



HAWC

Houston Area
Women's Center

Ending domestic and sexual violence for **ALL**

40 YEARS ANSWERING THE CALL
2017 IMPACT REPORT



A Message from Carrie Potter, HAWC's 2017 Chairperson of the Board:

2017 was a milestone year for the Houston Area Women's Center, HAWC. We celebrated 40 years of answering the call for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. It was also the year that the world witnessed the resilience of the greater Houston region as Hurricane Harvey tested this community like never before.

We present proudly the 2017 Impact Report for HAWC, which not only highlights the successes and challenges of last year, but also chronicles our humble beginning forty years ago as a volunteer-led organization. Just as those early volunteers dedicated themselves to survivors with a few borrowed phone lines in 1977, our tireless staff and volunteers responded to Mother Nature's call in 2017 with unwavering compassion, bravery and determination. During Harvey, our hotlines and shelter never shut down and in the storm's aftermath, our non-residential campus took in donations from across the country and our staff served those in need at the various temporary shelters set up by the City and County.

To those supporters who have been with us then and now, we honor and thank you. We know our efforts to end violence once and for all could not be possible without you. We will weather any storm together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carrie Potter". The signature is stylized and cursive.



Our Mission:

The Houston Area Women's Center works to end domestic and sexual violence and supports all in building safe and healthy lives through advocacy, counseling, education, shelter and support services.

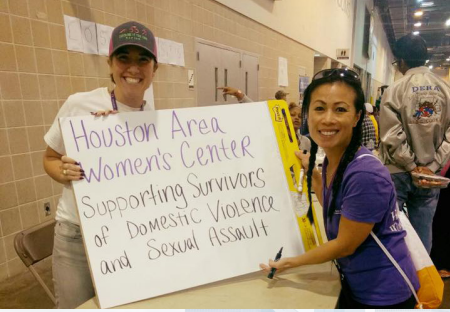
A long-exposure photograph of a city street at night, showing light trails from cars. In the background, a city skyline with several skyscrapers is visible under a dark blue sky. A semi-transparent purple rectangle is overlaid on the image, containing white text.

OUR IMPACT:

93,047

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

reached in 2017



Our Response to Harvey:

In August 2017, Hurricane Harvey brought catastrophic rainfall and flooding. During the storm, our brave and dedicated shelter staff worked around the clock to ensure all 120 women and children remained safe, while hotline advocates never stopped taking calls.

In the days that followed, violence prevention and counseling staff gained access to Houston's two largest temporary shelters, drafting flyers and distributing our hotline cards, knowing that in the wake of a natural disaster, violence might occur.

Perhaps the most amazing consequence from the Hurricane is the inherent goodness we saw from every corner of our country. HAWC's non-residential campus became a massive distribution center for several weeks, with donations from 13 states and several Texas cities. In spite of the devastation, we came together as an organization and as a community with hope and strong resolve.



The average stay at our shelter is 52 days. The average stay of a mother and her children costs \$2,600 and covers room, food, counseling, transportation, and support services.

1978

8 women and children stayed in our first shelter

2017

1,144 adults and **936** children lived safely in our shelter

Our **shelter** opened its doors in 1978 with just a few rooms in a converted home, where mothers and children could safely stay the night. Today, our 120 bed shelter is a secure, fully equipped facility with support services and 24/7 staff care.



"I am grateful that my children have a place to learn, be supported, and most of all, be safe so that I, as single parent now, can begin rebuilding our lives with peace of mind. "

*Janelle,
HAWC Shelter Resident*

40 Years Answering the Call

Our agency began as a small group of tireless volunteers, with just a few borrowed phone lines answering calls from survivors. Today, **our two 24/7 free and confidential hotlines** are supported by a dedicated team of 30 staff and volunteer advocates.

Answering the call of survivors no matter the time or day embodies our agency's commitment to serving survivors.

33,692
3,664

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SEXUAL ASSAULT
HOTLINE CALLS IN 2017



"Picking up the phone, being there and letting them know there's someone who cares is what's important. As long as the need is here, I'll be here."

