



# Women's Advocates

2018-2019  
ANNUAL REPORT



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## Women's Advocates

### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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Dear Friends,

In these pages, we are pleased to share some of the incredible work our team did last year on behalf of domestic violence victim/survivors and many others in our community.

It was a unique year for Women's Advocates – on top of all the good work our staff does every day, we dug deep to develop a new strategic plan. Board members, staff, key community partners, and most importantly, domestic violence survivors, thought hard about our services and our purpose, what we do well, what we could do better. While we dream about a future when our services will no longer be needed, we know, sadly, that future is still far off. Our new plan is firmly grounded in the reality of the work that needs to get done in the next five years to move us closer to the more distant future we dream of.

At the center of our new strategic plan is something we call the continuum of safety. The continuum is built on three interconnected bodies of work – domestic violence-related education and outreach in the community, emergency shelter for those in immediate crisis or danger, and sustained safety for survivors who are building new lives for themselves and their families after leaving shelter. Every day, by working in these three areas, we at Women's Advocates live our mission of walking with victim/survivors and our community to break the cycle of domestic violence. And every day we get a little bit closer to achieving our vision of a community free from violence, where all are safe and can live productive and healthy lives.

With your support, we can do this. Thank you, dear friends.

With gratitude,

Estelle Brouwer  
Executive Director

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## MISSION

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Women's Advocates walks with victim/survivors and our community to break the cycle of domestic violence.

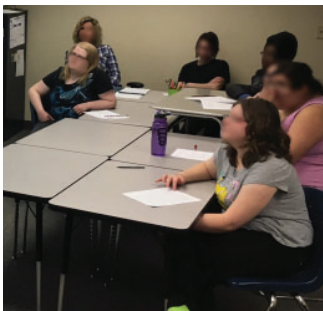




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## COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

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"The presenter on dating violence was clear, interesting, honest, real, playful and very effective. She engaged the students really well with stories and language that spoke to them about a tough and sensitive topic."



-Teacher whose students attended a dating violence training from Women's Advocates

**In the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year:**  
(Between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019)

**5,966** students and professionals attended 313 domestic violence and related trainings.

**43,773** unique visitors used safety resources from Women's Advocates' website.

**98%** of surveyed students who received training in schools reported they understood six different types of abuse and how to find resources for someone in need of safety.

Outreach expenses for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year were \$57,410. Outreach expenses comprised 2% of organizational expenses.

### Education and training focus in 2018-2019 Fiscal Year



**90%**  
OF LANDLORDS  
WOMEN'S ADVOCATES TRAINED  
REPORTED THAT THEY **COULD**  
**DIRECT A RENTER TO SAFETY**  
**RESOURCES IF THEY WERE**  
**EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC**  
**VIOLENCE.**

## VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Women's Advocates' Outreach Program addresses domestic violence using a secondary prevention model - we work with victim/survivors of domestic violence, helping to make sure they do not continue to experience it. To increase pathways to safety for survivors, we deploy our outreach team into the community where we LIVE, LEARN, WORK, and GATHER. An Education and Outreach Coordinator and In-School Violence Prevention Educator are supported by a volunteer-led Safety Resource Crew that disseminates safety resources across the community. Safety resource trainings, awareness presentations, and advocacy workshops occur across the Twin Cities to create pathways to safety for victim/survivors of domestic violence. In 2018, Women's Advocates hosted a "Six Degrees of Connection" panel for social and human service providers, and presented at several conferences and summits for professionals in the community.

Only 1 in 3 teens who were involved in an abusive relationship confided in someone about the violence.





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## EMERGENCY SHELTER

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"These are women who deserve to be free, who deserve to be free from pain and suffering. Just like any human being in the world. They are sacred just like everyone else and they deserve that."

