



2 0 1 7 R E P O R T T O T H E C O M M U N I T Y

Our mission is
to create a
society in which
domestic
violence
no longer
exists.



Dear Friends

A message from Executive Director, Jean Douglas.

On behalf the Staff and Board of Directors at the Women's Resource Center, we thank you for all your support in making 2017 yet another year of providing essential services to survivors of domestic violence and their children. This year marked 31 years of service for our organization and we are just as committed today as we have been from the very start.

What we have learned over the years is that long-term connection and support makes a huge difference in the enduring stability of the families we touch. For years we have remained linked to families who come through our doors. During 2017, we were able to expand our outreach and services to deepen our relationships with families in a way that works even better.

To that end, a few program highlights include:

- The average family stay in our safehouse was 121 days, a 35% increase over the last year. The longer stays meant families were able to leave with an even greater sense of security and increased sense of hope for their futures.
- 81 families participated in our inaugural Women Moving On program. Our transition advocate visited families in their new homes, continuing to make crucial referrals for services and providing emotional support as women began the next phase of their journey toward healing and stability.
- With your help, 34 families received support during the holidays. They collectively received over \$25,000 in donated items that make a house a home and provide comfort for the long haul.
- We hosted our first ever WRC homecoming with over 100 past guests, staff and volunteers attending a day of reconnecting and shared gratitude for our relationship over the years.

Our vision going forward is to continue to dig deeper and wider, seeking better solutions and stronger connections for all the women and children who turn to us in their time of need. It's what these times require; it's what we're good at.

Thanks so much for believing in and trusting our work over the years. With your help, we're making a huge difference!

Program Highlights

Promoting safety, compassion, connection, advocacy, and prevention.

24-HOUR DATING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

**ANSWERED
9,047
CALLS**

SAFE HOUSE FOR SURVIVORS

- 42 adult guests
- 61 child guests
- Average family stay was 121 days, a 36% increase over last year
- Guest ages ranged from newborns to 81 years
- 5 babies born to mothers staying at the safe house



**MORE THAN
10,000**

INTERVENTION HOURS SPENT WITH CHILDREN VISITING THE SAFE HOUSE

- 46 women participated in *Mindfulness and Kindness* self-care program
- Average age of adult safe house guest is 35
- Average age of child safe house guest is 5.5
- Average size of family visiting our safe house is 2.5



MAKING CHANGE

- 13 women enrolled
- Average savings match of \$832
- WRC matched more than \$7,496 in women's personal savings, meaning women enrolled in *Making Change* saved nearly \$15,000.

WOMEN MOVING ON

- 81 families participated in *Women Moving On*, our new outreach program that allows us to maintain our connection with families once they leave the safe house.

CAMP PEACE

**50 CHILDREN
ENROLLED FOR
8 WEEKS**

LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

- 43 women were accompanied to probable cause hearings
- 102 women attended our free legal clinic
- 299 women provided with additional legal support

**1,154 INDIVIDUALS
ASSISTED DURING THE
PROTECTIVE ORDER
PROCESS**

ELDER ABUSE ADVOCACY

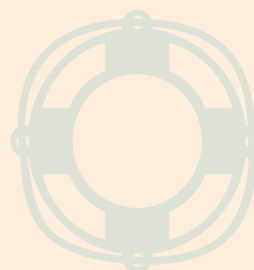
- 77 older women received support and services

**NEARLY 300
LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS RECEIVED
ELDER ABUSE
TRAINING**



COMMUNITY-BASED ADVOCACY

- 2,034 women served in programs outside the safe house
- Survivors attended support groups 832 times
- Helped 48 families flee Atlanta for safety



**48 FAMILIES
USED OUR EMERGENCY
FOOD PANTRY FOR
OVER 468 TOTAL USES**

- \$81,133 provided in financial assistance in 2017
- Holiday help for 34 families with \$25,000 in donated items

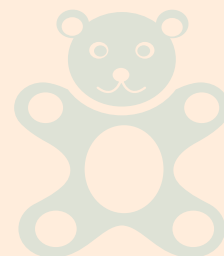


NIA'S PLACE

- 58 families served with supervised or exchanges
- 96 children served

**SUPERVISED
546 VISITS**

- Monitored 141 safe exchanges



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- Reached more than 10,000 individuals through community awareness campaigns
- Presented domestic violence information at 68 community events
- Conducted 46 dating violence prevention workshops
- Conducted 10 elder abuse trainings
- 54 active volunteers and interns

VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED

**19,672
HOURS OF SERVICE**

Coming Home

Following the yellow brick road to safety and stability.

