When we gathered to reflect on 2018, we were inspired by all that had happened over the course of just one year. For the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV), 2018 was a year of change and resiliency, of long chapters ending and new journeys beginning.

There were celebrations of accomplishments and milestones achieved. We also witnessed the stark reality of our member agencies once again serving over 8,000 survivors and their children, and experienced the devastating loss of beloved members of our community to domestic violence. Through it all, we remained unwavering in our commitment to support survivors and their children, hold abusers accountable, and prevent domestic violence before it starts.

We are grateful for the people we work with every day: courageous survivors, tireless advocates, and passionate community members. We are energized by our recent leadership transition—and we know that this work is not about one person. It is about our collective stories and common cause, grounded in the legacy of those who came before us and urged on by the generations to come.

As we look toward the horizon, we dare to envision a sun rising on a world where every child grows up and thrives, without ever having to suffer abuse at the hands of an intimate partner. We are getting closer; we keep walking the path and, where needed, will forge new paths.
Whenever we deepen our engagement with diverse communities to create and drive solutions for ending violence, we take a step.

Whenever we center our work on the people who are most impacted, on those who are most at risk of violence and inequity, we take another.

When we assess our lessons learned and confront missteps along the way, when we reach for our greatest potential and embrace our most fearless dreams, we can make bold strides for change.

Together, our power is limitless and our endurance strong. Let’s continue taking steps forward, toward our shared vision of a bright and peaceful future.

Sincerely,

Tonya Harris
Executive Director

Janet Marcantonio
President
Board of Directors

2018 ANNUAL REPORT
FINANCIAL REPORT

The RICADV ended the fiscal year in a strong financial position, closing its financial books on June 30, 2018, with a positive change in unrestricted net assets from operations of $29,064.

- Total operating revenues and support were $4,769,015. 82% of the funds came from federal grants and contracts; 13% came from the State of Rhode Island; and 5% came from foundations, corporate support, individual donations, community groups, dues, and training fees.

- Total operating expenses were $4,739,951. Of the total expenses, 72.8%, or $3,449,691, consisted of funds that were passed through to our member agencies, primarily for the provision of direct services to victims of domestic violence.

The RICADV conducts an annual audit in accordance with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133.

In January 2018, we convened at the Roger Williams Park Botanical Gardens for our first Membership Gathering, where we had an opportunity to connect and celebrate the work we do together, as we recognized the RICADV’s member agencies, including our five inaugural affiliate members.
Each and every day, the RICADV's network of member agencies provides comprehensive emergency and support services to people in our communities who are impacted by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking. These organizations offer advocacy, information, and resources, including emergency shelter, support groups, counseling, and assistance with the legal system. We thank their staff, board members, and volunteers for their ongoing commitment to serving survivors of abuse and their children.

Full Member Agencies
Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center
Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County
Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center
Sojourner House
Women's Resource Center

Affiliate Member Agencies
Center for Southeast Asians
Crossroads Rhode Island
Family Service of Rhode Island
Progreso Latino
YWCA Rhode Island

2018 Major Funding Sources
Allstate Foundation
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (DELTA FOCUS and DELTA Impact)
Dave's Marketplace
Rhode Island Bar Foundation (IOLTA Program)
Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families
State of Rhode Island
The TJX Foundation
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
U.S. Department of Justice, Victims of Crime Act
U.S. Department of Justice, Violence Against Women Act
Verizon Foundation
Verizon Wireless
Women's Fund of Rhode Island

Statewide Statistics
8,514 individual victims of domestic violence received help in 2018.
396 adults and children stayed in shelters/safe homes.
133 adults and children lived in transitional housing.
2,911 victims were assisted by a court advocate in obtaining a restraining order.
386 victims of domestic violence participated in a support or educational group.
357 victims of domestic violence received clinical/counseling services.
556 children who have witnessed domestic violence received services.
13,092 Helpline/hotline calls were answered.
POLICY

The 2018 Rhode Island legislative session included significant victories on legislation that will protect survivors of domestic violence, including a bill that prohibits nonconsensual pornography, also known as "revenge porn." This act prohibits offenders from publicly disseminating sexually explicit images of victims without their consent. It also creates a felony offense for using extortion to threaten victims with posting online images or demanding money in exchange for taking down private photos or videos.

The "Red Flag" gun safety law also passed in 2018, creating another option for firearm surrender for individuals who present an imminent risk of harm to themselves or others. This law could help keep victims of domestic violence safe if they are threatened with gun violence from an intimate partner, cohabitant, or family member.

