

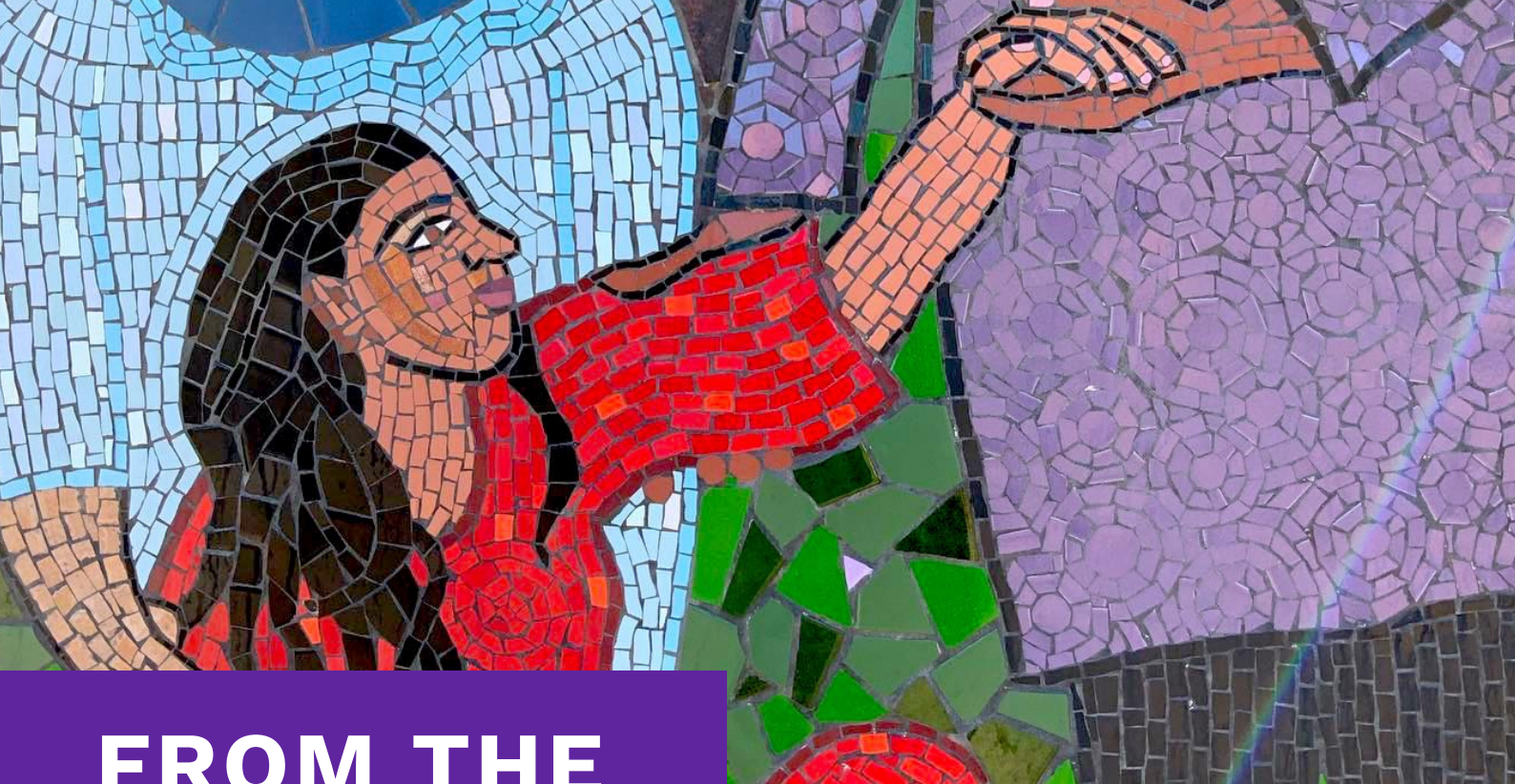
ANNUAL REPORT 2020



VIOLENCE FREE
MINNESOTA

THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

A YEAR OF
TRANSFORMATION
AND RESILIENCE



Mosaic images: Lori Greene, Survivor Memorial

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At the coalition, we work hard to break through binaries. Change and transformation are processes that compel us to seek out the gray areas, and challenge either/or thinking rather embracing the concept of both/and/all. That being said, due to our fiscal year structure which begins on July 1 and ends June 30, this annual report reflects two very distinct time periods: the fall of 2019 and the spring of 2020.

