2017 was another remarkable year for the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV).

We deepened our connections with Rhode Island communities, branching out from our movement’s social justice roots to embrace our bold vision for the future—where all people can thrive through systems and attitudes free from oppression.

We celebrated legislative wins to protect victims and their children, hold abusers accountable, and make our communities safer. The state legislature enacted the Protect RI Families Act, removing guns from the hands of dangerous abusers, and the Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act, guaranteeing sick and safe days for RI employees.

These victories illustrate the pivots we are making in pursuit of our mission. As we advocate to strengthen the criminal justice response to domestic violence, we also strive to address the root causes of violence and inequity.

With the increased visibility of gender-based violence in the media over the past year—including the #MeToo movement and the national dialogue connecting mass shootings with intimate partner violence and toxic masculinity—we know that the tides are turning, that awareness is growing and the culture is changing.

In 2017, Rhode Island’s statewide Helpline experienced an unprecedented number of incoming calls, with a 28% increase in just one year. This resource is the kind of critical intervention we must continue to provide to those being impacted by crimes of violence right now—and we must implement strategies to stop domestic violence before it starts, before people ever become victims or perpetrators of abuse.
2017 was the first year of the Domestic Violence Prevention Fund, which supported 11 local primary prevention initiatives focused on addressing disparities and altering the norms, policies, and community conditions that allow violence to occur in the first place.

Our membership also doubled in size over the last year as we welcomed five inaugural Affiliate Members, bringing more voices to the table in order to build a vibrant, inclusive movement to end violence.

We thank you, our supporters, who make such meaningful change possible. Let us continue to carry the torch of the advocates and activists who have walked the path before us. Let us continue to be brave and say Me Too, NO MORE, Time’s Up.

We know the coming year will bring new challenges and opportunities, as the RICADV undergoes a transition in leadership; we are excited to share what lies ahead with you all. Together, we are powerful, we are resilient, and we are unwavering. Together, we can end domestic violence.

Deborah DeBare
Executive Director

Jennifer Meade
President
Board of Directors
In 2017, ALEX AND ANI launched the *Paper Crane* Charity By Design bangle to benefit the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), with a portion of the proceeds supporting the RICADV and our member agencies.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

2017 was a very strong financial year for the RICADV, with a 25% increase in operating revenue over the previous year.

Total operating revenue and support was $4,371,119, of which 72.4% was passed through to our member agencies to support local direct services and programming.

- 78% of the funds came from federal grants and contracts; 15% came from the State of Rhode Island; and 7% of the funds came from foundations, corporate support, individuals, community groups, dues, and fees. We thank everyone who made personal donations to the RICADV or raised funds to support our work.

- Total operating expenses were $4,324,129, and the RICADV ended the year with a positive change in net assets from operations of $46,990.

- 72.4% of the total expenses, or $3,129,470, 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 $718,241 from the previous year.

The RICADV conducts an audit annually in accordance with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance.
MEMBER AGENCIES

The RICADV’s network of member agencies provides comprehensive emergency and support services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking.

The dedicated staff, volunteers, and board members of these organizations work tirelessly each and every day to meet the vast need for services in our state. We thank them for their steadfast commitment to supporting survivors of abuse and their children.

EXPANDING OUR NETWORK

The RICADV continued the thoughtful and deliberate process of expanding our membership this past year. With our inaugural group of Affiliate Members, the RICADV is better able to support organizations that reach underserved communities, and build stronger collaborations with effective community-based organizations.

Each of these organizations has an established program that focuses on addressing domestic violence, and each brings their own area of expertise and specialized experience to the work of our coalition to help achieve our mission.

Organizations interested in applying to become a RICADV Affiliate Member can find information about membership benefits, requirements, and the application process on our website, www.ricadv.org.

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

2017 MAJOR FUNDING SOURCES

Allstate Foundation
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (DELTA FOCUS)
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
In addition to the comprehensive emergency and support services that our member agencies provided (below), the Helpline responded to over 5,000 calls in 2017, representing a significant 28% increase over the previous year (right).

