Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center
working to end domestic violence

2018 ANNUAL REPORT
Our Team

Toni Marie Gomes
Executive Director

Elizabeth Andino
Overnight Advocate

Luis A. Aponte
Community Advocate

Ashlee Austin
Helpline Advocate

Vanessa Brache
On-Call Advocate

Angie Branco
Family Advocate

Cynthia Coburn
Director of Court Advocacy

Brittnee Countryman
On-Call Advocate

Kimberly Demers
Director of Community Services

Morgan Gould
Court Advocate

Diane Hamel
Weekend Advocate / Group Facilitator

Stephen Heywood
Director of Development

Celeste Jeffrey
Director of Residential Services

Ali Lamora
Law Enforcement Advocate

Tiondra Martinez
Family Advocate

Andrea Mastropietro
Court Advocate

Yuselly Mendoza
Overnight Advocate

Gissell Abreu Rodriguez
Court Advocate

Sally Nolasco
Law Enforcement Advocate

Mark Perrotti
Director of Finance

Keila Platz
Case Manager

Gustavo Rios
Maintenance

Megan Rocke
Court Advocate

Debra Rodrigues
Weekend Case Manager

Celeste Rosales
Case Manager

Jennifer Swanson
Office Manager

Brooke Tyra
Court Advocate

Annell Vidal
Weekend Advocate

Amanda Vincent
Child Advocate

Kelsey Williams
FCCP Family Advocate

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Anthony Afonso

Shirley Carter

Earl R. Marrow
A note from Board President, Carol Osso

2018 was an exciting year and brought many changes for Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center. After being on the board for more than 20 years, I was honored to become Board President. We also hired Toni as the first new Executive Director in over 30 years, filling the very big shoes of Linda Impagliazzo. Even with all of these changes, our mission never wavered. The most important thing for Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center is to continue growing and expanding our services for victims of domestic violence.

~ Carol Osso

A note from our Executive Director

It is an honor and privilege to serve as the Executive Director of Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center. I am grateful to the Board of Directors for choosing me to continue the legacy of such a well-respected organization. This role has provided me with an opportunity to lead a dynamic and fundamental community resource at a time where at a time when there is so much potential for modernization and growth.

The Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center has been providing comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence and their families in the Blackstone Valley area for over three decades. It is their voices, their struggles and their experiences, that guide our work. The staff members work tirelessly year-round and in 2018, our programs provided over 4,600 clients with services and support. We will continue to advocate and educate within our community, while upholding the quality of care that has come to a mainstay for this organization.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors, the staff, and everyone who has contributed to our progress in 2018 with sincere hope that we will move forward together to eradicate domestic violence.

Sincerely,

Toni Marie Gomes, MBA
2018 Program and Services Highlights

Below is a quick overview of our work over the past year.

4,638 New agency clients were provided services in 2018.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & LEGAL

1,128 Victims were provided with the Law Enforcement Advocate Program, a collaboration with Central Falls, Cumberland, Lincoln and Pawtucket Police Departments. The program provides immediate services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who have filed a police report or who are interested in filing a report.

1,753 Victims of domestic violence in the Garrahy Courthouse were provided with legal advocacy in criminal court.

1,520 Victims were provided with assistance to obtain a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO).
**SHELTER**

114 Women and children were provided with emergency shelter and case management through our Safe Home.

4,540 Shelter nights were provided.

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**LANGUAGE**

680 Latino clients were provided with comprehensive services through our Latino Advocacy Program.

66 Individuals participated in our English and Spanish Community Support Groups.

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**EDUCATION**

51 Domestic violence presentations were provided within our local high schools, as well as to professionals.

789 Participants were reached.

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**CRISIS HELPLINE**

2,613 Agency crisis helpline calls were received.

5,532 Victim of Crime Helpline Calls, a project in collaboration with Day One and the RICADV, were received.
COMMUNITY COLLABORATION PROJECT

999 New families were provided with the Safe Families Collaboration Project, a statewide collaborative project with the RI Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV).

13,309 Contacts were provided.

The Project identifies alternative safe resources within the community in order to provide more effective and safe response for women and their children who are living in violent situations. Further, the program provides services to the Family Care Community Partnerships (FCCP). The FCCP’s include many social service organizations providing services to families who are not currently involved with DCYF but are at risk.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Our Transitional Housing Program and Rapid Rehousing increased to 16 apartments, which were all occupied in 2018. The program is designed to provide intensive services for a period of two years.

36 Women and children were provided with transitional housing in 2018.

9,608 Transitional nights were provided.
Our 1st Blooming Hope: Casting Light on Domestic Violence Fundraiser

We held our first "Blooming Hope" event on October 18th, 2018 at the Roger Williams Botanical Garden. We raised over $21,000! Thank you to all our corporate sponsors and attendees. Our 2nd Annual "Blooming Hope" will take place on October 17th, 2019! Check our website for details!
Thanksgiving Drive
NAFI RI's Project Turkey Fund & Moms Demand Action helped provide Thanksgiving to all of the families living in our Transitional Housing Program!
Each family received a turkey, dessert, and all the Thanksgiving fixings to make their holiday a little brighter. They also received nonperishable items that will help get them through the rest of the year!

