



Strong at the broken places

ANNUAL REPORT, FISCAL 2023 JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

"There's nothing that compares to being able to safely share my story. The shared experience of being in a room, having this horrible thing in common — it's profoundly helpful — it just is. I wish every survivor could have that."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

Nurturing Connections

This past year was truly one of forming and nurturing healing connections. The energy and vitality generated from our return to in-person events deepened the connections throughout our clinical work and in our outreach to the community.

The mission of Roanoke Park
Counseling remains as vital and
critical as it ever has and because
of your support, our commitment
to bring healing and education to
survivors and to the community is
bringing healing and awareness to
our community and beyond. There
is power and healing in community!

This vibrant community that you create truly brings healing connections to survivors and to the broader community. You bring life-transforming healing to survivors and your support helps to educate and inform our wider community about the prevalence of childhood sexual abuse and its impact.

Your support allows RPC to be a a trusted resource for survivors, providers, and throughout the community, fostering a deeper understanding of the needs of adult survivors. Because of your generosity, survivors and their families received a record number of hours of direct therapy services: In the past year our dedicated and hard-working therapists provided nearly 4,000 hours of healing (see page 5)! Your support is truly changing the world for survivors!

A particular hallmark of our services since the beginning of our agency has been our therapy groups for survivors and their partners, which is understood to be exceptionally effective. We are proud to share that 2 | Annual Report FY 2023

RPC is the only consistent resource for group therapy for survivors in the Puget Sound area.

We've shared an interview with one group member about their healing experience (p. 3) to provide you with some insight into the process and the amazing community you help create.

In addition to individual and group therapy services, an important part of our mission is to provide education and support to the professional community. In this past year, connections were strengthened as we were able to return to in-person events and expand our support to providers.

We were delighted to hold our Fall Professional Event in person, an event that offers education, networking, and refreshments to area providers. We further expanded our education and support opportunities by offering a monthly consult group for community providers who treat complex trauma.

We look forward to the coming year with great anticipation of increased opportunities to bring hope and healing to survivors, and education and awareness to the community to strengthen and deepen the impact of our mission. It is always in our awareness that your support allows our mission to thrive. You are the reason that healing happens in the lives of so many survivors and we are filled with gratitude.

My deepest thanks to you as you join us in creating this healing community.

Jarier Palu

Janice Palm, MA, LMHC Executive Director

FALL PROFESSIONAL EVENT

To further advocacy and education work on behalf of survivors, RPC hosts professional events and programs for providers and community organizations.



Megan Fisher, LMH0

In November 2022 RPC hosted "IFS (Internal Family Systems) with childhood sexual abuse: Bringing compassion, connection, and courage to the experience of trauma" presented by Megan Fisher, LMHC, a licensed mental health counselor and psychotherapist.

CASE CONSULT GROUPS & OUTREACH EDUCATION

Roanoke Park
Counseling added
new dimensions to our
professional outreach
offerings over the
course of the year,
strengthening a healing community for
survivors at no or a nominal
cost to participants.



Amanda Franklin, MA, LMHC

In April RPC's Clinical Coordinator Amanda Franklin began hosting an on-going monthly consult group for WA State licensed therapists working with adult survivors of CSA or clients experiencing C-PTSD.

In June Ms. Franklin also began a series of five outreach education discussions with community mental health agencies around treating CSA.

Both are impactful, innovative ways RPC shares our specialized training, experience, and care for survivors with the wider community.

It Gave Me Humanity: AN IN-DEPTH SURVIVOR INTERVIEW

Our Executive Director had the opportunity to sit down with a member of our 21-week men's group to hear about his life-changing experience in group. We are enormously grateful to Erik C. for sharing his story and the depth of healing that men's group provided for him.

What caused your decision to begin group therapy at RPC?
I was in individual therapy at RPC and I knew I needed more. I was feeling isolated and wanted the shared commonality of hearing from other men who had been abused.

I came to group when I knew I just couldn't do it anymore — the way I was living my life.

What effect was the sexual abuse you experienced in your childhood having in your life?

When I grew up with the abuse, I thought I was the only one. I didn't want anyone to know. When it was over, I thought I was good, now I could get on with my life. I didn't realize all the residue that was left over that followed me into adulthood.

I had gotten to the point where I was so mad at the world and so emotionally distraught that I knew I had to do something about how I was feeling — my inability to deal with all the resentment and anger that I had regarding my abuse.

Do you remember what it was like when you first came to group?
I remember high anxiety – I felt like the mask was going to come off – I knew I was going to need to be vulnerable and that was nerve wracking.

I was very fearful to talk about it – I didn't want to get into it and talk about all that fear.

After the first session, when I left I was glad I came, and the anxiety decreased – I knew after the first group it was going to be worth it and that I was going to be okay.

Sharing your story and hearing other group members' stories is a significant part of group. How was that experience for you?

I remember hearing the first story
– and realizing that that guy – I
could see that when he was done,
it seemed like he had lost 15 lbs. – I
thought – that's what I want! I want
to let go of that ball of shame that's
been in my gut my whole life. I
knew then that I could do it – I knew
it was going to be hard, but I knew I
could tell my story – all of it.