The Helpline is a collaboration between the RICADV, Day One, and the Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center. This upsurge in calls is a testament to the public awareness and outreach efforts of the RICADV and our member agencies, as well as the heightened visibility of the issue in the media and national discourse.

In April, advocates from the Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center attended the RICADV’s “History of the Movement” training (top). In October, member agency advocates who serve on the RICADV’s Public Awareness Working Group took a photo for #PurpleThursday during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

**STATEWIDE STATISTICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,758</td>
<td>individual victims of domestic violence received help in 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>539</td>
<td>adults and children stayed in shelters/safe homes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>228</td>
<td>adults and children lived in transitional housing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,833</td>
<td>victims were assisted by a court advocate in obtaining a restraining order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>715</td>
<td>victims of domestic violence participated in a support or educational group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>379</td>
<td>victims of domestic violence received clinical/counseling services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>604</td>
<td>children who have witnessed domestic violence received services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13,196</td>
<td>Helpline/hotline calls were answered.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXPANDING OUR SERVICES

In 2017, the RICADV partnered with the Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center to expand Rhode Island’s phone Helpline services and offer a new chat Helpline option.

Through the chat Helpline, which can be accessed on the RICADV’s website, www.ricadv.org, advocates (like Ashlee pictured right) are available to provide confidential support and information from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every day.
In 2017, the RICADV celebrated several substantial legislative victories that will enhance safety and security for survivors of domestic violence, their children, and our communities.

The Rhode Island General Assembly voted overwhelmingly in favor of disarming dangerous abusers through the *Protect RI Families Act*. The new law requires abusers convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors or subject to restraining orders to surrender their firearms.

Thank you to House sponsor Representative Teresa Tanzi, Senate sponsor Senator Harold Metts, Speaker Nicholas Mattiello, and Senate President Dominick Ruggerio for your leadership in getting this bill passed. Pictured bottom left, Governor Gina Raimondo signed the bill into law in October.

The legislature also enacted the *Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act*, which allows employees to earn up to five paid sick days and includes mandated paid leave for those experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Thank you to Senator Maryellen Goodwin and Representative Aaron Regunberg for sponsoring this bill. Pictured above, RICADV staff and SOAR member Kathy McCormick showed their support for the Act at a State House hearing in April.
We also applauded the successful passage of a bill in 2017 that expands the Rhode Island Crime Victim Compensation Program to cover the cost of mental health counseling for children who witness homicides or domestic violence.

Thank you to General Treasurer Seth Magaziner for advocating for this important policy. Pictured left, Deborah DeBare attended the September bill signing (above), along with John Wesley, RICADV Director of Policy and Advocacy, and his daughter Alice.

We also testified in favor of the Justice Reinvestment criminal justice reform bills, signed into law in 2017 after more than two years of advocacy. The legislation includes the critical establishment of a pre-arraignment lethality risk assessment for those charged with domestic violence offenses, in order to identify and intervene in the most dangerous cases before they turn deadly.

We celebrate these legislative victories and thank our supporters and partners for making them possible.

Thank you to the tireless advocates—including the survivors and members of SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships), the RICADV’s task force of survivors—who made their voices heard and created positive change.

The RICADV actively promoted legislation on the national level in 2017 to strengthen protections for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Among the issues that surfaced as top priorities for the RICADV and the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) were advocacy for immigrant victims, confidentiality within the technology and new media industries, housing advocacy, and funding for prevention as well as for core services.

In November, SOAR member Giovanna Rodriguez traveled to Washington, DC to speak at an NNEDV press conference on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol, advocating to limit abusers’ access to firearms.
The RICADV’s first year of administering the Domestic Violence Prevention Fund was very successful, with the fund supporting 11 prevention initiatives led by ten community-based agencies. We are amazed by the incredible work that has been done by our grantees over the course of this past year.