We are grateful to the dedicated members of SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships), domestic violence advocates, and all others who testified in support of and advocated for our priority legislation in 2018. We also thank the many legislators who introduced bills and championed social justice issues during the course of the session.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY

The RICADV actively supported policies at the national level in 2018 to strengthen protections for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Among the issues that were top priorities for the RICADV and the National Network to End Domestic Violence was advocacy for immigrant families, including the right to petition for domestic violence asylum and to stay together as a family. We also advocated for maintaining basic-needs public benefits for immigrant survivors of domestic violence and their children. We pushed for a modern, stronger reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, and advocated for funding for domestic violence prevention, as well as direct services for victims.
Our purpose is to catalyze a beloved community which recognizes, embraces, and values the humanity and dignity of all.

The RICADV affirms that all people have the right to live free from fear and violence. We are committed to dismantling oppression in all its forms; it is not a separate part of our work but the lens that informs how we do our work. It is at the heart of moving our mission forward. To create a world where all people can thrive and everyone knows peace, we must protect equality and agency for women and girls. It is in this spirit that we advocate for safe, affordable housing, protections for immigrants and people who are undocumented, access to reproductive health care, strengthening economic supports for families, and other social justice issues.

Left: The RICADV was an active member of the Fight for $15 and Fair Pay coalition in 2018, supporting bills that focused on pay equity and increasing the minimum wage. Lack of financial stability is a major barrier to leaving an abusive relationship for survivors of domestic violence. We will continue to advocate for economic justice, because no one should ever have to choose between financial security and their own safety.
Below: Zaida, a SOAR member, spoke and served on a panel of survivors for the opening plenary of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Voices Rising conference in September. Zaida received a standing ovation after powerfully sharing her story.

SOAR

SISTERS OVERCOMING ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

In 2018, SOAR, the RICADV’s task force of survivors, continued to educate and engage the community through presentations, information tables, policy advocacy, and various other forms of activism.

One area of focus for SOAR was raising awareness about economic abuse and financial literacy, with support from the Allstate Foundation Purple Purse and its Moving Ahead Through Financial Management curriculum.

Cali, a member of SOAR (pictured below on the right), was featured in the Allstate Foundation Purple Purse Survivor Stories video series, sharing her experience with financial abuse and her journey to becoming financially independent.

Financial independence was a struggle for me after my divorce. I was determined to move forward. This journey has been such a positive experience. I’m sharing what I’ve learned with others to help them get closer to financial stability and reach their goals.

— Cali, SOAR Member

By reaching out to the community and donating my time to provide information, I am standing up for survivors and hoping to inspire others through my own experiences.

— Laura, SOAR Member (pictured right)
TRAINING

The RICADV, SOAR, and our member agencies provided training on domestic violence and related topics throughout Rhode Island in 2018. We delivered 343 presentations to 8,910 participants statewide, as well as 448 presentations to 11,663 participants at local schools, colleges, and universities.

The RICADV’s 2018 Training Calendar series incorporated the expertise of our new affiliate members and included sessions on strengthening core advocacy skills, being an active bystander, and understanding the legal system.

Our purpose is to create a world where freedom, justice, and peace are present in the lives of all people.

VOICES RISING

In September, the RICADV joined advocates from across the country at the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) conference, held in Providence in 2018. The theme was Voices Rising, a fitting backdrop for the national walkout that took place on the first day of the conference. The walkout was a moment of solidarity with Dr. Christine Blasey Ford and survivors everywhere, as people across the country stood together to send a powerful message: We #BelieveSurvivors.
PREVENTION

In March 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Injury Center’s Division of Violence Prevention announced that 10 domestic violence coalitions received Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA) Impact awards to prevent intimate partner violence in their states. The RICADV is proud and excited to be one of these DELTA Impact recipients.

Over the next five years, the RICADV will receive $369,000 annually to implement and evaluate primary prevention approaches at the state and local levels and address the structural determinants of health. In addition to revising our State Plan for intimate partner violence prevention, we are focusing on three core strategies that aim to create protective environments, engage influential adults and peers, and strengthen economic supports for families.

We are partnering with the Women’s Resource Center, the backbone agency for the Newport Health Equity Zone (HEZ), on our Greening Urban Spaces strategy. This work involves mobilizing residents to advocate for equitable access to green open spaces.

We are also partnering with Rhode Island Working Families and other economic justice advocacy groups in RI to increase the number of people advocating for wage equity-focused policies that help families thrive.

DELTA Impact funding will also allow us to continue the statewide prevention initiative Ten Men, a strategy that engages men and boys as allies in violence prevention.

