



women aware

MOVING BEYOND ABUSE

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## On the Frontlines Supporting Survivors Moving Beyond Abuse

### Message from the CEO

Our team at Women Aware is constantly being challenged to respond to the changing needs of victim-survivors of domestic violence. For example, advocates are managing more cases where victim-survivors were strangled or sexually assaulted. We are seeing increased incidents of restraining orders being violated. Our housing navigation program continues to encounter barriers while assisting clients in finding affordable housing, barriers such as lack of documentation and low or no income.

The good news is we continue to train and professionally develop our team so we are prepared to assist our clients. We continue to strengthen relationships with our partners in the Middlesex County Family Justice Center (FJC) and to welcome new partners such as Dress for Success Central New Jersey, REPLENISH, Middlesex County Family Court, and the First Presbyterian Food Pantry.

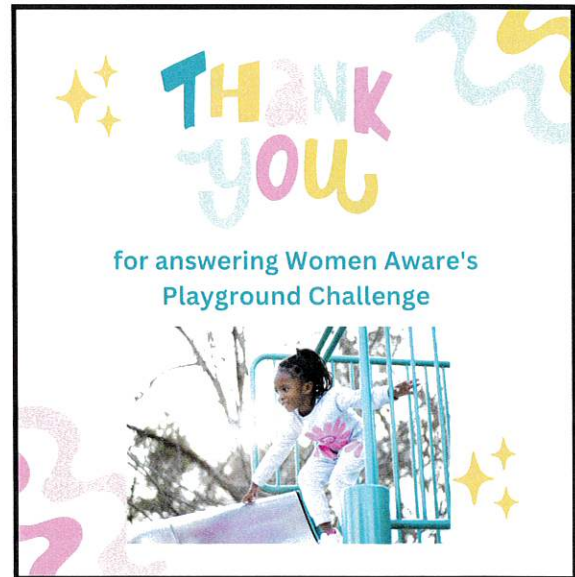
Thank you for your support in moving survivors beyond abuse. Working together, we save lives and give hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Phyllis Yonta, MSW, MA, DVS

Thank you for your gift in support of survivors of domestic violence and their children. Please tell us why you choose to donate to Women Aware.

*When I lived in New Brunswick, my Church missionary society supported this organization. The services and protection WA provides women in need was truly professional and compassionate. What a blessing for the families in Middlesex County!*  
Yvonne  
First name

### Playground Challenge Campaign Secures \$10,000 Match



In 2022, children's play on the backyard playground at Women Aware's emergency shelter halted abruptly when fire damaged the playground area. When Women Aware reached out to the community and to supporters to accept the Playground Challenge, the response wowed us!

Individuals, faith-based organizations, community organizations and more stepped up to donate over \$10,000, making it possible for Women Aware to receive a matching gift of \$10,000 from anonymous donors.

Monies donated will combine with a grant from The Dorothy B. Hersh Foundation to purchase and install a new playground at our emergency shelter to give the youngest survivors a place to climb, slide, giggle, play, and be children.

Women Aware serves an average of 122 homeless children each year in emergency shelter. We are grateful to everyone who answered the Playground Challenge to make a new playground a reality!

## Interested in receiving Women Aware news via email?

Please visit [womenaware.net](http://womenaware.net). Click Join Our Mailing List at the bottom of the home page.

### Advocates in Action



Middlesex County FJC Director of Legal Resources Ellen Schwartz (l) and New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence Director of Policy and Education Nicole Morella at Advocacy Day, Trenton.

Middlesex County FJC Director Mildred Torres (l) and Women Aware Director of Client Services Maliha Janjua, and Director of Complex Care Programs, Center for Health Care Strategies, Christopher Menschner at Middlesex County's Behavioral Health Roundtable



Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office staff Bianca Rojas, Alexandra Giampietro, and Nicole Fusco; and Women Aware/Middlesex County FJC Legal Advocate Aksa Ahmad at the Drawing Connections event hosted by the Middlesex County Center for Empowerment

### Thoughtful Donations Make for a Happier Mother's Day

Care bags from Community Team NJ, gift cards from the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, and care bags from Mary Kay made Women Aware's clients feel special and remembered on Mother's Day. Thank you for the thoughtful donations that brought smiles to the faces of our clients.



**Save the Date - Saturday, October 21, 2023**

Moving Beyond Abuse 5K & Charity Walk -

Johnson Park, Piscataway

