Let us start off with a few simple words: thank you!

Thank you for your continued support of our work. The saying is true—we could not have done it without you—and when it comes to our mission of ending domestic violence in Rhode Island, we cannot move forward without you, either.

As we strive to ensure that, several generations from now, our children's children will live out safe lives free from violence, our work can only be fully realized when it is driven by Rhode Islanders who believe it is possible—and imperative—to create a world where domestic violence no longer exists.

2015 gave us hope that this vision is within our reach.

In the aftermath of 2014's unprecedented heightened national awareness, people of all backgrounds from across the state came forward to see how they could make a difference. From local businesses and nonprofits to musicians and community organizers, Rhode Islanders took greater initiative to help address domestic violence in 2015.
There is a reason why we often refer to our work as a social change movement. The work must consist of people in our communities moving together with a unified purpose toward a shared vision: NO MORE domestic violence. In 2015, we could feel this vital momentum continuing to build.

So, where will we go from here?

We need you to help us shape that destination—a safe and peaceful future for all. Together, we can be transformational. Together, we can end domestic violence.

Sincerely,

Deborah DeBare
Executive Director

Jennifer Meade, PhD
President
Board of Directors
The RICADV ended the fiscal year in a solid financial position, closing its financial books on June 30, 2015, with a positive change in unrestricted net assets from operations of $30,965.

- Total operating revenues and support were $3,491,108.
- 79.4% of the funds came from federal grants and contracts; 13.6% came from the State of Rhode Island; and 7% of the funds came from foundations, corporate support, individual donations, community groups, dues, and training fees.
- Total operating expenses were $3,460,143. Of the total expenses, 67.95% or $2,351,143, 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.
SERVICES

The RICADV’s member agencies serve those impacted by domestic violence and work hard every day to meet the vast need for direct services in our state. The agencies’ staff, volunteers, board members, and supporters are dedicated to ensuring that a wide array of services remain available for victims of domestic violence and their children. Services include advocacy, emergency shelter, transitional housing, support groups, counseling, and assistance with the legal system.

STATEWIDE STATISTICS

8,934 individual victims of domestic violence received help in 2015.

504 adults and children stayed in shelters/safe homes.

110 adults and children lived in transitional housing.

2,999 victims of domestic violence obtained a restraining order.

4,822 victims were assisted by a Court Advocate in District Court.

304 victims participated in a support or educational group.

338 victims of domestic violence received clinical/counseling services.

587 children who witnessed domestic violence received services.

18,830 Helpline/hotline calls were answered.
The RICADV had a strong presence at the State House during the 2015 session of the Rhode Island General Assembly. We continued to advocate for our priority legislation, the Domestic Violence Prevention Fund, a bill sponsored by Senator Maryellen Goodwin and Representative Christopher Blazejewski (pictured to the left) that would create the first state funding for domestic violence primary prevention programs in Rhode Island.

Survivors, advocates, and community members were vocal and visible in their support, both online and off. Through our #PreventDV social media campaign, the RICADV educated policymakers and the public on the impact that domestic violence has on the state’s economy, as well as on RI communities and lives.

On June 9, advocates and supporters descended on the State House for “The 500” rally (above), drawing attention to the continually-increasing number of RI children who are affected by domestic violence. The Senate quickly moved to unanimously pass our bill; unfortunately, the bill was still awaiting a vote in the House of Representatives when the session ended.
The RICADV actively advocated with the congressional delegation from Rhode Island throughout 2015 to ensure that Congress would be compelled to support increased appropriations in the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).

The RICADV and our member agencies effectively lobbied in concert with the National Network to End Domestic Violence and other state coalitions to successfully see the cap that had been placed on the VOCA funds lifted. This change resulted in a significant increase in funding to all states, including Rhode Island, to be used for direct services for victims of domestic violence.

As a result of the increased VOCA funding, we have seen our member agencies expand services for victims, including the establishment of a Superior Court victim advocate in Kent County, the opening of a specialized shelter program for male victims, and the expansion of the Law Enforcement Advocacy program.

SURVIVORS’ VOICES

SOAR, Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships, was a powerful force of State House advocacy in 2015. Members shared their personal experiences of domestic violence, testifying in hearings and speaking regularly with legislators about the impact of domestic violence on RI. SOAR members’ young children who have witnessed domestic violence first-hand explained the importance of the issue to leaders in the General Assembly at “The 500” rally in June (far left).

