



OUR COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Progress Through Innovation

A Note From the Chief Executive Officer:

This year, our work in victim services was guided by a clear and urgent vision: to meet survivors where they are—with compassion, with strength, and with innovative solutions that truly make a difference.

In a landscape that continues to shift—marked by rising needs, systemic barriers, and complex trauma—we recognized that doing "what's always been done" was not enough. Innovation has become a vital tool for growth, allowing us to expand our reach, improve service delivery, and ensure that survivors have access to the support they deserve, when and how they need it.

From expanding counseling groups, housing options, training, and community-based health fairs and career camps to launching a new civil legal representation program, we implemented new strategies that not only increased access but also respected the dignity and autonomy of those we serve. We enhanced coordination with law enforcement, legal partners, and healthcare providers through collaboration and cross-agency training initiatives. Most importantly, we listened—centering survivor voices to drive programs that are more responsive, inclusive, and effective.

Innovation in victim services is about thinking differently, adapting with empathy, and finding new ways to walk alongside survivors on their path to healing. This report shares the stories, data, and milestones that demonstrate how, by embracing innovation, we have grown stronger—and so have the individuals and community we serve.

As we look ahead, we know this journey cannot continue without you. Whether through financial contributions, volunteerism, partnerships, or simply sharing our mission with others, your support fuels our ability to reach more survivors and build a safer, more resilient community. Together, we can continue to innovate, grow, and ensure that every survivor has access to the care, advocacy, and hope they need to heal.

With Gratitude,

Nicole Amabile, Chief Executive Officer



Highlights

Through the application of creative, effective ideas, collaborations, and programs, we enhanced impact, efficiency, reach, and sustainability.

- We increased counseling, trauma therapy, and advocacy hours to sexual assault survivors by 82% through the addition for more mobilized staff positions – providing services to survivors in settings that are more accessible to them.
- We added new permanent supportive housing and civil legal representation programs.
- We increased education and outreach programs by 11% through engaging Survivor Advocacy Panel (SAP) members and enhancing collaboration partnerships.

See inside for more details!

Filling the Gap: Why Arise Launched Permanent Supportive Housing for Survivors Facing Chronic Homelessness

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is a long-term solution for people experiencing chronic homelessness, particularly those with serious physical or mental health conditions, substance use disorders, or disabilities. It combines affordable housing with supportive services to help individuals stay housed and improve their overall well-being.

Key features of permanent supportive housing:

- 1.It's permanent – there are no time limits.
- 2.Supportive services – participants have access to voluntary services including case management, mental health care, job readiness training, life skill development, etc.
- 3.Affordable - housing is subsidized so that participants pay no more than 30% of their income toward rent.
- 4.Housing First Model - it prioritizes providing housing without preconditions like sobriety or treatment compliance.

Survivors of domestic and sexual violence carry deep trauma—trauma that doesn't simply end when they find shelter. For many survivors who are also chronically homeless and living with disabilities, the struggle continues every day. They face unstable housing, overwhelming barriers, and systems often not designed to support long-term healing. Survivors need more than just a roof over their heads; they need a safe, stable place where healing can truly begin.

At Arise, all our housing programs follow a supportive housing model that pairs safe housing with compassionate, individualized services. We provide survivors with the care and resources they need to reclaim their lives. But over time, our housing team saw a painful pattern: survivors with complex needs, those who experienced repeated abuse and live with disabilities, were repeatedly returning to homelessness.

PSH is designed specifically for survivors who need long-term, stable housing paired with intensive, trauma-informed supportive services. This means not just a home, but comprehensive case management focused on healing from abuse, managing disabilities, and rebuilding lives. For many survivors, this stability is essential—not a luxury. Arise has housed nine households and is on track to welcome a tenth.

ARISE HOUSING OPTIONS

Emergency shelter is a 40-bed short-term housing option for individuals fleeing domestic violence.

Permanent Supportive Housing is a permanent housing option that can support up to 10 households per year.

Other supportive housing programs include transitional housing and rapid re-housing (rental assistance). Transitional housing is temporary housing assistance that lasts between 12-24 months, and rapid re-housing is permanent housing solutions that provide one year of rental assistance. Both programs can support up to 47 households per year.

Through the addition of permanent supportive housing and continued growth of transitional housing and rapid re-housing programs, this year Arise has increased the number of domestic violence survivors housed by 104%.