-Roxy, Lead Advocate at Women's Advocates

### In the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year:

(Between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019)

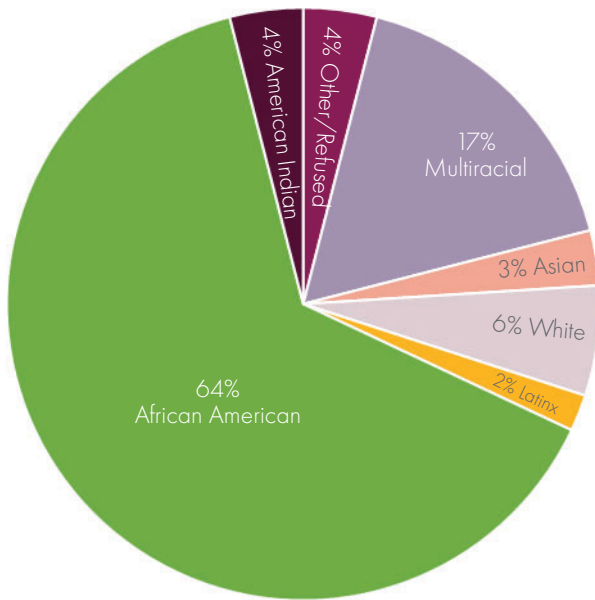
**288** women and children received emergency shelter at Women's Advocates.

**51** days was the average length of stay for residents.

Residents received **15,099** nights of shelter.

Shelter/facility expenses for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year were \$679,050. Facilities expenses comprised 28% of organizational expenses.

Race/ethnicity of residents in 2018-2019 Fiscal Year



**SURVIVORS DOUBLED THEIR CONNECTIONS TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES WHILE AT THE SHELTER, INCREASING SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND REDUCING ISOLATION AFTER ABUSE.**

(DATA COLLECTED AT ARRIVAL AND AFTER 45 DAYS SHOWED AN OVERALL INCREASE FROM 30% TO 60%.)

## EMERGENCY SHELTER

Three connected homes form the foundation of Women's Advocates' emergency shelter. One of these three homes was the very first shelter in the nation dedicated to women and children escaping domestic violence. Our space today has 15 bedrooms and typically provides emergency refuge to 17 women and up to 33 children nightly. Our kitchen serves three meals daily and residents have access to laundry facilities, a computer center, a welcoming common living room and dining room, and a secure children's playground. Women's Advocates is a secure place where a woman and her children can trust they will be safe 24/7 from physical harm and emotional trauma. Time at our shelter is time to breathe, focus, and plan for a safer future. Beginning on the day of arrival or soon thereafter, residents work with our on-site staff and programs to chart the course to a new chapter in their lives. Our space is productive, reflective, and supportive.

Intimate partner violence is the second most common form of victimization against people in Minnesota.

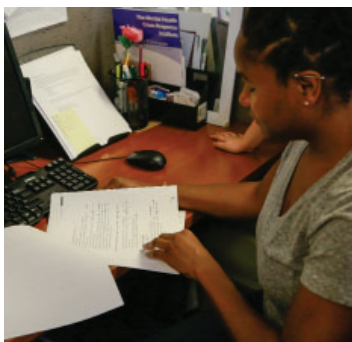




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## WOMEN'S PROGRAM

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"Being an advocate means you will never be bored. You will be surrounded by challenges. You will never cease to be amazed at people's capacity for love, courage, and endurance. You will laugh a lot, you will cry a lot. You will know what it is to be human and humane."

-Erin & Sam, Advocates at Women's Advocates

### In the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year:

(Between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019)

**195** crisis interventions took place for women staying at our shelter.

Family advocates dedicated **2,556** hours of support to residents.

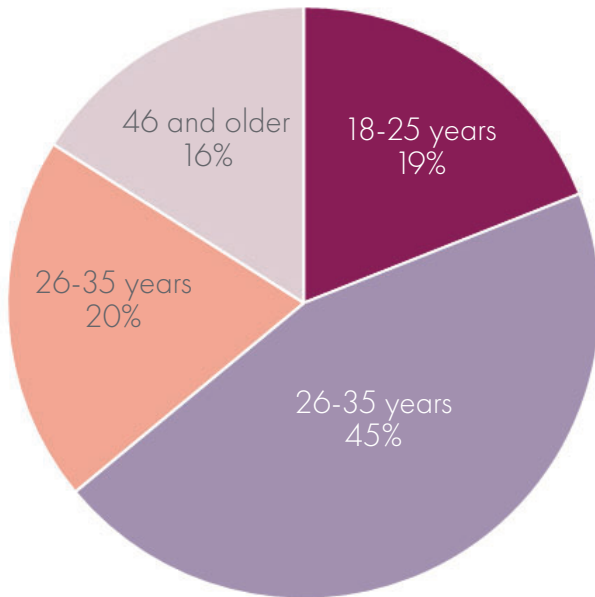
**2,400** people called our 24/7 crisis line for help.

