

Public Policy for a Safer and More Just Vermont

The Vermont Network seeks to create statutes and policies that uphold the human rights of domestic and sexual violence victims and reflect concern for the safety and well-being of every last Vermonter.

Domestic Violence Fatalities & Firearms

The Network seeks to reduce the many safety risks associated with armed abusers by ensuring VT State laws empower law enforcement and judicial systems to protect survivors and communities from perpetrators with firearms. According to the 2015 VT Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission's Report:

- Six of Vermont's 16 homicides were domestic violence related and all six of these were committed with a firearm.
- Between 1994 and 2015, 59% of all domestic violence related homicides were committed with firearms; 131 homicides committed in total with 77 of them committed with firearms.
- When a gun is present in a domestic violence situation, it increases the risk of homicide for women by 500%¹.

Supporting Victims of Sexual Violence

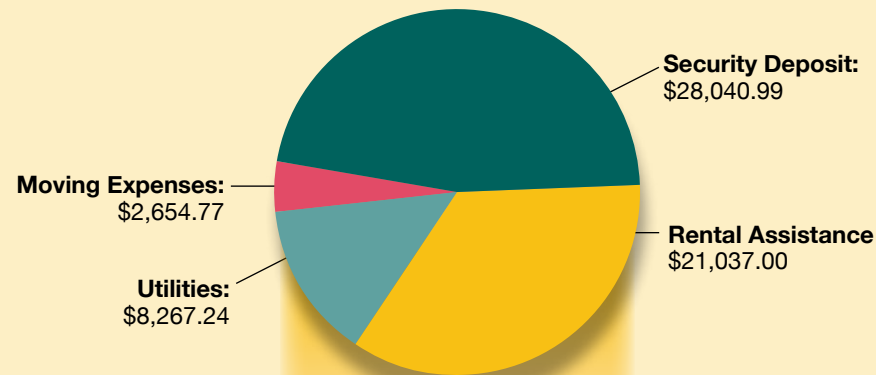
The Network seeks to ensure that the rights of sexual violence victims are supported by legislation that meets their needs and responds to the choices they make when pursuing justice and healing. To that end we support:

- A Sexual Assault Survivor's Bill of Rights
- The expansion of Vermont's statute of limitations (currently six years) on the crime of sexual assault.

Economic Supports for Victims

The Network advocates for policies that ensure victims are able to meet their basic needs and that all victims have access to assistance which supports their health and safety. To that end we support legislative efforts to build revenue for affordable housing, increase minimum wage, and provide paid family and medical leave for working Vermonters.

Housing Assistance



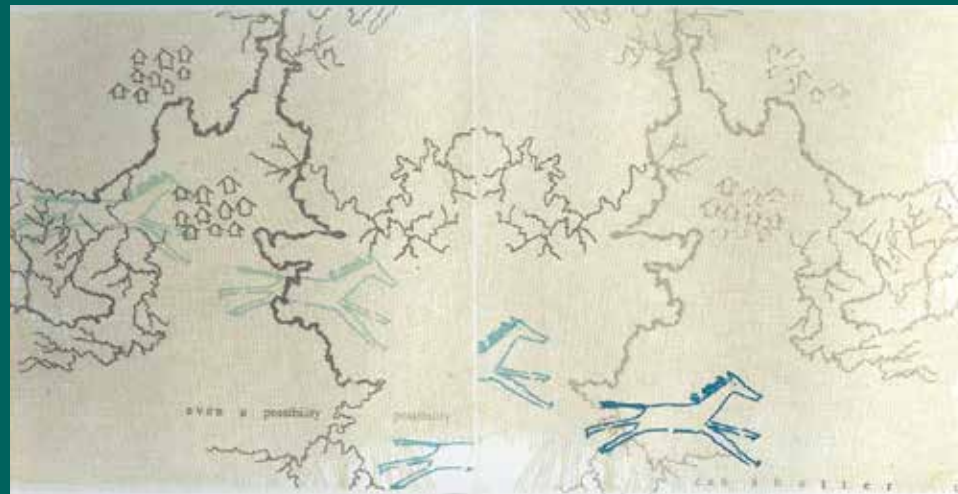
86 Households (198 individuals) received a total of \$55,000 in funds to move from homelessness into housing or to help maintain stable housing.