What was it like to tell your story?

It's the best thing I've ever done in my life — and the hardest. I realized that I needed others to help me. The only way for me to feel better about myself was to face my fear and learn how to do that in a way that I could be vulnerable and also be safe — that's the love, care, and support from the other men in the group.

Telling my story gave me freedom

and release. Telling my story gave me the ability to be honest with people and myself. I don't hide anymore — I don't try to stifle my emotions anymore like I used to. It's given me freedom.

How did telling your story change how the abuse impacts you?

When I think about my abuse now, I don't get overcome with a sense of anxiety. I don't carry around the stick of dynamite anymore that feels like it's going to explode at any moment. When I think about what happened to me so many times, I don't carry that giant ball of shame that I carried for so long. The shame affected the way I saw myself — it destroyed any self-esteem.

What has stayed with you from group?

It gave me humanity. I didn't realize that I didn't feel human until I started to feel human. I look back now and realize I was a robot — trying to stifle my emotions. The only emotion that was comfortable was anger — because I was able to feel safe.

Group gave me empathy. I went into group so focused on myself. Through group I came to feel connected and truly care about the other men in the group. (cont. on p. 4)



MAKING CONNECTIONS: Creating Healthy Communities



SEVENTH ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON

Truly a high point of the year was holding our 7th annual *Finding Hope, Inspiring Healing* Fall Luncheon in person on October 12. How wonderful it was to be together on a sunny fall day with our dedicated and caring community of RPC supporters to hear inspirational stories of healing.

Over the years, we often hear from those who attend the luncheon that there is a deep sense of warmth and connection in gathering together. This year, of all years, that sense of community, connection, and warmth was palpable and uplifting! *The event is our opportunity to invite our community to witness, firsthand, the healing that supporters make possible in the lives of survivors*. It is such a great pleasure to meet supporters who uphold this work and thank them in person.

We invite you to visit RPC's website (roanokeparkcounseling.org) and YouTube Channel (youtube.com/user/shepherdscounseling) to view the survivor speaker video from this year as well as

from years past.

This year the program included deeply moving stories from survivor speaker Olivia Summerhill; our keynote speaker David Johnson, Ed.D., LMHC, former CEO of Navos Behavioral Health, mental health clinician for 46 years; and Emcee Natasha Ryan, Vice President, The North Group. Daryl Redeker, Composer, Musician, and Instructor, shared his gift for guitar.



Russ Hanford, Board of Directors, and Janice Palm, ED, at the luncheon

PUBLIC ADVOCACY

RPC worked with the WA Dept. of Transportation during Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April) to shine the lights of the 520 Bridge's sentinels in teal, joining monuments and bridges across the country and around the world to symbolically shine a light into the darkness and increase public awareness of the prevalence of sexual assault.

On June 3, RPC sponsored a table at the NAMIWalk (National Alliance on Mental Illness) in Kirkland's Marina Park and met with the community at this annual advocacy event designed to combat stigma, raise funds, and promote awareness of mental illness.



Above: The sentinels on the 520 bridge lit in teal to honor survivors. Below: Board members Mike Gale and Vinnie Nappo at the NAMIWall



"It Gave Me Humanity" cont.

My past and my abuse are no longer the issues driving my life because of being in the group.

I think one of the things that's stayed with me is the ability to face fear — no matter what it is — I learned that in group. Facing my fear in group made me stronger and more aware of myself.

If you knew of a survivor who was thinking about group, but had a lot of fear — what would you tell them? I promise it will help you.

It will help you in ways you couldn't imagine. It will tap into the inner strength you have from surviving the abuse and turn it into a positive that will allow you to face your fear and the shame.

It helps take away the victimization. It takes that feeling of powerlessness away.

It allows you to become who you were always meant to be.

When you're abused, it takes away your sense of innocence and takes away your sense of yourself. Group gives you back a sense of yourself and a sense of pride.

The sense of pride I felt from finally telling my story – no one can take that away from me. That's a true sense of power.

I wish I had done it earlier, but I wasn't ready. I know I came to group when I knew I couldn't go on the same way. This place has given me my life. The most important thing that group gave me was hope — I didn't have that. I couldn't see things getting better.

THE HEALING CONNECTION: *Impact within the Community*

In FY2023 the bulk of RPC clients returned to in-person therapy. The continued use of in-state telehealth therapy, however, expanded our healing reach. Adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse unable to leave their homes or in remote areas — east of the mountains, in the San Juans, and throughout Puget Sound — were now able to access individual therapy and join group sessions.

Group therapy can be an integral, dynamic part of healing, offering survivors the opportunity to experience growth and community with others who share similar histories. Groups are organized for female-identified, male-identified, and GenderQueer individuals. RPC also hosts partner groups, providing support, a sense of community and connection, and education to partners of survivors.

