TO COALESCE is to unite toward a common end. In 2016, we made progress by standing as a unified front, by being in coalition with so many who share our vision of a world free from violence.

We reached a pivotal moment, both for the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) and our state, with the passage of the Domestic Violence Prevention Fund. This milestone was made possible by years of tireless advocacy by our staff, member agencies, Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships (SOAR), and our many allies and supporters. We are grateful to the Rhode Island General Assembly for making the Prevention Fund a reality.

This step forward exemplifies the power of working together to reach a certain goal, and it is through this same power that we will achieve our ultimate objective—ending domestic violence.

In 2016, we continued to be deeply inspired by Move to End Violence, a national program that aims to strengthen the movement to end violence against all women and girls. The RICADV’s mission is to eliminate domestic violence in Rhode Island; Move to End Violence calls us to ask, “How do we create this change? What is it really going to take to get us there?” These fundamental questions challenge us to move from working in isolation to being interconnected, to pivot from focusing on social services to also focus on social change.
So what does that mean for our work? It means we are connecting across sectors to address not only domestic violence but all forms of violence, looking at root causes and shared risk factors. We are getting active in other social justice movements, because we know we can make a bigger impact together than we could in a silo. In this spirit, the RICADV expanded our membership in 2016 to welcome affiliate members, in an effort to build a more inclusive movement for peace.

Looking ahead, we know we face significant challenges. As we strive toward our bold vision, we will continue forging alliances, and build on the legacy of those advocates and survivors who came before, daring to demand safety, equality, and justice.

Today, we are as impassioned and energized as ever to move forward in solidarity with all people. It has been a long road, and our vision of peace and equity is just over the horizon. With your continued support and activism, we keep marching.

Onward,

Deborah DeBare  
Executive Director

Jennifer Meade  
President  
Board of Directors
2016 was a stable financial year for the RICADV. Total operating revenue and support were $3,489,083, representing a .06% decrease in revenue from the previous year.

- 78.7% of the funds came from federal grants and contracts; 13.1% came from the State of Rhode Island; and 8.2% of the funds came from foundations, corporate support, individual donations, community groups, dues, and training fees.

- Total operating expenses were $3,457,476, and after incorporating the non-operating activity during the year, the RICADV ended the year with a positive change in net assets of $4,414.

- 69.7% of the total expenses, or $2,411,229, consisted of funds that were passed through to our member agencies, primarily for the provision of direct services to victims of domestic violence. This amount represents an increase of $60,086 from the previous year.

The RICADV conducts an annual audit in accordance with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance.
The RICADV’s network of member agencies provides comprehensive emergency and support services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking. In 2016, with the aim of building a more inclusive, diverse movement, we expanded our membership to include affiliate members, organizations whose work includes some programming to address or prevent domestic violence. Full member agencies, whose primary purpose is to end domestic violence and provide victim services, continue to meet the needs of victims every single day. Services include advocacy, emergency shelter, transitional housing, support groups, counseling, and assistance with the legal system.

**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 Members:**
- Center for Southeast Asians
- Crossroads Rhode Island
- Family Service of Rhode Island
- Progreso Latino

**STATEWIDE STATISTICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual victims</td>
<td>8,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults and children stayed in shelters/safe homes.</td>
<td>478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults and children lived in transitional housing.</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims assisted by a Court Advocate in obtaining a restraining order.</td>
<td>3,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims of domestic violence participated in a support or educational group.</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims of domestic violence received clinical/counseling services.</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children who have witnessed domestic violence received services.</td>
<td>447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpline/hotline calls were answered.</td>
<td>13,976</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2016 MAJOR FUNDING SOURCES**

- ALEX AND ANI Charity by Design
- Allstate Foundation
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (DELTA FOCUS)
- Dave’s Marketplace
- Laszlo N. Tauber Family Foundation
- Rhode Island Bar Foundation (IOLTA Program)
- Rhode Island Department of Human Services
- Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families
- Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
- State of Rhode Island
- 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

The RICADV held a press conference at the State House to announce the report’s release and honor the 54 lives lost to domestic violence homicides in RI between 2006 and 2015. Members from the community filled the room, including surviving family members and friends, survivors of abuse, advocates, law enforcement, policymakers, and journalists. Speakers included RI Attorney General Peter Kilmartin (center left); Ann Burke, mother of a victim of a 2005 domestic violence homicide and co-founder of the Lindsay Ann Burke Memorial Fund (bottom left); and Jami Ouellette, sister of a victim of a 2012 domestic violence homicide (top left).