Left: RICADV staff attended the RI Department of Health’s Health Equity Summit in September, where several staff also facilitated the workshop "Striving to Become Anti-racist Organizations," as part of the Summit’s goal to promote healthy and resilient communities.
In 2018, the RICADV completed its fifth year of engaging RI male community leaders in the prevention of intimate partner violence through Ten Men, and the program continued into its sixth year with the 2018-2019 cohort (pictured above). In September, Ten Men presented at the NCADV Voices Rising conference, with 80 people attending the pre-conference intensive, "Challenging Privilege, Empowering Change: Engaging Men in the Movement to End Violence Against Women and Girls" and over 90 people participating in the workshop, "Ending Domestic Violence, Ten Men at a Time."

Above: In our 2018 video series, Ten Men members reflected on how their efforts to prevent gender-based violence have had a ripple effect in their spheres of influence. The videos featured Julio Alicea and his students at Blackstone Academy Charter School and Jason Rodrigues in his role as a construction foreman. We shared the main video at the RICADV's 5th Annual Men's Summit: Changing the Culture in November (left), where nearly 70 men gathered to have conversations about ending violence against women and girls.
TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS

In 2018, through funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, we engaged local and statewide partners to increase the number of prevention and outreach activities aimed at LGBTQ and Southeast Asian youth in the capital city. Partners included the Providence Public School District, Center for Southeast Asians, Sojourner House, and Youth Pride, Inc.

Through this collaboration, we developed the Love Is Not Control public awareness campaign, which launched in February 2019 in recognition of national Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. The campaign featured youth from Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM), pictured left during a photo shoot. We also conducted a community needs assessment; provided healthy relationships training for youth, youth workers, and community members; and held family dinners in the Southeast Asian community.

Also in 2018, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) DELTA FOCUS funding and in collaboration with key statewide partners, the RICADV published an evaluation report on the implementation of the Lindsay Ann Burke Act, Rhode Island’s teen dating violence education law.

Findings from the evaluation report (pictured left) were used to create five recommendations and an action plan for strengthening the implementation of the law. The full report and executive summary can be found on the RICADV’s website.

Our purpose is to change societal values and attitudes that perpetuate gender violence.

Right: In 2018, the RICADV provided training and technical assistance to The Network/La Red (TNLR) around strategic communications and media advocacy. TNLR is a Boston-based survivor-led social justice organization working to end partner abuse in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, SM, polyamorous, and queer communities.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

In October, national Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), we launched the *Hidden Meanings* public awareness campaign. Shining a light on less obvious forms of abuse, the campaign called on Rhode Islanders to learn more about the warning signs and be able to identify potential red flags in a relationship. The campaign was featured in both English and Spanish on buses and billboards throughout the state, social media, local radio stations, and Pandora. It was made possible through creative collaboration with Figmints Digital Creative Marketing and the generous support of our sponsors, Verizon and Dave’s Marketplace.

On the eve of DVAM, Rhode Island experienced a devastating domestic violence homicide. What should have been a time of healing was instead a time of mourning. On October 16th, we held a candlelight vigil on the steps of the State House (pictured right), illuminated in purple that week to raise awareness. Nearly 200 people gathered to remember and honor the 55 lives lost to domestic violence homicide in the last 10 years and to affirm in community that, even in the midst of tragedy, there is hope.
In December, the RICADV hosted a breakfast for close supporters and partners in the work to welcome our new executive director, Tonya Harris. More than 140 people were in attendance as RICADV Board President Janet Marcantonio, SOAR member Damaris Roman, and Deborah DeBare, our longstanding former executive director, warmly welcomed Tonya to her new post (all pictured bottom center).

MOVING THE MISSION FORWARD
Our Mission

The purpose of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) is to eliminate domestic violence in Rhode Island. Our mission is to support and enhance the work of our member agencies and to provide leadership on the issue of domestic violence.

Thank You

We would like to thank the members of our staff and Board of Directors who transitioned from the RICADV in 2018-2019:

Staff: Somali DaSilva, Deborah DeBare, and Kate Porter
Board: Lookman Buky Folami, Linda Impagliazzo, Peg Lynch-Gadaleta, Patricia Rivera, and Emily Sack

We would especially like to recognize Deborah DeBare, who served as the RICADV’s executive director for over 22 years before joining the National Network to End Domestic Violence in 2018. Thank you, Deb, for your leadership and contributions to our mission. We are honored to be stewards of your legacy in the work to end domestic violence, in Rhode Island and beyond.

We dedicate our 2018 Annual Report to Rebecca Burns, who shared her artistic talents with us over the years and provided graphic design support on several RICADV Annual Reports. She will be deeply missed.

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