

HONORING OUR PAST. CELEBRATING THE PRESENT. SHAPING THE FUTURE.



2019 ANNUAL REPORT





In 2019, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) celebrated its 40th anniversary.

This milestone represents so much: Perseverance, hard work, continuous ambition, and the celebration of four decades of a united, statewide alliance in the movement to end domestic violence.

It was a year of reflection, where we paid homage to those who paved the way and established the strong foundation of the movement as we know it today. Though the RICADV was founded 40 years ago, this work was started many years earlier by the passion of volunteers who provided services to victims. Staff members from the state's first domestic violence shelters and a batterer intervention program formed the RICADV to centralize their efforts in their work against violence. These changemakers had the foresight to understand that together, as a coalition, we are stronger.

This year was also one of change, with the first full year of new leadership and the reorganization of the RICADV staff structure. This year, the RICADV and its network of member agencies served over 10,000 victims of domestic violence in Rhode Island. We continued to close gaps, address injustices, and keep survivors at the center – the heart – of everything we do. We supported our beloved community, lifting up the rights of all people – particularly those most marginalized in our society.

By rooting ourselves in the empowerment of others, we will build a better world for each other, our children, and generations to come. By honoring our past and the legacies of those who came before us, we challenge ourselves to think about the legacy we want to leave behind.

At the RICADV, we envision and work toward a world free of violence for all, and we are closer to that world every day. The past is a reflection of who we were, the present is a reflection of who we are, and the future represents all we can be and what we can accomplish - together.

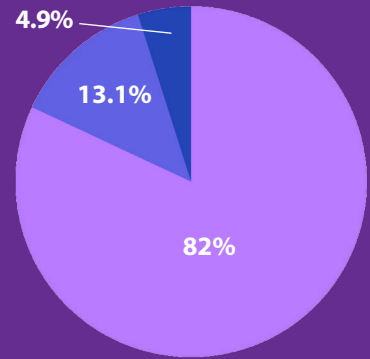
Sincerely,

Tonya Harris
Executive Director

Janet Marcantonio
President
Board of Directors

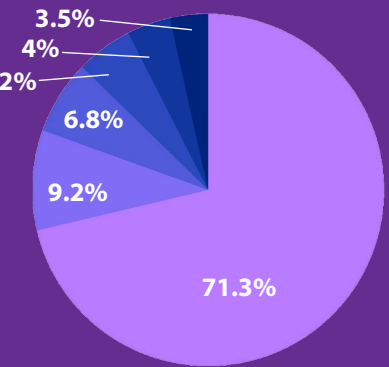


REVENUE TOTAL:
\$4,720,797



82% Federal funds: \$3,876,774
13.1% State funds: \$616,723
4.9% Foundations, businesses, individuals, and other: \$227,300

EXPENSES TOTAL:
\$4,663,442



71.3% Pass through for direct services: \$3,327,163
9.2% Communications: \$429,110
6.8% Public policy: \$318,492
5.2% Prevention: \$241,056
4% Management and fundraising: \$186,481
3.5% SOAR: \$161,140

FINANCIAL REPORT

The RICADV ended the fiscal year in a strong financial position, closing its financial books on June 30, 2019, with a positive change in unrestricted net assets from operations of \$57,355.

- Total operating revenues and support were \$4,720,797. Eighty-two percent of the funds came from federal grants and contracts, 13.1 percent came from the State of Rhode Island, and 4.9 percent came from foundations, corporate support, individual donations, community groups, dues, and training fees.
- Total operating expenses were \$4,663,442. Of the total expenses, 71.3 percent, or \$3,327,163, consisted of funds passed through our member agencies, primarily for the provision of direct services to victims of domestic violence.

The RICADV conducts an annual audit in accordance with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133.

“Advocacy services were essential in my survival journey.” – Damaris, SOAR



In May, the RICADV hosted Community Advocacy Day at the Rhode Island State House with SOAR and Ten Men, where supporters, advocates, survivors, and community members put their voices into action, spreading the word about the Protect All Children Act.



