STRENGTH EMPOWER MPACT ADVOCACY



OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC.

JIM & JAN MORAN FAMILY CENTER

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR HISTORY

For more than 40 years, Women In Distress of Broward County, Inc. has provided strength, hope, advocacy, and empowerment to help women, children and men recover from the traumatic effects of domestic violence and gain independence and self-sufficiency.

As Broward County's only nationally accredited, state-certified, full service domestic violence center, Women In Distress provides a 24-Hour Crisis Hotline, a 132-bed emergency shelter, individual counseling and therapy for adults and children, support groups and trainings for professionals and students aimed at educating the community on domestic violence and healthy relationships.

We also provide ongoing counseling and support groups for those not in need of emergency shelter through satellite offices throughout the county. All services offered are at no cost and are available in English, Spanish, Creole and Portuguese.

GRATITUDE

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

This past year we celebrated an important milestone, our 40th anniversary. From all of us at Women In Distress of Broward





County, Inc., our Board, Trustees, staff, volunteers and most importantly, the women, children and men whose lives are forever changed because of your support, thank you. Thank you - not only for making our 40th anniversary year special by showing your support and dedication to our events, programs, and participants, but for bringing our mission to life and giving meaning to its words.

Headlines about domestic violence dominated the news this year, bringing with them unprecedented attention and vital conversation around this critical issue. With greater awareness, came a surge in demand. Calls to our 24-Hour Crisis Hotline increased by 100%, the highest of any domestic violence center in the state. With your support, we were able to expand our 24-Hour Crisis Hotline by adding more advocates to meet the increase in call volume that we continue to experience.

Together, we also worked to break the cycle of violence by providing early intervention services for our littlest survivors of domestic violence - children. We continued to see an increase in the number of children in our Emergency Shelter and Outreach programs. Fifty percent of participants who walked through our doors were children arriving with a parent. We saw one common need among this group, the need for impactful early child therapy services. Through the generosity of our friends at The Salah Foundation, we were able to establish the framework for an innovative early childhood therapy program, focused on reducing the effects of witnessing domestic violence in infants. We are the only domestic violence center in the state of Florida to provide this service that's so critical in breaking the cycle of violence.

The conversation around domestic violence has changed over the past year, bringing it more into focus, but there is still much work to do. The need for therapy, shelter and additional outreach services in our community is great, but so is our hope. The strength our survivors show us each day, as they take steps toward a new life, is only matched by the strength of our community to **change lives**.

Thank you for all you do.

Mary Riedel

President and CFO

Phyllis Thomas

Chair, Board of Directors



For five years, my husband, who I loved, was emotionally and verbally abusive, and financially controlling. I couldn't understand why someone I loved would do this to me, so I began to research domestic violence online. I learned what I had already known in my heart – I wasn't to blame and I needed to make a change in order to protect my young son and daughter, and for peace of mind, something I hadn't had for a while.

I knew I needed to separate from my husband, which would be difficult because I didn't know where we could go that would be safe with my limited finances. I sought the help of my therapist who referred me to Women In Distress. I called the hotline for help but couldn't bring myself to go there. I pictured the shelters I had seen on TV and was scared. But I made the call again and this time I went. As soon as I entered Women In Distress, I said to myself, "God, thank you for bringing me here, please help me to be able to give back to this place one day."

While at Women In Distress, they helped me enroll my children in daycare and gave me time to get my life in order. I was able to save enough money to move my family into an apartment. It may not be the three bedroom house we had before, but it's safe. With the support and counseling that I received, I have found the courage and determination to continue working hard to finish college to become a clinical psychologist.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Through our emergency shelter program, survivors of domestic violence and their children are given a safe environment.

On average, families stay 56 nights at our shelter and receive services including housing, crisis intervention, and therapy, at no cost.

Women In Distress is committed to serving all individuals living in unsafe situations because of domestic violence. Our services are available to women and male survivors, the LGBTQ community, and those with disabilities.



Our 132-bed emergency shelter provides a safe refuge and initial crisis intervention services that are needed to keep individuals in high-lethality domestic violence situations safe from their abusers. Survivors are given the resources and tools they need to become self-sufficient and successfully move from shelter to independent lives, free of domestic violence.



Last year, Women In Distress provided an average of 155 women, children and men with safe shelter each month.

EDUCATION

Women In Distress has an ambitious goal to stop violence before it begins. Prevention not only requires understanding the factors that influence violence, it also includes efforts to promote healthy relationships and a change in knowledge and behaviors at all levels of society.

To achieve this, the Women In Distress Education & Prevention team facilitates violence prevention curriculum to Broward County public Title 1 schools, and trainings to businesses, professional organizations, and community groups to raise awareness and change social attitudes towards violence. Topics include:

- The dynamics of intimate partner violence and teen dating violence
- •The various social constructs that perpetuate violence
- Boundaries and expectations within a healthy relationship



650

Women In Distress was represented at over 650 events, including youth trainings, community fairs, and adult education programs.

90%

More than 90% of youth who participated in ongoing or one-time prevention programs showed an increase in positive views of healthy relationships.

