

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

SURVIVING AND THRIVING



MISSION STATEMENT: The purpose of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence 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.

THE COALITION

- **Fosters communication, resource sharing, networking and collaboration**
- **Raises awareness, responds to community needs and educates the public about domestic violence**
- **Promotes community organizing around prevention of domestic violence**
- **Advocates locally and nationally to impact social and systemic change on the issue of domestic violence**
- **Partners with survivors to strengthen the voices of abused women**
- **Accesses resources to maximize community impact**

STAFF

Deborah DeBare, *Executive Director*
 Reza Clifton, *Communications Coordinator*
 Cheryl Delekta, *Finance Director*
 Anayra Garcia, *Office Manager/Training Coordinator*
 Zulma Garcia, *Director of Policy*
 Rachel Orsinger, *Legislative Coordinator*
 Carmen Recalde-Russo, *SOAR Coordinator*
 Lucy Rios, *Director of Prevention and Public Education*
 Cristina E. Williams, *Media Relations Coordinator*

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Lookman Buky Folami	

Special thanks to the board members who ended their terms of service during 2012: Denise Barge and Kim Capuano. Thanks also to former staff members Shannon Cordeiro, Sara Molinaro and Chris Wilhite for their contributions to the RICADV this past year.

MEMBER AGENCIES

- Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center
- Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County
- Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center
- Sojourner House
- Women’s Center of Rhode Island
- Women’s Resource Center
- Task Force: SOAR
(Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships)



NO MORE. These were among the two most common words being seen and heard around the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence office and community as we closed 2012. That is in part because we, as a state coalition, had signed on to join the NO MORE campaign, a national movement launched for organizations and individuals who want to work toward the joint objectives of ending domestic violence and sexual assault. NO MORE is exemplified by a symbol that is designed to be recognized like the peace sign, the “support our troops” ribbon, or the AIDS ribbon, and we were playing our part by creating visibility around the campaign. We did this, figuratively through work with our member agencies and community partners, and literally through advertisements and signage placed and distributed statewide.

NO MORE is also the embodiment of what the RICADV is working toward: the elimination of domestic violence in Rhode Island. That goal guided our work all year long even in the face of significant challenges. For instance, after cuts made last year by the RI legislature, combined with cuts made in the previous five years, two important service areas - the Court Advocacy program and the Children Who Witness Domestic Violence program - have seen more than \$500,000 in state funding cuts.

But even with the difficult economic times, the RICADV saw a variety of accomplishments and progress made in 2012.

We opened our doors to new survivors and ways of engaging with them, including through financial literacy programming and theatre; to new ways of reaching men, college students, and rural communities; and to new businesses, organizations, and community leaders who want to join RICADV and the movement to end intimate partner violence.

It is these kinds of alliances, collaborations and demonstrations of support – and those that we have with and from you – that you will see throughout this report; the ones that enable us to continue the work of protecting victims, holding batterers accountable and eliminating domestic violence in Rhode Island.

We thank you for your support and we look forward to continuing our work with you in 2013 and beyond. Together we can end domestic violence.

With Appreciation,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah DeBare".

Deborah DeBare
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ana Giron".

Ana Giron
PRESIDENT,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FINANCIAL REPORT

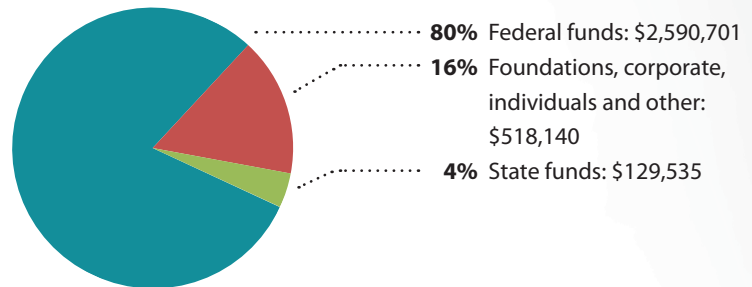
The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence ended the fiscal year on a strong note, closing its financial books on June 30, 2012 with a positive change in unrestricted net assets of \$12,209.

