors.
- IAFN chapters provided 2 scholarships for members outside North America to attend the conference.

#### In 2021, IAFN had members from 31 countries and territories as identified below:



**697** 

technical assistance requests answered

130

trainings provided

4701 attendees trained

211

hours of training provided

# SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT (SAFEta)

With our 16th year of funding from the US
Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against
Women (OVW), the Association provided education
and technical assistance (TA) regarding the
National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical
Forensic Examinations: Adult/Adolescent, 2nd
edition, through the SAFEta Project. Education and
TA under this project also includes the National
Protocol for Sexual Abuse Medical Forensic
Examination: Pediatric, the National Training
Standards for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic
Examiners, and the National Best Practices for
Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach.

The SAFEta project supports formal and informal local, state, national, and global multidisciplinary efforts to coordinate the response of healthcare professionals, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, advocates, and other victim service providers who respond to sexual assault.

Highlights from 2021 include:

• Continuing dissemination of Caring for the Sexually Assaulted Patient When There is No SANE in Sight: A Training for ALL Healthcare Providers, an interactive online learning program for non-SANE/SAFE healthcare clinicians (nurses, physicians, PAs, and general ER staff) who provide emergency health care for patients who have experienced sexual assault. This curriculum incorporates the Appendix C: Minimum Training Recommendations from the National Training Standards for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examiners (2nd ed). The Association has promoted this training to health facilities across the country, including giving healthcare institutions the full SCORM product for use in their own learning management systems. Sixty-nine healthcare facilities have adopted this training and 239 clinicians completed the training through IAFN in 2021, totaling 761 clinicians nationwide who have completed this training through IAFN since 2020.

### **SAFEta Project (continued)**

- Reviewed and provided recommendations on protocols and policies from pediatric and adult sexual assault programs, IAFN chapters, Health Resource and Service Administration (HRSA) grant recipients, and State agencies.
- Statewide SANE Coordinator meetings: IAFN hosts monthly statewide SANE
   Coordinator meetings to discuss state-level issues, share resources, and collaborate
   on technical assistance-related needs. These meetings also help identify gaps in
   service and sustainability, and highlight high-functioning program models. Each month
   averages 20–30 attendees who actively engage in discussion.
- SAFE Virtual Practicum Project: IAFN collaborated with EVAWI and the SAFE Virtual Practicum Project, providing script revisions and attending virtual meetings. The project is currently being finalized and will launch in 2022.
- Urban Institute Partnership Examining the implementation of the SAFE Protocol: Since 2018, the IAFN, in conjunction with the Urban Institute, has conducted an assessment and evaluation of the *National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical* Forensic Examinations: Adult/Adolescent, 2nd edition (SAFE Protocol). As a result of examining the implementation of the SAFE Protocol, multiple products were developed. Those products included 2 journal articles, 5 briefs, and 2 sessions at professional conferences.
- Up-to-date resources and information were added to the SAFEta website as they
  became available to the IAFN. New in 2021, website visitors were able to view a map
  and click on a specific state to access any available state protocols, statewide
  coordinators/contact people, and state-specific certification

requirements. In 2022, the Association will launch a

completely updated safeta.org website.

New, additional tabs include:

Exam Payment Resources
IAFN/National Indian Country Clearinghouse
on Sexual Assault (NICCSA) Resources and TA Project
State Protocols



<sup>1. &</sup>lt;a href="https://journals.lww.com/forensicnursing/Abstract/9000/Examining the Implementation of the National.99826.aspx">https://journals.lww.com/forensicnursing/Abstract/9000/Examining the Implementation of the National.99826.aspx</a> <a href="https://www.urban.org/research/publication/state-sane-programs-us">https://www.urban.org/research/publication/state-sane-programs-us</a>

<sup>2. &</sup>lt;a href="https://www.urban.org/research/publication/evaluation-implementation-sexual-assault-medical-forensic-exam-safe-protocol">https://www.urban.org/research/publication/implementation-national-sexual-assault-medical-forensic-examination-safe-protocol</a>
<a href="https://www.urban.org/research/publication/sustaining-community-based-approaches-survivors-sexual-assault-medical-forensic-exams-sexual-assault-medical-forensic-exams-safe-protocol">https://www.urban.org/research/publication/sustaining-community-based-approaches-survivors-sexual-assault-medical-forensic-exams-safe-protocol</a>
<a href="https://www.urban.org/research/publication/paying-sexual-assault-medical-forensic-examinations-safe-protocol">https://www.urban.org/research/publication/paying-sexual-assault-medical-forensic-examinations-safe-protocol</a>
<a href="https://www.urban.org/research/publication/supporting-implementation-national-sexual-assault-medical-forensic-examinations-safe-protocol">https://www.urban.org/research/publication/paying-sexual-assault-medical-forensic-exams-national-sexual-assault-medical-forensic-examinations-safe-protocol</a>
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## NATIONAL INDIAN COUNTRY CLEARINGHOUSE ON SEXUAL ASSAULT (NICCSA)

