



women aware

MOVING BEYOND ABUSE

2012 ANNUAL REPORT





women aware is committed to a vision of a just society.

Our mission is to end domestic violence in the lives of women, children, and men, and to change societal attitudes and institutions that promote and condone violence through public policy, advocacy, education, and program and services that promote lives free of violence.

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Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends,

As the State-designated, lead domestic violence agency of Middlesex County, Women Aware has over 33 years of experience in providing comprehensive services to survivors of domestic violence, including a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, support groups, case management, and trauma-reduction art therapy for children exposed to domestic violence. All of our services are free and confidential. In 2012, Women Aware provided a 25% increase in services across all programs.

We were able to meet this community need because, over the last five years, Women Aware has continued to thrive financially – increasing our net assets by 114%, our annual revenue by 18%, and our individual giving by 121%.

This financial stability has made it possible for Women Aware to continue our work as a community leader providing essential support to families impacted by violence, including:

- Providing 28,832 meals to families in our emergency shelter,
- Answering 6,207 hotline calls,
- Advocating for 1,902 victims through our legal advocacy department, and
- Leveraging \$991,575 in client assistance from other social safety net organizations.

We also made considerable investments in our facilities, including upgrading all of our shelter windows to new, energy efficient models and updating our security system. Our most significant capital project was the complete renovation of our shelter kitchen, which provided 28,832 meals last year. As the heart of the home, Women Aware's new kitchen is 100% ADA compliant and will provide a safe, clean, friendly environment for families to gather and socialize for years to come.

Even with all of these accomplishments, we know that there is still so much work to do as we strive to meet the needs of our community. As such, in 2012 Women Aware embarked upon an innovative and essential project – the renovation of a building that will become the home to the first permanent supportive housing program for victims of domestic violence in New Jersey.

Women Aware's Permanent Supportive Housing Program is designed to provide affordable housing to victims of domestic violence and their children who are able to live safely while receiving supportive services focusing on safety, independence, emotional health and wellness, socialization and community connectedness, education and financial fitness. The program's goal is to assist survivors to reach their fullest potential by providing innovative, high-quality, community-based services that promote independent living.

The Permanent Supportive Housing Program is the perfect complement to our provision of comprehensive services for families moving beyond abuse, as it focuses not just on helping victims escape violence, but also helping survivors build the strength and resources necessary for a brighter future. We are proud of all we have accomplished, but know that we must continue moving forward. Between one-quarter and one-third of all women will be victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives, but if we join together, we can make a difference in the lives of others. On behalf of all victims of domestic violence and those advocates who serve them, please accept our heartfelt appreciation for your support – yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,



Phyllis Adams, MA, MSW, DVS
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Joseph Camarota Jr.
President

Diane Palmer
Vice President

Rev. Ann B. Shamy
Secretary

Matthew Flannery
Treasurer

William G. Brigiani, Esq.

Joseph Del Guercio

Marian Haas

Jason LaViscount

Ella Mae Mitchell

Jessica Oppenheim, Esq.

Jim Ryan

Patricia Whitehouse

“Now, I’m in a safe place. You did what my family was afraid to do – you brought me back to life.”



Safe House

A Safe House client, donned in her bathrobe and slippers, peeked her head into the office of Women Aware’s Safe House Supervisor one night. It was late and the client was inquiring as to why she (the Safe House Supervisor) was still in the office. The Safe House Supervisor indicated that she was preparing for an important meeting, where she would be required to articulate what we do at the Safe House, and the value of our service.

After a moment of reflection, the client replied, “You tell them that you create a home for women and children who are fleeing abuse. You are available to them at any time during the day or night – on Christmas, Thanksgiving, 4th of July. You educate and empower us, and somehow, all the ideas that we came with – all of our self-doubts...they slowly go away. Now someone is telling us, probably for the first time, that the abuse is not okay. It was unfamiliar at first – being treated the right way, and the feeling of actually being able to sleep at night – to know that my children were able to sleep at night. But all of a sudden, I realized that he took that away from me too, and now, I was not going to let him. Now, I’m in a safe place. You did what my family was afraid to do – you brought me back to life.”