Total operating revenues and support was \$3,238,377. Total operating expenses were \$3,209,520. There was a change in unrestricted net assets from operations of \$28,857, and changes in unrestricted net assets of \$12,209.

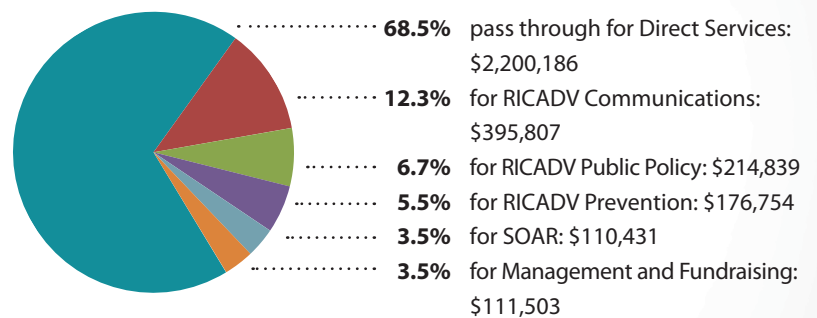
- 68.5% of the total expenses (or \$2,200,186) consisted of funds that were passed through to our member agencies for the provision of direct services to victims of domestic violence.
- 80% of the funds come from federal grants and contracts; 4% comes from the State of Rhode Island; 16% of the funds come from foundations, corporate support, individual donations, community groups, dues and training fees.

The RICADV conducts an audit annually in accordance with the US Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133.

REVENUE TOTAL: \$3,238,377



EXPENSES TOTAL: \$3,209,520



MAJOR FUNDING SOURCES

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| • STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) | • State of RI (Children Who Witness community service grant) | • General Federation of Women's Clubs of Rhode Island |
| • Victims of Crime Act | • State of RI (Supreme Court Victim Advocacy Program; court fines) | • Dave's Fresh Marketplace |
| • Family Violence Prevention and Services Act | • RI Department of Human Services | • Blue Cross and Blue Shield of RI |
| • Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (DELTA) | • RI Department of Children, Youth and Families (Children's Justice Grants to States) | • Citizens Bank Foundation |
| • Civil Legal Assistance Grant (VAWA) RI Legal Services | • Iolita Bar Foundation | • Verizon Foundation |
| • Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies (VAWA) | • New Roots Providence | • Verizon Wireless Foundation |
| • Department of Health and Human Services, FVPSA State Coalition Grant | • Women's Fund of RI | • BJs Foundation |
| | • RI State Council on the Arts | • TJX Foundation |
| | • Mary Byron Project | • The Allstate Foundation |

SERVICES

In spite of decreased funding, our member agencies and their dedicated staff, volunteers, board members and supporters continued to make a difference in the lives of domestic violence victims and their families. They did this by providing shelters and assistance with housing for more clients than during the previous year, by offering counseling and educational groups, by helping with police interactions and court appearances, and more.



NEW PARTNERS AND CHAMPIONS

We know that our member agencies provide invaluable support, which is why we will be working in 2013 to restore state funding. To get involved in these efforts, contact RICADV's Legislative Coordinator, Rachel Orsinger, at rorsinger@ricadv.org.

How else can you help? In 2012, RICADV entered into a number of partnerships with a variety of corporations, foundations and organizations that opened the door or secured new resources. Why not become a supporter in 2013? You'll be joining organizations such as The Boston Red Sox, Barnes and Noble, Confreda Farms, Patty Gurka Memorial Fund, Cuban Revolution/CharityRevolution, Sir Speedy Cranston, Paulo Chaves Photography and Anjulans' Florist and Gardens.

Family, coworkers and friends of Patty Gurka gathered after her DV-related death in 2012 to celebrate her life and help raise funds to ensure that services are available statewide.