Crisis resource advocates provided **1,454** crisis interventions and shelter referrals via our crisis line.

Women's Program expenses for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year were \$809,523. Women's Program expenses comprised 33% of organizational expenses.



**Ages of women residents in  
2018-2019 Fiscal Year**



**63%**

**OF WOMEN**

AT WOMEN'S ADVOCATES  
INCREASED THEIR INCOME  
DURING THEIR STAY,

**BUILDING AUTONOMY  
FROM THEIR ABUSERS**

## WOMEN'S PROGRAM

The Women's Program is a comprehensive resource for survivors staying at our shelter and for callers to our 24/7 crisis line. Advocates and victims of domestic violence work together to plan for safety, address immediate crises, and build networks of support. Daily support groups and partnerships with the Domestic Abuse Legal Advocacy Center, Community Stabilization Project, Continuum Care Center, and Family Tree Clinic connect residents to health, legal and housing resources. Direct advocacy provides systems navigation for courts-related issues and public assistance programs, and assistance with housing and employment searches. Callers to Women's Advocates' 24/7 crisis line have access to experienced advocates so they can obtain emergency domestic violence shelter referrals, safety planning, and on-the-spot crisis interventions.

Women aged 18-34 have the  
highest risk of domestic violence  
victimization.





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## SHEILA WELLSTONE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

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"I feel happy just to see how they are together as a family."

-Kelly, Children's Advocate at Women's Advocates, on children and their caregivers spending time together while staying at our emergency shelter.

### In the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year:

(Between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019)

**166** children ages 0 to 17 stayed at Women's Advocates' emergency shelter.

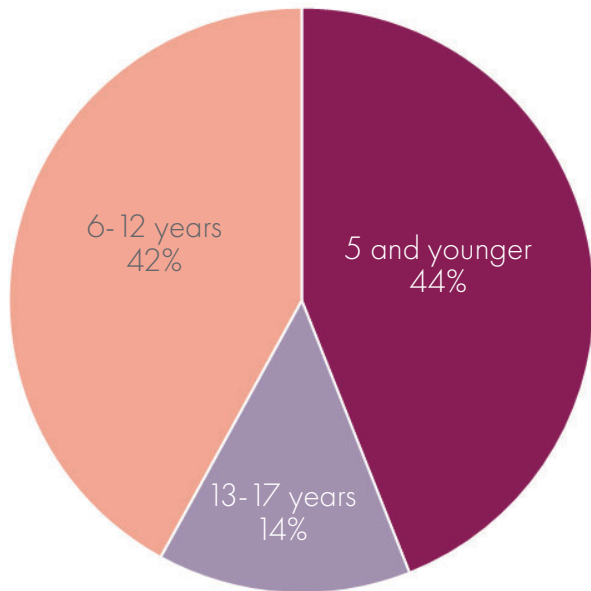
**160** children participated in family and educational activities.

Children received **2,117** hours of advocacy, activities, school enrollment, and assessments.

Women's Advocates provided an average of **13** hours of child care for each participating child.

Children's Program expenses for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year were \$206,074. Children's Program expenses comprised 8% of organizational expenses.

### Ages of children staying in shelter in 2018-2019 Fiscal Year



**92%**  
OF CHILDREN  
AT WOMEN'S ADVOCATES'  
SHELTER HAD PREVIOUSLY  
WITNESSED/EXPERIENCED  
DOMESTIC ABUSE.

## SHEILA WELLSTONE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Our Sheila Wellstone Children's Program supports the children who arrive at our shelter with their mothers/caregivers. Through this program, children have access to safety planning, school support, family activities, art and music activities, and drop-in childcare. Sadly, 92% of children at Women's Advocates have witnessed/experienced domestic abuse. Children arriving at our shelter need a nurturing environment with a focus on predictability, healing, and space to be whatever age they are, whether they're infants, toddlers, preschoolers, or school-aged. Mothers at our shelter reported a 50% increase in community involvement (with schools, libraries, and mom groups) during their stay, which is critical for supporting the individual and community growth of their children beyond their shelter stay.

