









ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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

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

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Executive Director's Message

"The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed"



Dear Friends,

Women Aware is committed to serve those impacted by domestic violence in Middlesex County, New Jersey. Our initiatives continue to grow out of the challenges our clients face as they negotiate safety for themselves and their children. Our exceptional team empowers families by offering a safe refuge, counseling and advocacy. Most of all we give them hope for a brighter day, a better future. In 2014, we served over 2,000

clients across all programs and leveraged over one million dollars in client assistance.

The financial health of the agency continues to grow strong. Our net income has accelerated, total assets have grown by 20%, and equity - a key measure for the agency's long-term health - continues to climb at a rate of 15%. In summary, ships like ours take time to set course. We have made that turn and we continue to head forward into a brighter horizon.

At Women Aware, we trust that it is best to pick up a servant's towel rather than a king's crown. We thank you for your continued commitment to our families as they move beyond abuse. As one father in our Batterers' Intervention Program put it, "Thank you for helping me be a better dad to my kids". Indeed, Women Aware is committed to a violence free today. This is our legacy; this is your Gift.

God Bless.

Phyllis Adams
Executive Director

Board and Volunteers



Women Aware Board Members and Executive Director showing their support for the 20th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

"I can't wait to start volunteering for Women Aware!"
- New Volunteer

Volunteers are an integral part of our mission to end domestic violence. Working around the clock, 365 days a year, they provide childcare, meet victims at police stations, cook, help women in court, ease our administrative burden, and undertake construction projects. They serve on the Board, provide probono legal assistance, guide homework clubs, and assist with special projects. Our volunteers are all around us, helping us do our work better. In 2014 Women Aware volunteers offered over 6,000 hours of service to Women Aware. Our volunteers are deeply committed to bringing about change in the lives of those in need - they are our most valued resource.



Doris Wickel, recipient of a volunteer award at the 2014 Night of Celebration

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The Year in Pictures







Top: Executive Director Phyllis Adams with Board President Diane Palmer and Board Secretary Patty Whitehouse at a mini fundraiser hosted by the Board.

Left: A Volunteer prepares to wrap gifts at the Holiday Shop; Staff bring toys for children; Applause for volunteers at the Night of Celebration.

Bottom: A child in the PALS program expresses her emotions by imagining her ideal superhero.









Top: Executive Director Phyllis Adams with Assemblywoman Nancy Pinkin.

Right: Women Aware recognizes volunteers at the 2014 Night of Celebration: The Inspira Dance Team after a sparkling performance; New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill, Freeholder Charles Tomaro, Sheriff Mildred Scott and Freeholder H. James Polos; Freeholder Kenneth Armwood mingles with elected officials and volunteers; Philoptochos Society members accept a volunteer award.

Bottom: Staff applauds after the event.









Our Work

All services at Women Aware are provided in English and Spanish

"If the rest (of the domestic violence programs in NJ) are like Women Aware, then I know NJ is rocking it out of the park!"

- Auditor Angela H. Yannelli, after a federal site visit from the Division of Family Violence Prevention & Services.

Hotline

"Thank you for LIFE!"

- Hotline Caller

The Women Aware Hotline is the gateway to our services. Available 24 hours a day and 365 days a year, it provides crisis counseling and information about resources and referrals. Calls may be made anonymously and communication is kept confidential.

We greatly improved our hotline capacity last year by upgrading the phone system to handle up to six crisis calls simultaneously.

HOUSING

Safe House

"The staff was more like a family."
"I just want to say thank you, your kindness and support really helped me change my life!"

- Safe House Residents

The Safe House is an emergency shelter in an undisclosed location, and the only one for domestic violence victims in Middlesex County. It is a 24-bed, handicapped accessible house, staffed 24 hours, and provides shelter for up to ten families. It is a safe, home-like environment that offers women and children solace and comfort during a difficult time. The Safe House staff provides food, transportation, support groups, resources and referrals, and safety planning. We also offer activities like trauma sensitive yoga, Homework Club, movie nights, and park outings.

Home improvement was on the agenda at the Safe House last year. We installed hardwood floors and new doors, replaced the handicapped access ramp, and upgraded the security system, greatly improving the living experience of residents.

Permanent Supportive Housing

"This is a dream come true!"

- Resident, on entering the fully furnished apartment

The Permanent Supportive Housing Program is a pioneering program – the first and only one of its kind in New Jersey. It is designed to provide affordable housing to victims of domestic violence and their children once their immediate crisis is over and they are ready to leave the Safe House. Case managers help to connect families to the full range of services that best fit their needs including counseling, healthcare, education, and training. The program's goal is to assist survivors in reaching their fullest potential by providing innovative, community based services that promote independent living.

