

Celebrating 50 Years of Empowering Survivors

WID'S SHIPPING IN
SUPPORTS
WOMEN IN
DISTRESS

1974

- WID was started in a modest four-bedroom home by a group of concerned citizens headed by Edee Greene

1978

- A new 54-bed shelter was purchased with a generous donation from Dr. Kona & Ruth Simon and Walter & Peg Griffith

1979

- Bonnie Flynn appointed Executive Director

1983

- Congress cites WID as a model program
- Executive Director Bonnie Flynn and WID Survivor Susan Hansen testify in Congress on issues of Domestic Violence
- Federal legislation provides necessary funding for programs for Domestic Violence and homeless persons

1984

- WID's thrift store, Blooming Sales, opens in Margate, FL
- Citizens can now get a restraining order without an attorney

1987

- WID's Outreach Program opens
- National Council Against Domestic Violence established the first national toll-free domestic violence abuse hotline

1992

- State of Florida passes legislation mandating that police reports of domestic violence be shared with local shelters

1995

- WID's Children's Outreach Counseling program begins

1996

- The 78-bed Jim & Jan Moran Family Center opens in Fort Lauderdale, FL

1999

- Janet A. Boyle establishes the WID Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Broward to provide long-term funding for the agency
- WID celebrates 25 years of service to Broward County



A battered wife
finds success
and a new life

Staff photo: Susan Hansen says she owes her life to Women in Distress

Imagine, in 1974 – 50 short years ago –

Edee Greene held the hand of a young mother who had endured a brutal beating at the hands of her husband and quickly discovered that Broward County offered no emergency shelter for domestic violence victims! Just 50 years ago, victims had to navigate their own way through the abuse and trauma of domestic violence. **Imagine having to find a safe place for shelter while navigating the labyrinth of legal and court systems alone.**

Thankfully, Edee saw the lack of community resources as a challenge, not a defeat! She assembled a group of concerned citizens and created the first Broward County refuge for women, Women In Distress (WID).

The young mother now had a safe place to lay her head; however, her two children were placed in temporary foster care because WID was not licensed to accept children. The separation from her children proved unbearable for the mother and soon thereafter she returned to the abusive home with her little ones in tow. Just one week later, she was shot and murdered by her spouse as her children witnessed this unspeakable act of violence.

What started as a mission to help one became a movement! From those humble beginnings, WID has blossomed into a domestic violence agency that stands ready 24/7 365 days per year to offer safety and support to victims of domestic violence. Sadly, the desperation felt by victims today is frighteningly similar 1974.

Today help & emergency shelter is one phone call away

Your contributions continue to make an impact

See what you helped accomplish last year

50,032

Total Bed Nights of Emergency Shelter
(A Record)

12,156

Emergency Hotline Calls Answered
By WID (State of Florida)

23,728

Advocacy, Counseling, and Therapy
Hours Provided

2,031

Police Reports Related to Domestic
Violence Reviewed for Services Needed

340

Children Receiving Free & Safe Childcare
Through the Children's Enrichment Center

2011 • The new 6-acre Jim & Jan Moran Family Center opens in Deerfield Beach

2008 • New WID President & CEO Mary Riedel leads the Project SAFE Place Capital Campaign and leads the purchase of the Deerfield Beach facility

2007 • The Hal Herman Children's Fund is established by Lois Herman to serve the needs of the smallest survivors of domestic violence

2005 • Donnah's Fund is established by Ira and Sara Jane Drescher to support victims fleeing domestic violence, in memory of their daughter on the 15th anniversary of her tragic death at the hands of her husband

2001 • WID attains accreditation from the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services

2000 • New programs for children, the elderly, and the LGBT community are launched

Our mission is to stop domestic violence abuse for everyone through intervention, education, and advocacy.

... 'momentous' for Women In Distress

By TAMKA SIMMONS
that was

At least 23 women in Broward County died
last year at the hands of men who had once
charmed them, loved them -- sometimes made
them their wives.

They were men who might have been in
one whom Janet A. Boyle met while
taking summer classes to 1973
of Hawaii.

