



# 2020 IMPACT REPORT



women aware  
MOVING BEYOND ABUSE

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Phyllis Yonta, MSW, MA, DVS

Women Aware broke down the barriers posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to reach and serve survivors of domestic violence and their children, who were forced to quarantine in the very place that is most dangerous for them – home. Our team adapted to meet survivors where they were in their journey beyond abuse. We expanded services. We increased staff. We kept our 24-hour hotline and emergency shelter open. In 2020, we moved 1,725 individuals, including 197 children, beyond abuse. In fact, we served 1 out of every 9 children affected by domestic violence across New Jersey through our non-residential programs.

Women Aware delivered 5 times more services to victims and their children in domestic violence shelters than the state average.

Women Aware continued to lead the formation of the Middlesex County Family Justice Center (FJC). Because moving survivors beyond abuse is a community effort, we are grateful for our county partners' commitment to serving survivors better. Working collaboratively in one space, under the umbrella of the FJC, our purpose is to radically improve family safety as well as offender accountability. Women Aware earned an unprecedented \$1 million grant from the Office for Violence Against Women to support this initiative. I believe in my heart that our application for this award rose to the top thanks to the strong commitment of our partners, 13 of whom signed a Memorandum of Understanding alongside Women Aware. The FJC is open to serve clients at 100 Bayard Street, 4th Floor, New Brunswick, NJ. Our Legal Advocacy team, Housing Navigation program and Domestic Violence Response Team program are operating out of the FJC and there is space for partners to meet with victim-survivors on site. Click [here](#) for an inside look at the center.

I am grateful to all who make it possible for our advocates to be here 24/7: county, state and federal funders; corporate and foundation partners; and individual donors. Teamwork makes the dream work.

# WE SERVE EVERYONE

Services are free

Services are confidential

In our 41st year as the state-designated lead domestic violence agency for Middlesex County, Women Aware provides comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence and their children. In addition to crisis services, we provide the building blocks of independent living through residential and non-residential programs. Our services include: a 24-hour multilingual hotline, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, children's trauma reduction therapy, support groups, case management, housing navigation and community outreach.



## Every Year, Women Aware

- Shelters 200 individuals in imminent danger
- Serves an additional 2,000 individuals in safety net programs
- Responds to 5,000 multilingual hotline calls, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources to survivors of domestic violence

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*You made me feel I was worthy and suffering and I only spoke with you a few times. How you saw how broken I was, the comfort, effort, caring and knowledge got me through one of the hardest days of my life.*

-Legal Advocacy Client

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## 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# 2020 IMPACT

**Served 1,725 survivors of domestic violence**  
**197 were children**



- Sheltered 185 women and children fleeing violence in their homes
- Provided 7,699 bednights of emergency shelter
- Delivered 5x more services to survivors and children in shelter than the state average



- Served 1 of 9 children affected by DV in NJ through non-residential programs
- Served 1 of 8 LGBTQ+ survivors in NJ
- Served 25% of all deaf/hearing-impaired survivors in NJ
- Served nearly 25% of all non-English speaking survivors in NJ with eight in-house languages + Language Line



- Answered 6,394 hotline calls
- Delivered uninterrupted 24/7 support throughout the pandemic
- Answered 1 of 10 hotline calls in NJ
- Provided crisis intervention to 1 of 3 survivors in NJ



- Provided 39% of all advocacy services for survivors in NJ
- Provided legal advocacy services to 825 survivors
- Provided 1,697 legal options sessions
- Advocated for 1 of 8 survivors in NJ



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*With this check, I would like to help shelter a mom and her two children fleeing violence. This is a cause very important to me and my two children as I could have been in a tough position myself, but God directed me to the greatest job that enabled me to grow and stand on my two feet and raise my children. You are all special people and we applaud you!! Keep fighting for others and giving! You are inspiring!*

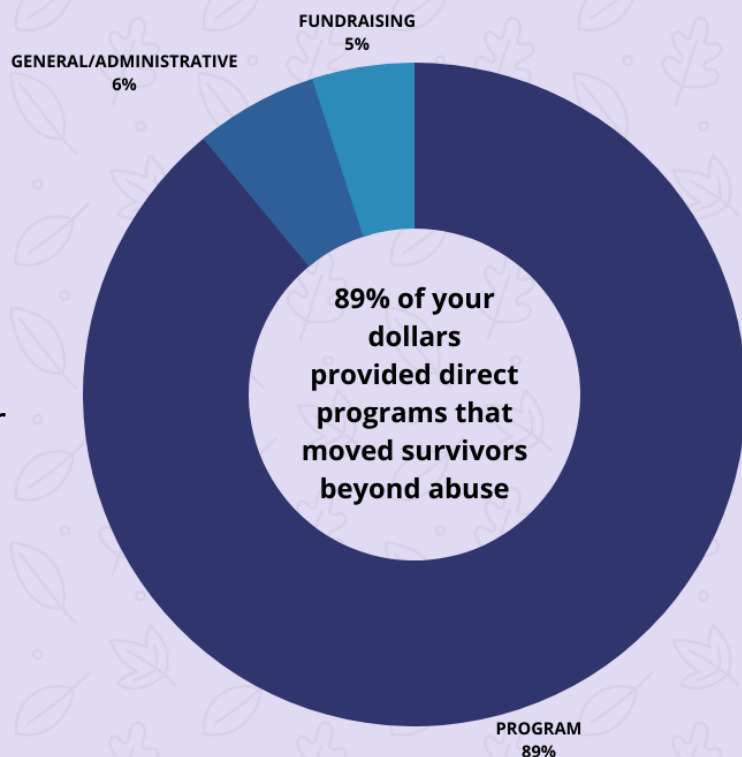
-M, survivor & donor

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## WOMEN AWARE IS HERE FOR MIDDLESEX COUNTY 24/7 THANKS TO YOU

- Foundation, corporate and public funders contributed over \$2.3 million
- Private donors gave over \$116,000
- 151 individuals donated 318 volunteer hours

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



## DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME, AND THERE ARE OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Donate safely online at [womenaware.net/donate](https://womenaware.net/donate)
- Mail your check to Women Aware, 250 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901
- Be a social media ambassador for Women Aware on [@womenaware](https://www.instagram.com/womenaware) and [Facebook @womenawareinc](https://www.facebook.com/womenawareinc)
- Host a Facebook fundraiser
- Donate gift cards to stores like Walmart, Target, ShopRite and Stop&Shop

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Women Aware, Inc.  
250 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Administration: 732.249.4900 Development Office: x 0428  
24/7 Hotline 732.249.4504 Toll-free 833.249.4504