In 2019, IAFN was awarded funding for an OVW Special Initiative as a part of the congressionally mandated National Indian Country Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault (NICCSA). The project is part of a larger NICCSA project, and focuses on sexual assault in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. IAFN's NICCSA project is targets Alaska Native communities, where the response to sexual assault is limited due to geographic isolation and limited resources. Working in concert with the OVW Tribal Unit project manager, IAFN staff and partners (Alaska Native Women's Resource Center and Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) provided 19 trainings over 27 hours with 2,070 attendees in 2021, developed four fact sheets, and contributed an article to the Department of Justice's Journal of Federal Law and Practice - Addressing Sexual Abuse, Assault, and Trafficking as Co-Morbidities in Missing or Murdered Indigenous Populations.

19 trainings



2070 attendees



The isaaconline.org website totaled 3,755 page views.

ISAAConline.org | Toll-Free Helpline (800) 999-5444 | isaac@forensicnurses.org

## NATIONAL PROTOCOL FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MEDICAL FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS

In 2020, IAFN was awarded a targeted technical assistance grant from OVW to partner with a multidisciplinary group of subject matter experts (advocacy, law enforcement, prosecution and healthcare) to determine the best practices for delivering specialized, trauma-informed, comprehensive medical forensic examinations to victims of domestic violence. The *National Protocol* will provide healthcare providers and other first responders with guidance for addressing the broad healthcare needs of patients who disclose domestic violence in a patient-centered, trauma-informed manner, while gathering forensic evidence for potential use within the criminal justice system. The final protocol will be released in late 2022.

### 217

technical assistance requests answered

21

readiness
assessments
conducted

375
people trained

### **TELESAFE**

In September 2019, IAFN received a grant to provide technical assistance to 4 Office for Victims of Crime demonstration sites, using telehealth to facilitate the provision of sexual assault forensic exams.

Throughout 2021, IAFN staff provided 5 new webinars and answered 217 requests for technical assistance. IAFN conducted 10 readiness assessments for the Avera Health System spoke sites, 1 readiness assessment for Texas A & M University spoke site, 1 readiness assessment for the Tundra Women's Coalition spoke site, and 9 readiness assessments for the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences spoke sites. In addition, a question/answer video was created to explain best practices for conducting patient evaluations with the assistance of Drs. Rebecca Campbell and Katie Gregory from Michigan State University. The project also produced 8 vignettes to provide examples of teleSAFE patient encounters.

IAFN produced a "TeleSAFE Quality Assurance Tool" for use in the adult/adolescent sexual assault medical forensic exam. The IAFN TeleSAFE staff conducted a site visit to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences demonstration site, which also included a tour of 1 spoke site.

IAFN was accepted to present sessions at the 2021 National Victims of Crime Assistance and Compensation Conference as well as the 2021 IAFN Annual Conference. In addition, IAFN provided a modified one-day virtual clinical skills lab to the Alaska demonstration site, using telehealth technology.

# FORENSIC-MEDICAL AND ADVOCACY SERVICES FOR TRIBES (FAST) INITIATIVE

In 2020, IAFN was awarded the Office on Violence Against Women Forensic-Medical and Advocacy Service for Tribes (FAST) initiative grant for establishing, sustaining, and/or expanding Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) services. The target audience for the IAFN FASTta project is grantees who are funded under the OVW FAST program, and potential grantees in rural, remote, and tribal communities. As a result of the education and TA offered by this project in 2021, the FASTta staff provided 8 trainings over 17 hours to 773 attendees and answered 262 TA requests. The FASTta webpages on the safeta.org site have 1.147 views.

trainings provided

773 attendees trained

262

TA requests answered

8
trainings provided

1580 attendees trained

fact sheets developed

### **EXAM PAYMENT PROJECT**

This OVW-funded project continues to provide education and technical assistance related to improving access to and payment for sexual assault medical forensic examinations, including examinations of patients who do not wish to report the crime to law enforcement at the time of the exam.

Three Exam Payment Factsheets were developed in 2021: 1. Billing information for healthcare providers; 2. Who Should we talk to if a patient receives a bill; and 3. Patient examination and reporting options fact sheet.