In the fall of 2019, the coalition rebranded from the name it held for over 40 years - the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women - to Violence Free Minnesota, the coalition working to end relationship abuse.

The same day the coalition revealed its new name, we released our 30-year retrospective report detailing Minnesota's intimate partner homicides. We held an open house at our recently relocated office, with member programs, community partners, and donuts. We looked forward to traveling to regional meetings, the 2020 legislative session, and what our new rebranded identity might bring.

And then...2020.

In January and February, we started some exciting new initiatives, including the first-ever Executive Director's Retreat, advocate retreats, and two new staff hires to expand our work in housing and economic justice.

In March, the world shifted.

We began months of unparalleled challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a sharp pivot in how our member programs had delivered their services for decades. In May, the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis sparked uprisings for racial justice and demanded accountability. Extreme housing shortages, homelessness and unrelenting intimate partner violence were threaded throughout this time. The issues we faced were both new and familiar. As we grappled with crises after crises in an ever-shifting reality, one thing was made clear for the coalition: we were made for this.

The strength of Violence Free Minnesota came shining through, again, and again. Our member programs and coalition staff collectively responded and found a way to keep advocacy services flowing; we focused our attention to racial disparities and our role in advancing equity; we developed new ways of doing our work.

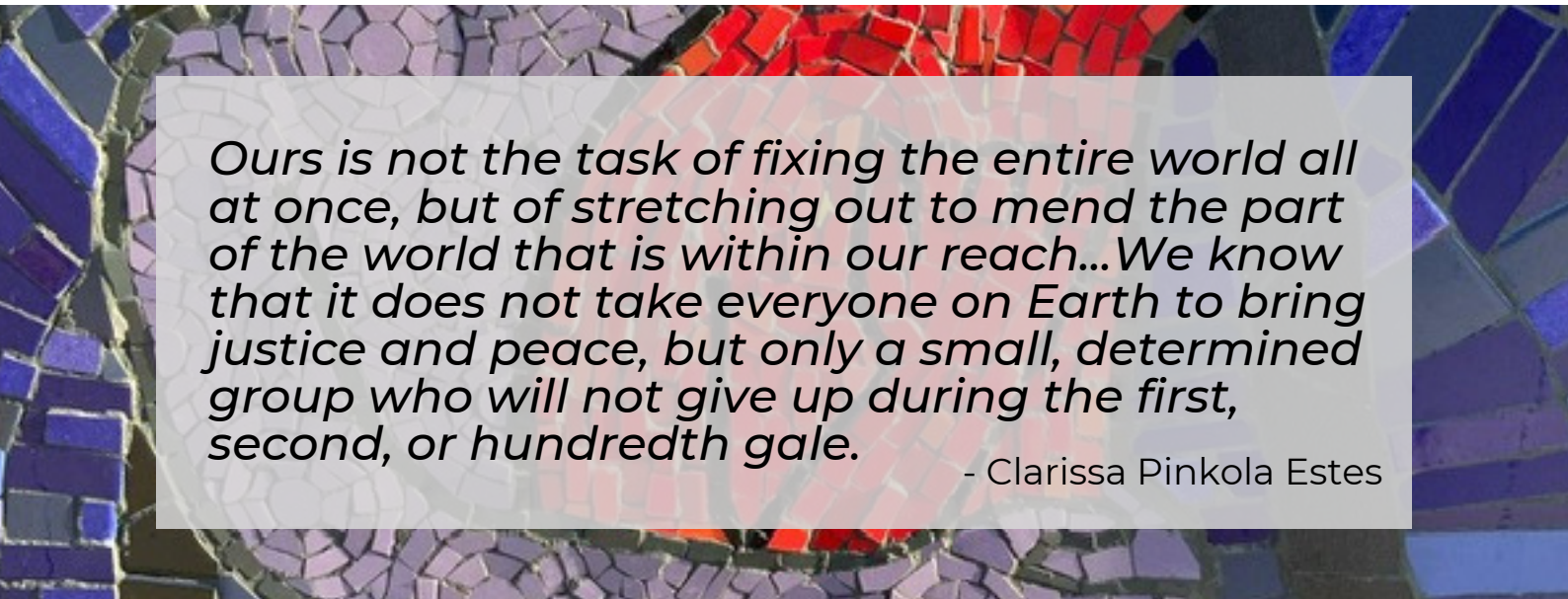
Our work in those first few months of 2020 included:

- Rapid information sharing and resource development, including weekly meetings for shelter programs and guides for ever-changing best practices during the pandemic;
- Securing and distributing PPE and other much-needed supplies for Minnesota's shelters and parenting time centers;
- Keeping policymakers apprised of survivors' needs and the programs that serve them;
- Developing a public awareness campaign to ensure isolated survivors could receive resources during orders to Stay-At-Home;
- Coordinating a hotel project in which 10 metro area shelters could provide safe housing for survivors who could not safely remain in congregate emergency shelters.

I am overwhelmed with pride and gratitude for the ways in which Violence Free Minnesota and our member programs continuously rise to the challenges before us. In coalition, our work continues.



Liz Richards, executive director



Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach...We know that it does not take everyone on Earth to bring justice and peace, but only a small, determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth gale.

- Clarissa Pinkola Estes



VIOLENCE FREE MINNESOTA

MISSION




To represent victim/survivors of relationship abuse and member programs; challenge systems & institutions; promote social change; and support, educate, and connect member programs.

VISION



To end relationship abuse, create safety, and achieve social justice for all.





BOARD

chair

Andrea Kingbird

treasurer

Meg Schnabel

secretary

Roxie Karelis

vice-chair governance

Bree Adams Bill

vice-chair external affairs

Jen Johnson

Lisa Lilja

Tamara Stark

Charles Hempbeck

Stephanie Ritenour

Becci ten Bensel

Kristine Walters

Kenosha Davenport

Artika Roller

Miski Abdulle

Kristine Lizdas

STAFF

executive director

Liz Richards

program directors

Becky Smith

Ho Nguyen

Katie Kramer

Leticia Floyd

program managers

Anne Applebaum

Danisa Farley

HaoPay Lee

Joe Shannon

Meggie Royer

Nikki Engel

accountant

Clarity Solutions





2019

*30 Years of the Femicide turned Homicide Report
Clockwise from the left: Becky Smith, Carla Ferrucci, Safia Khan,
Liz Richards, Meggie Royer, Joe Shannon, Julie "Tilly" Tilley*

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE IN MINNESOTA: A 30 YEAR RETROSPECTIVE

For 30 years, the coalition has provided annual documentation on domestic violence homicide in Minnesota. On October 1, 2019, the newly rebranded coalition released a 30-year retrospective using its decades of data from what began as a list of names known as the "Femicide Report." The retrospective included the names of 685 people killed due to domestic violence in Minnesota since 1989 alongside policy recommendations for elected officials, state departments, schools, faith institutions and community members.



REFLECT & REVEAL

On October 1, 2019, Violence Free Minnesota held an open house and press conference to reveal its rebranded identity as Violence Free Minnesota, after over 40 years as the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.



Violence Free Minnesota branded donuts at the Reflect & Reveal open house.

2019



Southeast Regional Meeting, December 2019



Violence Free Minnesota Board, 2019 Annual Meeting



Southwest Regional Meeting, December 2019

MEMBER MEETINGS

In the fall of 2019, coalition membership gathered for the 2019 Annual Meeting. Workshop topics included racial equity; criminal justice reform; prevention; and developing inclusive LGBTQ+ services. The conversations held at Annual Meeting were revisited across the state during Regional Meetings in December.