Gail Baxter,
One of HAWC's first hotline
volunteers in 1978 who still
volunteers weekly to this day



36,744

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

reached by our **violence prevention and education** team, dedicated to teaching people how to stop the violence before it begins.



This team teaches middle and high school students, professionals, medical students, and community members.



Our trainings provide the tools to support survivors and build relationships without violence.



In 2017, our Violence Prevention and Education team added an outreach educator dedicated to serving the Sunnyside neighborhood, bringing services into communities.



The Houston Area Women's Center is incorporated.

1977

The Women's Information & Referral Exchange Service (WIRES) becomes a program of the Houston Area Women's Center.

1978

Sexual assault hospital accompaniment program begins.

HAWC participates in legislative committee responsible for overhaul of sexual assault statutes.

1982

HAWC remodels the shelter facility to accommodate 45 women and children.

1983

HAWC opens the Non-Residential Counseling and Outreach Program and offers counseling and advocacy for battered women in the community.

1984

HAWC opens Treasure Chest Thrift Shop (later renamed Second to None Resale Store).

The United Way invites the agency to open a domestic violence program in Montgomery County.

1985

Due to increasing expansion of services and staff, the Houston Area Women's Center moves its counseling, administration and education offices to 3101 Richmond.

1990



1992

The Safe Harbor Program begins, providing emergency safe shelter for women in local hotels when all battered women's shelters are full.

Sexual Assault Outreach Program in the Hispanic community begins.

1994

The Houston Area Women's Center begins a \$2 million capital campaign for new counseling and education offices.

1995

The Houston Area Women's Center purchases and renovates new counseling and education building at 1010 Waugh Drive.

2005

HAWC launches the Houston Men Against Family Violence, a collaborative public awareness campaign with the Houston Police Department designed to encourage men to become involved in violence prevention efforts.

2012

HAWC's training division unveils new Sexual Assault Community Leaders Training. More than 40 community leaders register for the all-day course.

2014

Andre Johnson, wide receiver for the Houston Texans, hosts his inaugural golf tournament benefiting the Houston Area Women's Center.

2017

The 40th Anniversary of the Houston Area Women's Center. HAWC became a distribution center for relief supplies to Hurricane Harvey victims.



40 Years of Leadership



Nikki Van Hightower
President and CEO
1979-1986

Nikki Van Hightower was one of HAWC's founders, and the agency's first president and CEO. She also served as the first chairperson of the Board.

Her work as the City of Houston's Women's Advocate helped her see a need for support services for domestic and sexual violence survivors.



Ellen Cohen
President and CEO
1990-2007

City of Houston Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Cohen succeeded Nikki Van Hightower and served as President and CEO for 18 years.

In her tenure, the agency's programs continued to grow, with non-residential services moving first to 3101 Richmond and then to 1010 Waugh. HAWC's shelter expanded to a new facility with 120 beds.



Rebecca White
President and CEO
2008-2018

Under Rebecca White's leadership, HAWC experienced tremendous growth and expansion. The agency's revenue increased from \$4.5 million annually to over \$8 million.

HAWC's programming expanded to psychotherapy, primary prevention, and outreach to underserved communities.



Pam Hobbs,
Manager of Children's
Court Services on how
Harvey impacted our
Children's Court Services
Program:

"As a result of Hurricane Harvey flooding of the Criminal Justice Center, countless child survivors and their families are waiting even longer to see their court cases come to an end. While the conclusion of a court case often brings closure for families, additional delays impact their healing process and prevent them from moving on."

318 CHILDREN 1,914 GUARDIANS

guided through the criminal justice system by our **Children's Court Services** Advocates.

In 2017, 275 court cases were resolved and Children's Court Services received 681 new referrals.

CHILDREN

Our non-residential counseling services began in 1984. Initially a program for female survivors of domestic violence, today we offer support for women, children and men.





1,318

SURVIVORS

received assistance from our **Supportive Housing** program as they transitioned to safety and independence.



We are one of 6 domestic violence organizations throughout Houston that participate in the coordinated access program for domestic violence survivors.

