

CASE STUDY: A PARTNERSHIP IN SERVICE & TRUST



Safe Avenues provides advocacy, parenting time services, and emergency shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence. Serving seven primary counties in Southwestern Minnesota—along with emergency shelter services for a broader 18-county area—Safe Avenues is dedicated to creating a safe, caring, and healing environment. Their services also include court-ordered supervised parenting time for families in need allowing parent-child relationship to rebuild in a secure setting at their Harmony Visitation Center.

A Mission to Make a Difference

Safe Avenues, a non-profit dedicated to serving victims of domestic and sexual violence, has a core mission rooted in compassion and advocacy. Their work is essential—but navigating the complex world of non-profit finances, compliance, and reporting requires a trusted advisor. Enter **CDS CPAS & ADVISORS**.



CPAS & ADVISORS

Why Safe Avenues Chose CDS

With an excellent reputation for quality and integrity, CDS was a natural choice for Safe Avenues. Over the years, the non-profit relied on CDS's auditing services, drawn by the team's strengths. Executive Director, Jen Johnson comments, "The auditing team is dedicated and thorough. They attend our board meetings, present results, answer questions, and provide insight into the process. We continually find the staff at CDS to be helpful, knowledgeable, and trustworthy."

A Full Spectrum of Support

The relationship with CDS quickly expanded beyond auditing. Safe Avenues benefited from:



Auditing Services

Annual independent audits, including board presentations and expert guidance



Tax

Creation of 1099s & IRS 990



Payroll Services

An automated timekeeping system and on-call consultations for payroll and compliance updates



Business Advisory

Ongoing support for new law changes and financial questions, ensuring compliance and confidence

Navigating a Changing Financial Landscape

Like many non-profits, Safe Avenues operates in a landscape shaped by evolving state and federal requirements. "Our financial landscape is always evolving. There are always new and changing requirements for grant funding, and CDS has done a great job assisting our organization to ensure we can continue to meet those standards."

Going Beyond Compliance: Real-World Impact

Recently, Safe Avenues faced the challenge of absorbing a smaller non-profit into their organization—an undertaking that involved complex behind-the-scenes work. CDS stepped in, managing the audit requirements and ensured all assets were correctly documented and integrated. This careful attention set Safe Avenues up for a smooth transition into the new fiscal year, and ensured grant compliance.

Exceeding Expectations



A Lasting Partnership Built on Trust

For Safe Avenues, the value of their partnership with CDS goes beyond numbers. It's about confidence, peace of mind, and financial stewardship—critical pillars for fulfilling their mission. As the client notes, "They are a trustworthy, dedicated team. I would highly recommend CDS."



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Jen Johnson, Executive Director
Safe Avenues

CDS—Empowering Non-profits to Serve

Through expertise, attention to detail, and a client-first approach, CDS empowers organizations like Safe Avenues to focus on what matters most: serving the community. Together, they are making a lasting difference—one audit, one consultation, and one life at a time.

Our Non-Profit Experts



Justin McGraw, CPA
Partner



Kari Steinbeisser, CPA, CFE
Partner



Meranda Wacek, CPA
Manager



Mitch Hjelle, CPA
Manager



Wendy Holle, CPA
Manager



Heather Lehr
Senior Accountant



Becky Lang
Senior Accountant



Caylee Christianson
Staff Accountant



Hannah Tiernan
Audit Coordinator

Audit & Assurance | Tax | Payroll | Consulting

Let us exceed your expectations. Call us at **(888) 388-1040** to learn more about our non-profit services.

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