¹ Risk factors for femicide within physically abusive intimate relationships; 93 Amer. J. of Public Health 1089-97 (2003)]

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even a possibility can shatter us
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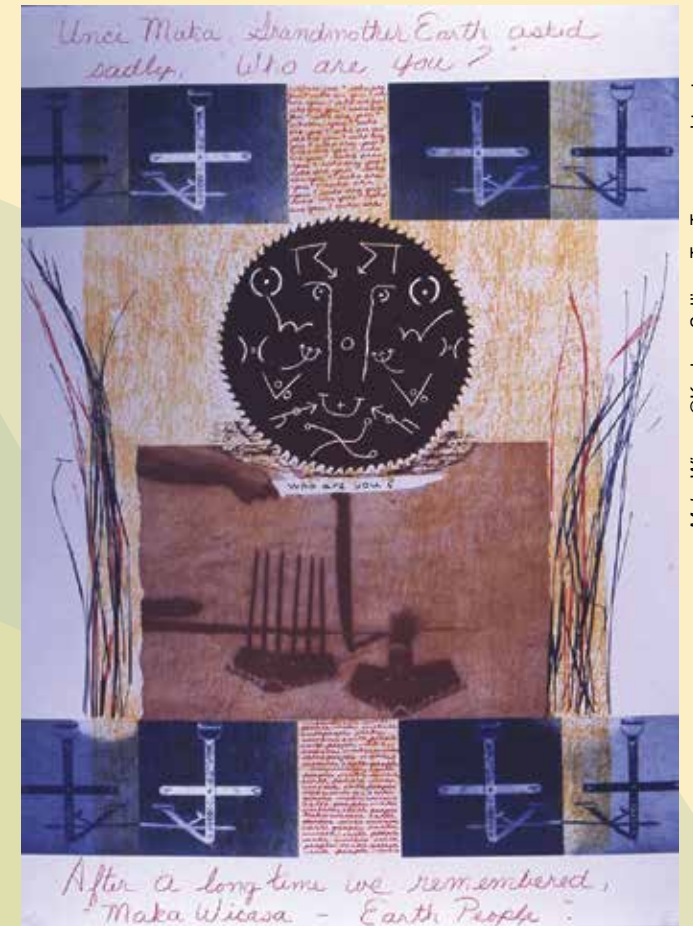
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2016 Annual Report

Uprooting the causes of violence so every last Vermonter thrives.



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Violence isn't just something that happens between two people. Our culture of violence impacts every one of us. While providing services for survivors and perpetrators is essential, if we want to end violence we must also work to change our culture.

Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
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1-800-489-7273
(for Sexual Assault)

1-800-228-7395
(for Domestic Violence)

Vermont Network Statewide Office

Pivoting Forward

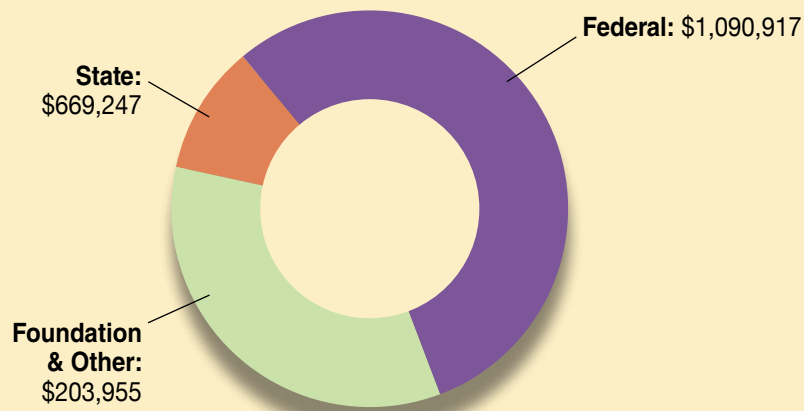
Karen Tronsgard-Scott, Executive Director



