



Welcome to our newsletter dedicated to shedding light on pressing social issues that impact our communities. In this edition, we tackle a critical and often overlooked topic: the intersection of domestic violence and affordable housing. Domestic violence affects millions of individuals worldwide, and its profound impact extends beyond the confines of the home. By exploring the connection between domestic violence and affordable housing, we aim to raise awareness and ignite conversations that drive meaningful change. We know from listening to survivors, that lack of access to safe, affordable housing is one of the primary barriers they face when deciding to leave an abusive relationship. With perseverance and advocacy, safe, stable housing will be in reach for all.

-Jan Christiansen

Executive Director
Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

A FOCUS ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- The Link between Affordable Housing and Domestic Violence:
 - Economic Stress and Escalation: Limited access to affordable housing places individuals and families under significant financial strain, exacerbating stress levels. High levels of economic stress are known to contribute to increased incidents of domestic violence.
 - Housing Insecurity and Barriers to Leaving: A lack of affordable housing options can trap victims in dangerous situations, as they fear homelessness or becoming economically dependent on their abusers.
 - Homelessness and Vulnerability: Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness, particularly among women and children. The lack of safe and affordable housing options can force survivors to endure abuse or face the harsh realities of homelessness, further perpetuating the cycle of violence.
- Impact on Marginalized Communities:
 - Disproportionate Effect on Marginalized Groups: Marginalized communities, such as low-income households, people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and immigrants, often face additional barriers in accessing affordable housing. Consequently, these communities are disproportionately affected by domestic violence when finding safe and affordable housing.
- Initiatives for Change:
 - Strengthening Legal Protections: Advocating for policies that protect victims of domestic violence, including legal provisions for housing rights, can help survivors secure stable housing options and break free from abusive relationships.
 - Affordable Housing Programs: Increased investment in affordable housing initiatives, such as subsidized housing, rental assistance programs, and transitional housing for survivors, can provide vital resources for individuals seeking to escape abusive situations.
 - Collaborative Partnerships: Encouraging collaborations between domestic violence service providers, housing agencies, and community organizations can improve support systems and create comprehensive solutions that address both housing needs and domestic violence prevention.

Conclusion: Addressing domestic violence requires a holistic approach that recognizes the critical connection between affordable housing and the cycle of abuse. By focusing on affordable housing solutions, providing support to survivors, and advocating for policy changes, we can break the cycle of domestic violence and create safer, more resilient communities for everyone. Let us work together to ensure that safe and affordable housing becomes a fundamental right for all individuals, empowering them to build lives free from violence and fear.

PROGRAM UPDATES

BRIDGES DEAF ADVOCACY PROGRAM



DeAnna is now working part-time for GCADV while working part-time for Activating Change as a Senior Program Associate while seeking her replacement as Project Director.

BRIDGES has assisted 4 organizations and 5 community members with TA (technical assistance) and shared resources. October 2022 through March 2023. BRIDGES has served 12 clients.

DeAnna was a panelist on March 17 for the GA Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for Youth Deaf Day. She was asked to discuss her work experience with three different schools. She was asked by two students to come to give a presentation to their clubs at their school about healthy relationships.

For any information on BRIDGES, please contact DeAnna Swope at dswope@gcadv.org

COMMUNITY RISE



GCADV enrolled 2 new members to our Community RISE (CR) Program, they are House of Globalization, and Grace Life Family Services Inc. There are a total of 8 active organizations currently working in the program.

CR is gearing up for their new training, and community conversation series starting in April. The topics are Self Care, Trans Health, and Wellness, and What does IPV look like in the Trans community. In addition, Leo was able to provide staff development trainings for one organization in the program and is currently working on our Culturally Specific trainings for this fiscal year. These trainings will be offered statewide as well as to individual member programs upon request.

If there are any questions, contact Leo Williams, Director of Culturally Specific Outreach at lwilliams@gcadv.org.

JUSTICE FOR INCARCERATED SURVIVORS



We are so thrilled to announce the hiring of our second ever fully dedicated staff member to the JFIS Project, Ellie Williams, the new Director of the JFIS project! Very excitedly, we are also able to announce that one of our program participants was released from prison! We have been working to continue providing her with support and resources to help her get started on her new journey and to navigate the challenges that many women experience post-release.

In addition, we have also begun to develop a new partnership with Ladies of Hope Ministries (LOHM), who provide support, programming, and services to women who are reentering society after being incarcerated.