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BASIC STATISTICS

9,382 individual victims of domestic violence received help in 2012

598 adults and children stayed in shelters/safe homes for a total of 22,115 nights

95 adults and children lived in transitional housing for a total of 19,317 nights

3,044 victims received a restraining order

5,272 victims were assisted by a Court Advocate in District Court

424 clients participated in a support or educational group

331 clients received clinical/counseling services

60 children who witnessed domestic violence received specialized services

13,915 Helpline/Hotline calls were answered

NATIONAL ADVOCACY AND POLICY WORK

The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence is an active member of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, which represents all of the 56 state and territory Coalitions on a national level. As part of this network, the RICADV strongly advocated for funding for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), and for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).



RICADV's advocacy and policy efforts include collaborating with NNEVDV, state and federal legislators and policy-makers (such as Congressman David Cicilline, pictured above), our six member agencies, members of SOAR (such as Carmen Cruz, pictured below), and dozens of community partners.



STIFFER SENTENCING FOR STRANGULATION

Studies have shown that victims of domestic violence who are strangled by their partners are ten times more likely to be murdered in the future. Despite the seriousness of this dangerous crime, strangulation was considered a misdemeanor in Rhode Island – until 2012.

RICADV's top priority for the 2012 legislative session was to make domestic assault by strangulation a felony. The bill, sponsored by Representative DaSilva and Senator DeVall, passed unanimously and was signed into law by Governor Chafee on June 19, 2012.

The new law means that perpetrators convicted of strangulation, who once faced less than a year in a jail (though, in most cases, no jail time at all), now face between one and ten years of incarceration. Special thanks for this success goes to our member agencies, SOAR, the RI Office of the Attorney General, the RI chapter of the National Organization for Women, the RI Police Chiefs' Association, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, and countless others who supported and pushed for the legislation to be passed.



5,272

victims were assisted
by a Court Advocate in
District Court



SOAR Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CENTER STAGE

It is time for more people to step up and reach out to help end domestic violence. This was the message heard loud and clear on December 10, 2012, when SOAR debuted the play *Behind Closed Doors* at the Trinity Repertory Company Dowling Theater in Providence to a sold-out audience. The play was a groundbreaking initiative between the RICADV, SOAR and Trinity Repertory Company that created a new platform and medium to spread awareness about surviving and ending domestic violence. It was funded, in part, through a grant from Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

Fifteen SOAR members, most of them with no previous experience in theater, participated in the writing and performance of the play and worked with Trinity Repertory Teaching Artists, Michael Williams and Francesca Montanile. Many reported that this project was also a journey to further healing and learning the power of their voices.

Besides the performance at Trinity Rep, there was a presentation of the play at the University of Rhode Island; 440 people total attended one or both performances. Feedback and observations from playgoers demonstrate that through the use of art and theater, SOAR could offer *Behind Closed Doors* (and art and theater in general) as a way to shine light on domestic violence and attract audiences that otherwise would shy away from the issue.



MARY BYRON AWARD

SOAR was honored to be selected in 2012 as one of four programs in the nation to receive the Celebrating Solutions Award created by the Mary Byron Project. The Celebrating Solutions Award recognizes model programs that address issues of domestic violence with innovative strategies and new ideas.



1,268

individuals participated in
23 presentations conducted
by SOAR

TRAINING AND PREVENTION

SCHOOL-BASED EDUCATION

Prevention is key in creating a state free of domestic violence, and education is key to prevention. In 2012, the RICADV's six member agencies provided 615 hours of prevention education to Rhode Island youth, totaling 483 presentations, and reaching 10,030 youth. Advocates conducted 21 classroom presentations in elementary schools, 177 classroom presentations in middle schools, 189 presentations in Rhode Island high schools and 48 presentations to college students.



AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

In addition to school-based education, advocates also worked with after-school programs and community centers, offering 96 presentations to 609 youth; 6 presentations to 226 school administrators and educators; and 23 presentations to 275 parents and attendees at parent-run organizations.



PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

This year was also a very dynamic year for other types of RICADV trainings. The RICADV and its six member agencies also provided 810 hours of domestic violence education to professionals and the general public, totaling 297 presentations and reaching 9,949 Rhode Islanders.



13,915

Helpline/Hotline
calls were answered



RICADV's trainings and presentations cover a variety of topics including: prevention strategies that can be provided to youth or educators; intervention and support services that can be implemented by employers; and experiential offerings that give participants a deeper understanding of victims' experiences with abuse and survival.

TRAINING AND PREVENTION

FRESH START

Why do people stay in abusive relationships? Dollars and (sense) may be one reason, for financial abuse is often a tactic that abusers use to keep victims trapped in violent relationships.

In response to this aspect of abuse, and supported by The Allstate Foundation, the RICADV launched *Fresh Start*, a collaboration involving two of our member agencies and the Center for Women and Enterprise. The program brings together women who are experiencing domestic violence with the goal of helping them overcome their abusive relationships by becoming financially self-sufficient. Specifically, the initiative provides financial literacy education, entrepreneurial training and micro-lending for advancing business ideas. In 2012, nine participants completed the business planning class and four women received financial support to advance their planning.



TEN MEN STEP UP

If you are a man, and you don't engage in violence against women or family members, can you help prevent domestic violence? *Ten Men* was established in the spring of 2012 as a strategy to engage male allies in the prevention of domestic violence; it is the first statewide effort made up of diverse male leaders who have stepped forward to break the silence. And although the effort is new, they've already made great strides with getting the word out.

In May, *Ten Men* member Ben Ellcome was a guest on *Up Front* with Phil Marlowe, a talk radio show that broadcasts on CAT Country 98.1 FM. On the program, which aired in May and June, Ben talked about the significant influence that men can have in helping boys and young men understand and maintain healthy relationships. Another *Ten Men* member, Mark



9,382

individual victims
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RICADV's *Fresh Start* program was designed to offer financial literacy resources and strategies on developing businesses; nine participants completed the program in 2012.



RICADV's *Ten Men* program impacted the community by engaging other men in DV prevention/education and by raising awareness during media appearances such as member Erroll Lomba's visit to the Shawn Murphy Show.

Greenwood, recorded a PSA with a similar focus for this year's Father's Day Campaign that aired for two weeks in June on the sports radio station, WEEI 103.7 FM. And two *Ten Men* members, Ben alongside Erroll Lomba, helped promote Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities as guests on the Shawn Murphy Show, a program which aired on ION Media Networks on September 19 and October 4.

The RICADV provided *Ten Men* with training and technical assistance in 2012, archived and shared their media appearances through social media and digital tools, and worked with them to co-develop a plan for 2013 aimed at getting more men in our state to stand up and say NO MORE. To find out more about this initiative, contact Lucy Rios (lucy@ricadv.org).

PUBLIC AWARENESS

During an era in which community organizing and information consumption happen in an ever-shifting landscape of onscreen and face-to-face engagement, the RICADV has both maintained a foothold in traditional spaces and developed new strategies for our public awareness work and outreach.

For example, the RICADV has successfully maintained and started new conversations through the continued use of social media and other digital communications tools and best practices, such as Facebook and Twitter postings, Constant Contact e-newsletters, online videos, and monitoring metrics. Implementing these strategies in 2012 allowed us to spread our message, involve new voices and further promote the activities and interests of our member agencies and the RICADV. The data obtained from the metrics helped us analyze the demographics of our online traffic and build strategies to increase outreach to the groups we know experience domestic violence in high numbers but who are not consistently following us online (e.g. 16-24 year-old-women).



12,777

Facebook users reached during DVAM - a 118.4% increase in a year.



RICADV's Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention activities in February 2012 included recognizing Champions for Change in the community, such as supporter Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, who has worked proactively and collaboratively on the issue of ending teen dating violence.



RICADV used a variety of tactics to reach and engage diverse audiences and community members on dating violence issues. One strategy was the "flash mob" performed in Kennedy Plaza, which attracted a vast group of participants including college students, tweens, teens, community members, and advocates who learned of the activity through social media.

