Dear beloved community,

As we reflect on the past year, amid a pandemic and social unrest, we are proud of how domestic violence programs across the state remained open and dedicated, responding with compassionate services to help survivors, their families, and communities who are counting on us. 2020 challenged us to think differently about outreach, services, and our role in the racial justice movement.

In 2020, GCADV’s staff began working remotely and remained connected to domestic violence programs and other professionals virtually. Programs across the state never stopped advocating and working with survivors. During this time of increased isolation, they quickly improvised to provide lifesaving services. Some arranged alternate housing options and utilized technology to limit risks to other survivors and staff.

2020 underscored the urgent need for racial justice. We condemn the injustices, oppression, and killings of Black individuals we continue to witness across America. We denounce the racist and xenophobic violence enacted against AAPI communities. We recognize that our outrage is not enough. We commit ourselves to continue in our journey to becoming an organization that uses its voice as a domestic violence leader and anti-racist organization - to identify and challenge practices that are harmful to communities of color and that perpetuate white supremacy in our state.

During this time, our connections with each other have been more important than ever. Our loving community of organizations, advocates, and partners sustain us. As we continue to confront the enormous challenges our state and country still face, we remain focused on our vision of a Georgia free of domestic violence – where ALL communities can thrive.

Teresa Millsaps
Board President

Jan Christiansen
Executive Director

We are excited to announce that after 16 wonderful years at our present location, the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence is moving to 2295 Parklake Drive, Suite 130, Atlanta, GA, effective July 1, 2021.
Our Vision
GCADV envisions a Georgia free of domestic violence.

Our Mission
We empower survivors and the programs that serve them, we educate the public, and we advocate for responsive public policy. Our strength is in numbers, as we collaborate throughout Georgia to stop domestic violence.

Our Values
Equity – Everyone has access
All have the tools they need to succeed, even as needs change over time

Wholeness – Everyone has what they need
All can be their authentic selves, feel cared for and are supported to reach their full potentials

Freedom – Everyone has agency
All are free to fail, to make decisions, to share and to use their authentic, ethical voice

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Nancy Bryan, Ruth’s Cottage and The Patticake House, Tifton

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Beth Ready, Forsyth County District Attorney’s Office, Cumming
Steve Tuffeteller, Sta-Dry Roofing
Vanessa Wilkins, Promise Place, Fayetteville
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Member Programs 2019-2020

Ahimsa House
AVLF Safe & Stable Families Project
Boat People SOS, Atlanta
Camden Community Crisis Center
Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc.
Cherokee Family Violence Center
Circle of Hope
Crisis Line & Safe House of Central Georgia
Dekalb County Solicitor General
FAITH in Rabun County
Fair Haven
Family Crisis Center of WDCC
 Forsyth County Family Haven
Gateway Domestic Violence Center
Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network (GAIN)
Georgia Commission on Family Violence
Georgia Latinos Against Domestic Violence
Glynn Community Crisis Center
Harmony House Domestic Violence Shelter
Haven House
Hope Harbour
Hospitality House for Women
International Women’s House
JF&CS Shalom Bayit Program
Liberty House of Albany
LiveSAFE Resources
MACOSH Healing Network
New American Pathways
No One Alone
Noor Family Services
North Georgia Mountain Crisis Network
Northeast Georgia Council on Domestic Violence
Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center
Partnership Against Domestic Violence
Peace Place
Polk County Women’s Shelter
Project Renewal
Project Safe
Promise Place
Raksha
Ruth’s Cottage
Safe Haven
Safe Space Property Management
Securus House
Serenity House
Southwest Georgia Victims Assistance Alliance
Spalding Co. Sheriff’s Office Victim Service Unit
Support in Abusive Family Emergencies (S.A.F.E.)
Tahirih Justice Center
Tapestri
The Salvation Army Safe House
Tranquility House
Tri-County Protective Agency
WINGS
Women’s Resource Center to End Domestic Violence

Celebrating 40 Years

October 10, 2019 – Lawyers, advocates, and community supporters gathered at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough to celebrate GCADV’s four decades of work to end domestic violence.