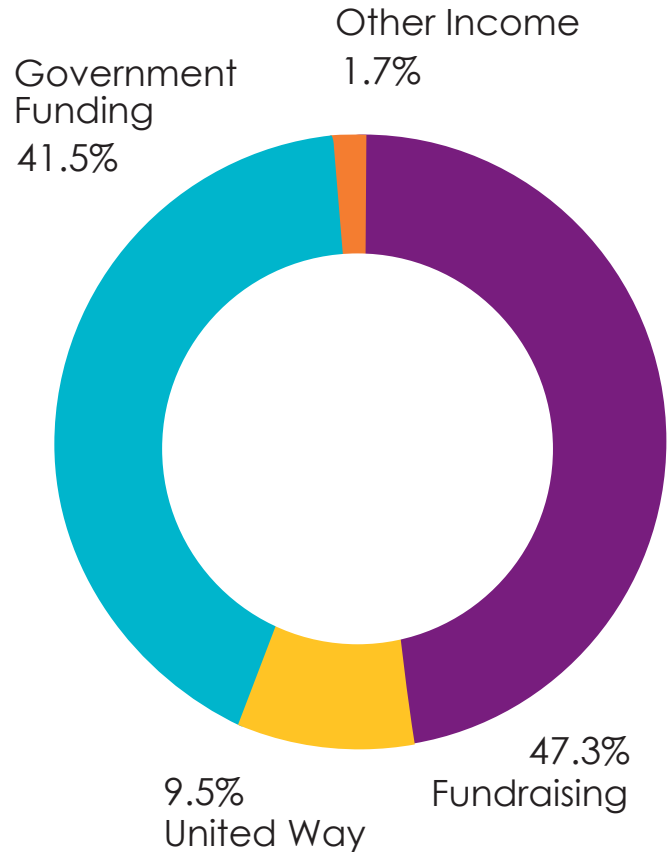
Coordinated access helps house survivors faster.

OPERATING REVENUE

Fundraising	\$	3,612,884
United Way		721,987
Government Funding		3,169,760
Other Income		127,129



Total Operating Revenue



7,631,760



OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Services

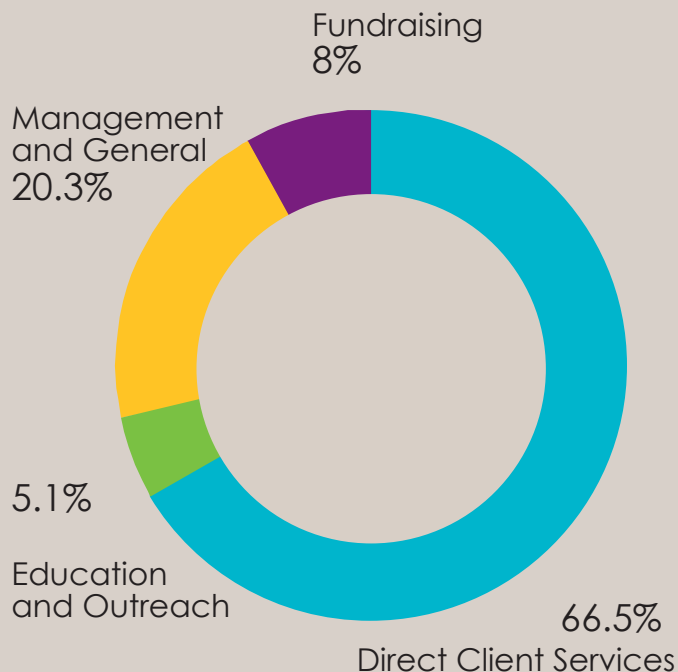
 Direct Client Services	\$	5,643,109
 Education and outreach		437,943
Sub-total - Program Services		6,081,052

 Management and General		1,724,397
 Fundraising		679,146
Total Operating Expenses		8,484,595

Total Operating Surplus/Loss (184,539)

Change in Net Assets \$ (184,539)

Total Net Assets, End of Year \$ 15,194,786



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carrie G. Potter
2017 Board Chair