In 2017, we awarded the following Implementation Project grants:

- **Progreso Latino** created adult and youth social action groups in order to assess community challenges and then mobilize the community to lead related policy reforms. One initiative included engaging youth in a photojournalism project, in collaboration with the Blackstone Academy Charter School, the Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center, and the Central Falls Prevention Coalition.

- **Sojourner House** partnered with Harbor YouthWorks, Youth Pride, and Youth In Action to launch the Peer Advocacy Leadership Program, with the goal of students becoming anti-violence advocates and leaders in their communities and schools.

- **YWCA Rhode Island** trained over 100 educators, youth workers, service providers, and community members on the historical and current ways that institutional and structural racism impact girls of color. The organization also trained 60 youth workers in Girls Circle, an evidence-based prevention program for building resiliency in girls.

We awarded Community Micro-grants to the following organizations:

- Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center
- Katie Brown Educational Program
- Princes 2 Kings
- Blackstone Valley Community Action Program
- Adoption Rhode Island
- Youth In Action
- Progreso Latino
- Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education (ARISE)
On April 11th, we hosted *Changing the Culture, Stopping the Violence: A CALL TO MEN Symposium*, featuring internationally renowned educator, author, and activist Tony Porter. The event was attended by 120 people, with more than half of the audience made up of men (below) who see it as their role to learn about and help prevent domestic violence. SOAR member Damaris Roman (pictured right) was the closing speaker at the symposium, as part of A CALL TO MEN’s practice of having a woman deliver the “Last Word.”

Into its fifth year, the RICADV’s Ten Men project continued its efforts to change the hyper-masculine culture and harmful gender norms that contribute to men’s violence against women and girls.

Ten Men members were featured in the RICADV’s “NO MORE Silence” public awareness campaign, visible on buses and billboards throughout the state, with a public service announcement airing on local radio. On November 9th, Ten Men hosted the 4th Annual Men’s Summit: *Breaking the Silence* at Providence College, where a diverse and dynamic group of men gathered to have conversations about their role in preventing men’s violence against women and girls.

Ten Men members were in attendance for the April symposium, including Len Cabral (pictured right with Tony Porter), a member of the 2016-17 Ten Men cohort.
With support from the Allstate Foundation Purple Purse, SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships), the RICADV’s task force of survivors, has been raising awareness about economic abuse and financial literacy.

In April, SOAR launched a series of digital stories that featured SOAR members sharing, in their own words, their experiences with financial abuse, as well as tips for recovering, rebuilding, and attaining financial freedom. SOAR premiered the digital stories through their #TalkingChange tweet chats.

SOAR also hosted a series of conversations called “Women Talking Money,” providing a safe environment for women of diverse backgrounds to share information and become empowered to take control of their finances.

In 2017, six SOAR members, who had completed the Allstate Foundation’s Moving Ahead Through Financial Management curriculum, were selected to participate in the Allstate Foundation’s survivor network (top right). They traveled to Chicago in May for a training that prepared them to be part of a national speakers bureau. The opportunity provided them with a national platform to share their experiences and bring about change in the lives of other survivors.

SOAR members Patricia Rivera (top), who is also a member of the RICADV’s Board of Directors, and Cali Babbitt-Spears (bottom) shared their experiences with financial abuse in SOAR’s digital stories series.

SOAR was a strong force of advocacy at the State House in 2017, sharing their stories with legislators and testifying at hearings. In May, SOAR member Carmen Cruz spoke powerfully about her own personal experience with gun violence (top left). In June, SOAR member Kristi DiCenzo joined staff from the RICADV and Progreso Latino at a Senate hearing for the Protect RI Families Act (bottom left).
Carmen Recalde-Russo, RICADV Director of Community Engagement, and Kate Porter, RICADV Communications Manager, conducted an Allstate Foundation training in May, preparing survivors to frame and adapt their personal stories for sharing with the media, while incorporating safety planning into the process.
During Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) in October, the RICADV partnered with Telemundo Providence to reach the Latino community.