2020

Survivor Resources PSA by Next Day Animations



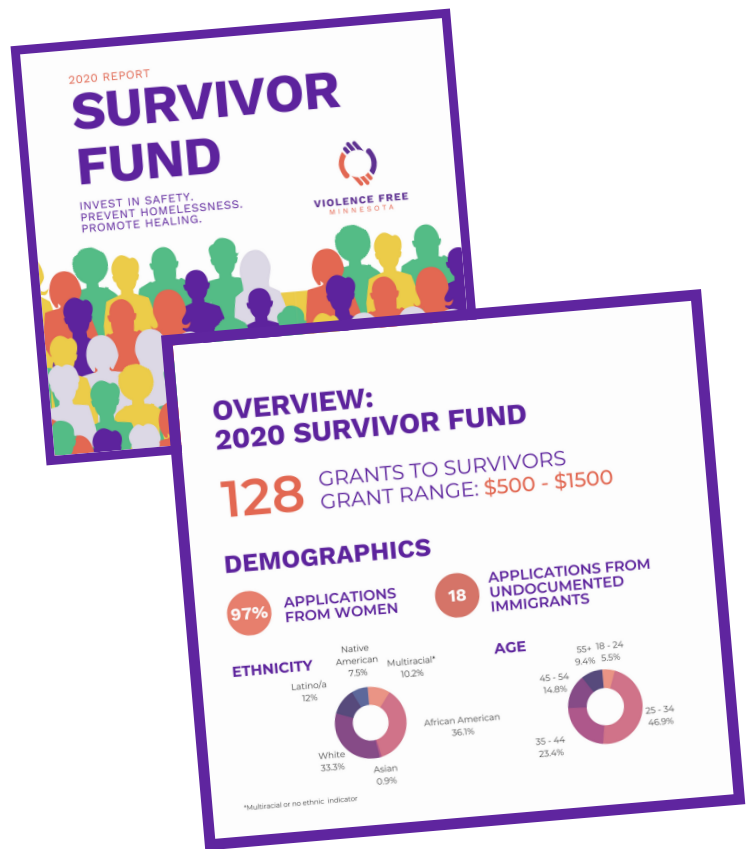
RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC

As the COVID-19 pandemic shifted our reality in early March 2020, Violence Free Minnesota quickly pivoted our work to support our member programs as they navigated rapidly shifting protocols and survivor needs now shaped by added isolation. Coalition staff communicated with state officials and hosted weekly informational meetings for member programs and created guides for ever-changing best practices. Programs providing direct services desperately needed PPE - and other supplies, like toilet paper. Violence Free Minnesota secured and distributed vital supplies to programs across the state while keeping policymakers informed of survivor and program needs. While shelters adapted their policies and protocols to incorporate social distancing measures, there were survivors who needed alternate options for safe housing. In response, Violence Free Minnesota coordinated a hotel project in which 10 metro area domestic violence shelters could provide safe housing for survivors who could not safely remain in congregate emergency shelters. These initiatives were all launched during a four-month time period, between March and June 2020.



THE SURVIVOR FUND

The Survivor Fund offers one-time, low-barrier cash grants to survivors to increase and/or maintain housing stability and build credit. In spring 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted all of the gaps and problems that already existed around housing, making them much more visible. 100% of survivors used money granted from the Survivor Fund to secure or maintain housing through generous support from the Pohlad and Allstate Foundations.



2020

PROVIDING RESOURCES DURING #STAYHOMEMN

As business and services began shutting down in March during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, programs working to support survivors and end relationship abuse were gravely concerned that survivors would not realize domestic violence programs remained open. Violence Free Minnesota developed social media graphics and a PSA which were promoted by government agencies and officials and included in the Governor's daily pandemic e-newsletter.

Domestic violence programs are critical services that REMAIN OPEN.

If you are experiencing abuse call the 24/7 DayOne hotline:

Call 1.866.223.1111
Text 612.399.9995
dayoneservices.org

VIOLENCE FREE MINNESOTA
THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

#StayHomeMN DOES NOT mean staying in an unsafe home.

If you are experiencing abuse call the 24/7 DayOne hotline:

#StayHomeMN, but leave home if you are experiencing violence and home is unsafe.

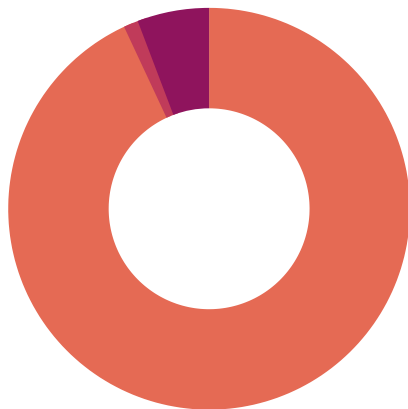
Call 1.866.223.1111 or text 612.399.9995 to tell someone what is happening and make a plan to go to a safer place.