In March, RICADV staff and SOAR members had the chance to meet with Kim Gandy, President of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, during a breakfast meeting hosted by the RICADV.
As one of only 10 state coalitions funded under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) DELTA FOCUS program, the RICADV continued to implement innovative primary prevention strategies in 2015.

In partnership with the Women’s Resource Center, we provided the Primary Prevention Institute, a DELTA FOCUS initiative that supports youth-serving organizations in Newport in integrating prevention principles into their work.

In 2015, the RICADV collaborated with our CDC Project Officer to present on our evaluation work in domestic violence prevention at the annual conference of the American Evaluation Association (top right). The RICADV also presented on our evaluation of our men’s engagement work to White Ribbon Canada’s National Community of Practice.

Ten Men is an integral part of the RICADV’s DELTA FOCUS statewide prevention plan. In 2015, the RICADV hired a Men’s Engagement Coordinator (pictured above) to help the program expand its reach and mobilize its members. As part of Ten Men’s June public awareness campaign, members participated in the making of Ten Men Digital Stories, videos where they explained why they are personally committed to helping prevent domestic violence in RI. Throughout the year, Ten Men members facilitated workshops at the University of Rhode Island and RI’s first annual Rally for Peace event, in addition to hosting information tables at community health fairs.

On October 14, the RICADV held the second annual Ten Men Summit, sponsored and hosted by Providence College, where RI men came together to talk about healthy masculinity and the cultural shift needed to end domestic violence. The Summit was co-organized by 2014 Ten Men member Rafael Zapata (top left), Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer at Providence College.
In 2015, the RICADV, SOAR, and our member agencies provided training on domestic violence across Rhode Island, reaching law enforcement, health professionals, community-based organizations, and members of RI faith and business communities. Advocates and survivors also provided school-based education in 2015. We reached Rhode Island youth, parents, administrators, and educators through presentations at the elementary, middle, high school, and college levels, as well as in afterschool programs.

The RICADV also conducted trainings through our 2015 Training Calendar series, designed to enhance the knowledge of participants on a wide range of subjects related to domestic violence. In 2015, topics included working with the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF); adult sex trafficking in RI; sexual assault on college campuses; and the intersections of domestic violence, substance abuse, and trauma.

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<tr>
<th>SCHOOL-BASED EDUCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>586 presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>694 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>4,992 participants</td>
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<tr>
<th>STATEWIDE COMMUNITY TRAINING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>295 presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>777 hours</td>
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<td>7,306 participants</td>
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The RICADV strives to create systemic and social change to address domestic violence in Rhode Island. We also focus on the development of our own organization and the larger national movement to end domestic violence.

As part of our ongoing, aspiring efforts to become an anti-racist organization, RICADV staff attended the 2015 Women of Color Network’s National Call to Action Conference in San Diego, and several staff also attended an intensive two-day RI training facilitated by the Racial Equity Institute, hosted by the Women's Resource Center. In 2015, senior RICADV staff embarked on a unique opportunity to join forces with Move to End Violence and state coalitions across the country to reconnect our movement with its social justice roots and pursue a bold vision for change.
Last February, the RICADV’s “Know More. Do More.” public awareness campaign targeting teens and young adults centered around a story told from a teen’s perspective. We created a video to help tell the story that highlighted warning signs of dating violence and outlined ways young people can help peers experiencing abuse.

We spread the message on social media and worked with our interns (top left) to create a public service announcement that aired on local radio stations and PANDORA. We provided information about the campaign, as well as resources on dating violence, through the Teen Center of our website, www.ricadv.org/teencenter, newly launched in 2015.

Throughout the month, the RICADV hosted a Vine and short video contest for Rhode Islanders between the ages of 12 and 24, asking them to show how they would help a friend experiencing abuse. The winning entry, “We’re Here for You,” featured a group of young people recognizing the warning signs of dating violence and taking positive bystander action to help a friend.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH 2015

In October, we called on Rhode Islanders to “Get Off the Bench!” during national Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Our statewide public awareness campaign featured University of Rhode Island student athletes saying NO MORE to domestic violence and asking others to do the same.

