

Ending domestic and sexual violence for ALL

HAWC | Houston Area
Women's Center



About Us

OUR VISION

We envision the day when domestic and sexual violence are history rather than a part of our daily reality.

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. Our services are free, confidential and available to everyone.

OUR BELIEFS

We embrace the belief that all individuals should have equal access to political, legal, economic, and social rights. We strive to create a community that embraces diversity, recognizes oppression, promotes empowerment and supports the right of all individuals to self-determination.



DEAR HAWC FRIENDS,

2020 was the not the year anyone expected.

Few can forget the week leading into mid-March 2020, when in a matter of days, life as we all knew it, changed. At HAWC, many of our services quickly went from full scale and in-person, to remote and virtual. COVID-19 was sweeping across the globe. We faced Spring 2020 with massive uncertainty.

Yet in the midst of this crisis, our 24/7 hotline never went silent. Our shelter stayed open. Closing HAWC's doors to women and children escaping abuse was not an option. A global pandemic with stay-at-home orders simply did not stop the violence. In many cases, it compounded it. Survivors were now forced into isolation with their abusers. Women, children and families in our community faced added danger in the wake of COVID-19.

From the onset of the pandemic and throughout 2020, our frontline staff comprised of advocates, counselors and case managers resolved to not let survivors down. Whether it meant survivors heard a supportive and caring voice on the phone, texted with an advocate through LiveChat, or received assurances, in real time, that they had a safe place to go, we made sure we were there for them. Our work was not just essential, it was life-saving.

As evidenced by the record number of calls to our hotlines and increased demand for emergency housing, 2020 reinforced the need for greater support for survivors. While last year tested us in many ways, our tireless staff rose to the challenge, with unyielding dedication, staying true to our mission of ending violence for all.

2020 also marked the first year of HAWC's three year strategic plan to boldly lead, innovate and effectively partner to prevent violence, provide safety on demand and empower survivors using a public health and equity framework. In the midst of COVID-19, I am inspired by the unwavering work of our teams, committed to the goals we set for our organization and ultimately, to the survivors we serve.

As we continue to endure the effects of the global pandemic, our work to support women, children and families escaping abuse remains steadfast. Like COVID-19, domestic and sexual violence are public health crises that demand our urgent response. Violence affects entire communities, and those with historic barriers to accessing services suffer the most. Low-income and communities of color are disproportionately affected. HAWC is a multi-lingual, multi-racial organization offering crisis response, survivor empowerment and violence prevention in real time, 24/7 free and confidential.

Our challenges will no doubt increase in the year ahead. We hope you will continue to support HAWC as we answer the call.

Until it stops,

Emilee Dawn Whitehurst

President & Chief Executive Officer



“At HAWC, the counselors made me feel believed. They showed me there was assistance and made me realize I was not alone.”

Lucina Reyes, *Client*



“When I arrived to HAWC, someone finally listened to me.”

Atika Khadija Owolabi, *Client*

WHAT WE DO:

CRISIS RESPONSE



From the first moment in which a survivor needs help until they gain a sense of stability, our crisis response team is there every step of the way. Clients access crisis support the moment they walk through our doors, call our 24/7 hotlines or go to the hospital. Highly trained advocates provide survivors with information and resources to assess their danger, make a safety plan, find safe harbor and link them to resources. Survivors fleeing violence and trafficking can find safety at HAWC's 120-bed residential facility, the only one of its kind within the Houston Metropolitan Area.

SURVIVOR EMPOWERMENT



At HAWC, we believe survivors are the champions of their story and experience. We know violence impacts every aspect of a survivor's life, which is why our services are comprehensive, client-centered and trauma-informed. Our services provide survivors of all ages with the tools they need to regain their confidence, develop financial independence, navigate the court system if they choose, and rebuild their lives. In addition to life-changing counseling, this means providing legal advocacy programs, case management, children's services, career development, and housing support. Our services are free, confidential and available to everybody.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION & CULTURE CHANGE



Ultimately – HAWC educators and trainers provide youth and community members with age-appropriate information on how domestic and sexual violence impact our society and how they can break the cycle and support survivors. Our experts also collaborate with community partners in law enforcement, civic and social justice organizations to educate service providers throughout the city on how to provide trauma-informed care to survivors.

