



**women aware**  
MOVING BEYOND ABUSE

**July 1, 2024-  
June 30, 2025**

# IMPACT REPORT



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**“This is the first safe space I’ve  
known in my entire life.”**

**- Safe House Client**

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## OUR MISSION

Women Aware envisions a society where individuals can live free from violence and injustice. Our mission is to promote the safety and self-sufficiency of individuals and families affected by domestic violence in Middlesex County, New Jersey.

## MESSAGE FROM CEO PHYLLIS YONTA



Women Aware remains at the forefront of a sustained, historic increase in the demand for domestic violence services. As the complexity of cases deepens, we continue to aggressively pursue diversified funding to uphold our commitment to providing free, confidential lifelines to the most vulnerable members of our community.

### **The Healthcare Connection**

A critical intersection, domestic violence is a public health crisis that requires a medical response. In FY 2025, Women Aware successfully connected 70% of its clients with vital healthcare services. Beyond traditional advocacy, our high-risk advocacy program is now embedded in five local hospitals across the region. This integration allows our advocates to work side-by-side with medical professionals to identify and aid survivors at the highest risk of repeated injurious assaults and homicide. Women Aware provides the essential wrap-around services—from emergency sanctuary to legal and medical advocacy—that offer a survivor the means to remove herself from a dangerous situation to prevent a future assault, or even death.

### **Housing & Economic Stability**

The dual challenges of a lack of affordable housing and increasing economic pressure continue to impact our clients. Many survivors entering our care report extremely low to no income, creating significant barriers to long-term stability. Despite these systemic hurdles, our Housing Navigator remains a pillar of success, facilitating the transition of families from the safety of our emergency shelter into independent living.

### **Growth of the Family Justice Center (FJC):**

The Middlesex County Family Justice Center continues to serve as a centralized sanctuary for healing and justice. Building on the momentum of previous years, the FJC has further expanded its reach, providing survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking with direct, co-located access to law enforcement, legal aid, immigration services, and healthcare. Our philosophy remains rooted in the belief that we are better.

### **Specialized Response to Strangulation**

In partnership with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office and area medical centers, we continue to address the high incidents of non-fatal strangulation—a primary lethality indicator. By providing immediate intervention and long-term specialized support, we are ensuring that the most at-risk survivors are not just seen, but protected. We are deeply grateful to the funders, donors, and community partners whose commitment allows survivors and their children to move beyond trauma and look forward with hope.



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## Our Health-Centered Approach

Women Aware addresses domestic violence as a critical healthcare issue through integrated, trauma-informed, and system-based interventions that improve access, coordination, and health outcomes.

## Hospital-Based High-Risk Advocate Program

Embedded within healthcare settings through New Jersey's B.R.E.A.T.H. (Building Response to Eliminate Abuse Through Healing) coordinated response, in partnership with hospitals, law enforcement, and forensic nurse examiners provides immediate, trauma-informed intervention for survivors of severe violence, including strangulation. Ensures rapid connection to medical care, safety planning, and ongoing behavioral health and support services at the point of care

## Family Justice Center Model

The family justice center model delivers wraparound, survivor-centered care through a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach. Co-located services include legal advocacy, counseling, healthcare navigation, housing support, and services for children. In the past year:

- We supported **2,194 individuals** in navigating the healthcare system, ensuring immediate access to emergency medical care, maternal health and OB/GYN services, pediatric care, and essential vaccinations.
- We made more than **3,000 referrals** to medical and behavioral health providers
- We connected **70% of our shelter residents** with health insurance, improving continuity of care and long-term health outcomes

## Emergency Shelter & Stabilization Services

Women Aware provides safe housing alongside comprehensive health navigation, trauma recovery, and financial stabilization support. Over the past three years we have delivered over **\$533,000** in direct financial assistance to **338 households** over the past three years, helping survivors achieve safety and stability while addressing critical health and social needs.

