



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

GEORGIA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Welcome to our newsletter dedicated to shedding light on pressing social issues that impact our communities. In this edition, we are thrilled to enter Autumn in the spirit of celebration of our Annual Fall Event, reflection on Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the spirit of giving back during End of Year Giving.

**Jan Christiansen, Executive Director**  
Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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2023 Q3 Events

# TOGETHER WE RISE

## CELEBRATION OF ADVOCATES



# THANK YOU

[View More Photos from Our Event](#)

Hello Friend!

Greetings from GCADV!

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) has come to an end, and we thank you for helping us kick off the month with our annual fundraiser, *Together We Rise*. During the month of October, GCADV member organizations held candlelight vigils, resource fairs, and awareness events throughout Georgia...and as you know, ***our work continues!***

Funds donated to GCADV go directly to our programs as we collaborate, advocate, educate, and empower survivors and advocates throughout Georgia.

- Our Justice for Incarcerated Survivors (JFIS) program continues to provide advocacy and post-conviction legal support to women who made the impossible decision to either save their own life or the lives of their families in exchange for their freedom.
- Our Bridges for Deaf program continues to connect Deaf survivors with



the community of support they need to build their lives free from domestic violence.

- Our Economic Justice program educates and trains victim advocates on topics related to financial management while providing grants to entrepreneurial survivors through our *Don't Knock the Hustle* Program.

All this great work is accomplished because of **your** financial donations. **You are the hero** who helps us staff and support these impactful programs and we cannot thank you enough!

Also, stay connected with our inspiring speaker and author, *Natalie Purdie* and our gifted live artist, *Tamara Gammon*.

Tamara Gammon - Artist & Designer

Natalie Purdie - Survivors Voice

Help us continue to Collaborate, Advocate, Educate, and Empower survivors and advocates throughout Georgia by making a **monthly or one-time donation**.

With love & gratitude,  
Jan Christiansen & Hunter Pierce

A big thank you to our Planning Committee :

Elisa Covarrubias, GALEO

Elizabeth Baynes, Atlanta VA Medical Center

Norma Mendoza, Cherokee Family Violence Center

Lauri Reeder, Project Renewal

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## VOCA Funding - In Remembrance Of...

**By: Karimah Dillard - Director of Policy**

Statewide victim services are facing unprecedented funding challenges with the cuts to VOCA funding expected to deepen over the next several years. Georgia's DV shelters and community-based programs are losing a combined total of more than \$32M starting this federal fiscal year. I attended several candlelight vigils across the state during DVAM this year and listened to survivors share stories of abuse and resilience. One survivor talked about being stalked in her home and her abuser finding her easily after she changed residences. Bills like SB83- which would expand the definition of stalking to include stalking that occurs in the home, and SB324 which would create an address confidentiality program are bills that might have prevented her from enduring the traumatic experiences of abuse she shared with us. These are examples of bills GCADV is prioritizing next legislative Session to help victims stay alive. But on that brisk evening in October standing with my fellow advocates in the town square I was reminded again of why we do this work. The survivor said that it was because of the help of her local domestic violence program that her name did not end up on "the list". And that is our work- to keep people off "the list". And that list contains 193 members of our collective human family who lost their lives in Georgia last year as a result of domestic violence. Over the last 10 years the rate of domestic violence fatalities has increased in Georgia by 42%. That equals to 1,720 lives lost. But we are talking about more than just numbers. We are talking about 73-year-old elders, 1 month old infants, and a host of young adults in the prime of their lives. We are talking about thousands of families, businesses, places of worship and communities that have lost loved ones. We are talking about people- many of whom did not make the headlines in their local paper. These people were loved, had dreams and aspirations, and were violently taken from their loved ones.

Last year there were over 42,000 reported incidences of family violence in GA but advocates answered more than 100,000 crisis calls. This tells us that our programs are vital to the safety of our communities and survivors are reaching out to programs for help. Yet programs have been losing federal funding steadily over the last several years. Reduced funding has caused some programs to function with diminished capacity and in one day last year, 329 victims across the state were turned away from

receiving services because programs lacked resources. 80% of those unmet needs were for emergency shelter and other temporary, supportive housing- direct services that VOCA funds. Supportive services like housing, legal advocacy and counseling help victims heal and stabilize.

It is in remembrance of the 193 victims from last year, the growing number of people who have lost their lives this year, and a host of others we are trying to keep off “the list”, that we are asking you to reach out to your local legislators and members of Congress and ask for their support in **FUNDING VOCA NOW**.