Throughout the month, the hosts of Holaciudad Teve! interviewed experts from the field, including Carmen Recalde-Russo, RICADV Director of Community Engagement, and Gloria Greenfield, Director of Immigration Advocacy at Sojourner House. The interviews also featured SOAR and other local activists, including Ten Men member Julio Alicea (bottom left).

On October 19th, staff from the Women’s Resource Center answered calls for Línea de ayuda, a live helpline that viewers could call to connect with a Spanish-speaking advocate.

Through a partnership with the Providence Bruins, our “NO MORE Silence” public awareness campaign, which was highly visible across the state in June and October (top left), could be seen at every home game during the 2017-18 season, through digital advertising and a 30-second scoreboard video (above).

The DVAM public awareness campaign was made possible in part by the generous support of longstanding RICADV champion Dave’s Marketplace. In addition to its corporate sponsorship, Dave’s Marketplace raised awareness and funds in every store during the
month of October, donating $2,225 to support our work, with 90% of these funds distributed to our Full Member Agencies.

In July, the RICADV was selected by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) to be the first agency spotlighted in the “Meet a Coalition” feature on NNEDV’s website. Then in October, the RICADV conducted an “Instagram Takeover” for NNEDV (top right), sharing highlights from a day in the life of a state coalition. We appreciated these opportunities to showcase our work and connect online with a national audience.

On December 7th, Bon Iver played a show at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence. Through the band’s nonprofit, 2 A Billion, Bon Iver connects with agencies that are local to each venue they play on tour, with the goal of raising awareness and making person-to-person connections in an effort to end gender inequality, domestic violence, and sexual abuse.

For this show, they chose to partner with the RICADV. Pictured right, concert-goers posed for photos throughout the evening to show support for the cause. Thank you, 2 A Billion, for “bringing gender equity center stage.”
As we strive to fulfill our long-range mission of ending domestic violence, we work to create a world where justice, freedom, and peace are present in the lives of all people. Toward this aim, we joined forces in 2017 with people and organizations who hold the same values and aspire toward similar goals.

- On January 21st, the RICADV and SOAR were among the thousands who took a stand at the RI Women’s Solidarity Rally (bottom left and opposite page), in support of the Women’s March on Washington and in solidarity with the millions who gathered across the globe to advocate for human rights and social justice.

- We partnered with YWCA Rhode Island to provide racial justice training for 75 staff members from the RICADV and our member agencies.

- We collaborated publicly with the ACLU of Rhode Island and other RI organizations to protect the rights and liberties of immigrants in our state (top left).

- We continued to participate in Move to End Violence, a national project that seeks to strengthen the movement to end violence against women and girls, working with our member agencies to collectively explore new and different approaches to ending domestic violence in RI.

- We continued to promote place-based health for all Rhode Islanders, participating on the statewide Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity and supporting the community-level work of the Pawtucket-Central Falls and Newport Health Equity Zones (HEZ).
Training

In 2017, the RICADV, SOAR, and our member agencies provided training on domestic violence and related topics throughout Rhode Island and delivered presentations statewide (below).

Through the RICADV’s 2017 Training Calendar series, we highlighted the work of our Affiliate Members and community partners, offering trainings on topics such as hate crime, cultural competency, and the intersections of trauma and mental health.

In June, we welcomed Leslye Orloff, J.D., (bottom left) to share her expertise on legal issues for undocumented immigrants (attendees pictured left). Ms. Orloff is the Director of the National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project (NIWAP) at American University’s Washington College of Law, and one of the nation’s leading experts in working collaboratively to develop and implement protections for immigrant women, children, and survivors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATEWIDE COMMUNITY TRAINING</th>
<th>SCHOOL-BASED EDUCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>265 presentations</td>
<td>304 presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,640 participants</td>
<td>4,257 participants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 who transitioned from the RICADV in 2017-18:

Shannon Cordeiro, Christine O’Connell, Jade Ortiz, and Bela Teixeira

DESIGNED BY

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Cynthia Emery

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Rebecca Burns
Krista D’Amico

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