**10,999 LIVES TOUCHED**

**3,257**  
**in person**

**7,742**  
**by phone**

**82% Received Help Navigating the Legal System**

**73% Accessed Critical Health Care Support**

**2,022 Supported Through Family Court Proceedings**

**\$533,000 distributed directly to survivors**

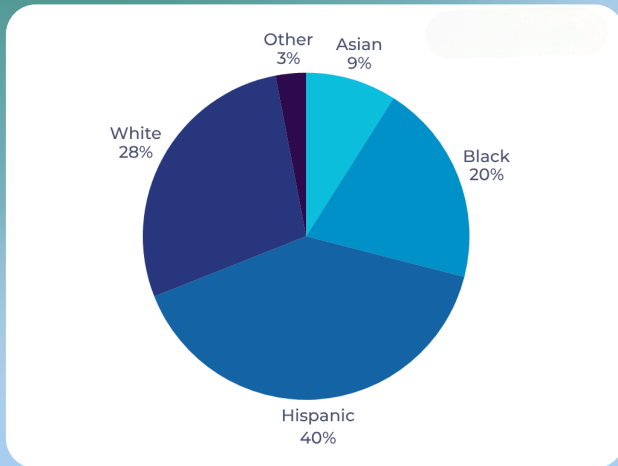
**57**

**Children Completed  
Six Months of  
Trauma Reduction  
Therapy**

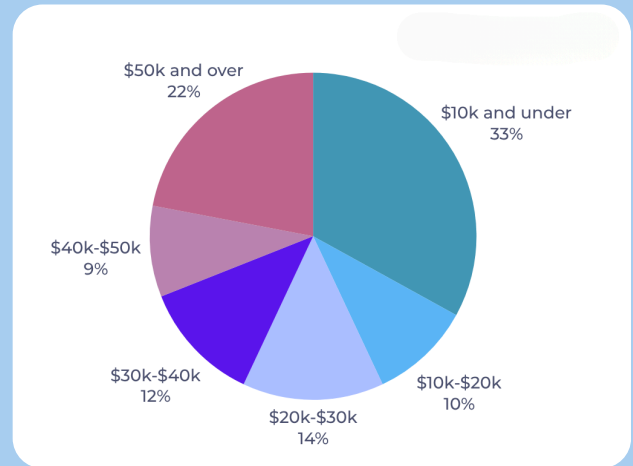
**12,259  
Nights of  
Safe Refuge  
191 people  
housed**

# DEMOGRAPHICS

## Race & Ethnicity



## Income

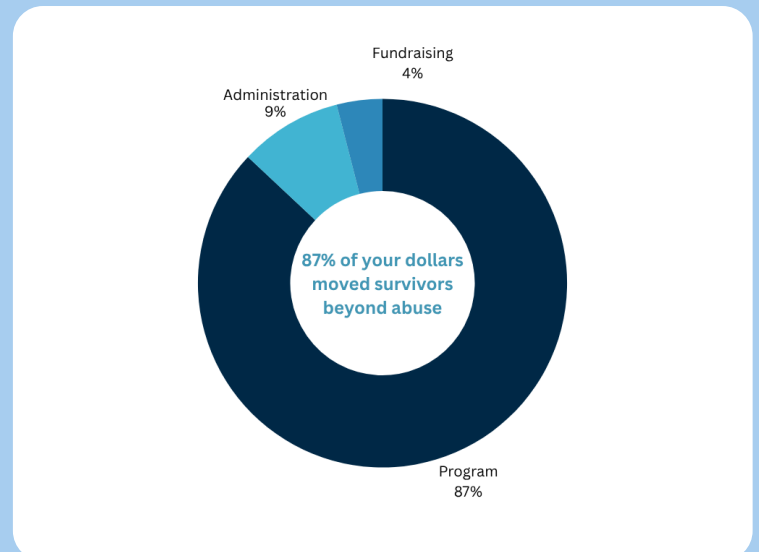


## THANK YOU

**“Women Aware is a great resource to help victims rebuild their lives as a result of this abuse. Since I can relate to the victims, I want to support Women Aware in any way I can to help those victims get back on their feet so that they can live productive lives without fear.”**

**– Eileen, Donor**

- Public, corporate and foundation funders contributed nearly \$3.5 million.
- Individuals, organizations, businesses and sponsors donated over \$108,000.
- 43 individuals volunteered more than 2,396 hours of service to move survivors beyond abuse.



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

# GRATEFUL FOR ALL FUNDERS, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

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Women Aware Staff at  
Voices of Courage & Change Fundraiser



Women Aware  
Volunteer Appreciation Gathering



<https://womenaware.net>  
<https://middlesexcountyfjc.org>



Middlesex County Family Justice Center  
100 Bayard Street, 4th Fl., New Brunswick,  
NJ 08901



24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline  
Toll-free 833-249-4504