

# 2019 IMPACT REPORT



women aware  
MOVING BEYOND ABUSE

***Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...Life is good when you are happy; but much better when Others are happy because of you.***

**Pope Francis**

## Message from the CEO

Phyllis Yonta, MSW, MA, DVS

For 40 years, one of Women Aware's greatest strengths has been our ability to quickly respond to emergent needs on the frontlines of domestic violence.

In 2019, we have had yet another successful year in the service of others. Women Aware moved one out of every eight victims of domestic violence beyond abuse in New Jersey, assisting 1,943 survivors in Middlesex County. Of those served, 217 women and children took refuge in our emergency shelter. Twenty-five percent of all non-English speaking victims in NJ turned to Women Aware for help.

We are continuously improving. Our Middlesex County partners progressed toward our goal of creating a Family Justice Center, a one-stop shop for victim services. We are expanding our space and services within the Prosecutor's Office Victim Witness Unit where our legal advocacy staff co-located in early 2019. [Watch this short video](#) to learn more. We are better together.

At our [40th Anniversary Virtual Candlelight Vigil](#) on October 21, 2020, we will remember victims whose lives were taken by domestic violence, and honor survivors moving beyond abuse and the visionaries committed to serving them. [Please join us](#) and partake in our vision where all live free from injustice and violence.

## SERVICES ARE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Each year we shelter 200 women and children in imminent danger; serve an additional 2,000 men, women, and children in safety net programs—including legal advocacy, case management, support groups, and children's trauma reduction therapy.



*Thank you so much for all your help and support. I could not have done this without your help. I look forward to starting my new life free of violence.*

Safe House Client

VISIT [WOMENWARE.NET](https://www.womenaware.net) FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SERVICES, NEWS AND EVENTS

24-hour hotline 732.249.4504 Toll-free 833.249.4504

# 2019 IMPACT



## SERVED 1 OF 8 VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NJ

- Assisted 1,943 victims, 295 of whom were children
- Provided nearly 20% of counseling services to children affected by domestic violence in NJ
- Served 1 out of 5 mobility-impaired victims seeking services in NJ

## PROVIDED EMERGENCY SHELTER TO 217 WOMEN AND CHILDREN + 14% OVER 2018

- 8,043 bednights - 7% increase over 2018
- Delivered 4 times more services to our emergency shelter clients than the state average

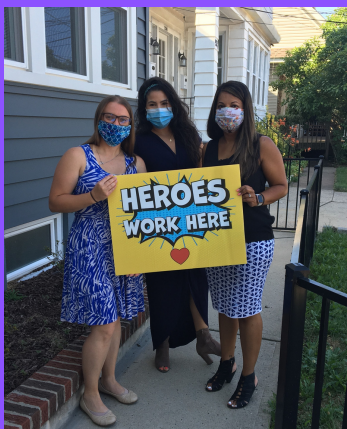


## ANSWERED 6,316 HOTLINE CALLS + 28% OVER 2018

- Answered 1 out of every 7 hotline crisis calls in NJ

## PROVIDED LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICES TO 1,514 SURVIVORS

- Conducted 2,799 legal options sessions
- Provided 33% of all housing advocacy sessions offered to victims in NJ



## SERVED 25% OF ALL NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING VICTIMS IN NJ

- 15% Arabic
- 17% Creole/Haitian
- 27% Spanish
- 56% Other languages

## YOU CAN HELP SURVIVORS MOVING BEYOND ABUSE

- Give at [womenaware.net/donate](https://womenaware.net/donate)
- Mail your check to 250 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
- Join us for our 40th Anniversary Virtual Candlelight Vigil on October 21, 2020 - Registration is free at: [givebutter.com/WomenAware40th](https://givebutter.com/WomenAware40th)
- Promote Women Aware on social media
- Host a Facebook fundraiser
- Donate gift cards to stores like ShopRite, Stop & Shop, Walmart and Target

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT DONATING TO WOMEN AWARE, CALL THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, 732.258.0428 OR EMAIL [DEVELOPMENT@WOMENAWARE.NET](mailto:DEVELOPMENT@WOMENAWARE.NET)

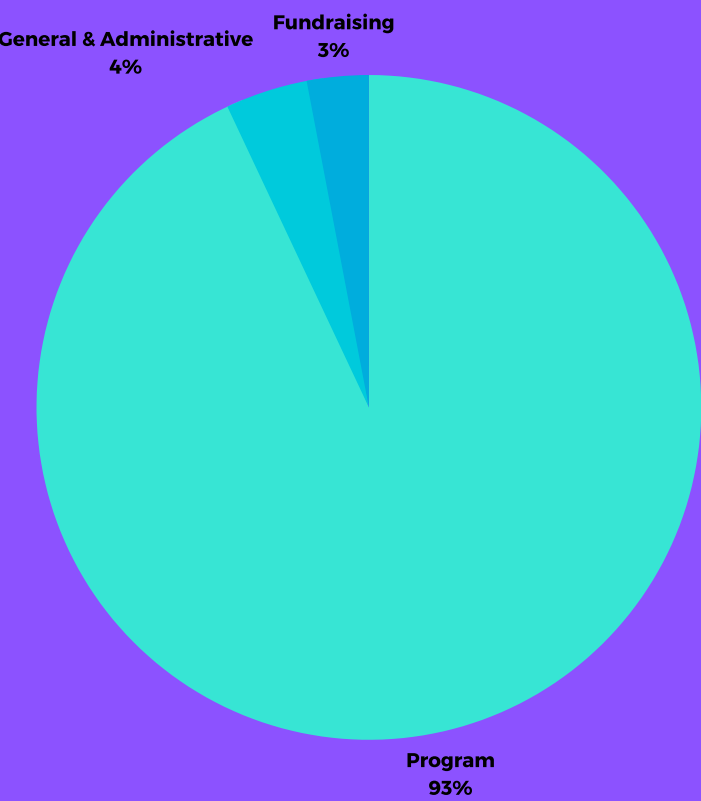
# Middlesex County Family Justice Center

Middlesex County services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are scattered around the county. By housing resources in a coordinated centralized location, the Family Justice Center will break down barriers between victims and services.

To learn more, watch this [video](#).

## WE COUNT ON YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Foundation, corporate and public funders contributed \$2.5 million
- Private donors gave over \$81,000
- Over 34 volunteers donated 620 volunteer hours



We are committed to transparency. Full financials can be found at [womenaware.net/about/financials](https://womenaware.net/about/financials)

*Thank you for helping me realize my worth and giving me the courage to speak my truth, your support means a lot to me.*

Legal Advocacy Client



*I feel like the chains are breaking all around me. I can see the difference in my kids, especially the older one. I feel humbled to hear the stories of other women like me and I don't feel alone.*

Safe House Client



*I remember entering the program devastated, sad, with many fears, and left feeling stronger and capable of a lot.*

Support Group Client  
and PALS parent

## 2019 Board of Directors

- Diane Palmer, *President*
- Jessica Oppenheim, *Vice President*
- Matthew Flannery, *Treasurer*
- Christine Clayton-Stroh, *Secretary*
- Siyan Bradley

- Jayshree "Tina" Dave
- James J. Hierl
- Lois Kahagi
- Joyce Mizerak
- Ellen Schwartz