In 2017, two of our safe house advocates put together something truly spectacular. Jackie Ferguson and Janice Edwards planned an amazing “Wizard of Oz” themed WRC homecoming. This was our first ever reunion for families who have been guests in our safe house. Past guests, staff, volunteers and interns gathered for an amazing day of food, fun and friendship.

Marquita, who visited the safe house with her children, thought the reunion was beautiful. “I came back with my two kids and it was amazing. It brought back so many good memories I had from the safe house. We laughed and cried reminiscing on times here. It felt good to go back and share time and space with people who helped me get where I am today. I went from not knowing where I wanted to go, what I wanted to do with my life, just feeling completely lost. Now I am a strong, independent and stable woman. I owe this all to WRC. I really had fun and it reminded me of where I came from and to keep pushing.”

Jackie, one of the planners, had a simple inspiration for putting it all together. “We miss these women,” she says. “They become like family and we want to know how they are doing after they leave here. It turned out well. There were around 100, 150 women and kids that returned for the reunion. We even had one woman come all the way from California. It was just truly a good feeling to see women we hadn’t seen in years and see how great they are doing.”

There really is no place like home!

“It felt good to go back and share time and space with people who helped me get where I am today.”

—Marquita, reunion attendee







This is the affirmation Camp PEACE campers recite every day. We could all use this reminder.

I am somebody and
so are you.
I was somebody when
I came.
I will be a better somebody
when I leave.

I deserve to be here.
I am powerful and strong.
I am amazing.
I am resilient.
I am the best at being me.

Being positive is a choice.
I have things to do and places
to go.
I am prepared to succeed.
And so it is!

Camp PEACE

A summer of learning, reflecting, and peaceful problem solving.

Summer is our favorite time of year at WRC because summer brings peace. Camp PEACE! The mission of Camp PEACE is to bring children exposed to domestic violence together for a summer of activities that facilitate Peace Education, Action, Compassion, and Empathy. Based on principles of Peace Education and Cognitively-Based Compassion Training, Camp PEACE helps children learn alternatives to violence while promoting tolerance, impartiality, affection, self-compassion, and compassion for others.



For the kids, it just means a summer of fun! Campers swim, skate, ride horses, play, read, learn new skills, learn about other parts of the world and go on field trips. All while learning to recognize and manage their emotions, cooperate with others, and solve problems peacefully.

Moms love our camp!

"The activities help the kids find better coping skills regardless of whether they witnessed violence first hand or not," says Julissa. "This experience is not only impactful to children but to us parents as well. It forces us to have responsibility for how we manage our feelings. It made me realize that this choice is not only for me but for the sake of my children as well."

Shaun said, "My daughter's favorite part of Camp PEACE was swimming. She enjoys indirect tools for working through her emotions, such as yoga and the arts. My son took away how important it is to be in an environment where individuals are accepting and caring. They loved camp and talk about it every chance they get."

Women's Resource Center offers Camp PEACE at no cost to the families of children enrolled. Meals, snacks, field trips, activities, supplies, t-shirts, sunscreen, and everything else are included. We had 50 campers in our program for eight weeks in 2017. *If you would like to sponsor a week of camp for a child, please visit us online at www.CampPeaceAtl.org. And don't forget to look for photos of our 2018 camp starting June 4th!*



It Takes a Man

Men investing in ending violence against women.

Tyler Edgerton works for the DeKalb County Solicitor's General's office, which prosecutes domestic violence cases for the county. For him, supporting an organization like Women's Resource Center is common sense.