Emergency Shelter Needs List

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body wash
- Face wash
- Dish soap
- Laundry soap/dryer sheets
- Paper towels
- Paper plates
- Plastic eating utensils
- Paper cups
- Napkins
- Cleaning supplies
- Blankets/comforters
- Sheets: twin/full
- Pillows
- Towels/wash cloths
- Baby wipes
- Gift cards (Walmart, grocery, gas, etc.)



Shop our Amazon Wishlist

Arise Receives an Outpouring of Support from the Local Community

Each Year Arise engages in fundraising efforts to ensure that it can continue to sustain its core programs and services. Every dollar raised by Arise plays a critical role in maintaining safety, healing, and justice for people who are at their most vulnerable. By supporting Arise's fundraising efforts you:

1. Help provide assistance to survivors in crisis
2. Creates a safer, healthier community
3. Fill gaps that state and federal government funding doesn't cover
4. Show survivors they're not alone
5. Invest in long-term healing



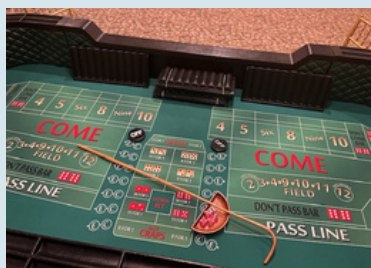
Yard Sale 2025



Yard Sale 2025



Arise Staff celebrates Monte Carlo 2024



Monte Carlo 2024



Bingo Random Basket Auction baskets



Bingo 2025

Save the date for Upcoming Arise fundraisers:

- Monte Carlo Gaming Night, Friday, November 21, 2025 at The Villa
- January 2026 Lottery Ticket Calendars
- Bingo, February 22, 2026 at the Cathedral

More information will be available on our website, www.ariselc.org, closer to the dates!

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK & NURSES APPRECIATION WEEK

This year Arise showed appreciation for its law enforcement and healthcare partners by delivering snacks and other treats to all of the local police departments and 150 supply bags to local nurses.



UPMC Jameson Nurses receiving their nurse bags

CIVIL LEGAL REPRESENTATION PROGRAM LAUNCHES

The Civil Legal Representation (CLR) program is Arise Lawrence County's legal aid office that provides limited civil legal representation to survivors of intimate partner violence in the following matters:

- Divorce
- Protection from Abuse Hearings
- Custody
- Support
- Landlord-Tenant

Staffed by a full-time attorney and paralegal, the Arise CLR can also provide brief legal advice for individuals who may be unsure of their legal options.

This program opened for referrals beginning in January 2025.

MOBILIZED HEALTH CLINICS AND HEALTH FAIR BRING SERVICES DIRECTLY TO SURVIVORS

Survivors of interpersonal violence are often at a disadvantage when it comes to general well-being and health. Intimate partner violence can significantly impact both physical and mental health and lead to an increase in risk of chronic diseases, injuries, and mental health conditions. In addition to the increased risks, Arise is also aware how the impacts of violence can also hinder the ability for survivors to receive access to health services due to a variety of barriers.

To combat this, Arise has hosted mobilized health clinics on site over the past year to provide direct access to medical services for survivors. These mobilized health clinics have included once-a-month visits from Primary Health Network with their clinic on wheels, as well as Link the Valley, a mobilized dental clinic. These health clinics have become increasingly popular with participants, some of whom access healthcare services on a monthly basis.

In April 2025, Arise hosted a Community Health Day. Arise hosted Primary Health Network's mobile clinic, Link the Valley's mobile dental clinic, Adagio Health and their WIC office representative, and the PA Thrive Partnership. Services for the day included A1C/Lipids testing, STI/STD testing, general health and well being visits, dental cleanings and oral check-ups, WIC information and resources, as well as Arise resources and referrals. Dean Natural Vending, the Wilmington Road Giant Eagle, and McDonald's on W. State Street provided healthy snacks, donuts, and coffee for the day. We are extremely thankful for their generous support and donations.

As a result of the Community Health Day, Arise was able to provide services to over 28 survivors who took part in a variety of healthcare services. The next anticipated full community health day is slated for October 2025 as a part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In the meantime, keep a look out on our social media accounts for upcoming mobile health clinic days from Primary Health Network and other area providers.