The man, a young

her right leg that took 33 stitches

She ended the relationship

When Boyle later

died in Broward

dispute

Dear Friends,

In 1974 WID founder Edee Greene searched Broward County for resources to help provide shelter for domestic violence victims and found...nothing! With a huge heart and unlimited tenacity, Edee and a group of concerned citizens created one of the first domestic violence shelters in the United States. What began as safe shelter offered through a few bedrooms in a modest home has developed, over the course of 50 years, into one of the nation's largest and most multi-faceted domestic violence agencies!

We celebrate. As we celebrate an incredible milestone — 50 years serving survivors and combating domestic violence — our hearts are full of gratitude for you, our supporters, volunteers, and advocates. Together, we have walked alongside individuals and families, transforming lives and challenging harmful systems. With your support, what began as a small initiative has grown into a movement of empowerment, education, and change.

We reflect. Reflecting on the past half-century, we honor those who came before us, the progress made, and the resilience of those who have sought help through our doors. As you review the service statistics in this report, the numbers are staggering.

Over 50,000 nights of safe shelter were provided for victims of domestic violence last year. Imagine, just 50 short years ago, victims often had no choice but to sleep on couches, in cars, on the streets or, most tragically, remain in constant fear of an abuser because there was nowhere else to go.

This year, with your support, WID provided safe shelter, therapeutic services, and support to victims, including the smallest survivors of domestic violence – children. We have expanded our emergency shelter capacity to 136 beds (and they are almost always occupied by victims), and strengthened partnerships with organizations and communities. These achievements, along with countless

others from previous years, are a testament to the power of unity, compassion, and action.

We look forward. Looking forward, we are more committed than ever to ending domestic violence. Our vision for the future includes expanding to augment our emergency shelter with longer-term transitional housing services, advocating for lasting policy change, and reaching underserved communities in new ways. Building on the foundation laid by Edee Greene and our community over the past 50 years, we are excited to pioneer bold initiatives and expand our impact.

Thank you for being part of this legacy and for joining us in this ongoing journey. With your support, we can continue to create safe and hopeful futures for survivors and their families.

Together, let's make the future even more transformative.



Linda L. Parker, Ph.D.
President and CEO



Amanda Pires
Chair Board of Directors

87¢ of every dollar raised went back to programs and services.

A key measure in our highest possible 4-star Charity Navigator rating ★★★★★

Revenue

\$11,735,871

Government Grants	\$6,738,438
Gifts/Corporate/ Foundations	\$2,220,283
Thrift Store/In-Kind	\$1,663,425
Investment Earnings	\$199,024
Special Events	\$910,080
Other	\$4,621

Expenses

\$11,328,886

Programs	\$9,767,382
General Fundraising	\$904,978
Management General	\$656,526



Chiles brings war on abuse to Broward

By CHRISTINA A. SAMUELS
And PAUL BRANKLEY-ROGERS
Herald Staff Writers

With three serious domestic violence tragedies in one day as a backdrop, Gov. Lawton Chiles visited Broward on Monday to publicize a bill he signed into law last week that makes it illegal for people with a final domestic violence injunction to own a weapon.

If there is enough evidence, a judge grants a final injunction after the accused has had a chance to tell his or her side of the story. For people under such an injunction, possessing a gun or ammunition will be a first-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

The law will take effect in July.

Domestic violence is pervasive, officials said at a ceremony Chiles attended Monday. There were three serious instances in South Florida just last Friday:

■ A young Stranahan High School student shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend, who turned the gun on himself.

■ Police said a grandson confessed to the death of his grandmother to death in Fort Lauderdale last week for her to buy crack cocaine.

■ A Miami-Dade man shot his wife, leaving her in critical condition.

Domestic violence is the direct cause of about half the homicides in which women are killed, said Broward Sheriff Ken Jenne.



Congressman touts Women in Distress as a model shelter

By PATRICK MAY
Herald Staff Writer

Democratic Congressman Austin Murphy of Pennsylvania used a Monday morning tour of a Fort Lauderdale shelter for battered women to champion a nationwide system of care for Americans struck by domestic violence.

Murphy and U.S. Rep. Mario Biaggi (D., N.Y.) were in town to visit — and heap praise on — Women in Distress of Broward, a care and counseling center in a quiet neighborhood north of the New River.