GCADV used the occasion to honor those who have demonstrated exemplary efforts in collaboration, community involvement, or philanthropy in the movement to end violence against women. The following individuals and groups have helped to champion positive local and/or statewide change as well as social and/or systems change on behalf of domestic violence survivors.

Guests of Honor: Jennifer Thomas and April Ross
In the Trenches Advocate Awardee: Rosemary Stefanoff
Collaborate Awardee: Kim Cabness McCoy
Empower Awardee: IPRCE (Injury Prevention Research Center at Emory)
Impact Awardee: Vicky Kimbrell

Stephanie Davis

King & Spalding

Alston & Bird Linda Schaeffer, Mediator - U-Resolve, LLC Bob’s Red Mill
Ruth’s Cottage & The Paticake House The Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys PeaceStill Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center Wienberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial Monica Khant Wendy Lipshutz Tori Silas
Programs and Initiatives

The Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence is the state leader in the movement to end intimate partner violence. We help to build the capacity of our member organizations, partners, and allies to ensure safe, compassionate, inclusive, and accessible services to survivors and their children exposed to violence. We do this through training, technical assistance, advocacy, community outreach, as well as a variety of statewide collaborative projects.

- **Training:** Providing comprehensive survivor focused training to domestic violence programs, first responders, healthcare providers, and others.
- **Technical Assistance:** Providing hands-on guidance and support to domestic violence programs across the state to ensure high quality care as they work directly with survivors of domestic violence and their families.
- **Public Policy and Advocacy:** Ensuring that the interests and rights of domestic violence survivors are protected and upheld through effective policies within Georgia’s systems.
- **Statewide Outreach:** Ensuring communities across the state are engaged, informed, and motivated to create change in the prevention, intervention, and response to domestic violence.
- **24-Hour Statewide Hotline:** Providing coordinated access to safety and support.
- **BRIDGES Deaf Advocacy Program:** Connecting Deaf survivors with the community of support they need to build lives free from domestic violence.
- **Community Engagement Project:** Working with marginalized and historically oppressed communities and the programs that serve them to increase access and address program sustainability.
- **Child & Youth Project:** Working with therapists and child advocates to ensure children exposed to domestic violence are receiving services rooted in best practices.
- **Justice for Incarcerated Survivors Project:** Working for the release of incarcerated survivors imprisoned for hurting or killing their abusive partner or committing a crime under duress from their abusive partner.
- **Economic Justice Initiative:** Working with diverse systems, stakeholders, and social justice movements to achieve policies that create greater economic equality for survivors and center their input towards meaningful, individualized, and financially sustainable futures.
- **Trauma-Informed Capacity Building Initiative:** Supporting domestic violence organizations in the process of creating services and environments that minimize the impact of trauma and promote resiliency, healing and wholeness.
GCADV’s Origin Story

For 40 years, the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence has advocated for the elimination of violence from our society. While GCADV grew out of the Georgia Council on Abused Women, the splinter group that left the Georgia Network Against Domestic Violence due to their inclusion of sexual orientation in their non-discrimination clause, GCADV once again embraces and actively works to eliminate violence from our society against all people. GCADV continues to be committed to healing from the homophobia and racism that has penetrated the domestic violence movement in Georgia.

1979/1980
Domestic violence advocates from Georgia develop a network of domestic violence services available to women and their children called the Georgia Network Against Domestic Violence. Over 25 advocates meet for the first network meeting to share their experiences, meet other advocates, and began gathering information for a central resource list for the state. This laid the groundwork for future group action.

1982
The agency resolves to do anti-racist work & support women of color in the assumption of leadership roles. Challenges facing women of color in shelter programs include few women of color on staff, shelters being viewed as white programs, lack of diversity on board members, primarily white management at shelter programs, and the inability for shelter programs to retain people of color on boards for long periods of time. A Women of Color Taskforce is created by women of color.