ARISE HOSTS HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING

On October 30, 2024, Arise hosted a regional training event in cooperation with the Lawrence County District Attorney's Office and the New Castle Police Department. This training was attended by law enforcement, attorneys, victim service providers, social workers, and other allied professionals. "Combatting Human Trafficking: A Cross-Systems Trauma-Informed Approach to Investigations, Prosecutions, and Victim Services" featured presentations by:

- Joanne Curley, Esq., Justice for Victim Fellow, Villanova Law Institute to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Summer Carroll, Esq., Senior Deputy Attorney General, PA Office of Attorney General Human Trafficking Section
- Annalisa Gibbs, RN, Founder and Executive Director, Eden's Farm
- Jim Hindinger, Supervisory Special Agent Human Trafficking Section, PA Office of Attorney General Bureau of Criminal Investigations



In attendance at the Human Trafficking Training are Sergeant Fred Buswell, Arise CEO Nicole Amabile, Assistant District Attorney Emily Parodi-Sanchez, Detective Hailey Houk, Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Miller, and David Cumo, New Castle Chief of Police. All of these members currently serve on Arise's OVV STOP Grant Core Team.



Primary Health Network, Link the Valley, PA Thrive Partnership, and Adagio Health/WIC all participated in Arise's first Community Health Day

ARISE CAREER CAMPS

As part of the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) Rural and Transitional Housing Grants, Arise has partnered with the New Castle branch of CareerLink to offer "Career Camp" for agency participants. "Career Camp" provides Arise participants the opportunity to attend a week-long workshop for job readiness. As part of this workshop, participants meet with staff from CareerLink who talk with them about programs and resources to explore careers, career assessments, applications and applicant tracking systems, financial literacy after securing a job, and positive attitude and soft skills.

At the end of the week each participant:

- completes a paper resume;
- has an electronic version of their resume;
- creates a career portfolio;
- and, a Career Goal Flow Chart and Action Plan.

The next camp is scheduled for September 2025.

TEEN SUMMER CAMP

This past summer, our annual Teen Summer Camp returned for a powerful weeklong experience designed for youth impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault. The camp focused on guiding participants through meaningful conversations and activities centered on healing, self-discovery, and empowerment. Teens explored essential topics such as setting healthy boundaries, practicing self-care, and building self-esteem—all within a supportive and trauma-informed environment. In addition to daily workshops, campers enjoyed fun and engaging community outings that offered opportunities for connection, recreation, and joy. Teen Summer Camp remained a vital space for youth to grow, heal, and realize they were not alone on their journey.

COUNSELING GROUPS: A CORNERSTONE FOR HEALING

Over the past year, Arise has expanded its counseling services by offering a variety of counseling groups aimed at fostering healing, resilience, and personal growth for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. These groups have included the Self-Esteem Group, Survivor Social, Domestic Violence 101 (a dedicated men's group) and Self-Care Group for Emergency Shelter residents. Additionally, multiple groups were held at offsite community locations to ensure greater accessibility. Grounded in trauma-informed principles, each group created a safe, empowering space where participants could explore topics such as self-worth, boundaries, healthy relationships, and the dynamics of domestic violence and relationship abuse. Through shared experiences, compassionate facilitation, and peer support, these groups help individuals strengthen their coping skills, find connections, and reclaim their voices on the path to healing.

As part of our commitment to providing trauma-informed care, all Arise's counseling groups are grounded in the "A Window Between Worlds" (AWBW) curriculum and facilitation style. AWWB is an arts-based program that uses creative expression as a tool for healing from trauma. Earlier this year, 7 Arise staff completed specialized training in this program. The training equipped staff with the knowledge and skills to facilitate art workshops that offer survivors a safe, non-verbal way to explore emotions, process experiences, and build resilience. Rooted in trauma-informed care, the AWWB approach emphasizes choice, empowerment, and emotional safety—core values that align with Arise's mission. By integrating this powerful program into each of our counseling groups, Arise is broadening the ways survivors can connect with themselves and others, fostering healing through creativity and compassionate support.



Resource Room/Group Therapy Room



Shop our
Amazon Wishlist



Youth Therapy Room

SURVIVOR ADVOCACY PANEL

Our Survivor Advisory Panel (SAP) is a survivor-led advocacy initiative we developed to strengthen our outreach and prevention work and ensure all services remain culturally relevant and survivor-centered. We intentionally engaged individuals with lived experience and offered paid, professional development opportunities as part of their involvement. Our goal was to center survivor voices in a way that not only informed our programming but also supported their autonomy and financial self-sufficiency through meaningful, reciprocal engagement.

