



ALWAYS MEETING THE MOMENT

with innovation, drive, and true solutions.

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HAWC | Houston Area
Women's Center
Ending domestic and sexual violence for **ALL**



THINKING FORWARD

The Houston region has been the beneficiary of a forward-thinking, nationally recognized organization with the capacity to develop and deliver direct services to survivors of violence while also providing thought leadership on life-saving policy interventions.

Founded in the ferment of the feminist movement of the 1970s, the Houston Area Women's Center is in its fifth decade of a passionate drive to devise true solutions to domestic and sexual violence. Since its inception, HAWC has made the case that strategically addressing domestic and sexual violence merits public engagement and financial investment. Thankfully, today, there is widespread acknowledgment that what once were considered tangential concerns of a small group of women are in fact of paramount importance to the region's safety and quality of life.

For decades, HAWC has been meeting the moment, advancing healthy relationships, fostering caring families, ensuring accountability for offenders, and designing systems that are trauma informed and healing centered.

THINKING FORWARD, CONTINUED



By centering and learning from the experience of survivors, HAWC has built a pioneering multi-ethnic, multi-lingual service organization that provides free, confidential, comprehensive life-saving services. On the cutting edge of clarifying the interconnections between gender-based violence, racial discrimination, and historical oppression, the organization leads efforts to improve systems of support for survivors and ensure accountability for offenders that are fair and just.

HAWC serves as Houston's designated Rape Crisis Center with a full complement of free, confidential services to sexual assault survivors. It operates the city's largest emergency shelter for those fleeing domestic abuse and sex trafficking. Its crisis hotlines work with thousands and thousands every year, providing round-the-clock, real-time crisis counseling, lethality assessments, and safety planning. The trained professional staff regularly navigate the challenge of attending to those who are scared but do not feel comfortable turning to law enforcement for help.

HAWC's commitment to housing survivors on an emergency and long-term basis affirms that domestic abuse is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children. As our city, state, and nation wrestle with the alarming rise in gun violence, tragically now the leading cause of death for children, HAWC is working every day to turn the tide on the surge of domestic violence homicides by firearm.

The organization deploys a multi-pronged strategy combining crisis response services that provide immediate safety with empowering interventions to ensure long-term financial and emotional well-being for survivors. In addition to direct social services, the organization spearheads violence prevention campaigns that raise awareness and improve public health. In collaboration with over 50 strategic partners in the private and public sectors, HAWC maintains the energy and momentum from its early years to transform systems, scale interventions, and improve understanding of the root causes of violence.

ACTING FORWARD

As a service provider, violence prevention expert, trainer, and thought leader, HAWC strives to prevent and interrupt the cycle of violence in collaboration with partners throughout the Houston region.

HAWC's robust array of life-saving programs and services each year reaches thousands of women, children, and families escaping domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking. All services are free, confidential, and available to everyone. They include:

- Two 24-hour crisis response hotlines for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault that includes chat services.
- Hospital accompaniment in the immediate aftermath of domestic or sexual assault.
- A 120-bed residential shelter with supportive services, childcare, and an on-site Houston Independent School District Elementary School.
- Counseling and behavioral health individual and group sessions.
- Housing services include emergency shelter, rent subsidies, and flexible funding to support housing stability and prevent homelessness.
- Financial empowerment and career counseling services designed to facilitate economic independence so survivors will not be financially beholden to abusers.
- Legal advocacy in both the civil and criminal systems including protective orders, court accompaniment, legal clinics, and referrals.

The organization's professional staff, numbering over 150, have the privilege of accompanying survivors in the wake of harm, on their journey to a self-determined future free from violence. HAWC prioritizes fair compensation for its diverse, dedicated workforce.

By fostering authentic collaboration, HAWC engages staff, clients, and volunteers of diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives to drive the organization forward.