SERVICES

Throughout the year, the RICADV’s network of member agencies worked tirelessly to advocate and support those in our communities who are impacted by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking. These organizations provide a vast array of services including emergency shelter, support groups, counseling, and assistance with the legal system. We thank their staff, board members, and volunteers for their ongoing commitment to serving survivors of abuse and their children.

Full Member Agencies

- Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center
- Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County
- Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center
- Sojourner House
- Women’s Resource Center

Affiliate Member Agencies

- Center for Southeast Asians
- Crossroads Rhode Island
- Family Service of Rhode Island
- Progreso Latino
- YWCA Rhode Island

2019 MAJOR FUNDING SOURCES

- Allstate Foundation
- Catholic Charity Fund
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (DELTA Impact)
- Rhode Island Bar Foundation (IOLTA Program)
- Rhode Island Department of Human Services
- Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- State of Rhode Island
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
- U.S. Department of Justice, Victims of Crime Act
- U.S. Department of Justice, Violence Against Women Act

STATEWIDE STATISTICS

- 10,134** individual victims of domestic violence received help in 2019.
- 405** adults and children stayed in shelters/safe homes.
- 140** adults and children lived in transitional housing.
- 2,969** victims were assisted by a court advocate in obtaining a restraining order.
- 400** victims of domestic violence participated in a support or educational group.
- 491** victims of domestic violence received clinical/counseling services.
- 601** children who have witnessed domestic violence received services.
- 15,623** helpline/hotline calls were answered.

40TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS

- Agility Partners
- Alliance Security
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield of R.I.
- Capital United Realty, LLC
- Dave’s Marketplace
- Nixon Peabody, LLC
- Pawtucket Credit Union

Below: Robyn, SOAR member, shared her story and experience while testifying in support of the RICADV's priority bill, the Protect All Children Act. The legislation, which passed in 2019, includes all children on restraining orders, regardless of their relation to the abuser.



Below: The RICADV policy and advocacy team collaborated with coalitions from multiple states at the Northeast Regional Coalition Policy Meeting in September. The groups discussed legislative and systems change policy efforts, trends in domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, and social justice work in the region.



POLICY AND ADVOCACY

In 2019, the top priority legislation of the RICADV and SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships) passed with enthusiastic support in the R.I. General Assembly, and was signed into law by Governor Gina Raimondo. The Protect All Children Act allows survivors to include any of their minor children in a R.I. Family Court domestic violence restraining order, regardless of the children's relationship to the abuser.

We thank SOAR members for shining a spotlight on this issue and spearheading the passage of this bill. We also thank our legislative champions, Senator Maryellen Goodwin and Representative Chris Blazejewski, who fiercely advocated for this change, continuing their leadership in domestic violence prevention. We extend our gratitude to Chief Judge Michael Forte and the R.I. Family Court for their support throughout this process.

In May, the RICADV partnered with Family Court for a specialized domestic violence training for judges and court personnel, focused on child custody cases in domestic violence matters. We were thrilled to invite national experts in domestic abuse dynamics and system response - including Lundy Bancroft, Kristine Lizardas, and Judge Shaun Floerke - to facilitate trainings and present several invaluable resources.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY

In December, the RICADV joined survivors, the R.I. delegation, the R.I. Police Chiefs' Association, and Day One at a press conference to urge the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), a lifesaving bill. VAWA provides communities resources to help victims of domestic and sexual violence. The reauthorization of the bill would strengthen protections for survivors and their families, including members of the LGBTQ community, tribal communities and immigrants, reducing domestic violence homicides, keeping shelter doors open and preventing domestic and sexual violence before it starts, through prevention and education programs.

**“Know your voice can make a difference and create change.”
- Robyn, SOAR**



The RICADV affirms that all people have the right to live free from fear and violence. We are committed to dismantling oppression in all its forms; it is not a separate part of our work but the lens that informs how we do our work. It is at the heart of moving our mission forward. To create a world where all people can thrive and everyone knows peace, we must protect equality and agency for women and girls. It is in this spirit that we advocate for safe, affordable housing, protections for immigrants and people who are undocumented, access to reproductive health care, strengthening economic support for families, and other social justice issues.