"It takes all of us to make our communities safer," he says. "If our office can hold offenders accountable and WRC can help women and children rebuild, everyone benefits. Then we must each play our part in prevention."

Tyler donates annually to WRC's Father's Day Campaign. During the campaign, WRC places an ad in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* under the heading "It Takes a Man to

Stop Domestic Violence. The men listed below are proud to state that they will not tolerate domestic violence in their community."

"Now that I'm raising a son," Tyler says, "it means more than ever."

The 2017 campaign raised more than \$13,000 to support safety, compassion, connection, advocacy and prevention for survivors of domestic violence and their children.

If you are a man who would like to take a stand against domestic violence, visit our website and make your Father's Day gift today.

Trade the Malls for Walls

Holiday cheer with the maximum impact.

The holidays can be a difficult time for women rebuilding after domestic violence. And an expensive one. On top of the multitude of household items a family needs when moving into a new apartment, moms always want to make their children's first holiday season in their new home memorable. At the same time, women often feel lonely spending this first holiday without their former partner. That's where we come in!



WRC's holiday gifts program, *Trade the Malls for Walls*, collects wish lists from families who have moved out of our safe house. We ask our donors not just to think of a family's need for toys and gifts, but also of items to make their new home cozy and comfortable. Common requests include bedding, dishes, a vacuum, towel sets, cookware, winter clothes, and presents for each child. It's our way of making sure each family feels loved and supported at this special time of year.

"I'm very thankful for Trade the Malls for Walls. I received everything I wanted and more. I have a mid-size car and I

had to make two trips to get everything. I did not have to do any more shopping. My children had a wardrobe for two seasons. I am thankful because I know it all came from a good place. The sponsors even wrote us cards and they felt so genuine. I can't express how much I appreciated this program. I know I can always count on WRC to help when I need it."

In 2017, generous community members sponsored 34 families and gifted more than \$25,000 in needed items. *To sign up for 2018, visit our website at www.wrcdv.org.*

Family Dance

Great fun for a great cause.

Decatur put on their dancing shoes and cut a rug to support Nia's Place at our first ever Family Dance. Kids invited a special adult (or adults) in their life to a dance party including a live DJ, refreshments, and an awesome photo booth. All proceeds from this feel-good event supported Nia's Place, our Supervised Visitation and Exchange Center. Nia's Place services ensure kids can stay safe while continuing to form loving relationships with their parents.

Biff Courson attended with his 5-year-old daughter Virginia. "This was a fantastic event for both my daughter and I. My favorite part of the event was the music, but the buffet was also great. My daughter and I still have our picture on the wall from the photobooth."

"It was a good family event for a good cause and we really enjoyed ourselves."

We owe a huge thanks to a group of students from Georgia State University's Master of Social Work program for putting the event together. Thank you to Kaitlyn Bailey, Tiyana Chaney, Markita Coles, Arielle Massiah and Chelsea Waters.

Special thanks to our sponsors Allegra Printing, Badda Bing! Catering, and BandAid Productions.

Learn more about Nia's Place at www.NiasVisitation.org.



Champions for Change

Honoring 31 years of social change.

The theme of our 2017 *Champions for Change Luncheon* was the role men can play in ending violence against women. We honored DeKalb County Police Captain Jay Eisner, a man who has dedicated his career to helping law enforcement better serve the needs of victims of family violence. Jay helped remind us all of the important role men have in talking with other men and challenging their use of violence. Domestic violence "is a core issue of harm in our society," he says. "Show me a young man who is going to jail for shooting someone, and I'll show you... violence in his home."

Amy Faulkner attended our luncheon for the first time this year, as a guest of board member Alice Gamble. "Prior to this event, I was completely clueless of the Women's Resource Center and all they have to offer such a vulnerable population. I'm so glad I was able to attend this powerful event. I learned so much. Hearing people

speak and explain how this organization helped them was inspiring. After leaving the event, I felt guilty that I had not taken any action and vowed to find some way to make more positive changes to my own life. This was a life-changing event for me."



