



women aware  
MOVING BEYOND ABUSE

July 1, 2023-  
June 30, 2024

# IMPACT REPORT



“I am so grateful for Women Aware. You all saved and changed my child and my life. I never met people that were so authentic in my life, even back in my country, that do things to help people without anything in return. You all have guided me and supported me, and I don’t know where I would be if I did not come here. I am happy, but sad to leave you all. When I am able, I want to give back to Women Aware because you truly saved my life.”

- Safe House Client

## OUR MISSION

Women Aware envisions a society where individuals can live free from violence and injustice. Our mission is to promote the safety and self-sufficiency of individuals and families affected by domestic violence in Middlesex County, New Jersey.

**2023-2024**

**3,312** Total victim-survivors and children served

**226** Survivors sheltered

**42** Families exiting shelter to homes of their own

**8,616** Hotline calls answered

**1,884** Legal Advocacy clients served

**58** PALS children served

## MESSAGE FROM CEO PHYLLIS YONTA



Since the COVID-19 pandemic, a historic increase in the number of victim-survivors requesting domestic violence services, and the complexity of cases, are presenting financial challenges to Women Aware. We diligently pursue diversified sources of funding to uphold our commitment to provide free and confidential services to the most vulnerable members of our community. We continue to shelter survivors and their children for months due to challenges finding affordable housing. More clients report extremely low to no income, which makes it difficult to sustain any kind of housing, while clients with some income are ineligible for Welfare Housing benefits. Even so, our Housing Navigator supported the successful transition of 42 families from emergency shelter to independent living between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

In response to high incidents of non-fatal strangulation in Middlesex County, Women Aware created a **High-Risk Advocate Program** to answer the immediate and long-term needs of victims in partnership with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office (MCPO), law enforcement and five area hospitals. In just the last 12 months, 9% of our clients, 266 individuals, were victims of non-fatal strangulation.

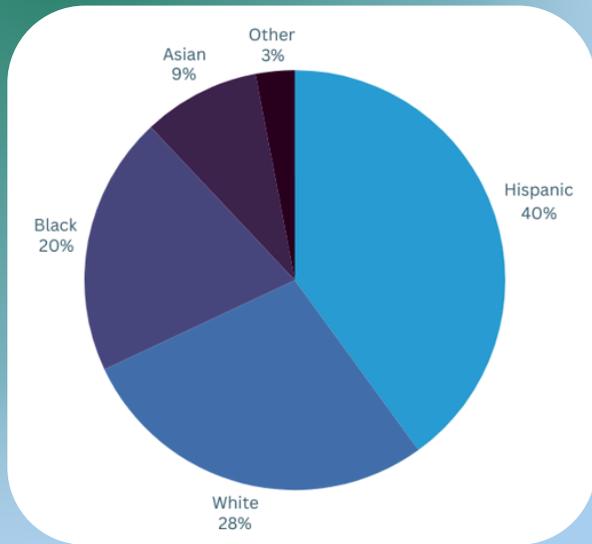
Having welcomed 789 victim-survivors through its doors in FY 2024, the **Middlesex County Family Justice Center** (FJC) recently added four new community partners, including the Catholic Charities-Diocese of Metuchen, Prevention Resources, Dress for Success Central New Jersey and the Reformed Church of Highland Park Affordable Housing Corporation. These partnerships further expand the FJC's capacity to provide victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking with direct access to law enforcement, legal, immigration, housing, healthcare, social and human services and other resources.

Knowing "We are Better Together," Women Aware and the Middlesex County FJC hosted the first **Middlesex County Domestic Violence Conference** in October. Nearly 140 partners, legal advocates, DCP&P workers, members of the NJ Coalition to End Domestic Violence, law enforcement, MCPO staff, mental health professionals, victim-survivors and our own Women Aware team assembled to network and learn about trauma-informed care, coercive control, victim confidentiality, giving litigants agency and non-fatal strangulation.

