

Impact Report

July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023



women aware
MOVING BEYOND ABUSE

Message from CEO Phyllis Yonta

Today's Women Aware stands on the shoulders of pioneers who opened a shelter in Middlesex County in 1979 to hide and help women at risk of being killed at a time when domestic violence was something no one talked about. From these community roots, Women Aware grew, building bridges to like-minded service providers to raise awareness and assist victims moving beyond abuse. Today's leadership team continues to focus on strengthening the organization's capacity to answer the crisis needs of victims, adapt to emergent needs of the community, and break down barriers between survivors and self-sufficiency. Thank you to all who partner with us in this critical work.

Board of Trustees Approves Change in Fiscal Year

In June 2022, Women Aware's Board of Trustees approved a change to the agency's fiscal year from the calendar year (January 1 to December 31) to a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

Given that the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Division on Women, Women Aware's largest funder, moved from a January 1 to July 1 fiscal year start, Women Aware's accountant, auditor, and Board of Trustees agreed this was the proper course of action for the agency.

2,844
survivors
served

9,167
24/7 hotline
calls
answered

307
women and
children
sheltered

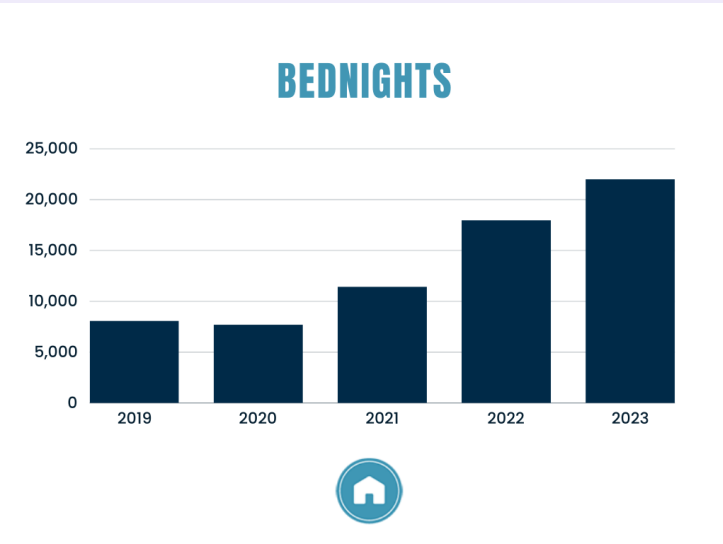
1,594
legal
advocacy
clients
served



Need for Shelter Up 58%

Demand for emergency shelter continues to rise, and the lethality of cases is worsening. Advocates are seeing an increase in reports of strangulation and sexual assault and increasing violations of restraining orders.

As the only domestic violence shelter in Middlesex County, Women Aware has gone from sheltering, on average, 194 individuals/year pre-pandemic to sheltering 307 in FY 2023, an increase of 58%. Bednights of shelter/year soared from 8,063 pre-pandemic to 22,016 in FY 2023. Survivors shelter longer because affordable housing is scarce. Across programs, the number of victims served jumped 56% from 1,824 in 2019 to 2,844 in FY 2023.



You Should Know

Advocates speak the languages of the community we serve

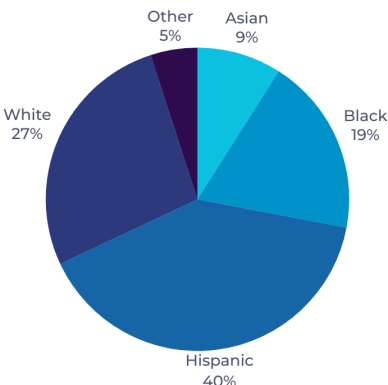
Women Aware offers free and confidential services in over seven in-house languages, including Hindi, Urdu, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and Punjabi. Staff utilize a language line to actively communicate with clients in over 200 additional languages, including Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Farsi, Telugu, and Russian.