The *Champions for Change Luncheon* is held each spring and honors individuals and organizations that have made a significant contribution to ending violence against women in metro Atlanta. Approximately 500 guests from Atlanta’s corporate and philanthropic communities raised more than \$250,000 at the luncheon in 2017. These funds ensure the future of WRC’s work in the community. The event honored Jay Eisner as *Champion for Change* and Virginia Brooks and Molly Lane as recipients of the *Clarence Seeliger Local Justice Award*.

We owe special thanks to these leading Atlanta corporate citizens for their support: Georgia-Pacific, Georgia Power, Southern Company, Cox Enterprises, Delta Air Lines, UPS, Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore, DeKalb County Sheriff’s Office, Google Fiber, The Home Depot Foundation, King & Spalding, Littler Mendelson, PwC, Virginia Rece, Travis Reed & Harry Norman Realtors and Troutman Sanders.

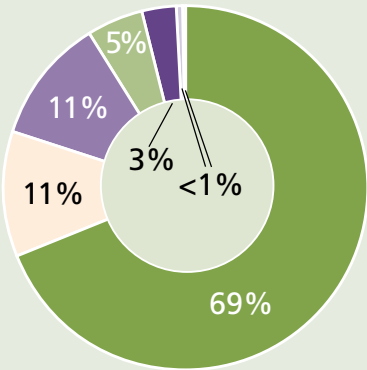


Financial Highlights* for 2017

INCOME SOURCES

● Government	1,128,833
● Special Events	182,335
● Individual and Corporate.....	181,225
● Foundation	79,600
● Inkind	50,170
○ Earned Income.....	9,525
● Other.....	3,199

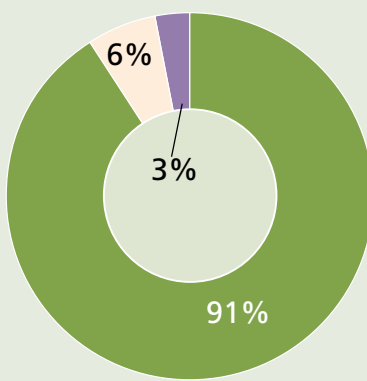
TOTAL INCOME: **\$1,634,887**



OPERATING EXPENSES

● Programs	\$1,414,239
Safe House	499,868
Community Based Advocacy	288,071
Legal Advocacy	226,970
Supervised Visitation and Support	178,960
Child and Family Advocacy.....	82,805
Prevention Programming.....	66,109
Hotline.....	42,748
Elder Abuse	18,502
Financial Education	7,496
Support Groups	2,710
● Administrative.....	\$190,104
● Resource Development	\$42,031

TOTAL EXPENSES: **\$1,546,374**



*(subject to audit)

Thank you to our donors

Without you we would not be able to provide direct services to nearly 5,000 women and children each year.

\$25,000+

DeKalb County
Georgia Criminal Justice
Coordinating Council
Georgia Department of
Early Care and Learning
US Office on Violence
Against Women

\$10,000 - \$24,999

The Atlanta Foundation
David Cofrin and
Christine Tryba Cofrin
Cox Enterprises
Delta Air Lines Foundation
Georgia-Pacific Corporation
Georgia Power Foundation
Homestead Foundation
Cindy Lutenbacher
Southern Company
UPS Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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\$1,000 - \$4,999

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*We would also like to thank the many donors who
 made contributions of clothing, household items, toiletries,
 food, holiday gifts and other items from our wish list.*

2018 Calendar of Events



MAY 10

Champions for Change Luncheon

JUNE 17

It Takes a Man Father's Day Campaign

JUNE & JULY

Camp PEACE

SEPTEMBER 15

Safe House Reunion

OCTOBER 6

KaBoom! Playground Build

OCTOBER 18

Candlelight Vigil

NOVEMBER 5

*Pairings begin for Trade the Malls
for Walls Holiday Campaign*

We strive to meet the immediate and long-term needs of the diverse community of battered women and their children with programs that promote safety, compassion, connection, advocacy, and prevention.

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Marilyn Stinson
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Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence

PO Box 171, Decatur, GA 30031

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www.wrcdv.org