Winter Wonderland
The Winter Wonderland is a special event held at Slater Memorial Park in December. It offers a beautiful Victorian Village surrounded by over 500 holiday trees which line the park! We decorate two trees with homemade ornaments with fundraiser’s names.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Share The Spirit
Our "Share the Spirit" Program is an "adopt a family" service. Donors help assist by helping individuals and families who are using BVAC services by giving them a meaningful holiday they deserve.

We can not thank our community enough for helping us put together our annual Share the Spirit Drive. Lots of toys, clothes and food were donated. Thank you to all the individuals, churches, corporations and towns that helped us!

Community Outreach
Our Community Engagement Specialist did outreach throughout Central Falls, Cumberland, Lincoln and Pawtucket.
JF Moran Donation Giving

We were one of two organizations to receive a $5,000 donation from JF Moran. They are a leader of worldwide logistics, international trade, foreign freight forwarding, all service customs brokerage, international shipping, and trade, with their headquarters located in Smithfield, RI.

A unique way to engage our community, leaders, & advocates around raising awareness & support to end domestic violence.

Lock & Clue Fundraiser

It was such a fun event that everyone enjoyed...AND every group figured out all the clues to escape their room!

Mary Kay Foundation Check Presentation

The Mary Kay Foundation℠ awarded $3 million in grants to 150 domestic violence shelters across the country. Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center received a $20,000 unrestricted grant to support!

Candlelight Vigil at RI State House

The Rhode Island State House was illuminated in purple as survivors, family members, advocates, and supporters gathered to honor and remember Rhode Islanders whose lives have been lost to domestic violence.
Foundation Support

We gratefully acknowledge the very generous gifts made by the following friends of the Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center.

– FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
  Emergency Food & Shelter National Board Program
  Family Violence Prevention Act
  Grants to Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence and Stalking
  Office on Violence Against Women
  Transitional Housing Grant Program
  S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women
  Victims of Crime Act

– MUNICIPAL FUNDS
  City of Pawtucket

– STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
  Department of Children, Youth and Families
  Office of Housing & Community Development Consolidated Homeless Fund
  RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence

RI Department of Education
  Child and Adult Care Food Program
RI Department of Human Services
  Domestic Violence Prevention Title XX
RI State Legislature
RI Supreme Court

Thank you to all of our corporate and individual donors who have contributed to us over the past year!

Words from a Former Client:

I am from West Africa (Mali). I married my abuser in 2010 and moved to the USA to join my then husband. We had two children. I had since been living in an abusive relationship for the last three years of our marriage. For my sake and my children, I decided to leave everything and moved to the shelter (BVAC). ... I was fortunate to get transitional housing, legal assistance to obtain my divorce and finish my associate degree at school. I could not have done it without the support of the DV advocates that encouraged and helped me along the way.
OUR MOTHER’S GARDEN

Our Mother’s Garden is a tribute to those women who have given you encouragement and support. We would like to honor the important women in your life:

IN HONOR OF:

Ann Parkinson
Barbara Colicchio
Betty Lehan
Bonney Selellon
Carol Kasprzak
Catherine Kando
Christine Speciale
Cynthia Coburn
Dayna Acciardo
Dianne Peretti
Ethan C. Gall
Gerry Thorpe
Gladys J. Barone
Gloria Millard
Helen Havens
Helen Kirby
Jennifer Andruzzi
Joan Coutu
Julie Pettis
Kimberly Demers
Leah O'Mahony
Allard
Leslie Breckenridge
Loretta Mayer
Madelyn Lavin
Mary DeBare
Maryann Heywood
Melanie Krikorian
Melissa Ferrara
Paula Wilton
Rosalind Williams
Shilpa Naik

IN MEMORY OF:

Adeline Pederson
Agnes Lukasiewicz
Agnes Moordian
Alice Leach
Amario DiOrio
Andrew Figurado
Angelina Mennucci
Ann Marie Cavalloro
Anna DiCarlo
Anna M. Swiski
Anna Swiski
Angela Vitalic
Aubrey B. Walton
Beatrice Bouris
Cecile Oseediacz
Cesarina Ceprano
Claire LeFevbre
Claire Lesieur
Connie DeLibero
Denise Pina
Dominica Gilberto
Doris Lamarrre
Dorothy E DiOrio
Dorothy Goorigian
Ethel Martel
Emma Cardin
Evelyn Dias
Fawn Steigerwald
Florentina Alves
Freida "THE ICE CREAM LADY’ Dengle
Helen Petrone
Irene DeGuilio
J. Genevieve Walsh
Jeannette Levesque
JoAnn Berrol
Josephine Dziedzic
June Belanger
Kay Petrucci
Lorraine Williams
Marie Billington
Marie R. Reid
Martha McLaughlin
Mary Tardiff
Pauline Edythe Bell
Peg McDermott
Peg Thorpe
Rita M. Mulvey
Rollande’ L. Champagne
Rosalinda Bagaglia
Rose Cody
Ruth Carrara
Shirley Smith
Sue Brian
Susan M. Kelley
Suzanne Carter
Suzanne P. Carter
Suzanne T. Byrnes
Valia Coletta
Vicky Angell
Yvonne S. Mandeville

2018 ANNUAL REPORT | 11