Ending domestic and sexual violence means shifting our culture in our communities and shaping the policies that impact survivors. HAWC's staff experts play vital roles in developing public awareness campaigns, serving on coalitions for change, and speaking with policymakers on the city and state level, thus ensuring survivors' needs are met and positive social change is achieved.

HOTLINE NUMBERS



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

713-528-2121

TDD Line: 713-528-3625

24/7 Toll Free: 1-800-256-0551

SEXUAL ASSAULT

713-528-7273

TDD Line: 713-528-3691

24/7 Toll Free: 1-800-256-0661

DEFINITIONS:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

A pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship used by one partner to gain control over another person through fear and intimidation.

SEXUAL ASSAULT:

Any unwanted, non-consensual sexual contact against any individual by another using manipulation, pressure, tricks, coercion or physical force.

SEX TRAFFICKING:

The trade in people involving the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.

LEAD:

- Launched a citywide #NoCOVIDAbuse campaign to reach survivors with domestic violence partners
- Testified at the state legislature on critical policies relating to domestic violence and sexual assault survivors
- 544 media interviews and mentions on television, online, print and social media

INNOVATE:

- Shifted to virtual platforms including ZOOM Health, LiveChat

PREVENT VIOLENCE:

- Connected via ZOOM and in person with more than 13,000 women, children and families
- Nearly 4,000 youth and adults reached for emergency housing, legal services, long term housing, case management and hospital advocacy

SAFETY ON DEMAND:

- Received nearly 46,000 calls to the domestic violence and sexual assault hotlines
- Housed nearly 1,200 women and children at HAWC's shelter and area hotels
- Implemented first ever LiveChat

2020

HAWC in the Wake of COVID-19

EMPOWER SURVIVORS:

- Provided counseling, long term housing, legal services and case management to more than 4,000 adults and children
- Distributed \$1.6 million dollars in direct cash assistance to clients
- Implemented first ever LiveChat

ENSURE EXCELLENCE:

- Grew HAWC staff to meet the needs of survivors from 129 to 162 advocates

FUND THE FUTURE:

- Doubled federal, state and local funding from \$2 million to \$4 million dollars

How to Get Involved:

WE BELIEVE ALL WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN DESERVE TO BE TREATED WITH RESPECT, AND NO ONE DESERVES TO SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF ANOTHER. JOIN US TO CREATE A COMMUNITY FREE FROM VIOLENCE.



VOLUNTEER:

HAWC began as a volunteer run organization, and today over 1,000 volunteers annually help the agency fulfill its mission. Join our team of HAWC volunteers and watch our combined impact grow over time.



DONATE:

The generosity of community members like you helps ensure survivors never have to pay for life-changing support. Your donations help us expand and build new programs, so that we can reach more people in need of our critical services.



HOST AN EVENT:

Throughout the year, local restaurants, clothing boutiques, rock bands and art galleries hold special events to raise awareness of the Houston Area Women's Center and raise funds that allow us to continue our services. You can too!



JOIN OUR TEAM:

Consider becoming a member of a dynamic and diverse team of people dedicated to ending domestic and sexual violence and seeing victims transform into survivors living self-determined lives.



TO LEARN MORE
VISIT:
www.hawc.org

GET INVOLVED

2020 Impact Report

65,357

SURVIVORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED



CRISIS RESPONSE

Survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and sex trafficking have immediate access to safety, medical attention and trauma informed needs assessment when they first reach out for help.