Left: From left are Chief Brian Sullivan, president of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association, Judith Earle, executive director of the Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center, Senator Jack Reed, Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence Executive Director Tonya Harris, Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships (SOAR) member Zaida Hernandez, Day One Executive Director Peg Langhammer and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse at the VAWA reauthorization press conference.

SOAR

SISTERS OVERCOMING ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

In 2019, SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships) celebrated its 30th anniversary, and survivor taskforce members continued to be leaders in advocacy and legislative change, public awareness efforts, and leadership development.

Throughout April, survivors shared digital stories about financial abuse and hosted an event series titled, "Women Talking Money," encouraging survivors to learn about finances.

In May, SOAR welcomed Lundy Bancroft, domestic violence expert, to facilitate a workshop for survivors and their support network to explore ways to help children overcome harmful effects of witnessing violence. Throughout Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, SOAR inspired communities across the state through speaking engagements and digital stories focused on their experiences and how to raise awareness, support survivors, and prevent abusive behaviors for the next generation.

**"To end violence, we need to understand it
- by listening to survivors."**

- Patricia, SOAR



TRAINING

The RICADV, SOAR, and our member agencies provided training on domestic violence and related topics throughout Rhode Island in 2019. We delivered 927 presentations to 16,098 participants statewide, as well as 660 presentations to 11,019 participants at local schools, colleges, and universities.

The RICADV's 2019 training calendar series incorporated the expertise of our affiliate members and included sessions on trauma-informed care for children affected by domestic violence, enhancing core advocacy skills, and legislative advocacy.

**"Knowledge can open a person's eyes to
learn how to best support survivors."**

- Cortney, SOAR



Above: RICADV Director of Policy and Advocacy John Wesley, Chief Judge Shaun Floerke, RICADV Community Engagement Specialist Brandi Gbemisola, Legal Policy Director of the Battered Women's Justice Project Kristine Lizdas, RICADV Community Engagement and Communications Director Carmen Recalde-Russo, and RICADV Executive Director Tonya Harris collaborated for a training with the Rhode Island District Court.

Left: SOAR members and RICADV staff members pose with Lundy Bancroft, domestic violence expert, after a workshop organized by SOAR. The session focused on supporting children who have witnessed abuse.

Below: SOAR celebrated grassroots advocacy and months of hard work as the Protect All Children Act was signed into R.I. law in June, allowing all children to be included on temporary restraining orders, regardless of their relationship to abusers.



Right: In September, SOAR members traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence's Voices in Action conference, where advocates networked with other leaders in the movement.

PREVENTION

With funding from our DELTA Impact grant through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we are engaging men and boys as allies to prevent intimate partner violence (IPV). In April, the RICADV held its first "Community Conversation" facilitated by Ten Men, our statewide IPV primary prevention initiative. This first-of-its-kind event focused on healthy masculinity and bystander action, intersectional oppressions, the impact of violence on children, and healing.

In 2019, Ten Men alumni were active bystanders, creating needed social change. Focused on elevating the role of men in preventing abuse, Christian Andrade hosted several presentations at his workplace this year, and Andrew Mullen led a panel conversation during worship service at his church.

Domestic Violence Prevention Fund (DVPF) Implementation Project grantees Progreso Latino, Sojourner House, and YWCA Rhode Island completed projects in 2019 and presented their three-year outcomes. We are proud of their work helping break the cycle of violence and inequity in Rhode Island, and we continue learning what can be accomplished through the DVPF and how this work improves the IPV primary prevention field.

"We must prevent abuse before it starts for our children and future generations."

- Haley, SOAR

Left: Representatives of DVPF Implementation Project grantees - David Veliz of Progreso Latino, Alexandra Castillo of Sojourner House, and Aimee Davidson of YWCA Rhode Island - presented their three-year outcomes, showing their work to break the cycle of violence and inequality in R.I.



Above: Ten Men alum Andrew Mullen and Men's Engagement Coordinator Lee Clasper-Torch joined the Reverend Justin R. Lester in a conversation at Congdon Street Baptist Church about the role men can play in ending domestic violence in our communities.

Below: Ten Men alum Christian Andrade speaks to his colleagues during one of many presentations about Ten Men this year.