In 2016, another eight lives were lost to domestic violence homicides in RI. In the devastating wake of these tragedies, the RICADV will continue to advocate for legislative and systems change to prevent lethal domestic violence.
Rhode Island took a major step forward in 2016 when the General Assembly passed legislation to establish the Domestic Violence Prevention Fund—Rhode Island’s first dedicated state funding for stopping the cycle of domestic violence before it starts, created through an additional $200,000 in the state budget.

It was a proud and joyful moment for the RICADV and SOAR (bottom right) when Governor Raimondo signed this landmark bill into law during a ceremony at the State House in July (top right). At the ceremonial bill signing, the RICADV recognized the sponsors and champions of the Prevention Fund: Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed, House Speaker Nicholas A. Mattiello, Senator Maryellen Goodwin, Representative Christopher Blazejewski, former Representative Elaine A. Coderre, and Ann Burke.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the advocates, survivors, allies, and supporters who worked tirelessly to advance this legislation for four years. Thank you to the General Assembly for your leadership and for sharing our vision of a future free from violence.
On October 24, 2016, Trinity Repertory Company presented the sold-out final performance of SOAR’s original play *Behind Closed Doors* (pictured left).

Since its debut in 2012, *Behind Closed Doors* has received much acclaim for its powerful honesty, gripping performances, and profound messages of healing and hope. In 2016, we continued to be inspired by the incredible outpouring of support from our allies and community. Thank you to everyone who made this performance such a success!

The RICADV is deeply grateful to the women of SOAR for their strength in baring their souls, sharing their stories, and taking to the stage to help end domestic violence.

In addition to *Behind Closed Doors*, SOAR continued to engage and educate the community in 2016 through presentations and media interviews. SOAR members were also once again a strong advocacy presence at the State House, playing an integral role in the historic passage of the Domestic Violence Prevention Fund.

Pictured right: SOAR received a $2,000 grant for *Behind Closed Doors* from the 2016 Providence College Philanthropy class.
In recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month 2016, the RICADV hosted a lip sync video contest. The contest was a fun way to engage youth, while encouraging them to develop media literacy skills and become more conscious of pop culture’s unhealthy messages about relationships, gender, and violence. The contest videos were viewed more than 10,000 times on Facebook alone! Congratulations to the first and second place winners (top right), and thank you to players from the North Kingstown High School girls soccer team for creating a video to promote the contest (bottom right).

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2016, the RICADV partnered with Telemundo Providence to reach the Latino community. Interviews with advocates aired throughout the month on topics related to domestic violence, including healthy masculinity, immigration, and bystander action. On October 20, staff from the Women’s Resource Center (below) answered calls for the “Línea de Ayuda,” a live helpline that viewers could call confidentially to connect with Spanish-speaking advocates.
In 2016, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Verizon Wireless, the RICADV created a new resource for Rhode Island: *Our Future Depends on Preventing Domestic Violence*. This informational tool (top left) aims to help Rhode Islanders understand what primary prevention looks like in our state. It was particularly useful in the beginning stages of implementing the Domestic Violence Prevention Fund, supporting applicants in developing their project proposals.

The RICADV is also playing our part in advancing the state’s focus on health equity through our collaboration with two Health Equity Zones. We are a member of the Pawtucket-Central Falls Health Equity Zone, and we also support the work of the Women’s Resource Center (WRC) in their role as the backbone agency for the Newport Health Equity Zone (HEZ). Pictured to the left, staff from WRC, members of the Newport HEZ, and RICADV Empowerment Evaluator Cynthia Roberts gathered at the 2016 RI Health Equity Summit.

Additionally in 2016, the RICADV began a two-year appointment on the RI Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity, a body that advises the Director of Health and sets goals for achieving health equity in the State of Rhode Island.
As one of the RICADV’s statewide prevention initiatives funded through the CDC’s DELTA FOCUS grant, Ten Men continues to mobilize RI men in order to change harmful gender norms that perpetuate men’s violence against women and girls.