Domestic and sexual violence programs and shelters remain open. There is help.

VIOLENCE FREE MINNESOTA
THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

FINANCIALS

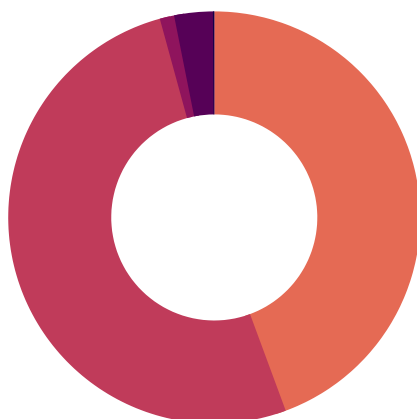
*Fiscal Year 2020 Audit Report
July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020*



expenses

Program	\$1,384,087
Management	\$86,057
Fundraising	\$17,467

Total expenses **\$1,487,611**



revenue

Government Grants	\$893,737
Grants & Contributions	\$1,035,091
Membership Dues	\$22,750
Investment Income	\$2,151
In-Kind Donations	\$60,892

Total revenue **\$2,014,621**

SUPPORTERS



foundations & businesses

Allstate Foundation	Target Corporation
Benevity Community Impact Fund	Truist
F.R.Bigelow Foundation	US Bank
Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation	Trout Brook South Townhomes Association
Community Shares	US Charitable Gift Trust
Fidelity Charitable Trust	MN Disaster Recovery Fund
K. Foundation	American Online Giving Foundation
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation	Edward Jones Trust Company
T. Rowe Price Program	HRK Foundation
Charities Aid Foundation of America	Ecolab
Otto Bremer Trust	Best Buy
Carl & Eloise Pohlad Family Foundation	Thomson Reuters Foundation
St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation	Futures Without Violence
Hedeen Charitable Fund	

government grants & contracts

US Dept. of Health & Human Services – Family Violence Prevention Services Act
US Dept. of Justice – Office on Violence Against Women
MN Dept. of Corrections – US Dept. of Justice Violence Against Women
MN Dept. of Public Safety – Office of Justice Programs
MN Dept. of Health

in-kind donations

Gimaajii American Indian Center (AICHO)	Mankato Dept. of Public Safety
Jammy Peace	Dermatology Consultants
Mitchell Hamline Law School	Gender Justice
MN County Attorney Association	Catchafire
MN Dept of Health	Lutheran Social Services
Northwest Area Foundation	St. Thomas School of Law
St. Paul College Club	M Health Fairview Clinic - Roselawn
American Association of University Women	St. Paul Public Health
Lueken Grocery Store	Anoka-Hennepin School District 2727
Brooklyn Center Library	MN DOT
Fresh Color Press	HealthEast Hospital
Splash Products	Best Buy
St. Catherine University	Tech Soup
University of Minnesota	Choice Bank
Lyon County Law Enforcement Center	Sephora
Next Day Animations	Suzie Brockman Photography

SUPPORTERS

individual contributions

In Memory:

Anna Koosmann
Kristin Sandeen
Bernice Sisson
Amy Allwine
Frieda Knipe
Carolyn Leete

In Honor of:

Samantha Wolk

Anonymous
Abbott Abbott
Kristi Adams & Kelley Jewett
Marcia Alexander
Bryan Altman
Michael Anderson
Elizabeth Andress
Libby Backberg
Beverly Balos & Mary Lou Fellows
Marie Beimert
Matthew & Bree Adams Bill
Janice & Nathaniel Borgen
Carolyn Browender
Karin Brown
Carolyn Brown
Donna Bruno
Susanna Callaghan
Morgan Carr-Markell
Delaney Cassidy
Kimberly Caster
Elspeth Cavert
Rebecca Chabot
Kaileen Chen
Theja Chitneni
Nina Clark
Kristina Clark
Thomas Clausen
Caitlin Cohn
Kathryn Cravens
Meredith Cuda
Sue Damyanovich
Kenosha Davenport
Michelle David
Gabrielle Davis
Ann Degroot
Marcelle Diedrich
Laura Dillon
Jennifer Dullum
Denise & Wesley Eng
Michelle Erickson
Karyn Fernandes
Barbara Franklin
Ann Freeman

