

BUILDING

Together

2023 Annual Report



Reflection



Lucy Rios

Executive Director
Rhode Island Coalition Against
Domestic Violence

Lucy Rios

Building a better world is not only possible, it is happening. The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence held this vision – of a safer, more united, more just world – front-and-center throughout 2023 as we worked together with our member agencies, the survivor task force SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships), our allies and supporters, our legislative champions, and our state and national partners. We worked closely with survivor leaders to pass laws and secure resources to address their priorities, and we made significant progress, **together**.

Building on our legislative successes, we worked with survivors and our member agencies to identify a new legislative priority: preventing abusive litigation. Together, we educated decision makers and supported advocates and SOAR members to deliver powerful testimony in the halls of the State House, fostering effective collaboration with our partners and elected leaders. In the end, we celebrated the passage of a bill that increases options for survivors and gives our systems another tool to hold abusers accountable– a win we were only able to achieve **together**.

Building a world where we can prevent domestic violence before it starts is also central to our mission. In March 2023, we released a new publication, *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence in Rhode Island*. It outlines three priorities to build safe, connected communities and invites community members to envision a future free from violence. We spent the year growing our prevention partnerships with youth-serving organizations, the RI State Leadership Team for Prevention, Ten Men members, and other community partners, including the Refugee Dream Center and Youth in Action's Ten Young Men program. Our work to break the cycle of abuse is built on deep relationships in the community, from us collaborating and moving our mission forward **together**.

Building the public's knowledge about domestic violence helps make resources more accessible to victims and empowers our communities to intervene. We created two new public awareness campaigns in 2023. In June, we launched the "Masculinity is ____" campaign to help our communities redefine what healthy masculinity looks like. For national Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, we launched the new "1 in 3 is One of Us" campaign, developed alongside survivors from SOAR and showing what we can achieve **together**.

We chose this theme of "building together" for our 2023 Annual Report because we spent the year working in community with our partners to forge a future where survivors are heard, and domestic violence is prevented. In the face of so much change, we remain unwavering and full of hope as we move closer to the world we've been reimagining.

Let's continue the work of building, together.



Jim Berson

Board President
Rhode Island Coalition Against
Domestic Violence

Jim Berson



2023 FUNDING: REVENUES AND SUPPORT

FEDERAL GRANTS & CONTRACTS

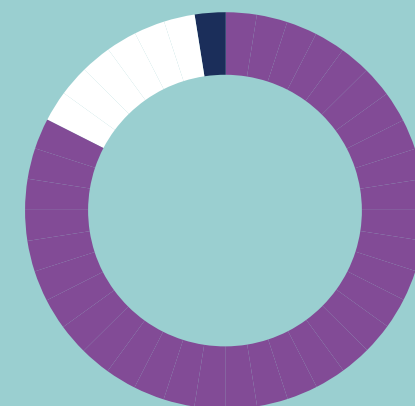
79%

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

16%

FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATE SUPPORT,
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS, COMMUNITY
GROUPS, DUES, & TRAINING FEES

5%



FINANCIAL REPORT



The RICADV ended our fiscal year in a strong financial position, closing on June 30, 2023, with a positive change of **\$57,407** in unrestricted net assets from operations.

Our total revenues and support were **\$5,242,184**. **Seventy-nine percent** of these funds came from federal grants and contracts, **16%** came from the State of Rhode Island, and **5%** came from foundations, corporate support, individual donations, community groups, dues, and training fees.

Our total expenses were **\$5,176,759**. Of our total expenses, **69%**, or **\$3,582,327**, consisted of funds passed through to our member agencies, primarily for them to provide direct services to victims and survivors of domestic violence.

The RICADV conducts an annual audit in accordance with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget Uniform Grant Guidance.