"I learned all about what red flags are in a relationship, like how checking someone's cell phone is a form of control. I now know that if your relationship is unhealthy, you really need to talk to someone about it. I promise to be part of the solution."

-- "Amy," Pompano Beach High School student

If you are interested in receiving a presentation about Women In Distress and domestic violence, please contact our Education and Prevention Department at (954) 760-9800.



When I was 13, I saw my mother abused in ways that are still as painful now as they were then. I stayed quiet in my room, waiting for the yelling to end. I remember the bloody walls, the broken doors, but mostly how my mother laid curled up crying on the floor after my father left the house to "cool off." Somehow she managed to go to work, to make dinner every Sunday night, and to take me to volleyball practice every week. I didn't know then, mostly because my father kept us from my mom's family, but she also grew up like this. Only when we talked to a therapist at Women In Distress did I learn that when my mom was a child she also waited for the yelling to stop; for the sound of the car door that told her it was okay to leave her room.

As I prepare to become a mother, I realize more than ever how grateful I am that 15 years ago my more found the courage to leave my father, and find the trust to let the therapists at Women in Distress help us both heat. Through them, we both learned that love and violence don't go hand in hand. I broke the cycle for my family. I am so happy that my mom is here to experience the joys of being a grandmother – a strong, happy grandmother.



Even when children don't see domestic violence, they know its happening and it can affect them deeply. Women In Distress is the only provider of early childhood therapy for domestic violence survivors under the age of four in Broward County. This work is so important because it decreases the cycle of abuse in the next generation.



When Brenda arrived at Women In Distress, she had come to Florida with her four-year old son and \$17 to escape an abusive relationship. When she entered Women In Distress' emergency shelter, she was scared, tired and broken. She didn't realize yet just how much courage and strength she truly had.

Over the next two months, Brenda found her footing again. Attending the group and individual therapy sessions and working with her advocate who helped her find the resources to get a job, and ultimately move into an apartment where she and her son would feel safe.

Today, Brenda continues to work with her advocate and receives counseling for she and her son through our outreach programs. She works closely with other survivors, sharing her story to help them find their way. Brenda says if she could help just one woman know that she didn't have to stay in an abusive relationship-that she could leave and make if on her own - everything she went through would have been worth it.

OUTREACH

Women In Distress offers outreach services to survivors in the community who are not in need of emergency shelter at locations throughout Broward County, including Fort Lauderdale, Hallandale Beach, Miramar, Pembroke Pines, and Plantation. These services provide safety plans, critical support groups, therapy, and counseling that give survivors the tools and skills needed to transition into violence-free lives, at no cost.



The Outreach programs served 2,598 women, children and men in FY2015.



Children seeking services in the outreach program increased 21% in FY2015.

"We are continuously looking for opportunities to use our resources to make a positive impact on people in our community. Our support of Women In Distress, and in particular, it's Outreach program, provides the opportunity for many families to receive the critical services offered in a warm and inviting environment."

---Elliot Borkson Vice President of the Leo Goodwin Foundation



We are only as strong as our community. Women In Distress is proud of its long-lasting partnerships with individuals, foundations, government, and corporations in our community who share our commitment to providing vital support services to survivors of domestic violence and their families, free of charge.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP

Women In Distress works in partnership with local law enforcement agencies to raise awareness and provide survivors with the information and resources they need to seek help. Through a partnership with the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO), Women In Distress is able to provide InVEST and Child Protective Investigation Section (CPIS) programs. InVEST's unique model allows BSO and a Women In Distress advocate to work together to provide assistance to domestic violence victims in the community who are in potentially lethal situations. Through CPIS, Child Protective Investigators and an advocate from Women In Distress work together to assist families affected by child abuse due to domestic violence.

"A significant percentage of our child abuse investigations involve families that are tangled with domestic violence. BSO partners with Women in Distress to assist with immediate safety interventions with families, whenever possible. When CPI's refer families to Women in Distress during an investigation, we know the advocate will provide them with multiple services including safety planning, consultation assistance, crisis counseling, and emergency shelter."

-- Major Audrey Jones
Broward Sheriff's Office

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Thank you to our **Community Partners** who provide important resources and services to help our families.

Community Partners

2-1-1 Broward
A Child is Missing
ABWA Coral Springs
Barry University
Boys and Girls Club of Broward County
Broward County
Broward County Courthouse

Broward County Jail Facility Broward County Schools Broward Domestic Violence Council

Broward Domestic Violence Strategic Planning
Committee

Broward Health Broward Human Trafficking Coalition Broward Police Chief Association

Broward Regional Health Planning Council Broward Sheriff's Office

Broward Victim's Rights Coalition Catholic Charities

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Children's Harbor Children's Home Society

Children's Legal Services

Children's Services Council of Broward

City of Coconut Creek City of Fort Lauderdale

City of Hallandale Beach

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City of Plantation Coast to Coast Legal Aid Services

Community Foundation of Broward Consolidated Credit Counseling Solutions Department of Children and Families

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Florida International University

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HEART Alliance

Henderson Behavioral Health

Hispanic Unity

Holy Cross Hospital

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KID Broward County

Legal Aid Service of Broward County

Lynn University

Memorial Healthcare System

No More Tears

Nova Southeastern University

St. Thomas University

State Attorney's Office – Domestic Violence Unit

SunServe

Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center The Pride Center at Equality Park

The Salvation Army of Broward County

Tomorrow's Rainbow

Trinity International University
United Way of Broward County

Urban League



IMPACT PARTNERS

Successful partnerships are fundamental to supporting the families we serve. **Thank you** to our partners who have made the commitment to ensure we are able to provide vital support services to survivors of domestic violence.









