



Our Mission

The Houston Area Women's Center helps individuals affected by domestic and sexual violence in their efforts to move their lives forward. We provide shelter, counseling and advocacy to support them in building lives free from the effects of violence. We seek social change to end domestic and sexual violence through community awareness and education. Our services are confidential and available to everyone.



From Our Leaders

As we are every year, we are once again pleased to share with you our 2015 annual report highlighting our work over the past year. This year, we are especially excited to tell the story of what we have accomplished through the personal lens of those whose achievements are our very reason for being – survivors of domestic and sexual violence. They are the ones who engage in the difficult work of moving their lives forward. When they succeed in building their lives free from violence, we succeed.

Along with the powerful voices of survival, we are also proud to showcase our successes in preventing violence. We continue to invest more and more resources in our prevention programs to stop violence before it starts. In classrooms and community centers across our city, our prevention specialists work with students to challenge and transform the underlying attitudes and beliefs that foster violent behavior. These students' successes in creating healthy relationships and violence-free social environments are also our successes.

In the interests of being good stewards of the resources invested by our donors and supporters, this annual report will also offer the usual fare of financial results and program statistics. We believe those numbers represent a different kind of strength and success – the success that comes from a generous community that shares our strong commitment to end domestic and sexual violence. We are grateful to benefit from your strength of conviction, and we are proud to share with you the success stories of strength and survival you make possible.

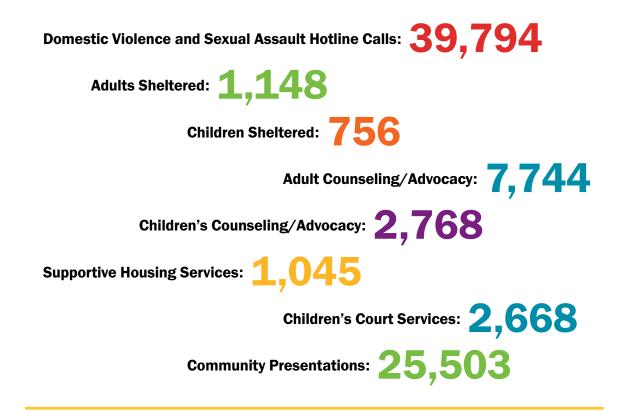
Sincerely,

Reberca Dulite

Rebecca White President and Chief Executive Officer

Carrie Potter Chair of the Board of Directors





More than 81,000 people in our community benefitted

from the Houston Area Women's Center's services in 2015.







Stories or stronger s

Survival

"When I called the hotline, I honestly thought it was too late. Little did I know that 15 years could have passed, it didn't matter. There was no time limit on when I could get help."

Emily, sexual assault survivor

24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in over 150 languages, our Hotline Services provide the gateway to hope and healing for survivors. For Emily, calling our hotline was her lifeline. Our advocate listened, offered assistance, and eventually directed her to our Counseling and Advocacy Services to help Emily overcome trauma resulting from sexual assault. Her counselor gave her tools to cope and a sense of safety she had not known.

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Strength

"Houston Area Women's Center staff and services brought back the peace, stability and happiness in my family. I am in a better situation with my children and the whole credit goes to the Women's Center."

Connie, mother of two

When Connie and her two young children entered our secure and safe 120-bed shelter, she shared this with our advocate: "My first night at the shelter was the first time in over six months I was able to lay my head down and close my eyes." While there, Connie's road to healing began with individual and group counseling, and she took parenting and life skill classes while her children were cared for at our Early Childhood Learning Center. These classes helped her launch her new life free from violence while rebuilding her self-confidence. After 90 days at the shelter, our Supportive Housing program advocates helped Connie obtain housing, something she says she could not have managed on her own at first. Today, Connie has a good job, safe housing and goals and ambitions she never thought possible.

Success

"Amy came into our lives and totally put the kids and me at ease. To gain an entire family's trust after such a traumatic betrayal is truly a gift. Amy gave us courage, hope and someone we could trust and depend on."

