



2021 Annual Report

Showing our strength through community connectedness

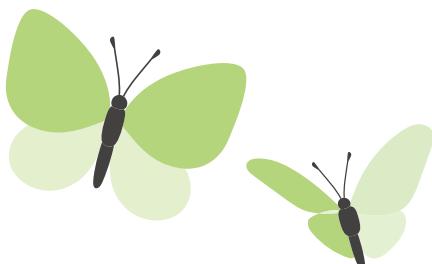


Reflections

Our community is compelling in that not only do we recognize the need for transformational change, but we have the collective power, heart and wisdom to make that possible. In 2021, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) doubled down on our steadfast advocacy efforts to lift the needs of victims not only in the midst of crisis, but beyond – to support them as they rebuild their lives free from violence and thrive.

With a focus on envisioning a brighter future where domestic violence and oppression no longer exist, we deepened our commitment to racial equity in many ways. We partnered with organizations led by and for people of color working on community-led initiatives to prevent violence, added a position at the RICADV concentrating on fair housing and economic justice and launched the Domestic Violence Advocates of Color Leadership Academy, where Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals within our movement nurtured one another's inherent leadership and learned strategies to foster collective change. With renewed commitment, we began the process of re-examining racism at the RICADV's Board of Directors level, and look forward to carrying this work into 2022 and beyond.

The strengths of our community shined through during the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Advocates continued working around the clock to support survivors of domestic violence and their families despite many obstacles, including severe funding cuts that left domestic violence programs needing to do more with less. It is imperative to honor the efforts of the many



advocates who poured their energy into ensuring victims and their children had support, and to recognize the struggles and courage of survivors during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today and well beyond the pandemic, we must remember that as a community, we need to strengthen survivors' safety nets and increase prevention efforts by investing in sustainable funding for survivors' core needs.

We are all intrinsically connected to one another, made even more evident as we navigated through another year of the pandemic. We did so through our perseverance and dedication, and our collective movement's journey of creating a world where all people can flourish and live without fear. It is our belief that not only is a better world possible, but that we are the ones called to create it.

Forward, together!

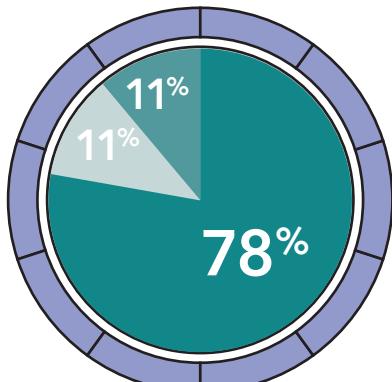


Lucy Rios
Interim executive director

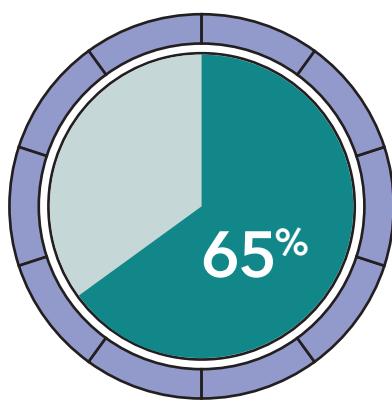
Lucy Rios



Financial Report



OPERATING REVENUE
\$5,612,876



OPERATING EXPENSE
\$5,570,010

65% pass-through to full member agencies

Fiscal Year Financial Position

The RICADV ended the fiscal year in a strong financial position, closing its financial books on June 30, 2021, with a positive change in unrestricted net assets from operations of \$42,866.

Total operating revenues and support were \$5,612,876. Seventy-eight percent of the funds came from federal grants and contracts, 11% came from the State of Rhode Island and 11% came from foundations, corporate support, individual donations, community groups, dues and training fees.

Total operating expenses were \$5,570,010. Of the total expenses, 65%, or \$3,629,372, consisted of funds passed through the RICADV's full 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 Uniform Grant Guidance.

OPERATING REVENUE

78% Federal grants and contracts

11% State of Rhode Island

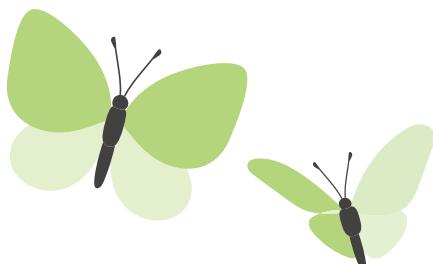
11% Foundations, corporate support, individual donations, community groups, dues and training fees

REVENUE TOTAL

\$5,612,876

EXPENSE TOTAL

\$5,570,010 - 65% pass-through to full member agencies



Services

Throughout the year, the RICADV's network of member agencies worked to advocate for and support those in our communities who are impacted by domestic violence, dating abuse, 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