Our SAP members have become an essential part of our agency's day-to-day work and special projects. They've helped us expand and improve our outreach by participating in community events, where they bring authenticity and connection to our prevention messaging. During the holiday season, some were instrumental in our Christmas donation operation—helping to organize, wrap, and distribute gifts to the families we serve. Behind the scenes, they've reviewed our marketing materials and intake procedures, offering invaluable feedback that ensures our language and processes are welcoming, inclusive, and trauma-informed. Two of our SAP members are also in the process of completing our introductory training which will enable them to provide direct services to our program participants, as peer advocates.

After a year on the project, here's what they want the community to know:

"You (Survivors) are not alone. There is safety, people who care and resources to help you through what seems scary and impossible, but together we can do hard things. There are more opportunities here for support and healing than you can imagine. Just make the call so you don't have to do it alone." – Shannon, SAP Member

"I am here to be a spokesperson for the defense of the rights of victims of domestic violence in this area of the country, in addition to becoming a link between the agency and the Latino community so that people feel more comfortable, safe and understood in their native language." – Lorena, SAP Member

We have a few openings on our SAP Team. If you are interested in this, please reach out to Stephanie Benincase, Director of Counseling and Trauma Therapy at sbenincase@ariselc.org.

ARISE SHOWCASES SUCCESS OF SAP PROGRAM AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Nicole Amabile, Chief Executive Officer, and Stephanie Benincase, Director of Counseling and Trauma Therapy Services, presented the workshop, "Lessons from the Field: Engaging People with Lived Experience to Inform Outreach and Prevention Work" at the National Sexual Assault Conference in Washington, D. C. in August 2024.

This workshop highlights Arise's success in the development and implementation of the Survivor Advocacy Panel (SAP) program. Drawing from our frontline work, we shared real-world examples of how survivor feedback has informed program design, shifted organizational practices, and guided our organizational priorities. We also explored the ethical and practical considerations involved in engaging survivors in advocacy—prioritizing safety, consent, and empowerment at every stage.

This opportunity helped elevate our work on a national platform, affirming the importance of survivor-centered approaches in creating long-term, systemic change. It also reinforced our commitment to ensuring that those most impacted by violence are not just heard—but are actively shaping the systems meant to support them.

This workshop presentation will also be presented at the 2025 Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect (PCAR) State Conference, the National Organization for Victim Advocacy (NOVA) 51st Training Event, and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's 2025 Pathways Conference.



Nicole Amabile & Stephanie Benincase presenting at the National Sexual Assault Conference in Washington D.C. in August 2024

Arise Staff Wellness Program

We have established a comprehensive staff wellness program. It is well documented that people working in victim services are at a high risk for burnout, compassion fatigue, and vicarious trauma. To keep passionate and experienced advocates in the field, it is imperative that victim service agencies address these issues head on and promote resilience factors for staff. The Arise Staff Wellness Program promotes staff resilience through policy, programs, supervision, and creative partnerships.

- **Trauma-informed supervision:** Staff members engage in regular one-on-one meetings with supervisors who work to create emotionally safe environments, provide clear communication, and prioritize professional development and wellness to prevent burnout and compassion fatigue. Staff are encouraged to shape their own development paths with guidance focused on skills growth and maintaining high-quality client care.
- **Professional Wellness Groups,** facilitated by the Director of Counseling and Trauma Therapy, offer confidential spaces to process the emotional impact of client work. These sessions provide education on topics such as vicarious trauma, burnout prevention, and self-care.
- **Recreation and Well-Being Committee** that organizes wellness challenges, team-building events, and develops other resources for ongoing staff use, such as grounding kits and a self-care library.
- **Corporate wellness partnership** with Infinity Flow Studio that allows staff to enjoy deeply discounted yoga classes and memberships and established a comprehensive critical incident response plan that includes Accelerated Resolution Therapy sessions with a contracted provider, counseling co-pay reimbursements, and designated Wellness Days.
- **Supportive employee policies and conflict mediation practices.** At the policy level, we've adopted policies that promote work-life balance and affirm diversity, including paid parental leave, accommodations for various family and health needs, and transgender-inclusive policies.

These efforts are the beginning, as we will continue our focus and commitment to creating a safe, supportive environment where advocates can thrive personally and professionally.

WAYS TO CONNECT WITH ARISE

1. Become a volunteer. Reach out to volunteer@ariselc.org for more information.
2. Inquire about opportunities to serve on the board of directors by contacting boardofdirectors@ariselc.org.
3. Sign up to receive our digital newsletters by contacting prevention@ariselc.org.
4. Attend our outreach and fundraising events. All events are listed on social media and the website www.ariselc.org.
5. Follow us on social media:



Arise



@arise_lc



@arise_lc

STAFF SHARE ABOUT THEIR WORK AT ARISE



I feel an accomplishment when I return home at night. I never had that feeling at any other job. It is the sense that I helped today, in one way or another.