Mary, mother and aunt of children testifying in court against their father and uncle

Our Children's Court Services program ensures that children called upon to testify in criminal cases have a friend alongside them. That's what our advocates do. That's what they did for Mary's daughter and nephew, who had to testify against their father and uncle, a man they once loved and trusted, but were now fearful after witnessing him shoot their aunt and mother. After the trial was over, Mary sent a letter to Children's Court Services about the profound difference their advocate made in their lives during their ordeal.

Empowerment

"Thank you for coming to school and making class fun and guiding me to awareness. I appreciate everything you taught us." Andrea, 9th grade student

Our Violence Prevention Educators get to the root causes of violence though our Violence Prevention and Community Education Program. We work in all areas of outreach and targeted trainings, from underserved communities, to educating professionals and youth. For Andrea, it was the first time she was learning about violence prevention at her school. She and her classmates were not sure what to expect, until our Violence Prevention Educator turned the learning into something interesting. Andrea and her class learned where violence comes from and how to stop it. At the end of the program, all of the students, including Andrea, wrote thank you cards and letters to their educator, Michael. Michael keeps all of his students' notes as a reminder of the importance of his work in violence prevention and education.



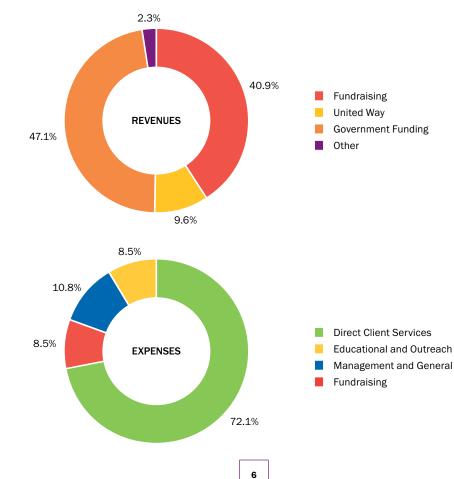
2015 Financial Highlights

Statement of Activities for the year ended December 31, 2015

	Ś	(388,040
Depreciation		(435,910
Investment Return/(Loss)		59,260
Total Operating Surplus/(Loss)	\$	(11,390
Total Operating Expenses	\$	7,278,781
Fundraising		620,677
Management and General		789,461
Sub-total – Program Services	\$	5,868,643
 Education and outreach 		618,347
- Direct client services	\$	5,250,296
Program Services		
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Total Operating Revenues	\$	7,267,391
Other Income		170,239
Government Funding		3,424,085
United Way		698,038
Fundraising	\$	2,975,029
PERATING REVENUES Fundraising	\$	2,

Total Net Assets, End of Year

\$ 15,377,513



Agency Leadership

2015/2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandra Ramirez Aultman 2015 Board Chair

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2015/2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

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- * Service concluded in 2015
- ** Past Chair
- + Joined in 2016

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Community Support

\$100,000+

Anonymous Houston Endowment Inc. Houston Methodist United Way of Greater Houston Women Of Wine Charities, Inc.

\$50,000-\$99,999

Harris County Hospital District Foundation The Brown Foundation, Inc. Wayne Duddlesten Foundation John P. McGovern Foundation Texans for Greg Abbott Verizon

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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Elena & Kenneth Marks





We hope these amazing stories of survival, strength, success and empowerment inspire you, just as much as they do us. From Emily and Connie, to Mary and Andrea, their narratives are at the heart of the work we do. From lives of despair to ones of hope, it is our privilege to be a part of a survivor's journey. And while we honor those whose lives we have touched, we are deeply grateful for the supporters, volunteers and employees who are changing lives and making our community a safer place.

"Courage is the most important of all the virtues." Maya Angelou Our message to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault:

You are not alone.









United Way of Greater Houston

HARRIS COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Domestic Violence Hotline 713-528-2121 | TDD 713-528-3625 | Toll Free 800-256-0551

Rape Crisis Hotline 713-528-7273 | TDD 713-528-3691 | Toll Free 800-256-0661

www.hawc.org 713-528-6798