For any information on the JFIS project contact:
Selena Faith:
sfaith@gcadv.org
Ellie Williams: ewilliams@gcadv.org
Karimah Dillard:
kdillard@gcadv.org

TRAINING UPDATES

Frontline Training:

GCADV held our first in-person Frontline training since the start of the pandemic in September of 2022, and it was great to be together again with advocates from across the state! Moving forward, we will alternate 2 in-person and 2 virtual Frontline sessions per year. Making the shift to virtual training throughout the pandemic has taught us that there are many benefits to virtual training – accessibility, less time away from work due to travel, flexible scheduling, and the ability to record sessions. However, many people find learning to be easier attending training in-person and struggle with online learning platforms. A good balance of both in-person and virtual training, including Frontline, will allow us to meet the needs of all advocates in Georgia

Confidentiality Applied: Federal Requirements, Survivor Privacy, and Testifying in Court:

This in-person training, facilitated by Alicia L. Aiken, J.D., Principal, Danu Center for Strategic Advocacy and Director of the Confidentiality Institute, will address some of the more nuanced best practices in confidentiality as well as providing a basic overview.

Topics included in the training are:

- Overview of the basics of confidentiality requirements
- Privacy and confidentiality – programs' use of technology
- Best practices in testifying on behalf of survivors in court. Expert witness testimony
- Applied concepts – scenarios and group discussion.

Effective Supervision:

Focus on Transparency, Reflection and Staff Development Virtual Frontline Training:

This training series, facilitated by Cathy Cave with the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health, was created specifically for executive directors and staff in supervisory positions. The training will provide an overview of the Ingredients for Effective Supervisory Practice. These approaches are trauma-informed and can be implemented by supervisors with their supervisees working in domestic violence programs. Attendees will gain understanding of the three functions of supervision and strategies for accountability, transparency and staff growth and development. The training will include a combination of an initial 3-day in person training on April 11-13, 2023, and 4 virtual follow-up sessions on alternating months afterward.

Advanced Advocacy Training:

Alexis Champion will be holding a virtual training series on advanced advocacy topics including goal setting with survivors, outward-facing advocacy vs. survivor emotional support, addressing substance abuse and addiction, supporting survivors as parents, navigating mental health, and time limits, terminations, and evictions. Each session will include a 1.5 hour presentation, and an additional 30 minutes for activities and practice. The first session was held in February of 2023.

Upcoming Training: Frontline Training

March 21-23, 2023 – In Person, Atlanta
June 5-12, 2023 – Virtual
August 15-17, 2023 - In Person, Atlanta
December 4-11, 2023 - Virtual

For any questions or inquiries, email Alexis Champion, Director of Training and Capacity Building, at achampion@gcadv.org

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

to register please visit: <https://training.gcadv.org>



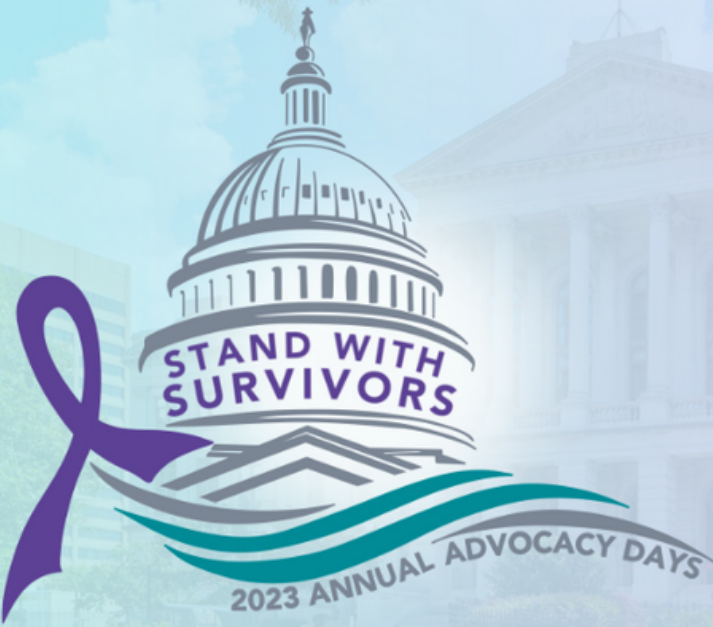
Q1 EVENTS

Feb 13th, 2023

Advocacy 101 Webinar

Feb 14th

KICKOFF EVENT



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Address Confidentiality

As a part of a comprehensive safety plan, an address confidentiality program provides survivors who have recently relocated with a substitute address because they fear future harm

Safe Time Off

This bill would require employers to allow survivors to take time away from work to attend to the consequences of abuse including obtaining judicial or legal assistance, counseling, meeting with a domestic or sexual violence program or change residence.