-Diane Koski



While working here, I've been able to supply for my family. I've also been able to meet so many powerful women and sit in rooms and listen to their stories and have conversations about a movement that's still going strong now.

-Yadira Dickens

I find it especially fulfilling or enjoyable when we give hope to our clients in their darkest hour.

-Melissa Poling

Staff, Board, and Volunteers

Board of Directors

- Tiffany Gilkey, President
- LeeAnn Fulena, Esq. Vice-President
- Rebecca Wendel, Secretary
- David J. Dean III, MSW, LSW, Assistant Secretary
- Joyce Plonka, Treasurer
- Danielle Young-Frye, Assistant Treasurer
- Beth Verterano, Ex-Officio
- Karen Baum
- Jennifer Bush
- Lisa DiMuccio-Zgela
- Brittany Fair
- Cynthia Hall
- Dr. Kathy Kwolek, PhD
- Merit Phillips
- Terri Price
- Randy Silverman

Administration



Nicole Amabile, Chief Executive Officer



Dalton Valenti, Chief Financial Officer



Meg Fisher, Bookkeeper



Barb Clingensmith,
Administrative Assistant



Barb Galida,
Administrative Volunteer



Destiny Armstrong, Executive Assistant -
Special Projects

Residential Services



Erin Brand, Director of
Residential Services



Arielle Dietz,
Supportive Housing Coordinator



Sonya Hutchins, Case Manager



Joanna Nicholson, Case Manager



Rachel Frantz, Case Manager



Charlene Odom, Case Manager



Yadira Dickens, Shelter Advocate



Regina Altman, Shelter Advocate

Community Services



Rachel Pearce, Director of Community Services



Grace Schmarewski, Education & Outreach Coordinator



Diane Koski, Community Engagement & Outreach Specialist



Elysia Fabian, Education & Outreach Specialist



Olivia Gaffron, Education & Outreach Specialist



Vanessa Phillips, Community Engagement & Outreach Specialist



Liza Albert, Advocacy Coordinator



Isabella Moody, Advocate

Counseling & Trauma Therapy Services



Stephanie Benincase, Director of Counseling & Trauma Therapy Services



Megan Delk, Counseling & Trauma Therapy Services Coordinator



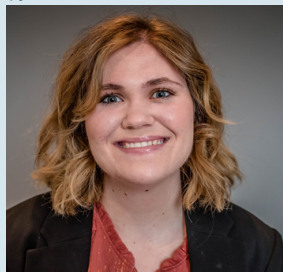
Angelica Costello, Therapist



Michelle Pruchnic, Therapist



Alberto Gallardo, Therapist



Katie Magee, Mobile Counselor Advocate



Melissa Poling, Mobile Counselor Advocate

Civil Legal Representation



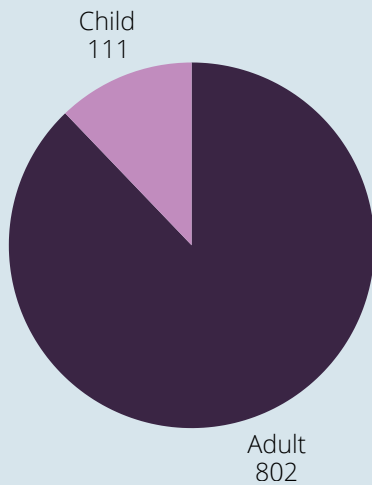
Angela Melton, CLR Managing Attorney



Chelsie Sparacino, Paralegal/Legal Secretary

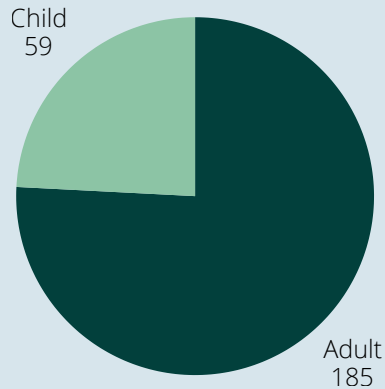
Statistics

Domestic Violence



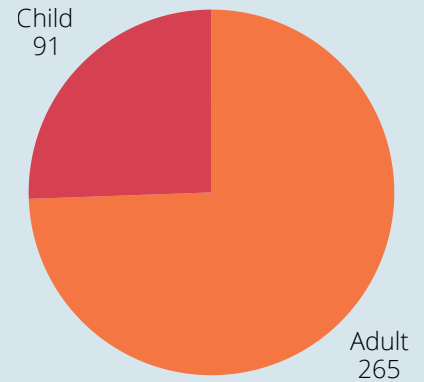
Total Clients: 913
Total Hours of Service: 4,221

