



# 2021 IMPACT REPORT



women aware  
MOVING BEYOND ABUSE

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Phyllis Yonta, MSW, MA, DVS

2021 was a year like no other. Women Aware's greatest challenge was answering survivors' needs for shelter, safety planning and comprehensive services in the midst of the COVID-19 public health crisis, in a county that reports 4,336 domestic violence offenses a year, according to the most recent NJ State Police report. Even so, leadership and staff succeeded in keeping our 24/7 hotline and emergency shelter open despite the enormity of the challenges. Survivors count on us to be here so closing our doors was never an option. Our team served 2,195 survivors in 2021, including 176 children. We sheltered 250 women and children for 11,440 bednights, a record high for our agency.

Our team delivered 25% of all crisis intervention sessions to domestic violence victims and their children in New Jersey. We provided victim advocacy to 1 out of every 6 victims and their children, and served 1 out of every 7 mobility-impaired victims in the state.

Our Housing Navigation Program facilitated a 41% increase in housing sessions as advocates worked to break down the barriers that stand between emergency shelter for victims and stable, long-term affordable housing. Housing Navigation served 256 survivors in 2021 and helped clients receive over \$352,000 in rental assistance, and over \$37,000 in relocation assistance.

The foundation for the Family Justice Center in Middlesex County continues to strengthen thanks to the enthusiastic participation of our partners in this ground-breaking initiative: Middlesex County (Middlesex County Office of Human Services, Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, and Middlesex County Center for Empowerment) • Central Jersey Legal Services • Jewish Family Services • Partners • American Friends Service Committee • Middlesex County Board of Social Services • NJ DCF Division of Child Protection and Permanency • Coming Home of Middlesex County • Manavi • Town Clock Community Development Corporation • A Partnership for Change • Dress for Success Central Jersey. Located just one block from Family Court, the FJC is open for walk-ins at 100 Bayard Street, 4th Floor, New Brunswick. No appointment is necessary. We and our community partners are working to serve survivors better by building a coordinated community response to domestic violence.

The life-saving work we do would not be possible without county, state and federal funders, corporate and foundation partners, and individual donors. On behalf of our team, I extend my gratitude to all who value our work.

Women Aware's comprehensive programs provide support across the spectrum of client needs—from emergency crisis intervention to long-term efforts toward independent living. We offer services that include a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, community education, support groups, and children's programs.



*I have been feeling really grateful since the first moment I received support and help for me and my children. I was able to find a place to live, after spending 6 months in 3 different shelters. Women Aware has provided me with rental assistance and it has really being a super special support, which helped me get rid of the debts I had, as a consequence of my abuser utilizing my credit to make purchases...The therapies for my children and the support groups that we had, and I still have, helped me see life differently and have a better understanding on how to care for me and my children...I have no words to express the relief, support, and big help I had during this entire process in our lives. – Sofia*

Diane Palmer, President  
*Retired, Rutgers RWJ Medical School*

Jessica Oppenheim, Vice President  
*Retired, The ARC of NJ*

Matthew Flannery, Treasurer  
*Retired, Middlesex County Planner*

Christine Clayton-Stroh, Secretary  
*Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

Siyan Bradley  
*Thales Avionics, Inc.*

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## Annually, Women Aware

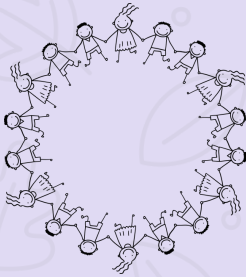
- Shelters 200 individuals
- Serves an additional 2,000 individuals in safety net programs
- Responds to 6,000 multilingual hotline calls, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources to survivors of domestic violence

## 2021 IMPACT

**Served 2,195 survivors of domestic violence-176 were children**



- Increased emergency shelter capacity to 125% with hotel placement
- Provided 11,440 bednights of emergency shelter, a 49% increase over 2020
- Served 176 children through residential and safety net services
- Served 1 out of every 7 mobility-impaired victims in the state



- Provided 25% of victims in NJ and their children with crisis intervention services
- Provided transportation to 1 out of every 6 victims in NJ
- Increased immigration sessions by 18% in 2021
- Served 236 Domestic Violence Response Team clients, a 26% increase over 2020



- Answered 7,278 hotline calls
- Provided crisis intervention to 1 of 4 victims and their children in NJ
- Spoke with callers in 10 different languages, including Bengali, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Kinyarwanda, Urdu, Gujarati, Mandarin, French, and American Sign Language



- Provided legal advocacy services to 1 out of every 8 victims in the state
- Served 1,137 victims, a 38% increase over 2020
- Delivered 2,257 legal options sessions, a 33% increase over 2020



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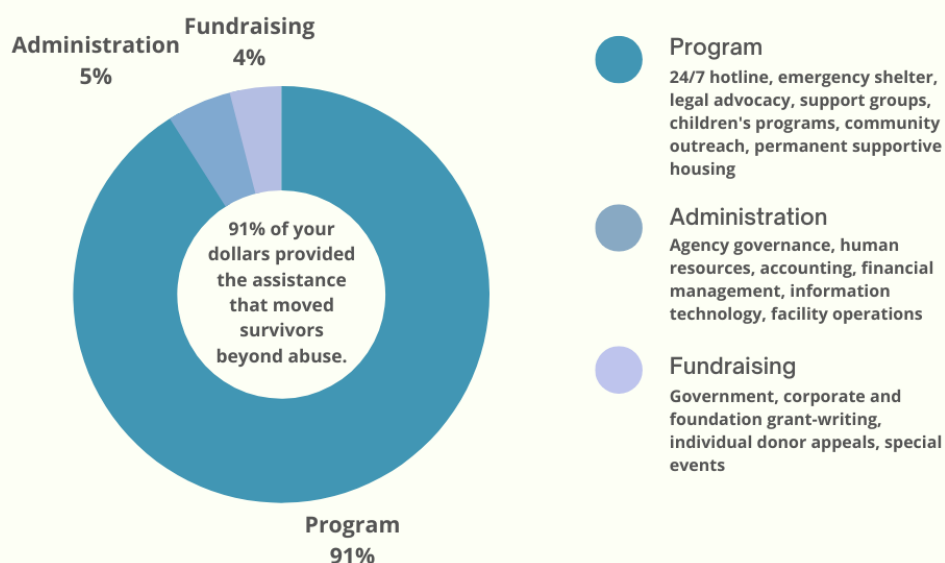
*With this check, I would like to help shelter a mom and her two children fleeing violence. This is a cause very important to me and my two children as I could have been in a tough position myself, but God directed me to the greatest job that enabled me to grow and stand on my two feet and raise my children. 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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## THANK YOU

- Foundation, corporate and public funders contributed over \$3.2 million
- Private donors gave over \$132,000
- 19 individuals donated 591 volunteer hours

## Allocation of Resources



Women Aware is committed to transparency.

Full financials can be found at [womenaware.net/about/financials](https://womenaware.net/about/financials).

## HOW 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 [@womenawareinc](https://www.facebook.com/womenawareinc).
- Host a Facebook fundraiser.
- Host a gift card collection drive - Uber, Visa, Stop & Shop, ShopRite, Target, Walmart and gas cards help so much.

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