Many children exposed to violence  
in the home are also victims of  
physical abuse.





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## AFTERCARE

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"Instead of saying, 'I'm damaged', 'I'm broken', 'I have trust issues', say 'I'm healing', 'I'm rediscovering myself', 'I'm starting over.'"

– Author Horacio Jones

### In the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year:

(Between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019)

**126** women and children participated in Aftercare, across 40 households.

**22** participating households have maintained stable housing for 12 or more months.

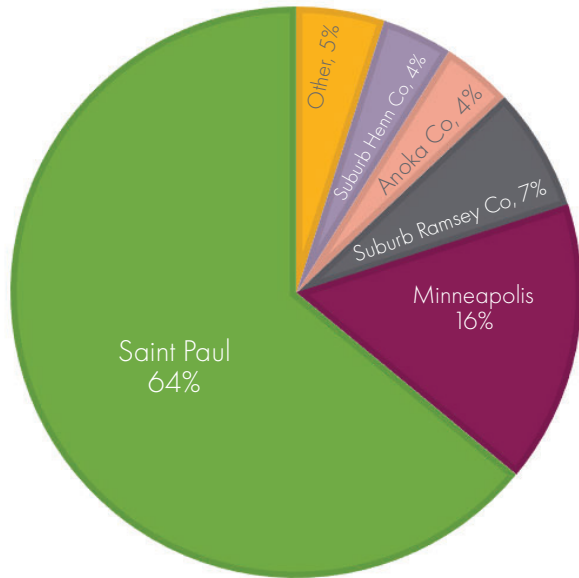
**22** participating households increased income through obtaining community benefits.

**23** participating households increased income through employment.

Aftercare Program expenses for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year were \$137,509.

Aftercare expenses comprised 6% of organizational expenses.

## Where Aftercare Program families lived in the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year



**19**  
HOUSEHOLDS  
COMPLETED AFTERCARE AND  
**MOVED ON TO THEIR  
OWN HOUSING WITH  
SUFFICIENT INCOME**  
AND RESOURCES TO REMAIN  
INDEPENDENT.

## AFTERCARE

Our full-time Aftercare Advocate worked with families for six months to one year after leaving our shelter to identify and help mitigate risks to their safety and independence. We strive to support a woman from the moment she leaves her abuser through to a stable, safe, sustainable living environment. In this fiscal year, 40 employed, yet low-income families avoided the risks of homelessness and recurrent abuse as we nurtured positive relationships with landlords, provided resources and coached on tenants' rights, and ensured access to housing stability stipends when needed. Because of our rental assistance, women have been able to focus on enrollment in academic programs or more stable employment that may take longer to obtain. At the end of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, the Aftercare Program received an expansion grant to double its size and impact in future years.

84% of U.S. domestic violence shelters reported a need for finding affordable housing.



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## Women's Advocates

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### IMPACT IN THE 2018-2019 FISCAL YEAR

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#### Preventing continued violence and increasing awareness

**5,966** students and professionals attended **313** trainings on awareness and safety resources for domestic violence and related topics.

**43,773** unique web visitors used safety resources from Women's Advocates' website.

#### Emergency shelter for people fleeing domestic violence

**288** adults and children received **15,099** days of shelter.

The average stay was **51** days.

#### Programming at the shelter for survivors

**195** crisis interventions took place on behalf of the women staying at our shelter.

Family advocates provided **2,556** hours of individual support to residents at our shelter.

**30%** of exiting shelter residents gained housing resources through Women's Advocates.

**63%** of residents increased their income to meet their basic needs during their shelter stay.

**100%** of school-aged children attended school most of the time while living in shelter (compared to 65% of children at arrival).