Sexual Assault



Total Clients: 244
Total Hours of Service: 945

Emergency Shelter



Total Clients: 356
Total Housing Nights: 11,886

Rapid Re-Housing & Transitional Housing



Total Clients: 240
Total Housing Nights: 83,125

Permanent Supportive Housing



Total Clients: 21
Total Housing Nights: 2,562

Education

School Students

Programs: 442
Educated: 5330

Professionals/Adults

Programs: 107
Educated: 2061

Community Programs: 47

Total Programs: 596
Total # Educated: 7391

Other Crimes

Adult Physical Assault: 22

Arson: 2

Burglary: 15

Child Physical Abuse/Neglect: 6

Attempted Homicide: 1

Child Sexual Abuse/Harassment: 8

Vehicular Crime: 2

Stalking/Harassment: 10

Terroristic Threats: 13

Theft: 43

Property Crime: 28

Robbery: 2

Total Clients: 152

Statement of Financial Activities

Revenue & Support

*2023-2024

*2024-2025

Grants and Contracts	\$2,287,476	\$2,751,177
Fundraising	\$48,445	\$61,389
Contributions	\$211,010	\$293,045
In-kind Donations	\$137,250	\$134,276
Interest and Dividend Income	\$50,513	\$37,311
Program Income	\$4,983	\$12,179
Miscellaneous	\$3,317	\$578
Total Support and Revenue	\$2,742,994	\$3,289,955

Expenses

*2023-2024

*2024-2025

Program Services	\$2,277,304	\$2,734,272
Management and General	\$426,020	\$472,139
Fundraising	\$53,972	\$19,179
Total Expenses	\$2,757,296	\$3,225,590
Change in Net Assets	(\$14,302)	(\$64,365)

*These are rounded, un-audited, internal financials.

Arise Services

Residential Services:

Emergency Shelter
Transitional Housing
Rapid Re-Housing
Permanent Supportive Housing

Community Outreach:

Prevention Education
Community-Wide Awareness
Outreach
Professional Training

Civil Legal Representation

Limited Legal Representation
Brief Legal Advice

Survivor Advocacy:

Accompaniment
Transportation
Safety Planning
Information & Referral
Crime Victims' Compensation
24-Hour Hotline

Counseling & Trauma Therapy:

Individual, Family, & Group Counseling
Trauma Therapy: EMDR & Somatic Experiencing



OUR COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

24-Hour Hotline: 724-652-9036

www.ariselc.org



Arise



@arise_lc



@arise_lc



1218 W. State Street, New Castle PA 16101
724-652-9206 | info@ariselc.org
ariselc.org

Non-Profit Org
US Postage Paid
New Castle, PA
Permit #50

Annual Arise Holiday Parties

In addition to all the wonderful victims' services Arise provides to survivors, we also like to make sure that the holiday season remains a special time for all of the families we serve who have been impacted by violence.

- For Halloween, Arise Staff and Board of Director's partnered with Neighborhood Legal Services to host a trunk-or-treat in addition to a pumpkin decorating station where over 30 kids participated.
- Our annual Holiday Party at Olympic Fun Center hosted 75 children and their families who were able to take part in the festivities and meet Santa Claus.
- Our Holiday Angel Program was able to serve 145 children and 63 families with gifts because of the generous donations from our community members and donors.
- Lastly, our Easter Basket drive and celebration served 61 children and their families.

Arise is thankful to all of those who continue to donate to the agency to make the seasons magical for the families that we serve.



Local community members donate items for our annual Holiday Angel Program



An agency participant enjoying the pumpkin decorating station



Arise Staff and Board of Directors, along with Neighborhood Legal Services, set up at Arise for our Trunk or Treat Celebration



Handmade doll cradles and chairs donated to our annual Holiday Angel Program



Arise Staff celebrating at the annual Holiday Party at Olympic Fun Center



Donated Easter baskets for our annual Easter Basket Drive

Interested in being involved as a volunteer or donor?
Please scan the QR code to learn more information.