TEEN DVAPM 2012

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month 2012 (TDVAPM) offered several opportunities for RICADV to combine traditional coalition-building work with new media outreach. One example was the "Flash Mob" that was held on Saturday, February 18 at Kennedy Plaza in downtown Providence, facing City Hall.

The goal of any flash mob is to arrest and wow spectators with sudden, group-coordinated, and eye-catching dance moves in public or nontraditional spaces. In this case, the RICADV used an online video to share the music and dance routine instructions for individuals and groups to learn on their own. More than 50 supporters turned out to Kennedy Plaza to help us raise awareness through dance – an activity which was then captured (again) through a video that subsequently went viral across the nation.

Some of the dancers in the flash mob worked with us collaboratively for the whole month, such as those from Day One, Katie Brown Educational Program, and the Lindsay Ann Burke Memorial Fund. Under this partnership, and along with Governor Chafee, a state proclamation was issued announcing that the entire month was dedicated to raising awareness about dating violence and a series of community members were identified and honored as Champions for Change. We also observed TDVAPM by developing the RealTalk Conversation Cards, a tool for engaging youth in talks about healthy relationships and dating abuse.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

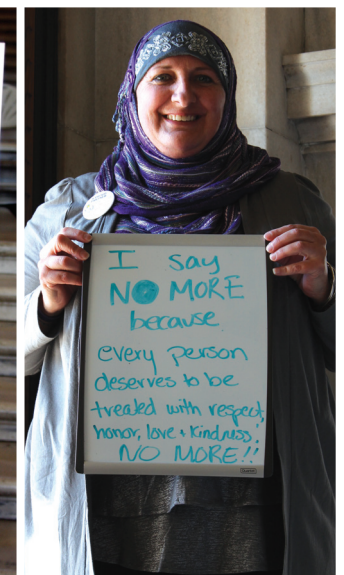
2012 DVAM NO MORE

With a new national campaign and a series of nascent or reenergized partnerships, the RICADV launched Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October 2012 with an energy and vigor that did not go unnoticed. That is, in part, because of a successful press conference at the Rhode Island State House that offered 1) the unveiling of the *NO MORE* symbol in Rhode Island and 2) remarks from a series of leaders and lawmakers who publicly pledged *NO MORE* to an audience that included survivors, domestic violence advocates and concerned community members; speakers included Senator Jack Reed, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Congressman Jim Langevin, Congressman David Cicilline and Attorney General Peter Kilmartin and General Federation of Women's Clubs of Rhode Island President Madeline Perreault.

Overall, DVAM 2012 opened doors for the RICADV to launch new partnerships and advance established ones with organizations like General Federation of Women's Clubs of Rhode Island, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Rhode Island, Dave's Marketplace, Citizens Bank Foundation, Cox Communications, Cumulus Media Inc., Providence En Español, Telemundo, Latina 100.3 and Trinity Repertory Company. DVAM also provided an opportunity for RICADV to mix traditional outreach strategies with community organizing activities and new media approaches.

Where You Saw or Heard About RICADV in 2012

- Diner Placemats
- Buses/Bus Shelters
- Billboards
- TV and Radio Ads
- Newspaper Ads
- Internet Ads
- Small Posters
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Palm Cards
- RICADV blogs
- NO MORE Campaign Video
- NOMORERI.org
- RI Office of the Attorney General Website
- Large Display Posters and Banners
- Television News Stories
- Newspaper Articles
- Radio Interviews



RICADV's efforts during DVAM included the launch of the *NO MORE* campaign, an initiative created to help unify all organizations and people who want to end domestic violence and sexual assault. This was accomplished at a press conference that drew a standing-room-only crowd who attended to 1) show their commitment to the issue and 2) hear elected officials speak about preventing domestic violence and reauthorizing VAWA.

Thank you for your continued support. Tax-deductible donations can be made by contacting the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence at 401.467.9940.



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MEMBERS OF THE RHODE ISLAND COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