In 2016, Ten Men hosted its third annual men’s summit, created new digital stories, and engaged with more local colleges and universities than ever before. In July, Ten Men was featured on the national Prevent IPV: Tools for Social Change website. We are also thrilled to share that Ten Men is one of only three DELTA FOCUS case studies being developed by the CDC, which means that our strategy will be lifted up nationally as a model for other states and communities looking to engage men in the primary prevention of domestic violence.

Ten Men retreats give members space to get to know one another and develop a deeper understanding of the work to end domestic violence. Pictured: The 2016-17 cohort gathered for a September retreat at the University of Rhode Island Providence campus (left). The 2015-16 cohort convened for a January retreat at Year Up (right).
Community Engagement

In 2016, the RICADV, SOAR, and our member agencies provided training on domestic violence throughout Rhode Island and delivered presentations statewide at local schools, colleges, and universities. The RICADV also conducted training through our 2016 Training Calendar series, with topics that included masculinity and violence, serving the transgender community, and safety planning with survivors.

The RICADV restructured in 2016, creating a Director of Community Engagement position. Working across project and focus areas, the staff also developed an organization-wide communications plan that aligns with the RICADV’s 2016-2020 strategic plan. Through this intentional, collaborative process, we identified key strategies and audiences for moving our work forward, such as partnering with other social justice organizations.

**Statewide Community Training**

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<tr>
<th>Presentations</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>256</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>7,913</td>
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**School-Based Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentations</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>450</td>
<td>594.5</td>
<td>7,721</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Online Engagement**

The RICADV continued to engage Rhode Islanders online in 2016 through our social media channels and mobile-friendly website. In 2016, we gained 448 likes on our Facebook page and 420 followers on Twitter. The www.ricadv.org website saw an average of 2,151 visitors every month, with the Get Help section having the highest number of pageviews. The website was redesigned in 2015 to raise the visibility of services available for victims of domestic violence in RI and is now being widely used as a resource for those seeking help and information.
In 2016, RICADV staff had several opportunities to share their expertise throughout the country.

- In March, Executive Director Deborah DeBare and Director of Prevention and Communications Lucy Rios conducted a training for journalists and advocates in Ljubljana, Slovenia, sponsored by the American Embassy (top right).

- In April, Communications Manager Kate Porter and Communications Coordinator Krista D'Amico delivered a webinar on strategic communications for the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (center right).

- In May, Director of Community Engagement Carmen Recalde-Russo was a panelist at the national Family Violence Prevention and Services Act grantee conference, sharing experiences from our state regarding the Safe Families Collaboration Project, which helps those involved with the RI Department of Children, Youth and Families.

- In October, Empowerment Evaluator Cynthia Roberts presented at the American Evaluation Association conference, highlighting our evaluation work and addressing the challenges of evaluating prevention strategies.

- Also in 2016, Deborah DeBare was voted onto the Board of Directors of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). Pictured to the right, RICADV staff attended the annual NNEDV Roundtable meeting in November.
In 2016, we continued our work to catalyze social change that will lead to more just, inclusive, and safe environments for all Rhode Islanders and, ultimately, help end violence against all women and girls.

During a May retreat (top right), we embarked on a journey with our member agencies, SOAR, and Move to End Violence faculty (pictured above), committing to fundamental pivots in how we approach our work. These pivots call us to reenergize our “purpose horizons” (below) as we address the root causes of domestic violence.

SOCIAL CHANGE

Create conditions in which every girl can reach her full potential—to the last girl

Change societal values and attitudes that perpetuate gender violence

Create environments whereby people thrive through systems and attitudes that are free from oppression

Create a world where freedom, justice, and peace are present in the lives of all people

Catalyze a beloved community which recognizes, embraces, and values the humanity and dignity of all
OUR MISSION

The purpose of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence 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 staff and board members who transitioned from the RICADV in 2016.

Staff: Rachel Orsinger, Kenia Trinidad, and Diana Vargas

Board: Patricia Germani, Kristin Lyons, and Alison Rosario

DESIGNED BY

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Thank you to the RICADV staff for their support and contributions.