\$5,242,184
REVENUE TOTAL

\$3,582,327
FUNDS PASSED
THROUGH TO
OUR MEMBER
AGENCIES

\$5,176,759
EXPENSE TOTAL

2023 MAJOR FUNDING SOURCES

RI Department of Human Services,
Family Violence Option Advocacy Program

RI Department of Human Services,
Family Violence Prevention and Services Act

RI Department of Human Services,
Social Services Block Grant

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
Family Violence Prevention and Services Act

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
Family Violence Prevention and Services Act,
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
(DELTA grant program)

U.S. Department of Justice, Violence Against
Women Act, Coalition Formula Grant

ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

RI Bar Foundation, IOLTA program

RI Department of Children, Youth and Families

RI Foundation

RI Public Safety Grants Administration Office,
Victims of Crime Act and Violence Against
Women Act

State of RI, Designated Grant

State of RI, Domestic Violence Prevention

State of RI Judiciary

The Allstate Foundation

U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence
Against Women, Children and Youth & Engaging
Men (CYEM) Program and Justice for Families
Program

United Way of RI

OUR NETWORK OF MEMBER AGENCIES

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

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



2023 STATISTICS: STATEWIDE SERVICES

9,362

individual victims of
domestic violence
received help in 2023

278

adults and children
stayed in shelters/
safe homes

2,677

victims were assisted by a
Court Advocate in seeking
a restraining order

12,397

Helpline/hotline calls
were answered

338

children who witnessed
domestic violence
received services

58

adults and children
lived in transitional
housing

41,856

individual services
were provided by
advocates

181

victims participated
in a support or
educational group

396

victims of domestic
violence received clinical/
counseling services

PUBLIC AWARENESS



For national Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) in October, we ran our first new campaign since the onset of the pandemic. SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships), a task force of the RICADV, helped inform the statewide campaign to develop the central message of “1 in 3 is One of Us.” Together, we built this campaign by centering the experiences and voices of survivors. This included the close collaboration of several SOAR members, including a longstanding member who brought her love for connecting with friends over coffee as a central inspiration for the campaign.

SOAR members wanted Rhode Islanders to know how many women experience domestic violence and who these women are, which is why we highlighted the data that 1 in 3 women in RI has experienced domestic violence. Survivors are *One of Us*, our family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. Domestic violence happens here, in each of our communities to those we love and care about, and all of us can help. The new campaign could be seen and heard on bus ads, billboards, and radio and TV public service announcements in both English and Spanish across the state, and included information-filled landing pages on the RICADV’s website.



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 statewide leadership on the issue of domestic violence.

We also developed a new public awareness campaign for our annual men's engagement month in June. We worked with the 2023 cohort of Ten Men to create the "Masculinity is ____" concept, featuring photos of Ten Men members and highlighting how men can embody and promote healthy masculinity norms to help end domestic violence. Our Ten Men network shared the campaign within their communities and with local men's and youth groups to foster allyship and collective learning.

Our media advocacy efforts continued in 2023. We worked with local journalists to raise awareness about the issue of domestic violence, share about our campaigns and priorities, and uplift survivor voices. We also revamped our social media presence, with the goals of increasing consistency and engagement through a fresh, dynamic branding of our content and highlighting the ways our mission intersects with other social justice issues.

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INTERVIEWS WITH LOCAL NEWS MEDIA IN 2023

We connect over coffee.
 We've been friends for 20 years.
 One of us is a survivor.



1 IN 3
is ONE OF US.

1 in 3 women in RI has experienced domestic violence.

All of us can help.
 800.494.8100
 NoMoreRI.org




Animamos más fuerte a nuestros hijos.
 Somos mamás orgullosas.
 Una de nosótras es una víctima.




1 EN 3
es UNA DE NOSOTRAS.

1 de cada 3 mujeres en Rhode Island ha sufrido violencia doméstica.

Todos podemos ayudar.
 800.494.8100
 NoMoreRI.org





Masculinity is
joyful.



Healthy masculinity can help prevent domestic violence.

NoMoreRI.org | 800.494.8100



SOAR (SISTERS OVERCOMING ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS)



In 2023, SOAR continued to gain cohesion and momentum after a period of rebuilding since the pandemic. SOAR welcomed new members, advocated at the State House, identified strategic goals, collaborated with partners, and gave dozens of speeches and interviews. We were excited to hold SOAR's first in-person retreat in four years, setting priorities and building community together.