Women's Resource Center

Affiliate Member Agencies

Crossroads Rhode Island

Center for Southeast Asians

Family Service of Rhode Island

McAuley Ministries

Progreso Latino

YWCA Rhode Island

2021 Major Funding Sources

Allstate Foundation

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (DELTA Impact)

Cox Communications

Rhode Island Bar Foundation (IOLTA Program)

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families

Rhode Island Department of Human Services

Rhode Island Foundation

State of Rhode Island

United Way 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

Women's Fund of Rhode Island



Statewide Statistics



8,523

individual victims of domestic violence received help in 2021

231

adults and children stayed in shelters/safe homes

66

adults and children lived in transitional housing

2,755

victims were assisted by a court advocate in obtaining a restraining order

115

victims participated in a support or educational group

457

victims of domestic violence received clinical/counseling services

254

children who witnessed domestic violence received services

13,851

helpline/hotline calls were answered

42,170

individual services were provided by advocates



Data collected above represents the RICADV's four full member agencies, the Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center, Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County, Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center and Women's Resource Center as well as the Crossroads Domestic Violence Program.

Policy and Advocacy

Federal Advocacy

The RICADV, the RICADV's survivor task force SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships) and the RICADV's member agencies advocated tirelessly for the passage of the "VOCA Fix" legislation, a bill Congress passed in July that was signed into law by President Biden. This will replenish the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding and eventually secure billions of dollars in domestic and sexual violence victim services funding - which has seen devastating cuts in recent years - impacting programs in R.I. This legislation will help local victim advocacy programs as advocates respond to the growing demand for lifesaving services, and avoid more drastic cuts to these lifelines.

State Advocacy

We celebrated critical legislative victories in R.I., making our state more supportive of survivors and their families. Our wins included passage of the Fight for \$15 and Fair Pay bills, the Confidentiality of Health Care Communications and Information Act to protect survivors' private health information, raising the "RI Works" cash assistance benefits for the first time in 30 years, new laws to increase access to safe and affordable housing and the passage of the Nursing Home Staffing and Quality Care Act to provide equitable and healthy conditions for nursing home workers - who are predominantly women and disproportionately people of color.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating effects on victims. The lack of adequate state investment in safe, affordable housing, supportive services and prevention of domestic abuse puts Rhode Islanders at risk. The RICADV requested that the state invest a meaningful portion of the federal American Rescue Plan Act funds into critical programs and services to address the urgent needs of domestic violence victims and their children.

SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships)

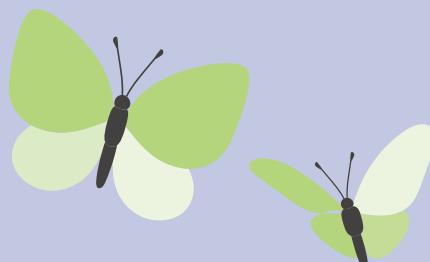
SOAR members developed creative ways to engage in public awareness efforts and systems change work from home, despite the continued challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

SOAR members continued their activism using technology as their platform to reach out to the community, and spoke on virtual panels and at online events, wrote letters to the editor for news publications and published blog posts on the SOAR website.

SOAR members also lent their voices to national efforts to pass the "VOCA Fix" legislation and participated in national calls-to-action, including the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) Advocacy Days Conference.

The SOAR task force members met with our congressional delegation to speak about the needs of survivors.

This year also marked the return of "Behind Closed Doors," an award-winning play written and performed by members of SOAR. In partnership with the Trinity Repertory Company, SOAR members worked to adjust the 15-women play into a virtual Zoom performance. The performance took place in May and drew in nearly 200 viewers.



Community Engagement

The RICADV continued providing online webinars, making these accessible to a broad audience including advocates from across the country. Our continued partnership with the Women's Resource Center, Progreso Latino, the Center for Southeast Asians, the Refugee Dream Center and Tri-Town Community Action Agency's D/deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind Victim of Crime Advocacy Program provided us the opportunity to reach out to members of different marginalized communities to raise awareness about domestic violence and financial abuse, thanks to funding from The Allstate Foundation.

In March, the RICADV provided technical assistance to the Newport Art Museum for a photo exhibit and panel on domestic violence. In partnership with the museum and award-winning photographer Donna Ferrato, the RICADV organized a community conversation to discuss the realities of domestic violence locally, featuring individuals from SOAR and the RICADV as panelists.

The Domestic Violence Advocates of Color (DVAC) connects domestic violence advocates across the state who identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC) to strengthen their leadership and learn strategies to impact collective change.

This year, the RICADV received a grant from the Women's Fund of Rhode Island to develop a leadership academy in partnership with the Women of Color Network, Inc. Twenty-nine advocates and survivors of color participated in a 6-month training academy to advance their skills in leadership, civic engagement and economic self-sufficiency. Participants met once a month with BIPOC leaders from across the country who facilitated workshops and discussions about topics ranging from cultural norms, internalized racism and decision making to personal resilience and facilitation.