“We are treating this as crime that it is, and we are treating it as such. We are treating it as a crime that it is, and we are treating it as such.”

With his introduction of the amendment, Murphy said he hoped to broaden the act's scope to include violence parents commit on each other. He hopes to encourage places like Women in Distress, a nine-year-old agency with a \$317,000 annual budget that provides a temporary home to battered or homeless Broward women and their children.

Three serious instances of domestic violence in South Florida last Friday call attention to the problem.

Creek to provide help for abused women

By ROBERT NOLIN
STAFF WRITER

COCONUT CREEK — Women victims of domestic violence now have a safe and convenient refuge under a pilot program unique to Coconut Creek.

City commissioners at a recent meeting approved an agreement between the city's Public Safety Department and Women in Distress in which the city will provide security and counseling at its police substation on the north end of the city.

The station at 4555 Sol Press Blvd. will provide a place where women can be counseled by a domestic abuse professional provided by Women in Distress. The counselor will conduct 10 hours of sessions a week: three hours one evening, and four hours on a steady basis.

2024 • WID celebrates 50 years of keeping families safe

2023 • WID opens the Children's Enrichment Center providing childcare services to victims to assist them in working or seeking employment

2021 • WID is awarded statewide contracts to manage the Hotline, Training and Technical Assistance, and Injunctions for Protection programs for all domestic violence shelters in the state of Florida

2020 • Dr. Linda L. Parker is appointed as President and CEO

2018 • The pet shelter opens, enabling survivors to bring their pets with them to WID — addressing the second-most cited reason, after children, that survivors hesitate to leave their abuser

2025 and Beyond

WID offers comprehensive support for survivors of domestic violence, including emergency shelter; however, that averages less than three months, hardly enough time for a survivor to start over. Given the rising cost of living in South Florida, the lack of permanent housing for survivors is a huge barrier and often becomes one of the major reasons survivors return to their abusers. Transitional housing approaches have been found to reduce violent incidents and increase socioeconomic stability. **As we look to 2025 and beyond, WID will continue to meet the ever-changing needs of survivors while launching this new supportive transitional housing program to provide a longer-term solution for survivors and their families.**



...and many victims don't get restraining orders at all. In the three crimes committed Friday, none of the women had restraining orders against the men who are accused of attacking them.

Also, lawmakers are still work-

...and must convince officers of Women in Distress, a Broward refuge for abused women. "I'm glad we had legislators who saw the importance of pushing this through."

A domestic violence survivor whose first name is Cassandra told The Herald later she believes the

...never battered the partner.

But, she said, "you never know what a batterer is going to do."

"Even when the court system has prevailed" and an injunction has been issued, she said, "one of the first things a batterer does when they walk out of court is go and buy a gun."



Since 1974

Over 1 million

emergency shelter nights have been provided to victims of domestic violence in Broward

Over 500,000

emergency hotline calls have been answered

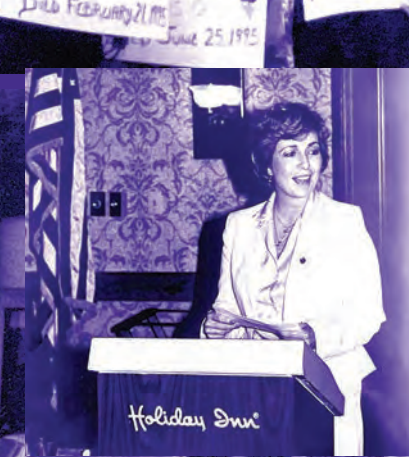


Over 1 million

hours of therapy and advocacy services delivered to to domestic violence victims

Over 1 million

community members, primarily through local schools, have been trained on healthy relationships to prevent domestic violence before it appears



Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
Tallahassee, Florida



Holiday Inn

THRIFT SHOP

WID BLOOMING SALES



Our Impact Partners

Our community is a source of strength and safety for survivors. Support from our community leaders and Impact Partners is critical to keeping families safe from domestic violence.

Bank of America

Broward County

Colony West Women's Golf Group

The Community Foundation of Broward

Florida Department of Children and Families

Donnah's Fund

The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation

Fritch Foundation

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WOMEN in DISTRESS

Jim & Jan Moran Family Center

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For more info go to www.widbroward.org/donate