Increase in State

Allocation for DV Shelters

An increase in the state's allocation for certified Domestic Violence shelters would bring the state's allocation up from 30% to 50% and off-set VOCA cuts over the next 2-3 years



Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

RESTORYATION

storytelling workshop



Dates:

February 9th

March 8th

April 19th

May 23rd

(ALL ADVOCATES @ GCADV)

June 1st

(ALL ADVOCATES @ GCADV)

June 13th

(BIPOC ADVOCATES @ GCADV)

June 14th

(ALL ADVOCATES @ MACON)

June 16th

(ALL ADVOCATES @ CALHOUN)

June 21st

(ALL ADVOCATES @ TIFTON)

June 28th

(ALL ADVOCATES @ SAVANNAH)

GCADV Office

2295 Parklake Drive - STE 130, Atlanta, GA 30345

[REGISTER NOW](#)



GCADV is proud to be a part of this national initiative that is using story-telling to gather the stories, experiences and impact of COVID on advocates across the county. The four-member team, which includes Jan Christiansen, Karimah Dillard, Trish Hardy, and Leo Williams, conducted the sessions in February, March, and April and will continue into June or July.

We want to learn from advocates about how the events of the past three years have impacted survivor advocacy, their programs, their lives - and what they've been learning/ have learned from this experience.

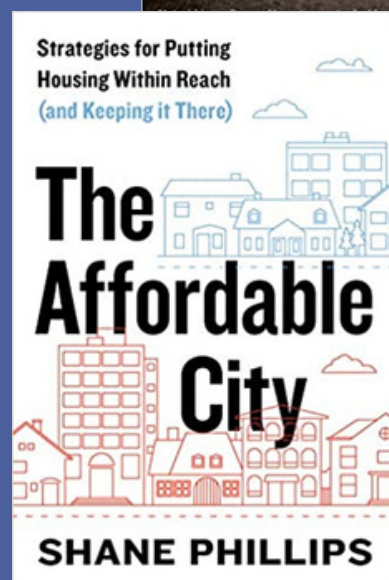
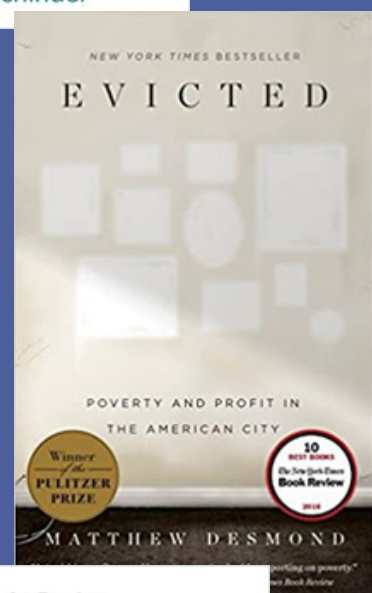
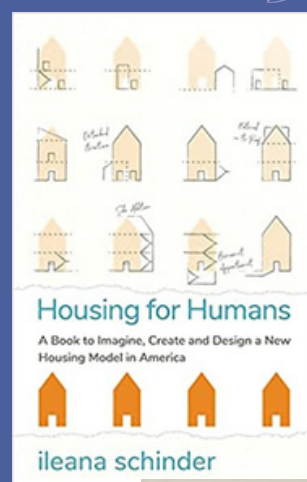
We will use story-telling as a way to understand the collective workforce experience of the past few years. Stories and data will be compiled and analyzed by an evaluation team led by Dr. Cris Sullivan, who some may know from her work on DV Housing First demonstration and research project.

The goal is to emerge with a clear picture of what is needed (structure, program, policy) to support the health and sustainability of our workforce in the years ahead.

So far, this has been an exciting and informative project. Advocates are so resilient, but this work can take a huge toll on their mental and physical health. And, as we know many, of not most, advocates are survivors as well, and the impact of their everyday job can sometimes be a trauma trigger. Hearing the effect of this work in addition to working at a crisis organization during the pandemic has been amazing.

POLICY:

WANT TO LEARN MORE?
ABOUT
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING?
CHECK OUT THESE BOOKS:



The Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence is disheartened to see that the budget debate in Washington largely ignores the very real impact that spending cuts will have on our communities. In Georgia, more people are struggling to pay their rent each month as rents rise, evictions increase, and more are pushed into homelessness.

Last year, Georgia's domestic violence programs sheltered 5,516 victims and every year they turn away more than 3,5000 victims and their children due to lack of bed space. Where are these victims supposed to go? Research from the National Low Income Housing Coalition found a shortage of more than 213,000 apartments in Georgia that are available and affordable to families with extremely low incomes. This means that there are only 34 affordable apartments for every 100 extremely low-income families. What happens to the other roughly 2000 victims? With few options, they either become homeless or for those who do find housing, a full 3/4 of these households pay more than half of their limited income on rent.