**HAWC SAVES LIVES,
EVERY DAY.
HAWC PREVENTS VIOLENCE,
EVERY DAY.**



#HAWCFutureForward

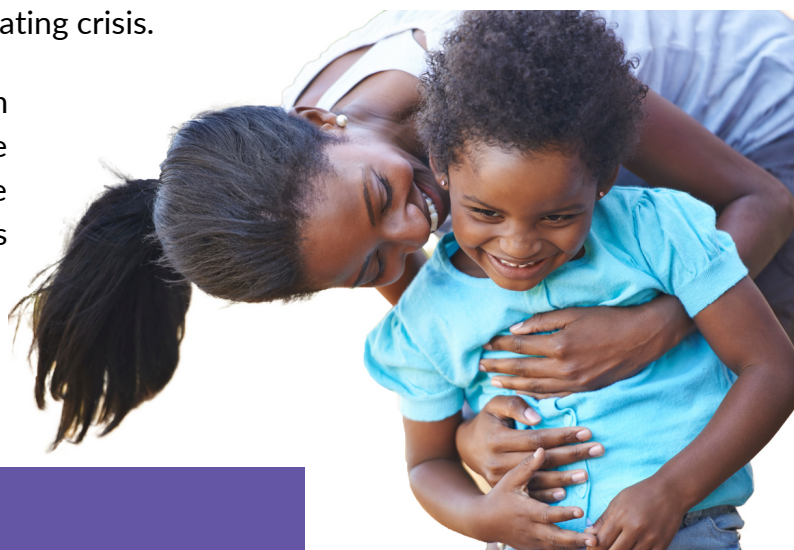
The Houston region is currently failing to meet critical safety needs for survivors of violence, particularly women and children of color, resulting in a public health travesty. **Home to Texas' highest domestic violence homicide rates and shelter turn-away rates, Houston has seen the number of family violence homicides double in the last three years.**

People fleeing domestic violence often fear for their lives and the lives of their children. Evidence consistently shows that survivors and their family members are in the most danger upon leaving and within their first year of departure. Safe emergency housing is critical to ending the cycle of violence. Without it, too many families are forced to choose between abusive homes and homelessness. The lack of affordable housing and transportation compounds the region's crisis, as do the lingering impacts of the region's recent natural disasters and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Too often, survivors feel isolated, as if they are the ones to blame for their perpetrator's behavior. This feeling is magnified when survivors of violence are forced to bear the consequences of their abuse alone.

Interpersonal violence is pervasive throughout all sectors of our community. Tragically, because of long-standing inequities, women, women of color, LGBTQ+ people, and their children and communities suffer the most from this devastating crisis.

As an organization steeped in a public health and equity framework, HAWC anticipated the emergent calamity and, with support from the region's public and private sectors, is embarking on a transformative expansion.



HAWC is developing a beautiful **Flagship Campus** located at its current residential site. The secure campus will no longer be an undisclosed location. Instead, it will be an inspiring, visible symbol of the region's commitment to survivors.

The centerpiece of the campus will be the new four-story **Emergency Supportive Housing** facility featuring 135 efficiency and one-bedroom units equipped to accommodate 360 survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and sex trafficking for up to 12 months. The new facility will provide a more stable living arrangement for residents and significantly reduce the region's turn-away rate by tripling our capacity to support women and children in need of real-time safety.

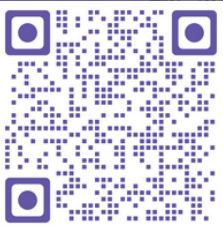
To improve access to HAWC's lifesaving services, HAWC is establishing neighborhood-based **Survivor Empowerment Hubs** in partnership with local organizations. Through these hubs and the consistent community presence they afford, HAWC will deepen its community education and outreach work and extend service offerings throughout the region.

This ambitious \$45 million effort promises innovative, effective interventions worthy of investment. The City of Houston was an early underwriter. HAWC sold its highly valuable property on the corner of Waugh and Dallas and deployed those assets to subsidize this initiative. Philanthropic contributions from local donors and foundations have been very generous. Now, with under \$10 million left to raise in its Campaign for Courage, HAWC looks to generous Houstonians to cross the finish line. With the courage of survivors and the conviction of the community, this crisis can and must be stopped.



1. HAWC's Flagship Campus
2. The Mexican Consulate - West/Southwest
3. Mabee Wholelife Center at the Women's Home - Northwest
4. Sisters of Charity's St. Austin Center - East End
5. Children's Assessment Center - Central

**HELP HAWC MEET THE MOMENT,
INVEST IN TRUE SOLUTIONS, AND
END THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE.**



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