The project maintained 7 webpages on SAFEta.org and provided technical assistance to forensic nurses and healthcare providers; hospital billing, coding, and compliance departments; STOP Administrators; Crime Victim Compensation Administrators; and insurance companies.

## TRIBAL FORENSIC HEALTHCARE TRAINING PROJECT

Since March 2013, the Indian Health Service has contracted with IAFN to develop, deliver, and evaluate in-person and web-based training related to the identification, collection, and preservation of medical forensic evidence obtained during the treatment of victims of sexual and domestic violence. The Tribal Forensic Healthcare Training project provided training for Sexual Assault Examiner, Pediatric Sexual Assault Examiner, Sexual Assault Clinical Skills, Pediatric Sexual Assault Clinical Skills, Intimate Partner Violence Examiner, and Intimate Partner Violence Screening, as well as quarterly webinars on related topics.

In 2021, IAFN update the Adult and Pediatric Sexual Assault Examiner web-based courses. As a result of COVID, the number of medical professionals trained

29
trainings provided

55
healthcare providers
completed clinical skills
training

944

attendees trained

in-person was limited. Training attendees provided service to more than 180 federally recognized tribes. Additionally, some attendees remarked that they served multiple tribes in their area, American Indians/Alaska Natives serving in the military, or Urban Indian populations.



### **SPECIAL PROJECT: TELEMEDICINE IN INDIAN COUNTRY**

Since 2016, the Tribal Forensic Healthcare Project facilitated expert case review and real-time case consultation via telehealth technologies through a partnership with Our Kids in Nashville, TN. Our Kids, Four Directions Clinic, and Pine Ridge Hospital personnel met monthly over 8 sessions to review 45 cases. In addition, Our Kids was available to the same sites to provide case consultation using Second Opinion telemedicine software. In 2021, real-time case review occurred 6 times. Also, Our Kids provided a 2-week, in-person clinical training opportunity for a didactic and clinically prepared clinician to assist them in establishing competency in practice prior to returning to their home community.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

AEquitas: The Prosecutors' Resource on

Violence Against Women

Alaska Native Women's Resource Center

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and

Sexual Assault

**Battered Women's Justice Project** 

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center

**Cleveland Clinic** 

Crisis Services of North Alabama

Danger Assessment Training and TA for IPV Risk Assessment Center

District of Columbia Forensic Nurse Examiners

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center Idaho Falls, ID

Driscoll Children's Hospital

**Emergency Nurses Association** 

**Emory University** 

**End Violence Against Women International** 

Evidentia Learning

**Fairview Hospital** 

**FORGE Forward** 

**Futures Without Violence** 

**Healing Justice** 

HonorHealth

Indian Health Service

International Association of Chiefs of Police

Louisiana State University

Massachusetts Department of Health

MetroHealth

Michigan State University Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct Workgroup

National Children's Alliance

National Sheriffs' Association

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

**Nursing Organizations Alliance** 

Our Kids Center

Pennsylvania State University

Prisma Health

Redwind Consulting, Inc.

**Regions Hospital** 

Research Triangle Institute (RTI)

Sexual Violence Justice Initiative of Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

University of Colorado Health – Memorial Hospital

University of South Alabama College of Nursing

**Urban Institute** 

US Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime

US Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime Training Technical Assistance Center (OVCTTAC)

US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women

**US** Department of State

US Department of Health and Human Services' National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC)

**Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault** 

Vera Institute of Justice

Victims Rights Law Center

# **Statement of Financial Position**

as of December 31, 2021

|  | December 31, 2021   | December 31, 2020  |
|--|---|--|
| Assets Cash Grants and Other Receivable Investments Prepaid Expenses Due from Foundation Fixed Assets, net | \$ 354,795<br>295,298<br>3,270,320<br>62,831<br>8,915<br>31,134 | \$ 455,153<br>343,575<br>2,892,260<br>19,926<br>3,312<br>0 |
| Total Assets   | \$ 4,023,293  | \$ 3,714,226   |
| Liabilities and Net Assets   |   |  |
| Liabilities Accounts Payable Accrued Expenses Deferred Revenue Other Liabilities                           | \$ 28,431<br>143,052<br>109,896<br>0                            | \$ 15,809<br>49,335<br>108,524<br>19,054                   |
| Total Liabilities  | 281,379   | 192,722  |
| Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions  | 3,741,913   | 3,521,504  |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets   | \$ 4,023,293  | \$ 3,714,226   |