According to an analysis from HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge, these cuts would make it "impossible to stave off mass evictions," as almost one million people who currently rely on HUD's rental assistance programs to keep a roof over their heads would lose assistance. Nearly 120,000 fewer people experiencing homelessness would receive help accessing the resources they need to find and maintain safe, stable, affordable housing. This is the wrong path for our nation. Instead, we should expand proven solutions to ensure that everyone has a decent, affordable place to live. We can start by ensuring rental assistance is available to everyone who is eligible, building more homes that are affordable to people with the lowest incomes, creating permanent tools to help stabilize families in a crisis, and strengthening and enforcing renter protections. Investing in affordable housing leads to better health and education outcomes, supports economic mobility, and advances racial equity. It is time for Congress to put the needs of people first, not make it harder for our neighbors who are already struggling.

To read the full story, [CLICK HERE](#)

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Housing Needs for Georgia's Low-Income Renters

Georgia's renters deserve access to safe, affordable, and accessible housing regardless of their income. The intersection of economic justice and affordable housing is a crucial aspect of creating a fair and equitable society. Economic justice aims to address systemic inequalities and ensure that all individuals have equal opportunities to thrive economically. Affordable housing plays a pivotal role in this pursuit, as it directly impacts individuals' access to safe and stable housing, which is a fundamental human need.

Georgia's minimum wage is \$7.25/hr whereas the average cost of a studio apartment across the state you'd need to earn \$17.51/hr Minimum wage workers across Georgia would need to work 100 hours a week to afford a one-bedroom rental at Fair Market Rent. There is a shortage of about 213,289 rental homes that are affordable and available to low-income renters (NLIHC).

Affordable Rent for Low Income Households

Minimum Wage Worker

\$377/mo

Household at 30% of Area Median Income

\$629/mo

Household at 50% of Area Median Income

\$1,049/mo

Fair Market Rent

1-Bedroom Fair Market Rent

\$941/mo

2-Bedroom Fair Market Rent

\$1,090/mo



National Low Income
Housing Coalition

Working at minimum wage
\$7.25/hr

Each week you have to Work
100 hours

To afford a modest 1 bedroom
rental home at Fair Market Rent.

Take Action:

Find your legislators and let them know why you and all Georgians deserve affordable housing.

**BOARD MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT:
Kim McCoy**



GCADV is honored to highlight board member, Kim McCoy. Kim's running expertise was essential to our race planning, but her passion for our mission is what helped us execute an impactful community event. Our planning committee was great at brainstorming but Kim was our voice of reason and balance. She was sure to remind us why we are here and went above and beyond to pour her creativity and enthusiasm into the Rally and Race for Empowerment. Kim's personal commitment to GCADV runs deep. Not only did she commit 1+ hours per week to planning meetings for several months, she also became a fully trained balloon arch creator overnight and helped us build 100 Race Packets for our participants. Kim also helped spread the word to increase our registrations as well as raised and donated over \$500 for this event! Thank you, Kim, for embodying the GCADV mission with your time, talent, and treasure. We couldn't have done this without you! At GCADV, she serves on the finance committee and chaired the recent fall fundraiser committee.



**MEMBER PROGRAM
SPOTLIGHT:
Safe Space
Property Management**



Safe Space Property Management is GCADV Member Program and a part of our Community Rise Program since 2019.

Their mission is to provide supportive services and transitional housing to domestic abuse survivors, while raising awareness and educating the community on intimate partner violence. www.safespacepropertymanagement.com.

**Community Impact:
Barrier Removal**

39 survivors received continuous supportive services, funds, supplies and resources for things including but not limited to: rent assistance, short term emergency shelter assistance, school uniforms/new clothing items, childcare payment assistance, car repairs, groceries, career coaching and entrepreneurship coaching.

"Thriver's Heart Program"

Donations of furniture, household items, baby and clothing were provided to 2 survivors families in need.

Virtual Support Group Meetings

Supported survivors nationwide via our monthly virtual support group meetings, safety planning, connecting them with resources and providing a safe platform to connect and share experiences.

Domestic Violence Awareness Education

Our staff facilitated 3 trainings for conferences and workshops in the community. We were also represented by our Founder & CEO, Cami Barnes in a Fox 5 Atlanta broadcast during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



GEORGIA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

TOGETHER WE RISE

thursday

28

september

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL FALL FUNDRAISER