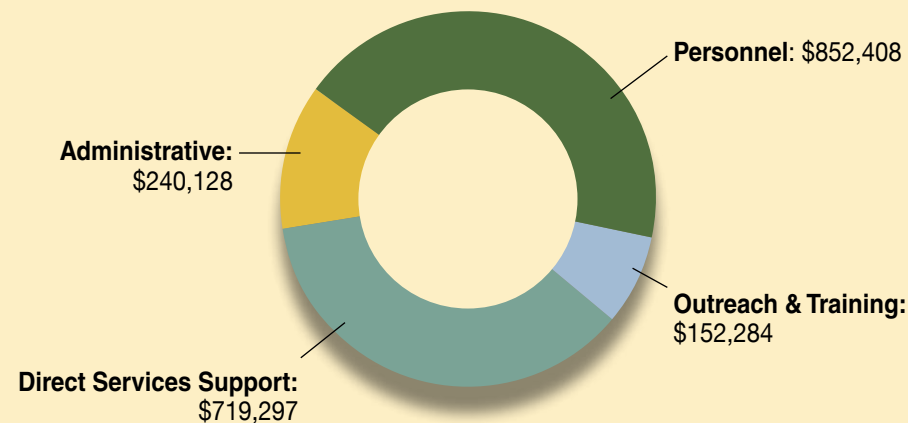
2016 marks our 30th Anniversary. The Network Office and our Member Organizations have created a system for supporting survivors and for changing policies and practices to ensure access to the criminal/legal system, and teach communities about domestic and sexual violence. And now we pivot forward. We reach to our past and push into the future — a future where we understand that some of the very systems and access points we built leave some survivors out in the cold. We pivot toward deep connections with these marginalized communities and survivors, and we learn about the ways we can be of service to all Vermonters.

How's the Network Doing Financially?

Revenue



Expenses



Our Coalition – Helping Survivors and Changing Communities

Many people in Vermont experience sexual violence and domestic violence each year. Coalition members make sure they have a place to turn for help and get the support they need to live free from violence and fear.

The Local Organizations

	People Served	SV Victims	DV Victims	Sheltered	Bednights
Aware, Inc. Caledonia, Washington, and Lamoille Counties/Hardwick area	232	28	78	0	0
Circle Washington County	541	3	432	39	3,044
Clarina Howard Nichols Center Lamoille County	350	61	199	61	5,158
H.O.P.E. Works Chittenden County	789	575	82	4	38
PAVE Bennington County	539	32	258	32	3,223
Rutland County Women's NW & Shelter Rutland County	716	30	380	58	4,113
Sexual Assault Crisis Team Washington County	121	90	4	23	474
Safeline, Inc. Orange County and northern Windsor County	346	60	186	0	
Steps to End Domestic Violence Chittenden County	2721	51	1,675	334	17,123
Umbrella, The Advocacy Program Caledonia, Orleans, & Essex Counties	673	61	383	32	2,021
Voices Against Violence Franklin & Grand Isle Counties	794	96	412	64	2,515
WISE Central Windsor County and towns of Thetford and Fairlee	454	46	318	24	764
Women's Freedom Center Windham and southern Windsor Counties	647	47	444	222	7,085
WomenSafe Addison County and town of Rochester	453	64	316	0	0
TOTAL	9,376	1,244	5,167	893	45,558

The Statewide Programs

- The **Vermont Network Legal Clinic** has assisted 141 clients.
- The **Pride Center SafeSpace Program** served 104 LGBTQ survivors of sexual, domestic, and hate violence.
- The **DIVAS Program**, a program for incarcerated survivors of domestic and sexual violence, provided services to 435 individuals.
- The **SANE Program** (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners) provided 297 exams in 12 hospitals across the state.
- **Deaf Vermonters' Advocacy Services (DVAS)** served 33 victims of violence or abuse.

Children and Teens — Now and Future Generations

Social Change and Primary Prevention

By modeling and engaging young people in healthy respectful relationships, we can push out the problem of violence and oppression with a solution. Ask and get a 'yes' before hugging or touching children or teens.

- **8,838** young people attended **678** community and school presentations on healthy relationship and consent.
- **1,853** children and teens engaged with advocates through services such as one-on-one support, home visits, the teen chatline, protection orders, hotline calls, medical and legal advocacy, and support groups.



The Power of Resiliency and Healing

You can change your mind. But did you know you can actually change the minds of children and teens who experience trauma? By celebrating, comforting, inspiring, listening to, and collaborating with young people, you can support their lifelong healing and overall ability to thrive.

- **387** abused children and teens accessed services, of which **155** were victims of sexual abuse.
- 354 children safely stayed with their parent at Shelter and **122** in transitional housing.



Helping People

(includes victims and others affected by violence)
7,523 adults and 1,853 youth, including 582 persons with disabilities, 748 persons of ethnic/racial minorities, 228 elders, 136 LGBTQ persons, and 534 men.

Helping Victims

7,181 individuals, including 388 for stalking, 53 for sex trafficking, and 100 for sexual harassment.

Hotline Calls - 19,816
Responded to 24/7

Legal Advocacy
3,193 individuals
9,280 times

Housing Advocacy

2,878 individuals
13,410 times

Transitional Housing
256 adults and children
for 27,487 bednights

Shelter
893 adults and children
stayed at Shelter and
467 people were turned
away due to lack of
capacity