1985
GCADV’s first “Lobby Day” to raise awareness of issues affecting women and domestic violence shelters in Georgia.

1988
In the summer of 1988, the Women of Color Task Force introduces an Affirmative Action plan for the Georgia Network Against Domestic Violence. The plan requires that the Executive Board consist of 25% Women of Color. The Georgia Network Against Domestic Violence has 2 years to comply with this plan.

1989
The Women of Color Taskforce is a Women of Color Taskforce, now called the Georgia Coalition on Family Violence, misinterprets new parameters of DHHS funding to mean that money can no longer be divided and must be given to the coalition with the most statewide representation. Georgia Advocates for Battered Women and Children (GABWC) is seen as the minority with only 5 members and struggle to be seen as vital to the domestic violence movement in Georgia and are unable to maintain steady funding & staff. The Coalition on Family Violence thrives and implements a statewide hotline.

1990
Neither agency receives state funding until 1993, when funding becomes available through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). GABWC & GCADV apply for the DHHS grant together until 1993, when neither agency receives state funding. The Coalition on Family Violence thrives and implements a statewide hotline.

1993-1996
The Georgia Council on Abused Women (GCAW), now called the Georgia Coalition on Family Violence, changes their name to the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

1997
Because of this division within the movement, both coalitions are less effective than they can be and continue to struggle with one other over funding and representation, as well as with society as a whole to make domestic violence an issue that is taken seriously. In 1999, the Georgia Coalition on Family Violence changes their name to the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

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Because of the donor who funds both coalitions, the Women of Color Taskforce, now called the Georgia Coalition on Family Violence, misinterprets new parameters of DHHS funding to mean that money can no longer be divided and must be given to the coalition with the most statewide representation. Georgia Advocates for Battered Women and Children (GABWC) is seen as the minority with only 5 members and struggle to be seen as vital to the domestic violence movement in Georgia and are unable to maintain steady funding & staff. The Coalition on Family Violence thrives and implements a statewide hotline.

2000-2001
From 2000-2001 GCADV has a number of successful initiatives across Georgia. They also try to restart the Women of Color Task Forces and host meetings regarding the development of these task forces. GABWC closes its doors sometime in 2001. Because of the steps that GCADV has been taking to address forms of violence against ALL women, the GABWC board finally feel that there is no longer a need for two coalitions.

56,000 families are living in violent homes in Georgia and shelter programs are reaching less than 3,000 of them. The Network advocates that the state support the established programs in Georgia and expand services to women throughout the state.

Against Domestic Violence.

The Network officially incorporates in 1982 and has already begun advocating for state funding for shelters in Georgia. It is estimated that 56,000 families are living in violent homes in Georgia and shelter programs are reaching less than 3,000 of them. The Network advocates that the state support the established programs in Georgia and expand services to women throughout the state.

A member of GCADV discusses the need for state funding for shelter programs with a State Legislator.

Representatives from member programs meet to discuss issues affecting women in Georgia.

Members at a Georgia Network Against Domestic Violence Leadership Meeting.

The first Southeastern Regional Women of Color Task Force.

The first “Lobby Day” to raise awareness of issues affecting women and domestic violence shelters in Georgia.

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Statewide Statistics

1041 Georgians were killed by firearms in domestic violence incidents between 2010 and 2020.

Georgia ranked 22nd in the nation for the rate at which women are killed by men.*

Georgia consistently ranks among the worst states for the rate at which women are killed by men.

In FFY 2020 Georgia’s 47 state-certified domestic violence programs:

- Sheltered 5,617 victims and their children
- Provided 119,877 bed nights of shelter
- 15,694 victims and their children were turned away from domestic violence shelters due to lack of bed space.

13,512 GCADV training hours impacted 6,661 advocates

In November 2019, Stop Violence Against Women Day was observed in the state of Georgia with the theme of "Building a Safer Future for All.”

Advocacy

2019-2020 Legislative Highlight: Georgia Senate Bill 477 which clarifies that law enforcement should arrest the “predominant” aggressor in family violence situations passed. The bill came into effect January 1, 2021.