Public Awareness

The RICADV's critical communications work in 2021 ensured the needs of domestic violence victims and their families were not forgotten as the state began to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Our media work led to maintaining meaningful local, national and international news media coverage, shifting the narrative to highlight not only the immediate crises survivors and their children face during the pandemic, but also long-term impacts that must be addressed - including access to safe, affordable housing as a haven free of abuse.

The RICADV's communications efforts included countless hours of advocacy with partners, community organizations and elected officials coordinating events, organizing press conferences with legislators and developing a plethora of materials to ring the alarm about the drastic Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) cuts and the need to invest in survivors' safety needs through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Public Awareness

News media

In April 2021, the RICADV led a news media training for reporters, editors and various advocates and officials in Oklahoma. During the training, we shared best practices for media reporting to minimize harm, address misconceptions and better educate the public.

Campaigns

This year, the RICADV worked on several statewide public awareness campaigns, including the Domestic Violence Awareness Month "Know the Signs" campaign – focusing on the importance of the community in responding to and preventing abuse – which included print and digital ads across the state, a video PSA, various interviews and a virtual panel.

Web

The RICADV launched a redesigned website, www.NoMoreRI.org, showcasing available resources, videos, campaign materials and tools for active bystanders, and officially launched a new accessibility feature on all RICADV websites as well as the statewide Helpline site. Content is now available in over 100 languages, and viewers can utilize devices including a dictionary, read-aloud feature and display customization for sensory needs.



Prevention

The RICADV continued our primary prevention strategies funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to stop domestic violence before it starts, including educating decision makers about strengthening economic supports policies for R.I. families. By ensuring all people have access to living wage jobs, education, affordable housing and transportation, nutritious food and green, open spaces including parks, we can decrease the likelihood domestic violence will happen in the first place.



Collaboration

We continued supporting the Women's Resource Center, the backbone agency of the Newport Health Equity Zone (HEZ), through our CDC funding to increase urban green spaces. The HEZ empowers residents to advocate at the city level to ensure their voices are heard in the plans and decisions affecting their lives. In 2021, a resident advisory group shared their priorities, including green, open space, with city officials to make sure economic redevelopment of Newport's North End benefits current residents and avoids housing displacement.



Engagement

The eighth cohort of Ten Men began in June, meeting monthly for a year to deepen their knowledge, build skills and cultivate peer support and accountability to be active bystanders. We held virtual gatherings with Ten Men alumni to stay connected, and we engaged alumni to participate in media interviews and community presentations.



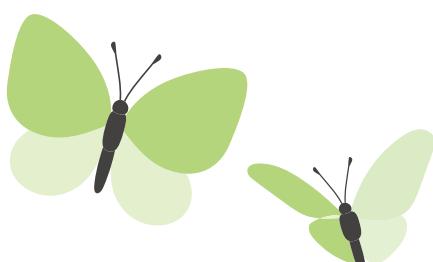
Community

Administered by the RICADV, the Deborah DeBare Domestic Violence Prevention Fund (DVPF) supported prevention projects led by ARISE (Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education), Nowell Academy, Progreso Latino, Sojourner House and Youth In Action in 2021.



Change

In October, we launched the Voices of Change video series in collaboration with partners ARISE, Progreso Latino, SISTA FIRE and Youth In Action. The videos highlight each community-based organization's work to change harmful conditions, policies and systems and build just, equitable communities.



Antiracism Work

We believe systems of oppression not only create barriers to services, safety and justice – they are the root causes of violence and inequity. As such, the RICADV aspires to be an anti-oppression organization, committed to dismantling white supremacy and oppression in all its forms, including racism, sexism, classism, anti-Semitism, heterosexism, ableism, ageism, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia and xenophobia.

Aspiring to be an anti-oppression organization 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. From our legislative advocacy, where we focus not only on domestic violence legislation but on policies that improve quality of life for everyone, to our primary prevention and community engagement strategies that center on those disproportionately impacted by violence and oppression, we are committed to centering the voices of survivors and catalyzing change that leads to more just, inclusive and healthy communities for all people.



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 who transitioned from the RICADV in 2021-2022:

Staff: Taylor DelTufo, Elissa May Franklin, Brandi Gbemisola, Tonya King, Bethany Larrañaga, Brandie Leach, Carmen Recalde-Russo

We would like to thank our interns, Daphney Coriolan, Stacey Hill and Luke Montalbano. We also thank Loretta Kennedy, art director, for her creative vision and steadfast work on several RICADV projects this year.



We dedicate our 2021 annual report to Tonya King, in recognition of her graceful and courageous leadership. Tonya began working at the National Network to End Domestic Violence in 2022 after serving as the RICADV's executive director for several years.