Women Aware is the lead agency of the Middlesex County Family Justice Center

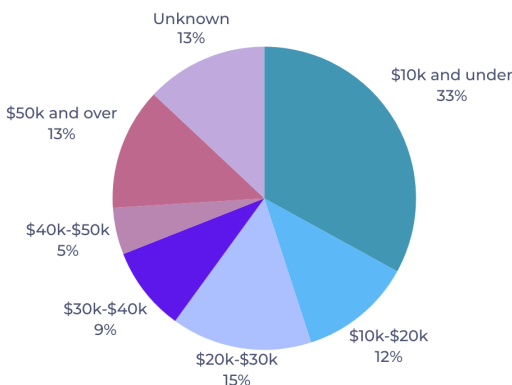
At the Middlesex County Family Justice Center (FJC), our shared goal is to establish a one-stop center where survivors can access services from multiple providers and tell their story once, reducing the risk of re-traumatization. Visit <https://middlesexcountyfjc.org> for more information about this coordinated community response to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Client Demographics

Domestic violence does not discriminate and neither does Women Aware



Client Income



A client writes...

“Thank you for your trust and encouragement, and, lastly,
thank you for being my light when I felt my life was in darkness.”

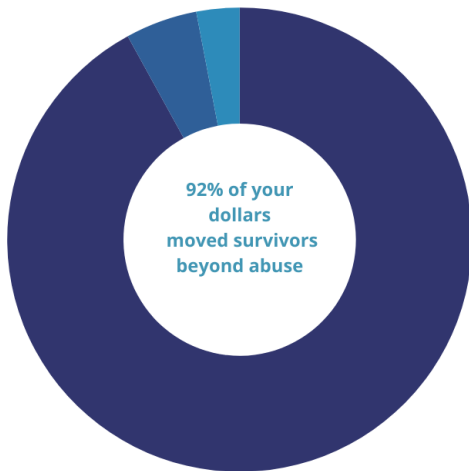
Thank You

Public, corporate, and foundation funders
contributed over \$3 million in FY 2023.

Individuals, organizations, businesses, and
corporate sponsors gave nearly \$163,000.

63 volunteers contributed over 1,014 hours of
service.

■ PROGRAM - 92% ■ ADMINISTRATION - 5%
■ FUNDRAISING - 3%



*Women Aware's Domestic Violence Response Team
volunteers received the 2023 Emergency
Services/First Responders New Jersey State
Governor's Volunteerism Award.*

2022-2023 Funders

Big Lots Foundation
Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation
Bristol Myers Squibb
Citizens Philanthropic Foundation
Columbia Bank Foundation
Enbridge
FEMA
The Dorothy B. Hersh Foundation
HUD
Investors Foundation
IOLTA Fund of the Bar of NJ
Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems
Karma Foundation
MagyarBank Charitable Foundation
The Mary Kay Foundation
Merck
McKinney Vento Education for Homeless Youth
Middlesex County Department of Human Services
Middlesex County Commissioners
NJ Department of Children and Families
NJ Department of Community Affairs
NJ Department of Law and Public Safety
Nora Roberts Foundation
PNC Foundation
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Starbucks Foundation
TCC Gives
TJX Foundation

**Audited financial reports
can be viewed at
<https://womenaware.net/about/financials/>**

A donor says...

"Domestic violence is a terrible and preventable plague upon its victims and our society. Women Aware does more than anyone else to prevent this and assist victims to recover and seek justice."



Law Videos Offer Practical Information to Victims

A series of law videos titled *Victims' Rights: Understanding and Accessing the Protections Afforded by Law*, co-sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation and made possible through funding from the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey, are available on Women Aware's [YouTube channel](#). Brief videos address Restraining Orders, Immigration, Child Custody, Sexual Assault, and Victims' Rights/Victim Advocacy in multiple languages.

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<https://womenaware.net>