Stop Violence Against Women Day

On February 4th 2020, supporters across the state of Georgia gathered at the Capitol to urge legislators to support proposals which seek to enhance the safety of intimate partner and sexual violence survivors, their families, and Georgia communities. This year’s issues included:

1) Measures that strengthen safety for victims of domestic violence and address perpetrators’ ownership or possession of firearms.
   - Roughly 70% of domestic violence deaths in Georgia, each year, are committed using firearms.
   - Over 930 Georgians were killed by firearms in domestic violence incidents between 2010 & 2019.
   - Neighboring states Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida, have enacted similar legislation.
   - Over 17 Georgia counties have already implemented similar local protocols and practices to aid in domestic violence perpetrators’ ability to comply with ownership and possession requirements.
   - States that have laws which restrict access to firearms by individuals subject to domestic violence restraining orders see an 8% to 13% reduction in intimate partner homicide rates and a 25 percent reduction in intimate partner gun homicides in their cities.

2) Measures to include dating partners in the definition of family violence.
   - Including dating partners would provide them with access to broader protections and the appropriate resources and responses needed in maintaining safety.
   - States that include protections for dating partners have seen an 11% reduction in the total rate of intimate partner homicides.
   - Neighboring states Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee have enacted similar legislation.

3) Measures that prevent the unintended arrest of victims.
   - Changing O.C.G.A 17-4-20 language from “primary physical aggressor” to “predominant aggressor” will assist law enforcement in better identifying which party has a history of using abusive tactics in order to control.
   - 14 states have passed similar legislation, including fellow southern states Alabama and Louisiana.
2020 brought significant changes to GCADV’s training program. GCADV offers a variety of trainings to domestic violence programs and other professionals to strengthen our state’s response to domestic violence and ensure that victims receive the best advocacy services possible. While we usually provide both on-site training to domestic violence programs as well as web-based courses, this year we adapted our training curriculum to fit a virtual format to reach advocates working from home and in programs across the state. Below are some examples of trainings GCADV has developed for advocates and partner organizations.

**Virtual Frontline Training:** To continue providing this essential training for new domestic violence advocates, we moved this 3-day training onto an entirely virtual format. The virtual version of our Frontline training consists of a combination of online recorded webinars and e-learning modules. Live sessions focus on discussion, interaction, and Q&A time to supplement and enhance the content learned via our training website.

**Reading groups:** This year GCADV initiated a new form of training – a virtual book club! In partnership with co-facilitators from CJCC and GCFV, we led two reading groups, held virtually over a series of sessions, where we discussed No Visible Bruises: What We Don’t Know About Domestic Violence Will Kill Us by Rachel Louise-Snyder and Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence, and America’s Prison Nation by Beth Richie. The reading groups were a great success, and we were thrilled to speak directly with author Rachel Louise-Snyder, who joined us for a virtual Q&A.

**Training website:** The training website continues to grow in content and in users who are accessing the site. In 2020, we added many new recorded webinars, including Teen Dating Violence 101, Self-Care for the Advocate: Preventing Burnout and Compassion Fatigue, Danger Indicators and Risk Factors: An Overview, and Barriers to Escaping Domestic Violence. The training website is a free resource for anyone interested in learning more about the dynamics of domestic violence visit: training.gcadv.org.

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**BRIDGES**

BRIDGES provides free and confidential services for survivors of domestic violence, including emotional support, safety planning, systems advocacy to access community resources, education about the dynamics of domestic violence, and collaboration with community partners. BRIDGES also breaks the isolation of abuse by connecting Deaf survivors to services provided by our partners in Georgia, including domestic violence program shelters, community-based domestic violence programs, and the Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

404-381-8282 VPN
info@bridgesfordeaf.org

If you or someone you know needs help - Deaf-friendly and non-Judgmental - contact BRIDGES.

BRIDGES helps Deaf survivors build lives free from domestic violence.

www.bridgesfordeaf.org
Racial Justice

This year we were faced with a moment of reckoning. The murder of George Floyd broke the collective heart of this country. The endless list of Black lives senselessly stolen is in full view, turning away is no longer an option.