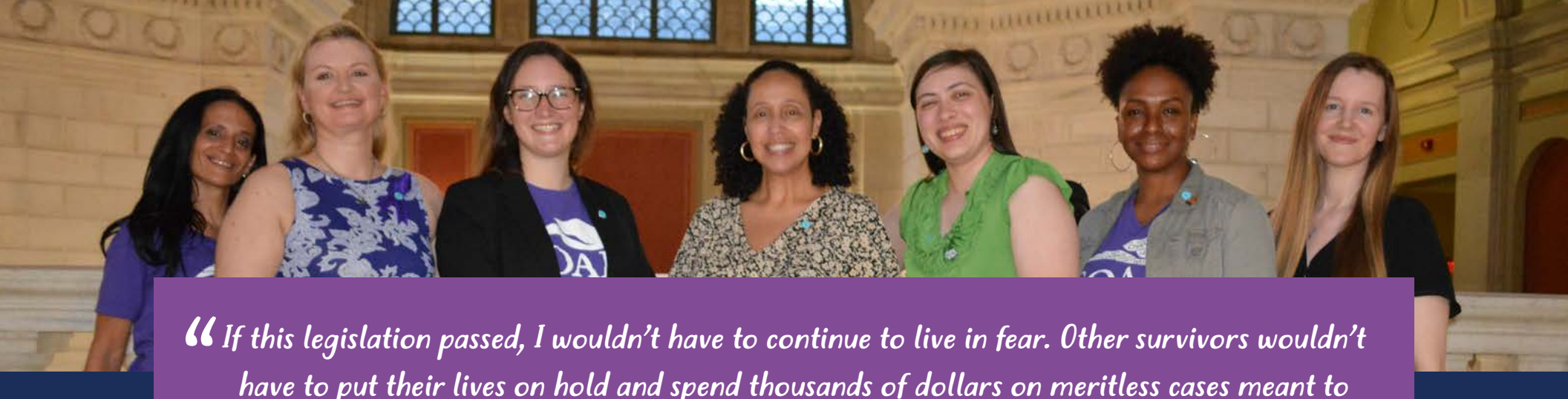
SOAR members were a vital part of the RICADV's legislative efforts in 2023. Many SOAR members shared their experiences of litigation abuse, which informed the RICADV's priority bill. During the legislative session, SOAR members offered powerful testimony and educated their representatives about the importance of this bill to prevent abusive litigation. It was a wonderful moment when SOAR members got to cheer in the gallery as the bill passed in its first year of being introduced.



For national Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, SOAR members worked with the RICADV to develop and be the faces of the "1 in 3 is One of Us" statewide public awareness campaign. Campaign materials featuring photos of SOAR members were posted throughout the state to raise awareness about domestic violence and to celebrate survivors and their unique personalities.

SOAR closed out the month of October with a vigil to honor domestic violence victims. The vigil created a healing space for community members to name and talk about the grief they have experienced due to domestic violence. Ten SOAR members spoke movingly at the event.

SOAR members were busy engaging the community throughout the year, with a total of 47 presentations, media interviews, and community events. SOAR partnered with local groups and organizations, who invited survivors into their spaces to share their stories and expertise. SOAR's work would not be possible without these collaborations, and we are grateful to be building safer, more survivor-centered communities, together.



“If this legislation passed, I wouldn’t have to continue to live in fear. Other survivors wouldn’t have to put their lives on hold and spend thousands of dollars on meritless cases meant to exploit the legal system to punish them.”

– SOAR member who has experienced abusive litigation



Abusive Litigation Act

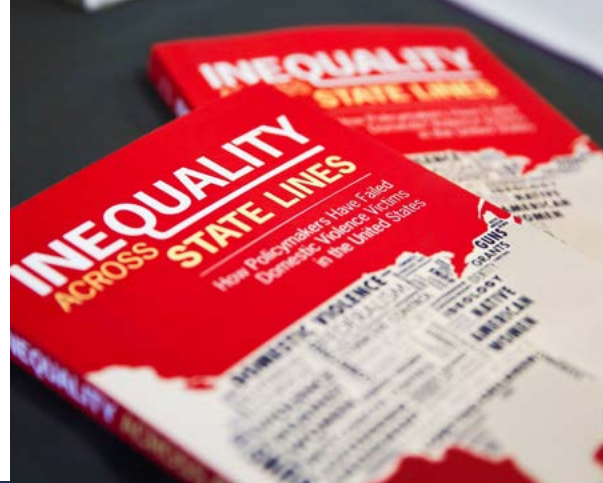
During the 2023 legislative session, the Abusive Litigation Act passed unanimously in both the Senate and the House and was signed into law by Governor McKee in June. This was our top priority bill, modeled off similar legislation from Washington state. The new civil legal protection it creates for survivors will help prevent abusive partners from weaponizing the court system to harass, impoverish, and harm victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY



We are grateful for the brave and tireless advocacy of SOAR members and other RI victims and survivors, who made an enormous impact by publicly sharing their collective stories of years of enduring abusive litigation. These stories educated our elected officials and were instrumental in passing this legislation in the first year it was introduced. Our member agencies, advocates, and community supporters showed up to testify at the State House and attended our annual Community Advocacy Day in May. They helped raise awareness about the importance of passing this bill and engaged directly with their elected Senators and Representatives. We are especially thankful to the bill sponsors, Senator Dawn Euer and Representative Katherine Kazarian, for their support.

What is abusive litigation? This potent form of abuse happens when an abusive partner uses the legal system to harass the victim after the relationship has ended, dragging them to court countless times with multiple frivolous legal claims to further harm and control them. With this new law, judges who determine that abusive litigation is occurring have options to stop abusers from misusing and wasting the resources of the court system and retraumatizing the victim.



SYSTEMS ADVOCACY & TRAINING



On January 13, we hosted a life-saving training, *Assessing for Domestic Violence Homicide Risk to Increase Victim Safety*, in partnership with the RI VAWA Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Law Enforcement Training Curriculum Committee and the Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training and Monitoring Unit. This training was led by Dr. Jacquelyn C. Campbell, a renowned national expert and leader in domestic violence research and advocacy and a professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. Alongside our member agencies and staff, many law enforcement, victim advocacy, and legal system professionals from across the state received a comprehensive overview of the Danger Assessment screening tool and learned about the risk factors associated with domestic violence homicide. Many local judges also received specialized training about domestic violence homicide risk factors.

During national Domestic Violence Awareness Month, on October 18, we co-hosted a special event at the Watson Institute for International & Public Affairs at Brown University in Providence, RI, pictured above. Our Executive Director, Lucy Rios, sat down with Wendy Schiller, author, professor, and Director of the A. Alfred Taubman Center for American Politics and Policy at Brown University, to discuss the book she co-authored, *Inequality Across State Lines: How Policymakers Have Failed Domestic Violence Victims in the United States*.

It was impactful to hear from a SOAR member about her experiences trying to remain safe from her abusive ex-partner across state lines, and how important it is for victims of domestic violence to have resources and standardized laws that will protect them no matter where they reside. The event was well-attended by university students, victim advocates, community members, and policy advocates and attorneys from other New England state domestic violence coalitions. It closed with a panel featuring Lucy Rios, Wendy Schiller, and Liz Tobin-Tyler, Associate Professor at Brown University School of Public Health. The discussion focused on the ways we can support survivor safety and gender equity in our state and beyond, including through public policy efforts and improving gun safety laws across state lines.

NATIONAL-LEVEL HIGHLIGHTS



FEBRUARY: U.S. Senator Jack Reed invited Lucy Rios to travel as his distinguished guest to Washington, D.C., to attend President Biden's 2023 State of the Union address, where the President spoke about the reauthorization of the landmark Violence Against Women Act. It was an honor to spend this time at the U.S. Capitol with Senator Reed, who has shown steadfast leadership over many years in public office to support survivors and help address domestic violence.

JUNE: In 2023, we participated in ReStoryation, a trauma-informed national needs assessment to understand the impact of the pandemic on the domestic and sexual violence advocacy workforce. Between November 2022 and June 2023, RICADV staff facilitated five full-day "ReStoryation circles," attended by 42 advocates from our staff and network of member agencies, Day One, and Sojourner House. In September, three staff traveled to an in-person convening in Seattle, WA, to make meaning of the data collected across the 26 participating states.

SEPTEMBER: The RICADV presented at the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV) Prevention Town Hall, with the theme of "Solidarity Across Movements." Lucy Rios participated on a virtual panel alongside Ditra Edwards from SISTA Fire and other leaders and activists from across the country, discussing the intersections of reproductive justice and domestic violence prevention.