Tom Fitzpatrick
2018 Board Chair

2017/2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Cindy Deere
Tom Fitzpatrick
Amy Grinstein +
Frances Powell Hawes *
Kimberly Johnston *
Gregory Mauney +
Kristin Midgett
Tana Pool
Carrie G. Potter
Mark C. Schroeder *

Art Acevedo +
Valencia Amenson +
Sandra Ramirez Aultman *§
Jessica Ludwig Bertuccio +
Len Cannon
Cindy Deere
Michael A. Dirden *
Beth Ann Dranguet *
Genie Ermeta +
Lesa Nickelson French

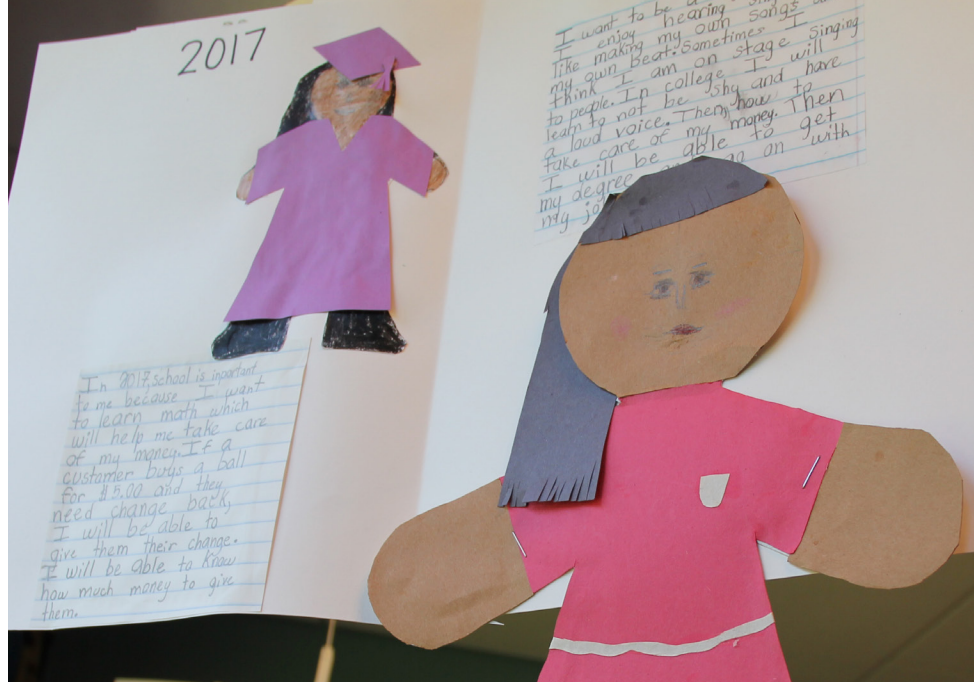
Adrian Garcia
Cynthia Williams George
Ed Gonzalez
Melanie Gray
Amy Grinstein

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Diana M. Hudson §
Caressa Hughes
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Kelly B. Rose*
Susan Sanchez
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Jeanne "J.J." Spedale *

Karyl Van Tassel
Brian Vass
Hoang Quan Vu
Malcolm Waddell
Jennifer Waldner +

*Service concluded in 2017
§ Past Chair
+ Joined in 2018

HAWC | Houston Area Women's Center
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Executive Leadership


Rebecca White
President and CEO

Sonia Corrales
Chief Program Officer

Pam Huewitt
Vice President of Human Resources

Chau Nguyen
Chief Marketing & Development Officer

Cassandra Thomas
Chief Compliance Officer



“ I’m still in awe over the fact that just three and a half years ago, I was living at HAWC and now I’m a homeowner! “

**Lovinah,
A Former HAWC Shelter Client**

“I owe HAWC a special thanks because while there, I took financial responsibility classes, that played a huge part in me having the skills needed to repair my credit & save money...

Just because of financial reasons, you end up--I ended up--staying in a relationship that was unhealthy because I couldn't afford a roof over my head. HAWC helped me take that option off the table for me. I had all the support I needed.

As a survivor, it meant a lot to me to know she really does care, the staff really do care.”

Today, Lovinah is working as an advocate for the homeless and attending college.