“At NVP, I grew as a person, gained invaluable tools and information, and walked away with lifelong friendships.”

-Lauren Wessel, Former Peer Ambassador President

Erica Thompson, Maggie (student intern), Maddie Sensenstein, Kendra Massey, & Emily Wright

1,232

Students, faculty, and staff trained

Norse Violence Prevention

CONNECTION AND COLLABORATION

Norse Violence Prevention (NVP) Center at Northern Kentucky University started in 2014 with a 3-year grant and one full-time employee. Throughout the years, the Center has grown tremendously and now trains over 1,000 students a year in prevention programming. The Ion Center has been a proud partner with NVP for many years and currently houses two prevention educators on-site as part of the Center’s team.

NVP provides advocacy services to NKU students impacted by sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, in addition to prevention programming across campus. Their mission mirrors ours in many ways as they work to promote a community of care through comprehensive prevention strategies and survivor-centered advocacy.

In 2025, Norse Violence Prevention made significant strides in enhancing the response and resources available to student survivors. After years of advocating for a more accessible office space, the center officially moved to the University Center in August. Bethany Flick, Ion Center’s Director of Fundraising & Communications, sat down with several NVP staff members to ask them about the significance of the move and the work they do at NKU.

Bethany: I'm curious about your thoughts on being located in the University Center versus being in the previous space. How has the move impacted students and your work? Has it been a good change?

Kendra (Director of NVP): For us, it feels like we're more connected to the campus community. We can look out the windows and see what's going on. We've had more coworkers stop in, people who never would’ve gone to the old building. It creates more connection with staff and faculty, who are often the ones referring students. We want it to feel welcoming and not intimidating or scary. It’s safe.

Bethany: (in regards to their previous office space) Walking down that hallway was intimidating for students. This space is completely different, bright, open, and easier to access.

Kendra: I had a student who dropped in for advocacy in the old space. They told me they had tried to come the previous semester, got lost, ended up on the fourth floor, and gave up. They didn’t make it until months later.

Erica (Ion Center Prevention Specialist): When we did a classroom education bystander intervention, one of the students wanted to be walked over here. It made it so much easier being right here, so close to the Student Union. The group we have here is really wonderful.

One of the other advancements the Center made this year was in partnership with St. Elizabeth SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners) to offer sexual assault forensic exams through the St. Elizabeth Student Health Clinic @NKU.

Bethany: And being near Counseling and other student services, do you see students going back and forth between your office and those services?

Emily (NVP Advocate): Yes, definitely. We've had a few forensic exams where it was so helpful to just walk over and ask, "Are you free right now?" instead of coordinating everything by phone.

Kendra: The SANE nurse availability has been huge. It's not that tons of students use it, but the ones who do probably wouldn't if they had to go off campus to an ER. It's such a hard thing. Students are so hesitant anyway, so if they can just walk over, they're much more likely to go.

What makes NVP truly so special is their commitment to creating a place centered around community. When you step into their space, you are immediately welcomed with smiling faces, warm lighting, and (if you're lucky) one of Kendra's home bakes.

Erica: I wish people knew it's not an intimidating space. We're here to show you resources and give you a listening ear, rather than a reporting entity.

Kendra: It's a place for connection even if you're not a survivor. We're hopeful about preventing violence on campus, it's about caring about your community. Students have a place here whether they're a survivor or not, and making it a caring place for students.

Emily: And there's always food!

Bethany: If this office could talk, what would it say to students?

Emily: We believe you, and we'll support you.

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Trainings on campus during 2025

Emily Wright meeting with a student at NVP

"Partnering with the Norse Violence Prevention Center has been one of the most impactful collaborations in my time at NKU."

-Bob Alston, NKU Dean of Students

Behind The Budget

The Ion Center is a Kentucky state-designated intimate partner violence and sexual assault program, supporting 13 Kentucky counties and Greater Cincinnati. We are a vital community resource that supports 90 staff (full and part-time), eight vehicles, two shelters, two outreach offices, 2 satellite outreach offices, and a kennel.

Transparency is essential for a healthy non-profit. We've worked hard to ensure financial stability, and Ion Center's budget demonstrates strong fiduciary responsibility. Most of our revenue comes from federal and state grants, which are crucial but often specific and restrictive.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

Total Expenses FY25

NKY TOTAL EXPENSES: $2,452,728

31 People (FT)
24/7 Shelter
24/7 Hotline (shared with Sexual Assault program)
Court Advocacy/Accompaniment
Crisis Intervention Services

BT TOTAL EXPENSES: $1,726,250

20 People (FT)
24/7 Shelter
24/7 Hotline (shared with Sexual Assault program)
Court Advocacy/Accompaniment
Crisis Intervention Services

SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM

Total Expenses FY25

NKY TOTAL EXPENSES: $1,212,385

18 People (FT)
24/7 Hospital Response
24/7 Hotline (shared with Domestic Violence program)
Crisis Intervention Services & Therapy
Violence Prevention Programming

BT TOTAL EXPENSES: $258,944

4 People (FT)
24/7 Hospital Response
24/7 Hotline (shared with Domestic Violence program)
Crisis Intervention Services & Therapy
Violence Prevention Programming

$6,381,214
Total Revenue in 2025

Revenue

Government Grants*	78%
Foundation & Corporate Grants	12%
Individual Donations (Including In-Kind)	5%
United Way	2%
Special Events	3%

*Grants make up the largest source of revenue, but come with strict limitations.

$5,650,307
Total Expenses in 2025
(Does not include capital expenditures)

Expenses

Residential Programs	41%
Non-Residential Programs	26%
Management & Admin	17%
Public Education	15%
Special Events	1%

71% of expenses are allocated for salaries and benefits. The percentages above reflect this within each category

General fund dollars provide Ion Center with unrestricted, flexible funding that can be used to address immediate needs. Supporting our general fund helps us grow sustainably by funding infrastructure, investing in team development, or ensuring that our operations are as efficient as our mission is impactful.

Help us by donating to our general fund

Scan the QR code or visit ioncenter.networkforgood.com