In 2019, the RICADV was featured in the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV) story series about lessons learned from the CDC's DELTA FOCUS grant program, including "Engaging Youth in IPV Prevention" and "Engaging Men and Boys as IPV Prevention Allies." To help bring the stories to life, RICADV prevention staff participated in a national podcast with NRC DV Radio in August and presented on a national webinar with PreventIPV in September.



"We work to disrupt systems of oppression that create barriers to services, safety, and justice, and are the root causes of violence and inequality. We cannot end domestic violence without interrupting these systems that prevent all of us from thriving. We invite you to imagine with us, to share your experiences, your ideas, your wisdom to help create an economically just Rhode Island that focuses on survivors and those disproportionately impacted by violence."
-Tonya Harris, RICADV executive director

PUBLIC AWARENESS

In October, we re-launched our Domestic Violence Awareness Month campaign, Hidden Meanings, with a new look and maximized visibility and engagement throughout Rhode Island. The campaign educated the community about subtle tactics abusers use to gain power and control in relationships, and called on Rhode Islanders to come together to say “no more” to domestic violence.

In English and Spanish, survivor stories were shared through a social media video series #SurvivorStories, public service announcements were broadcast through Pandora, Spotify, and several R.I. radio stations, and billboards and ads were displayed across the state – including on the scoreboard and digital signage at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center, across social media platforms, and in over 50 newspapers and publications including *The Providence Sunday Journal*. SOAR and Ten Men members were also interviewed for multiple news stories, shedding light on how domestic abuse is not always obvious.

During Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month in February 2019, we created and launched the Love Is Not Control campaign in collaboration with the Providence Youth Student Movement. The campaign promoted healthy relationships and spread awareness about teen dating abuse, culminating with “Love On Ice,” an event at the public skating rink in downtown Providence. We also partnered with the Center for Southeast Asians, Youth Pride Inc., Sojourner House, and Providence Public Schools to make this campaign come to life.



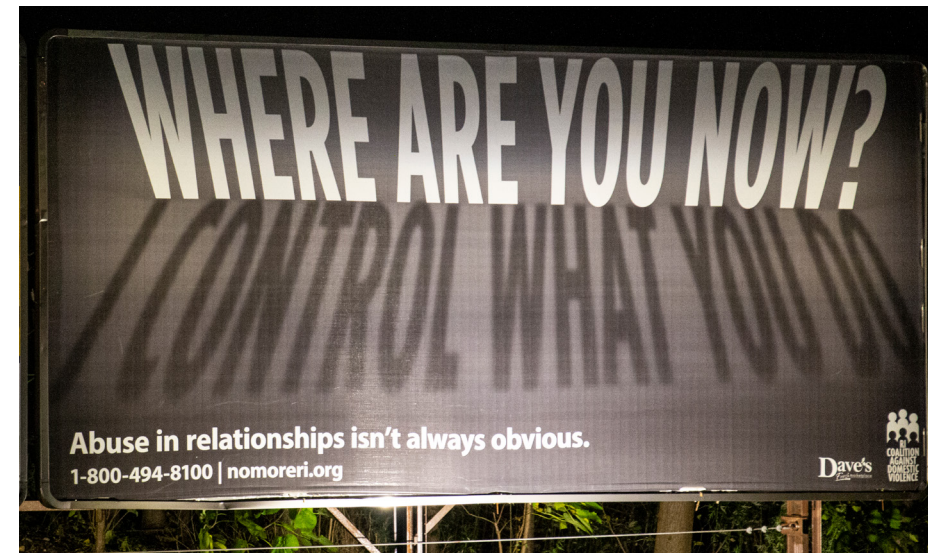
Above: Youth groups and community partners joined the RICADV for “Love On Ice,” held at the public skating rink in downtown Providence.



“I speak with hope that through my story and many other stories, we create compassion.”

-Zaida, SOAR

Right: Carmen Recalde-Russo, center, speaks to a group at the Coalition Messaging Meeting in New Orleans, L.A. Members of the RICADV communications team participated in the conference in August, hosted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence.