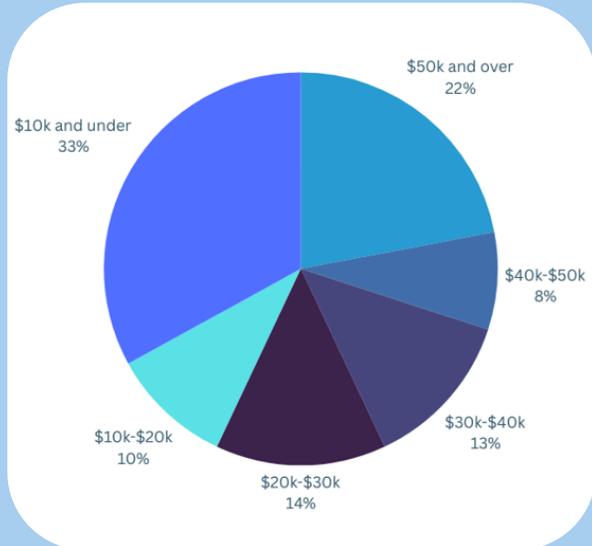
Women Aware continues to answer the critical need for crisis intervention and emergency shelter for women and children, while providing and connecting victims with safety net services that offer a framework for a self-sufficient life free from abuse. We are deeply grateful to the funders, donors, volunteers and community partners who are committed to our mission and make it possible for survivors and their children to look forward with hope.

*Pictured above at the Middlesex County Domestic Violence Conference are CEO Phyllis Yonta, Board members Lisa Ferguson and Joyce Chagnon, Board President Diane Palmer and Board Vice President Siyan Bradley.*

## Client Demographics



## Client Income



**“This is one of the first safe spaces I’ve known in my entire life.”**  
**- Safe House Client**

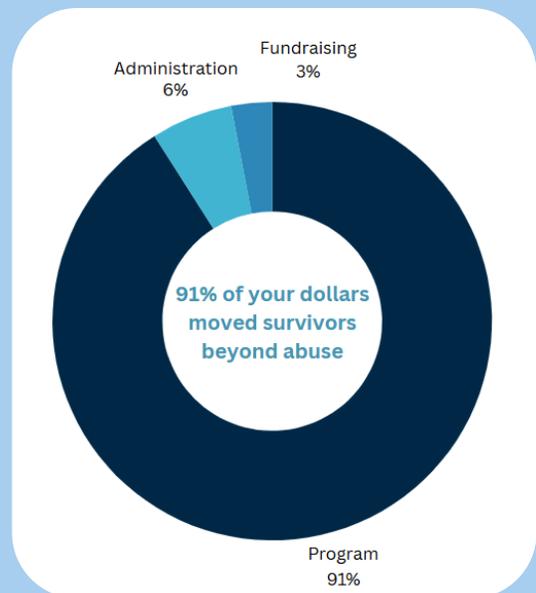


**“Women Aware is a great resource to help victims rebuild their lives as a result of this abuse. Since I can relate to the victims, I want to support Women Aware in any way I can to help those victims get back on their feet so that they can live productive lives without fear.” – Eileen, Donor**

# THANK YOU

- Public, corporate and foundation funders contributed over \$3 million in FY 2024.
- Individuals, organizations, businesses and sponsors donated over \$171,000.
- 42 individuals volunteered more than 2,148 hours of service to move survivors beyond abuse.

**Audited financial reports can be viewed at <https://womenaware.net/about/financials/>.**



# GRATEFUL FOR ALL FUNDERS, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

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## 2023-2024 Funders

### Federal

FEMA

The Administration for Children and Families

US Department of Justice

McKinney Vento Education for Homeless Youth

American Rescue Plan

### State

NJ Department of Children and Families

NJ Department of Community Affairs

NJ Department of Law and Public Safety

### County

Middlesex County Department of Community Services

Middlesex County Commissioners

### Corporate/Foundation

ADP

Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation

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TJX Foundation

Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation

Citizens Philanthropic Foundation

Enbridge

Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems

NJ State Bar Foundation

PNC Foundation

Peoples Security Charitable Foundation

Rutgers Community Health Foundation

Wegman's



<https://womenaware.net>  
<https://middlesexcountyfjc.org>



Middlesex County Family Justice Center  
100 Bayard Street, 4th Fl., New Brunswick,  
NJ 08901



24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline  
Toll-free 833-249-4504