The campaign stemmed from a partnership between the RICADV and Rhody Sports Properties of Learfield Sports. Available in both English and Spanish, the campaign included outdoor advertising on buses and billboards throughout the state, as well as public service announcements on television, radio, and PANDORA. The television PSA, "Something," starred URI athletes speaking out—because saying something is easier than you may think. The PSA was sponsored in part by JaiCG, a Rhode Island-based communications firm that developed the vision for the PSA and drove its creation, from concept to production.

Many of the student athletes who participated in our campaign (pictured above during the film and photo shoot at The Ryan Center) are part of the URi-STANDers program, whose mission is to address domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking on campus. The group is led by Keith Labelle, Assistant Director of Bystander Intervention Programs, who appeared with our executive director on The Rhode Show in October (right).
Singer/songwriter Czésare Santana and producer Ron Crosson presented the Ese No Es El concert in October. The Spanish language concert featured a talented group of artists and helped raise awareness and funds for the RICADV.

In 2015, the RICADV nominated the CNC3 Fund to be honored at Rhode Island’s Victims’ Grove Ceremony. The CNC3 Fund holds a Motorcycle Run each year in honor of the victims of a 2013 domestic violence tragedy that occurred in RI, with proceeds benefitting the victims’ minor children and the RICADV. In September, over 100 people participated in the third annual “Bike Run,” and the CNC3 Fund donated $1,200 to the RICADV.

Dave’s Marketplace, a longstanding champion of the RICADV, sponsored our 2015 Domestic Violence Awareness Month campaign. They also raised awareness and funds among employees and patrons throughout October, donating $5,608 to support our work.

In November, Sandra Lake of the Woman Development Institute organized Rhode Island’s first annual “Rally for Peace” event at Alvarez High School in Providence, cosponsored by the RICADV. Over 200 community members attended and called for an end to all forms of violence in RI.
2015 was a year where community members and corporate partners took initiative around the issue of domestic violence and modeled what it means to “Get Off the Bench!”

Whether you held an event or donation drive, contacted your legislators, or shared our social media posts, your efforts made an impact. Thank you for playing your part!

The partnership between the RICADV and Alliance Security, cosponsor of our Domestic Violence Awareness Month campaign, continued to flourish in 2015. Through the “Friends of RICADV” program, Alliance Security provides victims of domestic violence with home alarm systems at no cost and has installed over 50 alarm systems in survivors’ homes, as well as in our member agencies’ shelters and transitional housing units. In 2015, our partnership was named one of the nation’s “Promising Practices” by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.

In 2015, ALEX AND ANI partnered with the RICADV and the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) to create “The Way Home” charm. By the end of 2015, just two months after the launch, sales had raised over $12,000 for the RICADV and $60,000 for NNEDV.
NEW RESPONSIVE WEBSITE

In 2015, the RICADV unveiled a leading-edge responsive website. With our Google Analytics metrics showing that more than 1/3 of our visitors access www.ricadv.org on smartphones and tablets, the new website adapts to mobile devices for a more user-friendly experience.

The website was designed to raise the visibility of services available for victims of domestic violence in our state, engage bystanders who want to help those experiencing abuse, and meet the needs of diverse audiences, including the Latino community.

The website was developed by Alex Moore and Matthew Troiano, long-time supporters of the RICADV who went above and beyond the scope of the project.
The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) is committed to eliminating domestic violence in Rhode Island. Our mission is to support and enhance the work of our six member agencies and to provide leadership on the issue of domestic violence.

- **Fosters communication, resource sharing, networking, and collaboration.**
- **Raises awareness, responds to community needs, and educates the public about domestic violence.**
- **Promotes community organizing around the prevention of domestic violence.**
- **Advocates locally and nationally to impact social and systemic change on the issue of domestic violence.**
- **Partners with survivors to strengthen the voices of abused women.**
- **Accesses resources to maximize community impact.**

**We would like to thank our former staff and board members who transitioned from the RICADV in 2015 for their invaluable contributions:**

**Staff**

Besheer Al-Sasah, Rocina Dalzell, Ava Delasanta, Zulma Garcia, and Cristina E. Williams

**Board of Directors**

Jillian S. Folger-Hartwell and Richard Godfrey

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