Throughout the year, we organized several events including press conferences, and were highlighted by news media outlets including WPRI 12’s “12 Gives Back” program. This segment showcased the work done by the “small, but mighty” staff at RICADV, as noted by reporter Melissa Sardelli.

The RICADV also received several inquiries from news media personnel – locally, nationally, and internationally – about how to best cover domestic violence in the news and sensitively talk with survivors. We also responded to an array of news media requests from print, TV, web, and radio reporters and editors for interviews and information about domestic violence cases, related stories, and resources available for survivors.

In July, members of the RICADV communications team traveled to Chicago to facilitate a news media training for survivors, preparing them to become spokespeople for the Allstate Foundation Purple Purse national campaign that aims to support survivors of financial abuse. The RICADV communications team also supported the survivors during a day-long filming session for the campaign.



RICADV CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

In October, the RICADV hosted its 40th anniversary celebration, commemorating decades of unity and a centralized alliance in the movement to end domestic violence with advocates, allies, and community members. Nearly 300 guests attended the event, where more than 30 advocates, staff members, volunteers, and survivors were recognized for their many years of service.



OUR MISSION

The purpose of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) is to eliminate domestic violence in Rhode Island. Our mission is to support and enhance the work of our member agencies and to provide leadership on the issue of domestic violence.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the members of our staff and board of directors who transitioned from the RICADV in 2019-2020:

Staff: Desiree Obimpe
Board: Lori DiPersio, Jennifer Meade

We would like to thank our interns, Dee Nedder and Gabriella Mamet. We also thank Giselle Gallo, graphic designer, for her creative vision and tireless work on several RICADV projects this year. We would especially like to recognize, honor, and celebrate "Legacy Award" recipients, staff members and volunteers who have committed their lives to ending domestic violence. The "Legacy Award" celebrates individuals who have been committed to supporting the work and services of the RICADV and our member agencies for 20 years or more.

We dedicate our 2019 annual report to Buky Folami, who served on the RICADV board from 2011 to 2018, sharing his expertise and passion to help create a future without domestic violence. He will be deeply missed.

IN MEMORIAM

The RICADV would like to honor the lives of Rhode Island victims of domestic violence homicides in 2019: Brandi Berg, Berta Bogran Hudson, Lauren Ise, Clark Murray Sr., and Rachael Rene.

DESIGN CONCEPT CREATED BY CINDI EMERY,
ANNUAL REPORT LAYOUT DESIGN CREATED BY GISELLE GALLO
WITH SUPPORT FROM RICADV STAFF

STAFF

Tonya Harris
Executive Director

Brittany Ballantyne
Communications Manager

Lee Clasper-Torch
Men's Engagement Coordinator

Ian Colomer
Policy Specialist

Krista D'Amico
Director of Prevention

Sara Eckhoff
Law Enforcement Training Coordinator

Elissa May Franklin
SOAR Coordinator

Brandi Gbemisola
Community Engagement Specialist

Ezra Guay
Administrative Assistant

Alexandra Huzyk
Community Engagement Assistant

Bethany Larrañaga
Communications Associate

Carmen Recalde-Russo
Director of Community Engagement & Communications

Lucy Rios
Deputy Director

Cynthia Roberts
Empowerment Evaluator

John Wesley
Director of Policy & Advocacy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janet Marcantonio
President

Ramona Rodriguez-Mejia
Vice President

Vanessa Volz
Treasurer

Michelle Wilcox
Secretary

Kyle Bennett

Judith Earle

Mak Falaye

Rilwan Feyisitan, Jr.

Toni Marie Gomes

Terrence Green

Neal McNamara

Mary Roda

Damaris Roman

This publication was supported by Federal Grant Number 2017-DW-AX-0024 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, a component of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice (USDJ). Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

**RHODE ISLAND COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**
422 POST ROAD, SUITE 102
WARWICK, RI 02888-1539

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2099
Providence, RI



401-467-9940



www.ricadv.org



ricadv@ricadv.org

MEMBERS OF THE RHODE ISLAND COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



**A Task Force of
the RICADV**

CENTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIANS | CROSSROADS RI | FAMILY SERVICE OF RI | PROGRESO LATINO | YWCA RI