

**1985:** A small group of concerned Douglas County residents establish the **Women's Crisis Center of Douglas County**. Shortly after there is a 24-hour Crisis Line, staffed volunteers.



**1985-1990:** Over the next five years, the agency receives several grants, an Executive Director is hired and therapy services for women and children are started.



**1991:** The Women's Crisis Center of Douglas County purchases two houses owned by the Douglas County School District: one for administration and therapy services; the other provides a nine bed emergency shelter.



**1998:** The Women's Crisis Center of Douglas County changes its name to **Women's Crisis Center/Violence Prevention Institute (WCC/VPI)** and expands therapy services into Elbert County.

**1999:** WCC/VPI starts a new legal advocacy program. The agency has a total of 12 employees and serves approximately 275 victims annually, as well as 2,000 individuals through the crisis line.



**2001:** The WCC/VPI finds a new, larger shelter location that provides space for 14 individuals.



**2005:** Due to a greater demand for services, the WCC/VPI hires more therapy and legal advocacy team members.

**2009:** WCC/VPI changes its name to the **Women's Crisis and Family Outreach Center (WCFOC)** to reflect the agency's efforts to provide services to underserved populations and families.

The agency organizes a Capital Campaign to build a 28-bed emergency shelter and contracts with the Douglas County School District to provide classes for at-risk students.



**2010:** The new shelter opens and the WCFOC is the first domestic violence shelter to serve males and transgender victims of domestic violence. New therapy interventions are added to include Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Equine Assisted Therapy and Animal Assisted Therapy.

**2013:** The WCFOC changes its name to the **Crisis Center**. The name change addresses concerns that underserved populations including men and LGBTQ individuals perceived the agency as only serving women, thereby creating a barrier to those populations accessing services.



A new school-based intervention with Douglas County Schools called *The Outrage*—a theatrical presentation performed by teens-for teens, on the threats and realities of teen dating violence and sexual assault.

**2016:** The Crisis Center analyzes its therapy, legal advocacy and shelter programs for effectiveness and adds two new programs: the Community Advocacy Program and the Lethality Assessment Program.

**2017:** The Crisis Center has 26 staff, 200 volunteers, and serves approximately 700 individuals annually. The agency experiences several difficult years with funding losses and is forced to make some difficult business decisions.

**2018:** The Crisis Center sells its office in Castle Rock and consolidates staff into one primary location in northern Douglas County. By year-end, the agency sees cost savings, better efficiency in serving clients and ends the year in a positive financial position.



**2019:** The Crisis Center opens a satellite therapy office in Castle Rock and ends the year in a positive financial position for the second year in a row.

## Looking to 2020 and beyond:

### PET SHELTER

The Crisis Center has received funding and will begin construction in 2020 on an internal pet shelter for clients with domesticated pets staying in our emergency shelter.

### TELE-THERAPY

To better serve its rural clients, the Crisis Center will be offering tele-therapy and tele-advocacy services in Elbert and Lincoln Counties.

### ARAPAHOE COUNTY OUTREACH

The Crisis Center will increase efforts in southern Arapahoe County for partnership opportunities, client recruitment and prevention activities.

## 35 YEARS OF CRISIS CENTER HISTORY: 1985—2020

**CORAL** and **JADE**: The traditional gifts to honor 35 years, both stones symbolize **longevity and strength**, two traits that are certainly present in the history and work of the Crisis Center and the adults and children we serve.