Women Aware’s Safe House is the only emergency shelter for domestic violence victims in Middlesex County. The shelter is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The average length of stay for a Safe House client is 40 days. During this time, Women Aware pursues two primary goals: helping clients develop individual safety plans for themselves and their children, and increasing the client’s knowledge of, and access to, the community resources that will help them attain long-term independence and self-sufficiency. **In 2012, the Safe House provided emergency shelter to 249 women and children, and served 28,832 meals.**

Providing Essential Services

As the State-designated, lead domestic violence agency of Middlesex County, Women Aware has over 33 years of experience in providing comprehensive services to survivors of domestic violence, including a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, support groups, case management, and trauma-reduction art therapy for children exposed to domestic violence. All of our services are free and confidential. **In 2012, Women Aware provided a 25% increase in services across all programs.**



24-Hour Hotline

The Women Aware Hotline is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for crisis counseling and resource and referral information. **In 2012, Women Aware staff answered 6,207 hotline calls.**



Trauma-Reduction Art Therapy

Peace: A Learned Solution (PALS) helps children, ages 3-12, learn to apply peaceful solutions to conflict through the use of arts-based activities. **In 2012, PALS provided 855 hours of counseling to 85 children.**



Legal Advocacy

Women Aware assists victims with exploring their options and understanding their legal rights, including obtaining a restraining orders. **In 2012, Women Aware’s Legal Advocacy department served 1,902 clients.**



Outreach

Women Aware believes that in order to reduce domestic violence, we must educate the public about the impact of domestic violence. **In 2012, Women Aware provided workshops to 9,892 community members (students, law enforcement officers, faith based organizations, and human service agencies).**

Women Aware Volunteers

Volunteers play an integral role by helping us leverage resources to meet the increased needs of our community. In 2012, volunteers served as volunteer legal advocates, organized monthly events at our Safe House, provided pro-bono legal support, attended candlelight vigils, answered our phones, supported the Holiday Gift Shop, remodeled the Safe House kitchen, and so much more! **In 2012, 236 volunteers donated 5,593 hours, for a financial value of \$142, 622.**

Women Aware’s Domestic Violence Response Teams (DVRT) are comprised of highly-trained, volunteer citizen advocates who respond to the needs of victims in their community. Women Aware’s DVRT volunteers are an extension of our agency, working on the ground, often in the middle of the night, to provide support to women and children during some of their most vulnerable moments. **In 2012, Women Aware worked with over 100 volunteers, serving 136 victims.**

Moving Beyond Abuse Breakfast



Senators Joseph Vitale and Barbara Buono



Friends and Family of Heather Newman

Over 300 community supporters attended Women Aware’s 2012 *Moving Beyond Abuse Breakfast*.

Executive Director, Phyllis Adams, addressed the audience, “Dr. Charles Stanley has reminded us that, ‘When you forget yourself, you usually start doing things others will remember.’” As such, the 2012 *Moving Beyond Abuse Breakfast* was an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the individuals and community groups that work in partnership with Women Aware as we help families impacted by domestic violence.

Blue Bra Society Awards

In 2012, Women Aware inducted twelve honorees into the inaugural class of the Blue Bra Society, which seeks to recognize and honor individuals and groups that work towards the eradication of violence in our society. The 2012 Blue Bra Society inductees were:

- Phyllis Adams, Executive Director, Women Aware
- Senator Barbara Buono, Legislative District 18
- Madeline Cook, Executive Director, Edison Housing Authority
- Eve Ensler, Activist & Creator of The Vagina Monologues
- Julia McClure, 1st Assistant Prosecutor, Middlesex County
- Ella Mae Mitchell, Survivor Advocate, Member, Women Aware Board of Directors
- Ashlee Newman, Advocate, Justice for Heather Coalition
- Diane Palmer, Vice President, Board of Directors, Women Aware
- Sheriff Mildred Scott, Middlesex County
- Sandra Soriano, Philanthropist/Advocate
- Lisa von Pier, Director, New Jersey Division of Family and Community Partnerships
- Gina Platino, President, GMP Consulting



New Brunswick Mayor Jim Cahill and Sgt. Raymond Trigg with Women Aware Assistant Executive Director, Patricia Teffenhart and DVRT Coordinator, Robert Baran

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

In October, Women Aware, with support of our Domestic Violence Response Teams, successfully coordinated **6 candlelight vigils** throughout Middlesex County. All six towns issued municipal proclamations recognizing Women Aware as the lead domestic violence agency and supporting our efforts of increasing awareness in their community.