Willa Dean Gray
Alfred & Donita Grell
Lorelei Haig & Thomas Guidoboni
Patricia Hanauer
Chris Harbort
Brendan Harris
Anne Hartman
Nikki Hatch
Roger Heegaard & Cheryl Thomas
Rebecca Heltzer
Charles Hempeck
Martha Hewett
C. John Hildebrand
Miachel Holden
Jenny Holm
Teresa Homan
Jessica Horwitz
Michael Hvidsten & Rebekah Richards
Summer Jackson
Clara James
Jen Johnson
Jabari Jones
Tracie Kawaguchi
Betsy Jean Kerr & Roberta Steel
Richmond Kinney
Ginia Klamecki
Mary Lou Klas
MLB Knipe
Henry Krey
Per Kvanbeck
Beatrice Laizer
Veena Lakkundi
Maury Landsman
Robert Mullen, Jr. & Aili Langseth
Karen Larson
Laura Lee
Brianna Liestman
Lisa Lilja & Ronald Ramberg
Allegra Lingo
Sophia Liu
Paul & Wendy Lucas
Nicole Luck
Canhnha Luu
Robert Mairs
Mark Manthey
Melissa Martinez-Crowley
Kate McRoberts
Jeanne Meyer
Marie Monson
Tiffany Mueller
Elizabeth Munson
Daniel Murphy
Ellen Nagle
Lucas Naumowicz
Danny Nelson

David Nyberg
Erica O'connor
Kara Odegaard
Patricia Olsen
Hannah Olson
Bren Olson
Michael Owens
David Palo
Maria Pastoor & John Klein
Jesse Peterson-Brandt
Anne Phillips
Patrick Porter
Jeanne Raffesberger
Katie Reed
Pauline Richards
Stephen Richards
Patricia Rogers
Emeline Rogers
Artika & Willie Roller
Lee Rosenthal & Angela Sisson
Amber Rudell
Nichole Ruiz
Christopher Rupar
Connie Sagstetter & Mike Buskirk
Kelly Sandlass
Sierra Schermerhorn
Caroline Schnieders
Patricia Ann Schwartz
Hannah Semonick
Edward Shelleby
John W. Simon Jr.
Gunnar Sipper
Eric Smith & Joyce Denn
Neil Soika
Robyn Spencer Beck
Linda Staats
Rebecca Stibble
Alessa Strelecki
Lloyd & Kathryn Sundeen
Susan Susienka
Meta Swanson
Becci tenBensel
Duff Thury
Gayle Trebesch
Beverly Trombley
Michael Walstrom
Kristen Walters
Janiece Watts
Marie Wheaton
Dorothy Wickens
Amanda Winseck
Shawn Wolk
Abbie Zahler
Ina Ziegler
Roxanne Zweber

MEMBERS



*emergency shelter programs

*360 Communities/Lewis House, Dakota, Carver, Goodhue, Hennepin, Ramsey

Advocacy Center of Winona, Winona

Advocates for Family Peace, Itasca, Northern St. Louis

Advocates for Human Rights, International

*Alexandra House, Anoka

*American Indian Community Housing Org., St. Louis, Koochiching, Lake, Cook, Itasca

*Anna Marie's Alliance, Sherburne, Benton, Stearns, Mille Lacs, Wright

*Asian Women United of MN, Hennepin, Ramsey

Battered Women's Justice Project, National

Becker County Attorney's Office, Becker

Bluff Country Family Resources, Fillmore, Houston

Bois Forte Victim Services, Nett Lake, Koochiching, St. Louis

Breaking Free, Ramsey

*Casa de Esperanza, Hennepin, Ramsey

City of St. Paul Attorney's Office, Ramsey

*Committee Against Domestic Abuse, Brown, Nicollet, Blue Earth, LeSueur,

Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan, Faribault

Community Health Service, Polk, Norman, Clay, Pennington

Community Stabilization Project, Ramsey

Community University Health Care Center, Hennepin

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicios (CLUES), Hennepin, Ramsey