OCTOBER: RICADV Evaluator Cynthia Roberts and Women's Resource Center Executive Director Jessica Walsh facilitated a workshop at the national Imagining America conference, hosted in Providence, RI, in 2023. The session focused on approaching evaluation from an aspiring anti-oppression lens, through stories from our primary prevention work.

NOVEMBER: RICADV Digital Media & Design Coordinator Brianna Henries attended the Northeast Regional Convening of the NRCDV, focused on "Supporting Black Maternal Vitality & Resiliency." Birth workers and violence prevention advocates engaged in impactful discussions, and keynote speaker Loretta J. Ross inspired attendees to carry the experience and momentum forward as we strive to align our work across intersecting movements.



Regional Policy Convening

In October, we were thrilled to host representatives from our neighboring state domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions from across New England and New York. We gathered with our colleagues in Middletown, RI, to share views of our scenic Ocean State beaches as we discussed current regional public policy trends, systems change work across our different states, and legislative efforts to prevent domestic and sexual violence and enhance survivor safety.

PREVENTION



In early March, we launched the *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence in Rhode Island* publication, a vision for preventing domestic abuse before it starts. We developed this resource in collaboration with our partners, including members of the RI State Leadership Team for Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Prevention and recipients of the RI Domestic Violence Prevention Fund (DVPF).

We released the publication as we celebrated the news that the RICADV had once again received the highly competitive DELTA grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) after 20 years of continuous funding.

To mark the publication's launch, over 50 people joined us at one of the first large in-person events hosted in our new space since the onset of the pandemic. We invited guests to participate in an interactive mural as they arrived, prompting them to share why prevention inspires them and gives them hope. We heard powerful remarks from our Executive Director, Lucy Rios, a longtime prevention leader at the RICADV, as well as speakers representing our diverse community of cross-sector partners, pictured to the right. A program director and a youth leader from Youth In Action (YIA) both described how YIA works to create spaces for reflection, connection, and leadership with young people in RI. A colleague from the RI Department of Health spoke about the alignment of the publication's priorities with the goals of the state department to achieve health equity and build thriving communities.

Memorably, a survivor from the RICADV task force SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships) shared about why prevention is her legacy, as she dedicates her time and passion to uplifting women, girls, and young people. We recognized the DVPF grant recipients leading prevention efforts in RI, such as Progreso Latino, and heard from their executive director about the



collective progress we have made, and the work still left to do. We spotlighted members of their Adult Social Action Committee, a prevention initiative that empowers community members to address the social and economic issues directly affecting their lives and families.

Our growing partnership with Youth In Action (YIA), supported by the DVPF and The Allstate Foundation, contributed to the creation of YIA's Ten Young Men program in collaboration with The Gentlemen's Academy. This program builds on the model of Ten Men, a RICADV prevention strategy. Through Ten Young Men, male-identified youth participate in cohorts that focus on prevention education, peer support, and coaching, as they build skills, relationships, and knowledge to help prevent domestic and dating violence. The RICADV also worked closely with Youth In Action, Refugee Dream Center, and the Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center on a strengths-based planning process for our Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Grant to Engage Men and Boys as Allies. This project aims to engage male youth of color and male immigrant and refugee youth in Providence, RI, as active bystanders to prevent IPV.

In June, we convened the first in-person meeting of the State Leadership Team for IPV Prevention since the onset of the pandemic. We presented a 5-year lookback on our work during the previous CDC funding cycle, known as DELTA Impact (2018-2023), and discussed evaluation findings, growth edges, and lessons learned. This grant period marked the first time the RICADV had implemented and evaluated primary prevention strategies focused on strengthening economic support policies on the state level, and greening urban spaces on the community level, in partnership with the Women's Resource Center and Newport Health Equity Zone. Both strategies will continue under the new 5-year funding cycle, known as DELTA AHEAD (Achieving Health Equity through Addressing Disparities).