2012 Holiday Gift Shop

Women Aware’s Annual Holiday Gift Shop helped families celebrate the joy of the season! **In 2012, 156 women and children participated in the event, which was supported by 66 community volunteers. In-kind gifts were donated by 102 generous community partners.**



Holiday Gift Shop Volunteers



Eve Ensler with Women Aware Staff



Lisa von Pier, Director of NJ Division of Family and Community Partnerships & Women Aware Executive Director, Phyllis Adams

Housing Survivors



Women Aware's Safe House Kitchen

Safe House Renovations

Some say that the kitchen is the heart of the home and at Women Aware's emergency Safe House, this is certainly true. **In 2012, our Safe House kitchen provided over 28,000 meals to 248 women and children.**

Serving that many meals requires a durable, efficient kitchen and thanks to the support of our community partners, and funding from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, families in our emergency shelter will now benefit from a brand new, ADA-compliant, kitchen. This newly renovated kitchen includes a professional-grade stove, extra-large refrigerator, and dishwasher.

But, we couldn't have done this on our own! Liquid Church, a local Christian, non-denominational church, rallied a team of dedicated volunteers to provide much of the physical labor necessary to see the project to completion. **As one of their "Man Made" missions, for two months, 27 volunteers dedicated their time (a total of 1,728 weekend hours) and talent to the project, totaling an in-kind donation value of \$44,064!**



Liquid Church volunteers, L-R: Mike Padin, Jonathan Coords, John Sullivan, and Talita Rodriguez

Permanent Supportive Housing

In 2012, Women Aware finalized the purchase of a property that will become the location for the first Permanent Supportive Housing Program for victims of domestic violence in New Jersey. This program is designed to provide affordable housing to victims of domestic violence and their children who are able to live safely with supportive services.

Because most women come to us without assets, no income of their own, or they are low wage earners (60% have incomes of \$10,000 or less), supportive housing is the perfect complement to our comprehensive approach to supporting families impacted by violence, as it will provide an opportunity for Women Aware to further stabilize families and support survivors as they move along their path of healing and financial autonomy.

Finances

Revenue

- Government
- Foundations/Corporate
- Individual Giving
- Program Fees
- Gifts In-Kind
- Special Events
- Other Income
- Fundraising

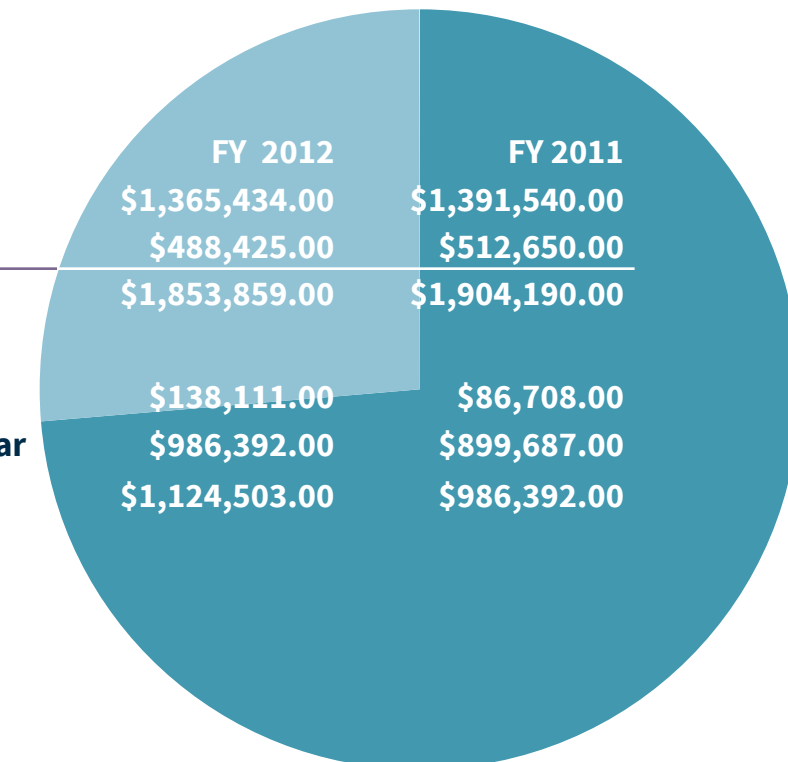


Expenses

- Client Services
- Management & Support

TOTAL EXPENSES

- Change in Net Assets
- Net Assets - Beginning of Year
- Net Assets - End of Year