*Cornerstone Advocacy Services, Hennepin

Crime Victim Resource Center – Mayo Clinic, Mower

Crisis Resource Center of Steele Co., Steele

Division of Indian Work, Hennepin

Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs, St. Louis

Domestic Abuse Project, Hennepin

East Side Neighborhood Services, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey

*Equay Wiigamig, Red Lake Reservation, Beltrami

Family Safety Network of Cass County, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard

Freeborn County Crime Victim Crisis Center, Freeborn

Friends Against Abuse, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods

Gender Violence Institute, Statewide

Global Rights for Women, International

Hands of Hope Resource Center, Morrison, Todd

Hmong American Partnership, Ramsey

Healing Opportunity Provided Equally (HOPE), Aitkin, Crow Wing

Hope Center, Rice

*Hope Coalition, Goodhue, Wabasha

Indigenous Women's Life Net, Ramsey, Hennepin

Isaiah's Domestic Violence Task Force, Statewide

Karen Organization of Minnesota, Statewide

*Lakes Crisis & Resource Center, Becker & surrounding area

Le Sueur County Victim Witness Program, LeSueur

Mahnomen County Victim Services Office, Mahnomen

Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, Statewide

Martin County Victim Services, Martin

Men and Masculine Folk Network, Statewide

Men As Peacemakers, Statewide

*Mid-Minnesota Women's Center, Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, Wadena

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Family Violence Prevention Program, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Pine

Minnesota Elder Justice Center, Statewide

Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, Hennepin

McLeod Alliance for Victims of Domestic Violence, McLeod

*Missions, Inc./Home Free, Hennepin

New Horizons Crisis Center, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Redwood

North Shore Horizons, Lake

Nobles County Victim Services, Nobles

Norman County Victim Services, Norman

*Northwoods Battered Women's Shelter, Beltrami, Cass

Oasis of Love Crisis Intervention, Hennepin

OutFront Minnesota, Statewide

Pearl Crisis Center, Mille Lacs

Phumulani, Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

Pillsbury United Communities, Hennepin

Praxis International, National

Rape & Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead, Clay, Wilkin

*Refuge Network – A Program of Family Pathways, Chisago, Isanti,

Kannebec

Rivers of Hope, Wright, Sherburne

*Safe Avenues, Kandiyohi, Swift, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Renville, Meeker, McLeod

*Safe Haven Shelter & Resource Center, St. Louis, Carlton, Aitkin, Itasca, Lake, Cook, Koochiching

SEWA-AIFW (Asian Indian Family Wellness), Hennepin, Ramsey

Sexual Violence Center, Hennepin, Carver, Scott

*Sojourner Project, Hennepin, Carver, Dakota, Ramsey

Someplace Safe, Big Stone, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Douglas, Traverse, Wilkin, Otter Tail, Wadena

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Southern Minnesota

Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women, Carver, Scott

Southwest Crisis Center, Noble, Pipestone, Rock, Cottonwood, Jackson

St. Paul and Ramsey County Intervention Project, Ramsey

Standpoint, Statewide

Stevens County Victim Witness, Stevens

The No. 1 Ladies Advocacy Agency, Beltrami

ThinkSelf, Statewide

Transforming Generations, Ramsey, Hennepin, Washington, Dakota

*Tubman, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

*Violence Intervention Project, Red Lake, Pennington, Marshall, Kittson, Roseau

Violence Prevention Center, Cook

White Earth DOVE Program, White Earth Reservation, Mahnomen, Becker, Clearwater

Winona County Attorney's Office, Winona

WISE, Statewide

*Women of Nations, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

*Women's Advocates, Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington

Women's Rural Advocacy Programs, Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, Redwood

*Women's Shelter & Support Center, Dodge, Fillmore, Olmsted & surrounding counties

Yellow Medicine County Victim Services, Yellow Medicine



VIOLENCE FREE **MINNESOTA**

THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE



60 East Plato Blvd., Ste. 230
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107
www.vfmn.org