OUR STAFF



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JANIE WOODARD
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

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Celebrating 20 years



THANK YOU



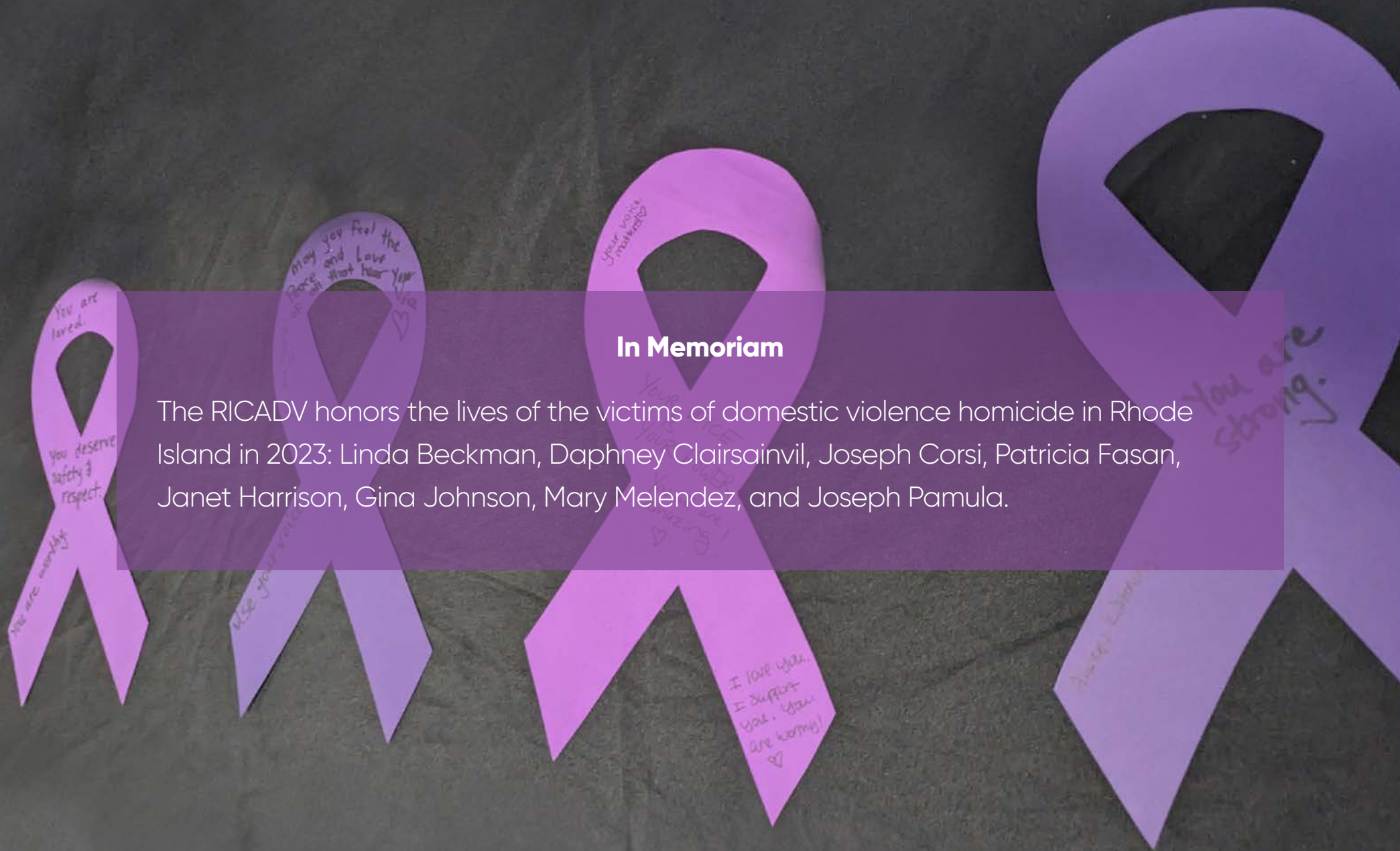
We would like to thank the members of our staff and Board who transitioned from the RICADV in 2023-2024:

Staff: Sara Eckhoff

Board: Elizabeth Kelly

Interns and Volunteers: Rania Abbas, Stephanie Fauteux

In 2023, we celebrated our Executive Director, Lucy Rios, for 20 years of service at the RICADV. Thank you, Lucy!



In Memoriam

The RICADV honors the lives of the victims of domestic violence homicide in Rhode Island in 2023: Linda Beckman, Daphney Clairsainvil, Joseph Corsi, Patricia Fasan, Janet Harrison, Gina Johnson, Mary Melendez, and Joseph Pamula.

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A Task Force of the RICADV

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