Women Aware Supporters

\$5,000 +

Anonymous
Combating Latent Inequality Together
Sandra Soriano

\$1,000 to \$4,999

American Institute of CPA's
Edward Leske Company
Gina Plotino
Jacob Irving Foundation
Joe Del Guercio
Joseph Camarota
Kiwanis Club of New Brunswick
Lighthouse Christian Fellowship
Olga Andronikova
Roxana Sharif
South Brunswick High School
Stark & Stark
Trinity Presbyterian Church
United Way of Central Jersey

\$500 to \$999

Albert Chen
Barbara Buono
Caroline Dorcey
Darsene Bagget
Dvorak & Associates
Gandalf Restorations
Jessica Oppenheim
Karen Else Cambria
Lisanne Finston
LSH-Dental Office
Mary Kay
Matthew Flannery
Monica Neufang
Penny McGuire
Phyllis Adams
Rossmoor Community Church

Schechner Lifson Company
South Amboy Elks Lodge #784
United Methodist Church at New Brunswick
Virginia Brady
WGIRLS
William Brigliani

Up to \$499

Afra Anees
Agnes & Michael Tinker
Aileen O'Donnell
Alba Figueroa
Allan Greenberg
Amy Eisenstein
Andrea Baiori
Andrea Mackanonis
Angela Felumero
Ann Marcus
Ann Ribinsky Brown
Ann Shamy
Anne Weinfeld
Annemarie Cooke
Annmarie Agosta
Antoinette Bunkley
Antonia Ricigliano
Arlene Berney
AT&T
Barbara Anderson
Barbara Durgin
Barbara Nicol
Barbara Zaleski
Bernice Johnson
Betty Simon
Bill Conklin
Brenda Giman
Brian McFadden-DiNicola
Brian Tripiedi
Brian Zychowski
Bruce Bush
Capital One

Carol Moran
Carol Robinson
Carole Weber
Catalina D. Pazos
Cathy Capozzi
Charisse Allington
Charles Cohen
Cheryl Shuster
Christie Bevacqua
Christine Millner
Colleen Paschal
Cynthia O'Connor
Daimi Guerra
Damaris Ortiz
Dana Mayo
Daniel Benson
Daniel Brown
Darlene Collier
Deanna Aldinger
Desiree Santos
Diana Chau
Diane Palmer
Diane Vernickas
Dina Nuzzela Aldinger
Donna Lombardi
Donna Rendeiro
East Brunswick Sisterhood
East Brunswick Woman's Club
Eboni Parks
Edward Cross
Eileen Friedman
Eileen Welez
Elaine Alvarado
Eleanor Brown
Elizabeth Bennett
Elizabeth Hahn
Elizabeth Heebner
Elizabeth Klein
Elizabeth Meyer
Ellen Amon
Estelle Appel
Faye Robinson

First Presbyterian Church
First Reformed Church
Francine Newman
Gail Lawrence
Gail Sylvester Johnson
Gannett Foundation
Garnet Trevino
Gene Wilk
Genvieve Jarvis
Geri Kern
Gina Bowser
Gloria Cirulli
GMP Consultinga
Gregg Rubenstein
Helen Carter
Henry Hunt
Highland Park Board of Education
Hyacinth Reynolds
Ira Roth
Irene Petillo
Ivelisse Matias
Jacquese Armstrong
James Matey
Jamie Newman
Janice Bolomey
Jason LaViscount
Jay Jagiello
Jeannine Baiori Matyi
Jennifer Marshall
Jessica Mazur
JFK Medical Center
Jil Stone
Joan Ann Keane
Joanne Braun
Joanne Molinaro
John Perez
Johnna Polacios
Joseph Sofield
Joseph Vitale
Josie Rodriguez
Judith Harkay
Judith Prichason