SunSentinel

















Janet A. Boyle







IMPACT NUMBERS



10,795
Calls to the
24-Hour Crisis Hotline

This past year, Women In Distress expanded their 24-Hour Crisis Hotline to provide **additional support services**, which resulted in double the amount of calls answered.



50% Children

50% percent of participants who walked through our doors, in need of emergency shelter, are children arriving with a parent.

Average age = 5

"I felt like I was the only one in this type of situation. But as I started going to group therapy, I got stronger.

I realized that I have value; reversing everything my abuser told me."

-- DV Survivor



26,000
Counseling and Therapy Hours

7,592 safety plans were created.

Advocates provide information to help survivors make decisions as it relates to safety when a crisis occurs.

TOTAL SERVED 3.261



7,956
Child Therapy &
Counseling Hours

Children's therapy and counseling hours in the emergency shelter **more than doubled**, while Outreach experienced a 21% increase in individual and group counseling.



39,333
Safe Shelter Nights

Each month, an average of 155 people were provided safe shelter.

56 Days – the average length of stay for families in our shelter.



34,000 Community Members Reached

Women In Distress **increased** its educational programming by **100% in FY2014-2015**, reaching 34,000 community members and students.

"I know I made the right decision and am on the right path, not only for me but for my children.

Before, I had to always look behind me. Now, I'm looking forward."

-- DV Survivor

82 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR GOES BACK INTO PROVIDING CRITICAL SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

"I donate to Women In Distress because they do work I believe in and am passionate about. But they also are financially responsible, open and transparent. I can trust Women In Distress to make the most out of every dollar I give, and that's equally important to me as a donor."

--Jean Giovannelli

S FINANCIAL REPORT



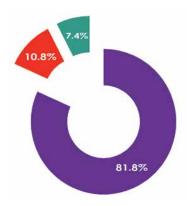




- Government Grants \$2,450,431
- Individual gifts, Corporation & Foundation Contributions \$1,312,267
- Thrift Store Revenue \$407,288
- Investment Earnings, Capital & Other Revenue \$371,847
- Special Events \$493,579
- Thrift Store and other In-Kind Donations \$925,071

EXPENSE

Total Expense = \$5,791,690



- Program Services \$4,737,081
- Fundraising \$623,295
- Management & General \$431,314

^{**}Audited financial statements for year ended June 30, 2015.**



SIGNATURE EVENTS

GOLF TOURNAMENT 11-09-15 Women In Distress brings the community together for a fun day on the links, while helping to raise awareness and critical funds to provide survivors of domestic violence with safe shelter and supportive services as they rebuild their lives.

SAFEWALKRUN 5K **2-27-16**

A fun **community tradition** that unites community leaders, families, students, professional groups, companies and many more for a 5K Run-Walk to take a step to end domestic violence.

STARFISH LUNCHEON 5-18-16 The annual Starfish luncheon, presented by Wells Fargo and JM Family Enterprises, Inc., brings together community leaders to **honor** those who have helped support Women In Distress in our efforts to keep families safe. This event gives guests an opportunity to hear first-hand from survivors about how their lives have been transformed with support from our community.

LEADERSHIP

Women In Distress's dedicated Board of Directors and Trustees work together with staff to fulfill our mission of keeping families safe. We are proud that our Board reflects our commitment to the families we serve by having members that include law enforcement representation and survivors of domestic violence.

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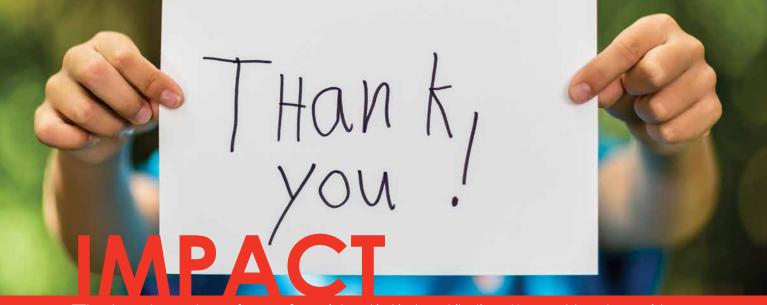
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Janet A. Boyle, In Memorium

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Thank you to our donors for your financial and in-kind contributions. You enable us to provide our services and programs to help fulfill our mission to end domestic violence abuse for everyone. While our space limitations allow us to publish only those donors who have contributed at the \$100 level and above between July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015, we sincerely appreciate all levels of support. We apologize for any unintentional errors or omissions.

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*In memoriam

Many families were kept safe this year on behalf of these individuals, thank you!

Kathy Stried

Susan Sturm

Constance and Thomas

Scott

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