GCADV has committed itself, over the last ten years, to addressing the oppression of Women of Color (WOC) within the domestic violence movement and amongst those impacted by domestic violence. Black women in particular are disproportionately impacted by domestic violence and are murdered at more than twice the rate of White women. We continue to seek advancement for WOC within our movement and to end domestic violence in all communities.

We recognize that we have invested significantly in systems that inflict violence on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. We acknowledge BIPOC’s historical trauma and lived experiences of violence and center those traumas and experiences in our commitments to move forward. We stand with the Black Women leaders in our movement, for whom isolation, risk, and hardship are now particularly acute. And we are grateful to the Black Women, Indigenous Women, and Women of Color - past and present - who have contributed mightily to our collective body of work, even as it has compromised their own health and well-being.

It is time to transform not only oppressive institutions, but also ourselves. We support the promotion of community-based practices that resist abuse and oppression and encourage safety, support, and accountability. We have spent decades building our movement’s voice and power. How we use them now will define us in the years ahead. Let our actions show that we did not stand idly by. Let them show that we learned, changed, and will continue to demonstrate that Black Lives Matter is a centering practice for our work.

Justice for Incarcerated Survivors

GCADV’s Justice for Incarcerated Survivors Project works for the release of incarcerated survivors imprisoned for hurting or killing their abusive partner or committing a crime under duress from their abusive partner. A national study by the Vera Institute of Justice found that 86% of women who have ever been jailed also report surviving sexual assault and 77% have experienced intimate partner violence.

Working with a team of volunteer lawyers and advocates, the staff of the Project investigates cases, provides critical information to the parole board about the impact of domestic violence on each project participant, creates parole applications, and assists women to rebuild their lives when parole is granted.

This work began in 2015, originating from a gathering (with GCADV, the Georgia Commission on Family Violence, the Georgia Innocence Project, Project Safe, and many advocates from domestic violence programs) to discuss the need for clemency services for incarcerated survivors. Originally called the "Clemency Project," GCADV and an advisory group developed criteria and survey information to begin identifying and speaking with survivors in Georgia’s state women’s facilities. In March and early April of 2016, 45 incarcerated women were deemed eligible for parole assistance services.

Over the past few years from 2018-2020, GCADV has renamed our clemency work “Justice for Incarcerated Survivors” and has expanded to work in all four of Georgia’s state women’s prisons with over 100 active cases. Simultaneously, the Project has developed a pilot program with Alston & Bird LLC in which volunteer attorneys represent project clients pro bono and build parole packets to advocate for early release.

By providing services to this underserved group, we believe that incarcerated survivors can heal and that they are a part of our community. We strive to create new restorative approaches and options for survivors that prioritize accountable, community-based responses. We affirm the lives and self-determination of ALL survivors.
Thank you to all of our supporters! Your support makes our work possible. Together we can help to transform the lives of survivors and their families. Together we can create thriving communities. Together we can save lives. #WeBeginsWithMe

Empower Donors
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Ameeta Kalokhe
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Delta Community FIS
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Kathryn Solley
Kimberly Jones
Kristin Dorage
Laura Snider
Louis Lauria
M.E. Hollingsworth
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Sarah Cook in honor of Gus Garay

Allstate
With assistance from the Allstate Foundation, furthering GCADV’s Don’t Knock the Hustle program, GCADV was able to support 950 advocates and survivors who took part in financial literacy and economic independence initiatives. Through Promise Place, Amani Women Center, and Pearls of Resilience - financial health, literacy, and centering survivor skills for entrepreneurship, were made possible in some of Georgia’s most underserved communities.

Google
With assistance from Google, GCADV was able to expand our Don’t Knock the Hustle Match Savings program to provide $500 for 200 survivors. Individuals who identify as domestic violence survivors are provided with these funds toward their independent entrepreneurship and business endeavors.

Revenue
Fed/State Awards: $1,489,940
Membership Income: $61,240
Contributions: $298,243
Other Income: $33,235
Total: $1,882,658

Expenses
General and Admin: $212,963
Programs: $1,495,440
Total: $1,708,403

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12% 88%