Judith Stern
Judy Braverman
Judy Coskey
Julie Korman
Just Give-Carol Tobin
Kallol of New Jersey
Kallol's Women Forum
Karen Guyton
Karen Kecskes
Kathleen Frisch
Kellie Fiannina
Lara Arp
Laura Cisar
Laura Hoover
Laura Luciano
Laurie McCabe
Leonard L. Kaplan
Leticia Kotoff
Lillian Flemming
Lily Salazar
Linda Hackett
Linda Hrycenko
Linda Lachesnez-Norment
Linda Razzano
Liquid Church
Lisa Fodor
Lisa Hehir
Lisa Mickel
Lisa Smith
Local 195 International
Lois Ruffin
Loretta Coscio Knecht
Lori Cohen
Lucy Aversano
Lucy Buckner
Lysette Perez
Maggie Letzter
Magyar Bank
Maimoona Janjua
Marcella Moore
Marcy Gitterman
Margaret Krebs

Margarita Torino
Maria Tkacz
Marianne Wong
Marion Baiori
Marion Keller-Milltown Quilters
Marta Colon
Martin Goldberg
Mary Ann DelGuercio
Mary Brighton
Mary Martin
Matthew & Kathy Borgen-Dufief
Matthew J. Pavoni
Melanie & Ira Newman
Melody Blasenheim
Merck Partnership For Giving
Michele Milone
Michelle D'Alessio
Michelle Johnson
Michelle O'Hara
Middlesex County Bar Foundation
Mike Leahy
Mozella Lamarr
Mr. & Mrs. Gifford
Nancy Drumright
Nancy Goguen
Nancy Smith
Network For Good
Nickilee Gurovich
NJ District of Kiwanis International
North Brunswick AARP
Pamela De LosSantos
Patricia Kocsondy
Patricia O'Hara
Patricia Seto
Patricia Sinnott
Patricia Teffenhart
Paul Martin
Paula Ferreira
Pearl Richards-Muller
Penelope Vogt
Pete Luciano
Philip Webb

Priscilla Snow Algara
Randi Colatrella
Rev. David Mazzella
Rita Fallon
Rodeli Inc.
Rose Mcandrew
Roseanne Gedman
Rosemarie Shah
Sandra Potkulski
Sean Gildday
Selena Palmer Shampa From Women's Forum
Sheila Fichtner
Shelley & Michael Giannina
Simpson United Methodist Church
Six Mile Run Reformed Church
Sonia Miller
South Brunswick Lyons Club
Sparks Hair Design
Stephanie Rotunno
Stephany Kim
Steve Nagel
Stuart Davis
Sulochan & Ravi Chordia
Susan Kaczmarek
Susan Kaplan
Susan Kramer-Mills
Susan Watts
Suzzane Portera
Talaia Woodbridge
The Cabriel Home for Funerals
Thomas LaMarr
United Way of New York City
Unity
Valerie Ritter
Veronica Soma Ariba
Victoria Blackwell
William Pape
Yirgu Wolde

Funding Partners

County of Middlesex

- Board of Social Services
- Freeholders
- HOME Fund
- Homeless Trust Fund
- Title IVA

Family Violence Option
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
FedEx Foundation
Karma Foundation
IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey
Mary Bradoff Foundation
NJ Coalition for Battered Women
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Rutgers Health Foundation State of New Jersey

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Children & Families, Division of Child Protection & Permanency
- Department of Community Affairs
- Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development
- Department of Law & Public Safety, Office of Victim Witness Advocacy
- Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency

US Department of Agriculture
United Way of Central Jersey

The Safe House

by Anonymous Client

**The house that speaks,
The house that understands,
The house that looks and gives compassion.
The house that laughs and gives joy,
The house that embraces every woman who needs it.**

**The house that holds secrets and anxieties,
But also treasured hopes and dreams.
The house that provides protection and support,
Just as a ray of sun when summer arrives.**

**The house that witnessed my arrival,
And also witnessed my departure.
The house that keeps my energy and my life.
I also take it with me.**

**Bless the Safe House,
And all of you that look after it.
And all of the women who come to you.
Women who are like I was, when I was in need of help.**

**250 Livingston Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
www.womenaware.net
24-Hour Hotline: 732.249.4504**