## A Focus On Affordable Housing

By: Sarah Brown - Director of Communications

### **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:**

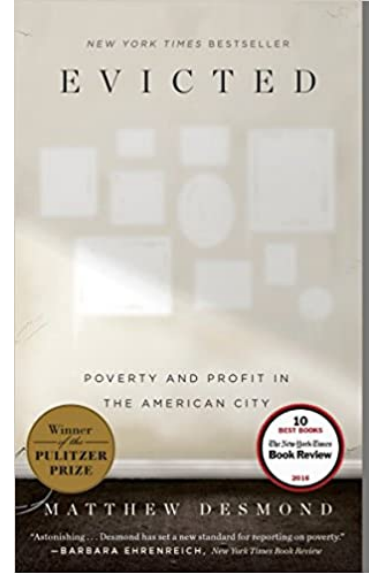
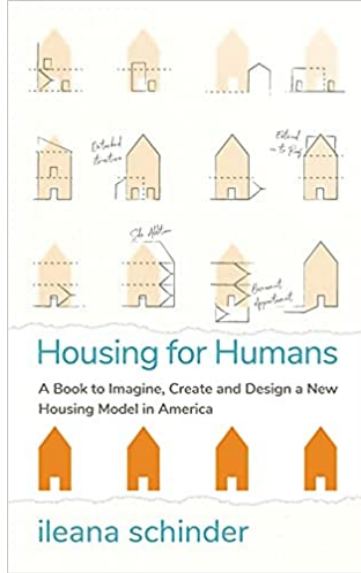
- Strengthening Legal Protections: Advocating for policies that protect victims of domestic violence, including legal provisions for housing rights, can help survivors secure stable housing options and break free from abusive relationships.
- Affordable Housing Programs: Increased investment in affordable 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.

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## Want to learn more about Affordable Housing?

Check out these books:



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

### Training and Capacity Building Position



JOIN OUR TEAM  
**GCADV IS  
HIRING!**

SUBMIT YOUR COVER  
LETTER AND RESUME

[gcadv.org/get-involved/  
work-with-us/](http://gcadv.org/get-involved/work-with-us/)



**DIRECTOR OF  
TRAINING AND  
CAPACITY BUILDING**



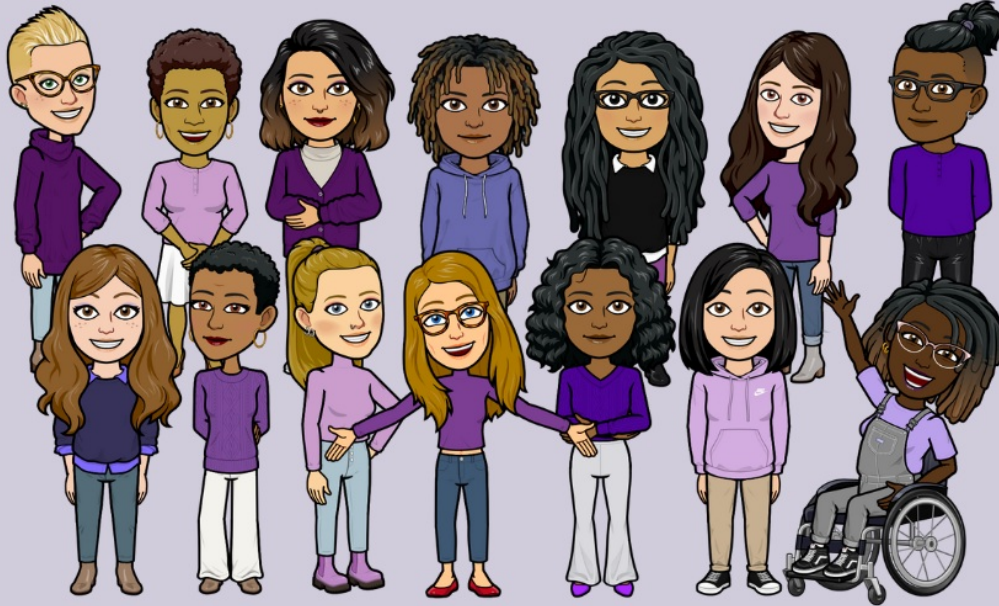
SAVE THE DATE



**FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Stand With Survivors Day





**Thank you for reading our newsletter.  
We are so excited for what's to come!**

*Envisioning a Georgia Free of Domestic Violence*

Visit our website

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