RPC's Healing Connection by the Numbers:

RPC delivered 3,836 hours of healing thrapy in FY2023

5 unique groups met throughout the year

Individual Therapy: RPC provided 1,696 hours of healing

Group Therapy: 1,986 hours of healing

Couples Counseling: 154 hours of healing

Financial
Support*:
Hope in Healing
Scholarship:
\$24,785 facilitated
280 hours of healing

Sliding-Fee Scale: \$10,540 helped support 344 hours of healing

An estimated 300,000 adult survivors live in King County

10% of King Co. residents (30,000 survivors) live in poverty

20% of RPC clients receive some form of financial support

Group gave me empathy.

I went into group so focused on myself. Through group I came to feel connected and truly care about the other men in the group.

My past and my abuse are no longer the issues driving my life because of being in the group.

~ Erik C., RPC Client

To learn more about the work of RPC and the life-long impact of childhood sexual abuse, visit our learning center:

(https://www.roanokepark counseling.org/learning-center/)

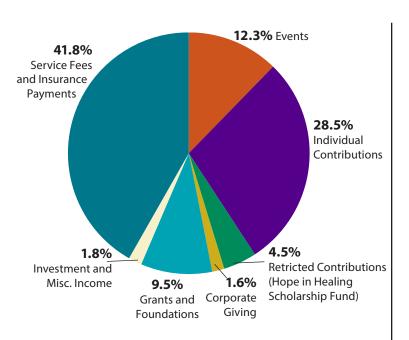
We invite you to subscribe to our blog and eNews:

(https://www.roanokepark counseling.org/learningcenter/blog/)

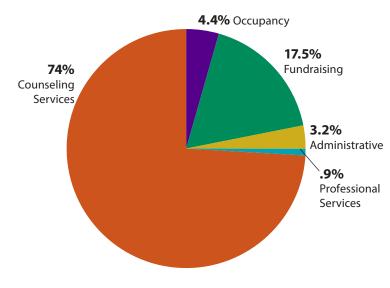
As noted above, sexual abuse of children is a problem of epidemic proportions. Thanks to an amazing community of supporters, every survivor who has come to RPC for healing will receive specialized therapy services tailored to meet their individual needs at a price comfortable to them through the use of our *Hope in Healing Scholarship Fund* and *sliding-fee scale* payment model.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

REVENUE OVERVIEW



EXPENSE OVERVIEW



SOURCES of REVENUE

Events	\$55,291
Individual Contributions	128,252
Restricted Contributions (Scholarship)	20,148
Corporate Giving	7,293
Grants/Foundation Giving	43,025
Investment and Miscellaneous Income	8,037
Service Fees and Insurance Payments	187,956

TOTAL REVENUE \$450,002

EXPENSES

Occupancy	\$17,977
Fundraising	71,076
Administrative	12,809
Professional Services	3,656
Counseling Services	301,442

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 406,960

While many clients use RPC's sliding fee scale, the Hope in Healing Scholarship Fund makes it possible for those survivors whose level of need is greatest to access long-term therapy.

The Fund was created in 2009 to honor Mary Bayard, who served as RPC Clinical Supervisor from 1992 through 2009.

MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF:

A Healing Community

The Board of Directors

Michael Gale, President Russ Hanford, Treasurer Ruth Pappas, Secretary Sam Curtis Veronica Mega, Vinnie Nappo Wanda Yamashita

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Executive Director

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Malika Bains, LMHC Chelsea Gibson, LMHC Julia Laibson, LMHC Michelle Lifton, LMHC what makes RPC unique,
I think about when I walk
into the building and I feel
love, I feel welcomed.

The work of Roanoke Park Counseling is accomplished by a highly dedicated Board of Directors, clinical, and administrative staff.

All clinical staff are licensed mental health counselors (LMHCs) with master's degrees in psychology, social work or counseling, and are Washington State licensed.

Our board members come from diverse backgrounds, including legal services for sexual abuse survivors, with a focus in the field of mental health and a passion for supporting healing therapy and community services through education and advocacy activities.

RPC has been a national and international voice creating public awareness of childhood sexual abuse for nearly 40 years, and is unique in its sole focus on providing specialized therapy services for adults who were sexually abused during childhood and their families. RPC staff are active in advocacy events and community education on the crisis of childhood sexual abuse and creating a better world for survivors.

RPC is the only agency in the Puget Sound area, and one of the very few nationwide, that provides both individual and group therapy that is affordable and allows each survivor the length of time it takes to bring healing.





We are grateful to William and Melody Fleckenstein for their generous and continued support for survivors.

\$25,000+

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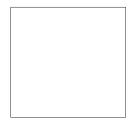
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"It's really the place where I became me. I want everybody to experience the life-changing experience that I've felt." ~ Roanoke Park Counseling Client

Our Mission

We unite to create a safe place to achieve a crucial mission: to restore the hope and dignity of adults who have been sexually abused in childhood through specialized and affordable therapy, community education, and public advocacy.

Thank You for Your Support!

"Anyone who comes through the door seeking these services finds they are available for as long as they need them. **Healing doesn't have a timeline**, so the fact that they can attend therapy for as long as they need to is something exceptionally special about Roanoke Park

Counseling." ~ RPC Board Member