**60%** of residents had strong community engagement by the time they left our shelter.

An average of **13** hours of child care was provided for each participating child.

#### Resources for community members seeking safety

**2,400** people called our 24/7 crisis line seeking safety and resources.

**1,454** callers received crisis interventions and shelter referrals.

#### Sustained safety for residents leaving our shelter

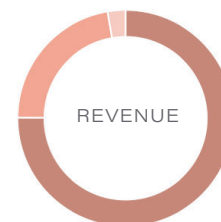
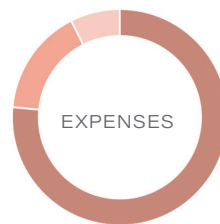
**40** households participated in the Aftercare Program.

**22** households have maintained stable housing for 12 or more months.

**22** households increased income through obtaining community benefits.

**23** households increased income through employment.

# FINANCIAL REPORT



Audited Financial Statements		2018-2019	2017-2018
<b>Assets</b>	Total Current Assets	2,884,139	2,686,213
	Net Property & Equipment	947,675	998,161
	Total Other Assets	-	-
<b>Liabilities</b>	Total Assets	3,831,814	3,684,374
	Total Current Liabilities	120,227	111,095
	Long-Term Debt	100,891	126,268
<b>Net Assets</b>	Net Assets: Undesignated	1,407,150	1,406,256
	Net Assets: Board Designated	1,956,184	1,956,184
	Net Assets: Temporarily Restricted	247,362	84,571
	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	3,831,814	3,684,374
<b>Revenue</b>	Program Service Revenue	1,795,017	1,741,677
	Contributions	745,710	504,526
	Debt Forgiveness	25,584	25,584
	Interest & Miscellaneous	56,801	36,428
	Total Support & Revenue	2,623,112	2,319,247
<b>Expenses</b>	Programs & Services	1,889,566	1,794,896
	Management & General	380,717	376,782
	Fundraising	189,144	174,665
	Total Expenses	2,459,427	2,346,343
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		163,685	(27,096)
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR		3,447,011	3,474,107
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR		3,610,696	3,447,011

Audited Financials provided by third party auditing firm CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

## WOMEN'S ADVOCATES' 2018-2019 CONTRIBUTORS

**KEY FUNDING PARTNERS**

Minnesota Office of Justice Programs  
Child and Adult Care Food Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Greater Twin Cities United Way

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Mandie Kender	
Beatrice Laizer	



Some of Women's Advocates staff members on a staff retreat in 2019

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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN 2018-2019

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### Volunteers

**2,803** hours of volunteerism took place at the shelter, averaging 7 hours per day.

**2** interns provided research and development support, averaging 110 hours per intern.

**57%** of volunteerism is from individual visits, and **43%** is from group visits.

### In-kind donors

**111** individuals donated items from our wish list.

**59** groups supported our material needs through donation drives.

In-kind items directly helped those we served while allowing us to save our precious resources. Items donated included gift cards, pajamas, birthday presents, children's clothing, hygiene items, blankets, towels and more.

### Partners in service

Community organizations are integral to our work at the shelter and in the community. We'd like to thank our partners in service who help us provide direct service to shelter residents:

- Continuum Care Center
- Family Tree Clinic
- Healthcare for the Homeless
- Kids Create
- CommonBond Communities
- Community Stabilization Project
- ThinkSelf
- Domestic Abuse Legal Advocacy Center
- Peaces 'N Puzsouls Journies Thru Healing
- Oasis of Love Crisis Intervention



## Welcome to this Safe Place

The only cost to finding a safe place is getting there.  
The only debt is to challenge fear and embrace hope.  
The only required expectation is to acknowledge truth  
and respect your self-worth.  
Through services and resources, we'll guide you.  
There's purpose in your journey.  
And promise in your future endeavors.  
Welcome to this Safe Place.

*-S. Saran Cryer, Therapist at Women's Advocates*



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Women's Advocates

PO Box 4039,  
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[wadvocates.org](http://wadvocates.org)  
[facebook.com/wadvocates](https://facebook.com/wadvocates)

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24 Hour Crisis Line 651.227.8284