Staff

Lucy Rios, *interim executive director*
Brittany Ballantyne, *communications manager*
Ian Colomer, *policy and housing coordinator*
Krista D'Amico, *director of prevention*
Sara Eckhoff, *law enforcement training coordinator*
Michele Marques-Pacheco, *director of finance*
Devon Pinkus, *men's engagement coordinator*
Cynthia Roberts, *evaluator*
Elaine Stringer, *administrative assistant*
John Wesley, *director of policy and advocacy*



2021 Board of Directors

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Jessica Walsh, secretary
Jim Berson
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Mak Falaye
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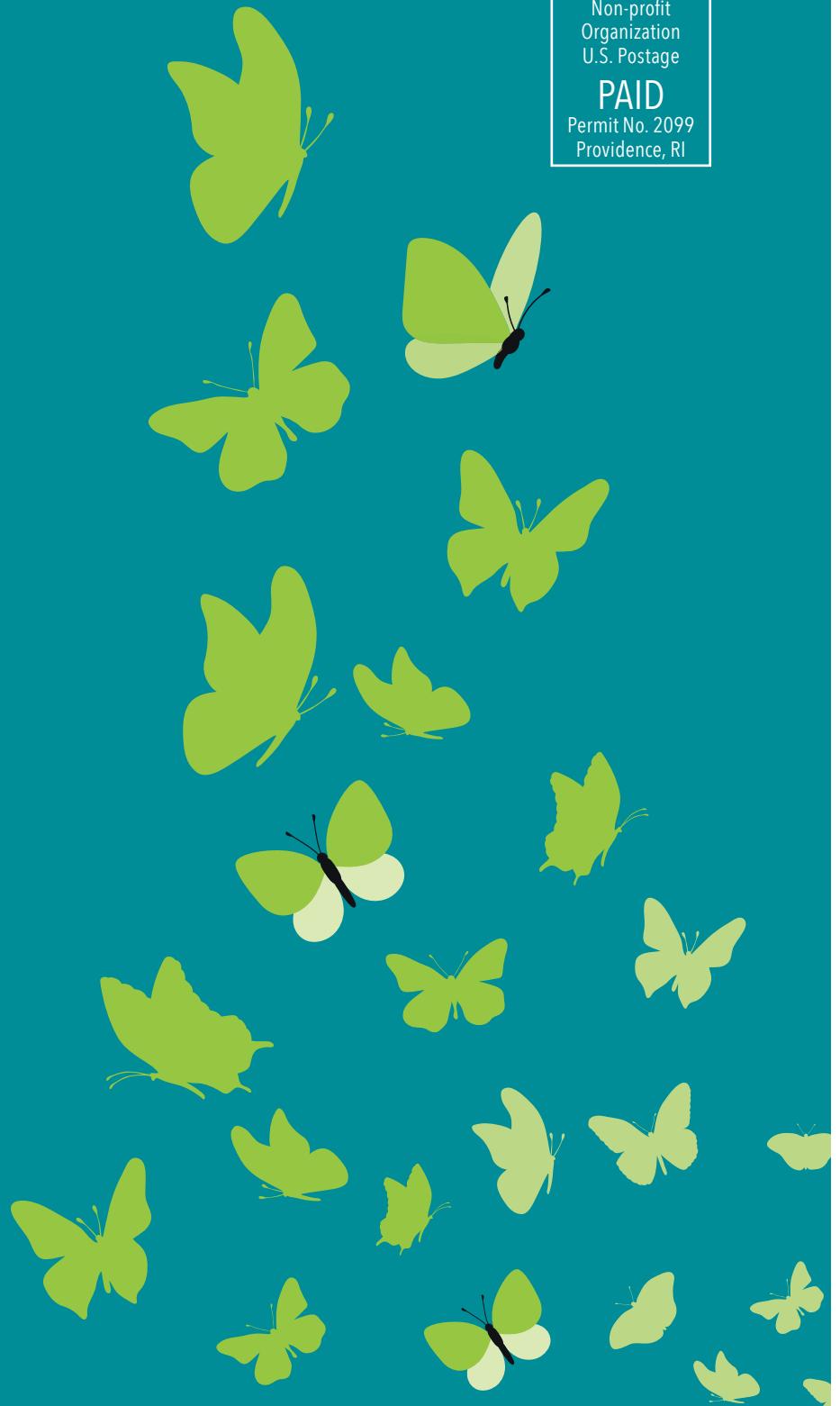
In Memoriam

The RICADV would like to honor lives of Rhode Island victims of domestic violence homicides in 2021, Adam Castonguay, Marcia Hughes and Kenneth McClain, as well as Ten Men alum Dave Joseph, who passed away this year.

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A Task Force of
the RICADV