45,904

Calls to our hotlines

399

Hospital accompaniment for survivors, friends and family

632

Survivors safely housed at our residential campus

264

Livechats

557

Safe Harbor Hotel placements



VIOLENCE PREVENTION

To break the cycle of violence we must understand its root causes and adopt positive behaviors.

11,134

Community members educated

1,832

Professionals trained

457

Youth educated



SURVIVOR EMPOWERMENT

Survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and sex trafficking are economically independent and live self-determined lives.

921

Women, men and children participated in individual and group counseling sessions

1,026

Clients in our Children's Court Services

1,072

Clients received legal advocacy

1,025

Survivors provided case management and advocacy support

91

Adults and children safely housed

43

Sex trafficking clients served



CULTURE CHANGE

Systems and institutions collectively invest in efforts to reduce interpersonal violence, support survivors and hold perpetrators accountable.

358

Volunteers engaged

26

Young leaders engaged

90

Strategic partnerships

4

Public awareness campaigns

27

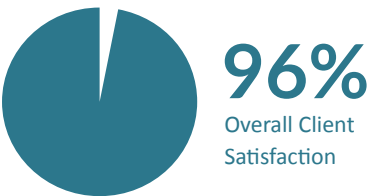
Survivor Speakers Bureau Members

22K+

SOCIAL
MEDIA
FOLLOWERS

HOW DO OUR CLIENTS FEEL ABOUT OUR SERVICES?

- 94%** of HAWC clients were able to identify resources to meet their needs through our services
- 97%** of our clients could identify strategies to enhance their safety after working with HAWC advocates
- 97%** of our clients felt less isolated after receiving services

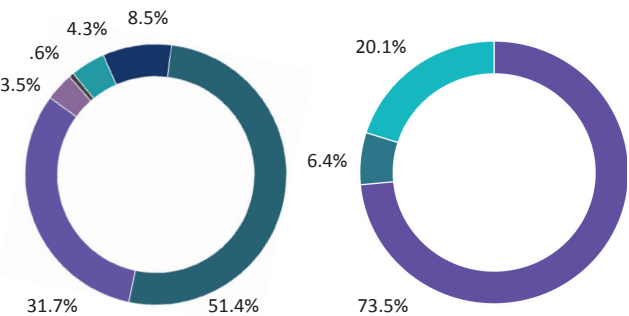


2020 Financials

FUNDING SOURCES

Government Grants	\$	6,040,243
United Way		503,213
Contributions		3,725,475
Special Events		414,548
Investment Return		998,843
Other Income		73,751

Total Funding Sources	\$	11,756,073
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FUNDING SOURCES

OPERATING EXPENSES

OPERATING EXPENSES

Direct Services	\$	9,347,527
Fundraising		817,671
Management and General		2,560,340

Total Operating Expenses	\$	12,725,538
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2020 HAWC BOARD MEMBERS

Cindy Deere
Chair

Jessica Ludwig Bertuccio
Director at Large

Tom Fitzpatrick
Chair of Site + Facilities, Director-at-Large
(November-December)

Cynthia Williams George
Chair of Development

Charic Daniels Jellins
Secretary

Kenny Marks
Chair of Site + Facilities, Director-at-Large
(November-December)

Kristin Midgett
Chair of Board Engagement

Tana Pool
Chair of Finance

Ann Al-Bahish
Valencia Amenson
Vineet Bhatia
Mindy Davidson
Jim Grace
Greg Harper
Frances Powell Hawes
Rebeca Huddle
Qusai Mahesri
Susan Sanchez
Hoang Quan Vu
Malcolm Waddell
Elizabeth Wyman

BELIEVE SURVIVORS STOP SEXUAL VIOLENCE
HOUSTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER COUNSELING
EDUCATION CHILDREN'S OUTREACH
ADVOCACY **BELIEVE** SHELTER AWARENESS
STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SURVIVORS
HOTLINES END SEXUAL VIOLENCE EMPOWERMENT



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

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