In 2014, residents made great strides towards independent living and economic empowerment. Two residents were awarded scholarships to attend Middlesex County College. One hopes to work in the medical field and the other in accounting. For both, this is a first step towards their long term goals of becoming professionals. Another resident is pursuing her GED.

COUNSELING

PALS (Peace: A Learned Solution)

Children's Counseling Program

"This is my safe place."

- PALS Art Therapy Participant

"I want my kids to be able to cope with anger and sadness the right way."

Mother

PALS offers creative arts therapy to children traumatized by domestic violence. Trained therapists help children process their feelings through art and movement, with a goal to improving their emotional and behavioral functioning.

In 2014, PALS implemented monthly Family Nights, incorporating movement and creative arts therapy to help mothers and children strengthen their relationship.

Support Groups

"It has helped me think that I'm not worthless. I have more respect for myself now."

- Support Group Participant

Victims of domestic violence often experience isolation, depression and the loss of self-esteem. Support groups provide a safe space for participants to share experiences with those in similar situations, overcome their fear, cope with trauma, and feel validated.

In 2014, we conducted a financial workshop for support group participants, training them on budgeting and banking. A grant from the Allstate Foundation allowed us to further strengthen this theme through the use of their Economic Empowerment curriculum.

2014 At A Glance

Program/Units	2014
Hotline Calls	5,451
Safe House Clients	201
Bed Nights	8,212
Meals Served	28,585
Legal Advocacy Clients	1,057
PALS Children Served	114
Support Group Clients	214
Batterers' Intervention Clients Community Education	102
Presentations	87
Volunteer Hours	6,000

Batterers' Intervention Program

"I'm a father - my daughter's going to look to me for how a man should act. If I don't act the right way, she's going to try to find security from some clown on the street when she gets older."

- Program Participant

The Batterers' Intervention Program is a pilot program with the Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P). Through counseling, the program stresses the values of responsibility, accountability, and fatherhood.

Last year, seven groups completed the program. Robert Baran, the program supervisor, was selected to present this successful program at the Second Annual 'Safe and Together' Model Symposium.

Continued on next page...

Our Work, Continued

Continued from previous page...

Legal Advocacy

"I got my hope back!"

- Legal Advocacy Client

Legal advocates assist victims with exploring their options, understanding their legal rights, obtaining restraining orders, court preparation, and court accompaniment. Free legal clinics are offered for victims of domestic violence where pro bono family law attorneys are available to provide individual consultation. Legal workshops are also held regularly.

Last year, our pro bono attorneys provided \$60,000 worth of legal services to victims.

Outreach and Community Education

"This was such an amazing experience and so eye opening"

- 40-Hour Training Participant

Providing information about domestic violence, its consequences and how to assist victims is an important tool for prevention. We achieve this through outreach at community events and meetings. We also provide professional domestic violence training to various groups including Domestic Violence Response Teams attached to police departments around Middlesex County.

Last year, we trained a record number of new volunteers at our 40-hour Domestic Violence Training.

Media

In 2014, Women Aware staff were interviewed by News 12, Princeton TV, NPR, Magic 98.3, and NJ.com to share their expertise on issues ranging from domestic violence services to violence in the NFL.

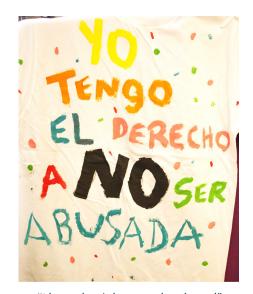
Domestic Violence Liaison

"I can see it in your eyes that it is not just a job for you, but your life's work. Thank You!"

- Program Client

The Domestic Violence Liaison program is a collaborative effort to strengthen service coordination between Women Aware and New Jersey's Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) in Middlesex County.

Last year, our domestic violence liaisons developed and conducted a series of trainings on the interaction between mental health and domestic violence. Over 300 caseworkers and supervisors were trained as part of this effort.



"I have the right not to be abused"

Finances

REVENUE

	(In \$000's)	
	2014	2013
Government	\$1,971	\$1,821
Foundations/Corporate	240	233
Gifts In Kind	67	90
Individual Giving	83	72
Other Income	66	24
Total Revenue	\$2,426	\$2,270



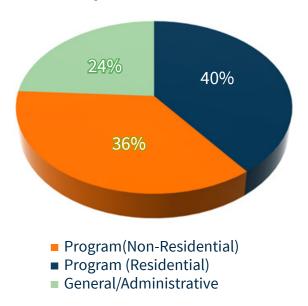
GovernmentGifts In KindOther Income

Foundations/CorporateIndividual Giving

EXPENSES

	(In \$000's)	
	2014	2013
Program (Non-Residential)	\$809	\$902
Program (Residential)	884	717
General/Administrative	536	475
Total Expenses	\$2,230	\$2,094

Expenses 2014



Funding Partners

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